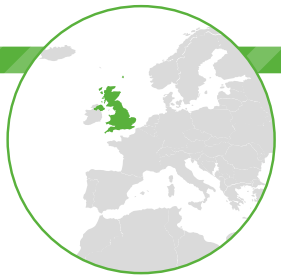
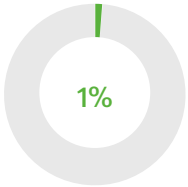
UK

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland



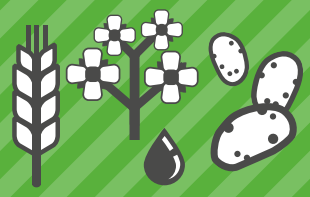
71%

18 mio ha
used for agriculture
Total area: 24 mio ha

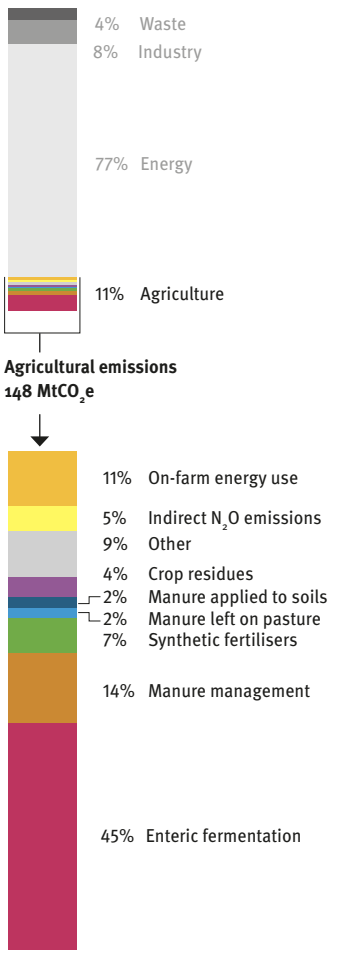


360,000
employed in agriculture
Total labour force 35 million

Main agricultural products



Cereals | Oilseads | Potatoes
Meat and milk



Key facts: Agriculture in the UK

More than 70% of agricultural land is used as grassland. Methane emissions from livestock are the largest source of agricultural emissions (61.3% in 2020) and have remained largely at the same level since 2009.

Agriculture in the UK is generally highly intensive and industrialised. In global comparison, farms are rather large.

The UK imports almost half of the food it consumes (46% in 2020).

The UK has set carbon budgets over successive five-year periods to reach net zero emissions in 2050.

After Brexit, new agricultural support schemes were introduced to support farmers in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

Key areas with high mitigation potential

Three mitigation options are highlighted here that are important in the national context due to the share of emissions produced from the activity, the magnitude of possible emissions savings, and feasibility of implementation. These 3 measures form part of a broader set of measures that would be needed to address agricultural emissions in the country, especially demand side measures that reduce the consumption of animal products as well as increasing of carbon sinks.

N_2O Improving fertiliser/ nutrient management

Apply fertiliser more precisely and integrate fertiliser and manure nutrient supply.

N_2O Increasing the use of plants with improved nitrogen use efficiency

Use cover crops and increase the use of legumes in crop rotation.

CH_4 Increasing animal health

Implement preventive disease control measures and control measures related to fertility and milk yield, curative treatments and supplement animal feed.

Key challenges for implementing mitigation measures

In a survey, farmers indicate **insecurity about the right measures to take, lack of information, lack of incentives, high costs as well as a lack of willingness** as reasons for not implementing mitigation measures.

Slow progress in developing policy incentives for sustainable farming practices and a comprehensive land strategy.

A clear **target for a sustainable transformation of the broader food system is lacking.**

Recommendations for enhancing mitigation in the agricultural sector

Enhance the national climate mitigation framework in agriculture and **align other environmental and food security objectives with mitigation objectives**.

Further elaborate the details of support schemes and agricultural subsidies, particularly incentives to increase the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices under UK laws and policies.

Develop demand-side measures to reduce dietary choices and food waste to complement innovation and technological approaches.

Sources for data on emissions UK Government (2022): UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 1990 to 2020. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2020.

Umwelt Bundesamt

This graphic has been developed by Öko-Institut and NewClimate Institute on behalf of the German Environment Agency. It is based on a report on status, potential and challenges for mitigating agricultural GHG emissions for the respective country, available at https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/mitigating-agricultural-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-the-uk. Design: Erik Tuckow, sichtagitation.de