



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) - Survey of land managed voluntarily in 2013/14 farming year (England)

This release contains the results from the 2013/14 cropping year survey which collected areas managed under unpaid voluntary environmental management in the 2013/14 farming year and farmers' attitudes towards the farmed environment and CFE. The results have been raised to represent all lowland farms with at least 10 hectares of crops and/or grassland. The key findings are highlighted below.

Land use and crop areas results from the June Survey of Agriculture help put these results into context. Latest estimates from the June survey can be found [here](#).

Unpaid environmental land management (section 1)

- During the 2013/14 crop year, there were 450 thousand hectares managed under the listed unpaid environmental measures with an additional 9,760 skylark plots and 7,387 km of fenced watercourses.
- Fertiliser free permanent pasture (161 thousand hectares) covered the largest land area of the measures listed, followed by over-wintered stubbles which accounted for 109 thousand hectares.
- 44% of holdings have some form of unpaid land from the measures listed (table 1). Of the 56% who do not, the main reason for not undertaking any of the listed voluntary measures was that the farmer considered that they were already doing enough for the environment (50% of holdings who undertook no environmental measures).

Attitudes towards the environment (section 2)

- When making decisions about their land, farmers placed greatest importance in 'efficient use of inputs' and 'protecting soil and water'. Around 80% of farmers considered these options fall into the category "very important".

Understanding and awareness of CFE (section 3)

- Between the 2012/13 and 2013/14 cropping years the proportion of farmers who consider themselves to have a good understanding of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment has remained steady at 15%.

Background

The Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) is an industry-led partnership to improve the environmental condition of agricultural habitats and landscapes throughout lowland England. The aim is for good environmental management to be a core principle of farm businesses, empowering farmers and land managers to understand and address local environmental priorities. CFE provides coherent and consistent advice to farmers by coordinating with other industry initiatives (Greenhouse Gas Action Plan; Tried & Tested nutrient management; pesticides Voluntary Initiative). More specifically, CFE promotes the uptake of specific agri-environment scheme options and similar unpaid, voluntary land management. This survey has collected information about the areas under unpaid voluntary land measures as well as farmers' attitudes to and awareness of the Campaign and wider environment. Uptake of agri-environment options will be measured directly from Natural England scheme records.

Survey Results

Between 2009 and 2012, CFE activity was specifically focussed towards arable land¹. During this period the monitoring survey covered all farms outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA) with at least 10 hectares of arable crops (including temporary grassland). In 2013 the scope of the Campaign widened to include all of lowland England and the coverage of this survey has therefore widened to include all farms outside the SDA with at least 10 hectares of crops and/or grass. In addition, a simplified list of voluntary measures was introduced. For these reasons, the results presented here are not always directly comparable to previous results. Further details about the list of voluntary management measures can be found at www.cfeonline.org.uk.

1. Unpaid environmental land management

Table 1: Do you have any land managed for the environment within any of the listed measures for which you do not receive payment from a formal agri-environment scheme?

	2014 % of holdings
Yes	44
No	56

Based on responses from 4 715 holdings.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 1 .

¹ The Campaign's goal was to retain and exceed the environmental benefits of land previously required to be set aside under the Single Payment Scheme.

Table 2: Areas of land under unpaid environmental management in current farming year (2013/14)

