



Published 20 March 2013

## Computer usage by farmers in England, 2012

This release provides the results of questions on computer usage by farmers from the October 2012 Farm Practices Survey and the 2011/12 Business Management Practices module from the Farm Business Survey. The key results are:

### Farm Practices Survey

- 86% of farms had [access to a computer](#) in 2012, compared to 74% in 2008. The level of access increases with farm size and decreases with farmer age.
- 29% of farmers had a [smartphone](#) in 2012. Of these, 89% used it for the farm business.
- 98% of main farm computers had an [internet connection](#) in 2012. For 6% the connection was dial up, 60% broadband (up to 2MBps) and 32% broadband (more than 2MBps).
- For 6% of farms with a computer, the main computer was not [used for the farm business](#). As the age of the farmer increased, it was more likely that a family member or employee used the computer.
- For those with access to a computer, interaction with Defra and/or other government services (86%) were the most commonly reported [uses](#), followed by online banking (49%) and sales/purchasing online (45%). Take-up was higher for those with a better/quicker connection.
- Faster broadband and/or the quality of connection were the most frequently reported [factors that would increase computer use](#) within the farm business (by 54% of those with access to a computer). However, having more time, skills and confidence in security were also raised by around 40% of those with a computer.
- The [age profile](#) of farms' main computers was slightly older in 2012 than in 2008, with 47% being less than 3 years old in 2012 compared to 56% in 2008.
- 78% of farms had at least one [Government Gateway ID](#) in 2012 compared to 23% in 2008.

### Farm Business Survey

- 90% of farm businesses [had a computer](#) on the farm in 2012 and used it for the farm business. A further 5% had a computer on the farm but did not use it for the farm business. Age and farm size are significant factors.

---

**Enquiries on this publication to: Farm Practices Survey** - Lindsey Clothier, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: ++ 44 (0)1904 455229, email: [farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk). **Farm Business Survey** - Katherine Merrett, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: ++ 44 (0)20 7238 1162, email: [FBS.queries@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FBS.queries@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

**A National Statistics publication.** National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk). You can also find National Statistics on the internet at [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

- 77% of those using a computer for the farm business had good broadband [internet access](#). However, 13% could not get reliable access to the internet or broadband. Generally speaking, the higher the economic performance of the farm, the more likely it was to have good broadband and internet access.
- Submitting forms/internet banking were the most common [farm business uses](#), accounting for 87% of those using a computer for the farm business. For 56% of this group, all of the farm business documents (business plan, financial accounts etc) were managed on the computer. This ranged from 47% of low performing businesses to 66% of high performing businesses.
- In terms of [IT skills](#), 70% of farm businesses reported that the team was proficient in Excel/Word/email and web searching. In general, the younger the farmer or the higher the economic performance of the business, the more likely the business was to have proficiency in these skills.

## 1 Overview

This statistical notice brings together the results for farmers' computer usage from two Defra surveys. Whilst the results are broadly comparable, when comparing the results it is important to bear in mind that there are key differences between the two surveys. These include:

- The questions were worded differently within the two surveys.
- The surveys were conducted using different methods. The Farm Practices Survey (FPS) is a postal survey at farm level whereas the Farm Business Survey (FBS) is at business level and conducted via a face to face interview, allowing for further clarification and probing as the questions are asked.
- The surveys were conducted at different times. The FPS was conducted in October 2012 whereas the FBS questions were asked between January and October 2012 and relate to the 2011/12 accounting year (generally ending February 2012) including the 2011 harvest.
- The surveys have different minimum thresholds for inclusion leading to some differences in the populations covered.

The surveys suggest that there is still a significant minority of farmers without **access to a computer**. The FPS suggests this may be around 14% of farms, the FBS suggests around 5% of farm businesses. Both surveys suggest that those without access tend to have older farmers, to be smaller or to be grazing livestock farms. The FPS also suggests that being in the SDA is a significant factor lowering uptake. For those farms with a computer, both surveys suggest that around 95% use it for the farm business.

Almost all (97%) of those that do have a computer on the farm have some form of **internet access**. The FPS provides a more complete picture of the type of connection (2% have no connection, 6% have dial up, 92% have broadband) and suggests that for around two thirds of those with broadband, the connection speed is 2MBps<sup>1</sup> or less (although it is recognised that there may be an element of farmers' perception in distinguishing between the two broadband speeds presented on the survey form (up to 2MBps and more than 2MBps). The FBS findings were more qualitative; 13% of businesses using a computer for the farm business reported that they could not get reliable access to the

---

<sup>1</sup> The Government is committed to ensuring that almost all premises in the UK have access to a basic broadband service of at least 2MBps by 2015.

internet/broadband whilst 77% reported good broadband internet access. For both surveys there were reported differences between those in and outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA)<sup>2</sup>.

Both surveys report high levels of **computer usage** for government forms and online banking, the FBS more so than the FPS, but this might be reflective of the survey coverage/methods. The FBS results highlight the link with farm economic performance; 47% of low performing businesses that used a computer for the farm business had all the main farm documents (business plan/financial accounts etc) on the computer compared to 66% of high performing businesses.

Faster broadband and/or better internet connections were the most frequently cited **factors that would increase usage** (by 54% of those with a computer) but having more time, skills and confidence in security were also common factors (by around 40%). Whilst not necessarily an indication of lack of skills, the FPS highlights that as the age of farmers increases it is more likely that another family member or employee uses the farm computer. The FBS suggests that, overall, for 70% of farm businesses there is a member of the farm team proficient in Word/Excel/email and web searching. The proportion increased with economic performance and decreased as the age of the farmer increased (from 54% where the farmer is aged 65 and over to 85% for those under 40).

## 2 Detailed results

The results are presented for each survey together with [confidence intervals](#) and an explanation of the main influencing factors.

### 2.1 Farm Practices Survey

#### 2.1.1 Access to a computer

Do you have access to a computer?

