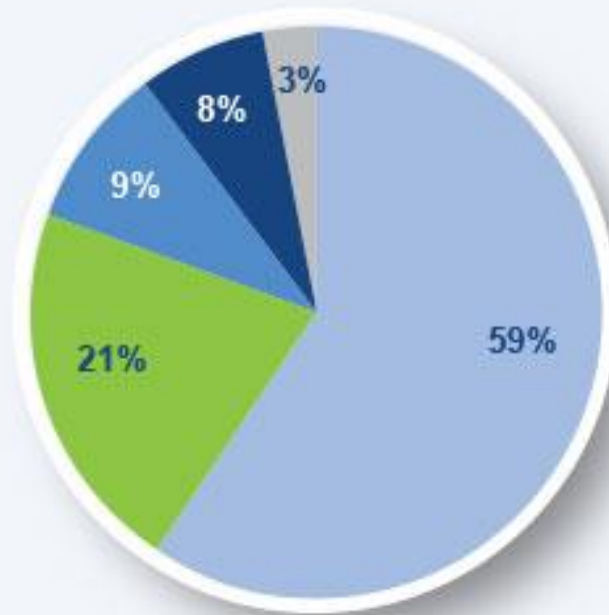


Sector: Agriculture

Includes horticultural crop production, forage and energy crops



Grass is the dominant crop by area – differing knowledge bases



Barley is the major combinable crop

Scottish Agriculture
Census 2017

23% rented land
similar to last year

14.3 million
poultry
more layers than broilers



agriculture
workforce
