



REGENERATIVE FARMING PILOT FARM NETWORK

Taking a leading role in developing and scaling
regenerative dairy farming



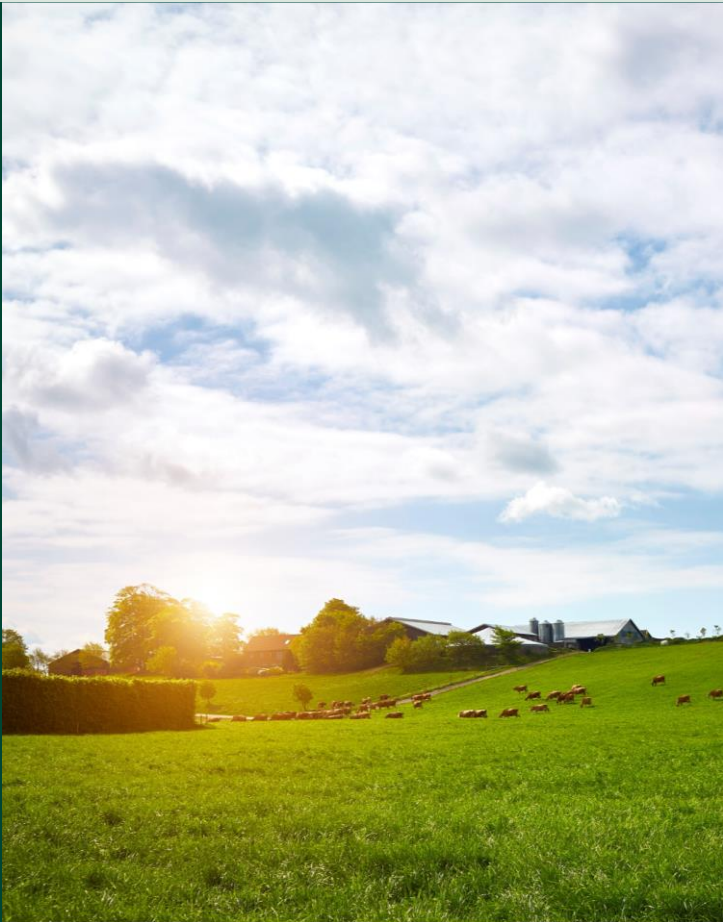
BACKGROUND



Farmers and the food sector are under pressure to respond to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Amid the challenges, regenerative agriculture offers the dairy sector a chance to embrace new practices and narratives, away from reducing harm, towards actively doing good.

By working with nature, they help to enrich soils, increase biodiversity, improve water quality, and enhance ecosystem services. These ecosystems services include things such as carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, food productivity, and climate resilience.

Despite the growing momentum around regenerative agriculture, there is currently no regulatory or legal definition of what regenerative agriculture is. Furthermore, there are limited scientific examples of regenerative farming within the context of grass based dairy farming systems in Europe. As a European dairy co-operative, owned by over 9000 farmers across 7 countries, it is critical for Arla to gain a better understanding of how regenerative practices could be applied in dairy farming, and better understand how this approach could be adopted at scale across both organic and conventional dairy farming systems.



ARLA'S REGENERATIVE FARMING PILOT NETWORK

From September 2021, Arla will establish a network of pilot farms to provide insights and learnings about how to support Arla's farmer owners in adopting more regenerative practices.

By collaborating closely with farmer owners, Arla wants farmers to drive the evolution and implementation of what it means to farm regeneratively in the context of dairy systems and make them an integral part of agreeing relevant principles and practices for success at scale. These pilots will also create an opportunity for members to meet on farms and gain inspiration, share experiences and learn from each other.



WHAT IS REGENERATIVE FARMING?



There is no singular, approved definition of regenerative farming. Schreefel et al (2020) highlighted the lack of a clear definition when reviewing 28 different studies on regenerative farming. The variation in definitions reflects the nature of the evolving ecosystem that the regenerative farming movement represents.

In the absence of a legal or regulatory definition, it is important for Arla to define what we understand regenerative farming to be and how we can start to develop and scale across Arla farmers.

Arla's approach to Regenerative Farming:

- A farm management approach rooted in **principles** which benefit ecosystem processes (e.g. water cycles, mineral cycles, energy cycles, community dynamics) to deliver improvements in ecological, economic and social measures
- The focus is on implementing **practices** that mimic ecosystem complexity and functioning (e.g. adaptive multi-paddock grazing)
- The practices implemented on each farm must be appropriate for its' **unique context**. Therefore, regenerative farming is not prescriptive and can be applied to any system (conventional and organic). However, a regenerative system is one that is truly "regenerating"
- A key enabler to adopting a regenerative farming approach is a **mindset shift** in how farmers understand and interact with nature in a way that embraces the complexity of ecosystems and the needs of people living and working within them.
- Regenerative farming demonstrates how farmers, and their cows can be a **force for good** to deliver a positive impact on the planet, animals and people.

