1 November 2012

Farming Statistics
Final Land Use, Livestock Populations and Agricultural Workforce at 1 June 2012 - England

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture were released on 1 November 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. This release has been updated to include land ownership, poultry, horse, goat, farmed deer and camelid populations, and the size of the agricultural workforce at 1 June 2012. Crop areas and populations of cattle, sheep and pigs remain unchanged to those published on 20 September 2012.

Approximately 30 thousand commercial holdings were asked to complete the survey and results are based on 20 thousand responses, representing a response rate of 67%. Commercial holdings are those farms with a significant level of activity. A full definition can be found in the methodology section on page 18. The key results are given below.

Agricultural land use and ownership (Tables 1-2)

- The utilised agricultural area on holdings in England increased slightly by 0.7% from 2011 and now stands at just over 8.9 million hectares. This is largely due to the increases in the areas of crops grown and temporary grassland. Contrary to the provisional estimate, the final estimate of permanent pasture (grass over 5 years old not including sole right rough grazing) shows a decrease of 1.0% from 2011 to 3.2 million hectares following the receipt and validation of more survey forms.
- The area of land owned has increased by 1.9% to 5.7 million hectares, while land rented in for at least one year remains virtually unchanged at 3.1 million hectares.

Crops (Tables 3-6)

- The total area of crops increased by 1.9% in 2012 to just over 4.0 million hectares. This is largely as a result of the high prices for cereals and oilseed rape, which led to increases in these crop areas at the expense of less profitable crops such as field beans, peas for harvesting dry and linseed.
- The area of cereals stands at 2.6 million hectares in 2012, a rise of 2.3% with wheat, barley and oats all increasing in area between 2011 and 2012. The area of oilseed crops increased to a record high of 742 thousand hectares largely as a result of the 7.9% increase in the area of oilseed rape, which now stands at 713 thousand hectares.

Enquiries on this publication to: Jennie Blackburn, Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 301, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. Tel: 01904 455332. Email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Livestock (Tables 7-11)

- The total number of cattle and calves in England saw a small decrease of 0.8% between 2011 and 2012 to just under 5.4 million. Dairy herd numbers reduced slightly by 0.7%, continuing the long term decline. The beef herd also saw a decrease of 2.2% in reverse to the increases seen between 2009 and 2011.
- In 2012 the number of pigs in England increased by 1.7% to almost 3.7 million. The female pig breeding herd saw a small decrease of 0.8% to 351 thousand in 2012 whereas fattening pigs increased by 1.8% to over 3.2 million. This is possibly due to increased sow productivity leading to a greater availability of pigs for slaughter.
- The number of sheep and lambs in England increased by 2.0% from 14.3 million in 2011 to 14.6 million in 2012. The milder winter conditions have led to a small increase (0.6%) in the number of lambs and a larger increase (4.3%) in the breeding flock, which now stand at 7.4 and 6.8 million respectively.
- Total poultry numbers have declined for the second consecutive year and now stand at 118 million, a 2.0% decrease on 2011. Decreases have been seen across all types of poultry with the exception of table chickens, which have remained at 74 million. Rising feed costs could be the cause of these falls.

Agricultural workforce (Table 12)

- The total number of people working on commercial holdings in 2012 was 307 thousand, a rise of 1.4% from 2011. The largest increase of 11% was in the number of seasonal, casual or gang workers which increased from 40 to 45 thousand between 2011 and 2012. Conversely, numbers of farmers, business partners, directors and spouses, and salaried managers saw small decreases.

Other surveys and next publications due (page 17)

Further information on the next publications due from the results of the June Agricultural Survey can be found on page 17.

Survey methodology (page 18)

For information on how the survey is run and details of data analysis and accuracy of results please see the methodology section on pages 18 and 19 at the end of this release.

Defra is extremely grateful to the many farmers who complete the June Survey questionnaire each year. The support of farmers enables the Department to produce timely figures on the latest trends which are important for the Department's business and the industry's market operations.

Detailed results

Utilised agricultural area

The utilised agricultural area includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, land used for outdoor pigs, temporary and permanent grassland and common rough grazing. The total utilised agricultural area in England saw a small increase of 0.7% between 2011 and 2012 and now stands at just over 8.9 million hectares.

