



Educational Resources from www.ukagriculture.com

The Year of Food and Farming, which aims to reconnect children and young people with the food that they eat, is posing a challenge for all those involved and who are looking for resources to support the year.

www.ukagriculture.com has been explaining food, farming and the countryside since 1999 and has a number of resource areas that can assist teachers with meeting the aims of the year.

Pre visit

There is a lot to take in on a farm visit and for adults and children alike it can be difficult to see how the visit fits into the production system as a whole. There are two useful resources on the site that can help to put a visit into perspective.

The Four Seasons takes a brief overview of typical farming activities across the months and seasons. It's a good starting point to get children thinking about farming and will prepare them for a visit. It is picture based so it can easily be displayed on a white board.

The Four Seasons

The screenshot shows the UK Agriculture website interface. At the top left is the 'UK Agriculture' logo. To the right are navigation links for 'Home', 'About Us', and 'Terms'. Below the logo is a search bar and a 'Message Us' button. The main content area is titled 'UK Agriculture four seasons' and 'Month - October'. It features a text block for 'October' describing indoor housing for dairy herds and a photograph of cows in a barn. Below this is another text block for 'October' describing suckler herds and a photograph of a cow's head. On the left side, there are two vertical menus: 'Season' with options for Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn; and 'Month' with options for each month of the year from January to December.

A more detailed resource is our Field to Fridge series. Common crop and livestock systems are comprehensively illustrated across the day or year and show the order in which farm activities occur and the foods that are derived. It is also ideally suited to display on a white board and should help foster a greater understanding about how the staples in our diet are produced.

Field to Fridge

UK Agriculture field to fridge

Milk Production

5.00am 6.00am 8.00am 11.00am 12.00pm 4.00pm 6.00pm

More Pictures > More Pictures > More Pictures > More Pictures > More Pictures > More Pictures > More Pictures >

Milk Production - 6.00am

The milking parlour is kept clean and clear of obstructions during milking time. The hoses for washing the cows udders are suspended from the ceiling.

Post visit

On return from a farm, teachers will want to engage the children in discussion about their farm visit and may want this to be written up. Whether this is done as a group exercise, or individually, the Farming Pictures Library is sure to help. Over 1000 food, farming and countryside images have been assembled in an easy to search format. Two resolutions are available; small for use in electronic presentations on the white board, and high resolution for printing to A4 or including in a project or write up. All pictures are free for educational use.

Farming Pictures

UK Agriculture

Farming pictures

Farming pictures for - Cereal crops

68 images found currently displaying images 1 to 10 next page

Search

Crops - Cereal crops

Spring barley in evening light on the day of combining

High resolution image

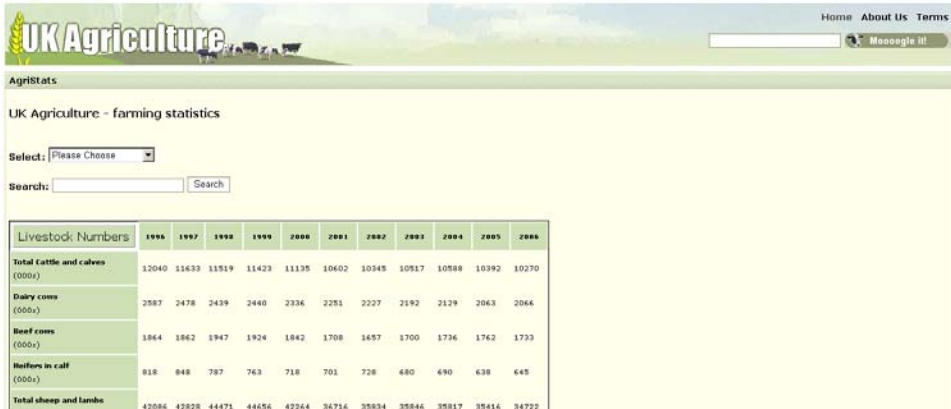


Other Activities

For older pupils there are two additional key resources that may be useful. One looks at agriculture today in a statistical way, the other looks at agriculture and society across history.

