



Published 19 March 2015

Prevention of Livestock Disease - England Farm Practices Survey 2014

This release contains the results from the October 2014 Farm Practices Survey which focused on practices relating to the prevention of livestock disease.

Key Findings:

- 50% of farmers reported that they always isolate livestock which are either new to their farm or returning from a gathering. Of those who always isolate livestock 53% isolate stock for longer than a week.
- 23% of farmers indicated that they never isolate new or returning livestock. Of these farmers 19% felt that isolation would not make a difference in managing or avoiding disease. 15% of farmers lacked space on their premises.
- When bringing new livestock onto the farm, checking regularly for clinical signs of disease was the most commonly reported practice undertaken by farmers, 83% of farmers reported doing this.
- 53% of farmers take steps to inform themselves about clinical signs of disease at least once or twice a year.

Enquiries on this publication to: Farm Practices Survey – Joanne Gardiner, Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: ++ 44 (0)1904 455332, email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

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

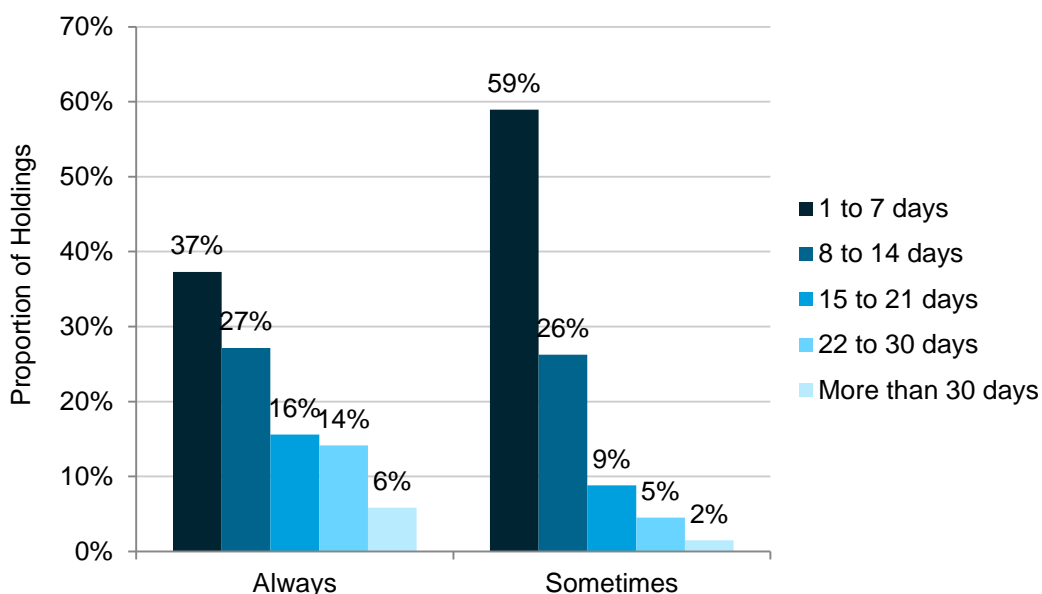
Results from this statistical release apply to holdings with cattle, sheep, pigs or poultry. 50% of farmers indicate that they always isolate livestock which are either new to their farms or returning from a gathering (e.g. a show). 26% of farmers sometimes isolate livestock. Isolation ensures that direct contact (e.g. nose to nose) and indirect contact (e.g. equipment, vehicles, work wear) with all other livestock is prevented, this includes not sharing indoor airspace.

Table 1.1: Proportion of holdings isolating new or returning livestock

	% of holdings	95% CI
Always	50	± 3
Sometimes	26	± 3
Never	23	± 3
Number of responses	1 727	

Of the farmers who always isolate their livestock, 37% isolate for between 1 and 7 days. This figure rises to 59% for those farmers who sometimes isolate their livestock.

