**The achievements and characteristics of agriculture of the UK.**

1. Good afternoon. My name is … . I’m a first year student of the Borisoglebsk Agricultural Technical School. I'd like to tell you about the achievements and characteristics of agriculture of the UK.
2. The United Kingdom is situated on the British islands in the Atlantic Ocean. **The climate** is fairly mild and wet. It favors to development and maintaining of farming. The modern agriculture of Great Britain is considered to be one of the most effective in the world.
3. **Different types** of farming occur in different regions of Britain. This is due to the influence of relief, climate, soil type and to an extent closeness to the market. Upland areas generally lend themselves to sheep farming. Flat areas to crop production and wet/warm areas to milk and beef production.
4. **British farming** is intensive and highly mechanized. Agriculture provides around 60 per cent of Britain's food needs. Though it employs just 1.4 per cent of the country's labour force.
5. Agricultural activities in the country mostly occur in **rural areas**. However, it is more concentrated in the South West and East Anglia, in the east of England. The country has about 212,000 farm holdings which vary in size from below 20 hectares to over 100 hectares.
6. The climate conditions contribute to the development of **animal breeding**. It is the main branch of agriculture: the breeding of meat and dairy cattle and also pig breeding, sheep breeding, poultry farming. The livestock areas are mountainous areas of Wales, North England and Scotland.
7. The share of animal husbandry is three times more than crop production. **Pastoral farming** is the breeding of livestock for meat, wool, eggs and milk, and historically (in the UK) for labour. Livestock products are the main element of the UK's agricultural output. The most common meat animals in the United Kingdom are cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry.
8. There are about 17,000 **dairy farms** in the UK, largely in the west. The most important dairy cattle breed is the ubiquitous British Friesian. It gives the high milk yield and the relatively high quality of the beef it produces.
9. Important **beef cattle breeds** include the Hereford, which is the most popular British beef breed, and the Aberdeen Angus. The once-widespread Beef Shorthorn is now a relatively uncommon sight.
10. In the north-west of England, Wales and Scotland, farmers keep cattle and sheep. Sheep can survive the cold winters on the hills and moors.
11. **Pig farming. Large Black pigs**

 About 4,600 farms produce pigs, and the UK is 90% self-sufficient in pork, but only about 40% self-sufficient in bacon and ham. Nowadays many pig farms in the UK breed intensively-farmed hybrids of types like the Large White, British Landrace, Welsh or British Saddleback. Formerly-popular breeds like the Cumberland and Small White are extinct.

1. **Other livestock and poultry**

 The UK has goat farming, mostly as milk producers. Other livestock and poultry farmed on a smaller scale include game birds, ducks, geese, turkeys, ostriches and rabbits. These farms are relatively few and they are rather small.

1. As I told you already, crop production is less per cent then animal husbandry. About two-fifths of English area occupy by arable land. Wheat is a major crop in the UK. **Winter wheat** is planted in October and harvested in mid-to late September.
2. During the crop tour in mid-June, the **2015/16** crop was finishing the flowering and reproductive stage. Unlike much of continental Europe which suffered from summer drought, rainfall in the UK had been adequate, even though somewhat less than ideal.
3. In the south-east of England and the lowlands of Scotland, grain, potatoes and sugar beet are grown. In the east of England, wheat, barley and vegetables grow in enormous fields.
4. The UK is the fourth largest producer of **cereal** and **oilseed** crops after France, Germany and Poland. The UK is the fifth largest producer of **sugar beet.**
5. **Organic agriculture** is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It is based on the minimal use of off-farm inputs and on the management practices that restore, maintain or enhance ecological harmony.
6. In the British animal husbandry **the leading trends** can be identified. They are improving breeds, studying of genomes and genes, breeding, reproductive technologies, as well as the conservation of genetic resources.
7. In the feed industry in Britain special attention is paid to physiology, the development of feed, the productivity of grassland and grazing cattle.
8. Innovations are also used in the design of **agricultural machinery**, in particular for tillage, harvesting, row sowing, spraying, post-harvest transportation and processing. The industry relies on the latest technologies in the field of robotics, remote sensing, applications using satellite navigation system, Autonomous devices.

relief [rɪˈliːf], closeness [ˈkləʊsnɪs], **rural** **[ˈrʊərəl],** Friesian [ˈfrɪzɪən], Aberdeen Angus, Cumberland [ˈkʌmbələnd], extinct [ɪksˈtɪŋkt], ostric [ˈɔstrɪʧ], drought [draʊt], enormous [ɪˈnɔːməs], enhance [ɪnˈhɑːns],