

## Organic or conventional farming – what’s the difference?

### Activity sheet A – Sheep farm data analysis

- 1 Use the information on Data sheets A1–A5 to complete the table below. Where you are asked to note any change between 1998 and 2000, write ‘increase’, ‘decrease’ or ‘no change’. You should also record whether the change was large or small.

|   | Lower Twiddle Farm | Higher Twiddle Farm | Cairn Farm | Burnside Farm |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| Type of farm  |                    |                     |            |               |
| Mean breeding ewe numbers per hectare                   |                    |                     |            |               |
| Type of fertiliser used                                 |                    |                     |            |               |
| Change in ewe live mass 1998–2000                       |                    |                     |            |               |
| Change in wool yield 1998–2000                          |                    |                     |            |               |
| <b>Change in ewe reproductive performance 1998–2000</b> |                    |                     |            |               |
| Barren rate (%)   |                    |                     |            |               |
| Number of lambs born alive (April)                      |                    |                     |            |               |
| Number of lambs reared (September)                      |                    |                     |            |               |
| <b>Change in lamb performance 1998–2000</b>             |                    |                     |            |               |
| Birth mass (kg)   |                    |                     |            |               |
| Daily liveweight gain, DLWG (g)                         |                    |                     |            |               |
| <b>Change in mortality rates 1998–2000</b>              |                    |                     |            |               |
| Ewe mortality (%)                                       |                    |                     |            |               |
| Lamb mortality (%)                                      |                    |                     |            |               |

## Activity sheet A – Sheep farm data analysis

**2** Use the data to explain some disadvantages of:

**a)** conventional farming

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**b)** organic farming.

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**3** Are there any differences in the data for the three organic farms?

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**4** Do you think that the data provided by these four farms is sufficient to draw valid conclusions? Explain your answer.

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## Activity sheet A – Sheep farm data analysis

**5 a)** Suggest two ways the farmers could increase their yields of lamb and wool.

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**b)** Could your recommendation be applied to both conventional and organic farms?

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