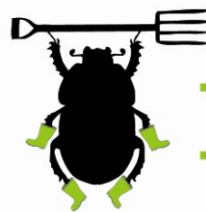


# FACT SHEET 1:



Dung  
**Beetles**  
Direct

## DUNG BEETLES: WHAT DO THEY DO FOR US?

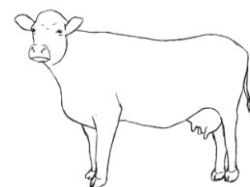
### BRITISH, NATIVE DUNG BEETLES

The UK has more than 40 native species of these all-important insects. By tunnelling and breeding within dung, feeding upon it and burying it below ground, Dung Beetles break down and decompose our animal dung. In fact, Dung Beetles provide 'ecosystem services' to the UK cattle industry valued at more than **£367 million per year** and they could save us even more if we looked after them better!

- **But why is dung such a big problem?**

### CATTLE

Cattle can produce ~ **6%** of their body weight in dung every day. On average, each animal may produce **9 tons** of dung each year.



**How much productive grassland could we lose each year if it were covered in cattle dung?**

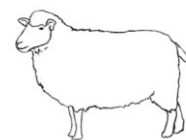
- England = **161,826 ha\*** (~4.8% of total permanent pasture, more than the area of London)
- Wales = **42,515 ha\*** (more than 3 x the area of Cardiff)

*\*This includes the extra 6-12% of the pat area of unpalatable grass surrounding the pat avoided by grazing livestock*

The dung of just 12 cows could cover a hectare in a year if it weren't broken down!

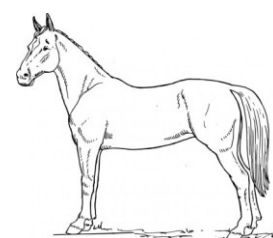
### SHEEP

Sheep can produce ~ **4%** of their body weight in dung every day. On average, each animal may produce more than **800kg** dung each year!



### HORSES

Horses can produce ~ **3-5%** of their body weight in dung every day. So an average 16hh horse can produce **18kg** of dung a day. That's **6.5 tons** of dung produced every year!

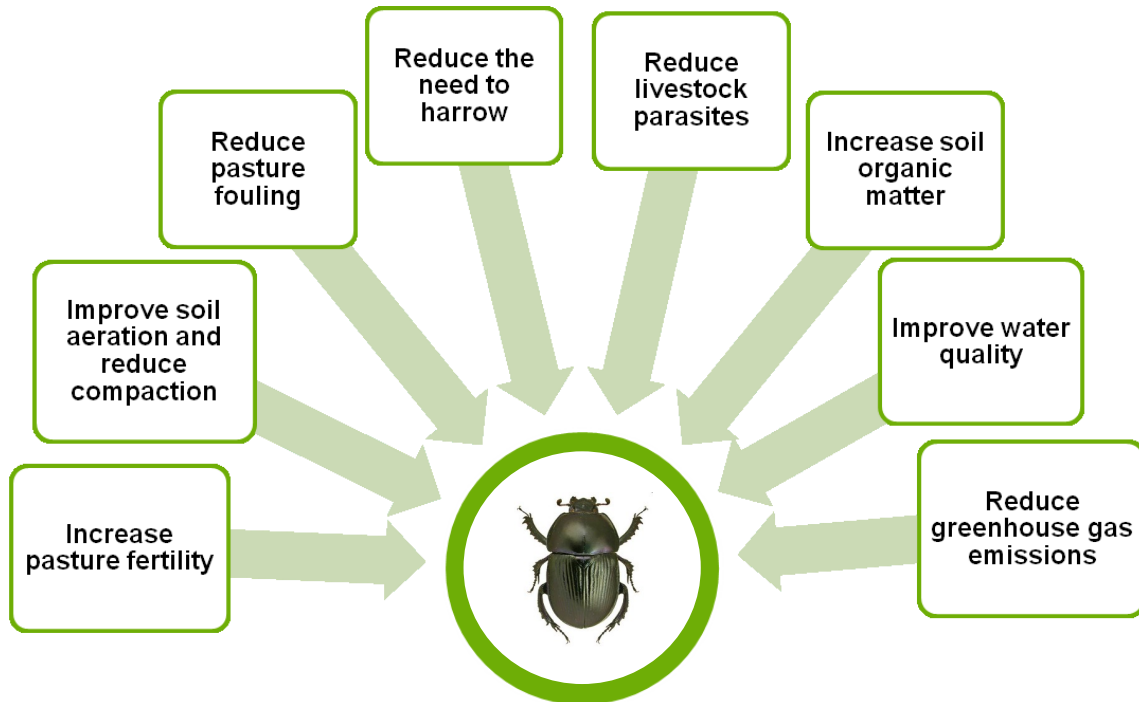


If we spend half an hour every day poo-picking, that is over **182 hours** spent, each year, removing dung from our pastures...per horse!

## DUNG BEETLES can deal with this dung for you:



## WHAT CAN DUNG BEETLES DO FOR YOU?



## BUT, THEY ARE IN DECLINE!

Livestock wormers and other parasiticides can be highly toxic to Dung Beetles (see **Fact Sheet 2**) and Dung Beetle numbers have decreased dramatically in the UK and abroad. As a result, the efficiency of the services they provide has been dramatically reduced! It's time to start to look after our Dung Beetles to ensure they continue to work for us.

w: [www.dungbeetlesdirect.com](http://www.dungbeetlesdirect.com) e: [info@dungbeetlesdirect.com](mailto:info@dungbeetlesdirect.com)  
t: 07966 956357

Project delivered by:



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