Chart 1.1: Typical number of days of isolation for new or returning livestock



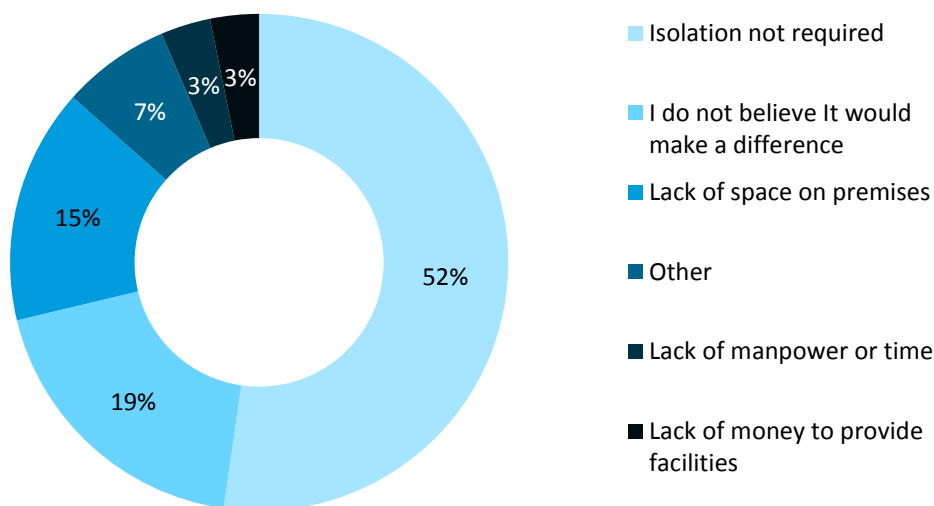
For those farmers practicing isolation, the average number of days to isolate livestock is 15. This figure rises to 22 days for pig and poultry farms. On average dairy farms isolate livestock for a shorter period of 11 days.

Table 1.2: Average number of days livestock are isolated split by farm type

	Average number of days in isolation	Number of responses	95% CI
Cereals	18	147	± 3
General cropping	17	63	± 4
Horticulture	10	21	± 3
Pigs & poultry	22	54	± 4
Dairy	11	233	± 1
Grazing livestock (LFA)	12	203	± 1
Grazing livestock (Lowland)	14	357	± 1
Mixed	16	157	± 2
All farms	15	1 235	± 1

23% of farmers indicate that they never isolate new or returning livestock. Of these farmers 19% felt that isolation would not make a difference in managing or avoiding disease. 15% of farmers lacked space on their premises. The majority of farmers (52%) indicated that isolation was not required on their holding because they either run closed herds/flocks, all in-all out systems or they never go to shows or buy new stock from auctions.

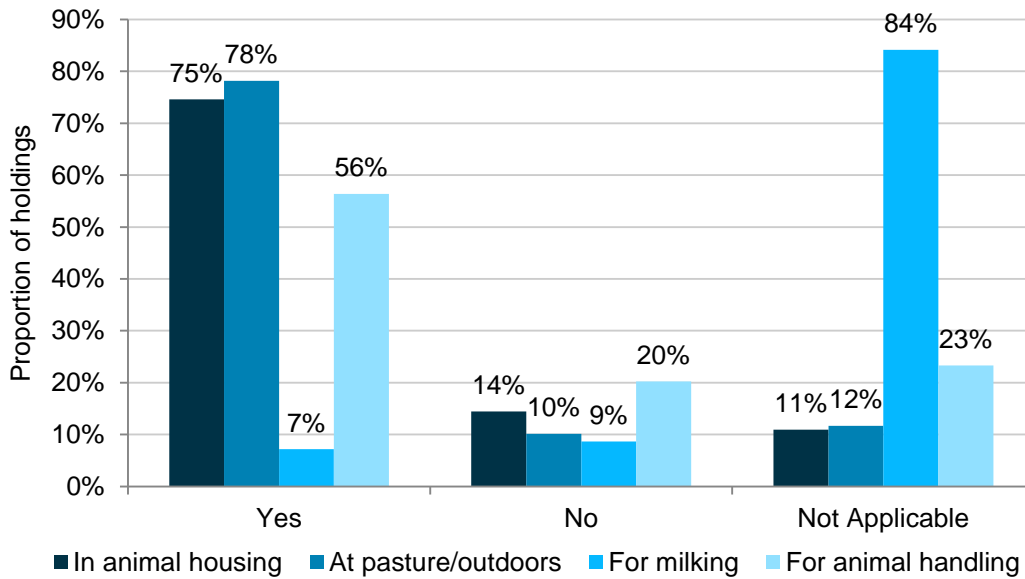
Chart 1.2: Farmers’ main reasons for never isolating new or returning livestock



