



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Published 18 September 2014

Farming Statistics

Final crop area and cattle, sheep and pig populations At 1 June 2014 - England

This release contains the final estimates of crop areas and livestock numbers on commercial agricultural holdings in England on 1 June 2014. The results in this release are final and will not be updated. Results are not yet available for the areas of owned and rented land, poultry, horses, goats, farmed deer, camelids and labour numbers. These will be published on 30 October 2014.

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 16. The key results are given below.

Agricultural land use and ownership ([Tables 1-2](#))

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) in England remained almost unchanged between 2013 and 2014 and stands at 9.0 million hectares. The total croppable area accounts for just over half (54%) of UAA and decreased by 0.8% to 4.8 million hectares in 2014. Permanent grassland accounts for an additional 42% of UAA and was 3.7 million hectares in 2014, virtually unchanged since 2013.

Estimates of the areas of land owned and rented will be published on 30 October 2014.

Crops ([Tables 3-6](#))

The June arable crop areas show large changes between 2013 and 2014. Last year's terrible weather conditions left many farmers unable to plant winter sown crops. Failed crops due to pests and water-logged fields also contributed to the changes seen between crop categories in 2013. This resulted in some farmers planting spring sown crops instead of winter crops and others leaving more arable land out of production.

As a result of improved weather conditions this year, farmers have been able to once again plant crops on land that had to be left out of production in 2013. This has led to a 38% decrease in the area of uncropped arable land which fell from 237 thousand hectares in 2013 to 146 thousand hectares in 2014. The area of land used for cereal crops saw a 5.7% increase in 2014 and now stands at 2.6 million hectares. The ratios between winter and spring sown crops have also returned to more typical levels seen prior to 2013.

The area of horticultural crops was little changed this year and accounts for 139 thousand hectares of land.

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Cattle ([Table 7](#))

The total number of cattle and calves in England is just under 5.4 million in June 2014, showing little change since 2013. The total breeding herd increased by 1.1% to almost 1.9 million in 2014. This was due to a 2.6% increase in the dairy herd which now stands at just over 1.1 million. The beef herd decreased by 1.3% to 710 thousand.

Pigs ([Table 8](#))

The total number of pigs in England decreased by 2.8% to just under 4.0 million animals in 2014. Breeding and fattening pigs both saw decreases in 2014 falling by 5.3% and 2.5% respectively.

Sheep ([Table 9](#))

The total number of sheep and lambs increased by 3.1% from 14.9 million in 2013 to 15.4 million in 2014. The female breeding flock remained almost unchanged at 7.1 million whereas the number of lambs increased by 6.5% to 7.9 million.

Poultry ([Table 10](#))

Estimates of the poultry population will be published on 30 October 2014.

Other livestock ([Table 11](#))

The 2014 estimates of the number of horses, goats, farmed deer and camelids in England will be published on 30 October 2014.

Agricultural workforce ([Table 12](#))

The size of the agricultural workforce in England will be published on 30 October 2014.

Survey methodology ([Pages 16-17](#))

For information on how the survey is run and details of data analysis and accuracy of results please see the methodology section on pages 16 and 17 at the end of this release.

Other surveys and next publications due ([Page 18](#))

Further information on the next publications due from the results of the June Agricultural Survey can be found on page 18. This includes both England and UK publications.

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 remained almost unchanged between 2013 and 2014 and stands at 9 million hectares.

