Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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Farm Practices Survey Autumn 2012 – England

This release provides the results of the Farm Practices Survey (FPS) run in autumn 2012 except for the results from the computer usage section, which were published on 20 March 2013. The key results from all other sections in the survey are given below.

Holder age and farm classification (section 1)

- About 59% of holders were aged 55 years and over.
- The majority of holdings (82%) classified themselves as full time commercial farms.
- Almost three quarters of farms were long-established family farms.

Precision farming (section 2)

Precision farming techniques are used to make processes such as fertiliser application more efficient.

- The proportions of farms using GPS (Global Positioning System), soil mapping and yield mapping have increased between 2009 and 2012.
- Three quarters of farms using precision farming techniques were doing so to improve accuracy.
- The most common reasons for not using precision farming techniques were high setup costs and/or the techniques not being cost effective, indicated by nearly half of farms.

Farming advice (section 3)

- Just over three quarters of farms sought advice on how to run the farm business in the last 12 months. Most of these (79%) were able to find the advice quite or very easily.
- The most popular method of obtaining advice was consulting a specialist independent farm adviser with 61% of farms using this method.
- Around three quarters of farms have consulted an adviser on cross compliance and/or the Single Payment Scheme.
- If a government funded independent adviser were to visit the farm, the most popular type of advice required would be identifying grants and funding that would benefit the business. The majority of farms (58%) would be unwilling to contribute to the cost if this were not fully government funded.

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Soils (section 4)

- Around 68% of farms test the nutrient content and 70% test the pH (acidity) of the soil at least once every 5 years.
- The majority of farms that carried out a soil structure survey prior to cultivation or any other soil husbandry activity did so only where there was obvious soil compaction.
- On farms that did a soil survey in the last 12 months, 51% found soil compaction in the top 12 inches, 43% at plough depth and 20% throughout the soil profile.
- To reduce soil compaction in the last 12 months, 66% of farms removed compaction from headlands after harvest and 62% improved drainage.

Grassland (section 5)

- About 44% of the total area of temporary grassland was sown between July 2011 and September 2012. In contrast, 13% of the total area of permanent grassland was sown in the same time period.
- The typical arable cropping period between temporary grass leys is 4 years. Grass leys are temporary grasslands that are sown for a limited period, usually one to five years.
- In the 2012-13 crop year about 33 thousand hectares of permanent grassland had already been or is intended to be converted to another crop at the time of the survey.

Dairy housing (section 6)

- The vast majority of farms allowed their dairy cattle access to external pasture (94% of farms with cows in milk and 93% of those with dry cows).
- About 6% of farms with cows in milk and 5% of those with dry cows continuously housed the cattle day and night throughout the year.

Buildings (section 7)

- Around 44% of holdings had farm buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses. Of these, 6% intended to convert their buildings in the next 12 months.
- Storage or warehousing was the most common potential use to which farm buildings could be converted, indicated by 58% of farms.
- The largest factor preventing change of use was planning issues with 46% of farms indicating this.

Disposal and recycling of waste materials (section 8)

- With the exception of used oils, recycling is the most widely used method for disposing of the various types of farm waste.
- The percentage of farms recycling waste materials has risen across all types of farm waste categories since 2008 except for plastic crop cover.
- For used oils, the most common option was to reuse them on the farm. The proportion of farms doing this has increased from 31% in 2008 to 43% in 2012.

Detailed results

The national estimates from the survey together with the 95% confidence intervals are presented below.

1 Holder age and farm classification

Questions about the holder's age and the classification of the farm were included on the survey form primarily to allow us to use the responses to break down results from other sections where appropriate. A summary of the results is provided here and the breakdowns of other sections' results by age and farm classification can be found in the dataset.

Table 1.1: Age of the holder or manager

Age group	% of holdings	95% CI
65 years or over	28	± 2
55 to 64 years	31	± 2
40 to 54 years	34	± 2
Under 40	6	± 1

Based on responses from 2881 farms.

Table 1.2: Commercial classification of the farm [(a)]

Commercial classification	% of holdings	95% CI
Full time commercial holding	82	± 1
Part time commercial holding	14	± 1
Hobby or lifestyle choice	4	± 1
Other	0	± 0

Based on responses from 2884 farms.

(a) Commercial here is the farmer's interpretation, not the one we use in the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Table 1.3: Additional classification of the farm

Additional classification	% of holdings	95% CI
Long-established family farm	73	± 2
First generation family farm [(a)]	16	± 1
Part of a farming company	4	± 1
Other	7	± 1

Based on responses from 2882 farms.

(a) For example a farm that is run by a person starting up and not taking over an existing farm from his or her family.

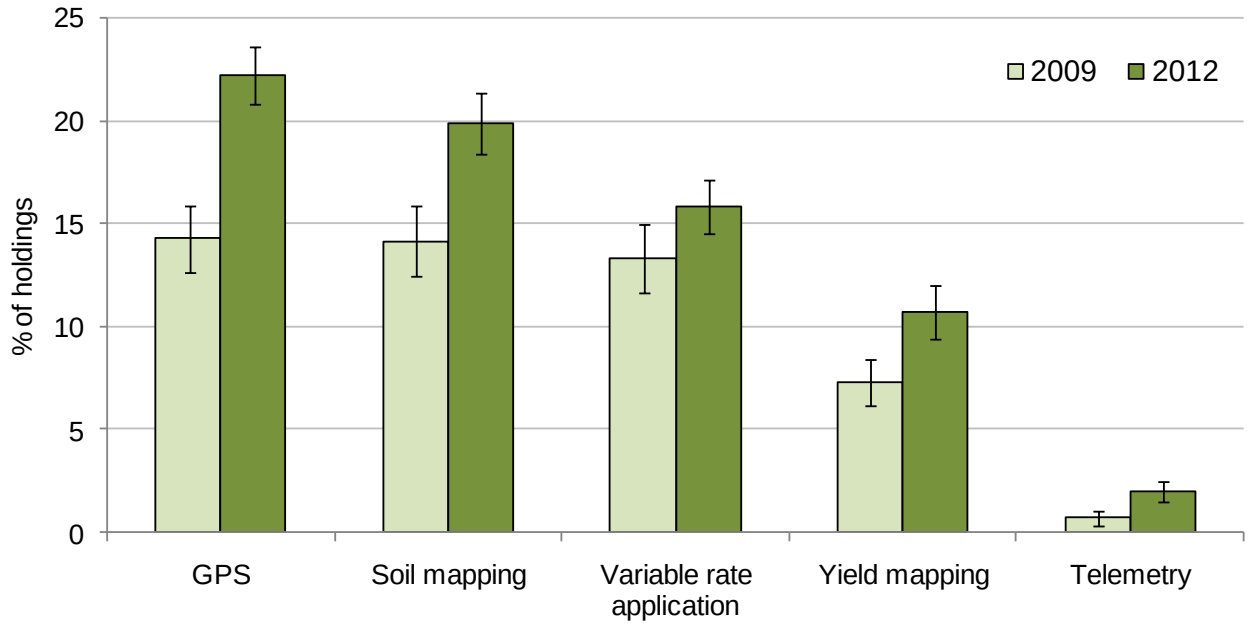
2 Precision farming

Precision farming techniques are used to make processes such as fertiliser application more efficient. Growers are faced with higher fuel and input costs, a demand for higher yields and the pressure of increased environmental awareness and compliance. Precision technology can help to improve the efficiency of farm operations, including cultivation and better targeted fertiliser and agrochemical applications. This can save on the use of fertilisers and sprays, reduce fuel costs and improve soil structure.

Key findings

- The proportions of farms using GPS (Global Positioning System), soil mapping and yield mapping have increased between 2009 and 2012 with GPS seeing the largest increase.
- The two most common reasons for using precision farming techniques were to improve accuracy (indicated by 76% of farms) and to reduce input costs (indicated by 63% of farms).
- Almost half of farmers who do not use any techniques said they are not cost effective and/or the initial setup costs are too high.

Figure 2.1: Proportion of farms using precision farming techniques in 2009 and 2012 [(a)]



(a) The vertical lines on each bar represent the 95% confidence intervals. Where the 2009 and 2012 confidence intervals overlap, e.g. for variable rate application, there is no statistically significant change in the results.

Figure 2.1 shows that of all the precision farming techniques asked about, the use of GPS has increased the most between 2009 and 2012; 14% were using the technique in 2009, rising to 22% in 2012. Soil mapping and yield mapping have also seen increases.

Table 2.1: Proportion of farms using precision farming techniques

	2009		2012	
Technique	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
GPS (Global Positioning System) [(a)]	14	± 2	22	± 1
Soil mapping	14	± 2	20	± 1
Variable rate application	13	± 2	16	± 1
Yield mapping	7	± 1	11	± 1
Telemetry	1	± 0	2	± 1

Based on responses from a minimum of 1392 farms in 2009 and 2731 in 2012.

(a) Includes autosteering and guidance. The 2009 results have been reanalysed here to group together GPS, autosteering and guidance for comparability with 2012.

Table 2.2: Reasons for using precision farming techniques [(a)]

	2009		2012	
Reason	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Improve accuracy	85	± 4	76	± 3
Reduce input costs	78	± 4	63	± 3
Improve soil conditions	55	± 5	48	± 3
Improve operator conditions	36	± 5	36	± 3
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	n/c	n/c	17	± 2
Equipment already installed	9	± 3	n/c	n/c
Other reason	4	± 2	3	± 1

Based on responses from 518 farms in 2009 and 1084 in 2012 that use at least one precision farming technique.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) The 2009 results have been reanalysed here to only include farms that use at least one technique. However the 2009 and 2012 results are still not directly comparable due to the way in which the question was asked. The 2009 question asked for reasons why farms already use or would consider using precision farming techniques, whereas the 2012 question just asked for reasons why farms already use them. This explains why the 2009 results are generally higher than those from 2012.

Table 2.3: Reasons for not using precision farming techniques

	2012	
Reason	% of holdings	95% CI
Not cost effective and/or initial setup costs too high	47	± 3
Not suitable or appropriate for type or size of farm	28	± 2
Too complicated to use	27	± 2
Not accurate enough	2	± 1
Other reason	8	± 1

Based on responses from 1454 farms that do not use any precision farming techniques.

3 Farming advice

This section covers the usual sources that farms use to obtain the advice needed to run the business and how easy it is for them to find the information. It also looks at awareness and use of Defra advice services and the types of advice required if a government funded independent adviser were available to visit the farm. The results will help Defra to tailor and target the advice it provides.

