

British farmers abandoning less sustainable, more costly organic techniques

Even as demand for organic food remains high, the farmers producing it are falling by the wayside.

UK government figures show that while organic food sales have bounced back from the low that followed the 2008/9 financial crash, the amount of land being farmed organically in Britain continues to shrink. In 2013, the last year for which data are available, land in the process of being converted to organic fell by 24 percent, with fully organic land falling by 3.9 percent. The number of producers and processors of organic food fell for the fifth year in a row, by 6.4 percent, and the number of organic sheep, pigs and cattle also fell.

Last month a [report by the European Environment Agency highlighted huge disparities](#) between countries and the fact that British organic farming has stalled: while 3.3 percent of land is farmed organically in the UK, the same figure as in 2000, countries such as Austria and Spain have seen sharp rises (to 18.5 percent and 7.5 percent), while the number of UK farmers and certified processors making organic food products stands at 6,072, down from 7,567 in 2009.

Michael Johnston, who farms sheep and cattle near Aberdeen, says money wasn't his only reason for giving up: "It's not just a question of the subsidies and the premiums. People always say life is complicated, but in this case, it really is." In Johnston's case, a reduction in subsidy was a factor, but so was his growing interest in soil biology and climate change, and his conviction that the organic system was not the best way to look after his soil.

Read full, original article: [Why are organic farmers across Britain giving up?](#)

