

Drenthe's Swap System

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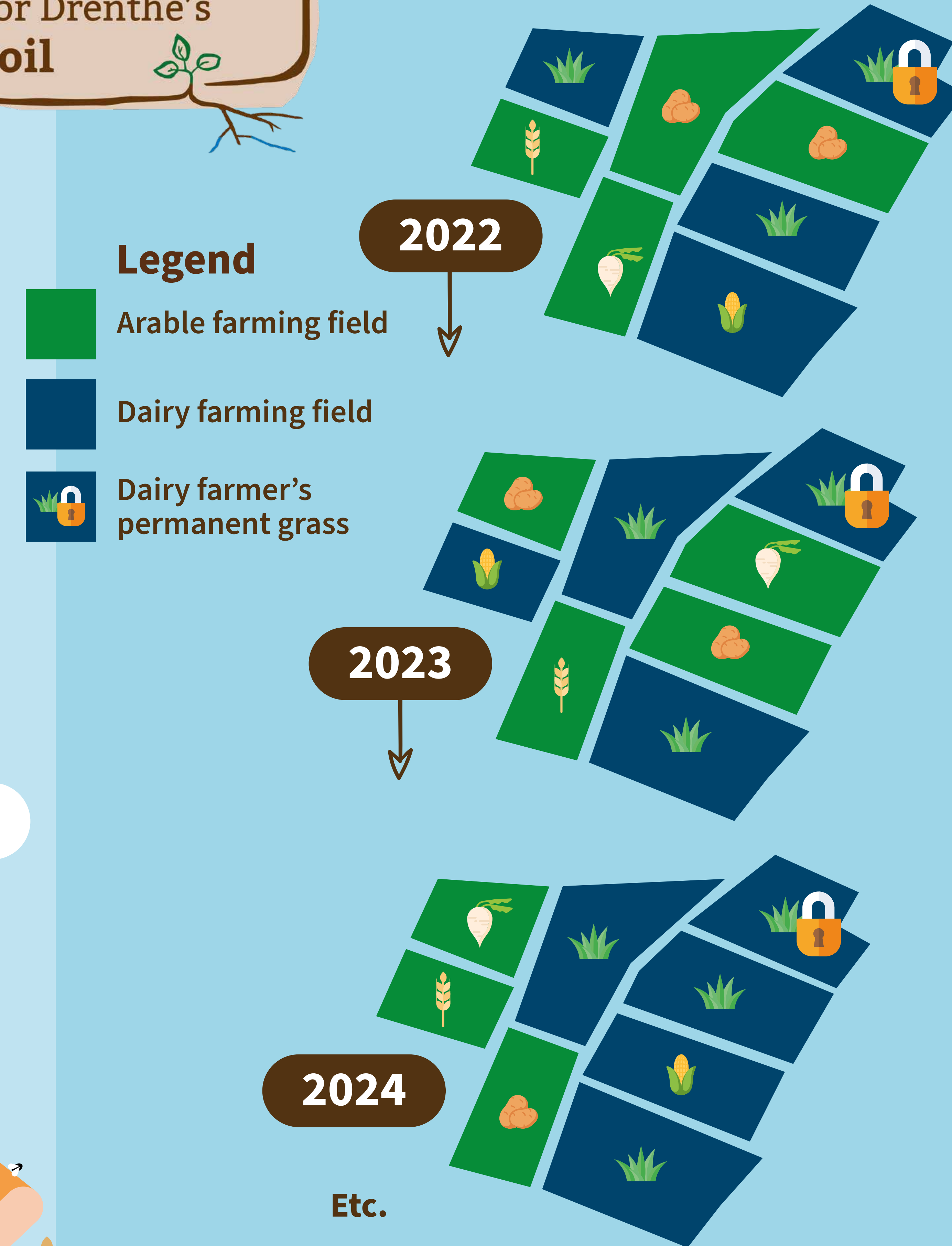
On Drenthe's sandy soils, many farmers traditionally swap land parcels with each other. This has a positive effect on soil quality and has advantages for both sides.