Figure 1: Total utilised agricultural area at 1 June 2000 to 2014

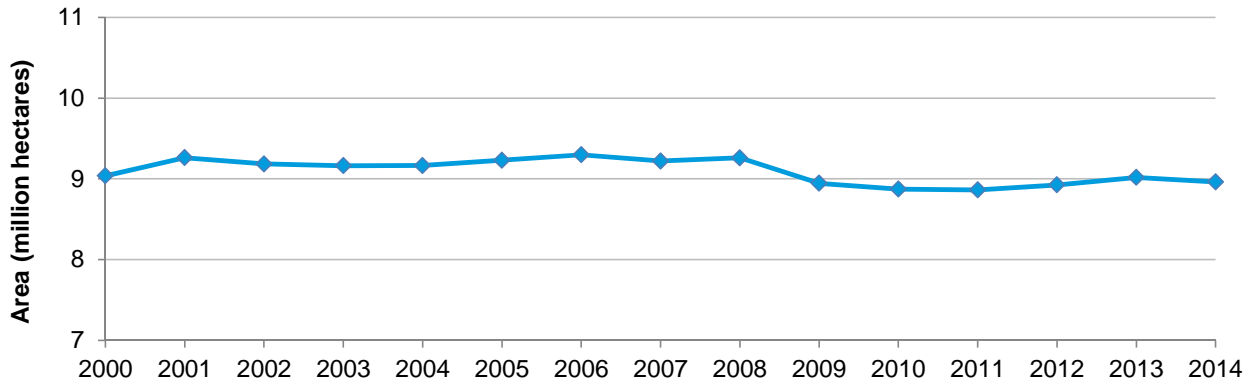


Figure 1 shows that the utilised agricultural area in England has remained stable around the 9 million hectare mark since 2000. The small drop seen between 2008 and 2009 is a result of register improvements made ahead of the 2010 Census which removed holdings that no longer have agricultural activity.

Croppable area

The area of land available for cropping decreased by 0.8% to just over 4.8 million hectares in 2014. The croppable area consists of cereals, oilseeds, potatoes, other arable crops, horticultural crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grassland.

Figure 2: Total croppable area at 1 June 2014 compared to 2013

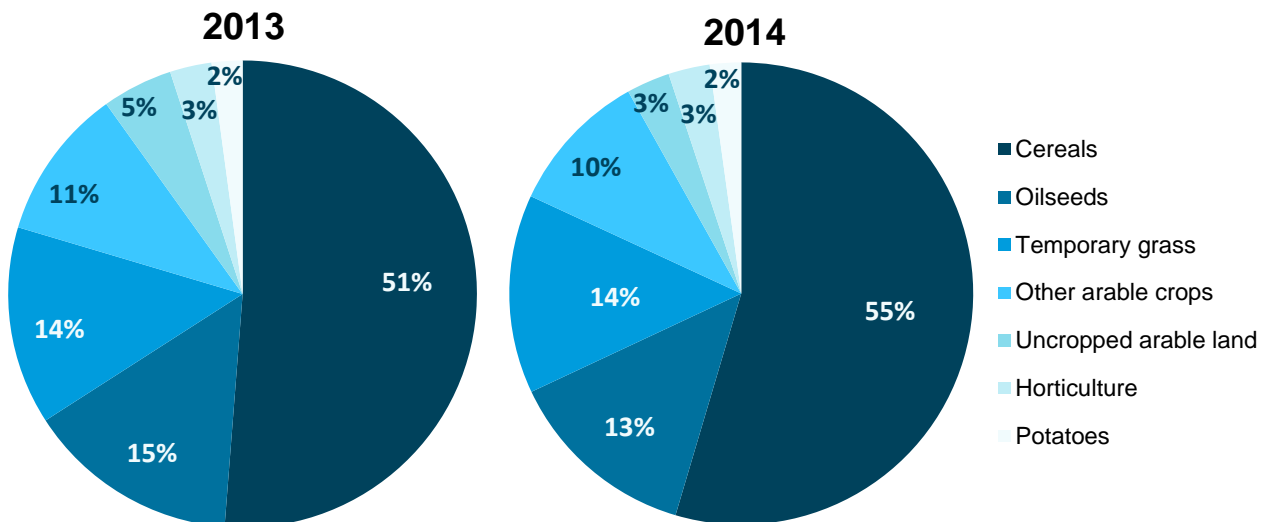


Figure 2 on the previous page shows that on the whole the proportion of croppable land used for each purpose remained similar between 2013 and 2014; however some categories did see large value changes. In particular the area of uncropped arable land fell by 38% to 146 thousand hectares. This followed a large increase in area in 2013 when many farmers left land uncropped as a result of the terrible weather conditions. In 2014 the improved weather conditions meant many farmers have once again been able to plant crops on land previously left out of production.