(Proportion of holdings)

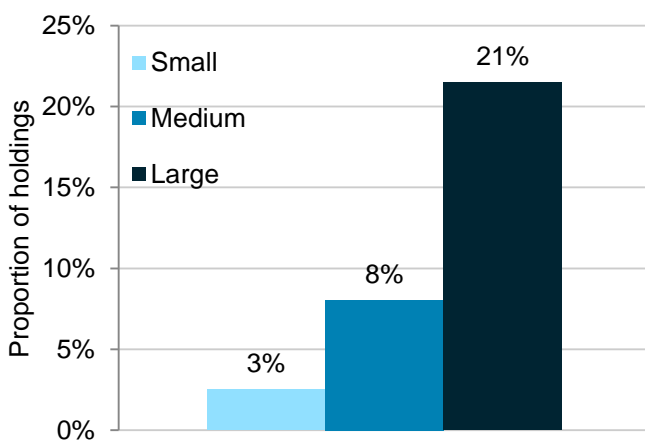
Of the farmers who always or sometimes isolate livestock, 75% have the facilities to isolate within animal housing. 78% of farmers have facilities to isolate at pasture/outdoor. 56% of farmers had facilities for animal handling isolation.

Chart 1.3: Proportion of holdings with facilities to isolate in the following situations



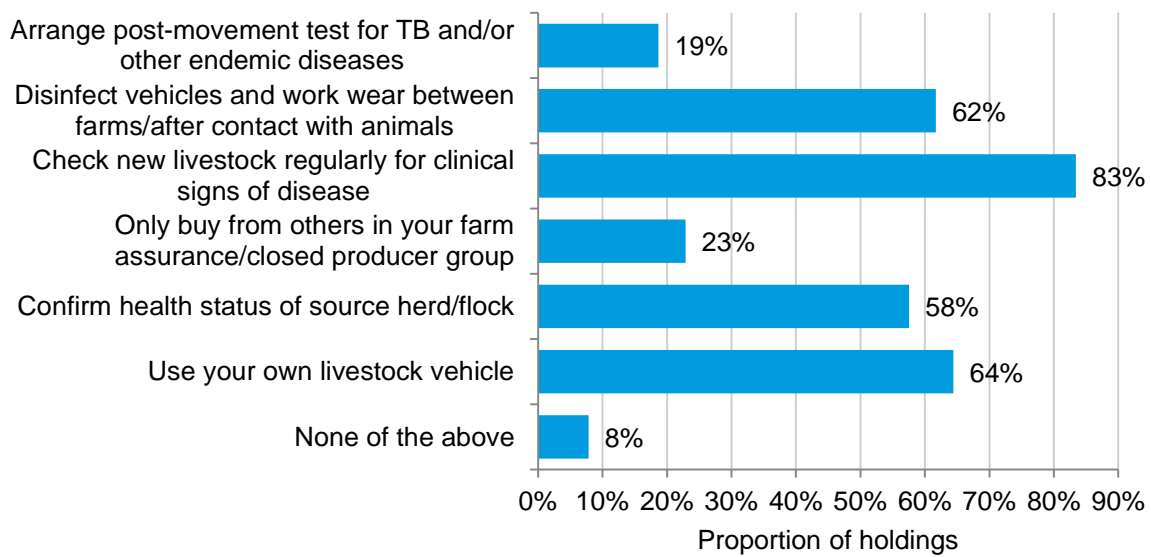
Whilst only 7% of farmers have the facilities to isolate when milking stock, this category of isolation wasn't relevant for 84% of holdings. There is a degree of variation within the 7% of holdings who did have isolation facilities for milking. A greater proportion of large farms had facilities to isolate when milking whereas only 8% and 3% of medium and small farms had these facilities respectively.

