

Farming in the East Midlands

Our farmers are progressive and forward thinking in their use of technology. Whatever the farm scale or enterprise, farmers' work caring for the wildlife and habitats is important to them, too: in the arable counties, more than two thirds of farmers belong to Environmental Stewardship schemes.

Each of the region's counties is a unique mix of farm types, geography and topography.

Northamptonshire's arable and grassland farms produce top quality grain and although there are few dairy farmers now, sheep and beef are still important enterprises in the county.

Leicestershire, similarly, prides itself on the quality of lamb and beef produced from its rolling acres whilst there is still a strong dairying sector in the west of the county. Arable crops add variety to the striking patchwork quilt landscape that typifies the Midlands.

Rutland is the smallest county in England, but its farmers are diverse and professional, growing arable crops, producing quality livestock and poultry and caring for the environment in the heart of England.

Nottinghamshire has, perhaps, the widest range of farming types with livestock, including pigs, poultry, dairying and horticulture adding to the usual arable acres. Divided between the large farming estates and family owned farms, Nottinghamshire's production would rival many bigger counties given its varied soils and proximity to the urban markets.

Derbyshire's unique terrain, from rolling lowlands to high moorland hosts the region's main livestock populations. Dairying, beef and particularly sheep production are the main farming enterprises, although arable and horticulture are represented in the lower-lying Trent valley in the south of the county. The Peak District National Park is the most visited of the UK's national parks, with more than two million people each year helping to maintain the rural economy by supporting farm-based, tourism and other diversified businesses.

Our largest county is Lincolnshire. It boasts many important statistics: producing more than 40% of the daffodils (both cut flowers and bulbs) in the country; nearly 30% of the field vegetable crop of England and it is the second largest potato producing area, after Norfolk. Lincolnshire's half a million hectares also support livestock, arable, dairying and outdoor pig production as well as an enormous number of poultry (hens, ducks, turkeys and geese), in all about 18 million. Lincolnshire can proudly say it is the premier food producing county of England.

