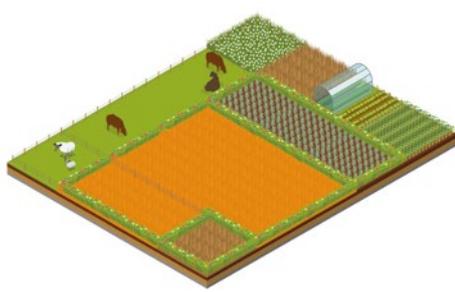
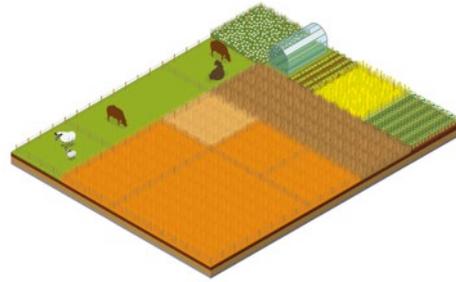


Findings

In addition to the status quo (baseline), the following are three alternative illustrations with an outline assessment of the potential to improve environmental outcomes and an indication of their financial impact. Further examples can be found in the full report.

FBS* representative farm model

Baseline represents the current situation of the farms as it might look 12 years in the future, on a business as usual basis.



FBS* representative farm model

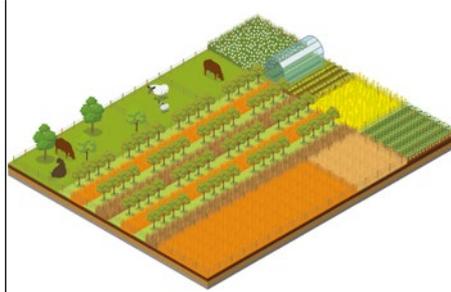
Conservation agriculture including zero tillage, cover crops and extended crop rotations, including field beans 1 year in 6.

Financial impact ↑

The inclusion of field beans replacing less profitable enterprises helped raise net profits. This option could be part of a basic environmental maintenance scheme.

Public goods ↑

Beneficial to soil health, including organic matter retention and earthworm activity, reduced GHG emissions, reduced run-off, increase in biodiversity.



FBS* representative farm model

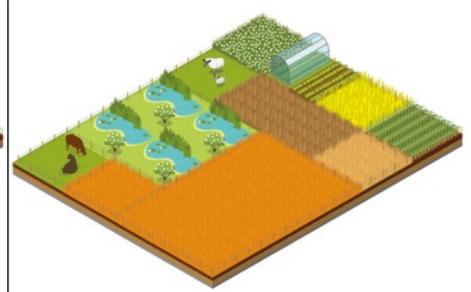
Agroforestry, with alley cropping of fruit trees with diverse understoreys and cereals. 10% in field tree cover or 5% if half of farm. Hedges, trees also possible.

Financial impact ↑↑

The inclusion of fruit trees as a cash crop in an alley cropping system indicates the potential for significant financial advantages.

Public goods ↑↑

Brings diversity in the farmed landscape with significant benefits for biodiversity. Potential benefits in terms of carbon sequestration and flood mitigation. Reduction in run off and soil erosion.



FBS* representative farm model

Habitat conservation, existing or new creation following prescribed management. Assumed 20% of land (50:50 crops, grass) no longer in agriculture.

Financial impact ↓

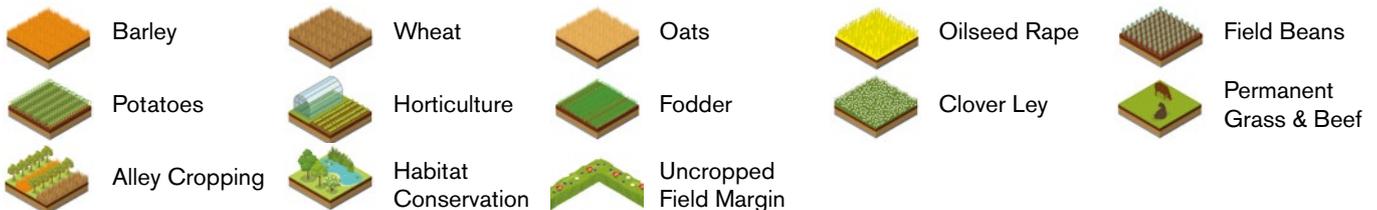
The main focus would be on less productive land, so that the most profitable enterprises can be maintained, but with limited opportunities for savings on fixed costs.

Public goods ↑↑

Boundaries, in-field strips, diverse swards, field wetlands, pollinator zones etc. would boost biodiversity. Some of these measures can also play a role in reducing run off, flood risk and soil erosion.

Key: ↑ increase ↓ reduce

*FBS: Farm Business Survey



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Lampkin N, Shrestha S, Sellars A, Baldock D, Smith J, Mullender S, Keenleyside C, Pearce B, Watson C, 2020. Preparing the Evidence Base for Post-Brexit agriculture in Scotland – Case studies on alternative payments. *NatureScot Research Report No. 1201* - NatureScot use only. <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-land/agriculture-and-land-use-policy-development>