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//
(function(){var h=this,aa=function(a){var b=typeof a;if("object"==b)if(a){if(a instanceof
Array)return"array";if(a instanceof Object)return b;var c=Object.prototype.toString.call(a);if("[object
Window]"==c)return"object";if("[object Array]"==c||"number"==typeof a.length&&"undefined"!=typeof
a.splice&&"undefined"!=typeof
a.propertyIsEnumerable&&!a.propertyIsEnumerable("splice"))return"array";if("[object
Function]"==c||"undefined"!=typeof a.call&&"undefined"!=typeof
a.propertyIsEnumerable&&!a.propertyIsEnumerable("call"))return"function"}else return"null";else
if("function"==b&&"undefined"==typeof a.call)return"object";return b},l=function(a){return"string"==typeof
a},ba=function(a,b){var c=Array.prototype.slice.call(arguments,1);return function(){var
b=c.slice();b.push.apply(b,arguments);return a.apply(this,b)}},n=Date.now||function(){return+new
Date},p=function(a,b){var c=a.split("."),d=h;c[0]in d?!d.execScript||d.execScript("var "+c[0]);for(var
e;c.length&&(e=c.shift());c.length||void 0===b?d=d[e]?d[e]:d[e]={}:d[e]=b};var
r=function(a,b,c,d,e){if(e)c=a+("&"+b+"="+c);else{var
f="&"+b+"=",g=a.indexOf(f);0>g?c=a+f+c:(g+=f.length,f=a.indexOf("&",g),c=0<=f?a.substring(0,g)+c+a.substr
2E3<c.length?void 0!=d?r(a,b,d,void 0,e):a:c);var ca=function(){var a=/[&?]exk=(\[^\&
]+)/.exec(u.location.href);return a&&2==a.length?a[1]:null};var
da=function(a,b,c,d){a.addEventListener?a.addEventListener(b,c,d||!1):a.attachEvent&&a.attachEvent("on"+b,
ea=function(a){var b=a.toString();a.name&&-1==b.indexOf(a.name)&&(b+=": "+a.name);a.message&&-
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1==b.indexOf(a.message)&&(b+=" ": "+a.message);if(a.stack){a=a.stack;var c=b;try{-
1==a.indexOf(c)&&(a=c+"n"+a);for(var
d;a!=d;)d=a,a=a.replace(/((https?:/.*/)[^/]*:d+(?:.|n)*2/,"$1");b=a.replace(/n */g,"n")}catch(e){b=c}}return
b},v=function(a,b,c){a.google_image_requests||(a.google_image_requests=[]);var
d=a.document.createElement("img");if(c){var
e=function(a){c(a);a=e;d.removeEventListener?d.removeEventListener("load",a,!1):d.detachEvent&&d.detach
w=document,u=window;var fa=String.prototype.trim?function(a){return a.trim()}:function(a){return
a.replace(/^[sxa0]+|[sxa0]+$|g,"")},ga=function(a,b){return a
b?1:0};var x=null,ha=function(a,b){for(var c in
a)Object.prototype.hasOwnProperty.call(a,c)&&b.call(null,a[c],c,a)};function
z(a){return"function"==typeof encodeURIComponent?encodeURIComponent(a):escape(a)}var
ia=function(){if(!w.body)return!1;if(!x){var
a=w.createElement("iframe");a.style.display="none";a.id="anonIframe";x=a;w.body.appendChild(a)}r
ka=!0,la={},oa=function(a,b,c,d){var e=ma,f,g=ka;try{f=b()}catch(k){try{var
t=ea(k);b="";k.fileName&&(b=k.fileName);var y=-
1;k.lineNumber&&(y=k.lineNumber);g=e(a,t,b,y,c)}catch(q){try{var
m=ea(q);a="";q.fileName&&(a=q.fileName);c=-
1;q.lineNumber&&(c=q.lineNumber);ma("pAR",m,a,c,void 0,void
0)}catch(Aa){na({context:"mRE",msg:Aa.toString()+"n"+(Aa.stack||""))},void 0)}}if(!g)throw
k;}finally{if(d)try{d()}catch(qb){}}return f},ma=function(a,b,c,d,e,f){var
g={};if(e)try{e(g)}catch(k){g.context=a;g.msg=b.substring(0,512);c&&(g.file=c);0<d&&(g.line=d.toStrin
ka},na=function(a,b){try{if(Math.random()c?Math.max(0,a.length+c):c;if(l(a))return
l(b)&&1==b.length?a.indexOf(b,c):-1;for(;c<a.length;c++)if(c in a&&a[c]==b)return c;return-
1},ta=B.map?function(a,b,c){return B.map.call(a,b,c)}:function(a,b,c){for(var
d=a.length,e=Array(d),f=l(a)?a.split(""):a,g=0;g<d;g++)g in f&&(e[g]=b.call(c,f[g],g,a));return e};var
ua=function(a,b){for(var c in a)b.call(void 0,a[c],c,a)},C=function(a){var
b=arguments.length;if(1==b&&"array"==aa(arguments[0]))return
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C.apply(null,arguments[0]);for(var c={},d=0;d