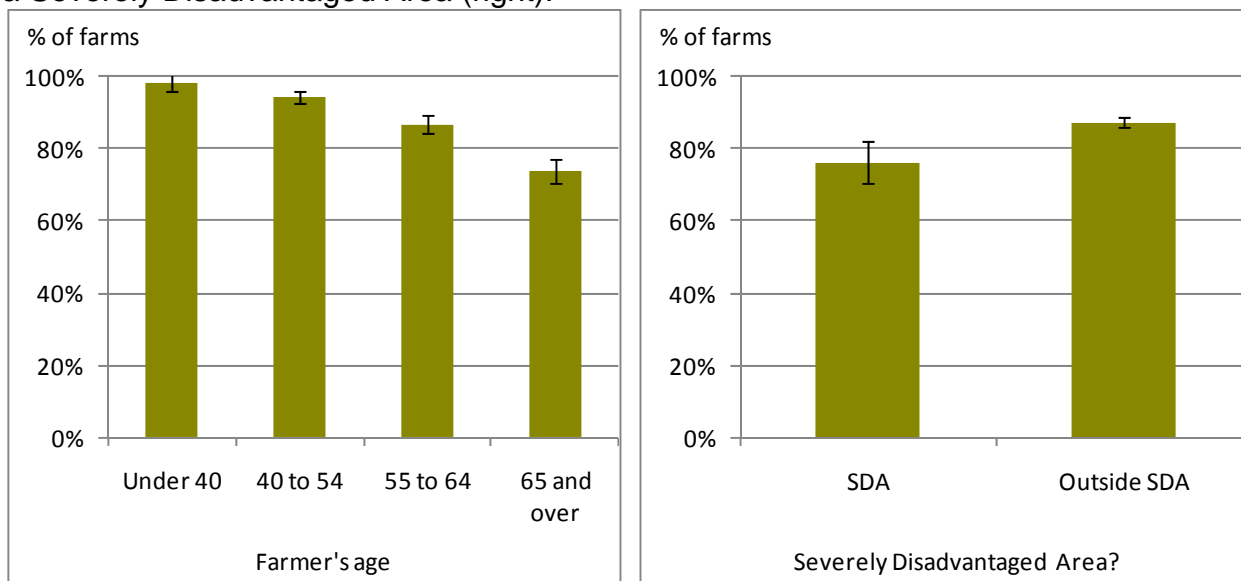
	2008		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes	74%	±3%	86%	±1%
No	26%	±3%	14%	±1%

Based on responses from 2882 farms in 2012 and 1512 responses in 2008.

In 2012, 86% of farms had access to a computer, compared to 74% in 2008. Access to a computer increased with farm size, decreased with age, and was lower for grazing livestock farms (relative to other farm types) and for those in the SDA (relative to those outside the SDA).

<sup>2</sup> Largely upland in nature. See Appendix B for location.

Figure 1: Proportion of farms with access to a computer by farmer age (left) and whether in a Severely Disadvantaged Area (right).



### 2.1.2 Internet connection

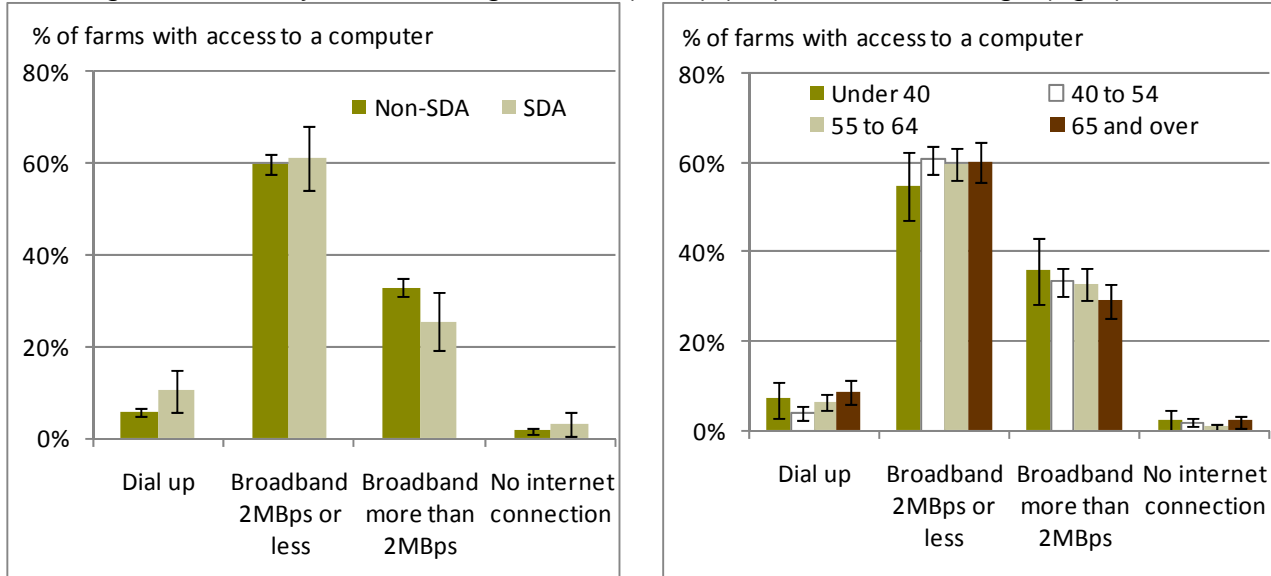
Does the main computer have an internet connection?

	2008		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Dial up	24%	±3%	6%	±1%
Broadband 2MBps or less (a)	{72%	{±3%	60%	±2%
Broadband more than 2MBps (a)			32%	±2%
No	3%	±1%	2%	±1%

(a) There may be an element of farmers' perception in distinguishing between the two broadband speed options presented on the survey form (up to 2MBps and more than 2MBps). Based on responses from 2552 farms with access to a computer in 2012 and 1196 responses in 2008.

In 2012, almost all (98%) of the main computers on farms had an internet connection, little changed from 2008. However, there has been a large change in the type of internet connection over this period. The proportion of farms where the main computer has a dial up connection has reduced from 24% in 2008 to 6% in 2012. In 2012, 92% of the main computers on farms had a broadband connection but for around two thirds of this group, the reported connection speed was less than 2MBps. For those with broadband, there were no significant factors that were found to influence being in the faster or slower connection group.