Cereals and oilseeds

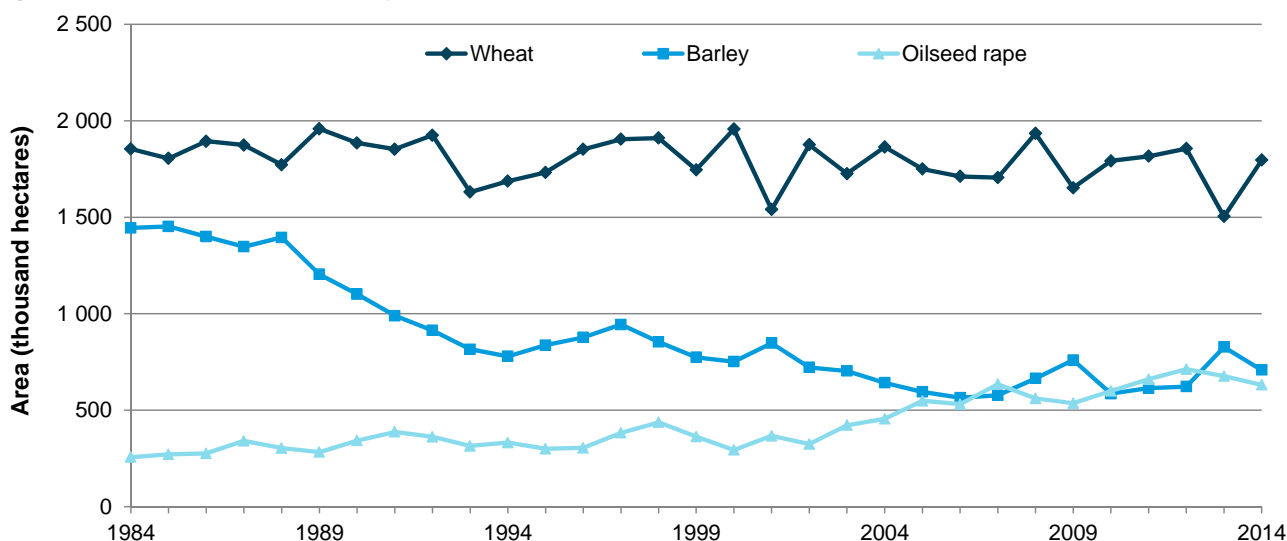
As mentioned above the difficult weather conditions in 2013 saw many farmers either leaving land out of production or planting spring sown crops instead of winter sown crops when possible. This year has seen a return to areas more consistent with previous years, before the large changes seen in 2013.

With the improved weather conditions the area of cereal crops increased by 5.7% to 2.6 million hectares in June 2014. However the area of oilseed crops decreased by 9.1% from 714 thousand hectares in 2013 to 648 thousand hectares in 2014.

Figure 3 shows that the area of wheat has fluctuated between approximately 1.5 and 2.0 million hectares over the past 30 years. After the difficulties last year the wheat area recovered in 2014, increasing by 19% to 1.8 million hectares. Wheat continues to be the most popular crop grown in England.

The total barley area also saw a large change in 2014, decreasing by 14% from 828 thousand hectares in 2013 to 709 thousand hectares. The overall fall in the total barley area was due to a 39% decrease in the spring sown area which more than offset the 41% increase in the winter sown area. Following the sharp changes seen in 2013 due to weather the ratio between winter and spring sown barley has returned to an almost 50/50 split in 2014. This is consistent with recent years prior to 2013.

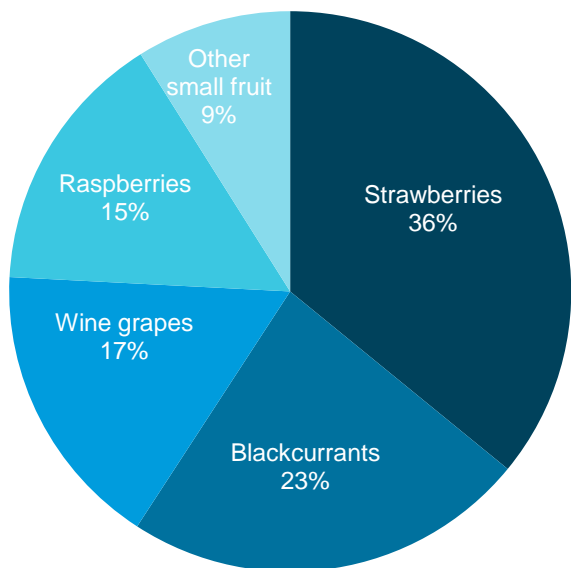
Figure 3: Area of wheat, barley and oilseed rape at 1 June 1984 to 2014



The total area of oilseed rape fell for the second year running, decreasing by 6.6% from 676 thousand hectares in 2013 to 632 thousand hectares in 2014. The spring sown area of oilseed decreased by 86%, however this was a return to a more typical area of 13 thousand hectares following the large increase seen in 2013. Conversely the area of winter sown oilseed increased between 2013 and 2014, rising by 5.9% to 618 thousand hectares.

