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Farm Practices Survey: Basic Payment Scheme and greening - England

This release contains the results from the October 2014 Farm Practices Survey which gives an initial snapshot of farmers' understanding of and actions towards meeting the new greening requirement of the Basic Payment Scheme.

Basic Payment Scheme (section 1)

- Results show that slightly fewer farmers intend to apply for a Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payment in 2015 than applied for a Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payment in 2014 (78% compared to 87%).
- 57% of farmers reported that they had a good or full understanding of the greening requirement.
- 20% of farmers feel that greening will result in them doing more for the environment. The majority of farmers (58%) felt that greening would have no impact upon their actions towards the environment.

Ecological Focus Areas (section 2)

- 26% of farmers who may or will apply for a BPS payment in 2015 indicated that the EFA rule would apply on their holding, 35% of farmers were unsure if they would require EFAs.
 44% were not sure what changes they would need to make to comply with greening requirements.
- The most popular EFA features already in place are hedges (on 81% of farms) and buffer strips (on 49% of farms). The features most likely to be introduced or expanded are fallow land (49%) and buffer strips (39%).
- The majority of farms (57% and 58% respectively) perceive there will be no impact on the farm business from the implementation of EFAs and that the benefits of implementation will be broadly equal to the cost.

Enquiries on this publication to: Farm Practices Survey – Lisa Richardson, Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: ++ 44 (0)1904 455075, email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

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Crop Diversification (section 3)

- 71% of cereal farmers who may or will apply for a BPS payment in 2015 indicated that crop
 diversification would apply on their holdings. Only 21% of general cropping farmers think
 the rules will apply on their holdings.
- For those farmers changing their cropping plans to meet the crop diversification requirement the most common change was to increase the number of crop types planted, this change was reported by 62% of farmers.

1 Basic Payment Scheme

The new Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) was introduced from 1st January 2015 to replace the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). This is part of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform plan. The BPS will include a compulsory greening requirement which farmers must meet in order to ensure the full BPS payment for their holding. Greening will be worth around 30% of the total BPS payment.

Results show that slightly fewer farmers intend to apply for a Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payment in 2015 than applied for a Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payment in 2014 (78% compared to 87%). 7% of farmers were not sure at the point of survey if they would apply for the BPS payment in 2015.

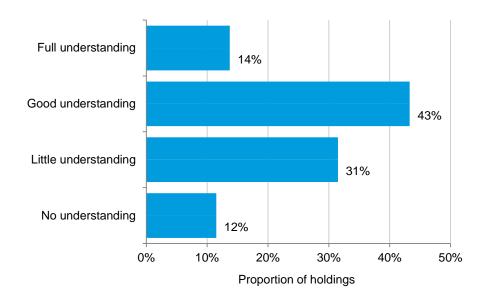
Table 1.1: Applications for the SPS in 2014 and intentions to apply for the BPS in 2015

	% of holdings	95% CI
Single Payment Scheme 2014		
Yes	87	<i>±</i> 2
No	13	<u>+2</u>
Number of responses	2 380	
Basic Payment Scheme 2015		<u>.</u>
Yes	78	±2
No	14	±2
Not sure	7	<u>±2</u>
Number of responses	2 379	

The remaining results from this statistical release exclude farmers who do not intend to apply for a BPS payment in 2015.

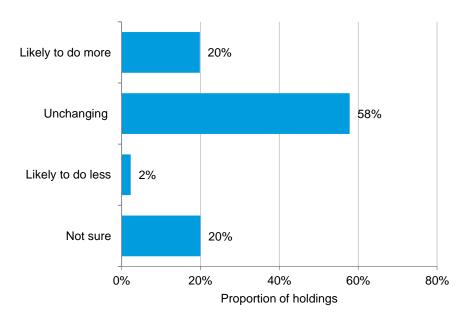
14% of farmers indicated a full understanding of the greening requirement which will be introduced as part of the new BPS. 43% of farmers indicated a good understanding.

Chart 1.1: Farmers' understanding of the greening requirement on their holding



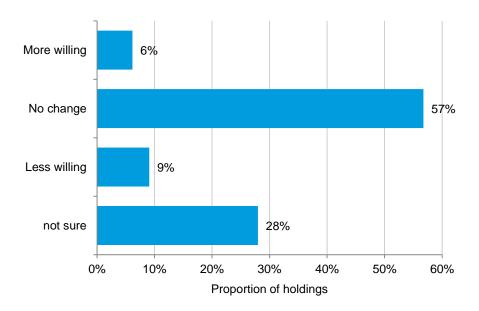
Of those farmers who indicated that they will or may apply for a BPS payment 20% felt that they were likely to do more for the environment as result of greening. The majority of farmers (58%) felt that greening would not have an impact on their actions towards the environment.