Figure 1: Total utilised agricultural area at 1 June 2000 to 2012

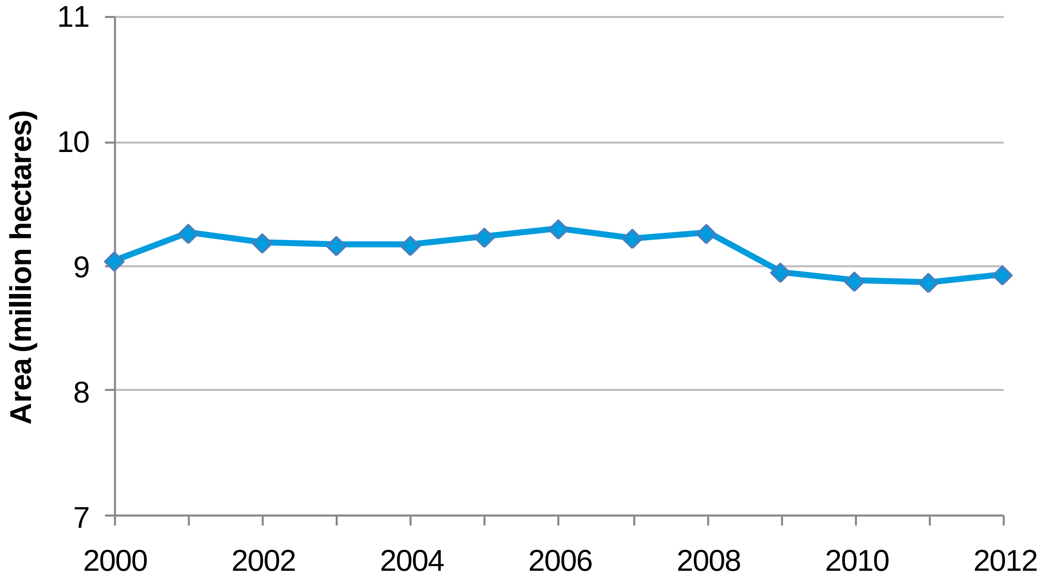


Figure 1 shows that the utilised agricultural area in England has remained stable around the 9 million hectare mark since 2000. The small drop seen between 2008 and 2009 is a result of register improvements made ahead of the 2010 Census which removed holdings that no longer have agricultural activity.

Land ownership

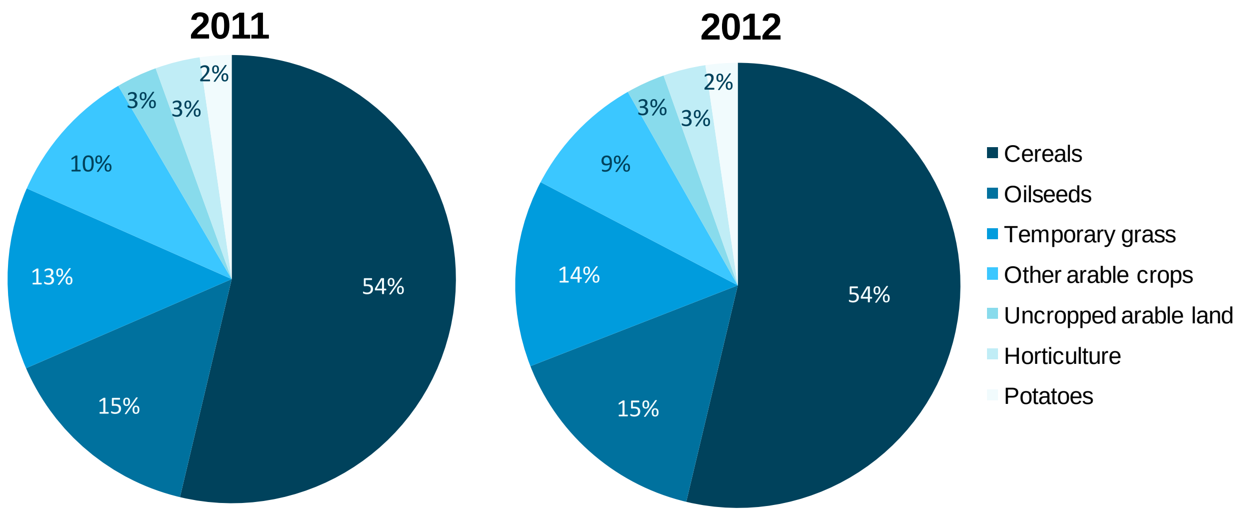
In 2012 the area of agricultural land owned increased for the first time in three years. The area now stands at just over 5.7 million hectares, similar to levels last seen in 2009. The area of land rented in for one year or more remained almost unchanged between 2011 and 2012 at 3.1 million hectares. Over half of this land is under full agricultural tenancy agreements (51%), with the rest coming under farm business tenancies (35%) and other rental agreements (14%).

Land rented in seasonally (for less than one year) such as grazing licences increased by 4.1% to the highest area seen since 2004 and now stands at 497 thousand hectares in 2012.

Croppable area

In 2012 the area of land available for cropping increased by 2.3% to 4.8 million hectares. The increases seen in the total area of crops grown and temporary grassland have more than offset the decrease in the uncropped arable land area to make this overall increase in croppable area.

Figure 2: Total croppable area at 1 June 2012 compared to 2011



The area of arable crops planted in 2012 increased by 2.1% to 3.9 million hectares and this area accounts for 81% of the total croppable area. Figure 2 shows the proportions of land that make up the croppable area remain relatively unchanged between 2011 and 2012. Cereals make up over half of this area with oilseeds and temporary grassland being the next largest areas, accounting for 15% and 14% of the croppable area in 2012 respectively.

For the third consecutive year the area of uncropped arable land has decreased and now stands at 136 thousand hectares, a reduction of 1.8% in 2012. This decrease is smaller than that predicted by the industry. However changes to the 2012 survey form meant this data was collected in a different way to previous years. Based on conversations with farmers we believe that they are now correctly recording relevant land under agri-environment schemes as 'uncropped' rather than grassland or 'other' land as in previous years.

Cereals and oilseeds

For the third year running the area of wheat in England has increased. At June 2012 the area stood at almost 1.9 million hectares, an increase of 2.2% on 2011. High prices and good returns for cereals have played a major factor in this rise.