Key findings

- Almost 80% of farms that sought advice on how to run the farm business in the last 12 months found the advice very or quite easily.
- The most popular method of obtaining advice was consulting a specialist independent farm adviser.
- Around three quarters of farms have consulted an adviser on cross compliance or the Single Payment Scheme.
- About 72% of farms were aware of the Defra or AHVLA (Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency) helplines and of these 40% have used them.
- Over 80% of farms indicated they would like some form of advice if a government funded independent adviser were to visit the farm. However the majority (58%) would be unwilling to contribute to the cost if this were not fully government funded.

Table 3.1: Proportion of farms that sought advice on how to run the farm in the last 12 months

	% of holdings	95% CI
Advice sought in the last 12 months	76	± 3
Advice not needed in the last 12 months	24	± 2

Based on responses from 2791 farms.

Figure 3.1: Level of ease with which farms were able to find the advice or information needed to run the farm business within the last 12 months

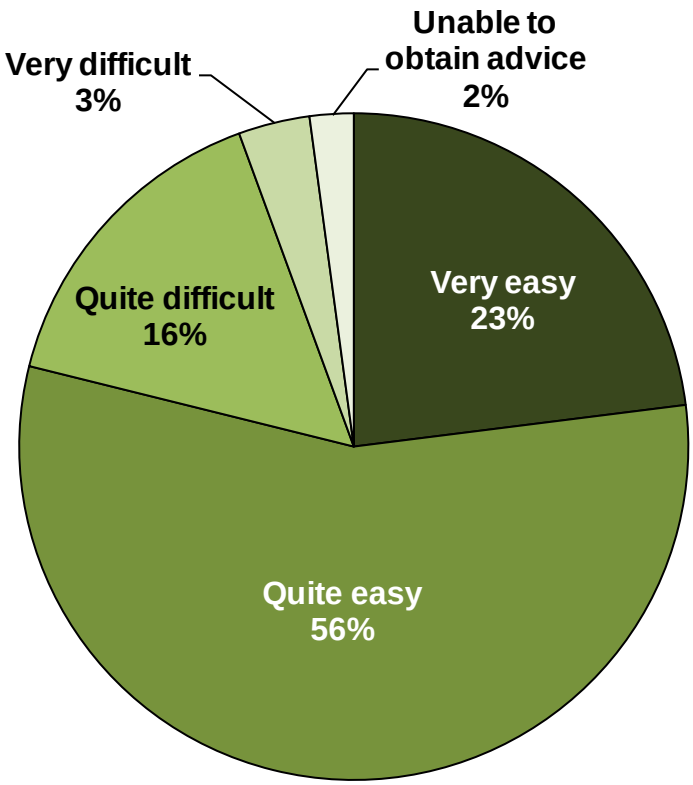


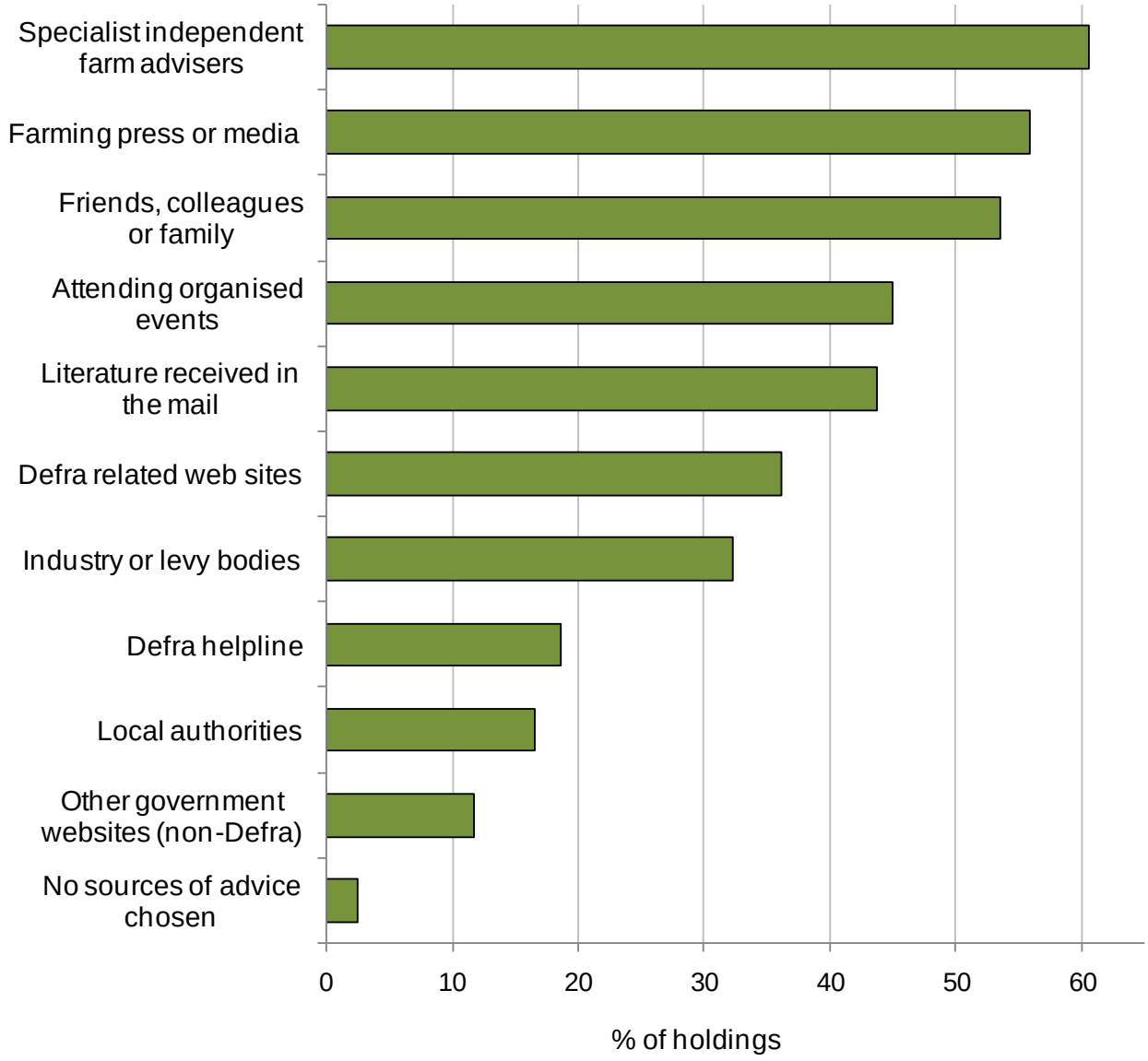
Figure 3.1 shows that the majority of farms that sought advice within the last 12 months were able obtain to find the advice very or quite easily. Just 2% of farms were unable to obtain the advice and a further 19% found it quite or very difficult.

Table 3.2: Level of ease with which farms were able to find the advice or information needed to run the farm business within the last 12 months

Level of ease	% of holdings	95% CI
Very easy to obtain advice	23	± 2
Quite easy to obtain advice	56	± 2
Quite difficult to obtain advice	16	± 2
Very difficult to obtain advice	3	± 1
Unable to obtain advice	2	± 1

Based on responses from 2165 farms that sought advice on running the farm business in the last 12 months.

Figure 3.2: Usual sources for obtaining farming advice and information needed to run the farm



The top three most popular sources for obtaining farming advice and information were specialist independent farm advisers, the farming press and friends, colleagues or family (figure 3.2).

Table 3.3: Usual sources for obtaining advice and information needed to run the farm

Usual source of advice	% of holdings	95% CI
Specialist independent farm advisers	61	± 2
Farming press or media	56	± 2
Friends, family or colleagues	53	± 2
Attending organised events	45	± 2
Literature received in the mail	44	± 2
Defra related websites	36	± 2
Industry or levy bodies	32	± 2
Defra helpline	19	± 2
Local authorities	17	± 1
Other government websites (non-Defra related)	12	± 1
No sources of advice chosen	2	± 1

Based on responses from 2884 farms.

Table 3.4: Proportion of farms that have consulted an adviser on cross compliance or the Single Payment Scheme

Method of consulting adviser	% of holdings	95% CI
Adviser consulted on the phone	41	± 2
Adviser consulted during a visit to the farm	32	± 2
Adviser consulted at an organised event	25	± 2
Adviser consulted by at least one of the above methods	73	± 2
Adviser not consulted	27	± 2

Based on responses from 2871 farms.

Table 3.5: Proportion of farms that are aware of and have used advice services

	Holdings aware of the service [(a)]		Of the holdings aware of the service, those who have used it [(b)]	
Advice service	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Defra or AHVLA helplines [(c)]	72	± 2	40	± 2
Cross Compliance Advice Programme	49	± 2	23	± 2
Farming Advice Service	40	± 2	12	± 2

(a) Based on responses from a minimum of 2287 farms.

(b) Based on responses from a minimum of 916 farms that indicated they are aware of the service.

(c) AHVLA is the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

Table 3.6: Types of advice required if a locally based, government funded independent adviser were to visit the farm

Advice required	% of holdings	95% CI
Grants and funding that would benefit the business	63	± 2
Understanding rules and regulations that apply to the farm	46	± 2
Information on other advice providers and services that would help the business	33	± 2
SPS (Single Payment Scheme) application and meeting cross compliance conditions	28	± 2
At least one of the above types of advice chosen	83	± 2
No types of advice chosen	17	± 2

Based on responses from 2884 farms.

Table 3.7: Willingness to pay for the advice if it were not fully government funded

Willingness to pay	% of holdings	95% CI
Unwilling to pay	58	± 2
Willing to pay per visit	37	± 2
Willing to pay annual subscription for set number of visits	8	± 1

Based on responses from 2427 farms that indicated they would like some form of advice.
Respondents could tick both 'willing to pay' options.

4 Soils

This section looks at testing of soils, soil structure surveys, soil compaction and organic materials applied to the land. Soil structure surveys involve digging a hole in the field to assess the horizontal layers of the soil. When soil becomes compacted, drainage and aeration can be restricted so there is interest in the extent of soil compaction and actions farms have taken to reduce it.

Key findings

- At least once every 5 years 68% of farms test the nutrient content and 70% test the pH (acidity) of the soil.
- The majority of farms that carried out a soil structure survey prior to cultivation or any other soil husbandry activity did so only where there was obvious compaction.
- On farms that did a soil survey in the last 12 months, 51% found soil compaction in the top 12 inches, 43% at plough depth and 20% throughout the soil profile.
- The most common actions taken to reduce soil compaction in the last 12 months were removing the compaction from headlands after harvest (reported by 66% of farms) and improving the drainage (reported by 62% of farms).

