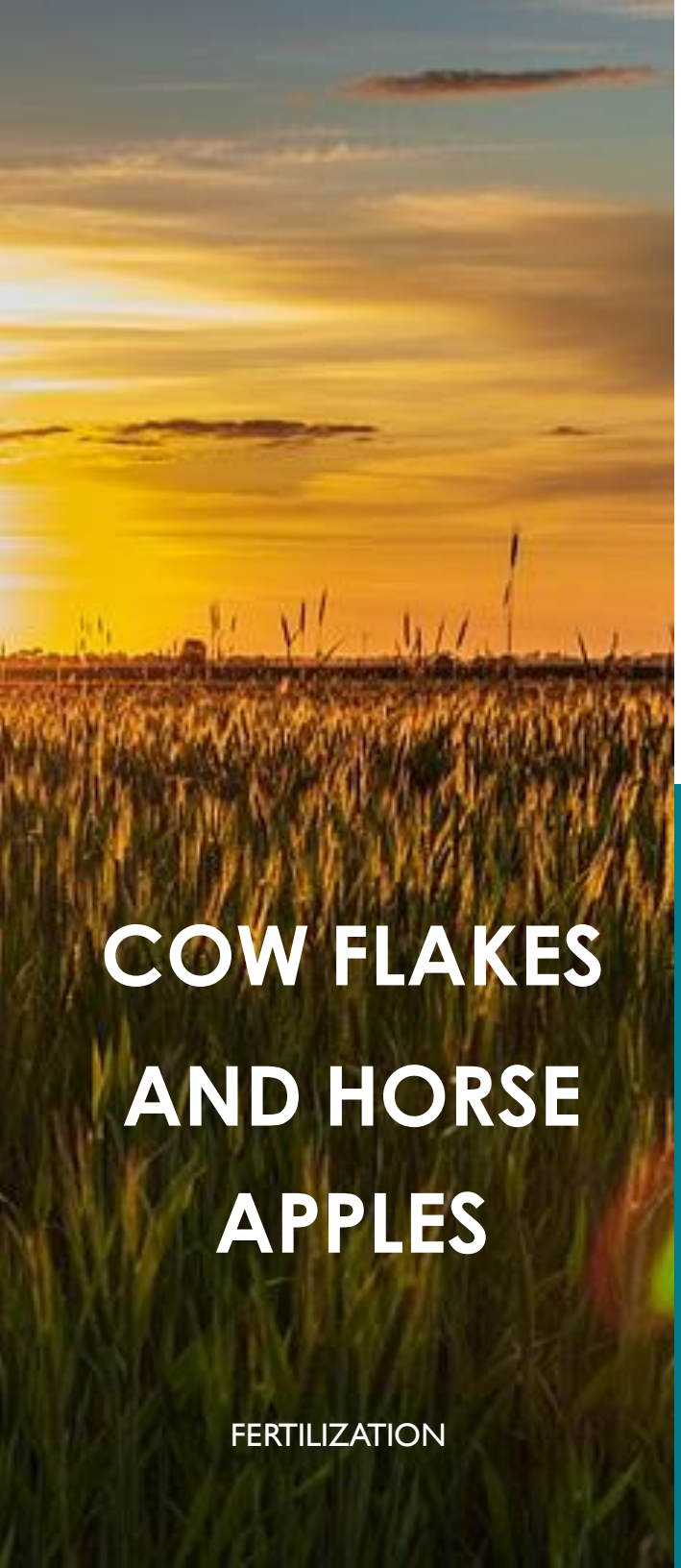

COW FLAKES AND HORSE APPLES

FERTILIZATION

Fertilization

Cow flakes and horse apples

Flies and beetles are indicators of the quality of an agricultural system. The production ofcrops has increased significantly in recent years, so has the use of fertilizers.
There are different types of fertilizers, such as artificial irrigation or the use of pesticides. Although it should promote the growth of plants, fertilizer still leads to the improvement of parts of the plant world.

Fertilization is done either with organic agents (manure) or with chemical-synthetic agents. The man-made fertilizer stays in the soil only for a short time, which results in 55% of the nitrous oxideand nitrogen emissions being released into the atmosphere. Organic fertilizer, on the other hand, lasts longer and provides an important source of food for insects.

Insects benefit greatly from nitrogen – they need it for their growth. They take up the nitrogen through their food and therefore multiply more and more. However nitrogen is not good for all plants. For plants growing on nutrient-poor soils, the high nitrogen content can have a negative impact.

Only through the use of fertilizer, the number of grassland plants descreases. Due to the germ of fertilizer, many habitat speciaslists leave their homes and search for not-destroyed vegetation.

Fertilization increases the rate of insects in relation to plant-pests. This results in more plant production products being used, the combination of these products and the fertilizers decrease the rate of plants and insects.

An advantage over artificial fertilizers is that the organic one is also considered a food source for insects.
In independant forest areas, the animals fertilize themselves.
The consequence of intense fertilization is, that substances such as nitrate and phosphates get into surrounding waters. This reduces the diversitxy of insects in these rooms. It gets clearer, that sustainable fertilization is not only nessecary for a long term agricultural use of green areas, but also for the preservation of insect-diversity.

By Clara Bootsveld and Anna-Maria Grigat