Fruit and vegetables

Figure 4: Breakdown of small fruit as at 1 June 2014



The total area of orchards and small fruit was unchanged between June 2013 and 2014 at just under 30 thousand hectares. Orchards account for 72% of this total and cover 21 thousand hectares in 2014.

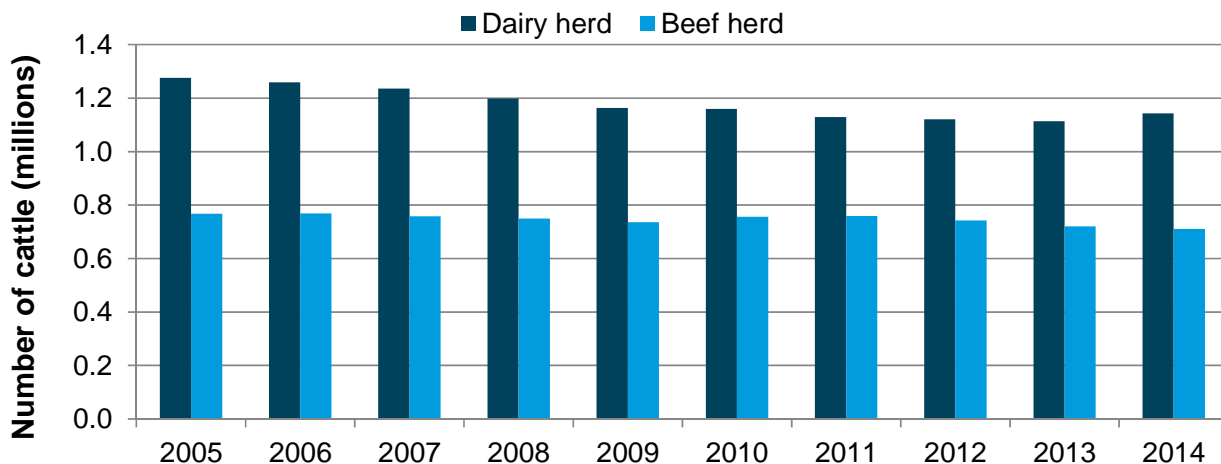
The remaining area of 8.5 thousand hectares is used to grow small fruit. Figure 4 shows the breakdown of small fruit areas in 2014. The largest proportion of the small fruit area is used to grow strawberries (36%) with blackcurrants being the next most common small fruit crop (23%).

The area used to grow vegetables for human consumption also remained virtually unchanged between 2013 and 2014 and stands at 98 thousand hectares. The majority (66%) of this area is used to grow other vegetables and salad. This area decreased by 2.5% to 64 thousand hectares in 2014. The second largest area is vining peas which increased by 5.5% and offset the fall in other vegetables and salad.

Cattle

The total number of cattle and calves in England remained almost unchanged between 2013 and 2014 and stands at just under 5.4 million animals. The female breeding herd accounts for just over a third of this total.

