
Chapter 1

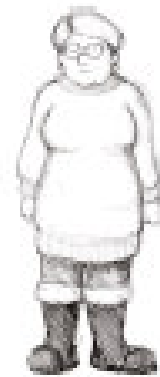
MEET THE FAMILY...



Ma and Pa

Arthur and Maude Biggins have owned Langstance Farm ever since they moved to the Lake District after marrying forty-seven years ago. They have seen many changes in agriculture and particularly the impact of tourism on the landscape. Although Arthur acknowledges the importance of tourism to the

local economy, he is increasingly concerned about the problems of erosion and traffic congestion during the holiday periods. Arthur is a prominent local councillor and member of the planning committee responsible for industrial sites and business complexes. Both he and Maude are active within the community with Arthur acting as chairman of the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while Maude is often busy helping to organise a variety of charity events throughout the year.

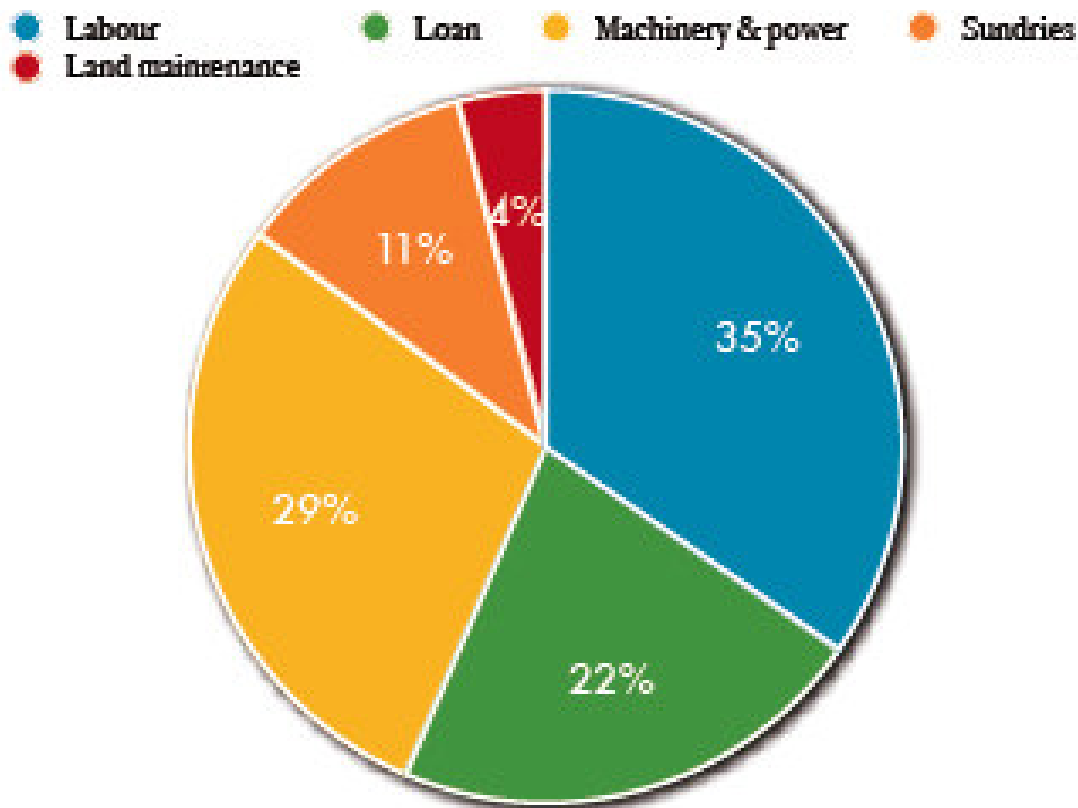


The outbreak of BSE and Foot & Mouth have seriously affected Langstance Farm, with many of their animals being culled and income restricted to a limited amount of wheat and barley grown in the top fields. After celebrating his sixty-fifth birthday, Arthur announced that he wanted to retire from farming to concentrate on his committee work. Maude fully supports his decision and they have asked Sharon, their daughter and her husband Derek to consider taking over the farm.

The total number of animals at Longstance farm:

Dairy cattle-Jersey	120
Beef Cattle-Aberdeen Angus	40
Sheep-Herdwick	260
Chickens (all breeds)	112

Fig 3. farm costs (excluding livestock costs).



Arthur and Maude are increasingly concerned about the size of the loan outstanding on the farm. The initial loan was for the purchase of a second-hand tractor and a two-year old Landrover for general use. Unfortunately, the impact of BSE and Foot & Mouth resulted in an additional loan to keep