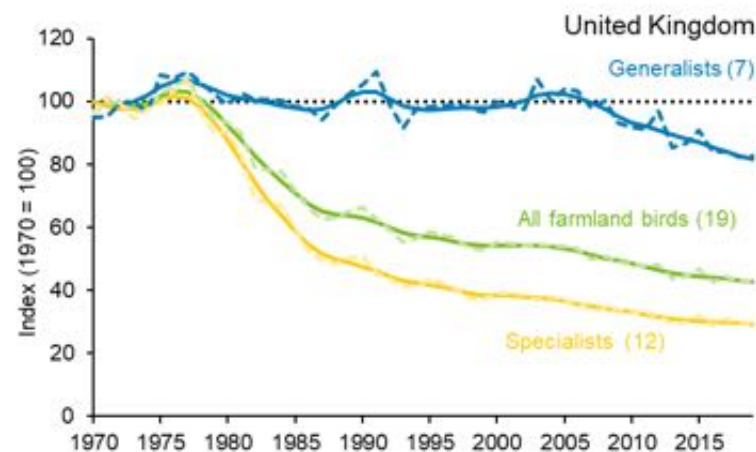


Agricultural Strategy

Sustaining a vibrant Agriculture sector, enabled to deliver a reliable and profitable food chain, while maintaining and enhancing the Island's natural environment and capital

Farming and wildlife thriving side-by-side

Additional £1million/yr from Treasury



© DEFRA & UK National Statistics 2021



Agri-Environment Scheme

Skeim y Çhymmyltaght Eirinagh

Farming Community Update

25th January 2023

www.mwt.im

enquiries@mwt.im | Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Place, Peel, IM5 1AB | Registered Charity 225 IOM | 01624 844432 | www.mwt.im



Manx Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie Vannin

Changing role of farming

Landscape

Healthy food

Food security

Nature-friendly farming

Biodiversity

Diversification

Soil health

Water quality

Productivity

Flood prevention

Climate action

Rural investment



Manx Wildlife for the Future

www.mwt.im

Bea-Feie Vannin son y traa ry-heet



The RED List *Y Rolley Jiarg*

Species of wild bird in the Isle of Man that are of greatest conservation concern

Teal	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Tern	Merlin
Pochard	Knot	Arctic Tern	Skylark
Eider	Curlew Sandpiper	Razorbill	Grasshopper Warbler
Long-tailed Duck	Woodcock	Black Guillemot	Ring Ouzel
Cuckoo	Snipe	Puffin	Redwing
Stock Dove	Redshank	Fulmar	Spotted Flycatcher
Water Rail	Kittiwake	Shag	Whinchat
Corn Crake	Black-headed Gull	Barn Owl	Tree Sparrow
Oystercatcher	Great Black-backed Gull	Long-eared Owl	Meadow Pipit
Lapwing	Herring Gull	Short-eared Owl	Twite
Curlew	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Kingfisher	Linnet
Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Tern	Kestrel	Yellowhammer



AES Recap



Bespoke
Eligibility
Voluntary
All-Island
Enduring
Well funded



Birds of Conservation Concern Isle of Man 2021



48
species
Red-listed

68
species
Amber-listed

50
species
Green-listed

14
species no
longer breed

29% Red
41% Amber
30% Green

48
ground-nesting
species at risk

Plants of Conservation Concern Isle of Man 2022



76
species
Red-listed

84
species
Amber-listed

45
species
Black-listed
(Locally Extinct)