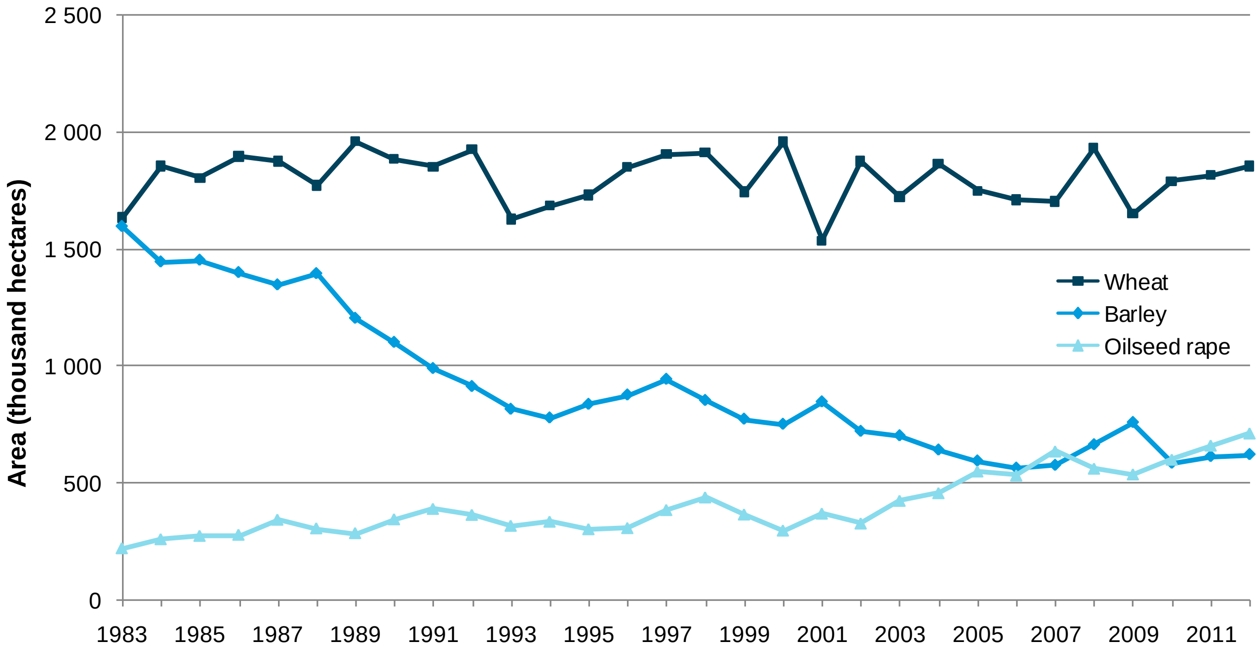
Barley has seen a 1.3% increase in area this year to 623 thousand hectares. While favourable autumn planting conditions have led to a 10% rise in the winter barley area, dry conditions in spring 2011 and 2012 may have discouraged spring barley plantings, which saw a reduction in area of 7.0%. The increase in winter barley in 2012 is contrary to the long-term declining trend seen over the past decade.

The total area of oilseed rape continued the recent upward trend rising to 713 hectares in 2012, the largest area ever seen. Oilseed rape has become extremely profitable for farmers in recent years and this, combined with excellent planting conditions for the winter variety, has led to yet another record area being grown. Prices have been driven high by the increasing popularity of rapeseed oil in cooking as its health benefits have become more widely known. While winter oilseed rape increased by 10% to

702 thousand hectares, the spring variety saw a large reduction of 52% and now stands at 11 thousand hectares. The spring droughts could have been the cause of this sharp decrease.

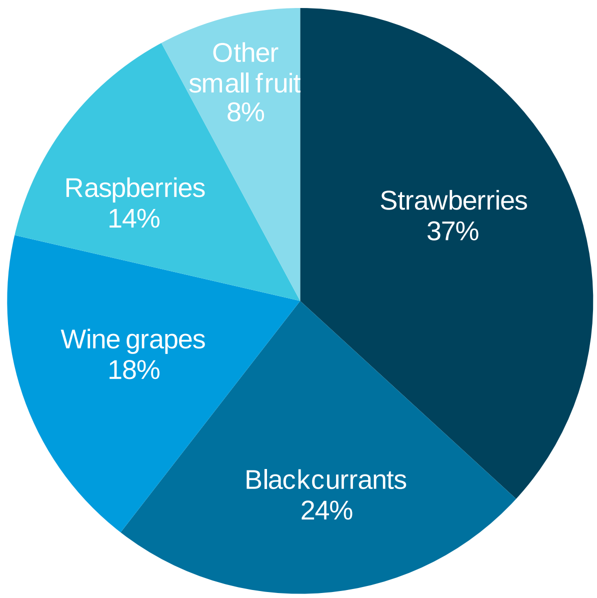
Figure 3 shows that the area of wheat has fluctuated between about 1.5 and 2.0 million hectares over the past 30 years but continues to be the most popular crop grown in England. Barley has seen a considerable decline over the same period with its area gradually being replaced by oilseed rape which has recently overtaken barley in popularity.

Figure 3: Area of wheat, barley and oilseed rape at 1 June 1983 to 2012



Fruit and vegetables

Figure 4: Breakdown of small fruit as at 1 June 2012



The total area of orchards and small fruit increased by 3.1% from 2011 to just over 30 thousand hectares in 2012. Orchards cover 22 thousand hectares and a further 8.3 thousand hectares are used to grow small fruit.

