

The response of Scottish dairy farms under increasing financial pressures: an integrated farm level model approach

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Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting
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## Background



- CAP reform post 2015
  - Internal convergence
  - Implemented at MS level
- Scottish farm payment
  - Historically based
  - Higher payments to more intensive farms than extensive
  - -4.6 m ha eligible land

#### New payment scheme



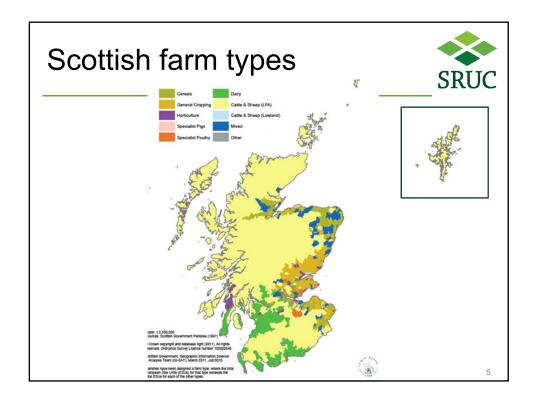
- 3 regions payment scheme
  - Three rates of payment
    - Region 1: arable land, temporary grassland and permanent grassland
    - Region 2: rough grazing land grade 1 & 2
    - · Region 3: rough grazing grade 3
  - Voluntary coupled payments (Calf + Ewe payment)

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## Impact on farms



- Redistribution of payments
- >85% of land LFA, majority of which are extensive farming systems
- Effect at farm level could be severe especially for intensive farms
- Dairy farms among the most efficient and most profitable farms in Scotland
- Expected to loose out financially how much? How they respond?



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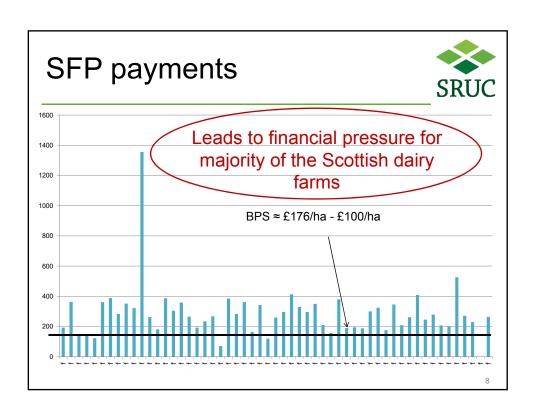
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## Rates of payment



Payment rates under 3-Region Scottish payment scheme

	BPS+Greening	calf VCS	Sheep VCS
Arable land	220.00		0.00
Rough Grazing (1-2)	35.00	100.00	0.00
Rough Grazing (3)	10.00		25.00



## Data input



- Scottish Farm Accountancy Survey (FAS)
  - Dairy farms 55 farms
- Physical data: land, animals, labour
- Production level: milk, crop, grass yields
- Management: feeding, land use, stocking rate
- Prices/costs
- Coefficients: LU, feed contents, labour requirements, feed requirements

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# ScotFarm – an integrated farm level model

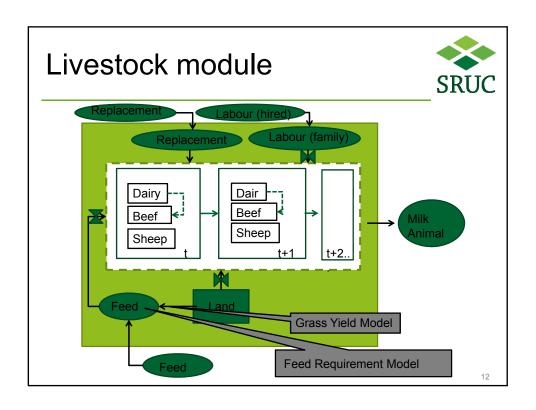


- Linear programming optimising profits
- Farm system analysis
  - Replicates farm activities
  - Financial and physical parameters
  - Decision makings
- Pseudo-dynamic
  - Runs over 15 year timeframe but results averaged out of middle 9 years
  - yearly runs with month as a subset

#### Modules



- Livestock module
- Crop module
  - Crop yield model
- Feed module
  - Feed requirement model
- · Grass module
  - Grass yield model
- Price projections FAPRI model



