



Soil carbons and Net Zero

Sophie Throup
Head of Agriculture, Fisheries and Sustainable Sourcing

February 2022

To make and provide
food we're all proud of
where everyone's effort is worthwhile
so more and more people
can afford to enjoy eating well.

CSR: top of mind

Consumers were asked what in particular they were thinking about with regards to social responsibility, ethics, environmentally-friendly and financial responsibility in the context of supermarkets, and these are the responses.

Environmentally-friendly

Key themes:

- Packaging
- Use of plastic
- Product sourcing
- 'Green' energy
- Reduced waste

"That they use green energy, operate with a zero or low level CO2 footprint. They use recyclable packaging and use sustainable logistical/raw material practices."

Ethics

Key themes:

- Source of products
- Treatment of staff
- Treatment of suppliers
- Open and honest
- Doing the right thing

"The way they source products e.g. sustainability, the way they treat suppliers, the quality of their products."

Social Responsibility

Key themes:

- Supports the community
- Supports charities
- Treatment of staff
- Treatment of customers
- Fair to suppliers

"That are helping the local community around their location be it job creation or helping shelters or food banks by donating unwanted products so that they do not go to waste."

Financial Responsibility

Key themes:

- Pays taxes
- Fair pay of staff
- Competitively/ fairly priced
- Transparency of finances
- Fair payment of suppliers

"I think it is incredibly important. If a supermarket or big business isn't going to pay their taxes then who will? We all need to do our fair share for society."

What our customers tell us...our survey



Rank	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
1	Ensuring food safety	Ensuring food safety	Ensuring food safety	Ensuring food safety
2	Supporting British farmers	Supporting British farmers	Reducing plastic packaging	Reducing plastic packaging
3	Selling affordable food	Selling affordable food	Supporting British farmers	Supporting British farmers
4	Reducing plastic packaging	Providing good employment, pay and conditions	Reducing packaging waste	Ensuring animal welfare
5	Providing good employment, pay and conditions	Reducing plastic packaging	Ensuring animal welfare	Selling British products
6	Reducing food waste	Improving the recyclability of packaging and products	Reducing food waste	Reducing packaging waste
7	Improving the recyclability of packaging and products	Ensuring animal welfare	Protecting natural habitats, woodlands and forests	Trading fairly with suppliers
8	Selling British products	Reducing food waste	Selling British products	Reducing food waste
9	Ensuring animal welfare	Selling British products	Addressing climate change	Selling locally sourced products
10	Reducing packaging waste	Reducing packaging waste	Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking	Providing good employment, pay and conditions

Sustain Business Strategy



Ambition

- **Sustainable growth** with a lower environmental impact
- Play our full part **supporting the communities** we serve and the lives of our colleagues



Ambition

Play our full part in growing and developing British agriculture to sustain food security by working as a team with the farming industry and progressive farmers who care.

2030: growing great British food with farmers who care



Nature positive farming which cares for the world around us

Net Zero UK Agriculture by 2030

Soil health, tree planting and wildflower schemes to improve the lives of birds, bees and insects

Sustainably sourced feedstock

Great stockmanship to ensure content, well cared for animals

Training and skills programmes to promote great stockmanship and care (zero tolerance of poor welfare)

Payment incentives for improved performance

Innovation and attention to detail driving taste and quality

Excellent welfare and environmental standards

Variety and breed development for improved welfare, taste and quality

Building connections between farmers and customers to improve understanding and pride in what we do