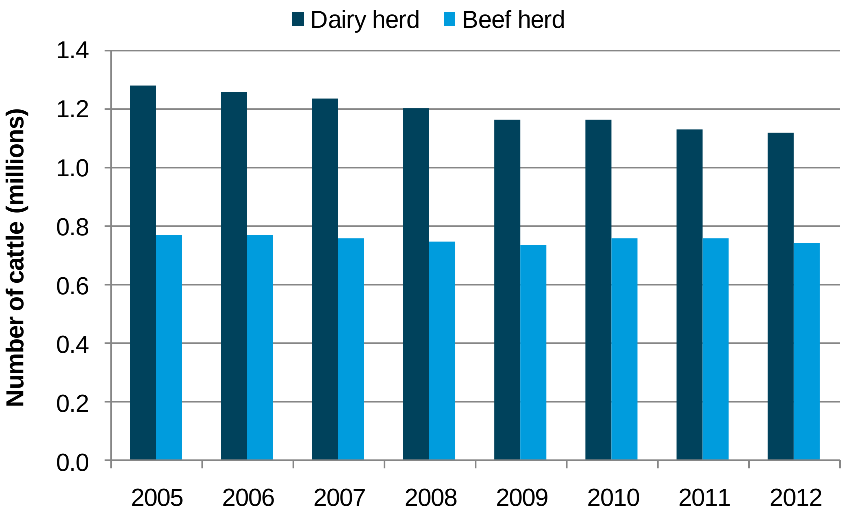
Figure 4 shows the breakdown of small fruit areas in 2012. The largest proportion of the small fruit area is used to grow strawberries (37%) with blackcurrants being the next most common small fruit crop (24%).

The area used to grow vegetables for human consumption decreased by 4.8% from 112 to 106 thousand hectares between 1 June 2011 and the same period in 2012. Decreases were seen across all of the vegetable crops with the exception of culinary plants which rose by 27%, however this is a relatively small area at 2.4 thousand hectares which only accounts for 2.3% of the total vegetable area.

Cattle

The total number of cattle and calves in England saw a small decrease in 2012 falling by 0.8% to just under 5.4 million animals. The decrease was due to the reduced number of female cattle which fell by 1.1% this year. The number of male cattle remained virtually unchanged in 2012 at almost 1.5 million.

Figure 5: Female dairy and beef herds at 1 June 2005 to 2012



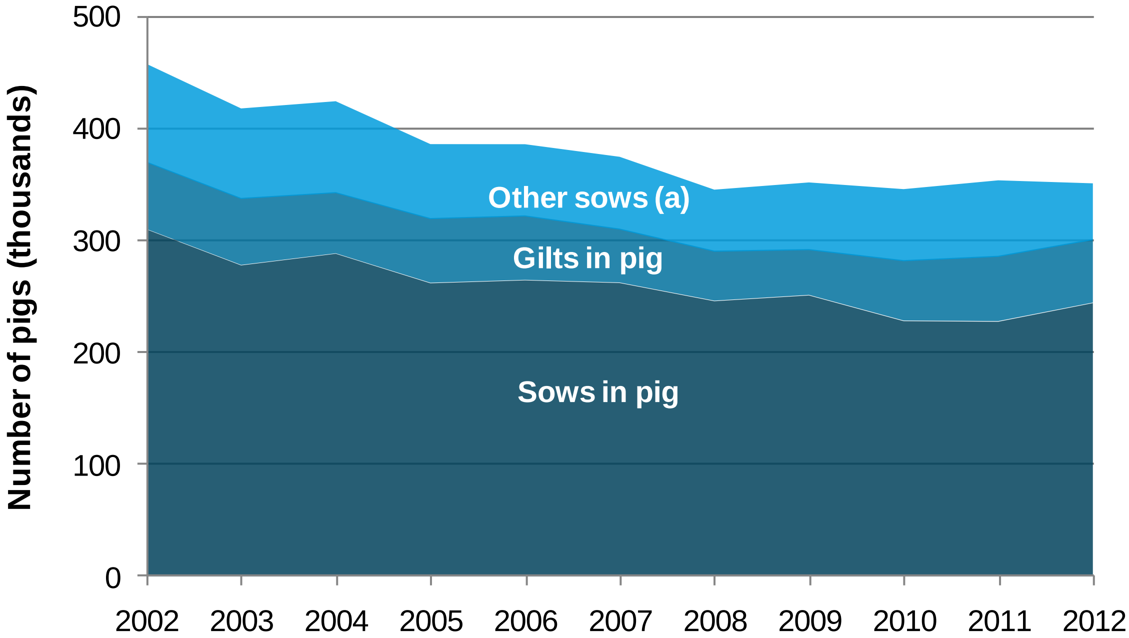
The female breeding herd is made up of dairy and beef cows over two years old with offspring. Since 2005 the breeding herd has seen a gradual decline from over 2.0 million animals to just under 1.9 million. This has largely been due to the steady decline in the dairy herd which now accounts for 60% of the total breeding herd and stands at 1.1 million. The beef herd has been far more stable. However this has also seen a decrease falling from 759 to 742 thousand between 2011 and 2012 (see figure 5).

Pigs

The total number of pigs has increased by 1.7% in 2012 to 3.7 million. While the number of fattening pigs rose by 1.8% to 3.2 million, the female breeding herd saw a 0.8% decrease to 351 thousand. A younger breeding herd has led to improvements in sow productivity therefore availability of pigs for slaughter is good, which may explain the increase in the fattening pigs. However recent high feed and input costs may start to impact on returns and some destocking is expected, which may have more impact later in 2012.