Chart 1.4: Proportion of holdings with facilities to isolate for milking by farm size



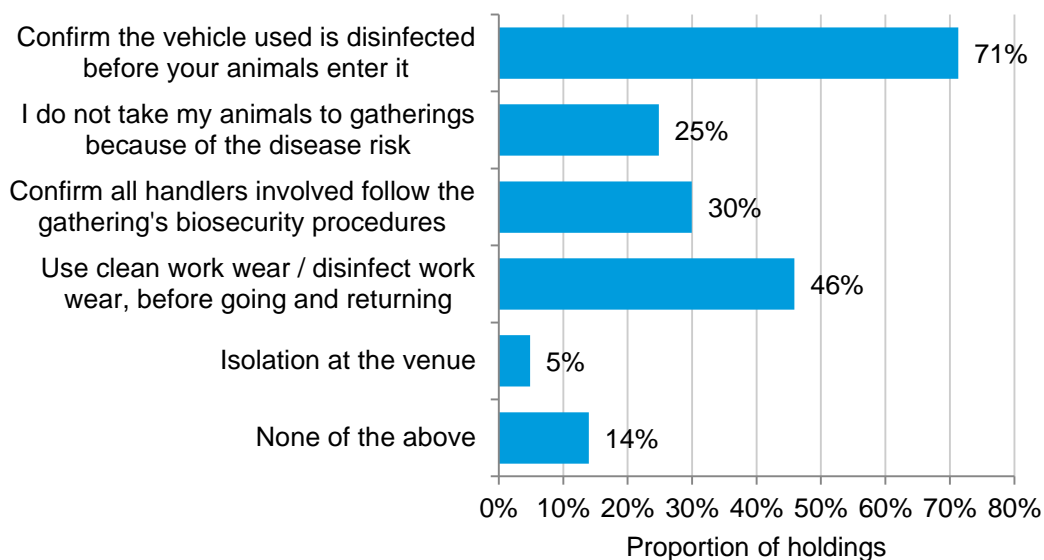
When bringing new livestock onto the farm, checking regularly for clinical signs of disease was the most commonly reported biosecurity practice undertaken by farmers. 83% of farmers check for signs of disease. 64% of farmers use their own livestock vehicle. 62% of farmers disinfect work wear and vehicles between farms or after contact with animals.

Chart 1.5: Proportion of holdings undertaking the following practices when bringing new livestock onto the farm



When taking livestock to gatherings such as shows and auctions, 71% of farmers confirm that the vehicle used is disinfected before their animals enter. 46% of farmers reported that they use clean work wear or disinfect work wear before going and returning from the venue. 14% of farmers take none of the precautions listed in chart 1.6.

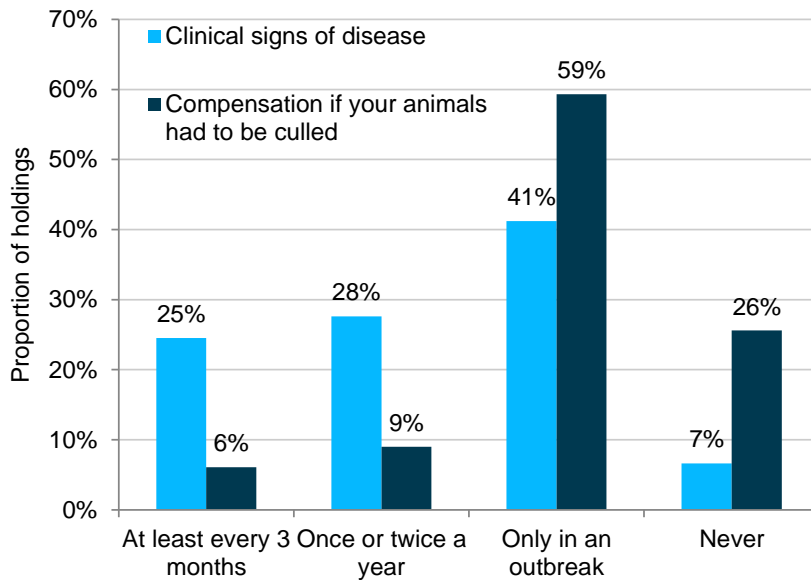
Chart 1.6: Proportion of holdings undertaking the following practices when taking livestock to gatherings