Chart 1.2: Result of greening upon farmers' actions towards the environment



Similarly the majority of farmers (57%) indicated that the introduction of greening would not have an impact on their willingness to apply for a new agri-environment agreement. 9% of farmers reported that they would be less willing to apply for a new agri-environment scheme while 6% reported that they would be more willing to apply.

Figure 1.3: Impact of greening on farmers' willingness to apply for a new agri-environment scheme



2 Ecological Focus Areas

Under the new greening rules if a farmer has 15 hectares or more of arable land, they will need Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) on their arable land – unless they qualify for an exemption. EFA features are those which the EU has decided are beneficial for the climate and the environment.

If a farm does need to meet the EFA requirement, the area and features used must be equivalent to at least 5% of the total arable land the farmer declares on their BPS application.

Farmers can choose which areas and / or features they'll use to make up their EFA. They can choose from:

- Buffer strips
- Nitrogen-fixing crops
- Hedges
- Fallow land
- Catch crops and cover crops

Results in this section refer to farmers who have indicated that they will apply for a BPS payment or are still unsure if they will apply for a BPS payment in 2015. 26% of farmers indicated that the EFA rule would apply on their holding. 35% of farmers were unsure if they would require EFAs to comply with the greening regulations.

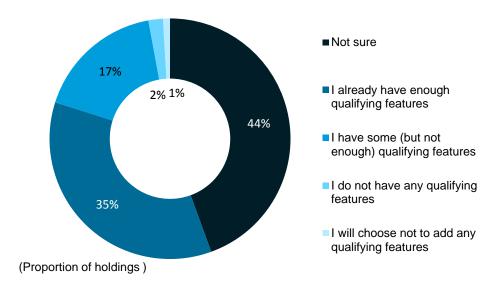
Table 2.1: Proportion of holdings requiring EFAs to meet the greening requirement

	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes	26	±2
No	39	±3
Not Sure	35	±3
Number of responses	2 167	

Results exclude farmers who will not apply for a BPS payment in 2015

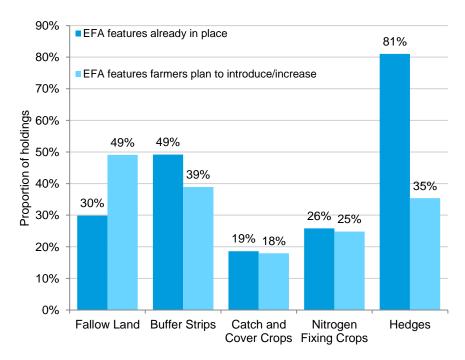
Of the farmers who indicated that EFAs would be required on their holding or were unsure if they would need EFAs to meet the greening requirement 44% were not sure if they would need to make changes to their farm practices in order to meet the EFA requirement. 35% of farmers felt that they already had enough qualifying features in order to meet the EFA requirement.

Chart 2.1: Changes in farm practices required to meet the EFA requirement



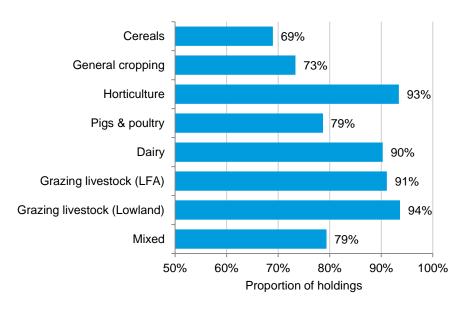
The most popular EFA features already in place are hedges and buffer strips. 81% of farms had hedges in place. A further 49% of holdings already have buffer strips. Whilst a high proportion of farmers already had hedges in place on their holding the proportion who plan to implement hedges is smaller at 35%. The features which farmers are most likely to introduce or expand to meet the EFA requirement are fallow land and buffer strips. 49% of farmers indicated that they would introduce or expand fallow land, the figure for buffer strips is 39%.

Chart 2.2: EFA features farmers plan to introduce/increase or already have in place



There was some variation in farm type for those farms with hedges in place. Whilst 81% of all farmers reported that they had hedges in place the figure rose to 94% for grazing lowland livestock and 93% for horticultural holdings, the figure drops to 69% for cereal farmers.