295
species
Green-listed

500
species in the
Manx flora

205
species of
Conservation
Concern

Agri-Environment Scheme Impact: First Year in Review

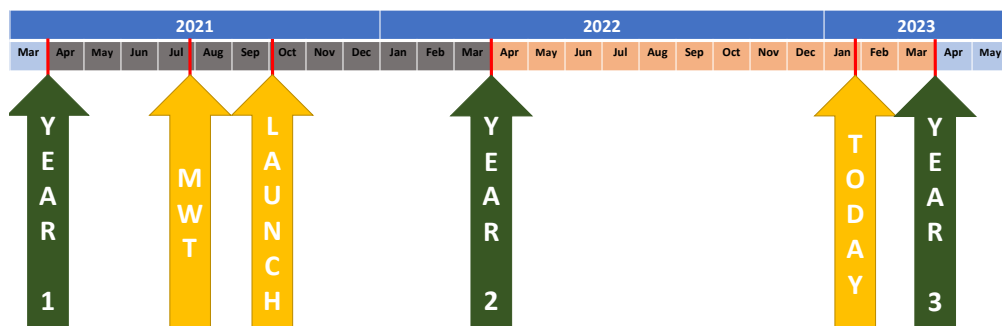


Pink Ballerina Waxcap **Vulnerable**



Glistening Waxcap **Endangered**

Agri-Environment Scheme Timeline

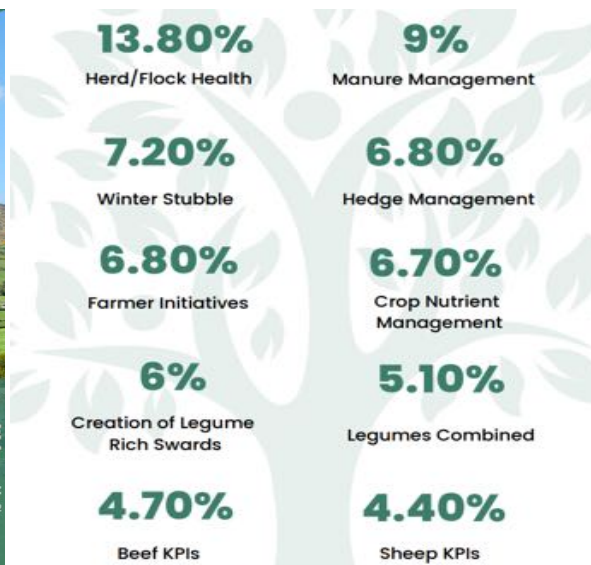
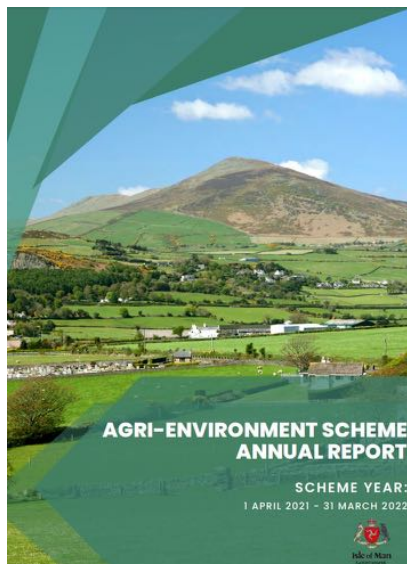


Lapwing



Crimson Waxcap **Vulnerable**





Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

Habitat Creation

Existing Habitat Management

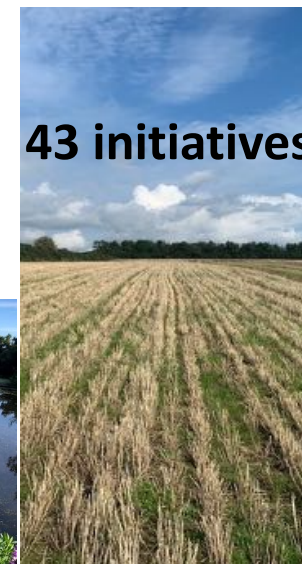
Habitat Restoration & Enhancement

Nature-friendly Farming

Protecting Watercourses

Educational Visits

43 initiatives



Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

Payments

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022



160 farms

£1,452,779.74



Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

Progress so far (MWT)

331 farm visits MWT

166 individual farms

Covering 70,104 acres
(69% of farmland, 49% of Island)