Figure 2: Internet connectivity of the main farm computer by whether the farm is classified as being in a Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) (left) and farmer's age (right)



### 2.1.3 Age of main computer

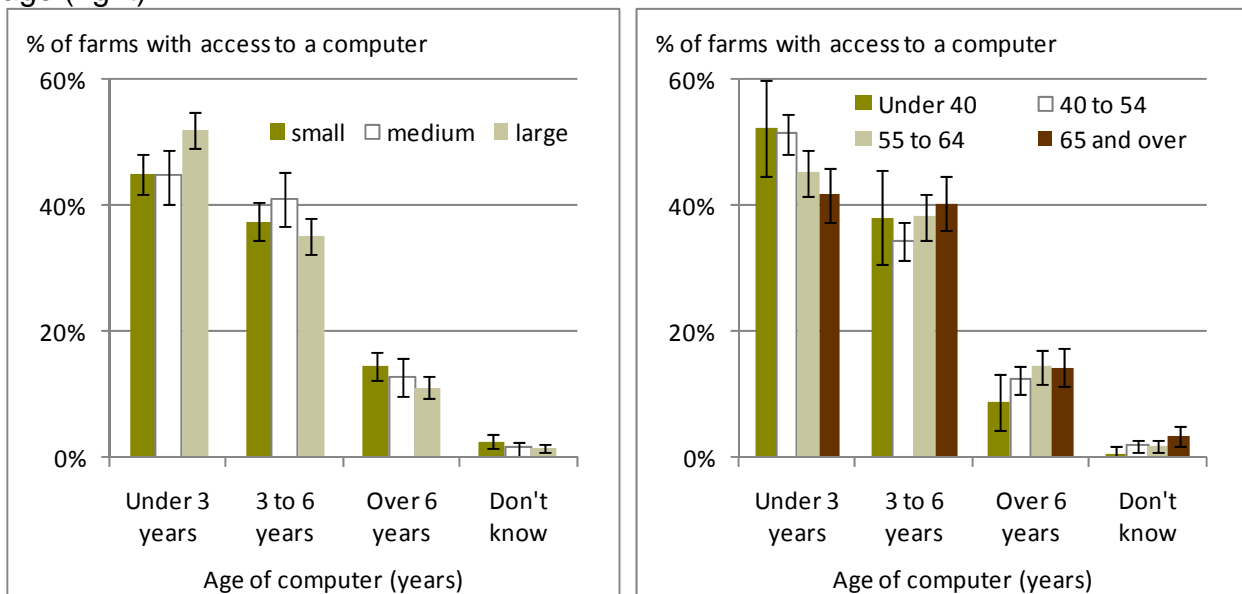
How old is the main computer?

	2008		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Under 3 years	56%	±3%	47%	±2%
3 to 6 years	31%	±3%	37%	±2%
Over 6 years	11%	±2%	13%	±1%
Don't know	2%	±1%	2%	±1%

Based on responses from 2555 farms with access to a computer in 2012 and 1200 in 2008.

In 2012, almost half (47%) of the main computers on farms were under 3 years old compared to 56% in 2008. Larger farms and younger farmers were more likely to have newer computers (figure 3).

Figure 3: Internet connectivity of the main farm computer by farm size (left) and farmer's age (right)



## 2.1.4 Government Gateway ID

Do you have a Government Gateway ID?

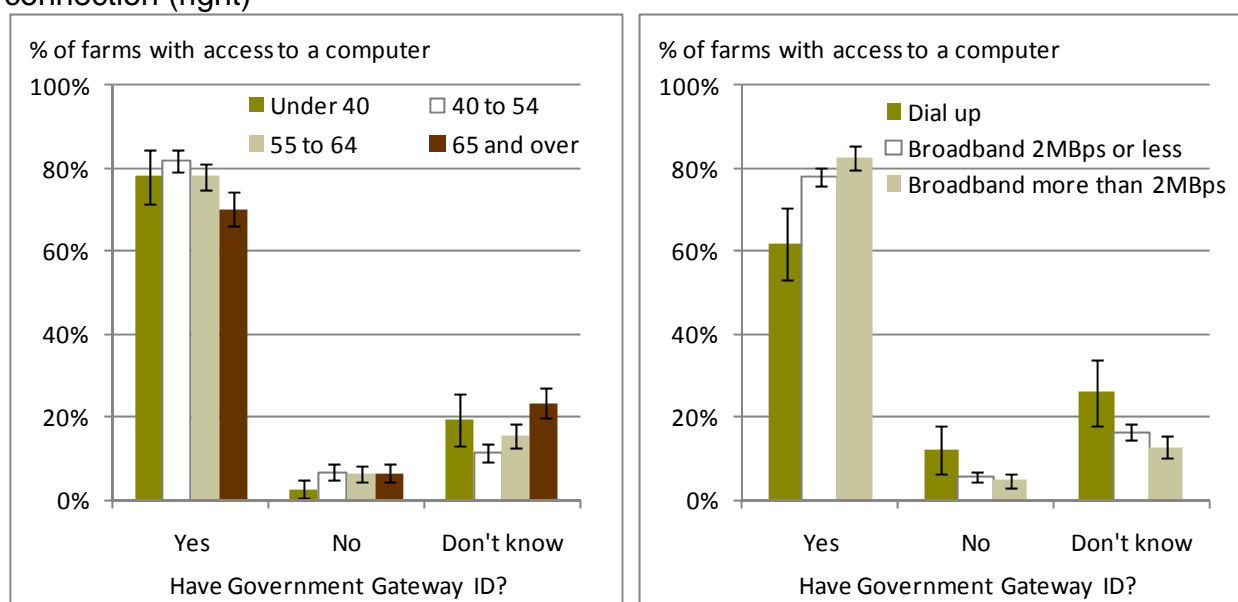
	2008 (a)		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes – 1 ID	{23%	{±3%	60%	±2%
Yes – more than 1 ID			18%	±2%
No	39%	±3%	6%	±1%
Don't know	38%	±3%	16%	±2%

(a) In 2008 response options were yes, no or don't know.

Based on responses from 2555 farms with access to a computer in 2012 and 1168 responses in 2008.

In 2012, 78% of farms reported having at least one Government Gateway ID, compared to 23% in 2008. There was some variation between farm types. Uptake was greatest on dairy farms (89%) and lowest on pig and poultry farms (65%) and between 74% and 79% on other farm types. Uptake increases with the speed of internet connection and is lower for those aged 65 and over than for younger farmers. Some 18% of farms reported having more than one Government Gateway ID.

