



Give sad, weak pastures (and your profitability) a shot in the arm.

If your pastures could talk, some of them would be begging for help this spring. Whether it's from tough conditions over the last season or recent pugging damage, your biggest driver of farm profitability is probably thin, weak and miserable right now.

Fortunately, there are several ways to turn this around. In doing so, you will safeguard your milk production and income this season, and in the years ahead.

Strategic investment in well-implemented pasture repair and cropping always pays off, especially when times are tight, because nothing is more cost-effective than farm-grown feed.

Tick tock ...

The clock is ticking, however, so the sooner you start working on this, the better! Weeds are poised to invade every inch of bare ground in your paddocks, and will do so faster than you expect.

Take advantage of the brief window between now and then, and you'll be growing high quality feed before you know it. Miss the window, and the weeds will win, eating a hole in your profits, looking ugly and putting your cows off grazing.

The first step? Assess the state of all your paddocks, identify those under-performers and draw up an action plan to get them thriving again.

Stitch and grow

Done well, undersowing is like CPR for thin pastures.

You have to get in early, though, by 15 September. Otherwise weeds will fill the bare ground, and new ryegrass won't grow well before summer.

Depending on what type of seed you use, undersowing gives you two or three more years production from paddocks that would otherwise do nothing but go backwards.

Overall we find *Shogun* and *Forge* hybrid ryegrass give the best results. They'll provide a lot of feed you won't have to buy or find elsewhere.

Other options?

501 *Chicory*, *Dynamo* turnips and/or *Bombardier* kale are all great choices for paddocks earmarked to be cropped this season.

They will give you and your cows plenty of high-quality, home-grown grazing over summer. And when autumn comes, you can renew into pasture.

Later in spring, from October onwards, oversowing white clover or *Captain* plantain is another option for thickening up thin pastures and getting them growing good feed again.

As always, we're here to help if you'd like more advice – just book your free Pasture Health Check today.