

Organic or conventional farming – what’s the difference?

Data sheet A5 – Sheep farm data

These data come from a real scientific investigation comparing sheep production on conventional and organic farms. The study collected data from four flocks.

Your task is to analyse the data from all the data sheets, and make recommendations to help the farmers increase their yields of lamb and wool.

Mortality rates

	Year	Lower Twiddle Farm	Higher Twiddle Farm	Cairn Farm	Burnside Farm
Type of farm		conventional	organic	organic	organic
Ewe mortality (%)	1998	1.7	6.6	0.6	4.0
	1999	1.7	5.0	<1	1.7
	2000	3.3	2.8	6.5	5.9
Lamb mortality (%)	1998	7.7	6.6	8.4	7.8
	1999	10.4	12.6	7.6	10.8
	2000	7.7	3.7	6.7	6.3
Ewe hogg mortality (%)	1998	1.7	3.3	2.0	3.6
	1999	1.8	0	2.0	1.9
	2000	0	2.2	2.0	0

A lamb becomes a ewe hogg at 12 months and a ewe after giving birth to a lamb.

Questions

- a) Which type of farm had the highest ewe mortality rate in:
i) 1998 ii) 2000?

b) Is there a clear pattern in the ewe mortality rate and the type of farm?
- a) Which type of farm had the highest lamb mortality rate in:
i) 1998 ii) 2000?

b) Is there a clear pattern in the lamb mortality rate and the type of farm?
- a) Which type of farm had the highest ewe hogg mortality rate in:
i) 1998 ii) 2000?

b) Is there a clear pattern in the ewe hogg mortality rate and the type of farm?