67,000

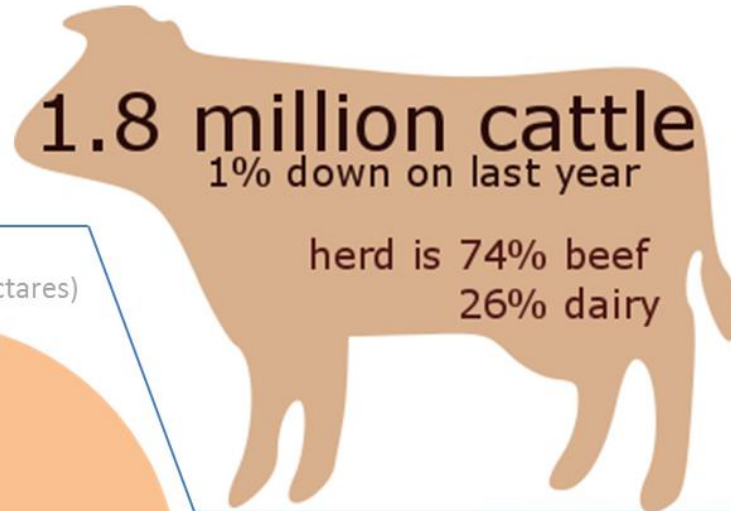
workforce is
37% full-time

workforce is
68% male

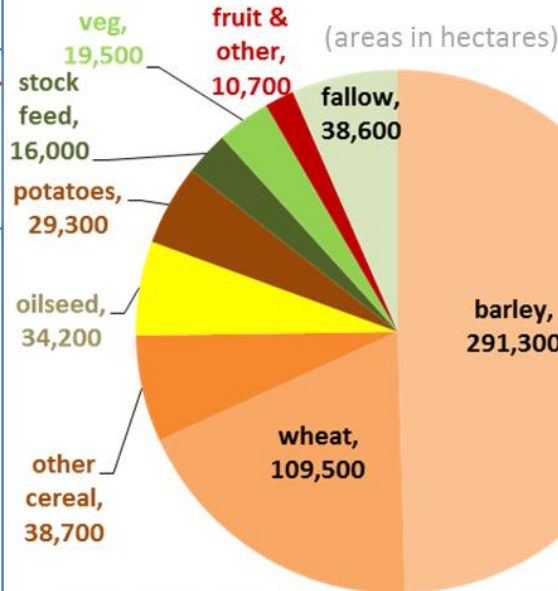
326,000
pigs
down 1% on
last year



1.8 million cattle
1% down on last year



herd is 74% beef
26% dairy



cereals up 2% on last year
potatoes up 6% on last year

7.0 million
sheep
up 2% on last year



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

