

# Moving from CAP to CAP

Brexit is tricky...  
we need hope over fear big time

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# So first, a little bit about us



16 miles from Edinburgh – the Shire – Whitmuir Farm

# Our farm at Whitmuir

- 130 acres north facing, mixed, upland organic farm
- Beef cattle, sheep, pigs, hens, veg
- Organic farm shop, butchery and café plus plant nursery and art gallery
- Educational work funded by Climate Challenge Fund – 2000m<sup>2</sup> and Field of Enquiry programme
- All marginal, small scale subsidy but high environmental benefit and lots of jobs – 22 plus

# Like many of you.....

- we didn't vote to leave (62%:38%)
- we are frustrated by CAP and think **Pillar One is indefensible**
- we want to link food, farming, climate change, health and social justice
- we support a move from entitlement to funding for public goods .....
- On good days we think organics might just save the world

So why don't we just stop remoaning and think  
**Brexit is just pure dead brilliant?**

# After all – farming is already in trouble

- Wheat yields stagnated since 1995
- Peak sheep 1991 – now back to 1948 levels – 6.7m
- Peak cattle 1974 – now back to 1957 levels – 1.8m
- Peak pigs 1973 – now back to 1951 levels – 360,000
- Peak hens 2001 – now 14.7m
- Drop in profitability in last 3 years - £18,000 on average decline in outputs in 2014, recovered slightly last year
- **Total Income From Farming dropped £110 million** from 2014 to 2015 and **average income halved** from 2009-2015
- **Growth areas** – fish farming, whisky, soft fruit in tunnels, some increase in woodland cover

# And globally farming is wrecking the joint .....

- **50 %** topsoil lost in last 100 years
- **50 %** wildlife lost in last 40 years –not just the bees
- **99** harvests left in the UK
- **30 %** greenhouse gas emissions from food system  
– **22% of Scottish emissions** from farming directly
- **30 %** food wasted in supply chain
- **56 %** decline in lapwings in last 20 years

# And if that wasn't enough

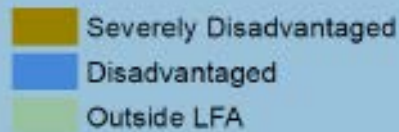
- **We now have a wine glass of glyphosate each**
- Food banks, food insecurity, food intolerances
- **5 %** Scottish population with type **2 Diabetes**
- **Antibiotic resistance** causing global concern
  - We wasted 161,000t Nitrogen last year
    - Normally I'm advocating change –
      - **So – again - why don't I think**
      - **Brexit is pure dead brilliant?**

# So why am I scared?

- Scotland has around 20,000 farms
- Average age of a farmer is 58 years old
- 67,000 people employed directly
- Supply 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of UK Soft Fruit
- 15,000 non-UK seasonal migrant workers in soft fruit sector (plus 8,000 in food and drink)
- Majority of UK's seed potatoes
- But mainly we do whisky and meat because....



## Map 2: Less Favoured Areas and Non Less Favoured Areas



**So – What do we grow in Scotland anyway?**

85% of the land in Scotland is ‘less favoured area’. Only 15% arable – opposite of England.