As figure 6 over the page shows the total female breeding herd has declined in numbers over the past decade, falling from 458 thousand pigs in 2002 to 351 thousand in 2012. Sows in pig account for over two thirds of the total breeding herd. Numbers of gilts in pig and other sows are broadly similar.

Figure 6: Breakdown of the female pig breeding herd 1 June 2002 to 2012



(a) Other sows are those either being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding.

Sheep

In June 2012 there were 14.6 million sheep and lambs in England, an increase of 2.0% on the same period in 2011. The increased total was largely due to the 4.3% increase seen in the breeding flock which now stands at 6.8 million. Lambs account for half of the sheep population and also saw an increase in 2012, rising by almost 45 thousand to just over 7.4 million.

On the whole, conditions have been favourable this year. A mild winter combined with a younger breeding flock, good feed availability in most regions and exports remaining strong have all contributed to the increases seen in both the breeding flock and the number of lambs.

Poultry

The total number of poultry fell by 2.0% to 118 million between 2011 and 2012. Decreases were seen across the breeding and laying flocks, ducks, geese and turkeys. Rising feed costs could be the cause of these falls. Table chickens were the only poultry category that did not decrease, remaining unchanged at 74 million.

Other livestock

The number of goats in England rose by 5.7% to 84 thousand in 2012, while horses fell by 0.9% to 215 thousand. The population of farmed deer remained unchanged at 21 thousand.

Agricultural workforce

The size of the agricultural workforce increased by 1.4% in 2012 to 307 thousand, largely due to the 11% increase in seasonal, casual or gang labour to 45 thousand. Given the nature of seasonal and casual labour, these figures have historically been more variable than the other permanent labour categories. This is highlighted by the number of farmers, business partners and spouses which only saw a very small decrease (0.6%) in 2012 to 173 thousand and the number of salaried managers which has remained at approximately 11 thousand people for the last three years.

Table 1: Summary of land use on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Utilised agricultural area [(a)]	**8 874**	**8 863**	**8 925**	**0.7**	**+/- 59**	✓✓✓
Total agricultural area	**9 315**	**9 314**	**9 384**	**0.8**	**+/- 59**	✓✓✓
Common rough grazing [(b)]	**428**	**399**	**399**	**-**	**-**	-
Total area on agricultural holdings	**8 887**	**8 915**	**8 985**	**0.8**	**+/- 59**	✓✓✓
Total croppable area	**4 654**	**4 720**	**4 828**	**2.3**	**+/- 37**	✓✓✓
Total crops	**3 918**	**3 961**	**4 036**	**1.9**	**+/- 33**	✓✓✓
Arable crops	3 773	3 809	3 887	2.1	+/- 33	✓✓✓
Cereals	2 497	2 535	2 594	2.3	+/- 26	✓✓✓
Oilseeds	644	698	742	6.3	+/- 17	✓✓✓
Potatoes	100	108	112	4.2	+/- 5	✓✓✓
Other crops	532	468	439	-6.2	+/- 9	✓✓✓
Horticultural crops	145	152	149	-2.3	+/- 6	✓✓✓
Uncropped arable land [(c) (d)]	**149**	**139**	**136**	**-1.8**	**+/- 6**	✓✓✓
Temporary grass under 5 years old	**587**	**620**	**656**	**5.8**	**+/- 14**	✓✓✓
Permanent grassland (inc. rough grazing)	**3 781**	**3 736**	**3 691**	**-1.2**	**+/- 44**	✓✓✓
Grass over 5 years old	3 288	3 239	3 208	-1.0	+/- 38	✓✓✓
Sole right rough grazing [(e)]	493	497	483	-2.7	+/- 23	✓✓✓
Other land on agricultural holdings	**452**	**459**	**466**	**1.4**	**+/- 13**	✓✓✓
Woodland	295	305	308	1.2	+/- 12	✓✓✓
Land used for outdoor pigs	10	9	7	-16.0	+/- 1	✓
All other non-agricultural land	146	146	150	3.0	+/- 5	✓✓✓

(a) Includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs (excludes woodland and other non-agricultural land).

(b) This area is now an estimate of total common land in England. The vast majority is eligible for grazing and claimed upon under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) but isn't necessarily used for grazing. The figure used in this release was revised as of 2011 based on more up to date information. This figure will remain fixed in future years.

(c) Includes all arable land not in production, including GAEC12 land, game strips, wild bird cover and game cover.

(d) In 2012 changes to the survey form meant this data was collected in a different way to previous years. Based on conversations with farmers we believe that they are now correctly recording relevant land under agri-environment schemes as 'uncropped' rather than grassland or 'other' land as in previous years.

(e) Classified as mountains, hills, heathland or moorland.

Table 2: Areas of owned and rented land on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Land owned	**5 645**	**5 627**	**5 733**	**1.9**	**+/- 50**	✓✓✓
Land rented in for 1 year or more	**3 124**	**3 147**	**3 127**	**-0.6**	**+/- 42**	✓✓✓
Full Agricultural Tenancies	1 590	1 592	1 592	0.0	+/- 25	✓✓✓
Farm Business Tenancies	1 063	1 075	1 084	0.8	+/- 28	✓✓✓
Other agreements	472	479	450	-6.1	+/- 19	✓✓✓
Seasonally rented in land [(a)]	**410**	**477**	**497**	**4.1**	**+/- 19**	✓✓✓
Seasonally let out land [(a)]	**306**	**352**	**326**	**-7.6**	**+/- 19**	✓✓

(a) Land rented for less than 1 year, including grazing licenses.

