

THEN & NOW

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



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



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

Thanks to developments in the poultry sector during WW1, we have moved from seasonal laying to enjoying British eggs all year round



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

WW1 was the only time farmers used labourers, horses, ploughs, steam engines, biofuel and diesel at the same time. In 1914 farmers needed more than **15 PEOPLE** to harvest a field. Now, thanks to combine harvesters, **4 PEOPLE** can do the same job



Refrigeration was in its infancy so transportation meant that all milk was home produced.
In 1914 we produced **4 BILLION LITRES**.
Today we produce **13.5 BILLION LITRES**

Thanks to Mendelism and development of the Punnett Square during WW1, breeding modifications to plants and animals now take around **7 YEARS** instead of **100 YEARS**



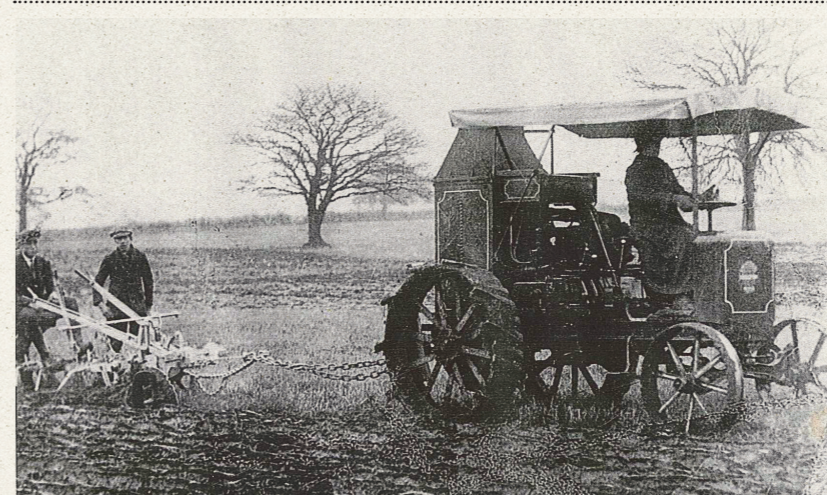
In 1914 we produced **2.8 MILLION TONNES** of potatoes.
Today we produce **5.7 MILLION TONNES**



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



Agricultural production of wheat rose from **1.7 MILLION TONNES** in 1914 to **2.4 MILLION TONNES** in 1918.
Today, we produce **11.9 MILLION TONNES** of wheat



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

Oats were an important biofuel for farmers during WW1. Production increased from **2 MILLION TONNES** in 1914 to **2.9 MILLION TONNES** in 1918 to provide fodder for war horses. We now use a variety of biofuels, including rapeseed oil, which we produce **2.1 MILLION TONNES** of a year



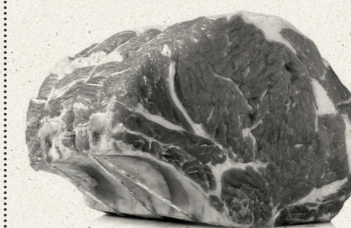
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WHEAT



19%
in 1914
83%
in 2013

BEEF AND VEAL



68%
in 1914
83%
in 2013

SUGAR BEET



0%
in 1914
60%
in 2013



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

MUTTON AND LAMB



60%
in 1914
100%
in 2013

EGGS



50%
in 1914
87%
in 2013

Sources:
Defra, *Agriculture in the UK*, 2013
Dewey, P.E. *British Agriculture in the First World War*, Routledge, London
MET office