

Farm Scenario: purchasing a tractor

Your scenario:

You manage a dairy farm and need to purchase a new tractor to help improve productivity on your farm. You also employ a couple of young staff and agricultural trainees, so equipment you purchase needs to be safe and easy to use.

Research by visiting websites, or sites at a local field days, and answer the following questions to work out which tractor is the best one to purchase to suit your needs.

1. Thinking about the fact that you manage a dairy farm and have young staff, summarise the main features your new tractor needs to have.
2. Tractors have different implements that perform different activities to help the farms resources (ie: soil, water and air) be more productive and sustainable. For each category (soil, water and air), list an implement that can be used and what impact it has on the plants and animals on the farm.
3. How can a new tractor be used to make your farm a better environment for your dairy cattle?
4. How are these new tractors different to tractors that are 30 years old?
5. Do you think today's tractors are better or worse than those from 30 years ago? Explain your answer.
6. In your book, paste some images of tractors you have found or do a quick sketch. Label these pictures.
7. Keeping in mind your answers to the questions above, develop a table for three tractors using the following headings:
 - a. Tractor name
 - b. Size
 - c. Implements included
 - d. Technology included
 - e. Warranty
 - f. Price
8. Which tractor do you think you should purchase for your farm? Explain your answer.