Figure 5: Female dairy and beef herds at 1 June 2005 to 2014

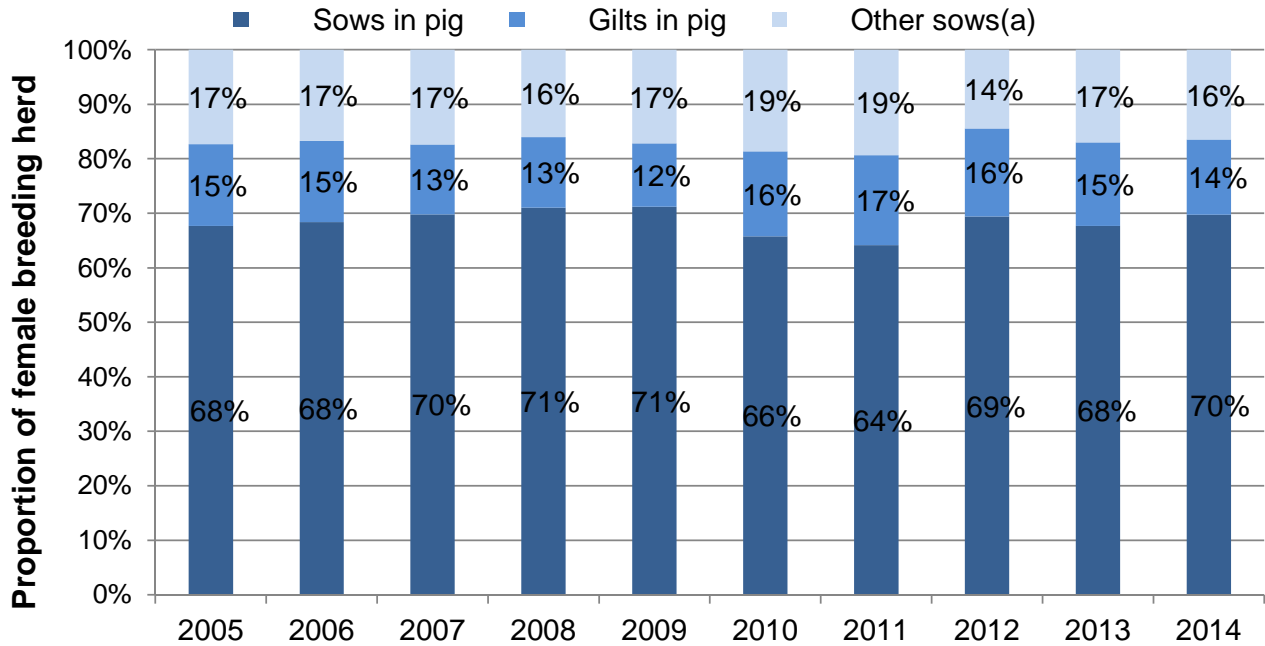


In recent years the breeding herd has been steadily decreasing from just over 2.0 million in 2005 to 1.8 million in 2013. However in 2014 the breeding herd increased by 1.1% to almost 1.9 million. The dairy herd accounts for 62% of the breeding herd and increased by 2.6% in 2014. The beef herd decreased by 1.3% from 720 thousand in 2013 to 710 thousand in 2014 (figure 5).

Pigs

The total number of pigs in England decreased by 2.8% from 4.1 million animals in 2013 to 4.0 million in 2014. This decrease was driven by a 2.5% fall in the number of fattening pigs which account for 90% of all pigs.

Figure 6: Breakdown of the female pig breeding herd 1 June 2005 to 2014



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

The female breeding herd decreased by 4.8% to 329 thousand pigs in 2014. Figure 6 above shows how the female breeding herd is made up. Other breeding pigs also decreased in 2014, falling from 88 thousand in 2013 to 82 thousand in 2014. The result was an overall decrease of 5.3% in the total number of breeding pigs.

Sheep

With better seasonal conditions, good feed availability and improved lambing rates, the total number of sheep and lambs in June 2014 is 15.4 million animals, an increase of 3.1% compared to June 2013. With a stable female breeding flock, the increase was largely due to the greater number of lambs, which rose by 6.5% to 7.9 million animals.

Results tables

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

	Thousand hectares					
	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Utilised agricultural area ^(a)	8 925	9 018	8 963	-0.6	+/- 55	✓✓✓
Total agricultural area	9 384	9 485	9 432	-0.6	+/- 55	✓✓✓
Common rough grazing ^(b)	399	399	399	0.0	-	-
Total area on agricultural holdings	8 985	9 086	9 033	-0.6	+/- 55	✓✓✓
Total croppable area	4 828	4 865	4 827	-0.8	+/- 38	✓✓✓
Total crops	4 036	3 960	4 010	1.2	+/- 36	✓✓✓
Arable crops	3 887	3 820	3 870	1.3	+/- 35	✓✓✓
Cereals	2 594	2 492	2 634	5.7	+/- 29	✓✓✓
Oilseeds	742	714	648	-9.1	+/- 16	✓✓✓
Potatoes	112	103	105	1.7	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Other crops	439	511	482	-5.6	+/- 11	✓✓✓
Horticultural crops	149	140	139	-0.3	+/- 5	✓✓✓
Uncropped arable land ^(c)	136	237	146	-38.4	+/- 7	✓✓✓
Temporary grass under 5 years old	656	668	671	0.5	+/- 12	✓✓✓
Permanent grassland (incl. rough grazing)	3 691	3 745	3 728	-0.4	+/- 37	✓✓✓
Grass over 5 years old	3 208	3 273	3 252	-0.6	+/- 32	✓✓✓
Sole right rough grazing ^(d)	483	472	476	0.9	+/- 19	✓✓
Other land on agricultural holdings	466	476	477	0.2	+/- 12	✓✓✓
Woodland	308	325	331	2.0	+/- 11	✓✓✓
Land used for outdoor pigs	7	9	8	-7.1	+/- 1	✓
All other non-agricultural land	150	142	138	-3.3	+/- 6	✓✓✓