41% of farmers take steps to inform themselves about what clinical signs of disease to look out for only in the case of an outbreak. 59% of farmers inform themselves only in an outbreak what compensation they may be entitled to if their animals had to be culled as part of a disease control programme. 53% of farmers inform themselves more frequently than this about clinical signs of

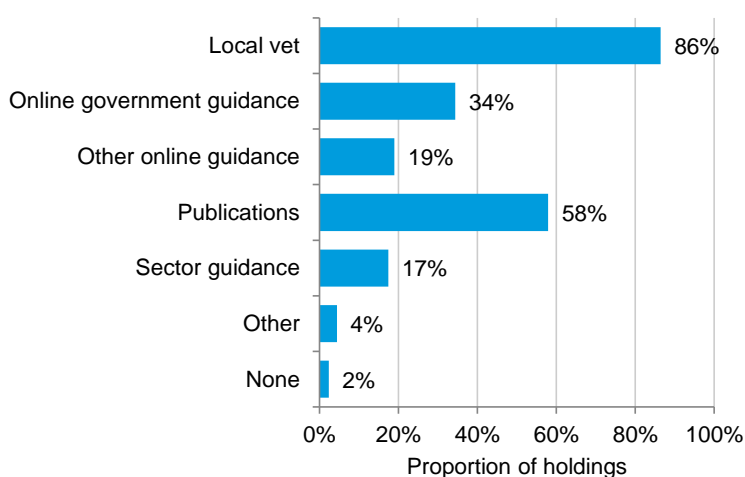
disease. 15% of farmers seek information on compensation entitlements at least once or twice a year. Examples of exotic disease include: avian flu, blue tongue virus, foot and mouth disease and swine fevers.

Chart 1.7: Frequency with which farmers take steps to inform themselves about clinical signs of disease and any compensation they may be entitled to



The most frequently cited source of advice on exotic disease was the local vet; 86% of farmers use the local vet as a source of advice. 58% of farmers use publications and 34% use online government guidance. Only 2% of farmers seek no sources of advice on exotic disease.

Chart 1.8: Sources of advice on exotic disease used by farmers



Survey details

Survey content

The Farm Practices Survey (FPS) is an annual survey 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.

The October 2014 survey covered two distinct topics and a copy of the survey questionnaire is attached at the back for full details. The first topic covered the Basic Payment scheme and Greening requirements to find out more about farmer intentions and activities in the build up to the scheme. Results from this section of the survey were published on 13 March 2015 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/farm-practices-survey>.

The results presented in this current release are from the second topic on the survey which related to the prevention of livestock disease. Results 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 holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Response rate %
Cereals	16 697	999	50
General cropping	15 382	761	33
Horticulture	4 328	469	26
Pigs and 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 2 SLR
Medium	2 to less than 3 SLR
Large	3 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 19 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. Data from the Farm Practices Survey are used by the Animal Health and Welfare team providing data for the biosecurity working group of the TB programme, the team reviewing compensation for exotic diseases (looking at what and whether

compensation for culling could or should be linked to biosecurity practices), and will be of interest to teams working on endemic diseases.

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 using the details provided on the front page.



ONLY if there are any amendments or corrections to details opposite, please write them in this box.

Name:

Address:

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 ₁ No ₂

A100

2. Do you intend to apply for the new Basic Payment Scheme payment in 2015?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Not Sure ₃
↳ If **No** go to Section 4, page 6

A101

3. Are you aware of the greening requirement being introduced as part of the Basic Payment Scheme?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Not Sure ₃

A102

4. Do you understand what the new greening requirement means for your holding?

*tick **one** box only*
Full understanding ₁ Good understanding ₂ Little understanding ₃ No 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 ₁ Yes: **Part** of my holding ₂ No: **None** of my holding ₃

A104

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?