- This cooperation leads to a more extensive crop rotation and includes grass as extra rotation crop.
- Grass as a rotation crop ensures deeper root systems and an increased % of organic material.

How does it work?

The one year the arable farmer uses the field and the next year the dairy farmer. This way they rotate arable crops with dairy crops. They make mutual agreements about fertilizers, tillage and cultivation plans.

Farming together for Drenthe's soil



Advantages for the soil

- Less nitrate leaching
- Better water absorption & retention
- More carbon fixation (from CO₂)
- Less pesticides
- More bio-diversity
- Year-round covered soil

Advantages for the arable farmer

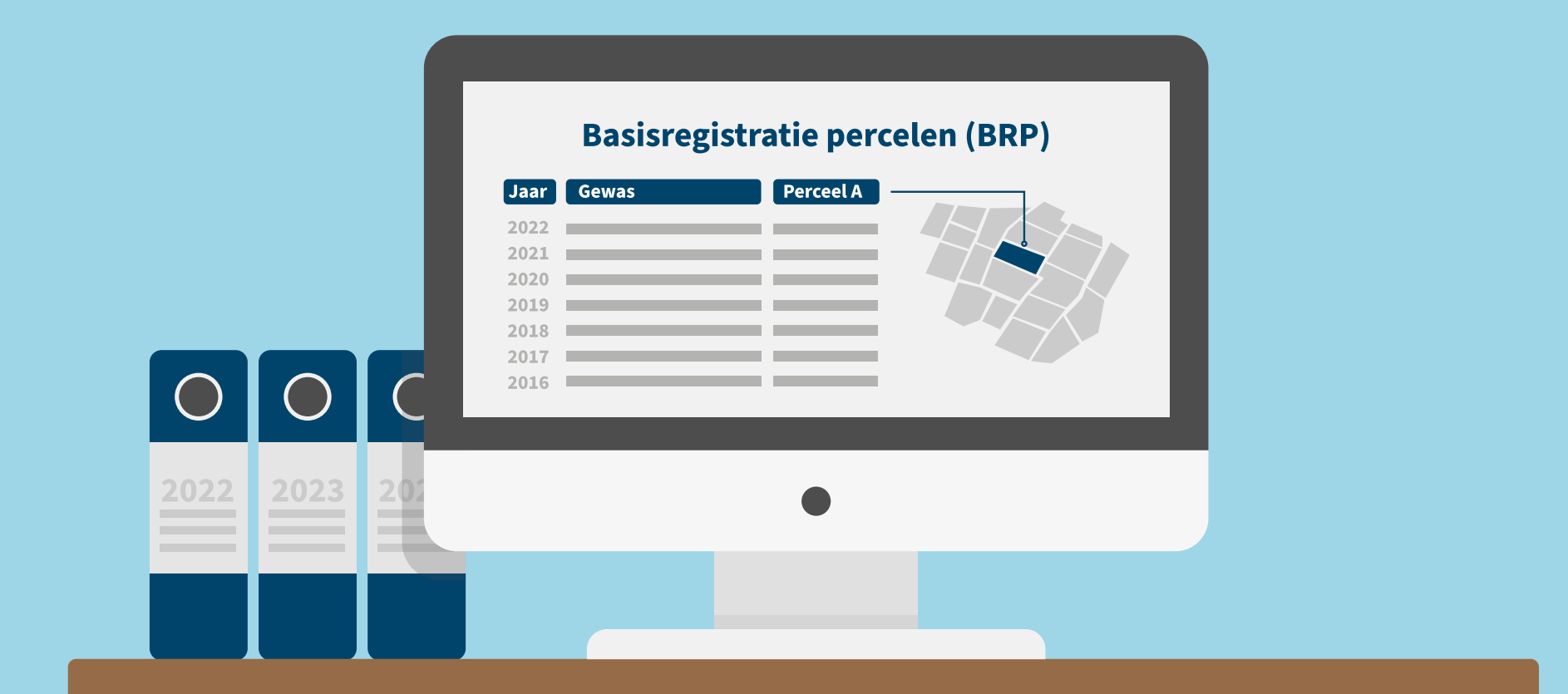
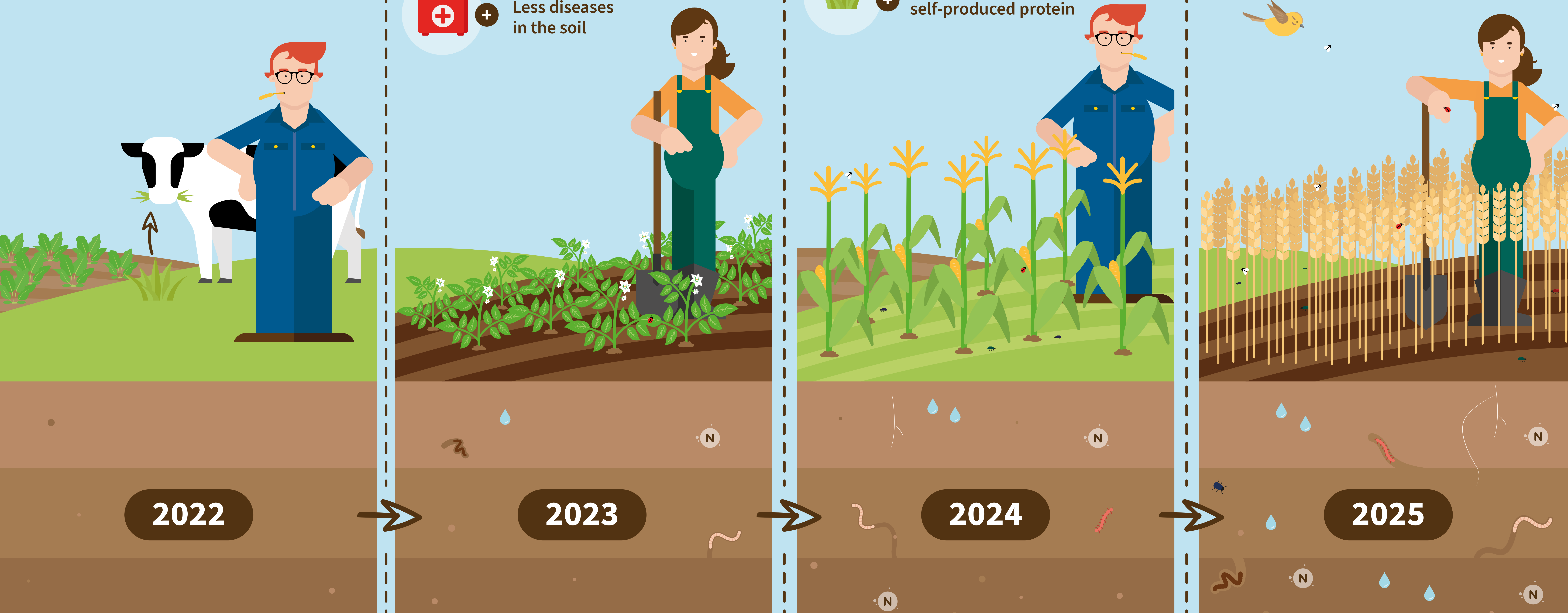
- A broader crop rotation
Potato yield often exceeding 1:4
- Unprofitable rotation crops used by dairy farmers who can earn from these
- Healthier plants, so less pesticides
- Less diseases in the soil

Advantages for the dairy farmer

- Less pesticides
- Mais rotation across more fields
- Regular new grass and absorption mitigates drought damage
- More & improved self-produced protein

Soil needs

Which crop is grown where depends on the soil requirements and is decided by the farmers.



The exchange agreement is recorded in the Land Register (Basisregistratie percelen – BRP)