Figure 4: Government Gateway ownership by farmer's age (left) and type of internet connection (right)



## 2.1.5 Computer usage by the farm business?

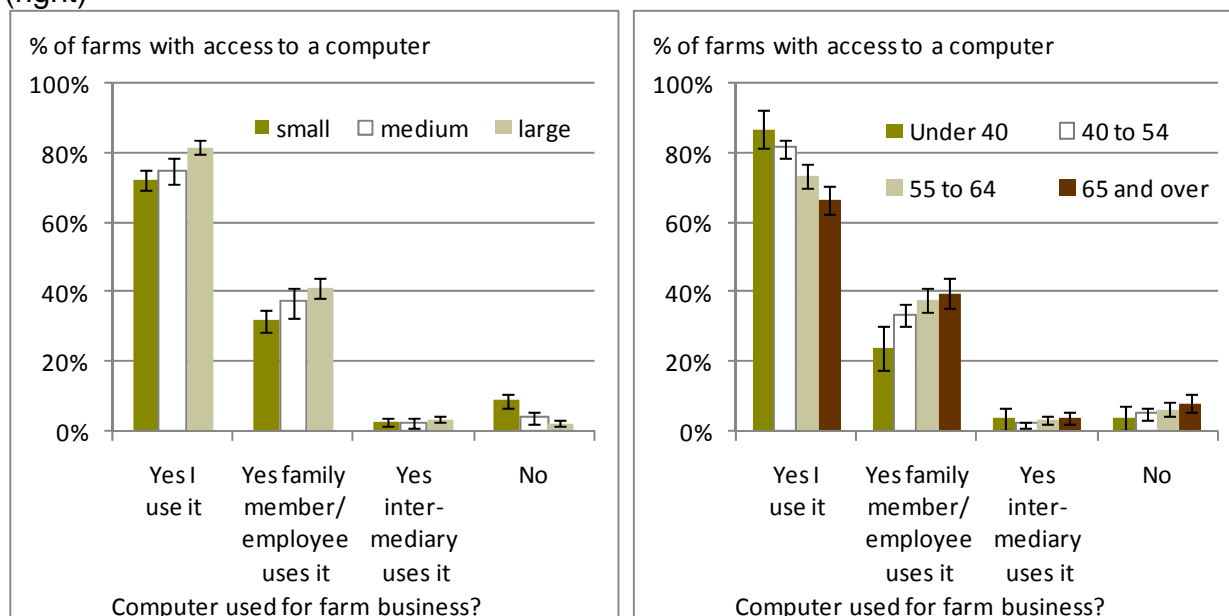
Is this main computer used for the farm business?

	2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes – I use it	76%	±2%
Yes – family member/ employee uses it	36%	±2%
Yes – intermediary uses it	3%	±1%
No	6%	±1%

Based on responses from 2554 farms with access to a computer. Note that more than one option could be selected. In 2008 a slightly different question asked was "Do you use a computer for the farm business?" with responses Yes – on farm (68%), Yes – not on farm (12%), Yes – intermediary uses it (4%), No (16%).

On almost all farms (94%) the main computer was used for the farm business. Use increased with farm size ranging from 91% for small farms to 97% for large farms. As the age of the farmer increased, it was more likely that a family member or employee used the computer than themselves.

Figure 5: Use of a computer for the farm business by farm size (left) and farmer's age (right)



### 2.1.6 How computer is used for farm business

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

	2008		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Defra and related services	60%	±3%	69%	±2%
Other government services	13%	±2%	63%	±2%
Online banking	39%	±3%	49%	±2%
Sales/purchasing online	39%	±3%	45%	±2%
Other financial/accounting	57%	±3%	35%	±2%
Farm/operational management	39%	±3%	27%	±2%
Auction services	21%	±3%	17%	±2%
Marketing	11%	±2%	11%	±1%
Online training	7%	±2%	6%	±1%
Other services	6%	±2%	4%	±1%
No services used	5%	±2%	4%	±1%

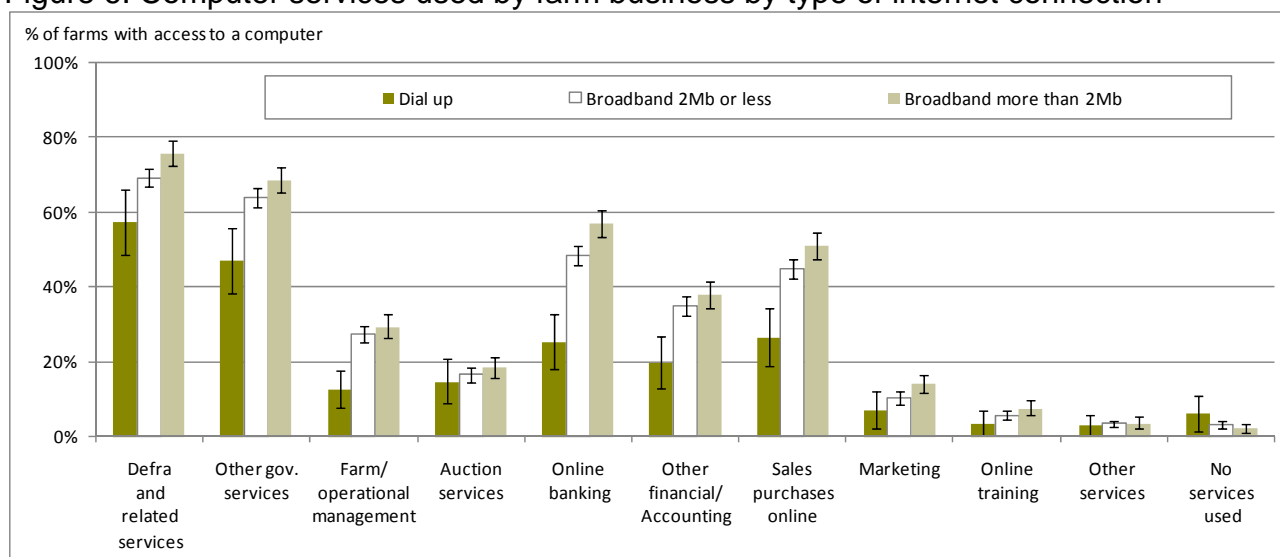
Based on responses from 2555 farms with access to a computer in 2012 and 1205 in 2008. More than one option could be selected.

In 2012, interaction with Defra and/or other government services were the most commonly reported uses of the farm computer; 86% of those with a computer used at least one of these services. There has been a particular increase in the use of the main computer for non-Defra related government services from 13% in 2008 to 63% in 2012. Online banking and other transactions (sales/purchasing) were undertaken on 49% and 45% of farms



respectively in 2012. Those with broadband connections were generally more likely to use of each of the listed services than those with dial up connections (figure 6).