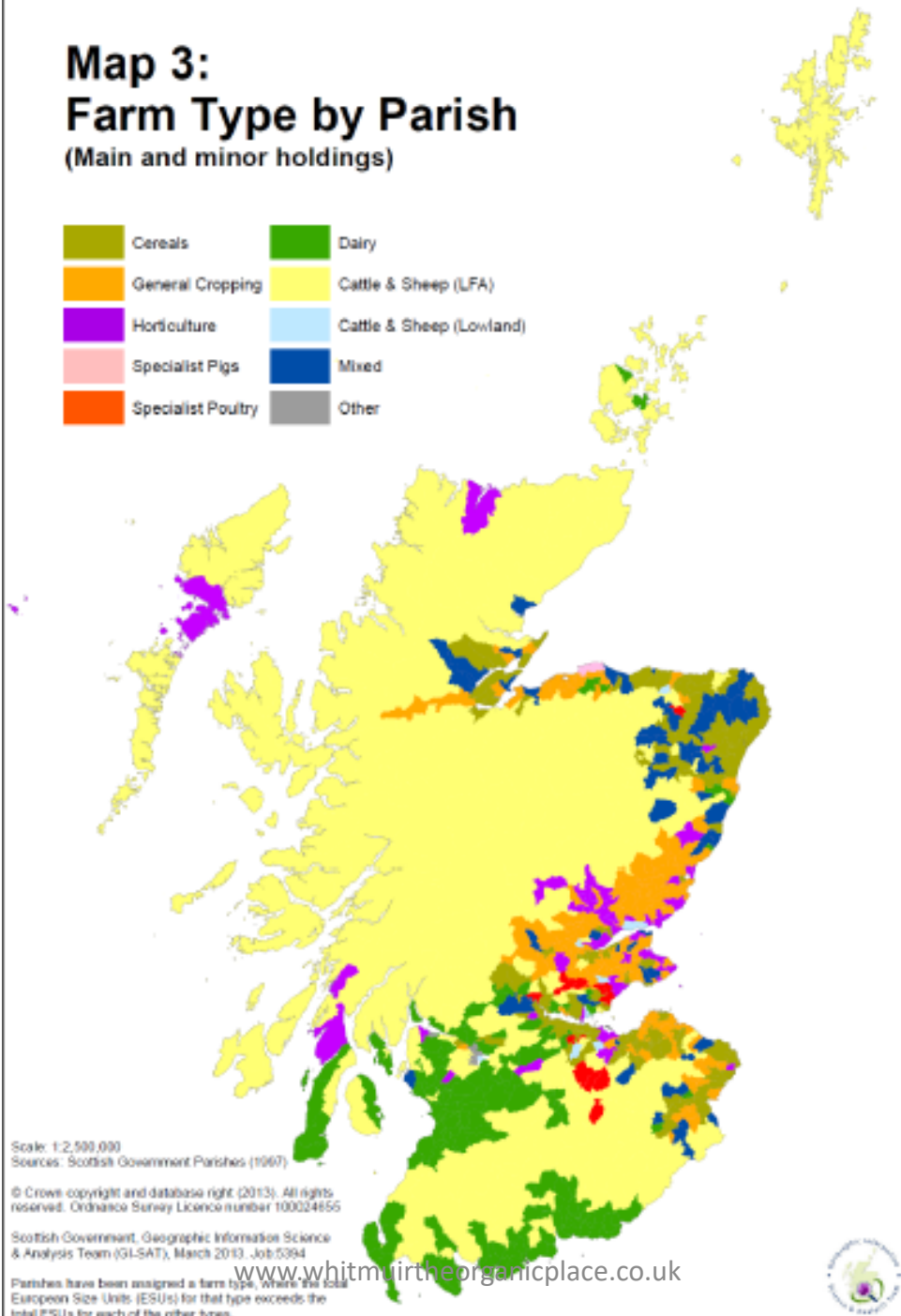
LFA means that agriculture in these areas faces natural constraints – of soil, temperature, wind, rain, aspect – or all of the above.

The productive areas of Eastern Scotland - plus small parts of Ayrshire and Dumfries grow most of the cereals, soft fruit and vegetables.

Most of the rest grows grass. And some grows heather – 60% of Scotland is rough grazing.



# Map 3: Farm Type by Parish (Main and minor holdings)



Scale: 1:2,500,000  
Sources: Scottish Government Parishes (1997)

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Scottish Government, Geographic Information Science & Analysis Team (GISAT), March 2013. Job 5394

Parishes have been assigned a farm type, where the total European Size Units (ESUs) for that type exceeds the total ESUs for each of the other types.