Chart 2.3: Proportion of holdings with hedges already in place which will be used to meet the EFA requirement split by farm type



Farmers can enhance management on buffer strips and fallow land on a voluntary basis. Of the farmers who plan to introduce new fallow land to meet the EFA requirement 80% planned only to manage these new EFA features to the most basic standard, the figure for buffer strips is 78%. Of the farmers who are planning additional enhancement on their new buffer strips or fallow land,

adding wild bird seed mixes was the most popular form of voluntary enhancement with 24% and 20% of farmers planning to enhance land in this way respectively.

90% 80% 78% 80% Fallow land Buffer strips 70% Proportion of holdings 60% 50% 40% 30% 24% 20% 20% 13% 11% 10% 6% 4% 0% Standard EFA wild bird seed Nectar sources Other additional requirement only mixes management under CFE

Chart 2.3: Planned management of newly implemented buffer strips and fallow land

The majority of farms (57% and 58% respectively) perceive there will be no impact on the farm business from the implementation of EFA's and that the benefits of implementation will be broadly equal to the cost.

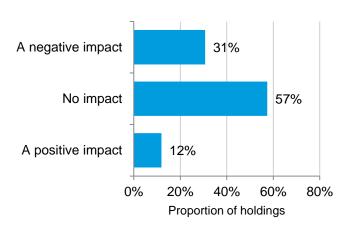
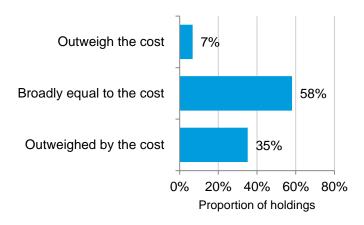


Chart 2.4: Impact of the introduction of EFAs on the farm business

Chart 2.5: Perceived benefit of the introduction of EFAs in relation to the cost of implementation



3 Crop Diversification

Also known as the '2 or 3 crop rule'. If a farmer has 10 or more hectares of arable land, they will have to follow the crop diversification requirement on the minimum number of crops they grow and the areas they cover – unless they qualify for an exemption.

The new EU rules require that where the arable land of a farmer covers between 10 and 30 hectares there shall be at least 2 different crops on different areas of that arable land over the year. Where the arable land of a farmer covers more than 30 hectares there shall be at least 3 different crops on different areas of that arable land over the year.

Results in this section refer to farmers who have indicated that they will apply for a BPS payment or are still unsure if they will apply for a BPS payment in 2015. 23% of farmers indicated that crop diversification would apply on their holding. 13% of farmers were unsure if the crop diversification rules applied. This compares to the 35% of respondents who were unsure if EFA rules would apply on their holding.

Table 3.1: Proportion of holdings requiring crop diversification to meet the greening requirement

	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes	23	±2
No	64	±3
Not Sure	13	±2
Number of responses	2 164	

Results exclude farmers who will not apply for a BPS payment in 2015

Within the 23% of farmers reporting that crop diversification would apply on their holdings, there is some variation within the different farm types. 71% of cereal farmers anticipate that crop

diversification will apply on their holdings. 21% of general cropping farms anticipate that crop diversification will apply to them. Only 4% and 2% of grazing livestock lowland and grazing livestock LFA farmers respectively anticipate that crop diversification will apply on their holdings.

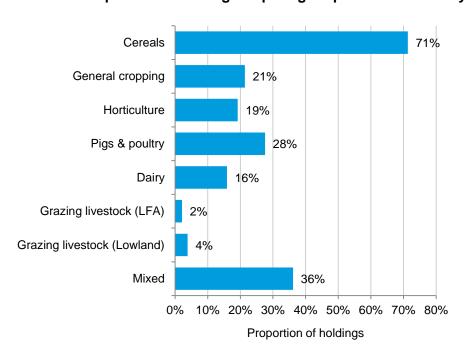


Chart 3.1: Proportion of holdings requiring crop diversification by farm type

17% of farmers reported that they have changed their cropping plans for the 2014/15 crop year.

Table 3.2: Change in cropping plans for the 2014/15 crop year

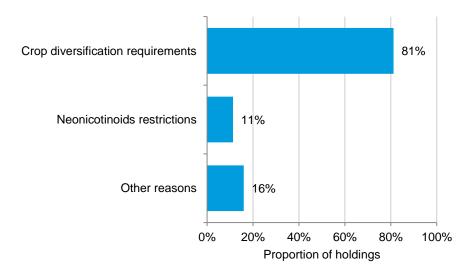
	% of holdings	95% CI
Yes	17	±2
No	83	±2
Number of responses	2 157	

Results only cover those who will or may need to undertake crop diversification

The main reason stated for farmers requiring changes in their cropping plans is the crop diversification requirement with 81% of farmers changing their cropping plans in order to meet the crop diversification requirement. Neonicotinoid restrictions have been stated as another reason for changes in cropping plans by 11% of farmers.

