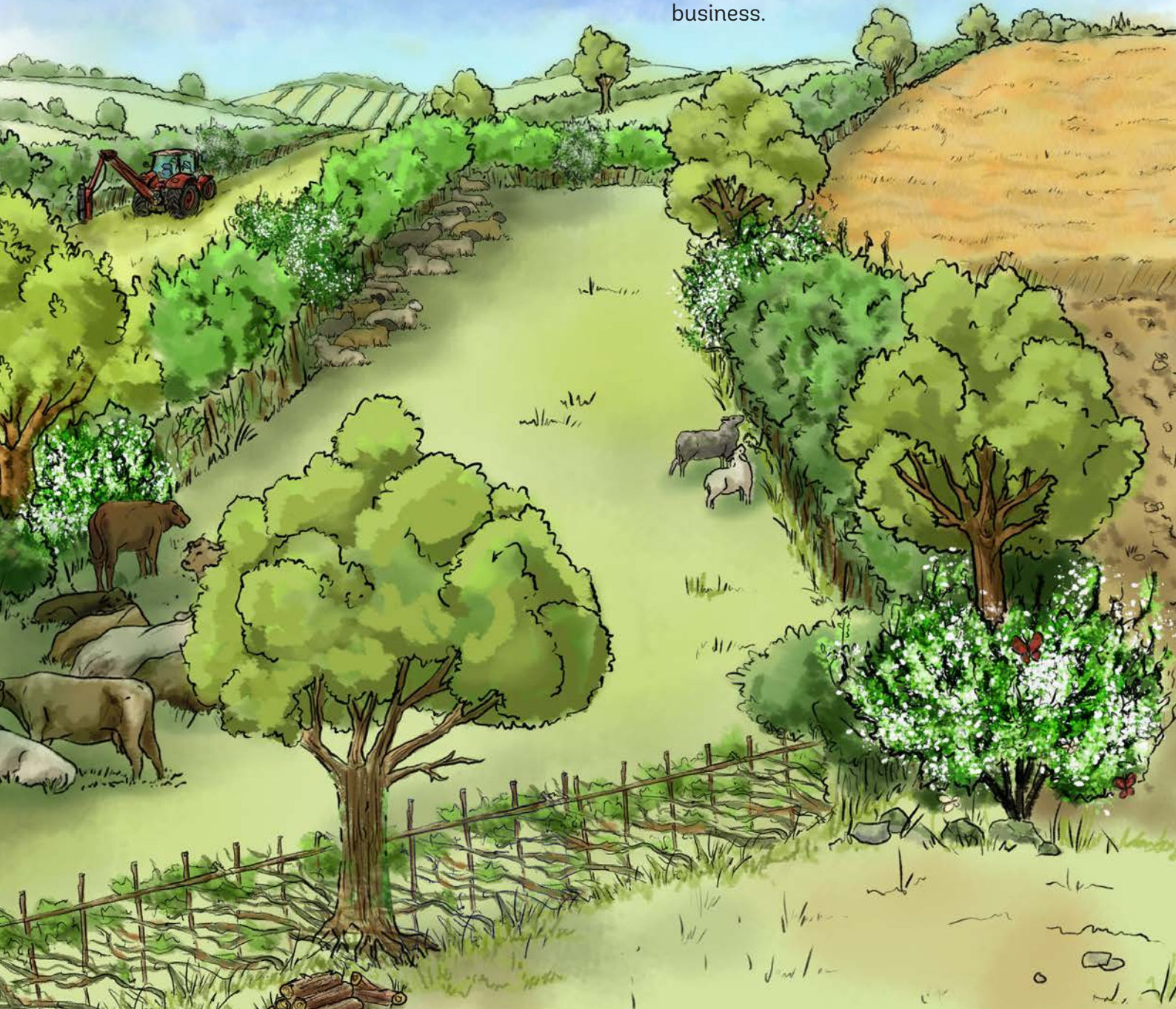


HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT

More than just field boundaries, hedgerows are historic landscape features that provide a whole host of benefits for farms and nature. When managed well, they can provide shelter for livestock, boost soil health and be a refuge for native wildlife. Hedges are a valuable asset for any farm, helping build resilience in your business.



Hedgerows can benefit your farm in many ways, offering shelter and shade for livestock, as well as extra browse for them to nibble on. This can help boost their immune systems, cut down on worm problems, and keep micronutrient levels in balance. Hedgerows also shelter crops, reducing shoot damage and wind chill, while helping them tap into nutrients they wouldn't otherwise reach. Soils sheltered by hedgerows also stay warmer, which means you can extend your growing and grazing seasons. The deep roots of hedgerow plants help stabilise soils, making your fields more resilient to drought and flooding, and reducing run-off.