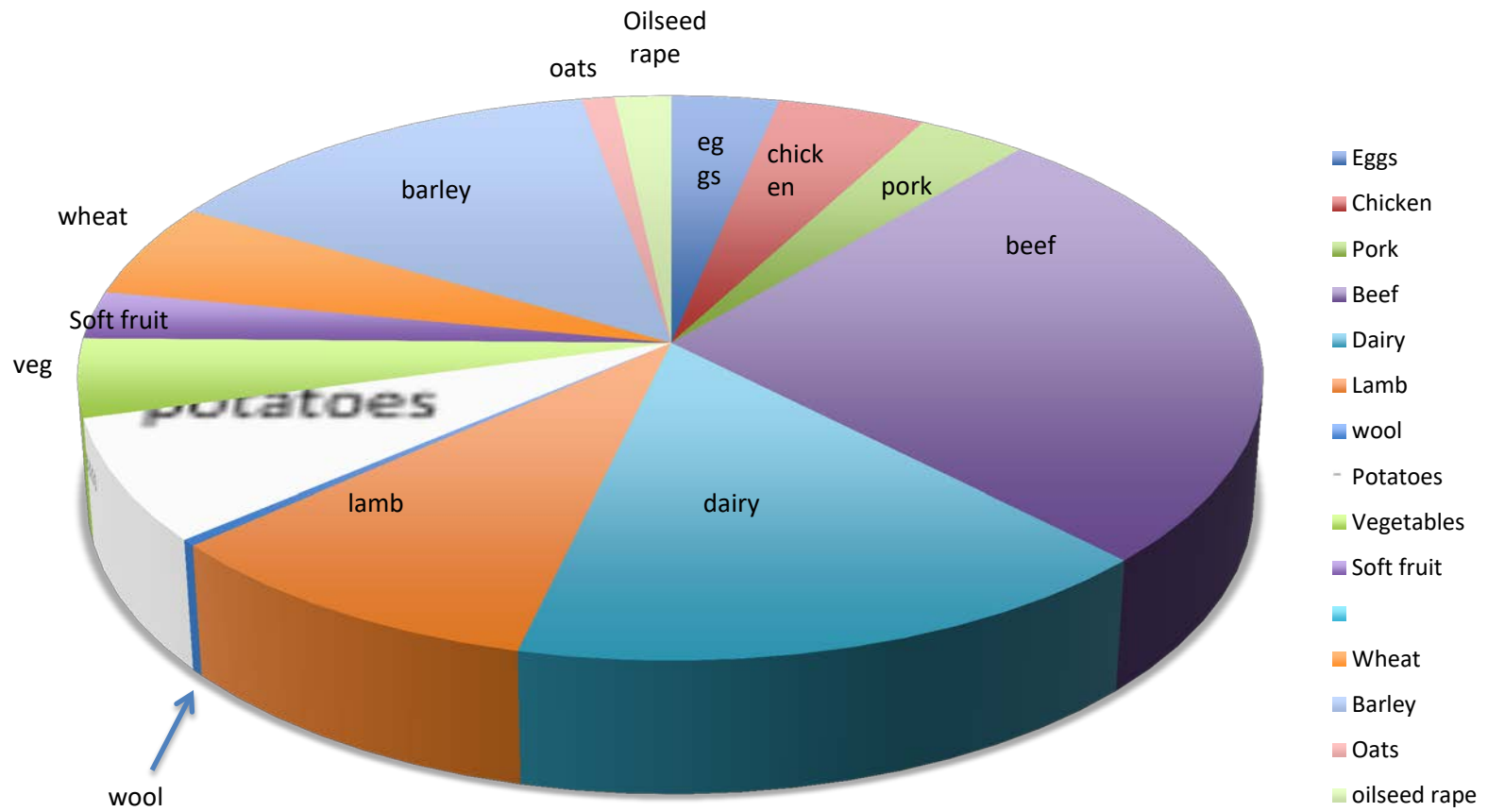
[www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk](http://www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk)