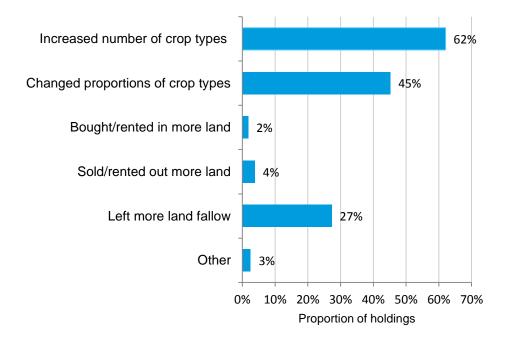
The European Commission adopted a proposal (Regulation (EU) No 485/2013) to restrict the use of 3 pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoids family (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam) for a period of 2 years. The Commission's action is a response to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) scientific report which identified "high acute risks" for bees as regards exposure to dust in several crops such as maize, cereals and sunflower, to residue in pollen and nectar in crops like oilseed rape and sunflower and to guttation in maize.

Chart 3.2: Reasons for changing cropping plans for the crop year 2014/15



For those farmers indicating that their change in cropping plan was solely a result of crop diversification the most common change to cropping plans was to increase the number of crop types planted, this change was reported by 62% of farmers. Changing the proportions of crop types planted and leaving more land fallow were also popular changes reported by 45% and 27% of farmers respectively.

Chart 3.3: Changes made to meet the crop diversification requirement in 2015



Survey details

Survey content

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 2014 two surveys were run to meet our data users' requirements.

This release includes the results from the second FPS run in October 2014. The survey largely focused on understanding and actions toward meeting the new greening requirement being introduced as part of CAP reform. Topics covered include the Basic Payment Scheme, Ecological Focus Areas and Crop Diversification. The survey also contained a module on the prevention of livestock disease.

For more information on the basic payment scheme and the greening requirement visit the guidance online using the following web link: www.gov.uk/cap-reform

The results provided in this release are based on questions sent to approximately 6,000 holdings in England. The survey population covers all commercial holdings in England. 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. These holdings were targeted by farm type and size to ensure a representative sample. The survey was voluntary and the response rate was 38%. Thank you 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	16 697	999	50
General cropping	15 382	761	33
Horticulture	4 328	469	27
Specialist pigs and Specialist poultry	3 098	394	30
Dairy	6 879	1 017	37
Grazing livestock (less favoured areas)	12 471	657	40
Grazing livestock (lowland)	31 844	1 363	38
Mixed and other	9 583	618	37
All farms	100 282	6 278	38

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.

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

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 3 SLR
Medium	3 to less than 5 SLR
Large	5 or more SLR

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 on 12 March 2015 at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/farm-practices-survey.

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.

Data uses

The Farm Practices survey is used to investigate the impact of farming on the environment and to provide up-to-date agri-environment information on current issues to help inform policy decisions. The survey has a wide customer base.

The data are being collected for use by the Agri-environment, uplands and organics farming evidence and the Embedded Evidence Teams. The survey results will feed into an initial snapshot of farmers understanding and the impact of the new greening requirement which will be introduced as part of the Basic Payment Scheme in 2015. The results from this survey will provide interim evidence on the impact of greening before the FBS 2016 review. The results will also be utilised by the Pesticides and chemicals policy team to inform them on the impact of neonicotinoid restrictions on 2014/15 cropping plans.

Closing points and additional information

For more information on how the data was collected you can view the questions asked on our survey form in Annex I over the page.

Finally we are keen to hear your thoughts on this statistical release. If you found the data useful or if you have any other comments please let us know. You can contact us via the phone number on the front page or alternatively email us at farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Annex I		Official Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Γ	٦	ONLY if there are any amendments or corrections to details opposite, please write them in this box. Name: Address:
L	J	Postcode:

Farm Practices Survey - October 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

You are invited to participate in the October 2014 Farm Practices Survey. This survey aims to assess how farming practices are affected by current agricultural and environmental issues. We have tried to make the form as straightforward as possible and most of the questions can be answered using tick boxes.