Table 3: Arable crops on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total arable crops	**3 773**	**3 809**	**3887**	**2.1**	**+/- 33**	✓✓✓
Cereals	**2 497**	**2 535**	**2 594**	**2.3**	**+/- 26**	✓✓✓
Wheat	1 792	1 817	1 856	2.2	+/- 22	✓✓✓
Barley	586	615	623	1.3	+/- 12	✓✓✓
winter	320	298	329	10.2	+/- 8	✓✓✓
spring	266	316	294	-7.0	+/- 9	✓✓✓
Oats	95	80	92	14.5	+/- 6	✓✓
Rye, mixed corn and triticale	24	24	23	-4.4	+/- 3	✓
Oilseed crops	**644**	**698**	**742**	**6.3**	**+/- 17**	✓✓✓
Oilseed rape	600	660	713	7.9	+/- 17	✓✓✓
winter	582	638	702	10.1	+/- 17	✓✓✓
spring	18	23	11	-52.5	+/- 3	△
Linseed	44	36	28	-23.5	+/- 4	✓
Borage	1	1	1	26.6	+/- 1	⊠
Potatoes	**100**	**108**	**112**	**4.2**	**+/- 5**	✓✓✓
Early crop (harvested on or before 31 July)	10	11	11	-4.2	+/- 1	✓
Main crop (harvested after 31 July)	90	96	101	5.2	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Other (non-horticultural) crops	**532**	**468**	**439**	**-6.2**	**+/- 9**	✓✓✓
Sugar beet [(a)]	118	113	120	6.5	+/- 3	✓✓✓
Field beans	161	119	91	-23.7	+/- 6	✓✓
Peas for harvesting dry	40	29	24	-18.1	+/- 3	✓
Maize [(b)]	146	147	143	-2.5	+/- 5	✓✓✓
- of which grain maize	n/c	15	9	-36.0	+/- 2	△
- of which fodder maize	n/c	132	134	1.2	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	20	19	19	1.0	+/- 2	✓✓
Leguminous forage crops	9	11	10	-6.1	+/- 2	✓
Other crops for stockfeeding	8	9	9	8.6	+/- 1	✓
All other arable crops	30	22	23	2.5	+/- 2	✓✓
- of which short rotation coppice	3	3	3	-6.2	+/- 0	✓
- of which miscanthus	9	8	8	-6.9	+/- 1	✓✓
- of which crops for aromatic or medicinal use	2	2	3	47.9	+/- 1	△

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Not for stockfeeding.

(b) Grain maize and fodder maize were previously collected as one maize item.

Table 4: Fruit and vegetables grown in the open on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total fruit and vegetables	**133**	**141**	**137**	**-3.1**	**+/- 6**	✓✓✓
Orchards [(a)]	**22**	**22**	**22**	**2.3**	**+/- 1**	✓✓✓
Small fruit [(b)]	**8.2**	**7.9**	**8.3**	**5.5**	**+/- 0.4**	✓✓
Strawberries	3.4	3.0	3.1	0.5	+/- 0.2	✓✓
Raspberries	1.0	0.9	1.1	25.9	+/- 0.1	✓
Blackcurrants	1.9	2.0	2.0	0.1	+/- 0.1	✓✓
Wine grapes	1.2	1.3	1.5	12.2	+/- 0.3	⚠
Other small fruit (inc. gooseberries and blackberries)	0.7	0.6	0.7	3.4	+/- 0.1	✓
Vegetables and salad for human consumption [(c)]	**103**	**112**	**106**	**-4.8**	**+/- 6**	✓✓
Vining peas for processing	23	27	25	-7.0	+/- 2	✓✓
Other peas and beans	3	5	4	-20.4	+/- 1	⚠
Culinary plants for human consumption (inc. herbs)	2	2	2	26.5	+/- 1	⚠
All other vegetables and salad	75	78	75	-3.8	+/- 5	✓✓
- of which carrots [(d)]	n/c	10	9	-10.0	+/- 2	✓
- of which onions [(d)]	n/c	16	14	-10.1	+/- 3	✓

n/c: Data not collected.

(a) Includes both commercial and non-commercial orchards. Commercial orchards are those from which growers intend to sell fruit.

(b) Small fruit includes crops grown in Spanish tunnels.

(c) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily food indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

(d) Carrots and onions were new categories in 2011 and were previously included in all other vegetables and salad.

Table 5: Hardy nursery stock on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	**10 366**	**9 843**	**10 748**	**9.2**	**+/- 1 014**	✓✓
Christmas trees	1 769	1 939	1 989	2.6	+/- 136	✓✓
Perennial herbaceous plants	299	283	356	26.0	+/- 95	⚠
Other hardy nursery stock	3 609	3 304	3 061	-7.4	+/- 180	✓✓
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	4 690	4 318	5 342	23.7	+/- 984	✓

Table 6: Glasshouses and protected crops on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June (a) (b)

Hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total glasshouse area on 1 June	**1 490**	**1 534**	**1 487**	**-3.0**	**+/- 46**	✓✓✓
Vegetables, salad and fruit	761	793	757	-4.6	+/- 25	✓✓✓
Flowers, foliage and other plants	556	560	554	-1.1	+/- 25	✓✓✓
Mushroom sheds (c)	7	10	9	-9.6	+/- 1	✓
Not in use on 1 June	166	171	168	-1.6	+/- 30	✓

(a) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

(b) 'Glasshouse' includes any fixed or mobile structure high enough to walk through, which is glazed or clad with film, rigid plastics or other glass substitutes. It excludes lights, low plastic tunnels, French and Spanish tunnels. These are reported as crops grown in the open (table 4).