## What we grow/what we eat in Scotland

	Produce/person/year	Consume directly	%	notes
Beef	34kg	c.20kg	160	export
Lamb	12kg	0.8kg	1500	export
Pigs	10kg	25kg	40	import
Chickens	16kg	31.5kg	50	import
Eggs	200 eggs	192 eggs	100	
milk	260 litres	200 litres	130	
Sea fish	72kg	7.5kg (wild and farmed)	1500	export
Farmed fish	32 kg			
wheat	180kg	30-40kg as bread, 85kg all cereals	600	Biofuel animal feed, whisky beer
barley	340kg	Minimal		
Oats	20kg	Some as porage		
Potatoes	260kg	40kg	600	export
Vegetables	55kg	50kg	100	
Soft fruit	5kg	Total fruit 40kg	12	import
Oilseed rape	20kg	minimal		

Vegetables –  
carrots,  
swede, leeks,  
broccoli,  
cabbage



# Whisky and meat matter

- **30% of output** – cereals for whisky and animal, not human, feed
- **40% of output livestock** – beef, lamb
- **80% of it goes to England and 20% to EU**
- 39% of Scotland's food and drink exports go to the EU (£1.9 billion in 2015)
- 69% of our food exports go to the EU (£724 million in 2015)- this is a critical market

# So the nightmare scenario is .....

- Removal from single market
- **Introduction of tariff barriers** (calculations of 20-50% on beef, up to 67% on lamb)
- **Repatriation of powers** to Westminster not Holyrood
- **GM** just because we can
- Loss of organic **integrity**

# The nightmare continues

- **WTO rules** = worst trade option rules preventing any form of domestic farming support
- Imports of cheap, hormone injected meat
- Collapse of both export and UK market and indigenous food production

So Brexit might be the ....

- **Repeal of the Corn Laws  
on Steroids.....**
- and we might not  
survive it



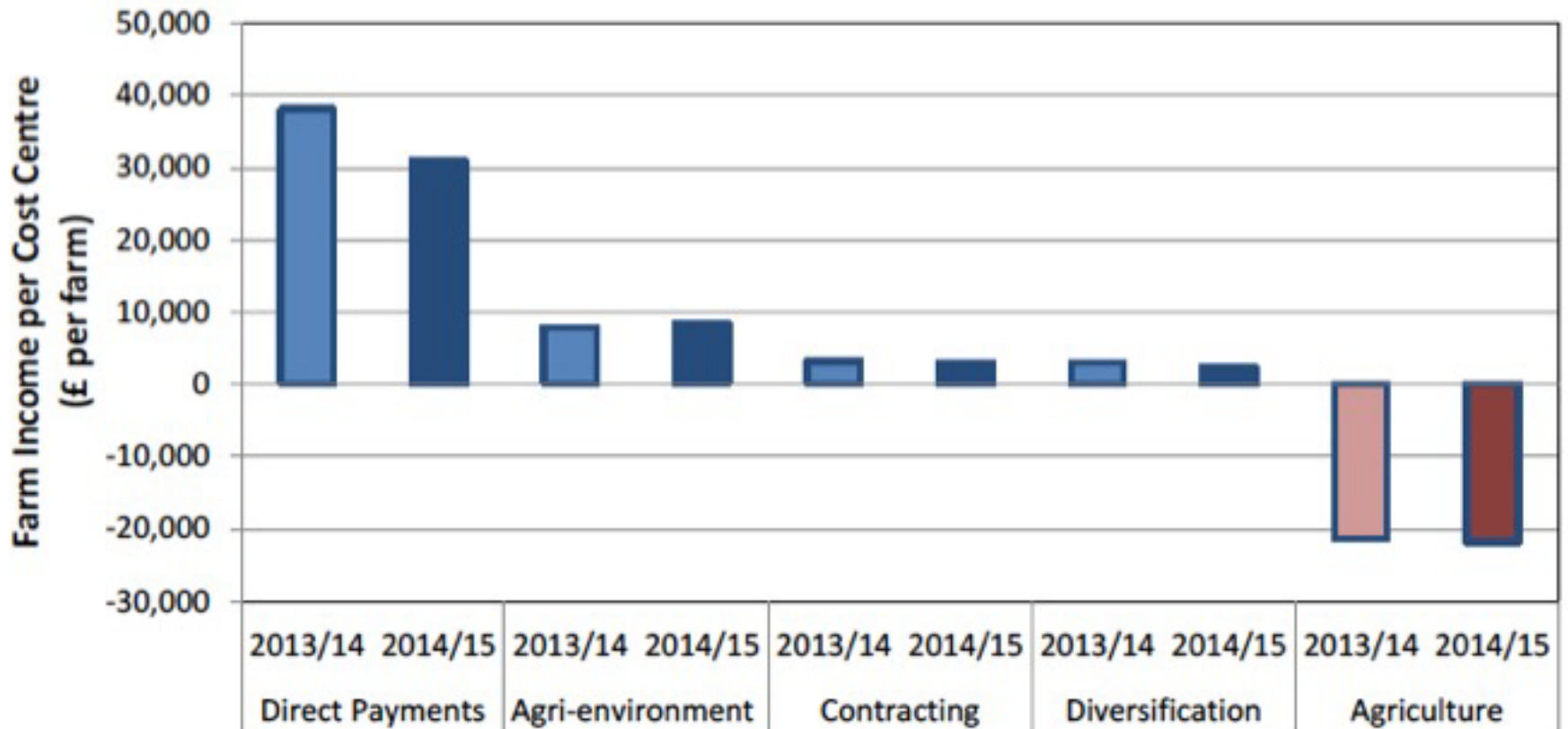
# So is CAP really that bad?