THE NETWORK



Arla will establish a network of pilot farms across Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and UK

Through this network we will:

- Establish a multinational farmer-led knowledge exchange network
- Provide all pilot farms with training and one to one support from regenerative agriculture industry experts to support them in getting started on their journey.
- Measure, track, and document the impact of regenerative farming practices on pilot farm ecosystems
- Understand and document any behavioural changes of pilot farm members
- Build the understanding currently lacking in dairy production systems of what it means and looks like to farm regeneratively, learning within the context of a variety of management systems and countries
- Share knowledge and learnings through roundtable discussions, case studies and project progress reports
- Combine farmer knowledge with external experts to identify common regenerative principles and practices that could be adopted at scale by Arla farmers.



OUR PROGRAMME

Five workstreams to be delivered across a minimum of four years, beginning in Autumn 2021



01 FARM SELECTION

Identify Pilot Farms



02 TRAINING

Provide farming training in regenerative principles & practices



03 PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Provide 1:1 coaching for each pilot farm to create a “Handprint Plan” and support each pilot farm in implementing regenerative practices



04 MEASUREMENTS

Collect key data points to measure and quantify the impact of regenerative farming practices



05 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Share insights, learnings and best practice and agree what principles and practices could be implemented at scale



FARMER LED

We want our farmers to develop and agree ways regenerative practices can be adopted at scale

2021

2022

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG



WORKSTREAM 01: SELECTION

Our first step is to identify pilot farm candidates, and onboard them to the network

OBJECTIVES

Arla aims to establish a diverse and committed cohort of pilot farms across Arla's core production zones

APPROACH

A questionnaire completed by Arla farms to identify candidates

Selected candidates will undergo introductory onboarding sessions with project partners



OUTPUT

24 Pilot farms



FROM EACH PRODUCTION ZONE:

2 + 2 + 2

Organic farms

Conventional Farms (summer grazing)

Conventional Farms (fully housed)



2021

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WORKSTREAM 02: TRAINING

Once the network is established, we will provide foundation training in regenerative principles and practices

OBJECTIVES

All pilot farms will complete the 'Getting Started in Regenerative Agriculture' training course

APPROACH

Encourage a mindset shift by pilot farmers in how they understand and interact with nature in a way that embraces and promotes ecosystem processes

New modules will be added every year to reflect the most recent developments in thinking of regenerative farming principles & practices

SHIFTING MINDSET

This has been identified as one of the biggest barriers to regenerative transition by farmers.

Arla's is intending to tackle this by understanding what principles and practices are meaningful for farmers and their businesses.

A farmer-led approach will ensure greater success of being able to scale a regenerative farming approach beyond the pilot farms.

OUTPUT

2021

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WORKSTREAM 03: PLANNING

Each pilot farm will create a bespoke activity plan for their business to guide adoption of practices

OBJECTIVES

This workstream focuses on building two key documents that will be bespoke to each farm and its specific context

APPROACH

Annual coaching sessions will help farmers to identify actions they can take e.g. adaptive multi-paddock grazing

Expert assistance throughout the year will help farms to navigate their adoption of regenerative farming principles

REGENERATIVE BUSINESS CANVAS

A visionary framework that identifies each farms goals for their business covering – environmental, economic & social. This informs the "handprint plan"

