



The Future Farming and Environment Evidence Compendium: Statement of Voluntary Application of the Code of Practice for Statistics

The term official statistics comprises National Statistics, official statistics and experimental statistics.

All official statistics are produced by crown bodies, those acting on behalf of crown bodies, or those specified in statutory orders, as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

National Statistics have been assessed by the Office for Statistics Regulation, the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority, as fully compliant with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Official statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics and its key principles of: trustworthiness, quality and value.

The future farming and environment evidence compendium is a compilation of official statistics, analysis and research drawn from a range of Government Departments and other public bodies. Many of the statistics are reproduced from National and official statistics sources. Where there are gaps in the evidence base, the best available unofficial sources are used.

Statement of Voluntary Application of the Code of Practice for Statistics

Although the report is not in itself an official statistic, where possible we follow the UK's Code of Practice for Statistics in its production.

National and official statistic sources have been highlighted in the references with an **[NS]** or **[OS]** suffix.

The Code of Practice is built around 3 main concepts, or pillars:

- **Trustworthiness** – Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data.
- **Quality** – Data and methods that produce assured statistics.
- **Value** – Statistics that support society's need for information.

The statements below describe how these principles have been followed.

Trustworthiness – The evidence compendium is produced by a dedicated team of statisticians and analysts in the Future Farming Evidence and Analysis team. The final product is approved by the Deputy Director for Evidence and Analysis in agreement with the Head of Profession for Statistics. The production of the compendium involves a large number of data contributors, however, the publication remains impartial and free from political input. As the statistics are already in the public domain this negates the need for usual release practices such as pre-release access, however, the final version may be shared ahead of release to help prepare for media interest.

Quality – Where possible, the latest published Official and National Statistics are used throughout this document. These publications are produced following the quality standards and utilise rigorous quality assurance processes. Other evidence and analysis are taken from appropriate scientific journals or based on sound economic analysis. Where there are gaps in the evidence base, the best available unofficial sources are used. There is internal review and quality assurance of all the final compendium content.

Value – Where possible, the latest official data sources have been selected. To ensure users access the latest statistics, the compendium is updated periodically when appropriate. To ensure the latest data is included in a timely manner, further updates of the evidence compendium will not be pre-announced in line with the Code of Practice for statistics. Instead, the document will remain 'live' and any updates/amendments to data will be signposted alongside each release of the evidence compendium.

The data sources in the compendium are referenced in the publication. Defra publishes large amounts of data which is accessible on gov.uk with appropriate documentation. We also publish a number of statistical publications which provide insight and context to the statistics.

The producers of the compendium act on user feedback to ensure that the relevant questions are answered through the evidence. The statistics are made available online for equal access to all.

For further information about the evidence compendium or the voluntary commitment to the Code of Practice for Statistics, please contact: farming-statistics@defra.gov.uk