- **40% of the total EU budget is spend on CAP**
- **Pillar 1** - £500 million – direct payments/ entitlements to individual farmers
- **Pillar 2** – £150 million (but half to LFA, half to environmental schemes – competitive bidding)
- In Scotland, **£500 million** is given to **20,000** farmers, but **80%** of the total goes to **20%** of the farmers
- **The Rich do very well (432 have half the land)**

# The significance of CAP to viability

- The better your land, the greater your subsidy
- Around **20% of the total gross income** of £2.7 billion is subsidy
- **£667** million net farm income
- But of this, **£550** million is EU subsidy
- **Two thirds of net farm income is actually subsidy**
- This isn't sustainable... and it looks like this..

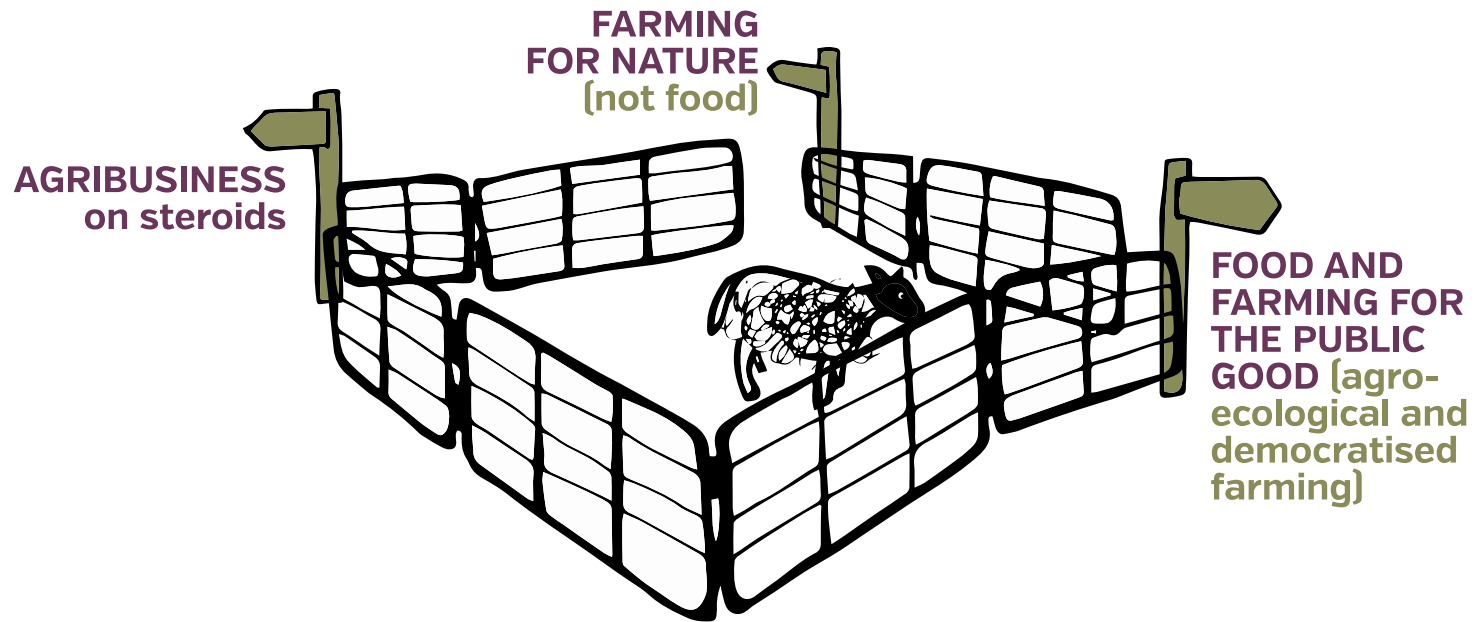
# Farm Income - graphically



# What might Defra do next

- UK have guaranteed Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 until 2020
- Scotland has roughly **33%** of the land mass of the UK and **8.5%** of the population
- But we get **16.5%** of Pillar 1 subsidy –
- We can argue about the % until the cows come home, but the **direction of travel is the same**
- **Defra will undoubtedly reduce Pillar 1 level payments to near zero over next 15 years**
- Barnett Consequentials mean that **16.5% of zero is zero**
- **Potential collapse of farming viability** unless there is a paradigm shift and continued support

# We have 3 gates in the handling pen



# So what could we do instead

- Write the new CAP - A Citizens Agricultural Policy
- Host civic discussion on what farmers are for, who they are growing food for and what they should be supported to do
