

# THE DUNG BEETLE CONFERENCE 2024 PROGRAMME



## Day 1 - Tuesday 11th June

9.30 - 10.00 Registration

**10.00 - 10.10 Welcome** Lee Truelove, First Milk; Tom White, Yeo Valley

**Session 1: The wows and whys of dung beetles** Chair: Rob Howe

10.10 - 10.35 Sarah Beynon: The benefits of dung beetles to British farmers and horse owners

10.35 - 11.00 Darren Mann: Dung beetle dive, their UK conservation status & importance to dung degradation

11.00 - 11.25 Bryony Sands: Impact of parasiticides in the environment and how this impacts soil health

**11.25 - 11.50 BREAK**

**Session 2: Management of diversity for integrated parasite management** Chair: Andy Adler

11.50 - 12.15 Rob Howe: Integrated Parasite Management - a role for vets and a vision for animal health & parasite control

12.15 - 12.40 Mark & Jenny Lee: Biodiversity on a dairy farm - our journey, experience and learnings from 'conventional' farming to biodiverse farming

12.40 - 13.05 Matt Smith: Breeding for resilience in Romney sheep

13.05 - 13.35 Rich Thomas: Find the 'sweet spot' for your farm

**13.35 - 14.30 LUNCH**

**14.30 - 15.20 Dairy grazing platform dung beetle safari:** Will Mayor/Sarah Beynon

**Session 3: Diversity in grazing, forages and soil** Chair: Lee Truelove

15.20 - 15.40 Ian Wilkinson: Health goes in at the mouth - the role of sward diversity

15.40 - 16.00 Chris Berry: Grazing with precision for livestock health at Higher Thornton Farm

16.00 - 16.20 Lindsay Whistance: Importance of trees to livestock welfare and well being

16.20 - 16.40 Becky Willson: The impact of soils and animal welfare on greenhouse gas emissions

16.40 - 17.00 Eurion Thomas: Role of FEC testing in sustainable worm control

**17.00 - 18.00 Bar open serving local ales, ciders, wines and soft drinks**

**18.00 - 20.00 Evening meal: cooking over fire with Michelin star chef Josh Eggleton**

## Day 2 - Wednesday 12th June

**8.00 - 10.00 Agroforestry dung beetle safari:** Tom White/Claire Whittle

Group facilitators: Rob Howe, Hannah Jones, Darren & Ceri Mann, Bryony Sands, Sally-Ann Spence, Richard Wall, David Wood

Meet at Hazel Manor main entrance - BS40 6LG or what3words ///entitles.udder.chains

**10.00 Return to Holt Farm**

**10.00 - 10.30 Refreshments**

**Session 4: Integrated parasite management case studies** Chair: Tom White

10.30 - 10.50 Tim Bebbington: Dung beetle diversity and abundance on Common Land on Dartmoor

10.50 - 11.10 Julia Shrubbs: Biodiversity and dung beetles in the equine landscape, and update on responsible worming of horses

11.10 - 11.30 Sally-Ann Spence: Whole farm management for dung beetles

11.30 - 11.50 Andrew Prentis: The rights and wrongs of worming our pets! A small animal perspective

11.50 - 12.10 David Wood: Choughs and the dung beetle link - a case study from the Isle of Islay

**12.10 - 13.00 LUNCH**

**Session 5: Actions for change** Chair: Hannah Jones

13.00 - 13.30 Francine Fernandez, Jodie Perret: Scene setting

13.30 - 14.30 Discussion groups and actions facilitated by Rob Howe and Hannah Jones

14.30 - 14.50 Summing up

**15.00 Ends**