The origins of the FMS

Dr Paul Brassley
University of Exeter
The historical context

- Post-1870: the import challenge
- The intellectual context
  - Expanding agricultural research
  - But lagging behind on farm accounts
- The UK response
  - Hall and Orwin
  - Applying Warren’s survey methods
Reasons for investigating farm incomes

- Farm income controversy in the 1920s
- The 1932 Wheat Act
- Pressure from Ministry economists
- Competing with the NFU
Problems and progress

- PAES disagreements
- Enfield/Orwin arguments
- 1931 spending cuts
- Development Commission funding
- Fooling the Treasury
- Convincing the PAES
- Wartime confirmation
The UK Farm Management Survey was established in 1937.
Collecting data for specific districts / farm types
Teething troubles and successes

- Big or small farms
- Finding co-operators
- Independent data collection
- Data analysis
- Costs

- Reliable data
- Acceptance by farmers
- Value to historians