*tick **one** box only*
More willing ₁ No change ₂ Less willing ₃ Not sure ₄

A106

Section 2. Ecological Focus Areas (EFA)

8. Do you think the Ecological Focus Area requirement will apply on your holding?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Not Sure ₃

B130

↳ If **No** go to Section 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 enough qualifying features ₁

Yes, I have some (but not enough) qualifying features ₂

Yes, I do not have any of the qualifying features ₃

I will choose not to add any qualifying features ₄

Not Sure ₅ B131

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
Fallow land	<i>tick all options that apply</i> <input type="checkbox"/> B132	<i>tick all options that apply</i> <input type="checkbox"/> B137
Buffer strips	<input type="checkbox"/> B133	<input type="checkbox"/> B138
Catch and cover crops	<input type="checkbox"/> B134	<input type="checkbox"/> B139
Nitrogen fixing crops	<input type="checkbox"/> B135	<input type="checkbox"/> B140
Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/> B136	<input type="checkbox"/> B141

continued over leaf

Section 2. Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) continued...

11. Are you adding new buffer strips or fallow land to meet the EFA requirement?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Not Sure ₃

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*

	Standard EFA requirement only		Wild bird seed mixes		Nectar sources		Other additional management under Campaign for the Farmed Environment	
Fallow land	<input type="checkbox"/>	B143	<input type="checkbox"/>	B145	<input type="checkbox"/>	B147	<input type="checkbox"/>	B149
Buffer strips	<input type="checkbox"/>	B144	<input type="checkbox"/>	B146	<input type="checkbox"/>	B148	<input type="checkbox"/>	B150

13. Do you think introducing EFAs on your holding will result in:

*tick **one** box only*

A positive impact to the farm business ₁

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

Section 3. Crop Diversification

15. Do you think the crop diversification requirement will apply on your holding?

Yes ₁ No ₂ Not Sure ₃

C200

16. Have you changed your cropping plans for the crop year 2014/15?

Yes ₁ No ₂ → *If **No** go to section 4, page 6*

C201

17. Was the change in cropping plans a result of:

*tick **all options** that apply*

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 2015, which changes did you make?

*tick **all options** that apply*

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 ₆ C203

C204

continued over leaf

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 section 5.

N1

Isolation: 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:

↳ **If Never** go to Question 21

20. How long do you typically isolate new or returning livestock?

Number of days 1 D101

If never:

↳ Go to Question 22

21. Please indicate the main reason why you do not isolate new or returning livestock:

*tick **one** 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 1 No 2 Not applicable 3 D104

b) Isolation at pasture/outdoors

Yes 1 No 2 Not applicable 3 D105

c) Isolation for milking

Yes 1 No 2 Not applicable 3 D106

d) Isolation for animal handling

Yes 1 No 2 Not applicable 3 D107

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 all 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 all that apply

- Confirm the vehicle used is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before your animals enter it, when leaving your farm or elsewhere 1
- 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 4
- I do not take my animals to gatherings because of the disease risk 5
- 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 months 1 Once or twice a year 2 Only in an outbreak 3 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 months 1 Once or twice a year 2 Only in an outbreak 3 Never 4 D111

Section 4. Prevention of livestock disease continued...

26. Which source(s) of advice on exotic diseases do you use?

*tick **all** that apply*

Local vet 1

Online government guidance 2

Other online advice 3

Publications 4

Sector guidance 5

D112

Other, please specify

D113

None

→ If **No** go to section 5

D114

27. Which source of advice on exotic diseases do you find **most** useful?

*tick **one** box only*

Local vet 1

Online government guidance 2

Other online advice 3

Publications 4

Sector guidance 5

Other 6

D115

Section 5. Declaration

I declare the information I have given in this return to be correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature

Name (please print)

v3

Telephone number

Any other comments

v8

E-mail
Address

v5

Date

Time taken to complete form

minutes v1

Please now return this form in the pre-paid envelope addressed to
Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Results will be available from March 2015 and can be found at:

<http://bit.ly/DefraStats>