parseFloat(a))?String(b):a})();Ea={},Fa=function(a){if(!Ea[a]){for(var
b=0,c=fa(String(Da)).split("."),d=fa(String(a)).split("."),e=Math.max(c.length,d.length),f=0;0==b&&f<e;f+
g=c[f]||"",k=d[f]||"",t=RegExp("(d*)(D*)","g"),y=RegExp("(d*)(D*)","g");do{var
q=t.exec(g)||["","",""],m=y.exec(k)||["","",""];if(0==q[0].length&&0==m[0].length)break;b=ga(0==q[1].le
0:Ha||("CSS1Compat"==Ga.compatMode?parseInt(Da,10):5);var
Ja={f:947190538,g:947190541,h:947190542,d:79463068,e:79463069},Ka={c:"ud=1",i:"ts=1"};if(w&&w.U
La=w.URL,ka=!(La&&(0<La.indexOf("?google_debug"))||0b&&u.setTimeout(ra("osd_listener::ldcl_int",
Na=function(){try{u.localStorage.setItem("__sak","1");var
a=u.localStorage.__sak;u.localStorage.removeItem("__sak");return"1"==a}catch(b){return!1}},Oa=fun
d=a.document.createElement("img");G(d,"load",c,"osd::ls_img::load");d.src=b;a.google_image_requ
H=function(a,b){this.b=a||0;this.a=b||""},Pa=function(a,b){a.b&&(b[4]=a.b);a.a&&(b[12]=a.a)};H.prototy
a=""+"this.b;this.a&&(a+="-"+this.a);return a};var Qa=function(){var
a=l,b=[];a.b&&b.push("adk="+a.b);a.a&&b.push("exk="+a.a);return b},Ra=function(a){var
b=[];ua(a,function(a,d){var e=z(d),f=a;l(f)&&(f=z(f));b.push(e+"="+f)});return
b.join("n")},J=0,Sa=0,Ta=function(a){var
b=0,c=u;if(c&&c.Goog_AdSense_getAdAdapterInstance)return
c;try{for(;c&&5>b;){if(c.google_osd_static_frame)return
c;if(c.aswift_0&&(!a||c.aswift_0.google_osd_static_frame))return
c.aswift_0;b++;c=c!=c.parent?c.parent:null}}catch(d){return
null},Ua=function(a,b,c,d){if(10<Sa)u.clearInterval(J);else if(++Sa,u.postMessage&&(b.b||b.a)){var
e=Ta(!0);if(e){var
f={};Pa(b,f);f[0]="goog_request_monitoring";f[6]=a;f[16]=c;d&&d.length&&(f[17]=d.join(","));try{var
g=Ra(f);e.postMessage(g,"")}catch(k){}}};C("area base br col command embed hr img input
keygen link meta param source track wbr".split("
"));C("action","cite","data","formaction","href","manifest","poster","src");C("embed","iframe","link",
Va;if(!(Va=!ya&&!F)){var
Wa;if(Wa=F)Wa=F&&(E)||9<=la);Va=Wa}Va||ya&&Fa("1.9.1");F&&Fa("9");var
Xa,K=0,L="",M=!1,N=!1,O=!1,Ya=!0,Za=!1,$a=[],l=null,P="",ab=[],bb=[],cb=!1,Q="",R="",db=(new
Date).getTime(),eb=["1","0","3"],S=0,T=!1,U=!1,V="",fb=null,W=0,X=0,gb=0,hb=function(a,b,c){M&&(Ya
c=V;try{a.localStorage[c]=b+"&timestamp="+n()+"&send"}catch(d){}},Y=function(a,b,c){if((b=b||P)&&
d=jb(b,c);!c&&U?(U=!1,fb&&(a.clearInterval(fb),fb=null),ib(a,d),5!=S&&Oa(a,d,function(){a.localStorage
0):(b=function(b){b&&"error"==b.type&&ib(a,d)},void
0==a.navigator.onLine||a.navigator.onLine?v(a,d,b):ib(a,d));c?M=!1:cb=!0}},jb=function(a,b){var
c;c=b?"osdim":O?"osd2":"osdtos";var
d=["//pagead2.googlesyndication.com/activeview","?id=",c];"osd2"==c&&N&&Za&&d.push("&ts=1");l
e=ab[d]())catch(f){var
g="max_length";2<=e.length&&(3==e.length&&(g=e[2]),c=r(c,z(e[0]),z(e[1]),g)))2E3<c.length&&(c=c.su
c},Z=function(a,b){if(Q){try{var c=r(Q,"vi",a);ia()&&v(x.contentWindow,c,void
0)}catch(d){}0<=sa(eb,a)&&(Q="");var
c=b||P,e=r("//pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/gen_204?id=sldb","avi",L);e=r(e,"vi",a);c&&(e
0)}catch(f){}},kb=function(){Z("-1")},mb=function(a){if(a&&a.data&&l(a.data)){var b;var
c=a.data;if(l(c)){b={};for(var c=c.split("n"),d=0;d=e)}{var
f=Number(c[d].substr(0,e)),e=c[d].substr(e+1);switch(f){case 5:case 8:case 11:case 15:case
16_e="true"==e;break;case 4:case 7:case 6:case 14_e=Number(e);break;case
3:if("function"==aa(decodeURIComponent))try{e=decodeURIComponent(e)}catch(g){throw
Error("Error: URI malformed: "+e);}break;case
17_e=ta(decodeURIComponent(e).split(","),Number)}b[f]=e}}b=b[0]?b:null}else
b=null;if(b&&(c=new H(b[4],b[12]),l&&l.match(c)))for(c=0;cW&&2==X){var
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