

Organic Farming in Scotland 2017



Organic Farming in Scotland 2017

Introduction

The amount of organic farmland in Scotland has slightly increased in 2017, the first increase since 2008. A total of 123,000 hectares was certified as organic farmland in Scotland.

Two per cent of the total amount of Scottish farmland is certified as organic, an increase of 1,000 hectares compared to the previous year.

In the whole of the UK there was also an increase in organic land, of two per cent, taking the total amount to 517,000 hectares.

The EU has been consistently increasing the amount of organic land. The latest figures

for 2016 showed 6.7 per cent of agricultural land across the EU was certified as organic.

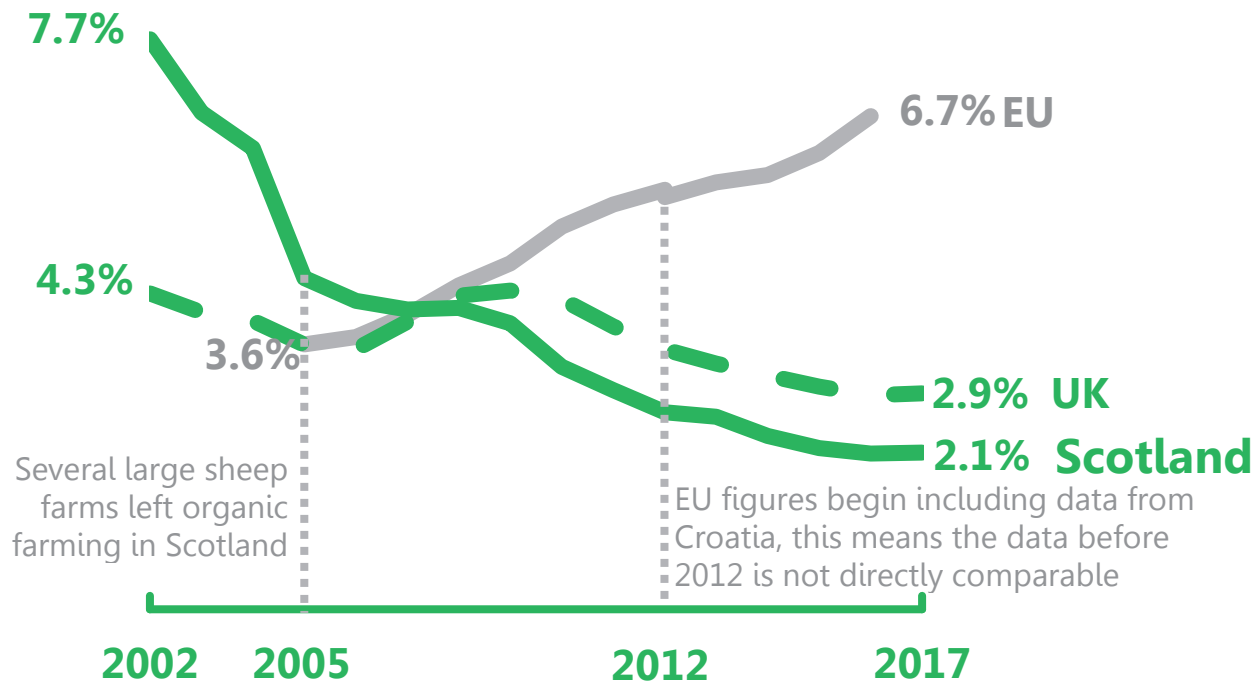
In Scotland grassland and rough grazing make up most of the organic land.

Cereal farming, though much smaller, is the second biggest sector of organic farming in Scotland. It has remained relatively constant since 2013.

Organic livestock numbers have fluctuated in recent years, with about two per cent of cattle and sheep being registered as organic.