Figure 6: Computer services used by farm business by type of internet connection



### 2.1.7 Factors that would encourage increased use of a computer for farm business

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

	2008		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Faster broadband	-	-	50%	±2%
More time	44%	±3%	44%	±2%
Improved computer skills	46%	±3%	43%	±2%
More confidence in computer security	34%	±3%	38%	±2%
Better internet connection	19%	±3%	37%	±2%
Cheaper costs	19%	±3%	28%	±2%
Government websites/ services easier to use	-	-	24%	±2%
Improved knowledge of benefits	28%	±3%	23%	±2%
More suppliers and customers available online	11%	±2%	15%	±1%
More government services available online	-	-	8%	±1%
Other	3%	±1%	-	-
No options chosen	4%	±1%	7%	±1%

Based on responses from 2555 farms with access to a computer in 2012 and 1205 in 2008. Respondents could select more than one option.

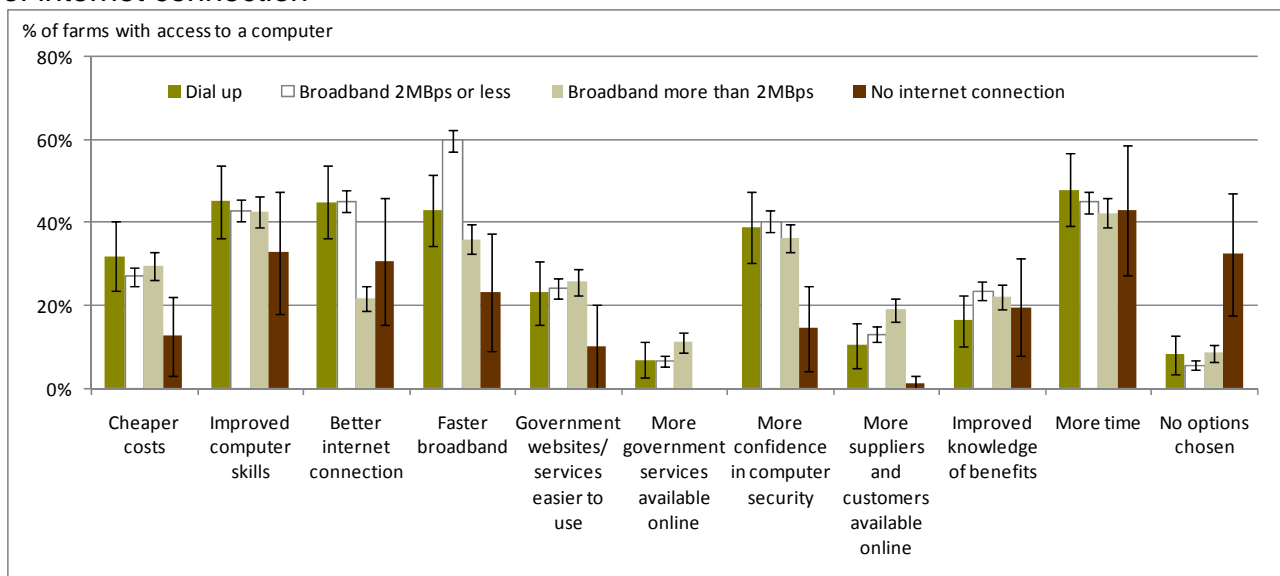
Faster broadband and/or a better internet connection were the most common reported factors (by 54% of farmers<sup>3</sup>) that would encourage increased computer use by farm businesses, particularly by those with dial up or slower broadband speeds. However more

<sup>3</sup> Note many ticked both factors.



time, skills and confidence in security were also commonly reported and there were no large differences between age groups or farm size.

Figure 7: Factors that would encourage increased computer use by farm business by type of internet connection



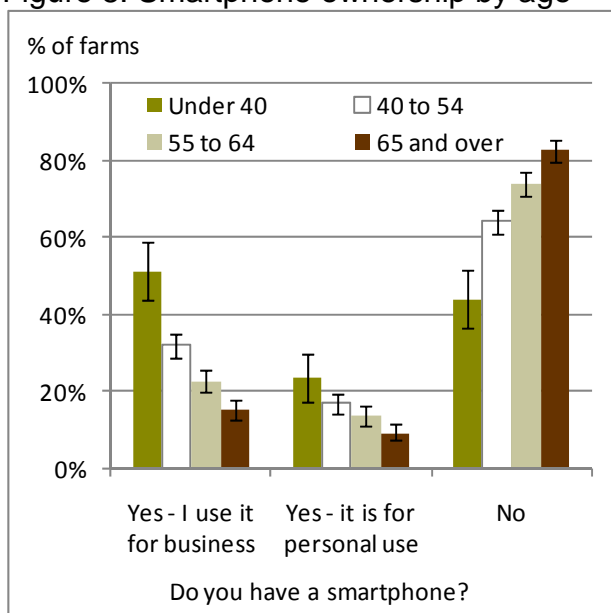
### 2.1.8 Smartphone<sup>4</sup> ownership

Do you have a smartphone?

	2008 (a)		2012	
	% of holdings	95% CI	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes – I use it for business	-	-	26%	±2%
Yes – I use it for personal use	-	-	14%	±1%
No	-	-	71%	±2%

Based on responses from 2882 farms in 2012. Question not asked in 2008. Phone can be used for both business and personal use.

Figure 8: Smartphone ownership by age



There were smartphones on 29% of farms in 2012, with age being a significant factor (figure 8). Almost all (98%) of those with smartphones also had access to a computer.

<sup>4</sup> Defined on survey form as “Mobile phone with computer functions – applications, internet, email etc.”

