

Crops Grown at Sparsholt Farm (1998–2002)

Field	Size (Ha)	1998/ 1999	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002
A North South	4.17 6.9	Grazing sheep Grazing sheep	Grazing sheep Grazing sheep	Grazing sheep Grazing sheep	Grazing sheep Grazing sheep
B	13.27	Rotational grass	Rotational grass	Maize	Peas *
C North South	12.69	Maize Conservation	Maize Conservation	Rotational grass Conservation	Ryegrass/ conservation/ Lake
D	2.07	Rotational grass	Rotational grass	Rotational grass	Rotational grass
E	9.28	Rotational grass	Fodder beet	Maize	Wheat *
F	7.04	Maize	Wheat	Maize	Peas *
G hill slope	5.74	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass
I hill slope	2.26	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass
J	12.45	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows
K	14.44	Fodder Beet	Maize	Wheat	Peas / set- aside
M	7.22	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows
R	4.31	Grazing horses	Grazing horses	Grazing horses	Grazing horses
S	9.63	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows
T	9.84	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows
V	15.22	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows	Grazing/silage cows
X	7.14	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass	Permanent grass
Total	144.21				

* The College farm is currently operating a 'land swap' agreement with a neighbouring farmer. We are growing wheat and peas on the College land in exchange for maize being grown on some of our neighbours land.

Crop Plot Quiz

Which crops are grown and why?

All of these crops are common in the UK. Some of these can be see in the main fields at Sparsholt. What are these crops? Why are they grown? How are they used?

Look for the flags for clues. Complete the table below.

Look for...



Human Food



Animal Feed



Oil



Fibres



Brewing

Name of Crop	How is the plant Used ? (Who eats it? How else is it used?)	Which part of the plant is useful ? (leaves, stem, root, seed, whole plant)
W h _ _ _		
O _ _ _ _		
B _ _ _ _ y		
O _ _ s _ _ _ r _ _ _ _		
S _ _ f _ _ _ _ _ _		
F _ _ _ x		
P _ t _ _ _ _ _ _		
S _ g _ _ _ B _ _ _ _		
G _ _ _ _ _		
M _ _ _ z _ _		
F _ _ _ _ _ _ B _ _ _ _		

Crop Plot Quiz

Some of these crops are grown in the fields on the farm. Look for the yellow flags. Read them carefully and look at the pictures below. Fill in the name of the crop. Do we use it for food, or something else? Complete the table below...

Look for...

Human Food

Animal Feed

Oil

Fibres

Brewing



Name of Crop	How the Plant is used
W _ _ _ _ _	
O _ _ _ _	
B _ _ _ _ _ _	
P _ _ _ _	
P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	
O _ _ S _ _ _ R _ _ _ _	
S _ _ F _ _ _ _ _ _	
M _ _ _ _ E	
G _ _ _ _ _	

FACT FILE: AN ORGANIC FARM

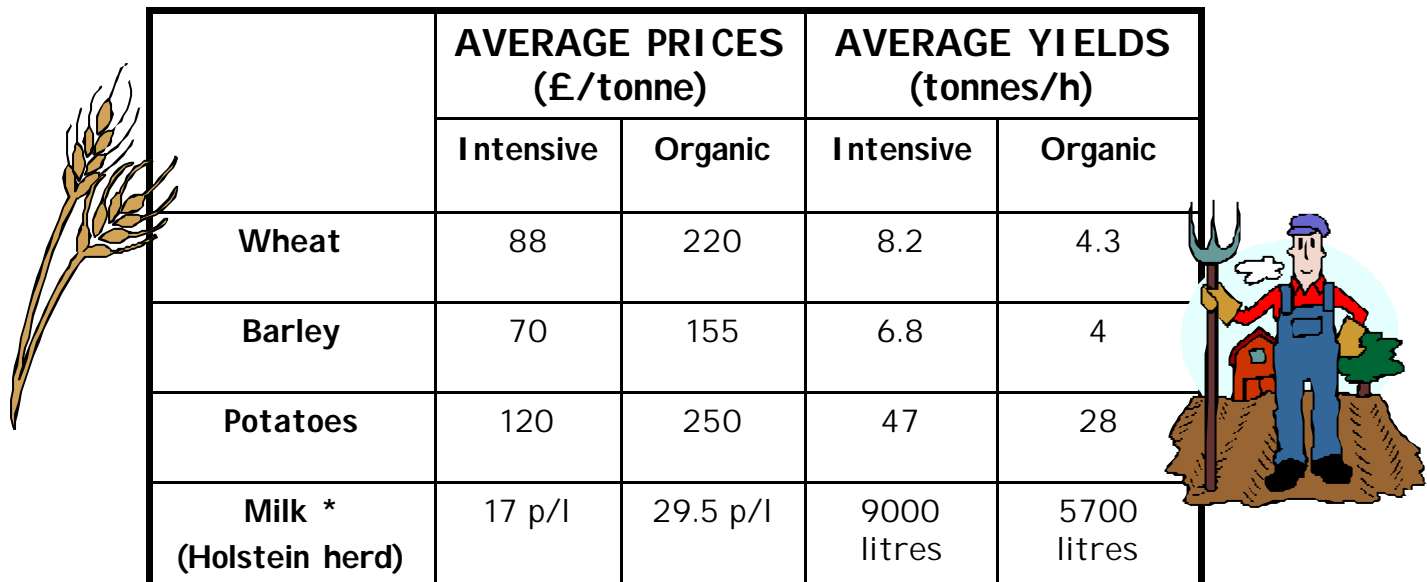
Organic farms are not allowed to use artificial chemicals such as weedkillers or pesticides. Organic farmers try not to give animals medicines unless they are really necessary.

Fields are weeded by a tractor pulling a special piece of equipment called a 'harrow-comb'. Pesticides are not used; insects and birds that eat up the pests are encouraged to live in the hedges and areas of unmown grass and wild flowers. Manure from cows is used to feed the soil instead of artificial fertilisers.

The crops are rotated carefully in each field to avoid problems with weeds and disease. The usual crop rotation is three years of clover and grass, followed by two years of cereals followed by a year with spring beans sown together with clover, ready to start the cycle again. Animals are moved to different fields to keep them healthy.

Organic cereal crops (barley, oats and wheat) are taller than on a farm that uses chemicals, making long straw which is sold for thatching. The harvested crop fields are not ploughed until they need to be sown again, leaving stubble and seeds for wildlife to eat. However, grass and clover fields are sown as soon as possible after harvesting, so that they grow strong enough by winter for the sheep to graze.

Mixed organic farms employ three or four times more people than they would if they used artificial chemicals and specialised in producing one kind of animal or crop. This, combined with the fact that they get lower subsidies from the government than intensive farms do, makes organic food more expensive. However, if there were more organic farms, unemployment in the countryside could be reduced.



	AVERAGE PRICES (£/tonne)		AVERAGE YIELDS (tonnes/h)	
	Intensive	Organic	Intensive	Organic
Wheat	88	220	8.2	4.3
Barley	70	155	6.8	4
Potatoes	120	250	47	28
Milk * (Holstein herd)	17 p/l	29.5 p/l	9000 litres	5700 litres

* Note: p/l = pence per litre of milk sold litres = litres per cow per year (average)