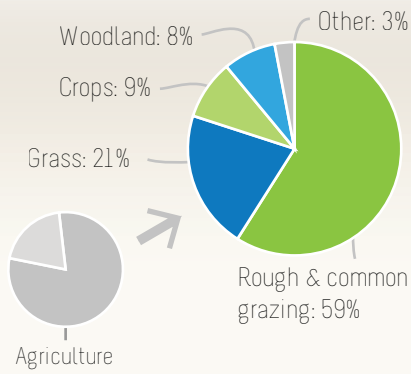
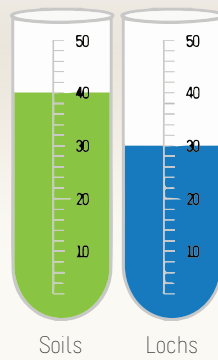


BENEFITS



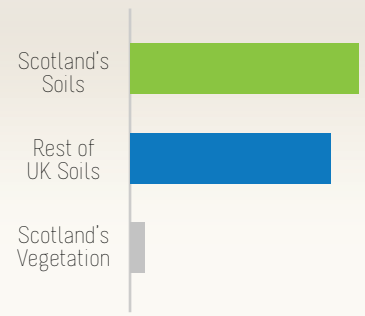
Grows food for people and animals

Almost 80 % of land supports agriculture, more than half of which is used for rough grazing.



Controls water flow and quality

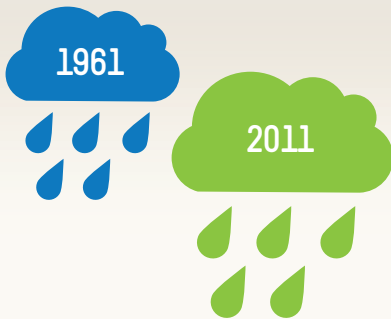
There is more water stored in Scotland's soils when wet than in all of our freshwater lochs.



An important carbon store

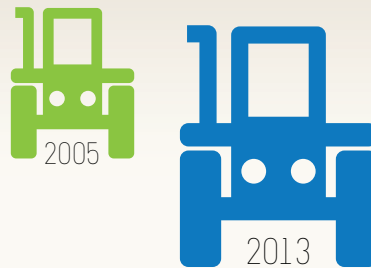
Scotland's soil contains more than 3000 million tonnes of carbon – more than half of the UK's soil carbon store and 60 X more than Scotland's vegetation.

PRESSURES



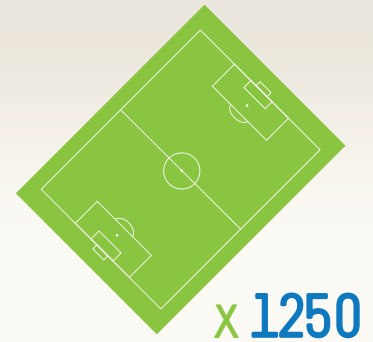
Changing weather patterns

Annual rainfall in Scotland has increased by 27 % over the last 50 years and there are 8 more days of heavy rain in a year.



Land management practices

The average power of tractors registered in the UK has increased by 20 % over the last 8 years. Heavier machinery can lead to soil compaction.



Development

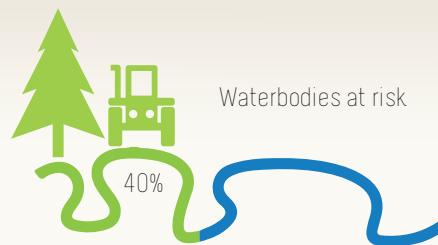
Around 1200 hectares of land is sealed every year, equivalent to approximately 1250 football pitches.

IMPACTS



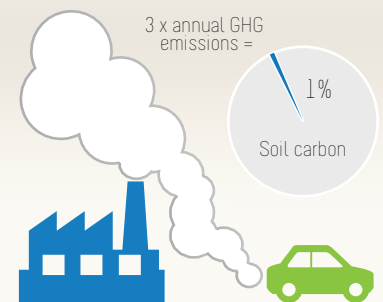
Loss of crop yield

Cereal yield in 2012 was relatively poor. The summer was wet and cool, leading to waterlogged soil and difficult harvest conditions.



Poor water quality

Around 40 % of surface waterbodies at risk of not meeting water quality targets are affected by diffuse pollution from farming and forestry.



Increased GHG emissions

If we lost 1 % of our soil carbon as CO₂ it would triple our annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – contributing to climate change.