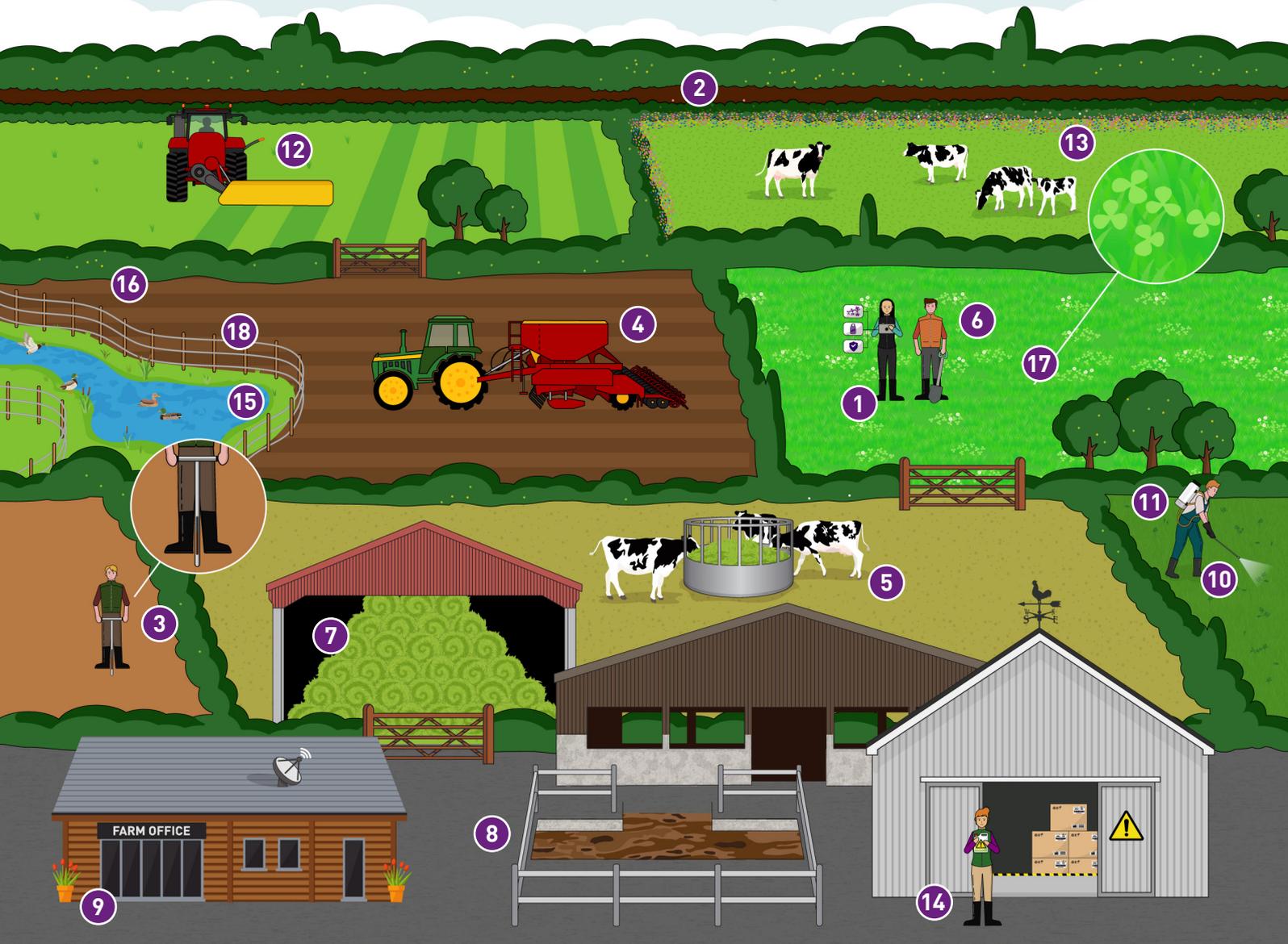


# Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

## – examples used in grassland



1. Take advice from an agronomist on the BASIS Professional Register.
2. Undertake an annual assessment of soil structure and drainage to decide if there is a need for new drainage.
3. Test soil pH and nutrient balance to ensure optimum for sward growth. Aim to sample each field every 5 years. A competitive grass sward will reduce weed establishment and growth.
4. Reseed when perennial weeds make the sward unproductive or the sward is no longer viable. Where a complete reseed is not possible consider overseeding to energise the sward and maximise its potential. Choose disease resistant varieties.
5. Avoid bare soil especially where stock congregate at field entrances and around feeders. Overseed any bare patches to help prevent weed establishment and move feeders regularly.
6. Assess weed populations. Walk fields as grass starts to grow and use weed % infestation levels to inform management decisions.
7. Ensure imported forage is free from weed seeds to avoid spread of weeds on the farm.
8. Ensure manure is free from weed seeds and you meet all the rules / criteria for manure storage and spreading. Completing and implementing a manure management plan is advised.
9. Check if your farm is in a Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) and follow the Government rules.
10. Spot spray weeds or use a weed wiper to reduce the need to treat whole fields and hence reduce pesticide use.
11. When using a knapsack ensure the pesticide is authorised for knapsack use, the knapsack is calibrated and the operator holds the relevant certificate of competence for applying pesticides with a knapsack (PA6) as well as PA1. Check you are wearing the correct PPE.
12. Cut, top or rogue weeds before weed seeds become viable.
13. Manage stock numbers to avoid over/under grazing and poaching which allows weeds to become established.
14. Read the pesticide label and any updated guidance to ensure the right product is being applied to the right crop at the right time. Be aware of grazing intervals after spraying. Weeds should be actively growing and at the correct growth stage.
15. Fence off all watercourses to avoid soil erosion and water pollution.
16. Be aware of no spray buffer zone requirements for hedgerows, trees and water courses.
17. Including legumes e.g. clover in a grassward can reduce nitrogen inputs.
18. Identify potential pollution points on the farm where soil, which could carry tiny but detectable amounts of pesticide, could run off to watercourses.

**Plant protection products** is one name given to chemicals that are used to control weeds, pests and diseases. They are also called **pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and sprays**. They must be applied by a person holding the relevant certificates of competence.