

## What farming delivers for Derbyshire

Derbyshire is a county of varied landscapes, with many types of agriculture that have helped to shape it, from the moorlands of the High Peak to the fertile land bordering the River Trent in the south.

Predominantly a grassland county where livestock production dominates, Derbyshire's farms are famous for fresh milk, excellent beef and tasty lamb, but our farms and horticultural holdings grow arable crops, vegetables and ornamentals, too.

Derbyshire's close proximity to large centres of urban population means our farmland also performs a vital function as the lungs of the county and as a place to escape for 39 million visitors who come to walk and cycle and enjoy the farmed landscape, every year.



With ample rainfall, the county has always been capable of growing lush grass, which is ideal for cows to turn into milk. Dairy farming is economically the most important agricultural sector in Derbyshire, producing 573 million litres of milk a year, worth over £170m. Milk is bottled or processed into butter, cream, yogurt and cheeses including the king of cheeses, Stilton.



The grass is equally good at producing succulent beef and lamb. In fact the greatest number of farms keep beef cattle or sheep or both. In the hills and uplands areas many of the animals are sold as breeding stock or for finishing to lowland farms in Derbyshire and beyond. The beef and lamb can be bought in farm shops and village butchers, but with over 370,000 sheep and 62,000 beef animals, the majority is destined for supermarkets and catering.

In the south and east of the county, combinable crops – usually fields of wheat but also barley and oats, are grown for animal feed and occasionally, when the weather allows, milling wheat for bread making can be produced. A few fields of the characteristic yellow of oilseed rape can be seen in late spring, to be harvested and crushed for oil and the remaining meal for animal feed. Pigs and poultry are also an important part of the Derbyshire farming mix.

The presence of horticulture around Melbourne in the far south of Derbyshire is a hidden gem, producing high quality vegetables, salad, bedding plants and nurserystock for sale in farm shops, green grocers and garden centres.

Derbyshire's farms are at the heart of our beautiful county and at the centre of a vast network of local and regional businesses, contributing a great deal to the economy of the county.



But above all, Derbyshire is best known for its stunning landscape, shaped by rivers, ice, rain and wind and cared for by our county's farmers. A large proportion of Derbyshire's farmed area is looked after under environmental schemes, with farmers creating and maintaining important habitats for birds, insects and mammals. Our farms host the 3,227 miles of rights of way in the county and the 150 square miles of open access land, mainly on the northern moorland.

Next time you take a walk or a drive in the our beautiful countryside, you'll know a bit more about what Farming Delivers for Derbyshire

Find out more about how Farming Delivers at [www.farmingdelivers.co.uk](http://www.farmingdelivers.co.uk)