Farmer Initiatives



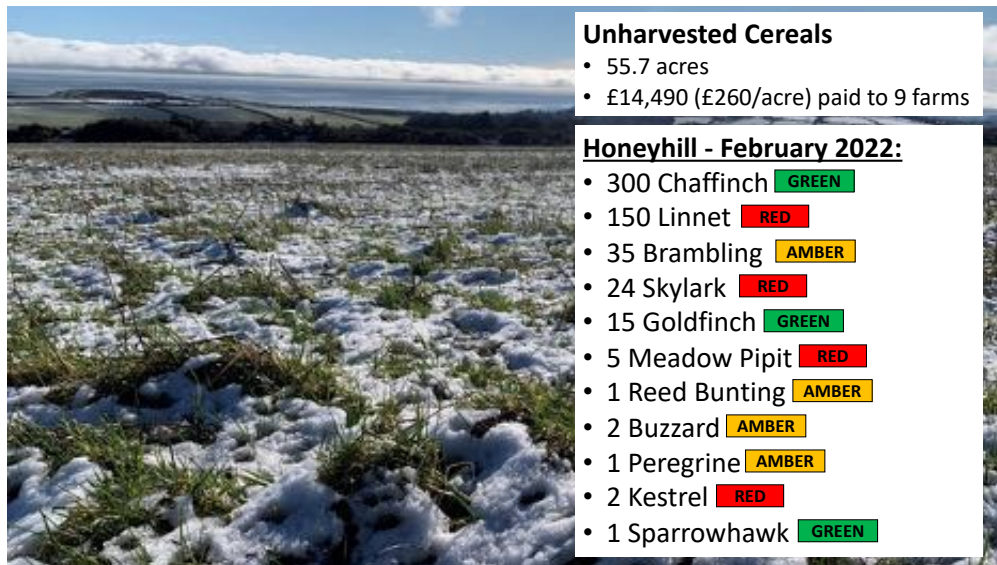
Planting of shelterbelts
Parkland trees
Specialist feeders for farmland finches
Genomic testing dairy heifers
Green waste compost trial on arable
Hedge laying



Farmer Initiatives



Gorse clearance on priority habitats
Predator control - Lapwing
Electric stock fencing - Curlew
Water course restoration & troughs



Unharvested Cereals

- 55.7 acres
- £14,490 (£260/acre) paid to 9 farms

Honeyhill - February 2022:

- 300 Chaffinch GREEN
- 150 Linnet RED
- 35 Brambling AMBER
- 24 Skylark RED
- 15 Goldfinch GREEN
- 5 Meadow Pipit RED
- 1 Reed Bunting AMBER
- 2 Buzzard AMBER
- 1 Peregrine AMBER
- 2 Kestrel RED
- 1 Sparrowhawk GREEN



Clover Leys

21 farms
964 acres
£77,154.00



Smeale Farm

- 112 Skylark RED
- 22 Meadow Pipit RED
- 18 Chaffinch GREEN
- 5 Linnet RED

October 2022

- 1 Greenfinch AMBER
- 1 Buzzard AMBER
- 1 Hen Harrier AMBER
- 1 Peregrine AMBER



Wild Bird Cover Crops

6 farms
36.4ac
£4,013.90



What are Herbal Leys

- Multi-species pastures
- Characterised by a combination of 15 to 40 species
- Include different grasses, legumes and herbs



Introduction

- What are Herbal Leys
- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Choosing a mix
- Establishment
- Management
- Summary



Advantages

Anthelmintic Properties

Trials have shown that lucerne, sainfoin, alsike clover and chicory all have elevated levels of tannin and other compounds which act as pesticides and so reduce ruminant worm burdens



Other advantages

- Increased livestock productivity
- Nitrogen fixing species so reduced reliance on artificial fertilisers
- Improved soil structure with deeper rooting species
- Drought resistance
- Increased pasture biodiversity providing habitats for pollinating insects, birds and small mammals

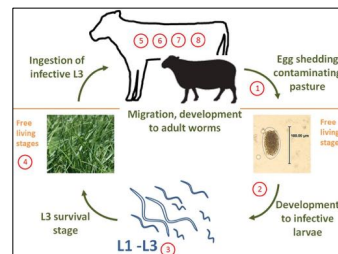


Advantages

Provide physical barriers to parasite survival and infection

Parasites are inhibited from translocating up taller species in a herbal mix and when they do, are more exposed to the elements

Field plot experiments using sheep faeces with nematode parasites resulted in 63% fewer parasitic larvae on the chicory and birdsfoot trefoil compared to the ryegrass



Advantages

Nutritional Status

Some species such as chicory have relatively high levels of potassium, sodium, calcium, sulphur, magnesium and zinc