## 2.2 Farm Business Survey

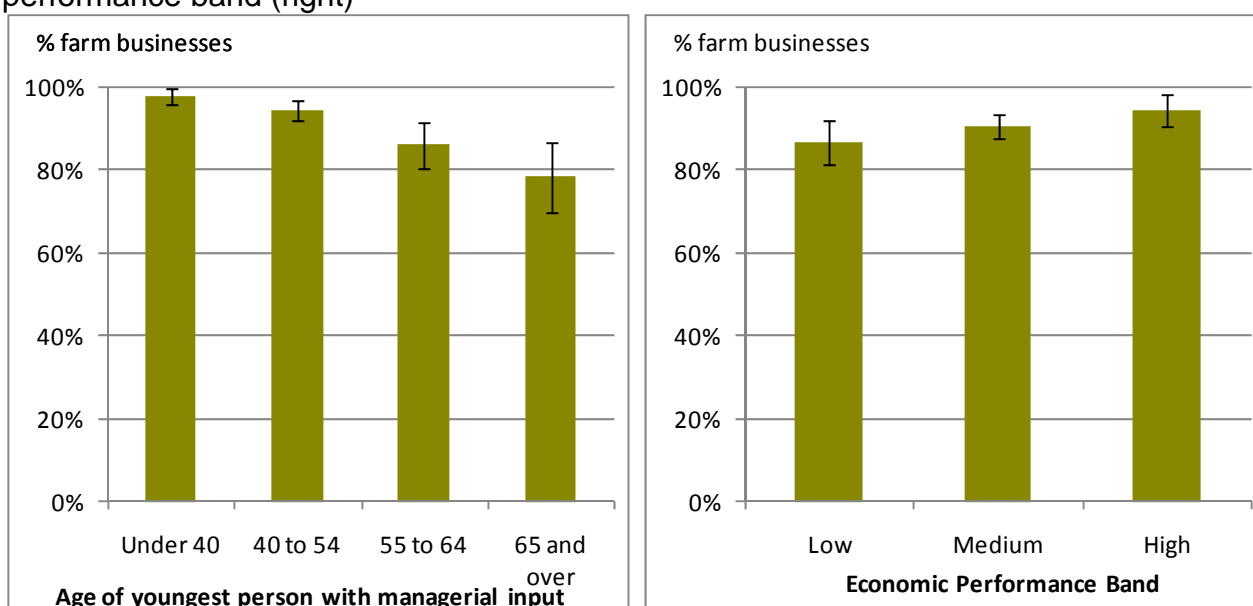
### 2.2.1 Computer availability on farms

	2011/2012	
	% of businesses	95% CI
There is a PC on the farm	95%	±2%
There is a PC used on the farm but not used by the business	5%	±2%
There is a PC used on the farm which is used occasionally for some management purposes.	30%	±3%

Based on responses from 1357 farms.

In 2011/12, 90% of farm businesses had a computer on the farm and used it for the farm business. However, 5% had a computer but did not use it for the farm business. As for the Farm Practices Survey, farmer's age, farm size and farm type are significant factors with older farmers, smaller farms and grazing livestock farms being less likely to have a computer on farm and use it for the farm business. Whilst there were some differences between farms inside and outside the SDA<sup>5</sup> and between economic performance bands these differences were not significant.

Figure 9: Percentage of farm businesses that had a computer and use it for the farm business by age of youngest person with managerial input (left) and economic performance band (right)



### 2.2.2 Internet availability

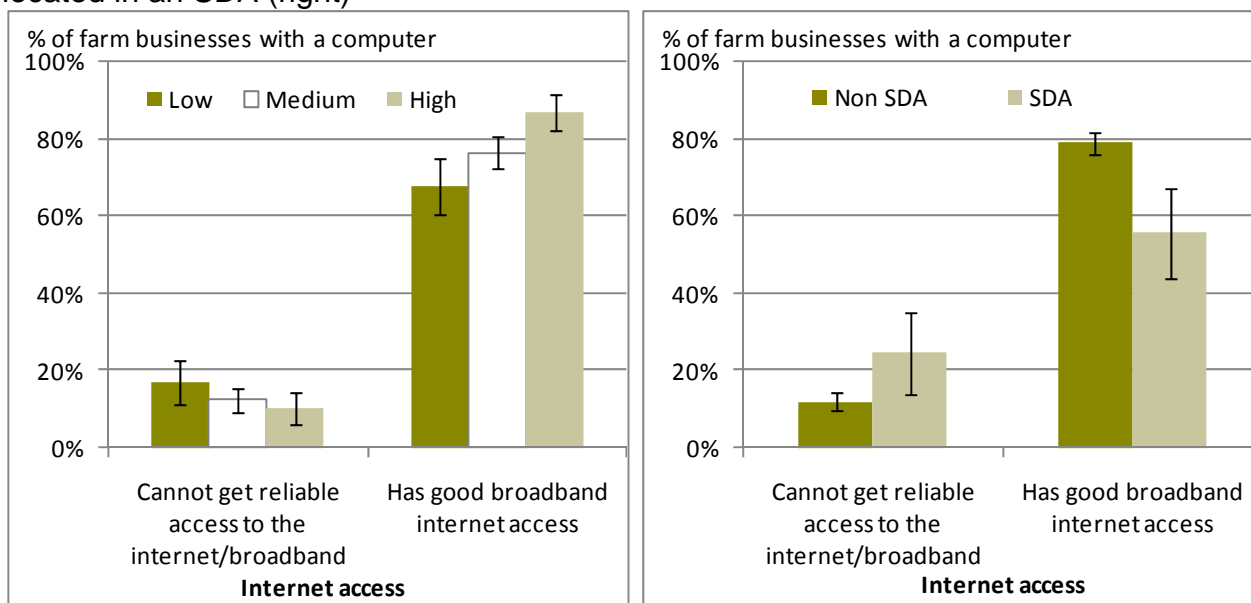
	2011/2012	
	% of businesses	95% CI
The business has a computer but cannot get reliable access to the internet/broadband	13%	±2%
The business has a computer that has good broadband internet access	77%	±3%

Based on responses from 1254 farms with a computer that is used for the business.

<sup>5</sup> 90% (±10%) of mainly SDA farms had a pc on the farm compared to 96% (±2%) of non-SDA farms.

In 2011/12, 77% of those farms with a computer that was used for the business had good broadband internet access. There were 13% that could not get reliable access to the internet. The remainder (10%) potentially had no internet access, but this information was not specifically collected. Regional variation was more pronounced for the FBS than the FPS; 90% of farm businesses in the South East reported good broadband access compared to 69% in the North and South West of England. There were also significant differences between farms located in the SDA and elsewhere and between economic performance groups (figure 10).

