Revision Notes

Farming systems

Like any other industry farming is a system of inputs, processes and outputs.

Sheep farmer

Inputs will be physical (land, sun, rain), human (labour) and capital (money for livestock and feed, seeds, equipment, wages). Processes are the activities on the farm that turn inputs into outputs: feeding and caring for the animals; planting and tending to the crops. Outputs are the products farmers sell at market: barley, hops, wheat, hay and straw from crops; meat, wool, leather, cheese and milk from animals.

If a farm is to make a profit, then the revenue from outputs must be greater than the cost of the inputs.

In an upland sheep farm, for example, inputs will include the sun and water required by the grass, the purchase of breeding stock and the farmer's effort; processes will include herding and caring for the sheep and lambs; and outputs will include wool and meat.

http://www.students-resource.com/KB/questions/3/