last year

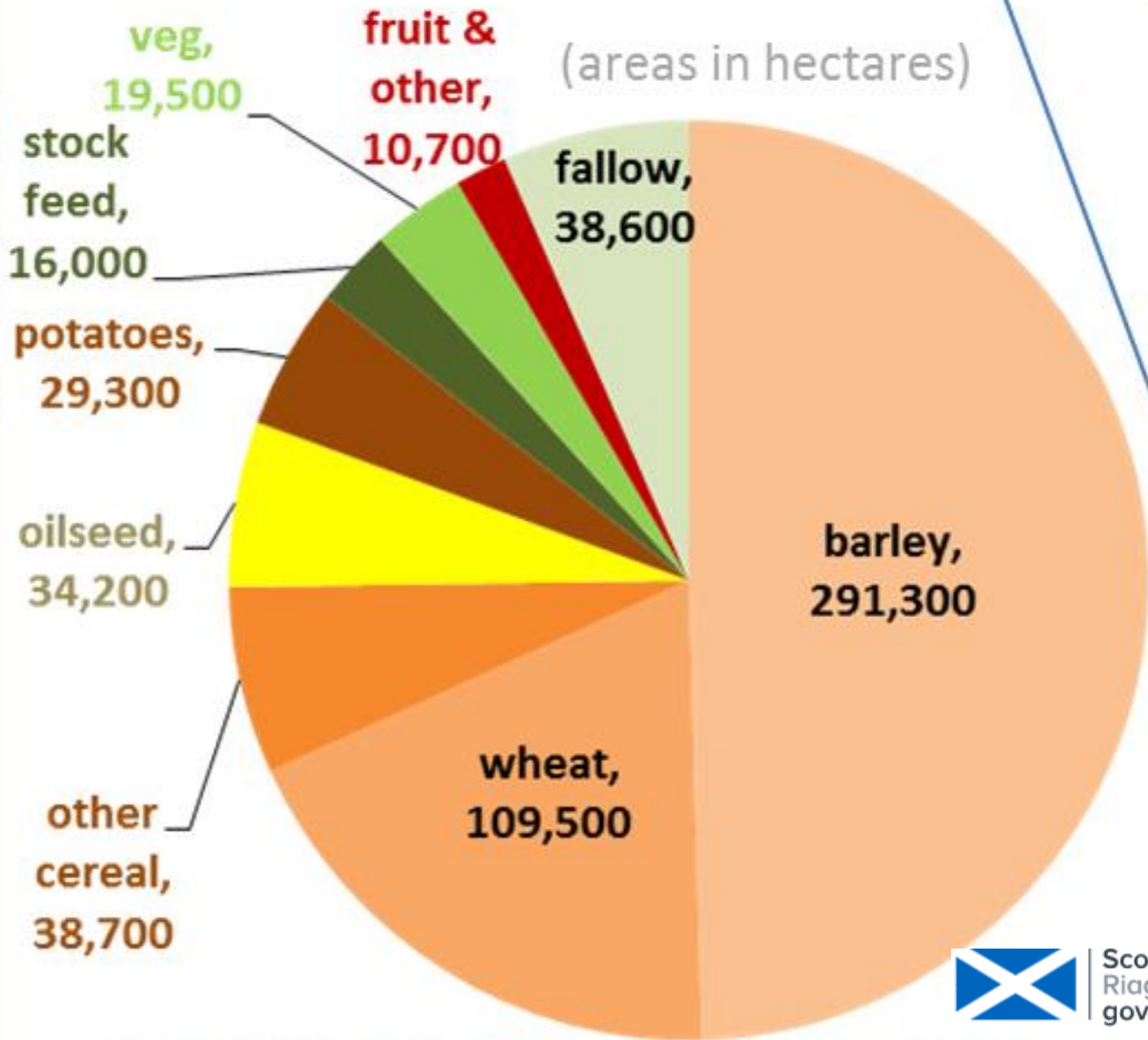


ers

culture
kforce
7,000

kforce is
full-time

kforce is
3% male

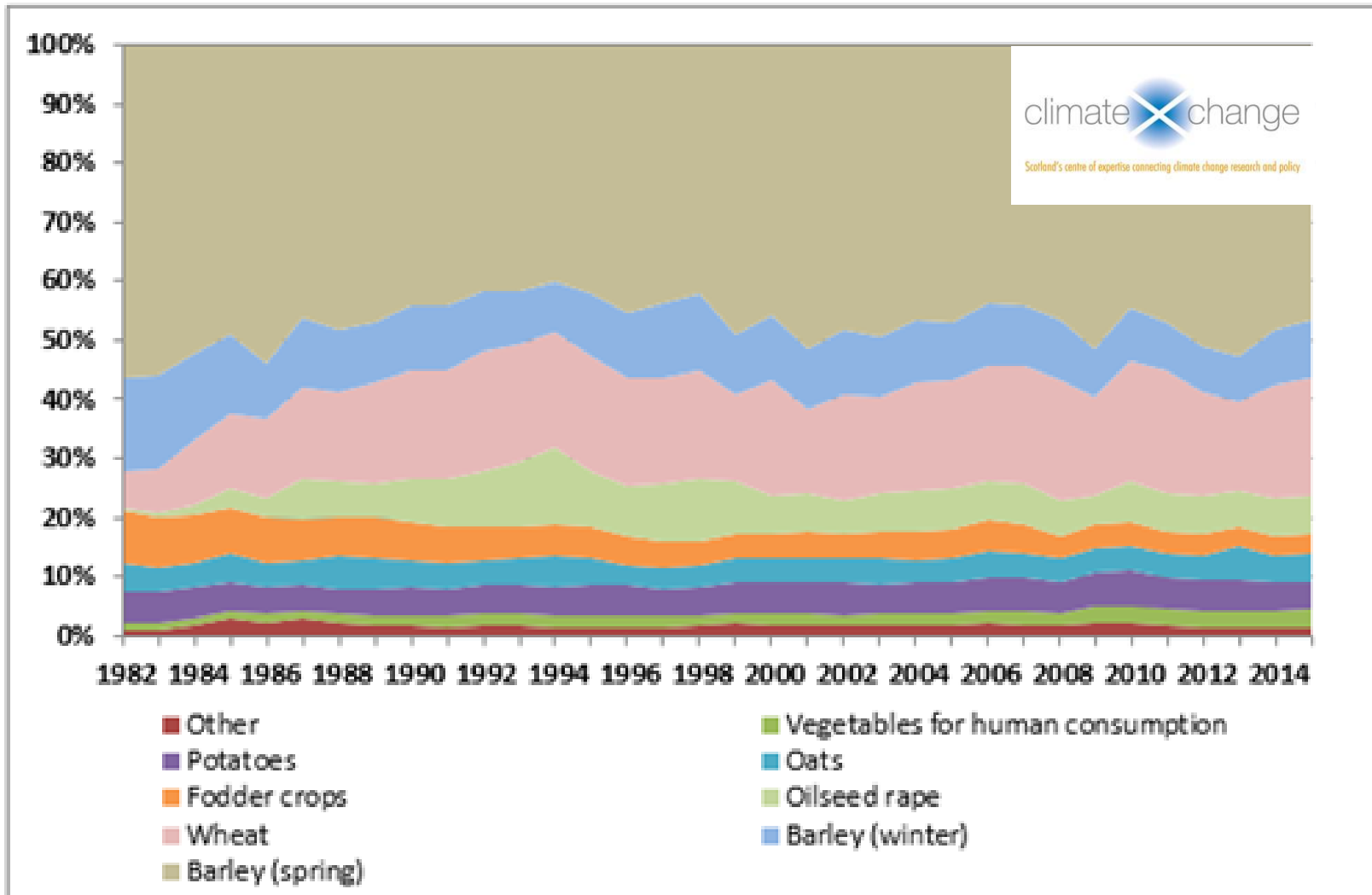


cereals up 2% on last year
potatoes up 6% on last year



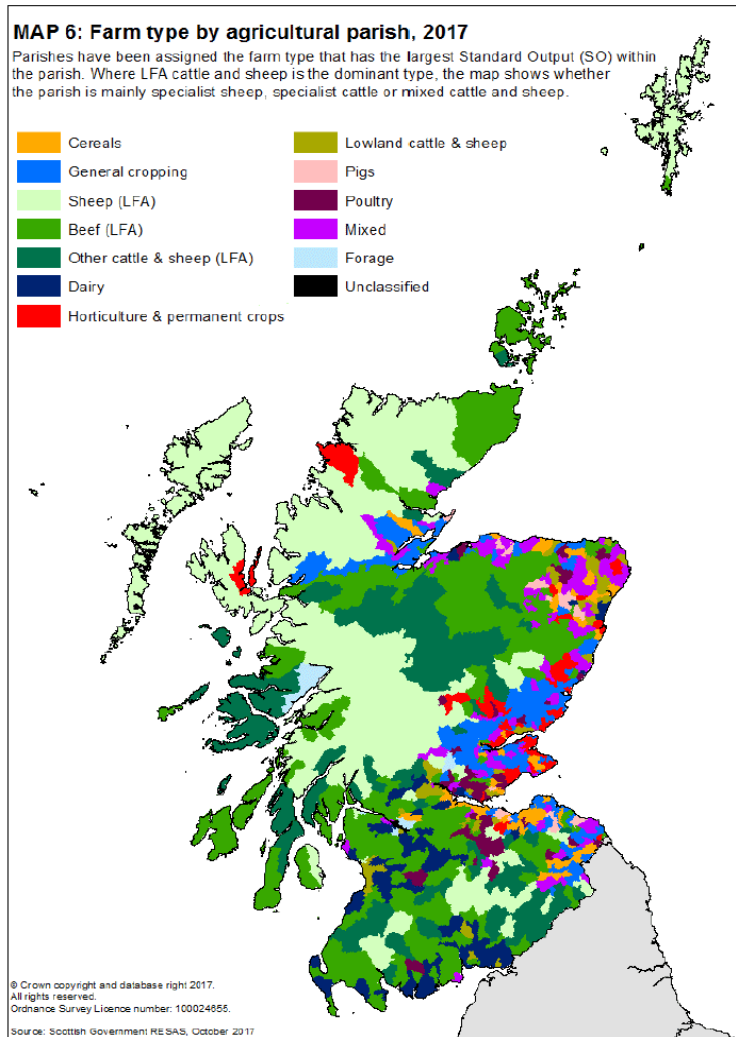
Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Cropping trends driven by weather and price