Figure 10: Quality of internet access by economic performance (left) and whether business located in an SDA (right)



### 2.2.3 How computer is used for farm business

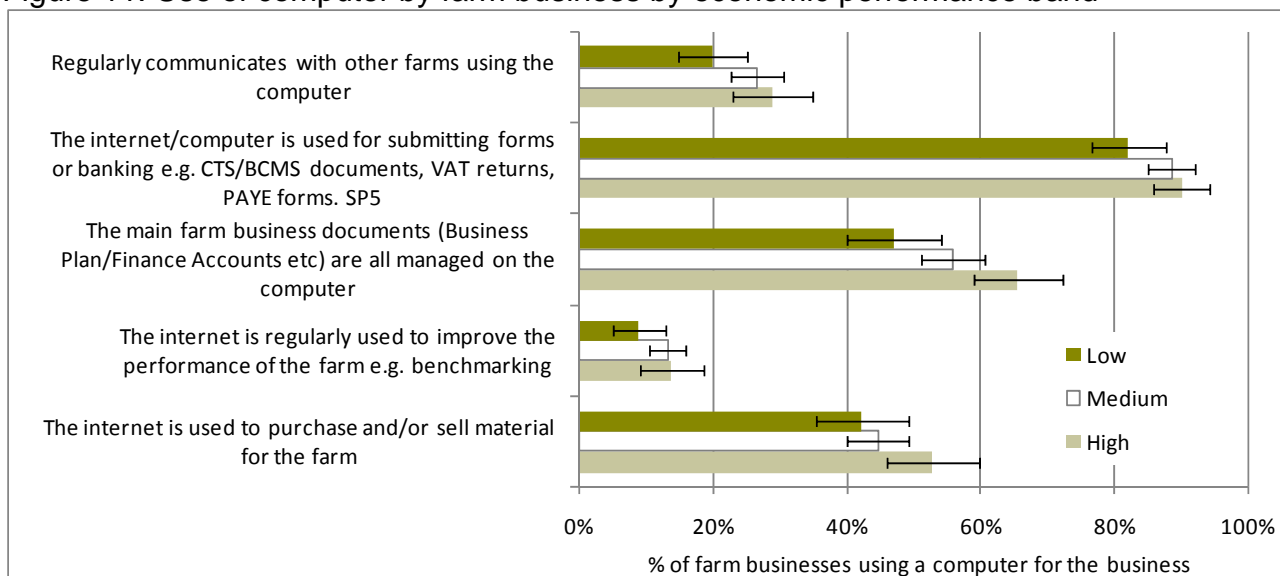
	2011/2012	
	% of businesses	95% CI
The internet/computer is used for submitting forms or banking e.g. CTS/BCMS documents, VAT returns, PAYE forms. SP5	87%	±2%
The main farm business documents (business plan/finance accounts etc.) are all managed on the computer	56%	±3%
The internet is used to purchase and/or sell material for the farm	46%	±3%
Regularly communicates with other farms using the computer	26%	±3%
The internet is regularly used to improve the performance of the farm e.g. benchmarking	12%	±2%

Based on responses from 1254 farms with a computer that was used for the business in 2011/12

In 2011/12 the most common use of the farm computer was for submitting forms or banking (87%). The main farm business documents (business plan/finance accounts etc.) were all managed on the computer for 56% of farm businesses. Farm size, farm type and economic performance are significant factors; 47% of low performing businesses in this group and 66% of high performing businesses managed the main farm documents on the

computer. There were some differences in response by farmer's age, with those aged 65 and over less likely than younger farmers to purchase/sell material online and to have all the main farm documents managed on the computer.

Figure 11: Use of computer by farm business by economic performance band



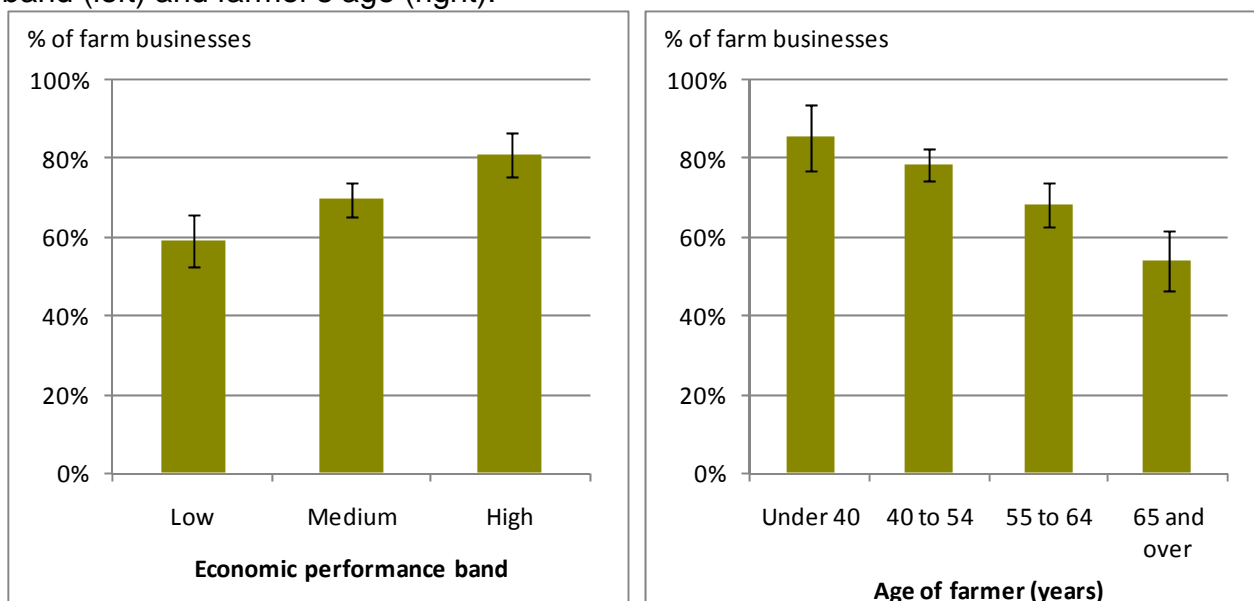
### 2.2.4 IT skills

	2012	
	% of businesses	95% CI
The [farm team] is proficient in Excel/Word/email and web-searching	70%	±3%

Based on responses from 1357 farms.

In 2011/12, 70% of businesses reported that the team was proficient in Excel/Word/email and web searching. There were significant differences between farmer age groups and economic performance groups. Levels of proficiency increased with economic performance and decreased as the age of the farmer increased (figure 12).

Figure 12: Proficiency in Excel/Word/email and web searching by economic performance band (left) and farmer's age (right).



## 3 Survey details

### 3.1 Survey content and methodology

#### 3.1.1 Farm Practices Survey

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 includes the results for computer usage from the second FPS in 2012. The results for other topics covered within this survey will be published in a separate release on 28 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.

The results in this release are based on questions sent to approximately 6 thousand holdings in England. These holdings were targeted by farm type and size to ensure a representative sample. The survey was voluntary and the overall 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 50 cattle, 100 sheep, 100 pigs, 1,000 poultry or 20 hectares of arable crops or orchards. 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 of the number of holdings within the population and the sample are shown below.