(c) Due to the smaller sample sizes in 2011 and 2012 and the relatively small number of producers these results should be treated with caution.

Table 7: Cattle and calves on agricultural holdings on 1 June [(a)]

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total cattle and calves	**5 542**	**5 416**	**5 373**	**-0.8**
All female cattle	**3 984**	**3 925**	**3 882**	**-1.1**
Aged 2 years or more	**2 405**	**2 343**	**2 286**	**-2.4**
Total breeding herd	1 916	1 888	1 863	-1.3
- Beef herd	756	759	742	-2.2
- Dairy herd	1 160	1 129	1 121	-0.7
Other female cattle	489	455	423	-7.0
- Beef	236	200	182	-9.0
- Dairy	252	255	241	-5.5
Aged between 1 and 2 years	**764**	**749**	**764**	**2.0**
- Beef	446	430	436	1.3
- Dairy	319	319	328	2.9
Less than 1 year	**815**	**833**	**832**	**-0.1**
- Beef	485	495	494	-0.3
- Dairy	330	337	338	0.2
All male cattle	**1 557**	**1 490**	**1 491**	**0.0**
Aged 2 years or more	237	205	196	-4.4
Aged between 1 and 2 years	578	565	554	-1.9
Less than 1 year	743	720	741	2.8

(a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error.

Table 8: Pigs on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total pigs	**3 606**	**3 600**	**3 662**	**1.7**	**+/- 166**	✓✓✓
Breeding pigs	**423**	**433**	**437**	**0.9**	**+/- 23**	✓✓
Female breeding herd	**346**	**354**	**351**	**-0.8**	**+/- 21**	✓✓
Sows in pig	228	227	244	7.3	+/- 20	✓✓
Gilts in pig	54	58	57	-2.8	+/- 6	✓
Other sows [(a)]	64	68	51	-25.8	+/- 5	✓✓
Other breeding pigs	**77**	**79**	**85**	**8.5**	**+/- 7**	✓✓
Boars being used for service	14	14	14	-1.5	+/- 1	✓✓
Gilts intended for first time breeding	63	65	72	10.6	+/- 7	✓✓
Fattening pigs (inc. barren sows)	**3 183**	**3 167**	**3 225**	**1.8**	**+/- 164**	✓✓

(a) Either being suckled or dry sows being kept for further breeding.

Table 9: Sheep and lambs on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidenc e interval	Indicator
Total sheep and lambs	**14 240**	**14 326**	**14 612**	**2.0**	**+/- 154**	✓✓✓
Female breeding flock	**6 447**	**6 553**	**6 833**	**4.3**	**+/- 97**	✓✓✓
Ewes intended for further breeding	5 257	5 313	5 446	2.5	+/- 85	✓✓✓
Breeding ewes intended for slaughter	334	338	345	2.1	+/- 22	✓✓
Ewes intended for first time breeding	856	902	1 042	15.5	+/- 41	✓✓✓
Other sheep and lambs	**7 793**	**7 773**	**7 779**	**0.1**	**+/- 119**	✓✓✓
Lambs under 1 years old	7 296	7 370	7 415	0.6	+/- 116	✓✓✓
Rams	160	168	178	5.6	+/- 5	✓✓✓
Other sheep 1 year and over	337	234	186	-20.4	+/- 26	✓

Table 10: Poultry on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June [(a)]

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total poultry	**125 173**	**120 291**	**117 931**	**-2.0**	**+/- 2 406**	✓✓✓
Total breeding and laying fowl	**35 630**	**35 166**	**33 509**	**-4.7**	**+/- 1 855**	✓✓
Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating	28 499	28 142	26 626	-5.4	+/- 1 827	✓✓
Breeding flock	7 131	7 024	6 883	-2.0	+/- 324	✓✓✓
Table chickens (broilers)	**78 788**	**74 441**	**74 272**	**-0.2**	**+/- 1 456**	✓✓✓
Other poultry	**10 755**	**10 684**	**10 150**	**-5.0**	**+/- 478**	✓✓✓
Ducks	2 358	2 266	2 185	-3.6	+/- 158	✓✓
Geese	122	107	88	-17.1	+/- 8	✓✓
Turkeys	3 620	3 549	3 349	-5.6	+/- 171	✓✓
All other poultry	4 655	4 762	4 528	-4.9	+/- 417	✓✓

(a) Due to production cycles, subgroups within the poultry population are often volatile as the “point in time” nature of the June Survey can lead to large variations in the numbers in each category.

Table 11: All other livestock on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total other livestock	**330**	**334**	**339**	**1.6**	**+/- 10**	✓✓✓
Goats	79	79	84	5.7	+/- 7	✓✓
Farmed deer	21	21	21	0.2	+/- 3	✓
Horses	214	217	215	-0.9	+/- 6	✓✓✓
Any livestock not recorded elsewhere [(a)]	17	17	19	16.5	+/- 3	✓
- of which alpacas	10	13	13	1.5	+/- 3	⍓
- of which llamas	1	1	2	89.2	+/- 1	⍓

(a) Includes camelids, donkeys, mules and hinnies.