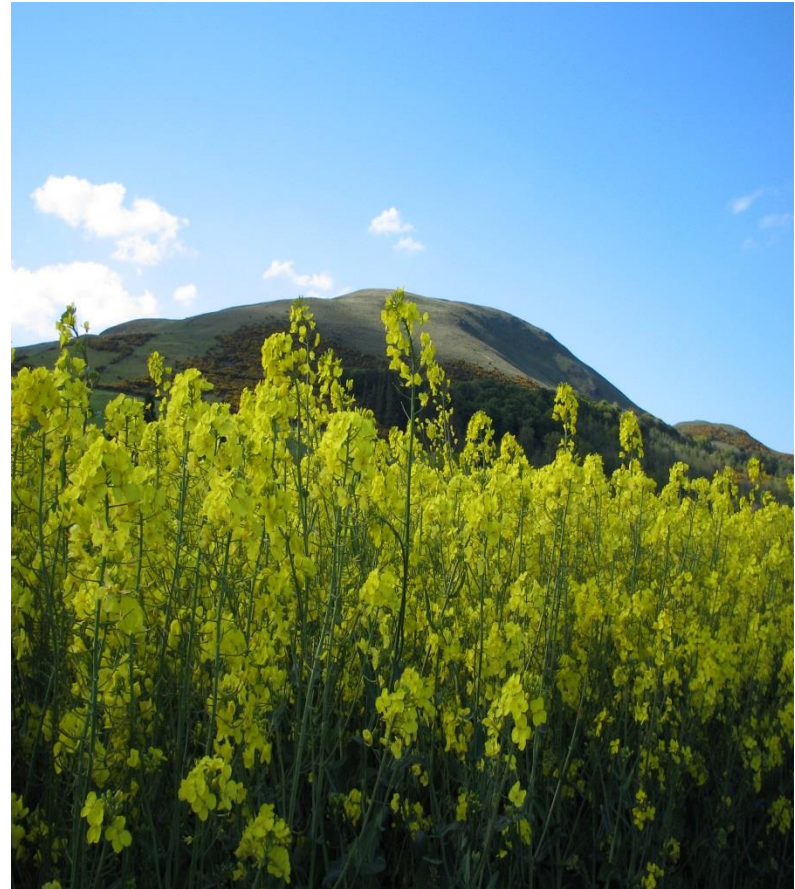
High yielding, high quality crops

Sensitive environment / extremes of weather



Issues particular to us

- Intensive crop production
 - 'Challenging' weather
 - Differing cropping profile
 - Fewer break crop options
 - Differing health status to rest of UK
-
- High level of inputs
 - High selection pressure
 - Strategic use of pesticides, commensurate with high yields
 - Land free of PCN or clubroot is a diminishing resource



Clean land a diminishing resource



New threats

Natural migration/ climate change /
global trade in produce and seed

Black stem rust



Photo Credit: Dave Hodson, CIMMYT

Zebra chip



Photo credit: Potato Grower Magazine

Drivers and opportunities

Global challenges / Rapid technical change



Increased demand for food and ecosystem services



Increased need for sustainable and efficient
production



Advancements in capability

Innovative solutions - but some solutions more acceptable than others



Mind the gap....

Issues raised by stakeholders

- Efficient and sustainable production
- Increased yield and quality of crops
- Perception that the loss of solutions is outstripping the arrival of new solutions
- Product losses – legislation / resistance
- Limited options in minor crops
- Food safety issues such as ergot and mycotoxins
- Integrated Pest Management
- Reduced reliance on pesticides
- Increased technology
- New crops / rotations

Context

- Public care about food production
- Tensions: cheap food v sustainably produced food
- Perceptions and attitudes key
- Growers locked into in production systems
- Broadest possible view of solutions
- Some are more acceptable than others
- Integrated thinking
- Solutions impact on other sectors
- Solutions could be applicable to other sectors (ag tech / chem industry partners)
- Communication and collaboration are core – please get in touch fiona.burnett@sruc.ac.uk