Farm Practices Survey: Number of holdings within the population, number sampled and survey response rate by robust farm type

<b>Farm type</b>	<b>Number of eligible holdings in England</b>	<b>Number of holdings sampled</b>	<b>Response rate %</b>
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
<b>All farms</b>	<b>59 704</b>	<b>5 999</b>	<b>48</b>

#### 3.1.2 Farm Business Survey

The Farm Business Survey (FBS) is an annual survey providing information on the financial position and physical and economic performance of farm businesses in England. The sample of around 1,900 farm businesses covers all regions of England and all types

of farming with the data being collected by face to face interview with the farmer. Results are weighted to represent the whole population of farm businesses that have at least 25 thousand Euros of standard output<sup>6</sup> as recorded in the annual June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. In 2011 there were just over 56 thousand farm businesses meeting this criteria<sup>7</sup>.

In the 2011/12 survey, an additional module was included to collect information on business management practices from a sub-sample of farm businesses. Interviewers collected responses between January and October 2012 for usage relating to the 2011/12 accounting year (generally ending around February 2012). The information collected covered:

- (i) business management practices such as benchmarking, risk management, IT usage and management accounting,
- (ii) practices specific to animal health and welfare e.g. biosecurity, veterinary strategy, animal health plans,
- (iii) the environmental footprint of farming, GHG abatement, energy use and
- (iv) climate change adaptation.

When combined with other data from the survey this helps to explain farm businesses' behaviour and how this varies with parameters such as farm type, farm size and performance.

This release includes the results for IT usage from the business management practices module. The results for other topics covered by the module will be published in a separate release at a later date. Comparisons to results from the previous business management practices module conducted in 2007/08 will, where possible, be included in this later publication.

Completion of the business management practices module was voluntary with a response rate of 71% in 2011/12. The farms that responded to the business management practices module had similar characteristics to those farms in the main FBS in terms of farm type and geographical location. There was a smaller proportion of large and very large farms in the module subset than in the main FBS. Full details of the characteristic of responding farms can be found at Appendix A.

For further information about the Farm Business Survey please see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/>

## **3.2 Data analysis**

### **3.2.1 Farm Practices Survey**

Results have been analysed using a standard methodology for stratified random surveys to produce national estimates. With this method, all of the data are weighted according to the inverse sampling fraction.

---

<sup>6</sup> For a definition of standard output please see the UK classification document here <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/aboutfbs/datacollection/>

<sup>7</sup> Prior to the 2010/11 campaign, the coverage of the FBS was restricted to those farms of size ½ Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) or more. For a definition of SLR please see the UK classification document here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/aboutfbs/datacollection/>

### 3.2.2 Farm Business Survey

The results from the FBS relate to farms which have a standard output of at least 25,000 Euros (section 2.1.2). Initial weights are applied to the FBS records based on the inverse sampling fraction for each design stratum (farm type by farm size). These weights are then adjusted (calibration weighting<sup>8</sup>) so that they can produce unbiased estimators of a number of different target variables. Completion of the business management practices module was voluntary and a sample of around 1,350 farms was achieved. In order to take account of non-response, the results have been reweighted using a method that preserves marginal totals for populations according to farm type and farm size<sup>9</sup> groups. As such, farm population totals for other classifications (e.g. regions) will not be in-line with results using the main FBS weights, nor will any results produced for variables derived from the rest of the FBS (e.g. farm business income).

### 3.3 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 calculated as the standard errors (se) multiplied by 1.96 to give the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The standard errors only give an indication of the sampling error. They do not reflect any other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias. For the Farm Business Survey, the confidence limits shown are appropriate for comparing groups within the same year only; they should not be used for comparing with previous years since they do not allow for the fact that many of the same farms will have contributed to the Farm Business Survey in both years.

We have also shown error bars on the figures in this notice. These error bars represent the 95% confidence intervals (as defined above).

### 3.4 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 for the holding, rather than its land area. The farm size bands used within the detailed results tables which accompany this publication are shown in the table below. 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.

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

The *Severely Disadvantaged Areas* (SDA) are more environmentally challenging areas. They are largely upland in character and together with Disadvantaged Areas (DA) form the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) classification established<sup>10</sup> in 1975 as a means to provide support to mountainous and hill farming areas. A map showing the SDA can be found at Appendix B.

<sup>8</sup> Further information on calibration weighting can be found in the 'Statistical Issues' document here <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/aboutfbs/datacollection/>

<sup>9</sup> The UK classification document provides details of how farm type and farm size groups are derived. See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/aboutfbs/datacollection/>

<sup>10</sup> Council Directive 75/268/EEC.



*Economic performance* for each farm is measured as the ratio between economic output (mainly sales revenue) and inputs (costs+ unpaid labour). The higher the ratio, the higher the economic efficiency and performance. Performance bands based on economic performance percentiles are as follows:

- **Low performers** - farmers who took part in the Business Management Practices survey and were in the bottom 25% of economic performers in this sample
- **Medium performers** - farmers who took part in the Business Management Practices survey and were in the middle 50% of performers in this sample
- **High performers** - farmers who took part in the Business Management Practices survey and were in the top 25% of performers in this sample.

These are based on economic performance in 2011/12.

### **3.5 Availability of results**

This release contains headline results for each section. The full breakdown of results, by region, farm type and farm size, will be available in April at:

Farm Practices Survey: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/farmpractice/>.

Farm Business Survey:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/publications/farmmanagepractice/>

Defra statistical notices can be viewed on the Food and Farming Statistics pages on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/>. 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>.

**Appendix A: Characteristics of responders to the FBS and the business management practices module**

<b>Farm Type</b>	<b>Full FBS sample</b>	<b>Business management practices subset</b>
Dairy	17%	17%
LFA Grazing Livestock	13%	12%
Lowland Grazing Livestock	14%	15%
Cereals	17%	17%
General cropping	9%	9%
Pigs	4%	4%
Poultry	5%	5%
Mixed	10%	10%
Horticulture	11%	11%
<b>All types</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Government Office Region</b>	<b>Full FBS sample</b>	<b>Business management practices subset</b>
North East and Yorkshire & Humber	15%	14%
North West	13%	11%
East Midlands	13%	14%
West Midlands	10%	10%
East England	16%	17%
South East	12%	13%
South West	21%	21%
<b>All farms</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Farm Size</b>	<b>Full FBS sample</b>	<b>Business management practices subset</b>
Small	36%	38%
Medium	19%	19%
Large	46%	43%
<b>All farms</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Appendix B: Severely Disadvantaged Areas in England**