(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 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 area was last revised in 2011.

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

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

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

	Thousand hectares					
	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Land owned	5 733	5 796	tba			
Land rented in for 1 year or more	3 127	3 146	tba			
Full Agricultural Tenancies	1 592	1 565	tba			
Farm Business Tenancies	1 084	1 123	tba			
Other agreements	450	458	tba			
Seasonally rented in land ^(a)	497	499	tba			
Seasonally let out land ^(a)	326	345	tba			

tba: to be announced. Estimates for owned and rented land areas will be published on 30 October 2014. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

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

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

Thousand hectares

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total arable crops	3 887	3 820	3 870	1.3	+/- 35	✓✓✓
Cereals	2 594	2 492	2 634	5.7	+/- 29	✓✓✓
Wheat	1 856	1 505	1 797	19.4	+/- 25	✓✓✓
Barley	623	828	709	-14.4	+/- 14	✓✓✓
winter	329	257	363	41.4	+/- 11	✓✓✓
spring	294	571	345	-39.5	+/- 9	✓✓✓
Oats	92	138	105	-24.3	+/- 6	✓✓
Rye, mixed corn and triticale	23	22	24	11.8	+/- 3	✓
Oilseed crops	742	714	648	-9.1	+/- 16	✓✓✓
Oilseed rape	713	676	632	-6.6	+/- 16	✓✓✓
winter	702	584	618	5.9	+/- 16	✓✓✓
spring	11	92	13	-85.5	+/- 3	☒
Linseed	28	34	15	-57.9	+/- 2	✓
Borage	1	3	2	-18.2	+/- 1	☒
Potatoes	112	103	105	1.7	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Early crop (harvested on or before 31 July)	11	11	10	-4.9	+/- 1	✓
Main crop (harvested after 31 July)	101	92	95	2.5	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Other (non-horticultural) crops	439	511	482	-5.6	+/- 11	✓✓✓
Sugar beet ^(a)	120	117	116	-0.6	+/- 3	✓✓✓
Field beans	91	115	103	-10.0	+/- 6	✓✓
Peas for harvesting dry	24	28	31	8.0	+/- 4	✓
Maize ^(b)	143	182	171	-5.9	+/- 7	✓✓✓
- of which grain maize	9	11	7	-36.7	+/- 2	☒
- of which fodder maize	134	171	135	-21.1	+/- 5	✓✓✓
- of which maize for anaerobic digestion	nc	nc	29	na	+/- 4	✓
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	19	26	21	-18.3	+/- 2	✓✓
Leguminous forage crops	10	12	11	-4.1	+/- 1	✓
Other crops for stockfeeding	9	8	9	12.3	+/- 1	✓
All other arable crops	23	23	20	-15.9	+/- 2	✓
- of which short rotation coppice	3	3	3	7.5	+/- 0	✓✓
- of which miscanthus	8	7	7	-0.9	+/- 1	✓✓
- of which crops for aromatic or medicinal use	3	3	3	-4.6	+/- 1	☒

nc: not collected

na: not available

(a) Not for stockfeeding.

(b) Maize for anaerobic digestion was added as a new category in 2014. The percentage changes for grain maize and fodder maize should be treated with caution as maize for anaerobic digestions could have been classed as grain or fodder maize in 2013.