VM	Measure	Area (Hectares) unless stated	95% CI	% RSE	No. of responses
1	Grass buffer strips next to a watercourse or pond	17,000	±2,361	7	688
2	In-field grass strips to avoid erosion	4,562	±1,216	14	183
3	Management of maize fields to avoid erosion	22,221	±5,881	14	84
4	Fenced watercourses	7,387 km	±810	6	644
5	Winter cover crops	28,472	±6,798	12	179
6	Wildflower mix	5,657	±1,818	16	203
7	Pollen & nectar mix	1,401	±335	12	112
8	Legume and herb rich temp grass	1,102	±561	26	22
9	Ryegrass seed for birds	3,052	±1,565	26	38
10	Wild bird seed mix and game strips	5,631	±1,210	11	222
11	Skylark plots	9,760 plots	±2,876	15	112
12	Lapwing plots	2,140	±977	23	47
13	Unsprayed and / or unfertilised cereal headlands	6,709	±1,796	14	183
14	Cultivated margins	1,007	±445	23	38
15	Over-wintered stubbles	108,783	±13,976	7	464
16	Supplementary winter feeding for wild farmland birds	3,591	±1,126	16	128
17	Field corners	10,782	±1,465	7	625
18	Beetle banks	806	±393	25	65
19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture	160,705	±21,142	7	753
20	Arable land reverted to grass	18,028	±4,191	12	193
21	Selective use of spring herbicides	30,118	±8,879	15	85
22	Brassica fodder crops	21,171	±5,200	13	142
Total (excluding skylark plots and fenced watercourses)		452,939	±29,482	3	2,075

Note: Changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

Table 3: Areas of land under unpaid environmental management change on previous year

VM	Measure	2013	2014		
		Area (Hectares) unless stated	Area (Hectares) unless stated	Change	% Change 2014/ 2013
1	Grass buffer strips next to a watercourse or pond	17,197	17,000	-197	-1
2	In-field grass strips to avoid erosion	3,752	4,562	+810	22
3	Management of maize fields to avoid erosion	20,799	22,221	+1,422	7
4	Fenced watercourses	6,781 km	7,387 km	+605 km	9
5	Winter cover crops	22,543	28,472	+5,929	26
6	Wildflower mix	2,401	5,657	+3,256	136
7	Pollen & nectar mix	2,222	1,401	-822	-37
8	Legume and herb rich temp grass	2,394	1,102	-1,292	-54
9	Ryegrass seed for birds	3,367	3,052	-315	-9
10	Wild bird seed mix and game strips	8,097	5,631	-2,465	-30
11	Skylark plots	6,778 plots	9,760 plots	+2,982 plots	44
12	Lapwing plots	1,130	2,140	+1,010	89
13	Unsprayed and / or unfertilised cereal headlands	6,778	6,709	-69	-1
14	Cultivated margins	740	1,007	+268	36
15	Over-wintered stubbles	265,697	108,783	-156,914	-59
16	Supplementary winter feeding for wild farmland birds	5,368	3,591	-1,777	-33
17	Field corners	13,371	10,782	-2,589	-19
18	Beetle banks	1,185	806	-379	-32
19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture	231,673	160,705	-70,968	-31
20	Arable land reverted to grass	18,475	18,028	-447	-2
21	Selective use of spring herbicides	34,474	30,118	-4,356	-13
22	Brassica fodder crops	15,045	21,171	+6,127	41
Total (excluding skylark plots and fenced watercourses)		676,705	452,939	-223,766	-33

Note: Changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

Table 4: How important do you feel it is to consider the issues below when implementing the listed unpaid environmental measures?

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
% of holdings				
Responding to conditions on the land	74	24	1	1
Fitting existing farming practice (e.g. rotation)	51	38	6	5
Following environmental management guidelines	38	53	7	2
Focussing primarily on environmental outcomes	23	60	14	2

Based on responses from at least 2 050 holdings.

This question is only answered by those respondents who have land under some form of environmental management.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 2 .

Table 5: If you do not have any land within any of the listed unpaid measures do you intend to do so?

	2014
	% of holdings
Yes	15
No	85

Based on responses from 2 405 holdings.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 1 .

Table 6: If you do not have any land within any of the listed unpaid measures what is your main reason?

	2014 % of holdings
I consider I am already doing enough for the environment	50
None of the measures are appropriate for farm	23
It is not clear what I am expected to do	13
Any actions will have a negative impact on profitability	4
I am not willing to take action on a voluntary basis	3
Other	6

Based on responses from 2 221 holdings.