Important information about comparing the January 2012 and October 2012 surveys for nutrient content and pH testing of soil (tables 4.2.1 and 4.3.1)

Questions about soil testing were also asked in the Farm Practices Survey run in January 2012. However the way in which the questions were asked was different:

- In the January survey the question was 'Do you regularly test (at least every 5 years) the nutrient content/pH of your soil?' with responses 'yes', 'no' and 'not applicable'.
- In the October survey the question was 'How often do you test the nutrient content/pH of your soil?' with responses 'more than every 3 years', 'every 3 to 5 years', 'less frequently than every 5 years' and 'never'.

For purposes of comparability, we have grouped together results from the two surveys as in table 4.1. However the differences in question wording and response options mean that caution should be taken when comparing results.

Table 4.1: Grouping of January and October 2012 soil testing results

Frequency group	January 2012 responses	October 2012 responses
At least every 5 years	Yes, soil is regularly tested (at least every 5 years)	Soil tested more than every 3 years
		Soil tested every 3-5 years
Less frequently than every 5 years or never or not applicable	No, soil is not regularly tested (at least every 5 years)	Soil tested less frequently than every 5 years
	Not applicable	Never

Figure 4.1: Frequency with which farms test the nutrient content and pH of the soil

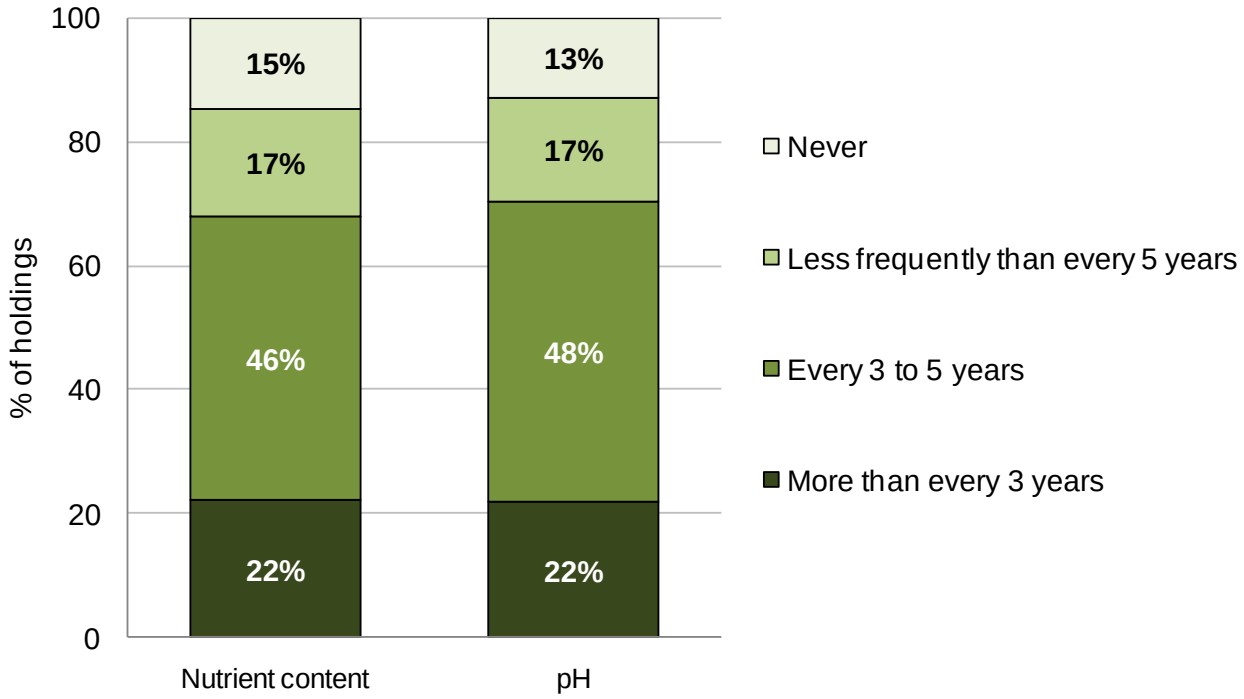


Table 4.2: Frequency with which farms test the nutrient content of the soil

Frequency	% of holdings	95% CI
More than every 3 years	22	± 2
Every 3 to 5 years	46	± 2
Less frequently than every 5 years	17	± 1
Never [(a)]	15	± 1

Based on responses from 2813 farms.

(a) 'Not applicable' was not included as a response option on the survey form. Therefore farms for which the question wasn't applicable would have either left the question blank or responded 'never'.

Table 4.2.1: Frequency with which farms test the nutrient content of the soil: comparison between the January 2012 and October 2012 surveys [(a)]

	January 2012		October 2012	
Frequency	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
At least every 5 years	71	± 3	68	± 2
Less frequently than every 5 years or never or not applicable	29	± 3	32	± 2

Based on responses from 1142 farms in January 2012 and 2813 in October 2012.

(a) Please refer to the important information on page 11 for guidance on comparing these sets of results.

Table 4.3: Frequency with which farms test the pH of the soil [(a)]

Frequency	% of holdings	95% CI
More than every 3 years	22	± 2
Every 3 to 5 years	48	± 2
Less frequently than every 5 years	17	± 1
Never [(a)]	13	± 1

Based on responses from 2651 farms.

(a) 'Not applicable' was not included as a response option on the survey form. Therefore farms for which the question wasn't applicable would have either left the question blank or responded 'never'.

Table 4.3.1: Frequency with which farms test the pH of the soil: comparison between the January 2012 and October 2012 surveys [(a)]

	January 2012		October 2012	
Frequency	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
At least every 5 years	78	± 3	70	± 3
Less frequently than every 5 years or never or not applicable	22	± 3	30	± 2

Based on responses from 1141 farms in January 2012 and 2651 in October 2012.

(a) Please refer to the important information on page 11 for guidance on comparing these sets of results.

Table 4.4: Proportion of farms that carry out a soil structure survey (dig a hole) to examine the soil profile prior to cultivation or any other soil husbandry activity

Soil survey type	% of holdings	95% CI
Single hole per field surveyed	8	± 1
Multiple holes per field surveyed	11	± 1
Survey done only where there is obvious compaction	28	± 2
No survey done [(a)]	53	± 2

Based on responses from 2880 farms.

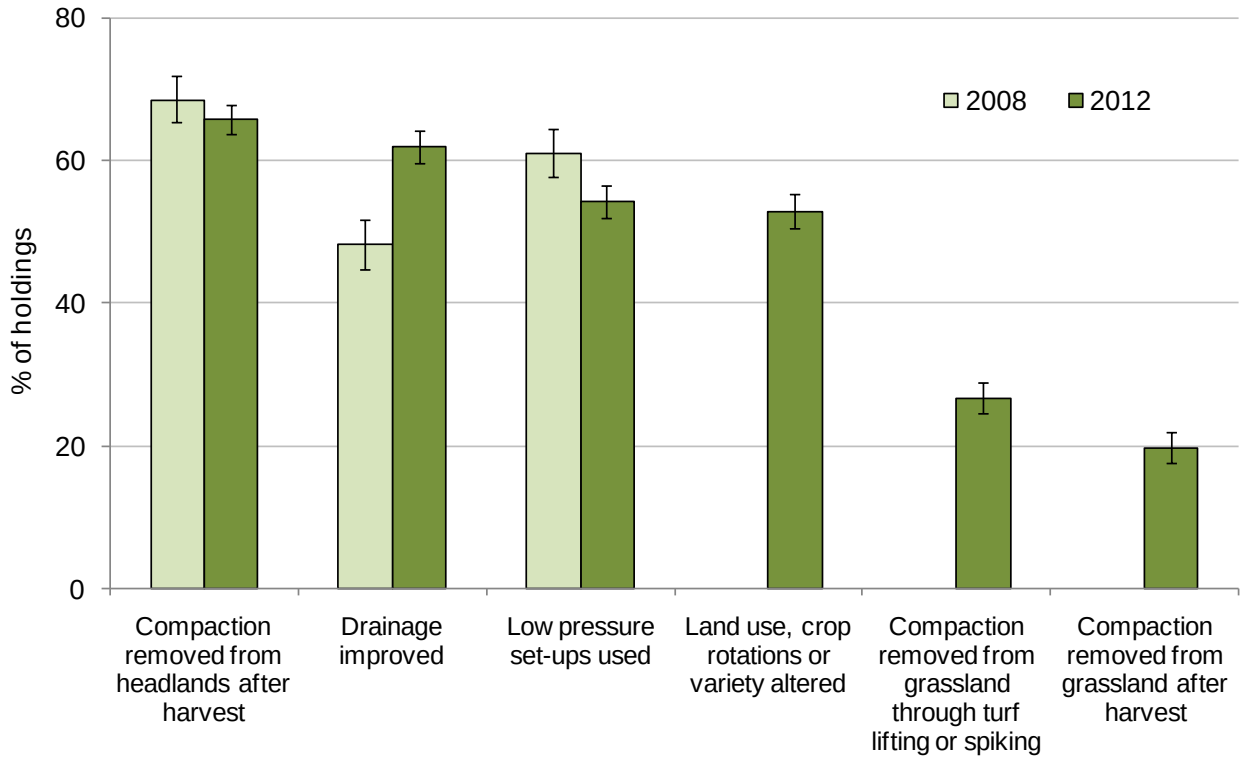
(a) Includes farms for which the question wasn't applicable because 'not applicable' was not included as a response option on the survey form.

Table 4.5: Proportion of farms whose soil survey has revealed soil compaction in the last 12 months

Depth of soil compaction	% of holdings	95% CI
In the top 12 inches	51	± 3
At plough depth	43	± 3
Throughout the soil profile	20	± 3

Based on responses from a minimum of 843 farms that carry out a soil structure survey.

Figure 4.2: Actions taken in the last 12 months to reduce soil compaction in 2008 and 2012 [(a)]



(a) The vertical lines on each bar represent the 95% confidence intervals. Where the 2008 and 2012 confidence intervals overlap, e.g. for compaction removed from headlands after harvest, there is no statistically significant change in the results.

Figure 4.2 shows that the proportion of farms that improved drainage to reduce soil compaction in the last 12 months has increased, rising from 48% in 2008 to 62% in 2012. Conversely the proportion using low pressure set-ups has reduced slightly.