#### Feed module



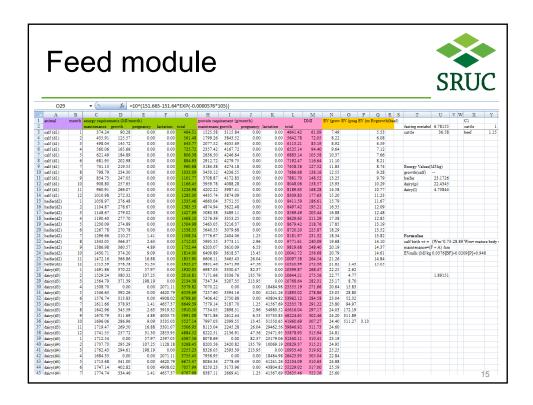
- Feed considered
  - Fresh grass, grass silage, hay, maize silage whole crop grain, concentrate
- Feed produced on farm/bought in
- Energy and protein content required for each feed

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## Feed requirement model



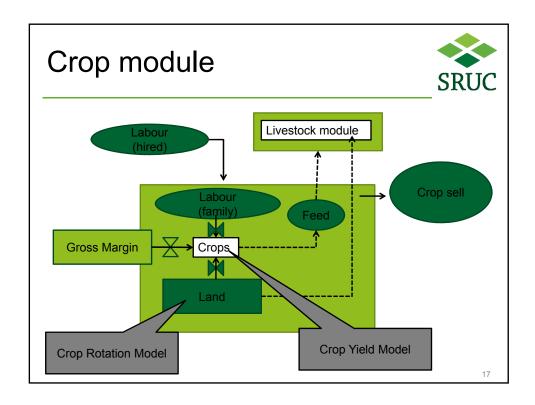
- Model is written in excel
- Based on feed requirement criteria set by Alderman and Cottrill (1993)
- Determines monthly requirement of energy, protein and feed intake per animal
- Considers species, age, production level of an individual animal



## Modules



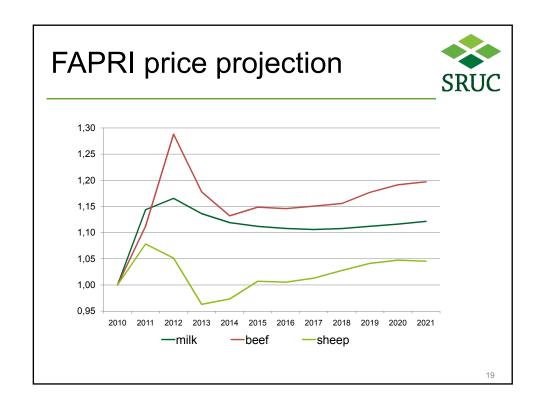
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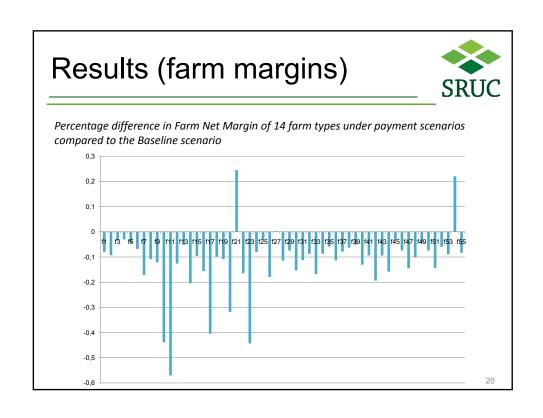


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## Farm responses



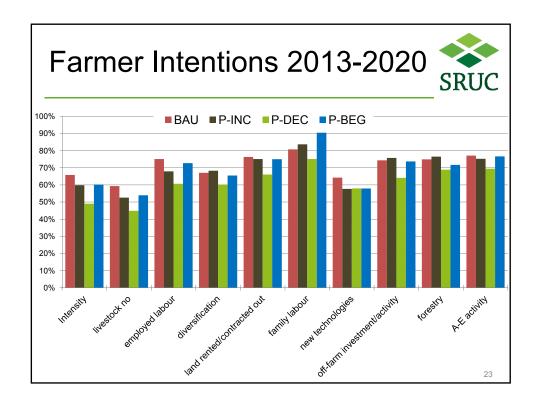
- No change in production level and animal numbers
- Slight adjustments to feed rationing concentrate feeding lowered by up to 5% on some farms

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## Dairy farming considered most technically advanced sector in Scotland







#### Conclusions



- The majority of Scottish dairy farms loose out under the new BPS rates
- Coupling the calf and sheep payments had negligible impact on dairy farms
- Large farms are the biggest losers (reduction in margins by up to 30% - 55%)
- No significant adjustments on dairy farm all of the farms maintain production level and animal numbers on farms
- Only slight change on feed rationing on some farms to adjust over all costs
- Negligible response to reduction in support payment suggests that these farms do not rely significantly on subsidy payments like other farm types and are efficient enough to maintain farming structure



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