Organic Land in Scotland

The area of organic land farmed in Scotland and the UK has risen slightly



The total area farmed organically in Scotland is 2.1 per cent of the total area farmed, which is a slight increase of 1,000 hectares

Scotland accounted for 58 per cent of the total amount of UK organic land in 2002. This has now fallen to 24 per cent, just under a quarter of the total.

In contrast, over the same period, the amount of EU organic farmland has been rising to nearly double the rate of 2005.

Organic Certified Land

Organic land is certified by one of the UK Organic Certification Bodies.

The data in this publication are from the most up-to-date inspections rather than a snapshot in time.

Total area of organic land in Scotland : 123,000 Hectares

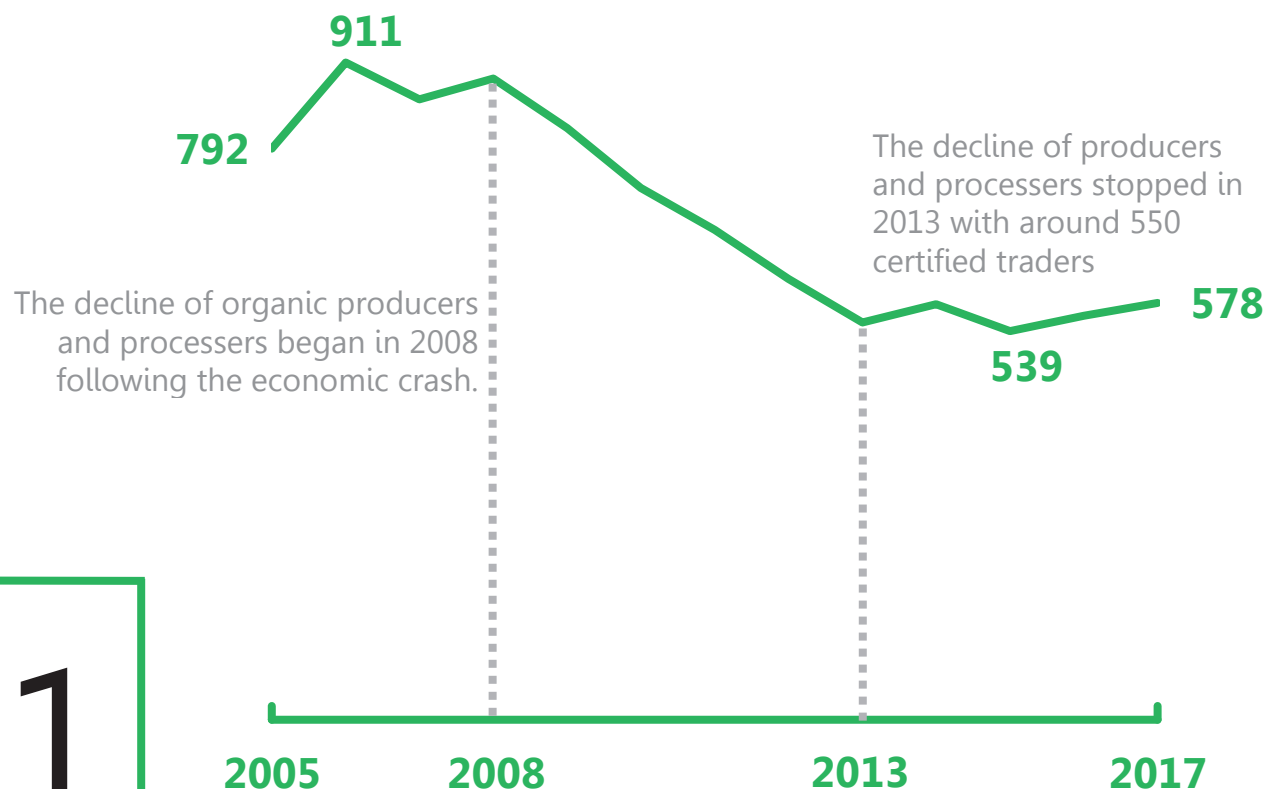
Certified Organic Businesses in Scotland

The number of organic producers and processors has been constant since 2013

The number of processors and producers who are certified as organic fell from 2008 following a peak in 2006.