Table 4.6: Actions taken in the last 12 months to reduce soil compaction

	2008		2012	
Action	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
Compaction removed from headlands after harvest	69	± 3	66	± 2
Drainage improved	48	± 3	62	± 2
Low pressure set-ups used	61	± 3	54	± 2
Land use, crop rotations or variety altered	n/c	n/c	53	± 2
Compaction removed from grassland through turf lifting or spiking	n/c	n/c	27	± 2
Compaction removed from grassland after harvest	n/c	n/c	20	± 2

Based on a minimum of 1096 responses in 2008 and 1358 in 2012 from farms for which the action is applicable.

n/c: Data not collected.

Table 4.7: Conduction of a subsequent soil structure survey (dig a hole) to assess the success of the actions that have ever been taken to reduce soil compaction

Conduction of soil survey	% of holdings	95% CI
Soil survey undertaken	32	± 2
Soil survey not undertaken	68	± 2

Based on responses from 2266 farms that have ever taken action to reduce soil compaction.

Table 4.8: Application of organic materials to agricultural land in the last 12 months (excluding manure and slurry)

Organic material	% of holdings	95% CI
Sewage sludge	50	± 6
Compost	43	± 6
Digestate from anaerobic digestion plant	7	± 3
Paper mill sludge	6	± 3
Other organic material not listed	12	± 3

Based on responses from 351 farms that applied at least one organic material to the land.

5 Grassland

This section covers temporary and permanent grassland on farms (definitions as below). The results are to be used in ongoing discussions on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform. Member States are required by EU legislation to make sure the ratio of permanent pasture to total agricultural area from 2003 is maintained, although there is currently no requirement on individual farms.

Key findings

- About 44% of the total area of temporary grassland was sown between July 2011 and September 2012. In contrast, 13% of the total area of permanent grassland was sown in the same time period.
- The typical arable cropping period between temporary grass leys is 4 years. Grass leys are temporary grasslands that are sown for a limited period (usually one to five years).
- In the 2012-13 crop year about 33 thousand hectares of permanent grassland had already been or is intended to be converted to another crop at the time of the survey.

Important information about the grassland area results (tables 5.2 and 5.4)
On the survey form we asked farms to record the areas of temporary and permanent grassland according to when they were last sown. However respondents found this question confusing. Some recorded the total area of temporary or permanent grassland on the holding in each time period instead of breaking down the current area by when it was last sown. We have made every effort to exclude incorrect responses from the analysis but we are still not entirely confident in the accuracy of the results. This is an area we will need to improve if this topic is repeated.

Definitions
The autumn 2012 Farm Practices Survey used the following definitions for temporary and permanent grassland:

Temporary grassland is land used to grow grasses that has been included in the crop rotation of the farm in the last five years.

Permanent grassland is land used to grow grasses that has not been included in crop rotation in the last five years or longer.

These definitions differ from those used in the June Survey of Agriculture, which defines temporary grassland as any grass sown in the last 5 years and permanent grassland as grass over 5 years old. The definitions are different because there is particular interest in grasses grown inside and outside of crop rotations.

Table 5.1: Proportion of farms with temporary and permanent grassland

	% of holdings	95% CI
Holdings with temporary grassland	37	± 2
Holdings with permanent grassland	87	± 1

Based on responses from a minimum of 2686 farms.

Table 5.2: Total area of temporary grassland broken down by when it was last sown [(a)]

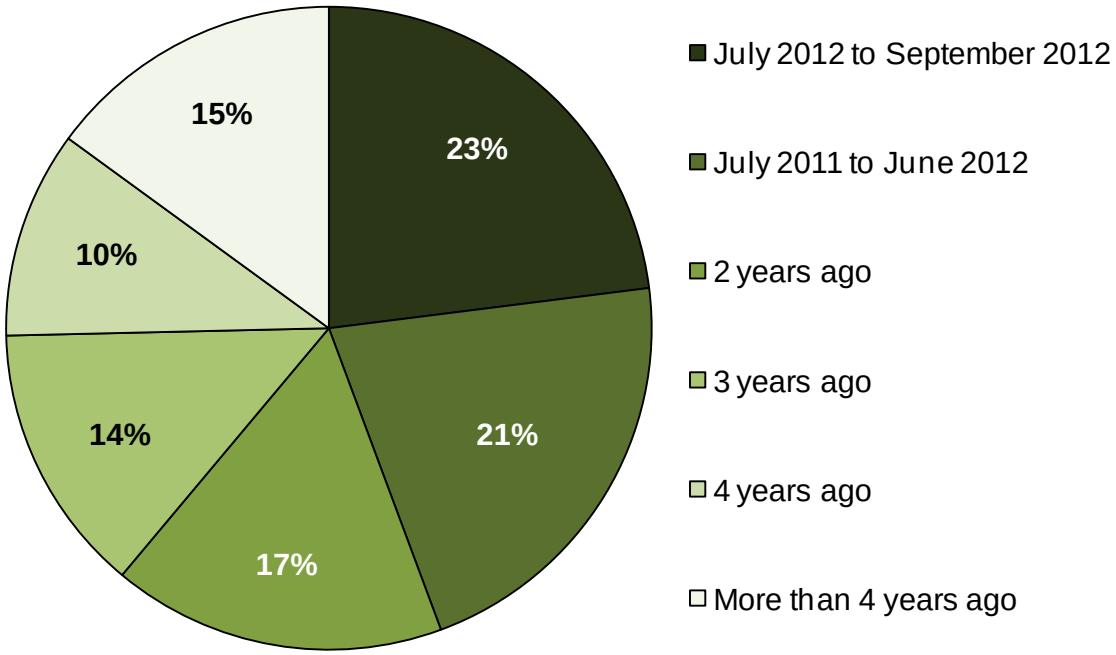
	Thousand hectares	
Time period	**Area sown**	**95% CI**
July 2012 to September 2012	79	± 11
July 2011 to June 2012	73	± 9
2 years ago	57	± 8
3 years ago	46	± 7
4 years ago	36	± 8
More than 4 years ago	51	± 9
Total area	**342**	**± 21**

Based on responses from 801 farms with temporary grassland.

(a) Please refer to the important information on page 16 for detail on our concerns about the accuracy of these results.

Figure 5.1 is a pie chart of the areas from table 5.2. It shows that 23% of the total area of temporary grassland was sown between July 2012 and September 2012 and a further 21% was sown between July 2011 and June 2012.

Figure 5.1: Total area of temporary grassland broken down by when it was last sown [(a)]



(a) Please refer to the important information on page 16 for detail on our concerns about the accuracy of these results.

Table 5.3: Typical arable cropping period in years between temporary grass leys

	Years	95% CI
Typical arable cropping period between temporary grass leys	4.0	± 0.2

Based on responses from 678 farms with temporary grassland.

(a) Grass leys are temporary grasslands that are sown for a limited period, usually one to five years.

Table 5.4: Total area of permanent grassland broken down by when it was last sown [(a)]

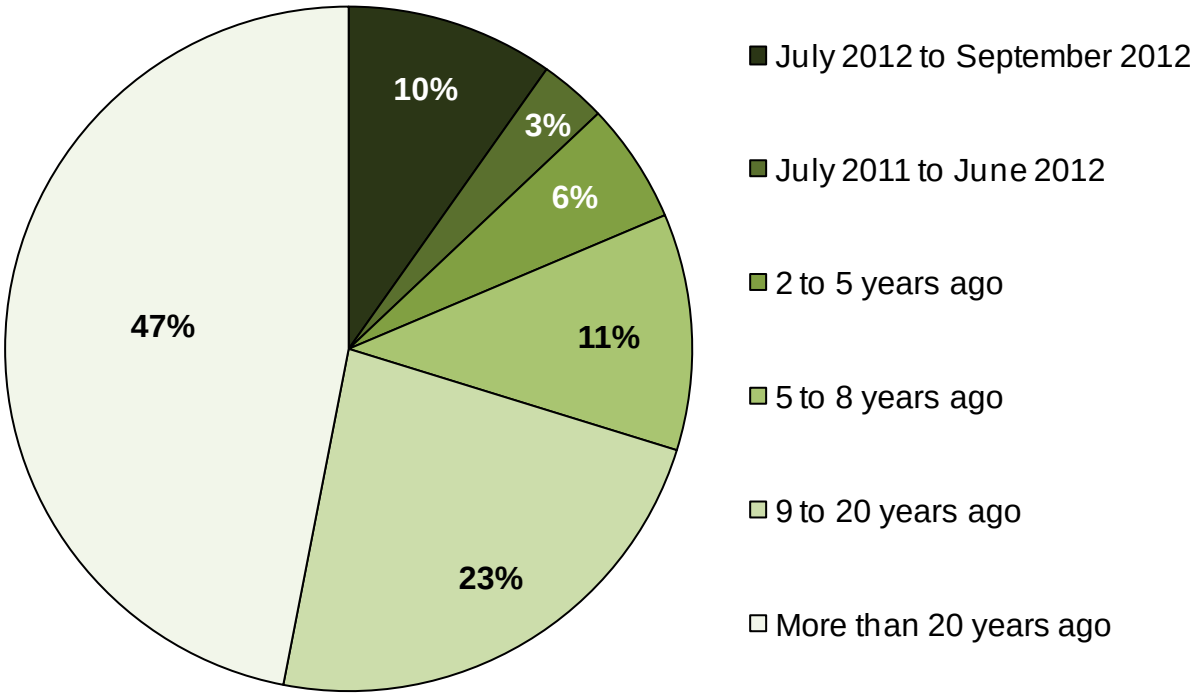
	Thousand hectares	
Time period	**Area sown**	**95% CI**
July 2012 to September 2012	99	± 24
July 2011 to June 2012	32	± 11
2 to 5 years ago	57	± 11
5 to 8 years ago	113	± 21
9 to 20 years ago	236	± 37
More than 20 years ago	475	± 59
Total area	**1 012**	**± 78**

Based on responses from 1006 farms with permanent grassland.

(a) Please refer to the important information on page 16 for detail on our concerns about the accuracy of these results.

Figure 5.2 is a pie chart of the areas in table 5.4. It shows that, in contrast to temporary grassland, permanent grassland is sown much less frequently. About 70% of the total area was sown at least 9 years ago.

Figure 5.2: Total area of permanent grassland broken down by when it was last sown [(a)]



(a) Please refer to the important information on page 16 for detail on our concerns about the accuracy of these results.

Table 5.5: Proportion of farms that sow catch crops when reseeding permanent grassland [(a)]

Frequency	% of holdings	95% CI
Usually	8	± 1
Seldom or never	92	± 1

Based on responses from 1973 farms with permanent grassland.

(a) Catch crops are fast growing crops such as turnips or forage rape that are grown in the time interval between two main crops to make maximum use of the land.

