

# Land Use and Agriculture



## Climate Change



Land Use and Agriculture accounts for around **20% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions (2020).**

## Land Use

**69%** of all land in Scotland (**5.6 million hectares**) is classified as agricultural.

Scotland's forest and woodland area now covers **more than 1.4 million hectares.**

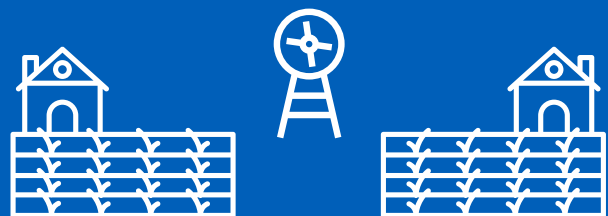
Peatland in Scotland accounts for some **2.7 million hectares.**

## Workforce



The total agricultural workforce is estimated to be around **67,400 workers.**

Forestry employs **over 25,000 people.**



## Socio-Economic Context

**17%** of Scotland's population lives in rural areas (930,000).

**Most of Scotland's land is used for agriculture**, an important part of the rural economy. Figures from 2018 demonstrate agricultural total output being worth **£3.18 billion.**

Forestry is worth almost **£1 billion per year.**

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## Population

Compared to the rest of Scotland, rural areas have

a lower proportion of people between **16 and 44**, and



a higher proportion of people aged **45 and over**.



## Rural Housing

**63%**

of rural households are **not covered by the gas grid** and use more expensive fuel sources to heat their homes (compared to 7% in urban areas).



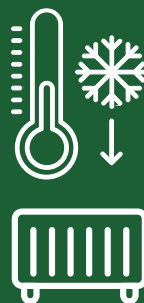
Approximately

**55%**

of households in Highland council area and

**62%**

in the Western Isles experience fuel poverty.



## Workforce

Within the agricultural workforce, **working occupiers are getting increasingly older**. In June 2021, only

**10%**

of the total were **under 41**; the majority were **over 55**.

Of all owner occupiers of working farms, **60% are male** and **40% are female**.

Women living in remote rural Scotland have the **lowest annual income** of any group and the **largest median gender pay gap**, being at **£5,076**.



## Agriculture

On average, farms made a **loss of £5,500** from agricultural activity in 21/22.



Most livestock farm types **made a loss**



while most cereal, general cropping, dairy and mixed farms made **a profit**.



## Land Ownership

**211,998 hectares** of Scottish land is in Community Ownership (2021).

Independent research estimated that in 2012, **50% of private rural land in Scotland** was owned by just

**432 landowners**.



It is estimated that **57.1% (4.1 million hectares)** of rural land in Scotland is owned by private estates.