Please note that this is a voluntary survey. Any information you supply on this form will not be used to assess cross-compliance on your holding and will not affect your Single Payment Scheme payment in 2014 or your Basic Payment Scheme payment in 2015. The aim of these questions is to ensure that those making decisions affecting farmers know what really happens on farms.

The results from the survey are important and will be used widely within Defra, its agencies and other external bodies. Results from this survey will be available from the end of March 2015 on the following website: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/farm-practices-survey.

Please complete this form and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope within 2 weeks of receipt. This survey form has been sent to a randomly selected sample of 6000 holdings and a good response will improve the reliability of the results. For guidance on completing the form, please telephone or email using the details below.

Further details on the new Common Agricultural Policy schemes can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/common-agricultural-policy-reform

Data Protection

Any information you provide is treated in confidence. Defra is the Data Controller in respect of the Data Protection Act 1998. The purposes for which it is used are set out in our data protection statement which can be found at http://bit.ly/Data_Protection_Statement. Alternatively we can send you a copy if you call 01904 455284 or email surveys@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort you spend completing our survey forms. Thank you for your assistance.

Lisa Richardson, Farming Statistics Team

Official Use Only	
Name/Address	
Comments in box	
Comments elsewhere	

If you require a large print form please contact us on 01904 455284

For help with completion of the form contact us at: Helpline: 01904 455284 Mon-Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm

Email: surveys@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Section 1. Basic Payment Scheme (and greening)
Note: In 2015 the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) will be replaced by the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).
1. Did you apply for the Single Payment Scheme in 2014?
Yes No 2
2. Do you intend to apply for the new Basic Payment Scheme payment in 2015?
Yes
3. Are you aware of the greening requirement being introduced as part of the Basic Payment Scheme?
Yes No No Not Sure A102
4. Do you understand what the new greening requirement means for your holding?
Full Good Little No understanding understanding understanding understanding understanding 4 A103
5. Is any part of your holding certified as organic (including land 'in conversion') by an accredited body such as the Soil Association?
Yes: All of my holding Yes: No: Nome of my holding Nohlding Noi: None of my holding All of my holding Noi: None of my holding
6. As a result of the greening requirement I am:
tick one box only
Likely to do more for the environment 1
Unchanging in my actions towards the environment 2
Likely to do less for the environment 3
Not sure 4 A105
7. How will the introduction of greening affect your willingness to apply for a new agri-environment agreement?
More willing 1 No change 2 Less willing 3 Not sure 4 A106

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Section 2. Ecologic	cal Focus Areas (EFA)			
8. Do you think the Ecological Focus Area requirement will apply on your holding?				
Yes 1	No Not Sure	B130		
	L→ If No go to Section	n 3, page 5		
9. Will you need to make	changes to your farm practices to meet	the EFA requirement?		
		tick one box only		
	No, I already have e	enough qualifying features 1		
	Yes, I have some (but not er	nough) qualifying features 2		
Yes, I do not have any of the qualifying features 3				
	I will choose not to a	dd any qualifying features 4		
		Not Sure 5 B131		
10. Which Ecological Foc	10. Which Ecological Focus Area feature(s) do you have or plan to implement?			
Feature	I already have this feature and intend to use it to meet the EFA requirement	I will implement new or increase areas of existing feature to meet the EFA requirement		
	tick all options that apply	tick all options that apply		
Fallow land	B132	B137		
Buffer strips	B133	B138		
Catch and cover crops	B134	B139		
Nitrogen fixing crops	B135	B140		
Hedges	B136	B141		

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Section 2. Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) continued
11. Are you adding new buffer strips or fallow land to meet the EFA requirement?
Yes No Not Sure B142
please give details below ↓ If No go to Question 13
12. If you are adding new buffer strips and/or fallow land to meet the EFA requirement - would you be undertaking any additional environmental management?
Please tick all options that apply
Other additional Standard EFA Wild bird requirement only Seed mixes Wild bird Nectar sources for the Farmed Environment
Fallow land
Buffer strips B144 B146 B148 B150
13. Do you think introducing EFAs on your holding will result in:
tick one box only
A positive impact to the farm business
No impact to the farm business 2
A negative impact to the farm business 3 B151
14. Do you think the benefits of EFAs on your holding will:
tick one box only
Outweigh the cost of implementation 1
Be broadly equal to the cost of implementation 2
Be outweighed by the cost of implementation 3 B152

