

# Year Four local History Study - Farming

## Farming Facts

- 100 years ago, more than 1 million people were employed as farm labourers in the UK, compared to about 450,000 today.
- Orchards covered more than 100,000 hectares of Great Britain 100 years ago. Today, they cover less than 20,000 hectares (80% less).
- In the 19th, steam powered machines were introduced.
- In the last 100 years, petrol powered tractors have replaced horses on farms. The first tractors worked by pulling the farm implements, much as a horse would have done.
- In the 1920s, a three-point hitch on tractors was developed which revolutionised farming and made working the land quicker, easier and less labour-intensive.
- In the 1960s, four wheel drive tractors became available.
- Today, agriculture in the United Kingdom uses 69% of the country's [land area](#), employs 1.5% of its workforce (476,000 people) and contributes [£9.9 billion](#) to the economy. The UK produces less than 60% of the food it eats. Although agricultural activity occurs in most rural locations, it is concentrated in [East Anglia](#) (for crops) and the [South West](#) (livestock). There are 212,000 farm holdings, which vary widely in size.



Key Vocabulary	
<b>Agriculture</b>	- the science or practice of farming.
<b>Arable</b>	- farming that concentrates on producing crops.
<b>Pastoral</b>	- farming that concentrates on producing livestock or use livestock to produce products.
<b>Mechanisation</b>	- introducing machines or automatic devices into the farming process.
<b>Diversification</b>	- farms finding new ways to make money to supplement traditional farming.
<b>Organic</b>	- method of farming that uses only natural products rather than chemicals.
<b>Intensive farming</b>	- farming on a small scale.
<b>Extensive farming</b>	- farming on a large scale.
<b>Climate change</b>	- a change in global or regional climate patterns.
<b>Continuity</b>	- factors that remain constant (the same) over a period of time.
<b>Change</b>	- factors that become different over a period of time.
<b>Trend</b>	- a general direction in which something is changing.