Table 5.6: Area of permanent grassland already converted or intended to be converted to another crop in the 2012-13 crop year

	Thousand hectares	
	Area	95% CI
Area sown July to September 2012	9	± 3
Area intended to be sown October 2012 to June 2013	24	± 6

Based on responses from 169 farms that have already converted or intend to convert some permanent grassland to another crop in the 2012-13 crop year.

6 Dairy housing

This section looks at the housing of dairy cattle. The topic of continuously housing dairy cattle has raised questions on animal welfare. Defra is interested in seeing how widespread this practice is.

Key findings

- The vast majority of holdings allowed their dairy cattle access to external pasture (94% of farms with cows in milk and 93% of those dry cows).
- About 6% of farms with cows in milk and 5% of those with dry cows continuously housed the cattle day and night throughout the year.

Table 6.1: Housing of dairy cattle

	Cows in milk		Dry cows	
Housing arrangement	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
Cows having regular access to external pasture [(a)]	94	± 2	93	± 2
Cows only having access to a loafing area	2	± 1	2	± 1
Cows continuously housed (day and night) throughout the year	6	± 2	5	± 2
In the future, cows are intended to be continuously housed (day and night) throughout the year	7	± 2	5	± 2

Based on responses from a minimum of 436 farms that have dairy cows.

(a) This could include cows housed continuously for some periods of time, e.g. over winter.

7 Buildings

This section looks at farm buildings that have the potential to be converted to other commercial uses. There is interest in better understanding the barriers to economic growth from developing the uses of agricultural buildings so this section also looks at the reasons for not converting buildings.

Key findings

- About 44% of holdings had farm buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses. Of these, 6% intended to convert their buildings in the next 12 months.
- Storage or warehousing was the most common potential use to which farm buildings could be converted, indicated by 58% of farms.
- The largest factor preventing change of use was planning issues, with 46% of farms indicating this.

Table 7.1: Proportion of holdings with farm buildings that have potential to be converted to other commercial uses

	Buildings with conversion potential [a]		Of holdings having buildings with conversion potential, % intending to convert them within the next 12 months [b]	
Age of buildings	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Pre-1940 buildings	16	± 1	7	± 3
Post-1940 buildings	11	± 1	4	± 2
Mix of pre- and post-1940 buildings	17	± 1	6	± 2
All buildings with conversion potential	44	± 2	6	± 1
No buildings with conversion potential	56	± 2	-	-

(a) Based on responses from 2862 farms.

(b) Based on responses from 1283 farms that have buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses.

Figure 7.1: Farms that have buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses broken down by the number of buildings

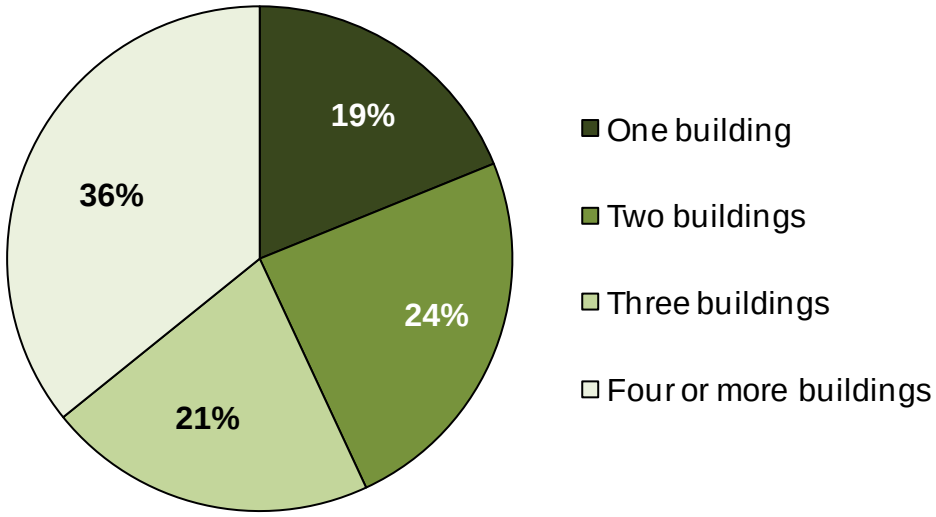


Figure 7.1 shows that over a third of farms had four or more buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses. Just under a fifth had only one building with conversion potential.

Table 7.2: Farms that have buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses broken down by the number of buildings

Number of buildings	% of holdings	95% CI
One	19	± 2
Two	24	± 3
Three	21	± 2
Four or more	36	± 3

Based on responses from 1285 farms that have buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses.

Figure 7.2 Types of use for potential conversion

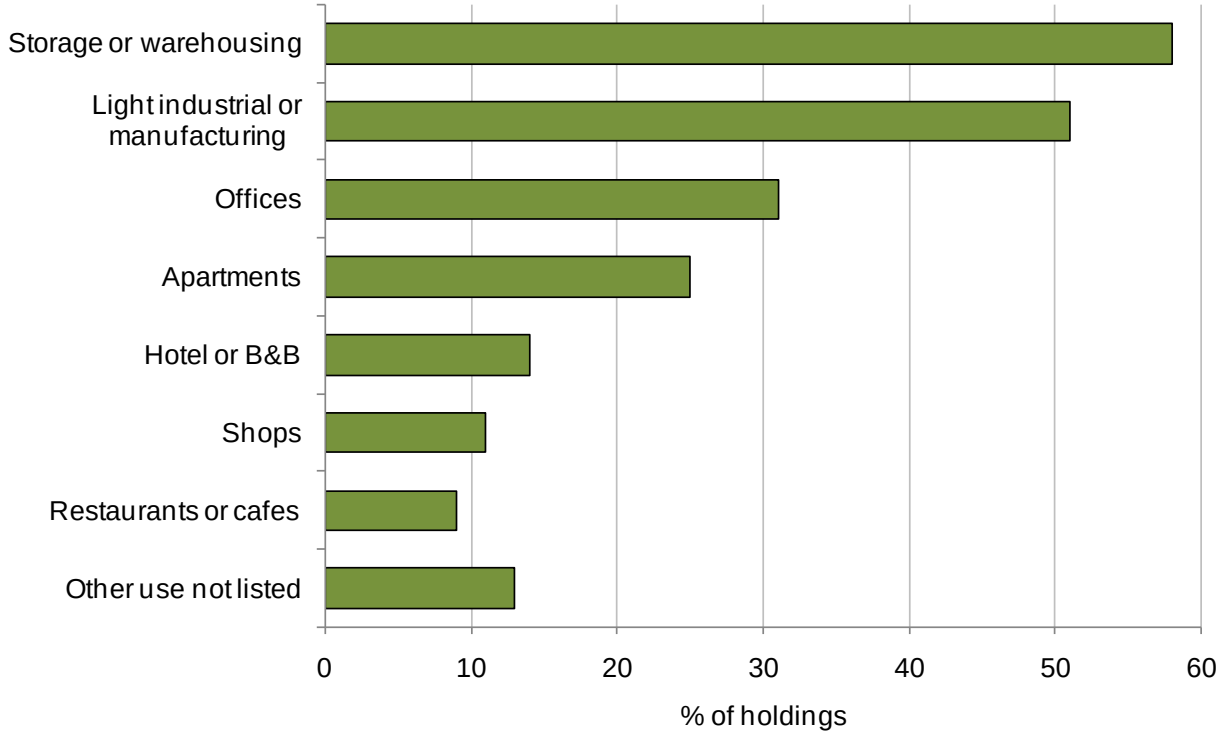


Figure 7.2 shows that light industrial or manufacturing and storage or warehousing were the most common potential uses to which farm buildings could be converted.

Table 7.3: Types of use for potential conversion

	All holdings that have buildings with conversion potential [a]		All holdings that intend to convert building(s) in the next 12 months [b]	
Potential conversion use	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
Storage or warehousing	58	± 3	38	± 12
Light industrial or manufacturing	51	± 3	35	± 12
Offices	31	± 3	25	± 11
Apartments	25	± 3	26	± 11
Hotel or B&B	14	± 2	17	± 10
Shops	11	± 2	14	± 10
Restaurants or cafes	9	± 2	14	± 10
Other use not listed	13	± 2	34	± 12

(a) Based on responses from 892 farms that have buildings with the potential to be converted to other commercial uses.

(b) Based on responses from 70 farms that intend to convert their buildings to other commercial uses within the next 12 months.