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Section 3. Crop Diversification		
15. Do you think the crop diversification requirement will apply on your holding?		
Yes No No Not Sure 3		C200
16. Have you changed your cropping plans for the crop year 2014/15?		
Yes \square No \square 1 No go to section 4, page 6		C201
17. Was the change in cropping plans a result of:		
tick all option	s that ap	ply
Crop diversification requirements		1 C202
Neonicotinoids restrictions		2
Other reasons, please give details below	:	3
		C205
18. If you have changed your cropping plans to meet the crop diversification requirement in which changes did you make?	2015,	
tick all option	s that ap	ply
Increased the number of crop types planted		1
Changed the proportions of crop types planted		2
Bought/rented in more land		3
Sold /rented out land		4
Left more land fallow		5
Other, please give details below		5 C203
		C204

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Section 4. Prevention of livestock disease			
This section applies to holdings with cattle, sheep, pigs or poultry. If you do not have any of these			
types of livestock please tick this box and go to the declaration in sec	rtion 5.		
<i>Isolation:</i> ensuring direct (e.g. nose to nose) and indirect (e.g. equipment, vehicles, workwear) contact with all other livestock is prevented, including not sharing indoor airspace			
19. Do you isolate livestock new to your farm or returning from a gathering such as a show or auction?			
Always 1 Sometimes 2 Never 3	D100		
If always or sometimes:	Question 21		
20. How long do you typically isolate new or returning livestock?			
Number of days	1 D101		
If never: → Go to Question	n 22		
21. Please indicate the main reason why you do not isolate new or returning livestock:			
tick on	ne box only		
Lack of space on premises	1		
Lack of manpower or time	2		
Lack of money to provide facilities	3		
I do not believe it would make a difference in avoiding or managing disease	4 D102		
Other main reason, please			
specify	D103		
22. Do you have the facilities to isolate new or returning livestock for the following situations:			
a) Isolation in animal housing			
Yes No Not applicable 3	D104		
b) Isolation at pasture/outdoors			
Yes No Not applicable 3	D105		
c) Isolation for milking			
Yes No No Not 2 applicable 3	D106		
d) Isolation for animal handling			
Yes No Not Not 2 applicable 3	D107		

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Section 4. Prevention of livestock disease continued		
23. Which of the following practices do you carry out when bringing new livestock onto your farm?		
tick a .	II that apply	
Confirm health status of source herd or flock and individuals	1	
Only buy from others in your farm assurance or closed producer group	2	
Arrange post-movement test for TB and/or other endemic diseases	3	
Ensure livestock vehicles and work wear are cleansed and disinfected between farms and after contact with animals	4	
Use your own livestock vehicle	5	
Check new livestock regularly for clinical signs of disease	6	
None of the above	7 D108	
24. When your animals go to gatherings such as shows, auctions and markets, do you do any of the following?		
tick a .	II that apply	
Confirm the vehicle used is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before your animals enter it, when leaving your farm or elsewhere		
Isolation at the venue	2	
All use clean work wear, or change or disinfect work wear, before going and returning	3	
Confirm all handlers involved follow the gathering's biosecurity procedures, especially keeping work wear visibly clean and disinfecting before entering and leaving animal area		
I do not take my animals to gatherings because of the disease risk		
None of the above	6 D109	
Examples of exotic diseases include: avian flu, blue tongue virus, foot and mouth disease and swine fevers		
25. How often do you take steps to inform yourself about:		
a) what clinical signs of exotic diseases to look out for?		
At least every 3 Once or twice a Only in an outbreak Never	4 D110	
b) what compensation you might be entitled to if your animals had to be culled as part of an exotic disease control programme?		
At least every 3 Once or twice a Only in an outbreak Never	4 D111	

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Section 4	4. Prevention of livestock disease continued	
26. Which so	ource(s) of advice on exotic diseases do you use?	
	tick all that apply	
	Local vet1	
	Online government guidance 2	
	Other online advice 3	
	Publications 4	
	Sector guidance 5	D112
Other, please specify	se	D113
	None ☐ → If No	go to section 5 D114
27. Which so	source of advice on exotic diseases do you find most useful?	
tick one box only		
	Local vet1	
	Online government guidance 2	
	Other online advice 3	
	Publications 4	
	Sector guidance 5	
	Other 6	D115
Section 5	5. Declaration	
I declare the info	nformation I have given in this return to be correct and complete to the best of my kno Name (please print) V3 Telephone number	owledge and belief.
Any other com	mments	V8
E-mail		
Address		V5
Date	Please now return this form in the pre-paid envelope addressed to	minutes V1
	Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NF ou for taking the time to complete this survey. Results will be available from March 2015 a http://bit.ly/DefraStats	P10 8XG.

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