Due to changes to the list of measures and management guidelines, this result is comparable only to the 2013 results and not to previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 2 .

2. Attitudes towards the environment

Table 7: Are you currently in an agri-environment scheme?

	2014 % of holdings
Not in agri-environment scheme	38
Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)	51
Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)	3
Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)	14
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme or Countryside Stewardship (CS) Scheme	4

Based on 2 143 responses in 2013 and 4 715 in 2014.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 3

Table 8: How important do you feel it is to consider the issues below when taking decisions about your land, crops and livestock?

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
% of holdings				
Efficient use of inputs	81	16	2	1
Protecting soil and water	79	20	1	0
Protecting / benefiting farm wildlife	59	38	2	0
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	30	48	18	4

Based on responses from 4 534 to 4 562 holdings.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 2 .

3. Understanding and awareness of CFE

Table 9: How well do you feel that you understand the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE)?

	2014 % of holdings
I have a good understanding	15
I have some understanding	47
I have limited understanding	26
I have little or no idea	12

Based on responses from 4 586 holdings.

Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.

All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 3 .

Table 10: Have you had any information about CFE from any of these sources?

	2014 % of holdings
Farming press	64
CFE leaflet	43
CFE coordinator or farm advisor / agronomist	20
CFE event	14
CFE website	13
Social media e.g. Twitter	7
Other	2
None / not answered	22

Based on 2 152 responses in 2013 and 4 715 in 2014.
 Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.
 All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 3 .

Table 11: Did you find the information about CFE from the sources listed useful?

	Yes	No
	% of holdings	
Farming press	89	11
CFE leaflet	84	16
CFE coordinator or farm advisor / agronomist	75	25
CFE event	61	39
CFE website	57	43
Social media e.g. Twitter	14	86
Other	87	13

Based on at least 96 responses.
 Due to changes to the list of measures, management guidelines and farm coverage mean that these results are not necessarily comparable with previous years.
 All confidence intervals are within the range of ± 0 to ± 8 .

Survey details

Survey methodology

The results provided in this release are based on the questions asked in the Campaign for the Farmed Environment survey of land managed voluntarily in the 2013/14 farming year, sent to a representative sample of holdings across English regions and farm sizes. The results provide a reliable estimate for all farms now within scope of the Campaign; approximately 69,800 farms with a total of nearly 7.3 million hectares of arable crops and grassland. The survey was sent to approximately 11,100 holdings with at least 10 hectares of arable crops and/or grassland (defined as land under crops, uncropped arable land, temporary or permanent grassland). Holdings in an area classed as a SDA (Severely Disadvantaged Area) were excluded from the survey. The survey was voluntary and had a response rate of 43%. Many thanks to all of the farmers who completed a survey form.

A breakdown of the number of holdings within the population and the sample are shown below.

Farm type	Number of eligible holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Response rate %
Cereals	16 353	2 908	48
General Cropping	11 193	1 844	37
Horticulture	1 484	241	37
Pigs & poultry	1 679	220	44
Dairy	6 372	1 103	45
Grazing livestock (less favoured areas)	3 995	565	42
Grazing livestock (lowland)	21 875	3 160	43
Mixed	6 850	1 048	34
All farms	69 801	11 089	43

Data analysis

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.

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.

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.

Comparability with previous surveys

The scope of the Campaign widened in 2013 from arable land to include all of lowland England. In addition, a simplified list of voluntary measures has been introduced. For these reasons, the results presented here are not always directly comparable.

Definitions

Where reference is made to the type of farm, 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
Very small	Less than 2 SLR
Small / medium	2 to less than 3 SLR
Large / very large	At least 3 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 established² in 1975 as a means to provide support to mountainous and hill farming areas.

Availability of results

Other Defra statistical notices can be viewed on the Defra website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics>.

² Council Directive 75/268/EEC.