

Managing Horses Holistically at Nature's Way Farm

How one horse-keeper saved time, money, and land by working with nature

Location: Buckinghamshire, England

Producer: Radka Gromnicova, Nature's Way Farm



Introduction

At Nature's Way Farm, Radka Gromnicova set out with a simple hope: to keep her horses healthy without battling mud, overgrazed patches, and soaring feed bills. Like many horse-owners, she'd been taught the "traditional" way—short grass, poo-picking, bare gateways, and feeding hay far earlier than she wished.

But when she began managing holistically, everything changed.

Today, Radka enjoys healthy horses, rich soils, more time, and far lower winter feeding costs—simply by managing in alignment with nature's principles.

From Muddy Gateways to Living Ground

Before holistic management, the gateways and rolling spots were muddy, compacted, and bare. Horses rolled in the same places, creating hard pans that no grass could break through.



Traditional horse pasture management leads to muddy gateways. The photo was taken two years prior to switching to a practice that regenerates land.

After only a year and a half of planned recovery and better grazing practices, those same patches sprang back to life.

What changed?

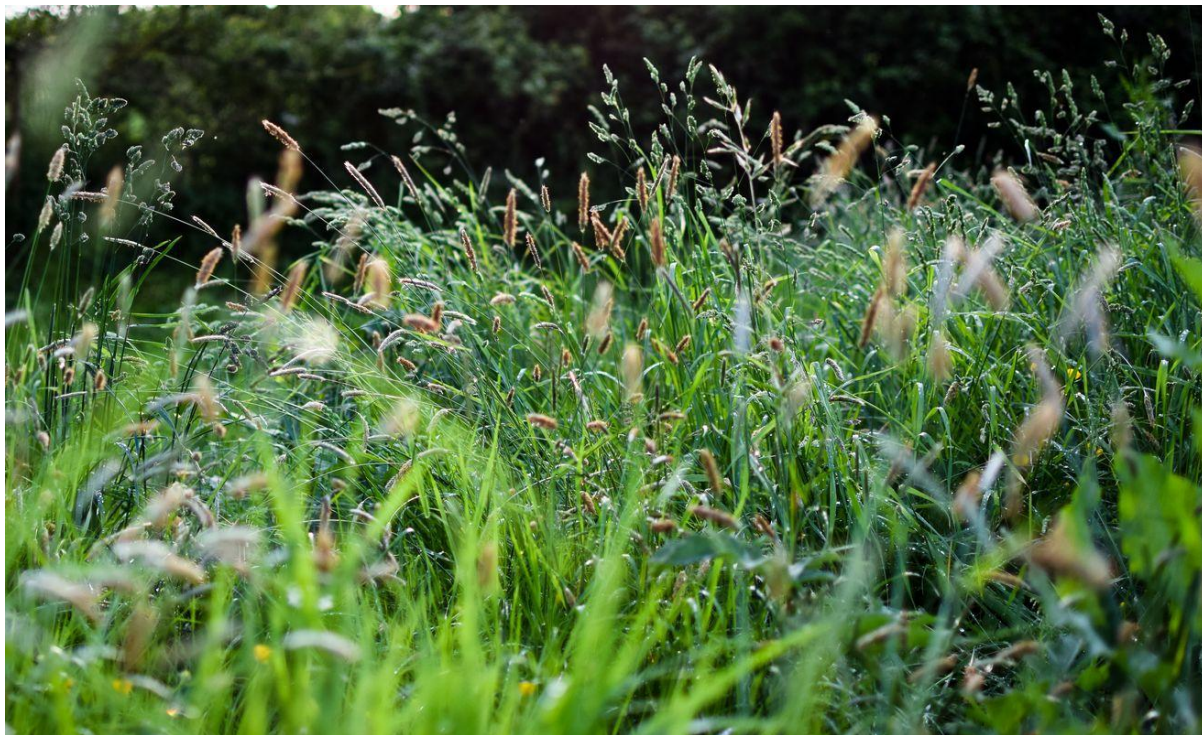
- Long recovery periods between grazings
- Better distribution of dung and urine
- Allowing the grass to grow tall before returning horses
- No mechanical intervention

See *Before* and *After* images on the next page of a bare, compacted patch restored in eighteen months through rest and better grazing management—no machinery and no reseeding.

Before



After



Left alone to recover, even the most exhausted ground will answer back.

Tall Grass, Healthy Horses

“Horses evolved to eat tall grass,” Radka explains.

When the sward was allowed to grow dense and high, her animals naturally selected the plants they needed. Laminitis risk dropped, condition improved, and their behaviour settled.



Given choice and abundance, horses select what serves their health best.

No more nibbling all day.

No more stressed, hungry horses.

Just calm animals and a healthy stand of forage.



In her video, [Natural Horse Pasture Management](#), Radka shows how to manage pasture to grow nutrient-dense forage for excellent horse health.

Regrowth That Lasts Through Winter

Radka used to feed hay from August onwards, then all through the winter. After switching to holistic grazing:

- She expected grass to last until December.
- She bought hay as a backup but didn't use it.
- Winter turnout improved—horses stayed outside all season except for ten days of severe weather.

Her poorest field, once written off after 20 years of overgrazing and poo-picking, began showing earthworms, ants, large dung beetles, and thick regrowth.

Before



After



Temporary Grazing Units: Simple, Quick, and Cheap

With a few posts and a roll of wire, Radka began building three-day grazing cells. The horses moved frequently, the grass recovered quickly, and dung was spread far more evenly.

No tractor.

No machinery.

No extra labour.

Just thoughtful grazing.



Small moves, big impact—short grazing periods and long rests transformed this land. The white arrow in the photo above is pointing at the chickens which are scratching for insects and spreading the horse manure. Despite the wet, Radka was able to keep the horses out on pasture the whole Winter, apart from ten days of the worst weather.



Radka demonstrates in the video, [How to Build a Grazing Unit for Your Horses](#), how easy it is to build a temporary grazing unit for your horses using electric fencing.

Hens: Nature's Most Affordable Fertiliser Spreaders

Radka added a flock of laying hens to follow the horses. Each week, she moved their electronet into the last grazed area. The hens scratched through dung, hunting insects and breaking apart manure piles.

Where the hens had been?

The grass turned dark green, thick, and lush.

Where the hens hadn't?

The sward stayed pale.

Chicken manure proved to be a powerful, low-cost fertility booster.



Hens scratch for insects in the manure, spreading it whilst leaving their own droppings. Radka ran the pen on the worst grass, and it has some of the best grass now -- lush and thick.



The hen effect—scratching, spreading, fertilising. The cheapest form of soil regeneration.

Better Food, Better Land, Better Time

Nature's Way Farm now produces top-quality pasture-raised chicken, with customers raving about the flavour. Radka is expanding her broiler enterprise, supported by a healthier, more vibrant farm ecosystem.

Most importantly—holistic management gave Radka something priceless:

More time to enjoy her horses.



With nature doing the work, Radka found time to simply enjoy her horses again.

Conclusion

Radka's story shows what becomes possible when we let nature do the work. Healthier horses, richer soils, lower costs, and far less stress—without chemicals, machinery, or endless labour.