This trend is similar to the experience in the rest of the UK.

A small number of producers are also processors of organic food.



The number of organic producers in Scotland | **371**

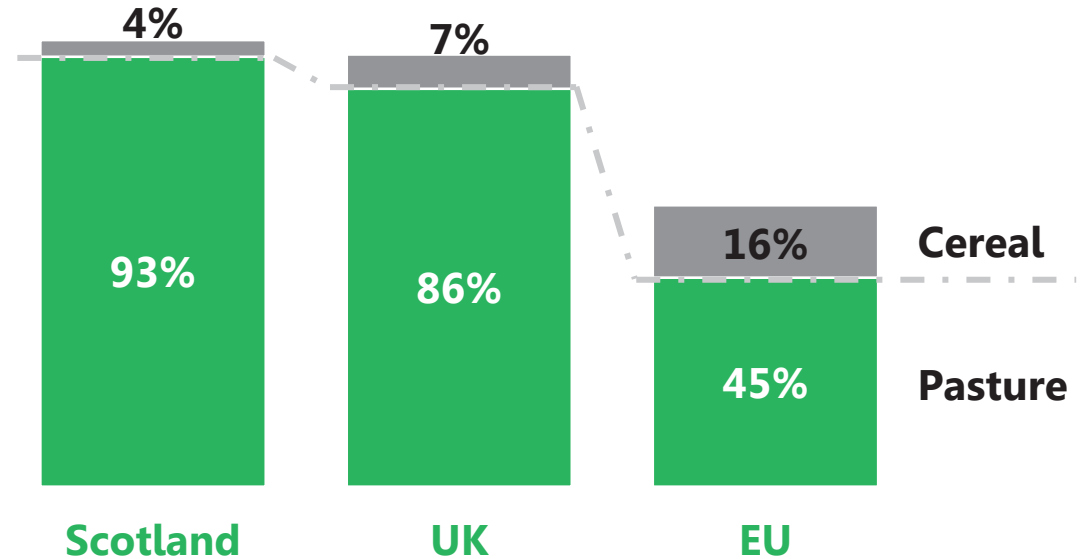
212 | The number of organic processors in Scotland

Organic Land in Scotland by Use

Organic land is mostly used for livestock to produce meat or milk

Organic Land In Conversion

Only food that is produced with standards set out by EU regulation may be sold as "organic" in the EU. In most cases land must be managed organically for at least two years before it becomes eligible for organic status. The data in this publication generally include land still within the two year conversion period.



Total organic pasture land | 112,000 Hectares

In Scotland grassland and rough grazing (called pasture) makes up most of the organic land.

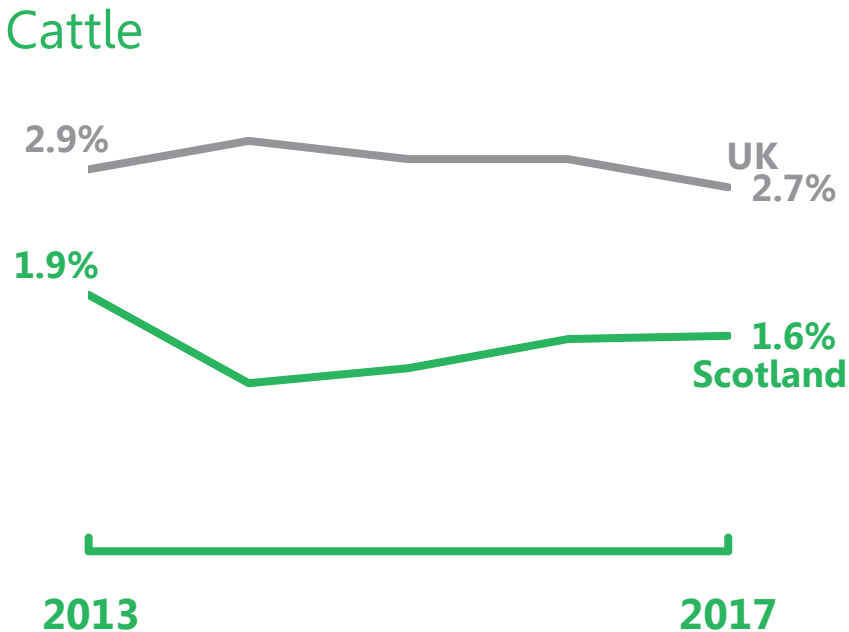
Cereal is the next largest contributor to organic farming in Scotland, with other crops such as vegetables and potatoes making up the rest.

