



ERFP
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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Agriculture in UK - Overview

- Agriculture accounts for approx. 70% of total land use within UK
- C 70% of this is grassland used for grazing livestock
- 214,000 agricultural holdings in UK



Agriculture in UK – Overview (cont'd)

- Total UK farming value = £23.8bn (of which 13bn comes from livestock)
- 476,000 people working in agriculture (1.4% of total UK workforce)
- Average age of UK farmer is 59 years



Agriculture in Northern Ireland

- Half of N Ireland is rural – 1/3 population living in rural areas
- 50,000 people work on around 25,000 farms
- 82% agricultural area is permanent grassland and meadows
- 90% of farms keeping dairy or beef cattle, or sheep
- Northern Ireland has a thriving pedigree livestock sector



UK Livestock sectors - Cattle

- 9.9 million cattle and calves. (breeding 1.5m)
- 1.9m dairy cows
- UK the third largest dairy producing country in EU & 10th largest dairy producing country in the world



**UK
Livestock
sectors –
Sheep
and goats**

- There are almost 34 million sheep and lambs in the UK (16m breeding females)
- UK is largest producer of sheep and goatmeat in EU



UK Livestock sectors - Pigs

- 4.7 million pigs (of which 0.5m breeding)
- There are 11,000 pig holdings – incl. 6,000 breeding sow holdings
- 40% of UK's herd is outdoors



UK Livestock sectors - Poultry

- 168 million birds
 - 144m chickens
 - 23m turkeys, ducks, geese and all other poultry
- 2,500 poultry farms across the UK



Features of livestock sectors

- Sheep and cattle industries organised in fairly traditional way.
- More in western areas of the UK (which receive higher rainfall) than in eastern areas.



Features of livestock sectors (cont'd)

- Pig and poultry industries are more integrated and more innovative.
- Large proportion of pig herd live outdoors.
- N Ireland's poultry industry doubled in size in last 50 yrs. - now 21m birds



FAnGR in UK

- UK has a wide range of farm animal genetic resources
- Approx 700 breeds of FAnGR across main species resident in UK (Over 9% of existing global livestock breeds)
- Mainstream breeds e.g. Texel, Charolais



FAnGR in UK (cont'd)

- **Native breeds – approx. 235 e.g. Gloucester Old spot pig, Longhorn cattle**
- **Exotic breeds globally at risk- approx. 276**



Conclusion

- Livestock sector and FAnGR are important in UK.
- You will have a chance to see a few of our native breeds on the visit to Forthill farm tomorrow.
- Hope you enjoy your visit and the meeting, and get a chance to see some of the sights of Belfast.

Cead Míle Fáilte



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**Further
information?**



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Thank you!