

SOCIAL STUDIES — GEOGRAPHY · P4–P7

Àiteachas na h-Alba — Scottish Agriculture

P4–P7

Scottish farming and land use

1

Highland farming

The Highlands are mainly used for sheep farming (Blackface and Cheviot), red deer, and grouse moor management (for shooting). Relatively small farms. Poor soil and harsh climate limit crop growing.

2

Lowland farming

The Central Belt and the east coast (especially Angus and Perthshire) have better soils and a more moderate climate. Arable farming: barley, wheat, oats, potatoes, soft fruit (Tayside is Scotland's berry-growing centre).

3

Crofting

Small-scale farming in the Highlands and Islands. The Crofters' Act (1886) gave crofters security of tenure. Still important in the Western Isles and parts of the Highlands — approximately 17,000 registered crofts.

4

Scotch whisky

Scotland's most important food and drink export — approximately £6 billion annually. Distilleries across Scotland but particularly concentrated in Speyside, Islay, and Highland regions. 5 million casks maturing at any time.

5

Scottish salmon

Scotland produces approximately 75% of UK farmed salmon. Major export. Also important wild salmon rivers (Dee, Spey, Tay). Salmon farming faces environmental criticism — sea lice, escapees, marine pollution.



6

Aberdeen Angus beef

Scotland's most famous cattle breed — originated in Aberdeenshire and Angus in the 19th century. World's most popular beef cattle breed. Exported globally.