Customer and colleague connections with visits online stories, blogs, #Farm 24

Next Generation, mentoring and Apprenticeship schemes

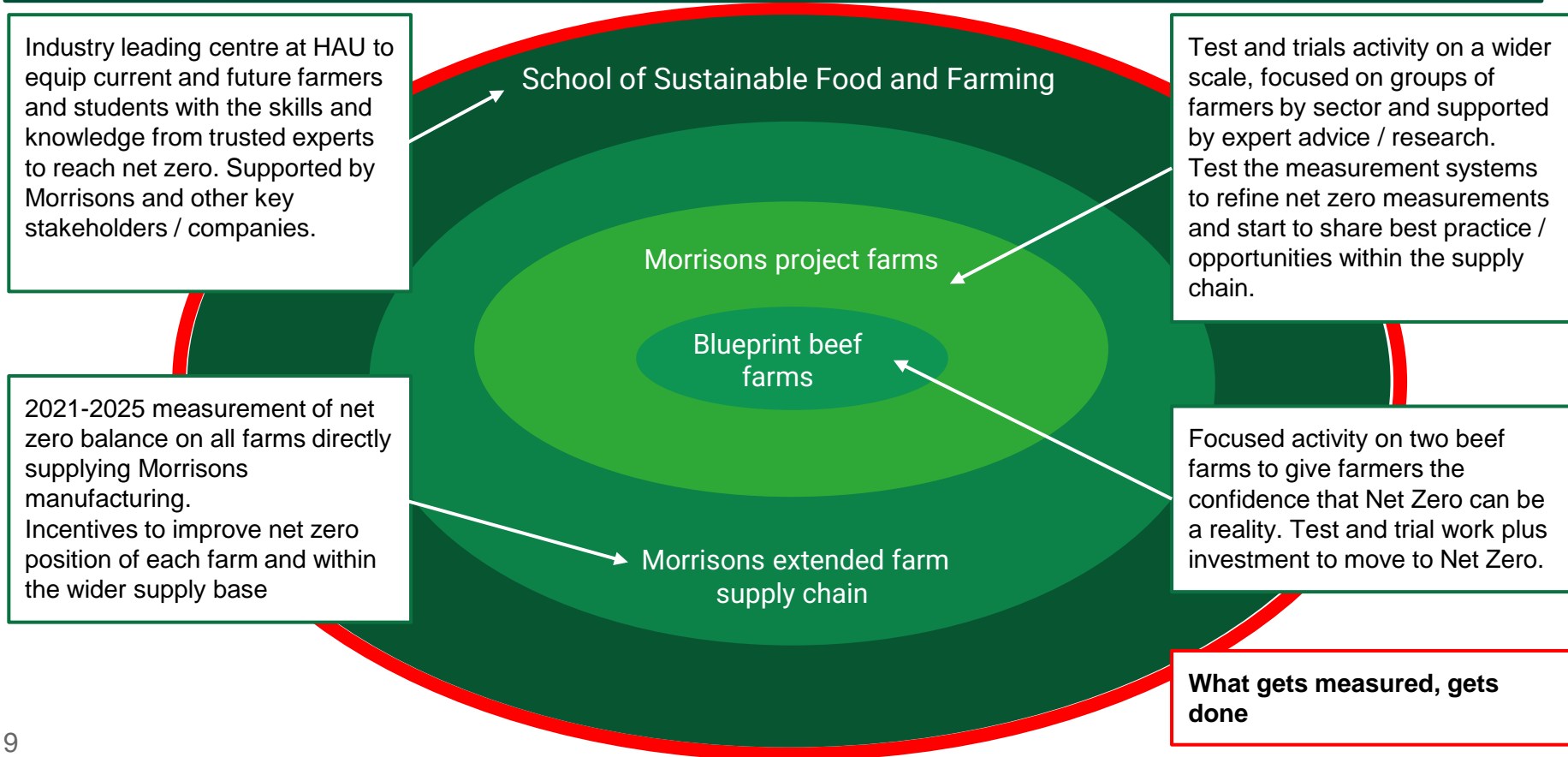
Sustainable growth of high quality British food from farms we know and trust

Environment



Reducing emissions is also (mainly) about reducing costs: buy less, waste less, use more
Sequestration can involve more cost, so important to lower emissions as priority #1

Approach: Net Zero 2030

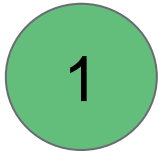


The scale of the challenge

If we didn't reduce emissions, but just planted trees to offset the CO2e emissions, we'd need to plant around 8.5million trees every year to offset our direct Ag supply (NB - there are ~3bn trees in the whole of the UK).

That's not what we want to do.

The approach to the challenge



Stimulate and support innovation

- Seaweed for cattle
- Insects to reduce soya
- Hydrogen for tractor fuel



Measure supplying farms and set action plans

- Emissions and sequestration
- 'So what next' action plans



Inspire, educate and inform

- School of Sustainable Food and Farming
- Training workshops
- Blueprint and project farms
- 'Treescapes' project

- We are members of the Soil Health Industry Platform, led by the Sustainable Soils Alliance and work with the Sustainable Food Trust on their Global Farm Metric
- SSA are developing the UK Farms Soil Carbon Code and also working more widely on guidance, benchmarks and indicators for soil (England focus).
 - Visual assessment
 - Soil organic matter
 - Earthworms
- Goal: Sustainable Management of Soils by 2030 through a Soil Health Action Plan for England
- We are open minded to the value of soil carbons in the net zero balance, but more minded at the moment to encourage improved soil carbons for crop productivity, soil health and improved water management.
- There's something everyone can do now: Measure, Manage, Monitor

Thank you