

Organic or conventional farming – what’s the difference?

Activity sheet B – Sheep farm data analysis

The data on the different sheep farms comes from a real investigation comparing sheep production on conventional and organic farms.

- 1 a) How many farms does the data come from? _____
- b) i) Do you think this is enough farms to make the data reliable? _____
- ii) Give a reason for your answer.
- _____

2 Organic farms can only use **ammonium nitrate / farmyard manure** as a fertiliser because it is **natural (organic) / inorganic**.

3 For each part of this question, choose either ‘**conventional**’ or ‘**organic**’.

Which type of farming ...

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| a) ... produces most wool per head of sheep? | conventional / organic |
| b) ... has most barren ewes? | conventional / organic |
| c) ... has more lambs born alive? | conventional / organic |
| d) ... produces heavier lambs? | conventional / organic |
| e) ... has a higher ewe mortality rate? | conventional / organic |
| f) ... has a higher lamb mortality rate? | conventional / organic |

4 Organic farms produce **more / fewer** lambs than conventional farms.

This is because they have **more / fewer** ewes per hectare, and their ewes are **smaller / bigger**.

5 a) From your answers to questions 3 and 4, which type of farming do you think produces the highest yields (most sheep)?

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b) Give two reasons for your answer.

6 a) Do you think organic farming is worthwhile?

b) Give reasons for your answer.
