

Defra statistics: Agricultural facts – East of England

(commercial holdings at June 2019 (unless stated))

The **East of England** region comprises Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Luton, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea and Essex. The Broads National Park lies within the region.



For the **East of England** region:

- Total Income from Farming increased by 31% between 2015 and 2019 to £885 million.
- The biggest contributors to the value of the output (£3.4 billion), which were wheat (£625 million), poultry meat (£527 million), fresh vegetables (£320 million), and pigs (£265 million), together account for 51%. (Sourced from [Defra Aggregate agricultural accounts](#))
- In the **East of England** the average farm size in 2019 was 121 hectares. This is larger than the English average of 87 hectares.
- Predominant farm types in the **East of England** region in 2019 were Cereal farms which accounted for 51% of farmed area in the region and General cropping farms which covered an additional 33% of farmed area.

Land

	East	England
Total farmed area (thousand hectares)	1,411	9,206
Average farm size (hectares)	121	87
% of farmed area that is:		
Rented (for at least 1 year)	29%	33%
Arable area(a)	79%	52%
Permanent pasture	11%	36%

(a) Includes arable crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass. Source: Defra, June Survey

Crops

(Thousand hectares)	East	England
Wheat	457 (27%)	1,677
Barley	199 (24%)	832
Oilseed rape	109 (22%)	492
Field veg	28 (30%)	94
Potatoes	37 (34%)	109
Sugar beet	67 (62%)	108

Figures in brackets denote the proportion which the region contributes to the English total. Source: Defra, June Survey

Livestock

(Thousand head)	East	England
Cattle	187 (4%)	5,100
Dairy herd	14 (1%)	1,102
Beef herd	41 (6%)	675
Pigs	1,049 (26%)	4,060
Poultry	29,037 (21%)	138,850
Table chickens	21,200 (22%)	95,150
Turkeys	1,596 (42%)	3,802
Sheep	354 (2%)	15,390

Figures in brackets denote the proportion which the region contributes to the English total. Source: Defra, June Survey

Labour

	East	England
Total Labour ^(a)		
People:	40,220	306,374
Per farm ^(b)	3.4	2.9
Regular workers		
People:	11,115	68,962
Per farm ^(b)	1.0	0.6
Casual workers		
People:	7,136	45,843
Per farm ^(b)	0.6	0.4
% full time ^(c)	43%	44%
% part time ^(c)	33%	37%
% casual	18%	15%

(a) Farmers, partners, directors, spouses, salaried managers, regular and casual workers

(b) Averaged across all farms in region

(c) Excludes salaried managers. Source: Defra, June Survey

Farm Business Income (FBI) 2019/20 (a):

(£ per farm)	East	England
All types	78,600	46,000
Cereals	81,000	62,800
General cropping	110,000	84,400

(a) Years ending February, excludes farms with less than 25,000 euros of standard output. Source: Defra, Farm Business Survey