The Farming Statistics resource is a very simple to use database of useful statistics; "how much farmland is there in the UK?", or "how many cows are there?" These are easily answered and with information displayed for the previous ten years, useful trends can be observed. The data, which has been drawn from Defra's statistics, has been consolidated into a comprehensive resource.

Farming Statistics



UK Agriculture - farming statistics

Select:

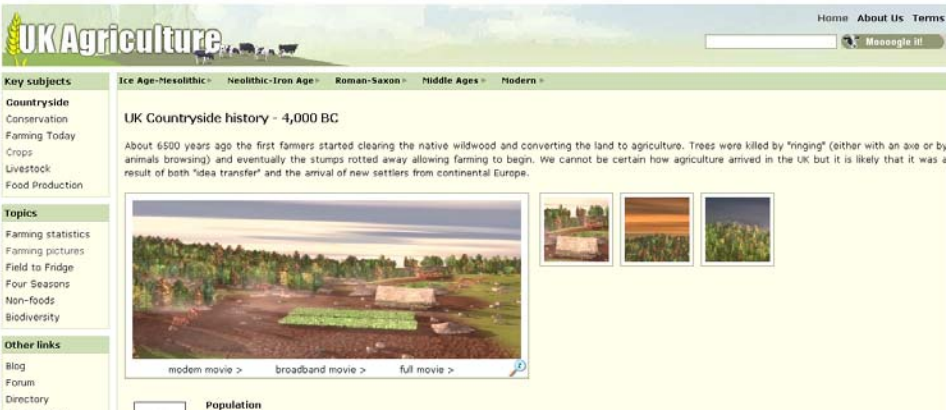
Search:

Livestock Numbers	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total cattle and calves (000s)	12040	11433	11519	11423	11135	10602	10345	10517	10588	10392	10270
Dairy cows (000s)	2587	2478	2439	2440	2336	2251	2227	2192	2129	2043	2066
Beef cows (000s)	1864	1862	1947	1924	1842	1708	1457	1700	1736	1762	1733
Heifers in calf (000s)	818	848	787	763	718	701	728	680	690	638	645
Total sheep and lambs (000s)	42084	42828	44471	44454	42264	36716	35934	35846	35817	35416	34722

On a much wider level The History of the Countryside resource is not only about food, farming and the countryside, it is also about who we are and how we got here!

History tends to be taught about wars, kings and queens and in a jumbled chronological order. This is confusing! The resource tackles chronology head on by taking 20 key time periods since the end of the last Ice Age to show the interrelation between agriculture, the countryside and society. Each period is illustrated with virtual reality images that have been specifically generated for the resource with a 5-minute fly through movie providing the ultimate time travel!

The History of the Countryside



UK Agriculture

Home About Us Terms

Key subjects: [Ice Age-Mesolithic](#) [Neolithic-Iron Age](#) [Roman-Saxon](#) [Middle Ages](#) [Modern](#)

Countryside history - 4,000 BC

About 6500 years ago the first farmers started clearing the native wildwood and converting the land to agriculture. Trees were killed by "ringing" (either with an axe or by animals browsing) and eventually the stumps rotted away allowing farming to begin. We cannot be certain how agriculture arrived in the UK but it is likely that it was a result of both "idea transfer" and the arrival of new settlers from continental Europe.

Population

Other links: [Blog](#) [Forum](#) [Directory](#)

The www.ukagriculture.com resource is entirely web based and should be available 24 hours of the day. We welcome feedback and teacher suggestions as to how the site can be better tailored to suit educational needs are particularly welcome.

The site is produced by Living Countryside a company that is Limited by Guarantee and registered as Charity No. 1116141. Living Countryside was established specifically to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of agriculture, the countryside and the rural economy.
- Promote greater public understanding of the role of agriculture in the countryside.
- Conserve and protect for the benefit of the public the countryside as a whole.

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