

Farm, Sow and Grow

Farming in the United Kingdom

Farming is the business of growing crops and rearing livestock. Up to 70% of the land in the UK is used for farming. There are three main types of farming in UK. These are arable, pastoral and mixed.



Arable farming is growing crops such as cereals, fruit and vegetables.



Pastoral farming is rearing animals, such as cows and sheep.



Mixed farming is both growing crops and rearing animals.

The type of farming depends on the climate, the quality of the soil and the topography of the area. E.g. the flat nutrient-rich land in the east of England is perfect for arable farming. In contrast, the wet and windy hills of central Wales are most suited to pastoral sheep farming.

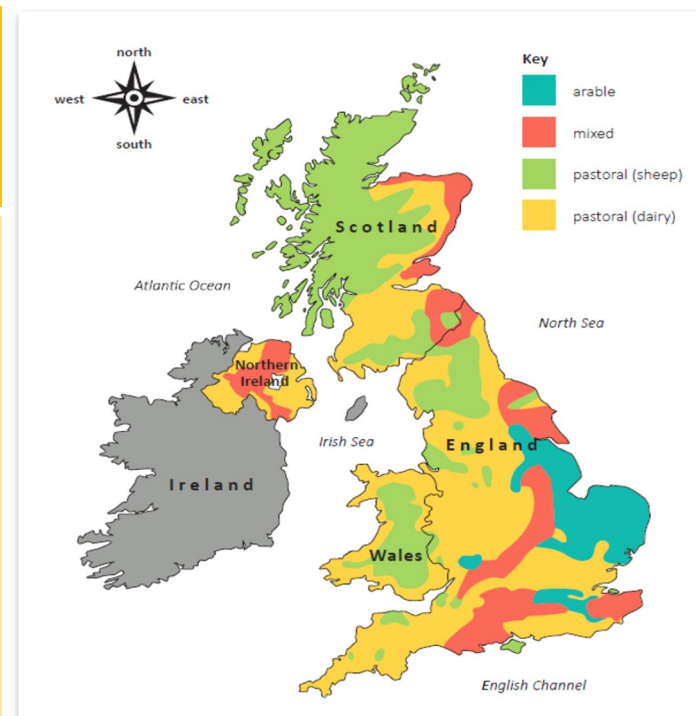
Modern Farming Techniques.

Some farmers use modern farming techniques such as:

- New machinery
- Technology
- Scientific discoveries

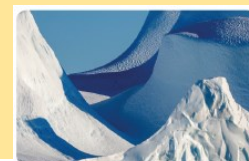
This helps them produce more food but there are negative effects too as they use:

- chemical pesticides
- synthetic fertilisers
- irrigation technologies.



Climate Zones

The world is divided into 5 main climate zones. These are areas of similar average temperature and average rainfall.



The **polar zone** is cold and dry with long dark winters. Average temperatures are 10°C to -55°C .



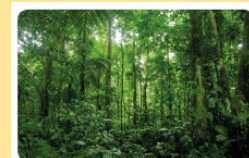
The **temperate zone** has warm summers, cool winters and year-round rainfall. Average temperatures are 0°C to 20°C .



The **Mediterranean zone** has hot summers and mild, rainy winters. Average temperatures are 15°C to 30°C .



The **desert zone** is hot year round and has very little rainfall. Average temperatures are 25°C to 40°C .



The **tropical zone** has a wet season and a dry season. It is hot and humid. Average temperature is around 31°C .

Allotments

Allotments are small pieces of land that individuals can rent to use for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The location of allotments in the local environment depends on many factors including:

- Soil quality
- Drainage
- Transport links
- Availability of water
- Local facilities



Citrus Farming in California

The climate in California, which is on the west coast of North America, is hot and sunny in the summer and mild in the winter.

The soil is well drained and fertile. This suits the growing of citrus fruit, particularly oranges.

Several different types of orange are grown and sold in the United States or transported around the world.



Food Miles

Consumers in the UK have come to expect that they can buy most food all year round, regardless of the growing season. This means that some foods are transported from where they are grown. The distance food travels is known as food miles.

However, the movement of these goods means that more energy is being used to transport the food and to keep it fresh, which can add to pollution and contribute to climate change.

Vocabulary

Definition

climate

The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.

fertiliser

A natural or chemical substance that is spread on the land or given to plants to make them grow successfully.

irrigation

The practice of supplying land with water so that crops and plants will grow.

livestock

Animals and birds that are kept on a farm, such as cows, sheep or chickens.

pesticide

A chemical substance used to kill animals and plants that are harmful to crops.

topography

The arrangement of the physical features of an area e.g. mountains, valleys, rivers.

Coffee growing in Peru

The climate in Peru, South America is cool to warm tropical with frequent rainfall and rich soil. This makes ideal conditions for growing coffee.

Growing and processing coffee is time consuming and difficult because most of the work is still done by hand.

The Fairtrade foundation offers training to farmers to improve how they process coffee, so they can earn a better living.

