During the First World War, British farmers stepped up to the mark in a time of need. Today, farmers continue to use the latest technology to feed the nation.

The war led to the loss of approximately one third of the male agricultural workforce meaning an additional **98,000 WOMEN** were given the opportunity to work on farms across the country.

During the war, households were fined for wasting food that was ‘fit to eat’. Today, consumers waste 15% of edible food and drink.

**Refrigeration was in its infancy so transportation meant that all milk was home produced.**

In 1914 we produced **4 BILLION LITRES** of milk.
In 2013 we produce **13.5 BILLION LITRES**

In 1914 it would take one hour to hand milk **10 COWS**.
Today, thanks to mechanical milking, **60-100 COWS** can be milked in an hour.

**Loss of horses led to more mechanisation on farm.** The UK government invested **$3.3 MILLION** in US models and placed an order for **400** British Saunderson tractors. By 1918, we had around **6,000** tractors in operation. Today, we have over **310,000** licenced tractors.

**In 1910 we were producing 1 TONNE OF OATS PER HECTARE.**
**Today we produce 6.7 TONNES PER HECTARE.**

In 1914 farmers could plough **1 ACRE A DAY** using a two-horse single furrow plough or a three-horse double furrow plough. Now, farmers can plough **1 ACRES IN LESS THAN 15 MINUTES** with a high horse-power tractor and large plough.

**In 1914 we produced 2.8 MILLION TONNES of potatoes.**
**Today we produce 5.7 MILLION TONNES**

**In 1914 we produced 55,000 TONNES of eggs.**
**In 2013 we produced 1.7 MILLION TONNES**

**In 1914 we produced 1.7 MILLION TONNES of wheat.**
**Today, we produce 11.9 MILLION TONNES of wheat**

**Agricultural production of wheat rose from 1.7 MILLION TONNES in 1914 to 2.4 MILLION TONNES in 1918.**

2014 was the wettest winter since 1766, according to the Met Office. June 2014 was the ninth warmest June since 1910.

Sources:
Defra, Agriculture in the UK, 2013
MET office