- Make the connection between public money and public policy and public good
- Get a good collie to get us to go through the right gate

# The challenge for us is

- Fighting for those values in the midst of the noise, vested interests and extreme right wing
- Making food a civic issue – not a farming issue
- Funding independent advice, professional development and agroecology
- Democratising the governance of food
- Increasing food literacy – don't leave this up to the children!
- Building the Food Coalition – Nourish Scotland

# A Citizen's Agricultural Policy for Scotland

- **Field of Enquiry** - 10 days to explore the food, farming, health and climate change
- **Key principles** – building a food system that is **smart** with our land and soil, **fair** to farmers, **kind** to animals and **accountable** to citizens.
- A food system with **rights and transparency** at the core and **diversity** running through it on land that is **hooching with life**



# Opportunities to campaign....

- Land Reform – Land Commission – land Rights and Responsibilities
- Community Empowerment – right to buy land not being sustainably used
- Child Poverty Bill – right to food
- Social Security Act – dignity
- Climate Change Bill and Plan – nitrogen budgets - its Scotland's soil
- Good Food Nation Bill - linking food, farming, health and climate change
- We just got an Independent Commission on farming subsidy – we need to use it

So... Brexit is tricky, but

“As long as one hundred of us remain  
alive....”

Let's try and snatch some victories from  
the jaws of fear

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