Figure 7.3: Factors preventing change of building use

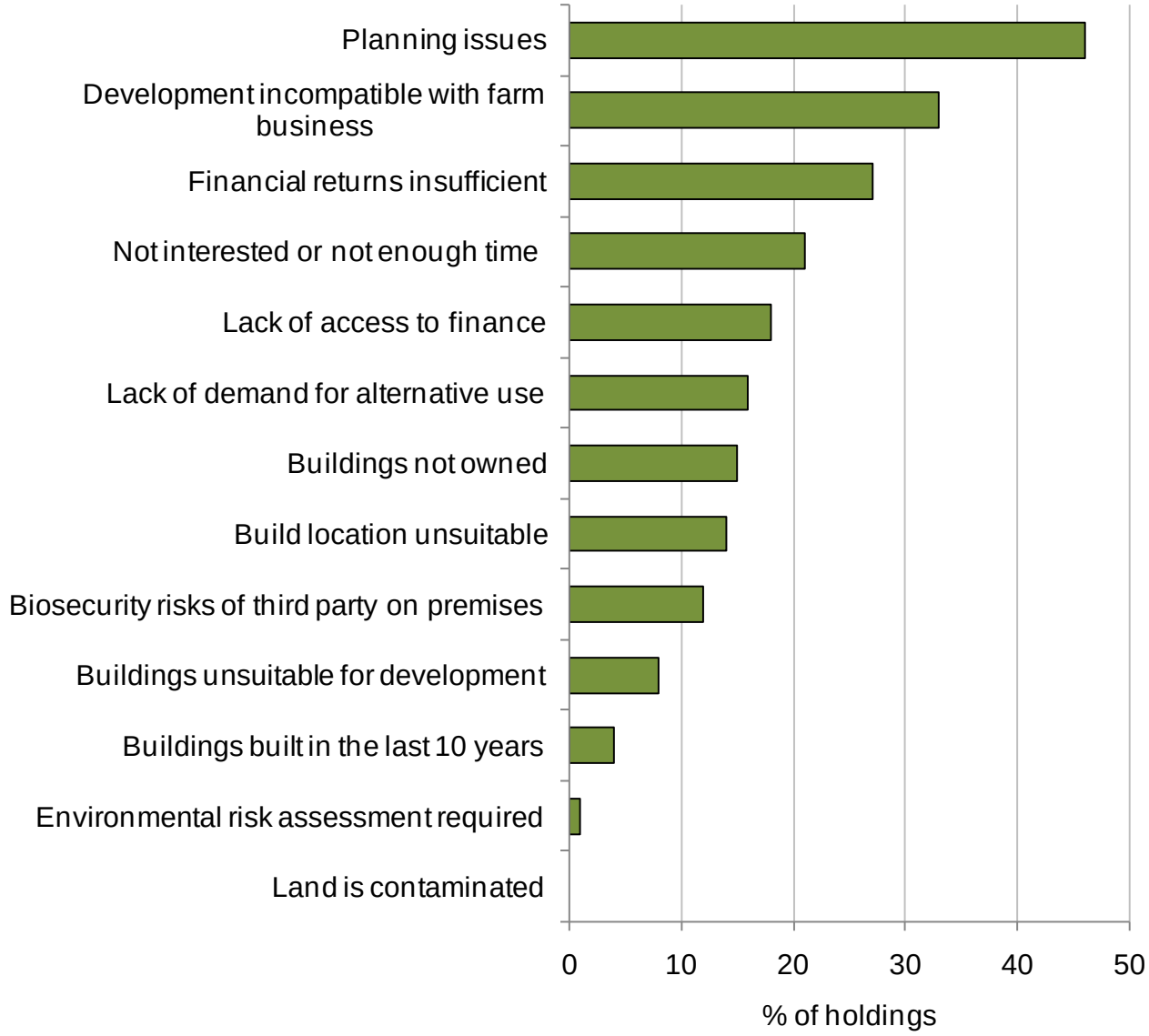


Figure 7.3 shows that the largest factors preventing change of use were planning issues (reported by 46% of farms) and the development being incompatible with the farm business (reported by 33% of farms).

Table 7.4: Factors preventing the change of building use

Factors preventing conversion	% of holdings	95% CI
Planning issues	46	± 3
Development is incompatible with the main farm business	33	± 3
Financial returns insufficient for extra work or investment	27	± 2
Not interested or not enough time	21	± 2
Lack of access to finance	18	± 2
Lack of demand for alternative use	16	± 2
Buildings not owned	15	± 2
The build location is unsuitable	14	± 2
Biosecurity risks of third party on farm premises	12	± 2
Buildings are of a type or construction unsuitable for development	8	± 1
The buildings were built in the last 10 years	4	± 1
Environmental risk assessment required	1	± 1
Land is contaminated	0	± 0

Based on responses from 1394 farms that indicated they *do not* intend to convert buildings to other commercial uses within the next 12 months.

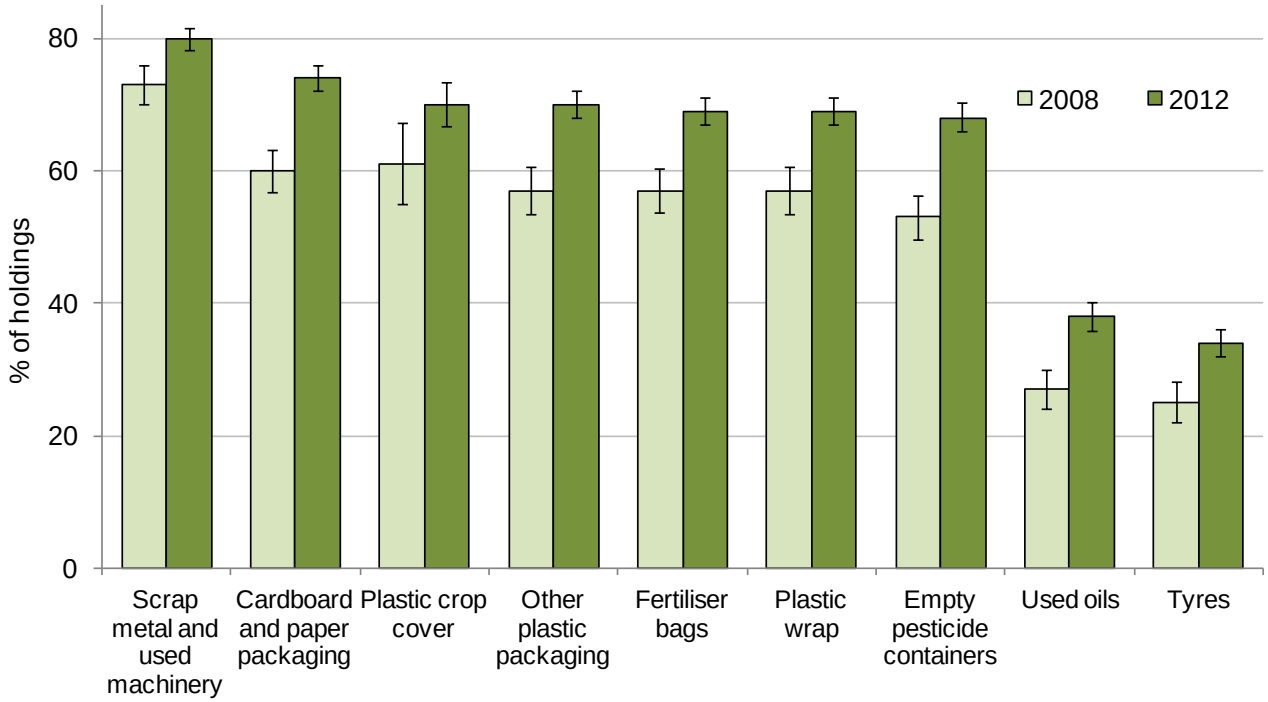
8 Disposal and recycling of waste materials

This section looks at current practices for the disposal and recycling of waste materials on agricultural holdings. There is interest across the industry as to how practices and attitudes may be changing towards disposal. Data from 2008 have been included alongside the latest results.

Key findings

- With the exception of used oils, recycling was the most widely used method for disposing of farm waste.
- The percentage of farms recycling waste materials has risen across all types of farm waste since 2008 except for plastic crop cover.
- For used oils, the most common option was to re-use them on the farm.

Figure 8.1: Proportion of farms recycling waste materials in 2008 and 2012 [(a)]



(a) The vertical lines on each bar represent the 95% confidence intervals. Where the 2008 and 2012 confidence intervals overlap, e.g. for plastic crop cover, there is no statistically significant change in the results.

Figure 8.1 shows that scrap metal and machinery was the most common waste category to be recycled in both 2008 and 2012. Tyres were the least likely waste type to be recycled in both years. The proportion of farms recycling waste materials has increased across all categories between 2008 and 2012 except for plastic crop cover, which showed no statistically significant change.

Table 8.1: Waste disposal methods used for used oils (lubricating and hydraulic)

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	31	± 3	43	± 2
	Burned for heating [(a)]	5	± 1	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(b)]	3	± 1	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	1	± 0	1	± 0
	Collected or taken for recycling	27	± 3	38	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	16	± 2	13	± 1
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	4	± 1	2	± 1
	For recovery	21	± 2	10	± 1

Based on 1276 responses in 2008 and 2295 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled used oils.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this is now only applicable to some oils with the authorisation of a local authority permit and would therefore not be comparable to 2008 data.

(b) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.2: Waste disposal methods used for tyres

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	22	± 3	30	± 2
	Burned for heating [(a)]	0	± 0	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	0	± 0	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	2	± 1	2	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	25	± 3	34	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	25	± 3	21	± 2
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	12	± 2	8	± 1
	For recovery	18	± 3	9	± 1

Based on 1169 responses from 2008 and 2136 responses from 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled tyres.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.3: Waste disposal methods used for scrap metal and used machinery

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	7	± 2	9	± 1
	Burned for heating	-	-	-	-
	Burned in a drum incinerator	-	-	-	-
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	0	± 0	1	± 0
	Collected or taken for recycling	73	± 3	80	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	14	± 2	10	± 1
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	2	± 1	2	± 1
	For recovery	12	± 2	7	± 1

Based on 1390 responses in 2008 and 2606 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled scrap metal and used machinery.

Table 8.4: Waste disposal methods used for plastic silage wrap sheet and net wrap

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	2	± 1	3	± 1
	Burned for heating [(a)]	1	± 1	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	2	± 1	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	11	± 2	11	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	57	± 4	69	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	16	± 3	16	± 2
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	2	± 1	1	± 0
	For recovery	15	± 3	5	± 1

Based on 1064 responses in 2008 and 2177 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled plastic silage wrap sheet and net wrap.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.5: Waste disposal methods used for plastic crop cover

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	1	± 1	5	± 2
	Burned for heating [(a)]	0	± 1	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	1	± 1	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	8	± 3	8	± 2
	Collected or taken for recycling	61	± 6	70	± 3
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	19	± 5	16	± 3
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	5	± 3	3	± 1
	For recovery	8	± 3	3	± 1

Based on 329 responses in 2008 and 807 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled plastic crop cover.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.6: Waste disposal methods used for empty pesticide containers

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	1	± 1	3	± 1
	Burned for heating [(a)]	0	± 0	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	6	± 2	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	8	± 2	8	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	53	± 3	68	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	18	± 3	19	± 2
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	2	± 1	1	± 0
	For recovery	18	± 2	5	± 1

Based on 1142 responses in 2008 and 2024 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled empty pesticide containers.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.7: Waste disposal methods used for fertiliser bags

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	3	± 1	6	± 1
	Burned for heating [(a)]	0	± 1	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	2	± 1	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	10	± 2	8	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	57	± 3	69	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	15	± 2	16	± 2
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	2	± 1	0	± 0
	For recovery	15	± 2	5	± 1

Based on 1250 responses in 2008 and 2336 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled fertiliser bags.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.8: Waste disposal methods used for any other plastic packaging

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	3	± 1	3	± 1
	Burned for heating [(a)]	1	± 0	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	1	± 1	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	11	± 2	11	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	57	± 4	70	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	17	± 3	15	± 2
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	1	± 1	0	± 0
	For recovery	13	± 2	4	± 1

Based on 1150 responses in 2008 and 2105 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled other plastic packaging.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Table 8.9: Waste disposal methods used for cardboard and paper packaging

		2008		2012	
	Disposal method	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**	**% of holdings**	**95% CI**
On farm	Reused	4	± 1	11	± 1
	Burned for heating [(a)]	6	± 2	n/c	n/c
	Burned in a drum incinerator [(a)]	11	± 2	n/c	n/c
Off farm	Collected or taken for landfill	7	± 2	7	± 1
	Collected or taken for recycling	60	± 3	74	± 2
	Collected or taken for disposal – method unknown	10	± 2	10	± 1
Stockpiling	No disposal plan	0	± 0	1	± 0
	For recovery	7	± 1	2	± 1

Based on 1301 responses in 2008 and 2345 in 2012 from farms that indicated they disposed of or recycled cardboard and paper packaging.

