ECOLOGICAL FACTSHEET – ENGLAND (UK) CASE STUDY

Agri-environmental payments (% of total subsidies):

1% - Subsidies for organic farming

10% - Other agri-environmental and climate change payments

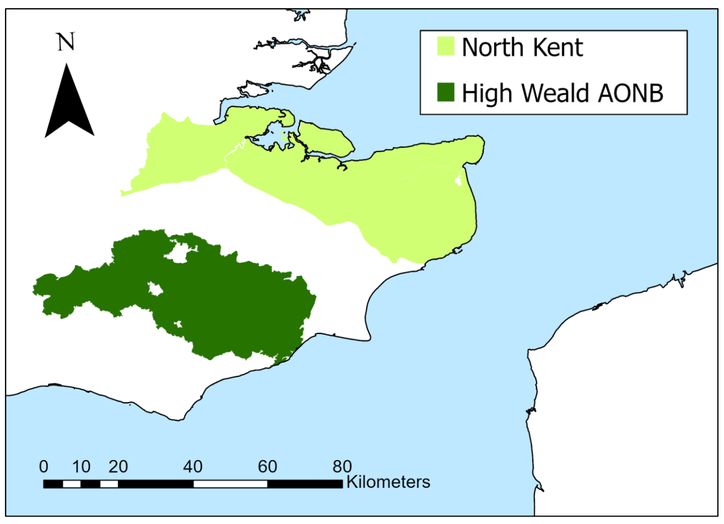
3% - Other rural development payments (e.g., for physical investments, modernisation, quality standards etc)

82% - Basic Payment Scheme

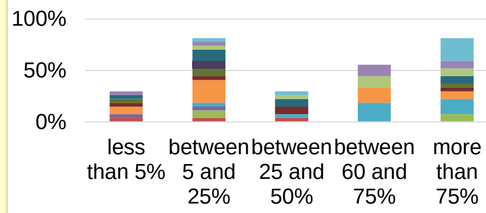
4% - Coupled Subsidies

Characteristics of the case study areas

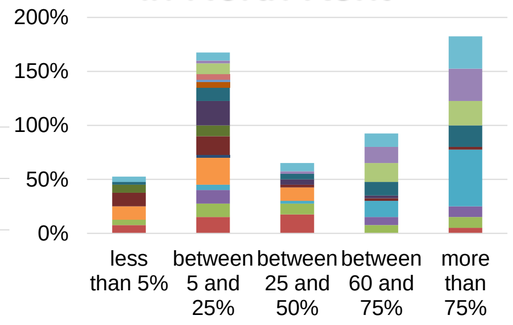
Farm, farm-group and territorial scale



Fertilisation and soil management (UAA) in High Weald



Fertilisation and soil management (UAA) in North Kent



- Soil mapping
- Machine controlled application
- Precision technologies to target application rate
- Planting of cover crops
- Planting of catch crops
- Planting of nitrogen-fixing crops
- Leaving crop residues on soil
- Green manuring
- Application of soil amendments
- Application of compost
- Application of sewage sludge and other sludge
- Application of animal manure
- Application of inorganic fertilisers
- No tillage
- Conservation tillage
- Conventional tillage

High Weald and North Kent (UK)

Limesurvey report for KENT University – constructive variables
Average total pesticide costs = € 73,411.5
Average total fertiliser costs = € 52,167.29
Total output: € 490,212.40

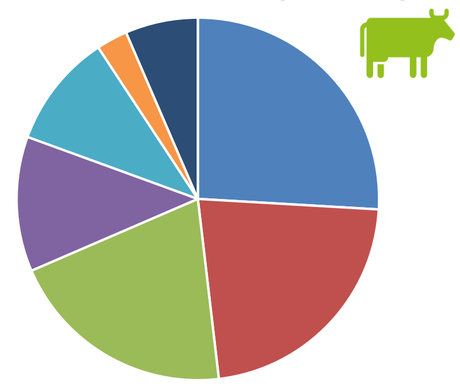
Pesticide intensity index (Pesticide costs/Total Output) **= 0.15**
Fertiliser intensity index (Fertiliser costs/Total Output) = **0.11**

Ecological vs Standard Farms

Farm Characteristic	Ecological farms	Standard farms
Farm size (Land area, ha)	355.62	222.10
Farm size (Livestock units)	94.69	25.99
Value of farm machinery (€)	277741.38	335000.00
Inorganic pesticide use (€/ha)	100.02	172.38
Inorganic fertiliser use (€/ha)	68.45	129.95
Organic animal manure or compost (% land area)	15.69	20.38
Crop diversity (number of different crops)	6.00	4.8
Semi-natural habitats (% land area)	6.90	6.67
Average hours of labour used (per farm, per week)	99.21	109.68