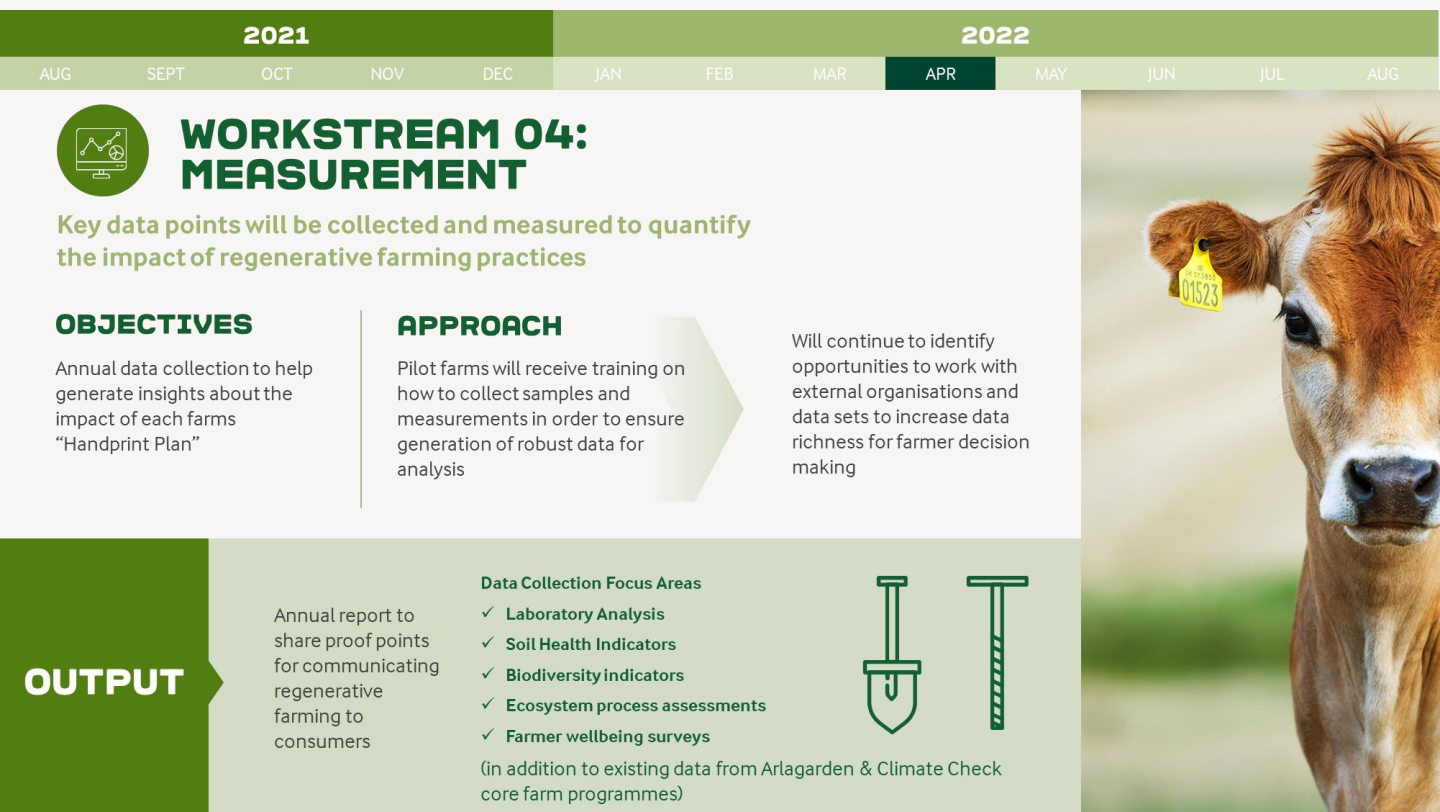
HANDPRINT PLAN

A working document that details the actions the farmer is going to take make steps towards farming more regeneratively

OUTPUT

6

Regenerative Pilot Farm Network



OUR PARTNERS

FAI FARMS

FAI Farms is a leading research, data and consultancy business working to provide practical solutions for climate and food security. They work in partnership with major food brands toward a regenerative, high welfare, biodiverse and equitable food system. They are the lead external partner supporting Arla with their Regenerative Farming Pilot Farm Network, supporting on training and coaching to pilot farms. For further information about FAI Farms visit www.faifarms.com.



LOCAL EXPERTS

Local accredited experts in Regenerative agriculture will be identified and provide local, practical support for Arla's pilot farmers with their regenerative transition.

Local experts will:

Provide support in local language to each pilot farmer, including:

- Training and coaching sessions with local pilot farmers in line with programme approach
- Support when collecting data or taking measures
- Offer ad-hoc support to aid pilot farmers in decision making throughout the year.



INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

Arla will continue to consult and collaborate widely with external organisations as part of an external expert round-table, this includes organisations such as The Baltic Sea Action Group, RISE, SEGES and Thünen-Institute.

As a business, Arla is also part of and industry coalitions (e.g. OP2B and C-SEQU) focused on the topics linked to regenerative agriculture.



SUMMARY



01



PARTICIPATE IN INDUSTRY LEADING NETWORK:

Be part of a **multinational farmer-led knowledge exchange network**

SHAPE ARLA'S FUTURE APPROACH:

SUPPORT ARLA IN BUILDING UNDERSTANDING currently lacking in dairy production systems of what it means and looks like to farm regeneratively (learning within the context of a variety of management systems and countries)

02



03



TRAINING & COACHING IN REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE:

RECEIVE TRAINING AND ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT from regenerative agriculture industry experts to support them as they adopt regenerative farming principles



THANK YOU

August 2021