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not collected in 2012 as this process is now illegal.

Survey details

Survey content

The Farm Practices Survey (FPS) is usually run annually and collects information on a diverse range of topics usually related to the impact of farming practices on the environment. Each year stakeholders are invited to request new questions to help inform policy decisions and provide evidence on progress towards agricultural and environmental sustainability. In 2012 two surveys were run to meet our data users' requirements.

This release contains the results from the second FPS run in autumn 2012. The topics in this survey included farmer age and farm classification, use of precision farming techniques, farming advice, soils, grassland, dairy housing, farm buildings, disposal and recycling of waste materials and computer usage. The computer usage results were published in a separate release on 20 March 2013. The results for the first 2012 FPS, which covered practices related to Greenhouse Gas mitigation, were published on 31 May 2012. Where comparisons with earlier years are possible, the results are displayed alongside those from previous years.

Survey methodology

The results provided in this release are based on the questions sent to approximately 6 thousand holdings in England. Stratified random sampling is used to select the holdings, whereby the holdings are grouped into farm types and sizes (the strata) and randomly selected within each stratum. This ensures a representative sample. The survey is voluntary and the response rate was 48%. Thank you to all of the farmers who completed a survey form.

Thresholds were applied to ensure that very small holdings with little agricultural activity were not included in the survey. To be included in the main sample, holdings had to have at least one of the following: 50 cattle, 100 sheep, 100 pigs, 1,000 poultry, 20 hectares of arable crops or vegetables, 20 hectares of orchards, 5 hectares of soft fruits or 10 hectares of hardy nursery stock, bulbs or flowers. Therefore all results given in this statistical release reflect only the 60 thousand holdings that exceed these thresholds out of the total English population of 105 thousand commercial holdings.

A breakdown by farm type of the number of holdings within the population and the sample is shown below.

Farm type	Number of eligible holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Response rate %
Cereals	14 381	1 129	51
Other crops	6 593	798	47
Pigs and poultry	3 199	471	41
Dairy	7 470	1 064	45
Grazing livestock (less favoured areas)	7 922	736	51
Grazing livestock (lowland)	14 117	1 161	49
Mixed	6 022	640	49
All farms	**59 704**	**5 999**	**48**

Data analysis

Results have been analysed using a standard estimation method for stratified random surveys to produce national estimates. With this method, the sample data are multiplied by the inverse sampling fraction within each stratum to produce national estimates. For example, if we have sampled 20 farms out of a total of 100 in stratum A then the sampling fraction in stratum A is 20/100 = 1/5. The inverse sampling fraction is then 100/20 = 5. This means that each of the 20 responses represents 5 farms in the whole population of stratum A so the sample data are multiplied by 5 to produce a national estimate for the stratum. We do account for farms that haven't responded, so that if only 10 of the 20 farms in stratum A responded to the survey, the multiplier used would be 100/10 = 10.

Accuracy and reliability of the results

We show 95% confidence intervals against the results. These show the range of values that may apply to the figures. They mean that we are 95% confident that this range contains the true value. They are based on the standard errors multiplied by 1.96 to give the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The fewer the number of holdings that the estimates are based on, the wider the confidence intervals are. The standard errors are a measure of the variation in the data and only give an indication of the sampling error. They do not reflect any other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias.

Definitions

Where reference is made to the type of farm in this document, this refers to the 'robust type', which is a standardised farm classification system. Farm sizes are based on the estimated labour requirements (Standard Labour Requirement) for the holding, rather than its land area. Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) is defined as the theoretical number of workers required each year to run a holding based on its cropping and livestock activities. The farm size bands used within the detailed results tables which accompany this publication are given below.

Farm size	Definition
Small	Less than 2 SLR
Medium	2 to less than 3 SLR
Large	3 or more SLR

Availability of results

This release contains headline results for each section. The full breakdown of results by region, farm type, farm size, farmer age and farm classification (where appropriate) will be available in April at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/farmpractice/.

Other Defra statistical notices can be viewed on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/. This site also shows details of future publications, with pre-announced dates.

From 10 April 2013 all Defra content will move to the new One Government website. Defra statistics will move to https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics.

Protect Commercial

defra
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

If there are any amendments or corrections to details opposite, please write them in this box.

Name:
Address:

Postcode:
Tel. no. (incl. nat. dialling code)

Holding number:

Farm Practices Survey - October 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

You are invited to participate in the October 2012 Farm Practices Survey. This survey aims to assess how farming practices are affected by current agricultural and environmental issues. We have tried to make the form as straightforward as possible and most of the questions can be answered using tick boxes.

The aim of these questions is to ensure that those making decisions affecting farmers know what really happens on farms. Please note that this is not a compulsory survey. Any information you supply on this form will not be used to assess cross-compliance on your holding, and will not affect your Single Payment Scheme payment.

The results from the survey are important and will be used widely within Defra, its agencies and other external bodies. We can use some information from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture or from other national surveys, but there are important gaps which this survey will help to fill. Results from this survey will be available from March 2013 on the following website:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/farmpractice/

I would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete this form and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope. If you could complete and return it within 2 weeks of receipt, this will avoid the need for reminder letters. This survey form has been sent to a randomly selected sample of 6,000 holdings and a good response will improve the reliability of the results. For guidance in completing the form, please telephone or email using the details below.

Data Protection
Any information you provide to us is treated in confidence. Defra is the Data Controller in respect of the Data Protection Act 1998. The purposes for which it is used are set out in full in a data protection statement which can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/national-statistics/confidentiality/. Alternatively we can send you a copy if you call 01904 455284 or email surveys@defra.gsi.gov.uk

We greatly appreciate the time and effort you spend completing our survey forms. Thank you for your assistance.

Martin Fowell
Farming Statistics Team

Official Use Only

Name/Address	
Comments in box	
Comments elsewhere	

FPS12 (Rev 08/12)

If you require a large print form please contact us on 01904 455284

For help with completion of the form contact us at:

Helpline: 01904 455284 Mon-Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm

Email: surveys@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Section 1: Me and my farm

1. Currently the holder/manager is: Tick **one** box only

65 years old or over	☐ 1	Between 40 and 54 years old	☐ 3	E88
Between 55 and 64 years old	☐ 2	Under 40 years old	☐ 4	

2. The farm is mainly: Tick **one** box only

A full time commercial holding	☐ E65	Other (please specify below)	
A part time commercial holding	☐ E66		E69
A hobby / lifestyle choice	☐ E67		

3. I would also classify the farm as: Tick **one** box only

Long-established 'family' farm	☐ 1	First generation 'family' farm	☐ 3	E89
Part of a farming company	☐ 2	Other	☐ 4	

Section 2: Precision farming

4. Do you use any of the following techniques on your farm? Tick **one** box in each row

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable	
GPS (e.g. autosteering and guidance)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	E29
Soil mapping	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	E30
Yield mapping	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	E31
Variable rate application	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	E32
Telemetry	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	E33

5. If you ticked yes to at least one of the techniques listed in question 4, why do you use these techniques?

Tick **all** that apply

To reduce input costs	☐ E36	To improve operator conditions	☐ E40
To improve accuracy	☐ E37	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions..	☐ E83
To improve soil conditions	☐ E38	Other (please specify below)	
			E41

6. If you do not use ANY of the techniques listed in question 4, please indicate why? Tick **all** that apply

They are too complicated to use	☐ E84	They are not accurate enough	☐ E86
They are not cost effective	☐ E85	Other (please specify below)	
			E87

Section 3: Computer and smartphone usage

7. Do you have a smartphone? (Mobile phone with computer functions - applications, internet, email etc.)

Tick **all** that apply

Yes - I use it for business	☐	V70
Yes - it is for personal use	☐	V71
No	☐	V72

8. Do you have access to a computer? (pc, laptop, tablet device

Yes	☐ 1	V31
No	☐ 2	If **No** go to **Section 4**

9. How old is the main computer?

Tick **one** box only

Under 3 years old	☐	V32
3 to 6 years old	☐	V33
Over 6 years old	☐	V34
Don't know	☐	V64

10. Does this computer have an internet connection?

Tick **one** box only

Yes, dial up	☐	V35
Yes, broadband 2MB or less	☐	V73
Yes, broadband more than 2MB	☐	V74
No	☐	V37

11. Is this computer used for farm business?

Tick **all** that apply

Yes: I use the computer for farm business	☐	V75
Yes: used by another member of the family or employee for farm business	☐	V76
Yes: used by an intermediary (e.g agent) for farm business	☐	V40
No	☐	V41

12. Do you have a Government Gateway ID?

Tick **one** box only

Yes - one ID	☐	V77
Yes - more than one ID	☐	V78
No	☐	V62
Don't know	☐	V63

13. For which of the following services is a computer used on your farm?

Tick **all** that apply

Defra and related services e.g. CTS online, SPS online, June Survey, Natural England and Environment Agency services	☐	V79
Other government services e.g. tax, PAYE	☐	V50
Farm/operational management e.g. milk recording, benchmarking	☐	V80
Auction services	☐	V49
Online banking	☐	V48
Other financial / accounting	☐	V42
Sales / purchases online	☐	V51
Marketing e.g. own website	☐	V52
Online training	☐	V66

Other (please specify below)

☐ V53

14. Which of the following options would encourage you to make more use of a computer for farm business?

Tick **all** that apply

Cheaper costs	☐	V54
Improved computer skills	☐	V55
Better internet connection	☐	V57
Faster broadband	☐	V83
Government website/services were easier to use	☐	V81
More government services were available online	☐	V82
More confidence in computer security e.g. viruses, confidentiality	☐	V58
More suppliers and customers being online	☐	V59
Improved knowledge of the benefits of using a computer for farm business	☐	V68
More time	☐	V56

Section 4: Advice

15. Within the last 12 months were you able to find the advice and information needed to run your farm business? Tick **one** box only

Yes, it was very easy to obtain	☐ 1		Yes, but it was very difficult to obtain	☐ 4	
Yes, it was quite easy to obtain	☐ 2		No, I was unable to obtain the information	☐ 5	J101
Yes, but it was quite difficult to obtain ..	☐ 3		I have not needed any in the last 12 months ..	☐ 6	