Legumes in herbal mixes can increase overall crude protein levels
Increased dry matter

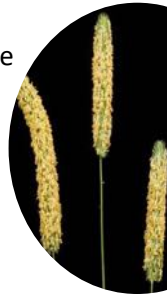


Chicory



Choosing a Herbal Seed Mix

- Perennial ryegrass: the mainstay of most herbal leys
- Cocksfoot: deep rooting and longer growing season
- Timothy: will grow at lower temperatures and is palatable
- Festulolium: Fescue/perennial ryegrass hybrid so stress resistance but provide bulk
- Grasses 65% to 80%
- Legumes 10% to 30%
- Herbs



Management

- Herbal leys can be maintained by grazing, cutting or a combination of both
- Lightly graze in first year after sowing
- Start grazing when ley is 0.5 metres to 1 metre high
- Graze until vegetation height is halved
- Do not overgraze
- Rest leys between cutting and grazing for at least 5 weeks
- Do not apply nitrogen fertilisers
- With good management the herbal ley will last at least 4 years

Disadvantages

- High legume content herbal leys can cause bloat
- Establishment success can be disappointing on certain soil types
- Species diversity will decline over time
- Can be more challenging to manage compared to perennial ryegrass/white clover ley
- Phosphate and potash will need to be closely monitored



Establishment

- Sow from March to September
- Soil pH of more than 6.0, Phosphate and Potash indices of 2
- Mix seed in hopper before sowing
- Broadcast seed or shallow drill no more than 1cm
- Sow into a well- consolidated, firm, fine weed-free seedbed after an application of FYM
- Roll once or twice after sowing to achieve maximum seed to soil contact



Priority Habitats

Delivering a Unique or Desirable Habitat

£112,747

102 farms

1,046 fields

5,338ac



Priority Habitat: Garee Grazing Management

Summary

- What are Herbal Leys
- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Choosing a mix
- Establishment
- Management
- Any questions

THANK YOU

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©Kirrie Jenkins, Moorhouse Farm

Priority Habitat: Chough Pasture Management



Priority Habitat: Traditional Vegetable Cultivation

Poyll Vaaish 11 Dec 22:

- 40 Chaffinch **GREEN**
- 35 Twite **RED**
- 20 Goldfinch **GREEN**
- 15 Linnet **RED**
- 12 Meadow Pipit **RED**
- 10 Dunnock **GREEN**
- 9 Skylark **RED**
- 6 Greenfinch **AMBER**
- 5 Reed Bunting **AMBER**
- 3 Lesser Redpoll **AMBER**
- 2 Tree Sparrow **RED**
- 1 Kestrel **RED**
- 1 Peregrine **AMBER**