*Ecological farms defined as being organic and/or receiving agri-environmental subsidies

Livestock feed (Cattle)



- Grazing on pasture
- Conserved forage: silage
- Conserved forage: hay
- Concentrates
- Grains
- Grazing on crop residues
- Other; please specify

Respondents' views on the vision for ecological farming in 2030

High Weald & North Kent

- Little change will happen to soil quality
- There will be no change in the number and/or size of hedgerows
- Ecological farming will be a limited social movement and will not provide substantial eco-system services
- Farmers will need to increase their level of skills
- Water quality will improve
- Farmers will cooperate more with neighbouring farmers and farms close to them

Least agreed upon statements → Most agreed upon statements

High Weald

- Little change will happen to soil quality
- There will be no change in the number and/or size of hedgerows
- Ecological farming will be a limited social movement and will not provide substantial eco-system services
- Water quality will improve
- More livestock farmers will use mob/strip grazing
- Farmers will need to increase their level of skills

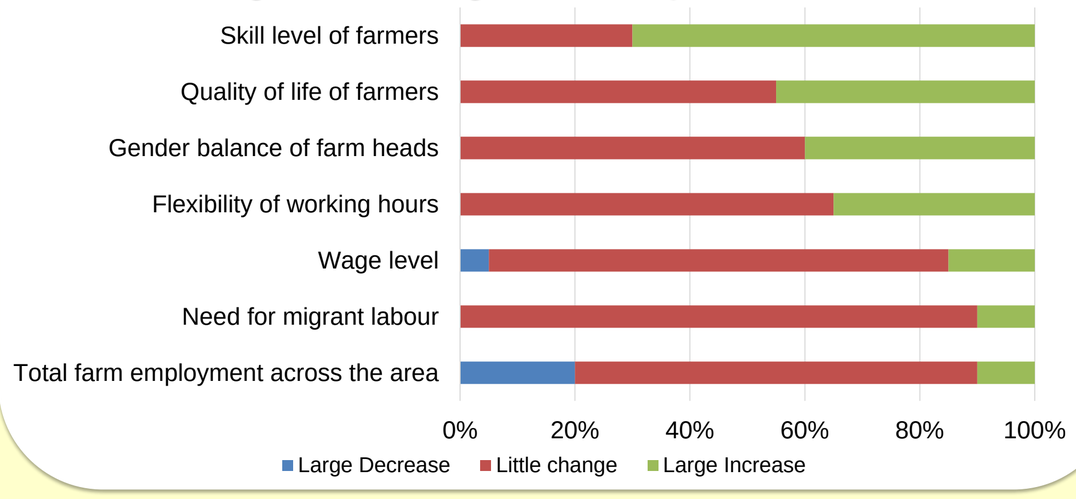
Least agreed upon statements → Most agreed upon statements

North Kent

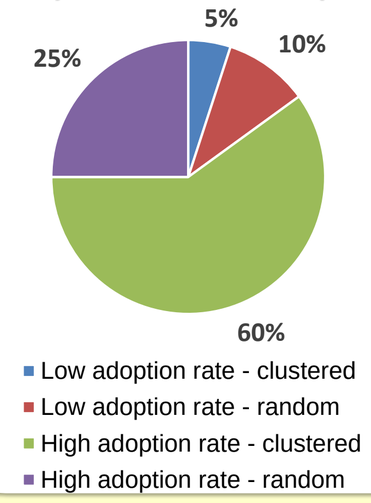
- There will be no change in the number and/or size of hedgerows
- Little change will happen to soil quality
- There will be little change in the landscape appearance of rural areas
- Farmers will need to increase their level of skills
- Water quality will improve
- Ecological farms will form clusters of closely connected farms within the case study area

Least agreed upon statements → Most agreed upon statements

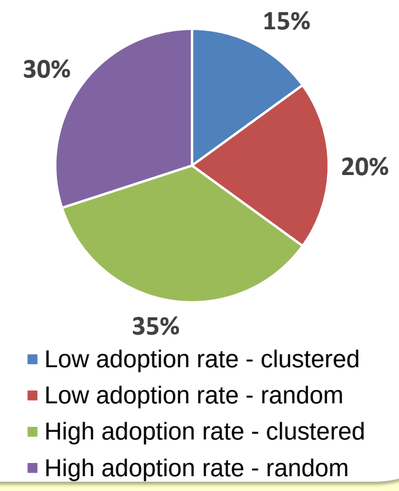
Respondents' views on how the adoption of ecological farming would impact on labour



High Weald predicted rate and pattern of adoption



North Kent predicted rate and pattern of adoption



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 770747

Low-Input Farming and Territories -
Integrating knowledge for improving ecosystem-based farming
www.lift-h2020.eu

University of Kent