16. What are your usual methods for obtaining the advice and information needed to run your farm business?
Tick **all** that apply

Consult my regular specialist independent farm advisors.....	☐	J102	Seek information on Defra related web sites (including RPA, Natural England and the Environment Agency)	☐	J107
Consult local authorities (including Trading Standards)	☐	J103	Seek information on other government web sites	☐	J108
Friends / colleagues / family	☐	J104	Consult literature received in the mail	☐	J109
Consult industry / levy bodies (e.g. NFU, AHDB, assurance schemes etc.)	☐	J105	Consult the farming press / media	☐	J110
Attending organised events	☐	J106	Call the Defra helpline	☐	J111

17. If a locally-based, government-funded, independent advisor were available to visit you which of the following would you like to receive advice on: Tick **all** that apply

Understanding rules and regulations that apply to my farm and why they exist	☐	J112
Filling out my SPS application correctly and meeting the cross compliance conditions	☐	J113
Identifying grants and additional funding that would benefit my business	☐	J114
Steering me towards other advice providers and services that would help my business	☐	J115

18. If this advisory service was not fully government funded, would you be prepared to contribute towards the cost of such a visit? Tick **all** that apply

Yes, as an annual subscription service allowing a set number of visits per year	☐	J116
Yes, as a pay per visit service	☐	J117
No	☐	J118

19. Have you ever consulted an advisor on Cross Compliance and/or the Single Payment Scheme?
Tick **all** that apply

Yes, on the phone	☐	J119	Yes, at an organised event	☐	J121
Yes, during a visit to my farm	☐	J120	No	☐	J122

20. Are you aware of and have you used the following advice services: Tick **all** that apply

	Aware of		Not aware of			Used	
Cross Compliance Advice Programme	☐ 1		☐ 2	J126		☐	J129
Farming Advice Service	☐ 1		☐ 2	J127		☐	J130
Defra/AHVLA Helplines	☐ 1		☐ 2	J128		☐	J131

Section 5: Soils

21. How often do you test your soil: Tick **one** box in each column

Nutrient Content		pH	
More than every 3 years	1	More than every 3 years	1
Every 3-5 years	2	Every 3-5 years	2
Less frequently than every 5 years	3	Less frequently than every 5 years	3
Never	4	Never	4
	I207		I208

22. Do you carry out a soil structure survey (dig a hole) in your fields to examine the soil profile prior to cultivation, or other soil husbandry activity? Tick **one** box only

Yes, a single hole per field surveyed	1	Yes, only where there is obvious compaction	3	I209
Yes , multiple holes per field surveyed	2	No (go to **question 24**)	4	

23. Over the last 12 months has your soil survey revealed soil compaction? Tick **all** that apply

	Yes	No	
In the top 12 inches	1	2	I210
At plough depth	1	2	I211
Through the soil profile	1	2	I212

24. Have you taken any of the following actions in the last 12 months to reduce soil compaction?
Tick **one** box in each row

	Yes	No	Not Applicable	
Removed compaction from headlands after harvest	1	2	3	I72
Improved drainage	1	2	3	I73
Used low pressure set-ups	1	2	3	I74
Removed compaction from grassland after harvest	1	2	3	I213
Removed compaction from grassland through turf lifting or spiking	1	2	3	I214
Altered land use/crop rotations/variety to reduce the likelihood of soil compaction and provide the opportunity for field recovery	1	2	3	I215

25. If you have ever undertaken measures to reduce soil compaction did you conduct a subsequent soil survey (dig a hole) to assess their success? Tick **one** box only

Yes 1 No 2 I have never undertaken any measures to reduce soil compaction 3 I216

26. <u>Excluding</u> farmyard manure and slurry, have you applied any of the following organic materials to your agricultural land in the last 12 months? Tick **all** that apply

Compost	I217	Paper mill sludge	I220
Digestate from an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant	I218	Other (please specify).....	I221
Sewage sludge	I219	Not Applicable	I222

Section 6: Grassland on this holding

27. Do you have any temporary grassland (see note below question 29)? If **No** go to **question 30**

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 K138

28. Please record the area of temporary grassland on this holding according to when it was last sown:

This crop year (Jul 2012 to now)	•	ha	K140
Last crop year (Jul 2011 to Jun 2012)	•	ha	K141
2 years ago.....	•	ha	K142
3 years ago	•	ha	K143
4 years ago	•	ha	K144
More than 4 years ago	•	ha	K145
None of the land has been seeded whilst I have been responsible for it (tick if applicable)	☐		K146

29. What is the typical arable cropping period between temporary grass leys?

☐ years K147

Don't know/not applicable (tick) ☐ K148

Temporary grassland: land used to grow grasses that **has** been included in the crop rotation of the holding within the last five years.
Permanent grassland: land used to grow grasses that has **not** been included in crop rotation in last five years or longer.

30. Do you have any permanent grassland (excluding rough grazing)? If **No** go to **Section 7**

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 K139

31. Please record the area of permanent grassland on this holding according to when it was last sown:

This crop year (Jul 2012 to now)	•	ha	K149
Last crop year (Jul 2011 to Jun 2012)	•	ha	K150
2 to 5 years ago.....	•	ha	K151
5 to 8 years ago	•	ha	K152
9 to 20 years ago	•	ha	K153
More than 20 years ago	•	ha	K154
None of the land has been (re)seeded whilst I have been responsible for it (tick if applicable)	☐		K155

32. When reseeding permanent grassland do you sow catch crops? (e.g. turnips, forage rape)

Seldom or never ☐ 1 Usually ☐ 2 K156

33. In the current cropping year what area of permanent grassland have you converted or intend to convert to another crop?

Area already sown (Jul 2012 to Sept 2012)	•	ha	K157
Area intend to sow (Oct 2012 to Jun 2013)	•	ha	K158
I do not intend to convert any permanent grassland to another crop (tick if applicable)	☐		K159

Section 7: Dairy housing

34. Do you keep dairy cows ?

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 N274 If **No** go to **Section 8**

35. Please respond to the following statement in respect to the dairy cows on your holding

	Cows in milk			Dry cows		
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
My cows are continuously housed (day and night) throughout the year	☐ 1	☐ 2	N275	☐ 1	☐ 2	N279
My cows have regular access to external pasture	☐ 1	☐ 2	N276	☐ 1	☐ 2	N280
My cows **only** have access to a loafing area	☐ 1	☐ 2	N277	☐ 1	☐ 2	N281
In the future, I intend to keep my cows continuously housed (day and night) throughout the year	☐ 1	☐ 2	N278	☐ 1	☐ 2	N282

Section 8: Buildings

36. Do you have buildings on your farm that have the potential to be converted from agricultural to other commercial uses? (e.g. shops, offices, apartments, restaurants / cafes, hotel / B&B, storage / distributional / light industrial uses) Tick **one** box only

No (please go to **Section 9**).....	☐	H107	Yes, post-1940 buildings only	☐	H109
Yes, pre-1940 buildings only.....	☐	H108	Yes, a mixture of pre and post 1940 buildings	☐	H110

37. How many buildings have the potential to be converted for other commercial uses? Tick **one** box only

One building only	☐ 1		Three buildings	☐ 3	H111
Two buildings	☐ 2		Four or more buildings.....	☐ 4	

38. Do you intend to convert any of these buildings in the next 12 months?

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 H112

If **No** go to **question 40**

39. Of those buildings indicated above with the potential to be converted from agricultural to commercial uses, what type of uses could they be converted to? Tick **all** that apply

Shops	☐	H113	Apartments	☐	H117
Offices	☐	H114	Storage / warehousing	☐	H118
Hotel / B&B	☐	H115	Light industrial/manufacturing ..	☐	H119
Restaurants / cafes	☐	H116	Other (please specify)		H120

40. What is preventing you from changing the use of your building(s)? Tick **all** that apply

Planning issues e.g cost and uncertainty of obtaining consent	☐	H121	The build location is unsuitable e.g. poor access, distance from amenities	☐	H128
Don't own the buildings (rented only)	☐	H122	The buildings were built in the last 10 years	☐	H129
Lack of demand (for alternative use).....	☐	H123	Development is incompatible with the main farm business	☐	H130
Financial returns not sufficient for extra work or investment	☐	H124	Bio-security risks of third party on farm premises	☐	H131
Lack of access to finance	☐	H125	An environmental risk assessment is required	☐	H132
Not interested/can't spare enough time	☐	H126	The land is contaminated / the land falls within a safety hazard zone	☐	H133
Buildings are of a type or construction unsuitable for development e.g. listed building	☐	H127			

Section 9: Disposal / recycling of waste materials

41. Please indicate how you have disposed of / recycled any of the following waste materials from your farm in the last 12 months.

Tick **all** that apply in all columns below

	Re-used on farm	Off farm waste disposal			Stockpiling	
		Collected / taken for Landfill	Collected / taken for Recycling	Collected / taken for disposal-method unkown	No disposal plan	For recovery
Used oils-lubricating and hydraulic	☐ B2	☐ B7	☐ B9	☐ B88	☐ B1	☐ B89
Tyres	☐ B12	☐ B17	☐ B19	☐ B90	☐ B11	☐ B91
Scrap metal and used machinery	☐ B22	☐ B24	☐ B26	☐ B92	☐ B21	☐ B93
Plastic silage wrap sheet / net wrap	☐ B29	☐ B34	☐ B36	☐ B94	☐ B28	☐ B95
Plastic crop cover	☐ B39	☐ B44	☐ B46	☐ B96	☐ B38	☐ B97
Empty pesticide containers	☐ B49	☐ B54	☐ B56	☐ B98	☐ B48	☐ B99
Fertiliser bags	☐ B59	☐ B64	☐ B66	☐ B100	☐ B58	☐ B101
Other plastic packaging	☐ B69	☐ B74	☐ B76	☐ B102	☐ B68	☐ B103
Cardboard and paper packaging	☐ B79	☐ B84	☐ B86	☐ B104	☐ B78	☐ B105

I have not disposed of / recycled any of the above items in the last 12 months ☐ B114

Section 10: Declaration

I declare the information I have given in this return to be correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature

Name (please print)

V3

Telephone number

Any other comments

E-mail Address V5

*We would like to share your e-mail address with other members of the Defra family (including the RPA) to update our customer registers. Please tick the box if you **do not** want us to do this.* ☐ V6

Date

Time taken to complete form minutes V1

Please now return this form in the pre-paid envelope addressed to
Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

Results will be available from March 2013 and can be accessed via the Defra website:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/farmpractice/