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Climate change and agriculture: Summary and Conclusions

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Summary and Conclusions

- We can model existing farm systems, and examine impacts of changes to policy and economy and associated trade-offs between objectives
- In considering climate change, we need to look at long time scales
- This makes prediction of future policy, economic and climate conditions very difficult
- The amount of uncertainty we are dealing with means any ‘predictions’ made at this stage are only speculative
- The level of uncertainty will reduce with time:
 - Better knowledge
 - Improved modelling
 - Clearer picture of what the objectives are for agriculture (?)
- We can therefore use the modelling framework to investigate options for adaptation and amelioration
 - Getting from A to B (we need to know where B is, and what route to take)

Questions for discussion?

- What is the role for agriculture in Scotland in the future?
- What are the priorities for the next 20-30 years?
- How can we develop policies to aid mitigation and adaptation strategies?
- What is the utility of this research approach and how can it be improved?