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

Thousand hectares

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total fruit and vegetables	137	128	128	-0.3	+/- 5	✓✓✓
Orchards ^(a)	22	21	21	0.2	+/- 1	✓✓✓
Small fruit ^(b)	8.3	8.6	8.5	-1.4	+/- 0.3	✓✓✓
Strawberries	3.1	3.3	3.0	-7.9	+/- 0.2	✓✓
Raspberries	1.1	1.2	1.3	4.6	+/- 0.1	✓✓✓
Blackcurrants	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.5	+/- 0.1	✓✓✓
Wine grapes	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.8	+/- 0.1	✓
Other small fruit (incl. gooseberries and blackberries)	0.7	0.7	0.8	3.4	+/- 0.1	✓
Vegetables and salad for human consumption ^(c)	106	98	98	-0.3	+/- 5	✓✓
Vining peas for processing	25	25	27	5.5	+/- 3	✓
Other peas and beans	4	4	4	-4.0	+/- 1	✓
Culinary plants for human consumption (incl. herbs)	2	3	3	3.0	+/- 1	☒
All other vegetables and salad	75	66	64	-2.5	+/- 4	✓✓
- of which carrots	9	8	8	-0.1	+/- 1	✓
- of which onions	14	14	12	-13.6	+/- 2	✓

(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 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.

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

Hectares

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	10 748	10 322	10 287	-0.3	+/- 427	✓✓✓
Christmas trees	1 989	1 973	1 890	-4.2	+/- 200	✓
Perennial herbaceous plants	356	420	398	-5.3	+/- 73	✓
Other hardy nursery stock	3 061	2 766	2 747	-0.7	+/- 188	✓✓
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	5 342	5 163	5 253	1.7	+/- 319	✓✓

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

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total glasshouse area on 1 June	1 487	1 434	1 387	-3.2	+/- 66	✓✓✓
Vegetables, salad and fruit	757	761	737	-3.1	+/- 29	✓✓✓
Flowers, foliage and other plants	554	545	520	-4.5	+/- 54	✓
Mushroom sheds	9	4	6	35.3	+/- 2	☒
Not in use on 1 June	168	124	124	0.5	+/- 25	☒

(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).

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

	Thousands			
	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13
Total cattle and calves	5 373	5 364	5 374	0.2
All female cattle	3 882	3 855	3 871	0.4
Aged 2 years or more	2 286	2 273	2 303	1.3
Total breeding herd	1 863	1 833	1 853	1.1
- Beef herd	742	720	710	-1.3
- Dairy herd	1 121	1 113	1 143	2.6
Other female cattle	423	439	450	2.5
- Beef	182	205	212	3.6
- Dairy	241	235	238	1.5
Aged between 1 and 2 years	764	777	751	-3.3
- Beef	436	450	426	-5.1
- Dairy	328	327	325	-0.7
Less than 1 year	832	805	816	1.4
- Beef	494	469	476	1.4
- Dairy	338	336	341	1.4
All male cattle	1 491	1 509	1 503	-0.4
Aged 2 years or more	196	214	237	10.8
Aged between 1 and 2 years	554	581	554	-4.7
Less than 1 year	741	714	712	-0.3

(a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). Confidence intervals and confidence indicators are not appropriate for this table as 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

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total pigs	3 662	4 066	3 954	-2.8	+/- 157	✓✓✓
Breeding pigs	437	434	411	-5.3	+/- 17	✓✓✓
Female breeding herd	351	346	329	-4.8	+/- 13	✓✓✓
Sows in pig	244	234	230	-2.0	+/- 13	✓✓
Gilts in pig	57	53	46	-14.1	+/- 2	✓✓✓
Other sows ^(a)	51	59	54	-7.8	+/- 3	✓✓
Other breeding pigs	85	88	82	-6.9	+/- 10	✓
Boars being used for service	14	13	12	-5.3	+/- 1	✓✓
Gilts intended for first time breeding	72	75	70	-7.2	+/- 10	✓
Fattening pigs (incl. barren sows)	3 225	3 632	3 542	-2.5	+/- 157	✓✓✓