Table 12: Number of people working on commercial agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	June 2012 confidence interval	Indicator
Total number of people working on commercial agricultural holdings	**293**	**303**	**307**	**1.4**	**+/- 3**	✓✓✓
Farmers, partners, directors and spouses	**170**	**174**	**173**	**-0.6**	**+/- 2**	✓✓✓
Full time	86	88	89	1.2	+/- 1	✓✓✓
Part time [(a)]	85	86	84	-2.5	+/- 1	✓✓✓
Salaried managers	**11**	**11**	**11**	**-1.4**	**+/- 1**	✓✓✓
Full time	8	8	8	-2.7	+/- 0	✓✓✓
Part time [(a)]	3	3	3	2.4	+/- 0	✓
Regular and casual workers	**112**	**118**	**123**	**4.7**	**+/- 3**	✓✓✓
Regular workers	**75**	**77**	**78**	**1.3**	**+/- 2**	✓✓✓
- Full time	47	48	49	0.8	+/- 2	✓✓✓
- Part time [(a)]	28	29	30	2.0	+/- 1	✓✓✓
Casual workers	**37**	**40**	**45**	**11.2**	**+/- 2**	✓✓✓
- Male	24	27	30	11.9	+/- 2	✓✓
- Female	13	14	15	9.8	+/- 1	✓✓

(a) Part-time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week.

Other survey results and publications

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website via the following link: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/. This also contains details of future publication dates. The next Farming Statistics publication due from the June Survey of Agriculture and the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey is:

UK publication

Farming Statistics final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce

Contents:	Areas of all arable and horticultural crops Cereal and oilseed rape production and yield estimates Grassland area Owned and rented land areas All livestock populations Labour numbers
Publication date:	20 December 2012

Provisional results of crops areas, yield, production and livestock populations for the UK were published on the 15 October 2012 and can be found via the following link: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/.

More detailed results from the June Survey can be found at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/junesurvey/junesurveyresults/. This includes various time series of crop areas and livestock numbers dating back as early as 1866 and detailed geographical breakdowns of the results.

Survey methodology

Full details of the survey methodology are available on the website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/aboutfarmstats/. A summary is given below.

The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture is historically a postal survey run annually. However in 2011 the survey was run predominantly online with an option for farmers to complete a paper form if they preferred. This method was repeated in 2012 and is likely to continue for future years.

Approximately 30 thousand 'commercial' holdings were asked to complete the survey in 2012. Commercial holdings are defined as those with significant levels of farming activity, i.e. holdings with more than five hectares of agricultural land, one hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry.

Checks were carried out to ensure the sample was representative across farm size. The size of a farm is determined by its Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). In the SLR system, each livestock type and land-use has a theoretical amount of labour required each year. This value is multiplied by the land area or livestock number and then summed to give the SLR for the holding. The SLR represents the typical number of full time workers required on the holding.

The small farms (those with low SLRs) were sampled at a low rate and the sampling rate increased with farm size as in table 13 below. This method minimises the burden on farmers whilst maximising the coverage. To improve the coverage of the pig and poultry sectors, a special data collection exercise was run to collect data from a central point for some of the largest companies.

Table 13: June 2012 sample design

Stratum	Description	Sampling rate (%)	Population size
1	SLR < 0.5	14	47 535
2	SLR >= 0.5 and < 1	18	15 261
3	SLR >= 1 and < 2	30	16 143
4	SLR >= 2 and < 3	46	8 670
5	SLR >= 3 and < 5	60	8 330
6	SLR >= 5	73	7 892
10	SLR unknown	32	3 081
All		**28**	**106 912**

The results in this statistical release are based on responses from 20 thousand commercial holdings, representing a response rate of 67%.

Cattle results are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error. More information on the use of this administrative data can be found on the "About Farming Statistics" web page via the UK Bovine Registers link:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/aboutfarmstats/.

Data analysis

The data are subject to rigorous validation checks which identify inconsistencies within the data or large year-on-year changes. Any records that have not been cleaned by the results production stage are excluded from the analysis.

Population totals are estimated for each question on the survey to account for the non-sampled and non-responding holdings. This survey uses the technique known as ratio raising in which the trend between the sample data and base data (previous year's data) is calculated for each stratum. The calculated ratio is then applied to the previous year's population data to give England level estimates. For holdings where we do not have base data (new holdings or long-term non-responders) the sample estimates are raised according to the inverse sampling fraction.

Confidence indicators

We calculate the standard error for all our estimated figures. The standard error is a measure of the variation in the data. Typically, large estimates also have large standard errors. The standard error divided by the estimated total gives the relative standard error (RSE). This is expressed as a percentage and is easier to interpret than the standard error. Low RSEs indicate greater reliability in the figures, whereas estimates with high RSEs should be treated with caution.

Tick based confidence indicators have been shown against the June 2012 figures, ranging from 3 ticks (good) to 1 cross (poor). The ranges relate to the relative standard errors (RSE) as follows:

✓✓✓	RSE <2.5%
✓✓	RSE 2.5-5%
✓	RSE 5-10%
⍓	RSE 10-20%
☒	RSE >20%

We have also shown confidence intervals against the figures. They are based on the standard error multiplied by 1.96 which gives a 95% confidence interval. We are 95% confident that the true value lies within this range either side of the estimate. The standard errors only give an indication of the sampling error. They do not take into account any other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias or administrative data errors.

Data notes

- All figures in tables 1 to 12 relate to commercial holdings only. Further details can be seen in the methodology section above.
- All percentage changes are based on unrounded figures.
- Totals may not necessarily agree with the sum of their components due to rounding.