Priority Habitat: Lapwing / Curlew Breeding Grounds



Priority Habitat: Fungi Pasture Management

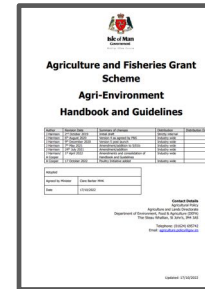


Habitat Creation





Educational Visits
£14,210
7 farms
c900 school children



Process
Deadlines
Management conditions
Handbook updates
Cross Compliance



Nest Boxes

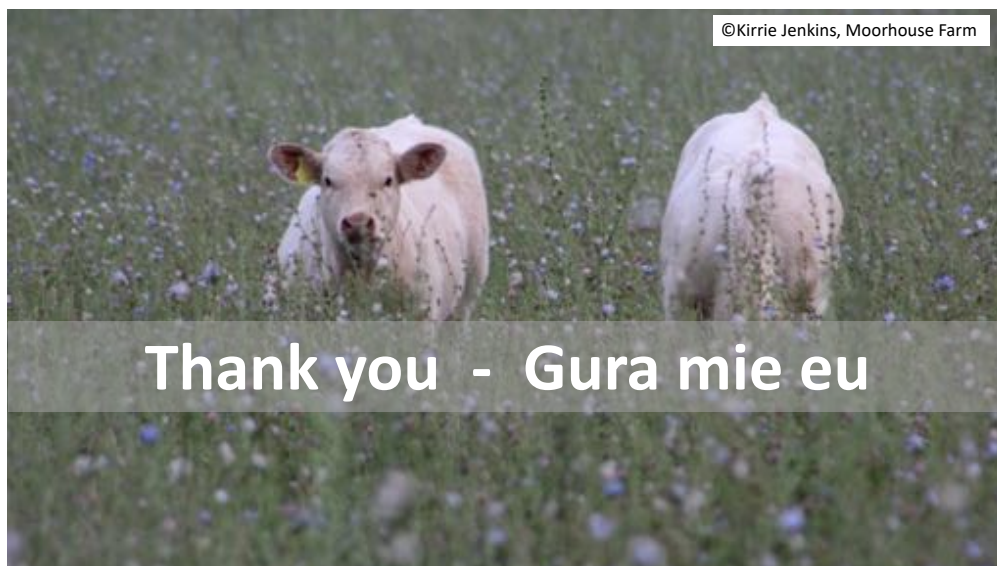


Feedback & Improvements

Application Forms
Primary Initiative Form
Application Assistance
Part Claims
Payment Codes
Physical Signatures
Streamlining
Automatic Approval

Farm Assurance
Herbal Leys
Pest & Diseases
Priority Habitats
Online Field Map
Manx Lime
Drop-in days
Newsletter





What are Winter Cover Crops

- Non-cash crops grown primarily for the purpose of protecting or improving soils between periods of regular crop production
- Sown as soon as possible after harvest of the previous crop and destroyed by different methods in late winter



Help and Support



Drop-in Session
Thursday 16th February at DEFA



Winter Cover Crops



Caroline Perry

Advantages

- Provide a 'green manure' which returns organic material to the soil increasing soil biological activity and overall soil health
- Can reduce pest and diseases by breaking lifecycles
- Help with weed management in future crops
- Provide winter habitat and food for birds, small mammals and insects



Choosing a mix - What to consider

- Aims - what are you looking to get out of the cover crop?
- Economics - ensure expensive species will give economic benefits?
- Growth - is any one species likely to out compete the others?
- Will any species not survive cold weather?



Advantages

- Can help reduce soil erosion and improve water quality during the winter months
- Provide cover over the winter which helps reduce nutrient loss through run-off and leaching



Disadvantages

- Sowing takes place during busy periods
- Potential for poor establishment
- Additional costs – planting and destroying costs



Choosing a mix - Species

- Grasses & cereal
Good early ground cover and vigorous root growth
- Legumes
Benefit to following crops as they fix nitrogen
- Brassicas
Grow rapidly in the autumn, reduce nitrogen leaching, provide ground cover, improve soil structure and can reduce soil erosion
- Other crops
Phacelia (green manure),
Buckwheat (scavenging phosphorous)



Establishment

- Seed rates
Seed rates for each species in a mix should be reduced proportionally
- Sowing dates
As soon as possible after harvest
- Sowing
Drill or broadcast into stubble, roll to conserve moisture and enhance seed/soil contact
If broadcasting, rake trash to distribute straw and generate tilth



Choosing a mix - What to consider

- Management
How will crop be sown and destroyed (some mixes may become very bulky and therefore difficult to incorporate into soil)?
- Rotations
 - Could the regrowth of any of the cover crop species becoming volunteers in the next crop?
 - Will any species harbour diseases or increase soil borne diseases?
 - Could the cover crop provide over wintering sites for crop pests?



Choosing a mix

NO HARD AND FAST RULES

- Decide what are the 'must-haves'
Brassicas e.g. stubble turnips, if grazing is part of the crop destruction process
Brown mustard or fodder radish to act as a biofumigant for potato cyst nematodes
- Are there any 'must not haves'
Consider the next crop e.g. brassicas - club root
- Consider other advantages
Which species can help provide benefits over and above winter stubble
- The mix
Ensure species will complement each other and survive until February

Summary

- What are Winter Cover Crops
- Advantages
- Disadvantages
- Choosing a mix
- Establishment
- Management
- Any questions

THANK YOU For references and copyright please contact me



Management

- Should not require nutrients
- Cover Crop destruction
 - Spray off with glyphosate and direct drill next crop straight in
 - Graze
 - Mechanically destroy
 - For biofumigant cover crops, flail and incorporate at least two weeks prior to sowing next crop