(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

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total sheep and lambs	14 612	14 922	15 389	3.1	+/- 135	✓✓✓
Female breeding flock	6 833	7 091	7 115	0.3	+/- 78	✓✓✓
Ewes intended for further breeding	5 446	5 535	5 605	1.3	+/- 66	✓✓✓
Breeding ewes intended for slaughter	345	447	448	0.3	+/- 26	✓✓
Ewes intended for first time breeding	1 042	1 109	1 062	-4.2	+/- 33	✓✓✓
Other sheep and lambs	7 779	7 831	8 274	5.7	+/- 110	✓✓✓
Lambs under 1 years old	7 415	7 448	7 936	6.5	+/- 109	✓✓✓
Rams	178	179	185	3.3	+/- 4	✓✓✓
Other sheep 1 year and over	186	204	154	-24.5	+/- 14	✓✓

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

	Thousands					
	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total poultry	117 931	120 504	tba			
Total breeding and laying fowl	33 509	33 349	tba			
Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating	26 626	25 856	tba			
Breeding flock	6 883	7 493	tba			
Table chickens (broilers)	74 272	76 999	tba			
Other poultry	10 150	10 156	tba			
Ducks	2 185	2 238	tba			
Geese	88	82	tba			
Turkeys	3 349	3 738	tba			
All other poultry	4 528	4 098	tba			

tba: to be announced. Estimates for poultry numbers will be published on 30 October 2014. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

(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 ^(a)

	Thousands					
	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Indicator
Total other livestock	339	317	tba			
Goats	84	80	tba			
Farmed deer	21	22	tba			
Horses	215	194	tba			
Any livestock not recorded elsewhere ^(a)	19	21	tba			
- of which alpacas	13	10	tba			
- of which llamas	2	1	tba			

tba: to be announced. Estimates for other livestock numbers will be published on 30 October 2014. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

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

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

	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014-13	June 2014 confidence interval	Thousands Indicator
Total number of people working on commercial agricultural holdings	307	296	tba			
Farmers, partners, directors and spouses	173	172	tba			
Full time	89	88	tba			
Part time ^(a)	84	83	tba			
Salaried managers	11	11	tba			
Full time	8	8	tba			
Part time ^(a)	3	3	tba			
Regular and casual workers	123	113	tba			
Regular workers	78	74	tba			
- Full time	49	47	tba			
- Part time ^(a)	30	28	tba			
Casual workers	45	39	tba			
- Male	30	22	tba			
- Female	15	17	tba			

tba: to be announced. Estimates for the agricultural workforce will be published on 30 October 2014. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

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

Survey methodology

Full details of the survey methodology are available on the website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance>.

A summary is given below.

The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture was historically a postal survey run annually. However from 2011 onwards, the survey has been run predominantly online with an option for farmers to complete a paper form if they preferred.

Approximately 30 thousand 'commercial' holdings were asked to complete the survey in 2014. 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 numbers 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 lower 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 2014 sample design

Stratum	Description	Sampling rate (%)	Population size
1	SLR < 0.5	13	45 383
2	SLR >= 0.5 and < 1	18	14 945
3	SLR >= 1 and < 2	30	15 903
4	SLR >= 2 and < 3	45	8 853
5	SLR >= 3 and < 5	65	7 972
6	SLR >= 5	78	7 724
10	SLR unknown	35	4 232
All		28	105 012

The results in this statistical release are based on responses from just over 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 "survey notes and guidance" web page via the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182225/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-june-results-BovineRegisters.pdf.

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 2014 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 and ≤5%
- ✓ RSE >5 and ≤10%
- ☒ RSE >10 and ≤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 this interval contains the true value. 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 with the exception of the cattle figures in table 7, which relate to all holdings. Further details on commercial holdings can be seen in the methodology section on page 16.
- All percentage changes are based on unrounded figures.
- Totals may not necessarily agree with the sum of their components due to rounding.

Data uses and users

Results from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture have a wide range of uses and users with requests for data being made on a daily basis. A document providing information of specific uses and users can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>.

Other survey results and publications

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=statistics. This also contains details of future publication dates.

The next Farming Statistics publications due from the June Survey of Agriculture and the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey are shown below. Please note that the publication dates are provisional and subject to change.

England Publications

- 30 October 2014: Farming Statistics final land use, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2014 – England.

UK Publications

- 16 October 2014: Farming Statistics provisional crop areas, yields and livestock populations at 1 June 2014 – United Kingdom.
- 18 December 2014: Farming Statistics final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2014 – United Kingdom.

More detailed results from the June Survey can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>. This includes various time series of crop areas and livestock numbers dating back as early as 1866 and detailed geographical breakdowns of the results.