When you have diverse hedges, they attract all sorts of beneficial species—like natural predators for pests such as aphids. As well as all these benefits, you can coppice or lay hedges to produce sustainable and high-quality woodchip and wood fuel in a sustainable way.

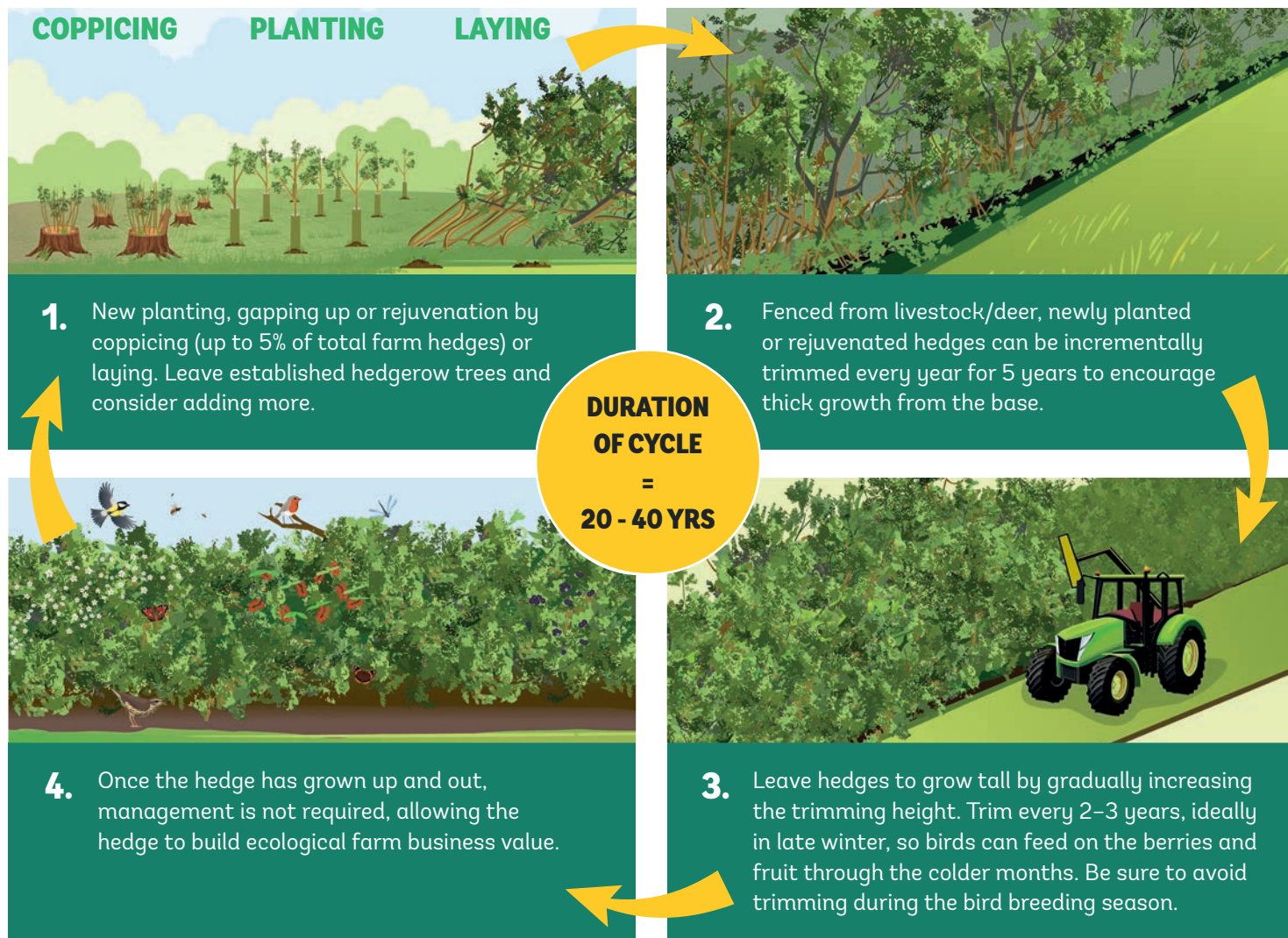


HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT

Hedgerows are a dynamic and diverse part of your farm, but they need the right management to stay healthy and productive. The ideal hedgerow is thick, dense and made up of diverse tree, shrub and flowering plants.

To create and sustain this, hedgerows can be managed on a 20 – 40 year cycle, as outlined below:

TREE MANAGEMENT CYCLE



For more information on which stage your hedgerow fits, and appropriate management advice, the People's Trust for Endangered Species has created a hedgerow assessment process – see their website for more details.

Cyclical management can save you the costs of annual flailing, provide a sustainable source of wood products, and deliver all the associated benefits for your farm.

Thanks to Megan from People's Trust for Endangered Species.
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