

## Field day at Nick Broads Property – Waituku – 7 August 2019

The project team along with a few local farmers spent Wednesday afternoon taking a close look at how Tagasaste trial work is going. For all the details see the link to our field day [handout](#).

The understorey study has shown us that the new fine leafed Cocksfoot variety along with Lotus and Red Clover are all good relatively performers in this environment. The newly established Prairie Grass is also looking good, but its early days.

New regrowth on the recently trimmed 'Direct Graze Trial' trees shows that there is a lot of potential for this type of management – but again, early days and we need to measure the amount of feed plus test in on some keen cattle too!

An area near the main plantation of Tagasaste was planted inside tree guards before the project began. The idea was to continue grazing so that there would be no loss of pasture quality. Its an expensive way to plant trees but the results look great so far.

Some of the benefits of Tagasaste are:

- Keeping soil on the hills
- Winter or drought fodder
- Shade and shelter
- Fixing N in the soil and adding organic matter through leaf fall
- It could be a good way to quickly revegetate slip scars
- Complimentary to poplars and willows - it grows on much drier sites

Where to from here?

1. Scale up the pasture species work using the best species. How to establish them?
2. How will this system affect the carrying capacity? Higher/Lower Su/Ha?
3. How good is Tagasaste at holding the soil?
4. How will we manage the understorey pasture mix for best results?