Figure 1: Distribution of farms by size, percentage of farms

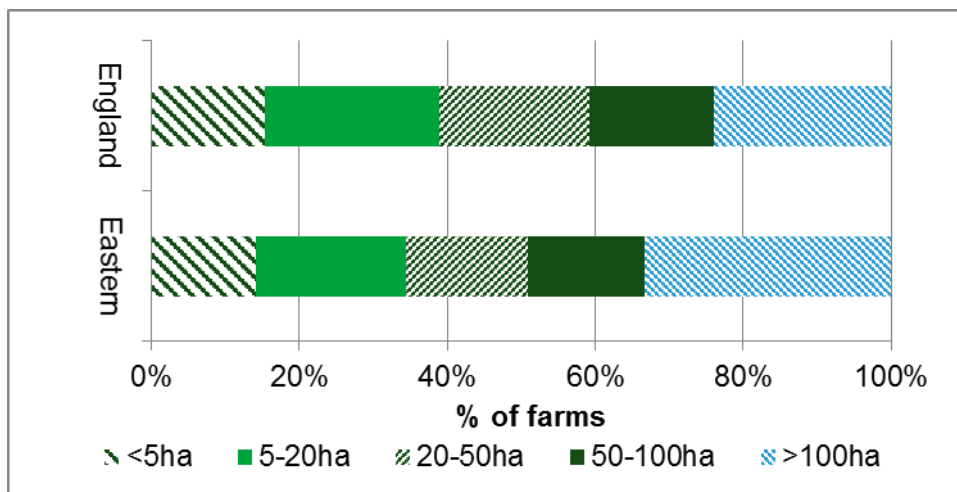


Figure 2: Distribution of farms by size, percentage of farmed area

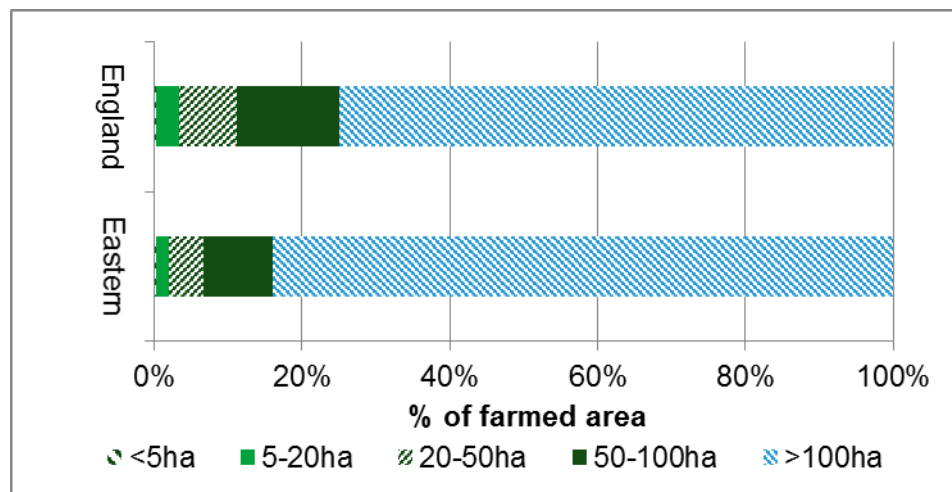


Figure 3: Distribution of farms by type, percentage of farms

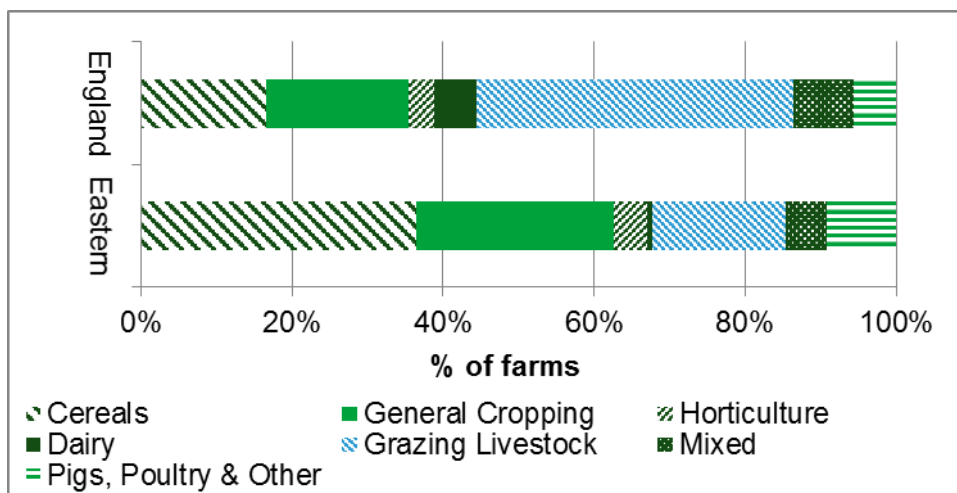
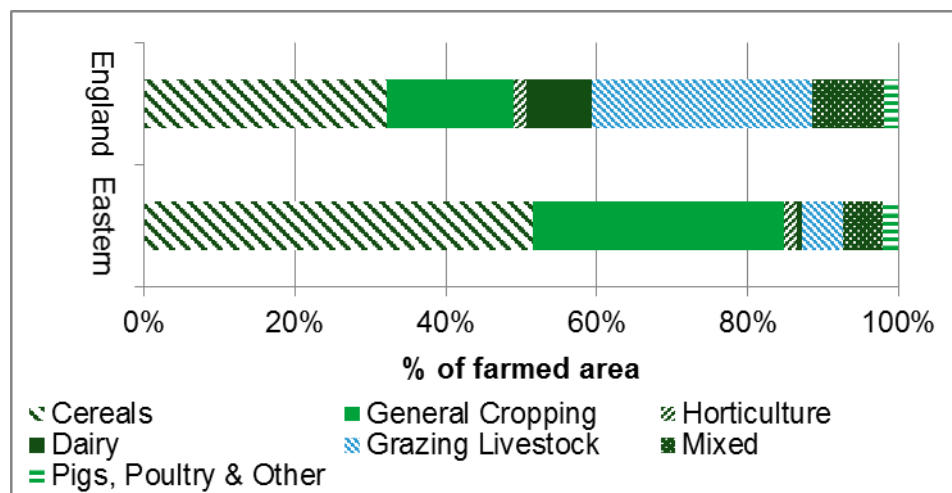
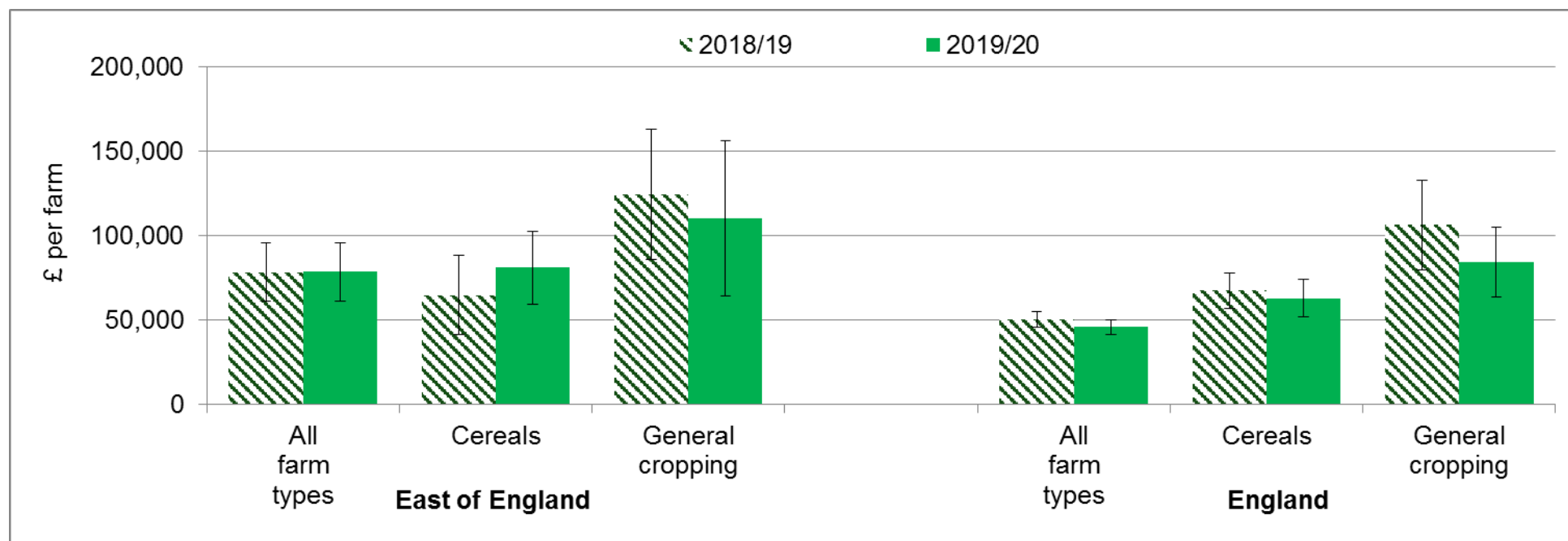


Figure 4: Distribution of farms by type, percentage of farmed area



Source: Defra, June Survey

Figure 5: Average Farm Business Income



Lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals

Source: Defra, Farm Business Survey. Excludes farms with less than 25,000 euros of standard output

Further information and other geographical classifications from the Defra June Survey can be found at our [web page](#)

England regional data for aggregate agricultural accounts can be found at [Agriculture in the English Regions](#)

English county data for farm accounts from the Farm Business Survey can be found at [Farm Business survey web page](#)

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