

Sow, Grow & Farm

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 the UK, These are arable, pastoral and mixed.



Types of farming:

Arable farming is growing crops, such as cereals 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. For example. The flat nutrient-rich land in the east of England is perfect for arable farming, whereas the wet and windy hills of central Wales are most suited to pastoral sheep farming.



Food miles

Consumers in the UK have come to expect that they can buy most foods all year round, regardless of the growing season. This means that some foods are transported from where they are grown to where they are eaten. The distances food travels is known as food miles. However, this movement of goods means more energy is being used to transport the food and keep it fresh, which can add to pollution and contribute to climate change.



Glossary

carpel	The female part of a flower, consisting of the stigma, style, ovary and ovules.
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.
stamen	The male part of a flower, consisting of a thin stem, called the filament, and the anther that is covered with pollen.

Climate zones



The world is divided into five main climate zones. These are areas of similar average temperature and average rainfall. Mountains have variable climates depending on altitude.



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. The average temperature is around 31°C.



Mountains have changeable climates with colder temperatures and more rainfall as the elevation increases.

Modern farming techniques

Some farmers use modern farming practices, including new machinery, technology and scientific discoveries, to produce more food. Whilst this has increased food production there have also been some negative effects on the environment.

Modern farming techniques include chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilisers and irrigation technologies.

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 and local facilities.



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