The soil quality in Scotland is generally not as good as in the rest of Europe. This limits what crops can be grown, in most areas, to pasture.

Livestock on Pasture Land in Scotland

Pasture land is most commonly used for grazing cattle and sheep

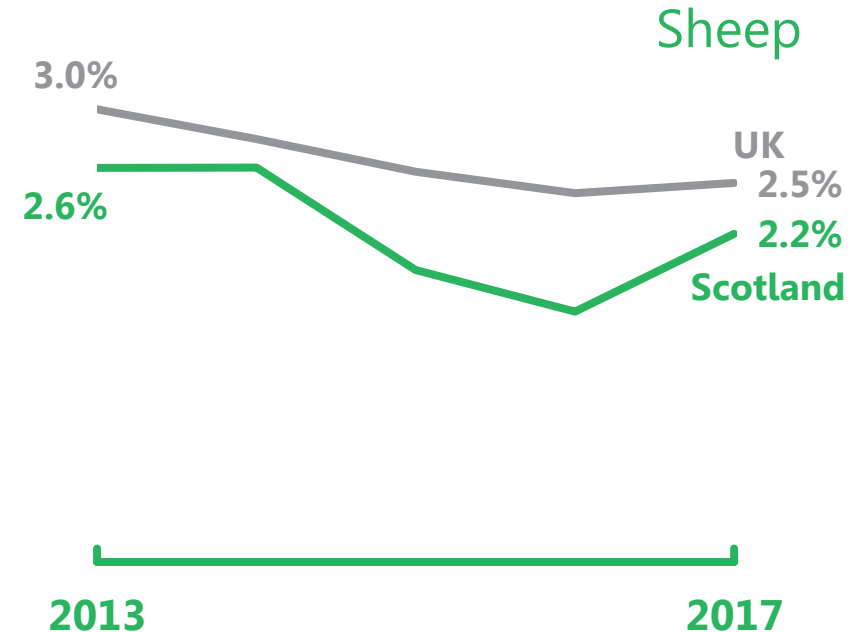
Cattle



Only 1.6 per cent of cattle in Scotland are registered as organic but this makes up 11 per cent of the total UK's organic cattle.

Number of organic cattle | **29,000**

Sheep



2.2 per cent of sheep in Scotland are registered as organic. This accounted for 17 per cent of the UK's organic sheep.

154,000 | Number of organic sheep

Organic Farming in Scotland 2017

Data Sources and More Information

Data source

These data are compiled by the UK Organic Certification Bodies who certify farms and food processors. The data are then sent to DEFRA each year to form the annual return required under European Commission Regulations (889/2008). The data do not represent a snapshot on a particular date, but reflect the farms which have either been inspected or re-inspected during that year.

More information is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/organic-farming

Data tables

The data used to create the charts in this publication are available online in the accompanying spreadsheet at www.gov.scot/agricstats

If you have any questions or comments about this publication, please e-mail agric.stats@gov.scot or phone 0300 244 9716

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

© Crown copyright 2018



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-78851-910-6

Published by The Scottish Government, May 2018

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS414706 (05/18)

W W W . g o v . s c o t