Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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Cattle Farm Practices Survey 2019

This release contains the results from the April 2019 Cattle Farm Practices Survey which included questions on grazing systems, slurry management, purchasing cattle and biosecurity. The key results are given below.

Grazing and cattle housing (Section 1)

- The majority (87%) of farms with cattle used a mix of housed and grazing systems for their cattle.
- Just over a third of all farms with cattle (34%) had rented land in from others to graze their cattle in the past 12 months, this increased to 51% for Specialist Dairy farms and 40% for farms with breakdown experience.

Slurry (Section 2)

- Over two thirds of all farms with cattle (68%) do not spread slurry on their land, in comparison only 5% of Specialist Dairy farms do not spread slurry on their land.
- For the farms with cattle that do spread slurry on their lands, 45% don't always or never store their slurry for 6 months before spreading and 15% don't know or can't be certain.

Purchasing cattle (Section 3)

- Farms with cattle were most likely (61%) to have bought cattle in the past 12 months directly from other farms (not via auction), followed by traditional cattle auctions or cattle marts (58%).
- Over a quarter (28%) of farms with cattle use ibTB in some capacity to check for TB breakdowns.
- Just over half of farms with cattle (51%) always isolate new cattle before introducing them into the herd and 17% of farms with cattle never isolate new cattle.

Biosecurity (Section 4)

- Keeping grazing land free from slurry was the measure most commonly adopted (65%) to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown but it was the least likely to be seen as reducing the likelihood of a TB breakdown (30%).

Advice and guidance (Section 5)

- Private vets were the most likely sources of advice and information to have influenced the way TB risk is managed on farms, with 73% indicating this source, followed by word of mouth at 70%.

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Background and definitions

This survey was a voluntary postal survey of farms with cattle in England. The survey took place in April 2019. The main purpose was to determine whether there were any differences in farm practices between farms with different characteristics including their bovine tuberculosis (TB) breakdown history (as of 22 March 2019), TB risk area, number of cattle, region, farm type and farm size. Definitions of these characteristics can be found below.

TB breakdown history (as of 22 March 2019): Farms were split into three categories.

- No breakdown; farms which have never had a TB breakdown.
- Recent first breakdown; farms with a recently closed first TB breakdown (within the past year) or farms with a current open first breakdown.
- Breakdown experience; farms with a singular closed breakdown (closed for over 1 year) or farms with more than one breakdown recorded.

TB risk area: This refers to the three areas of England (Low risk, Edge and High risk) which reflect the epidemiology of bovine TB. See https://tbhub.co.uk/risk-map/ for a visual representation of TB risk areas.

Number of cattle: This refers to the total number of cattle on that farm. The bands used are less than 50, 50 to less than 150 and 150 and over.

Region: This refers to the NUTS1 regions in England, for the purposes of this analysis we have combined the South East with London.

Farm type: This refers to the 'robust type', which is a standardised farm classification system. Farms are split into Specialist Dairy, Grazing Livestock Less Favoured Areas (LFA), Grazing Livestock Lowland, Mixed and Other (includes Horticulture, Specialist Pigs Specialist Poultry, General Cropping and Cereals).

Farm size: This is based on the estimated labour requirements for the farm (not its land area). Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) is defined as the theoretical number of workers required each year to run a farm, based on its cropping and livestock activities. The farm size bands used are Small (less than 2 SLR), Medium (2 to less than 3 SLR) and Large (3 or more SLR).

More information on the survey methodology can be found on page 27.

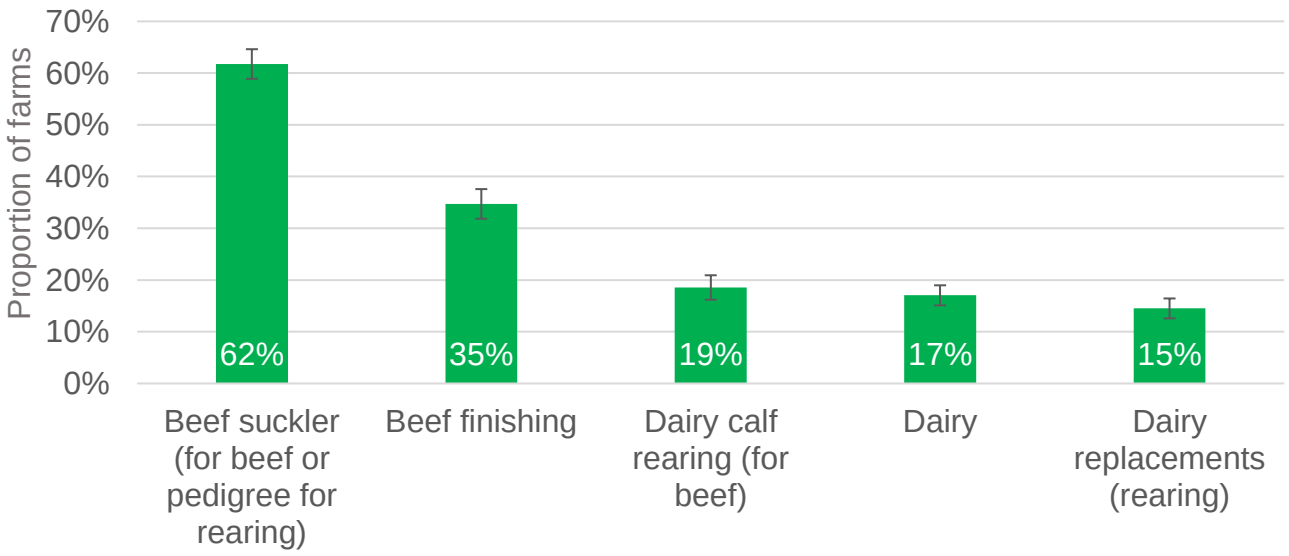
Section 1. Grazing and cattle housing

Key findings

- The majority (87%) of farms with cattle used a mix of housed and grazing systems for their cattle.
- 95% of farms with cattle had not rented their grazing land to other cattle keepers in the past 12 months and 97% of farms with cattle had not used common land to graze their cattle in the past 12 months.
- Just over a third of all farms with cattle (34%) had rented land in from others to graze their cattle in the past 12 months, this increased to 51% for Specialist Dairy farms and 40% for farms with breakdown experience.

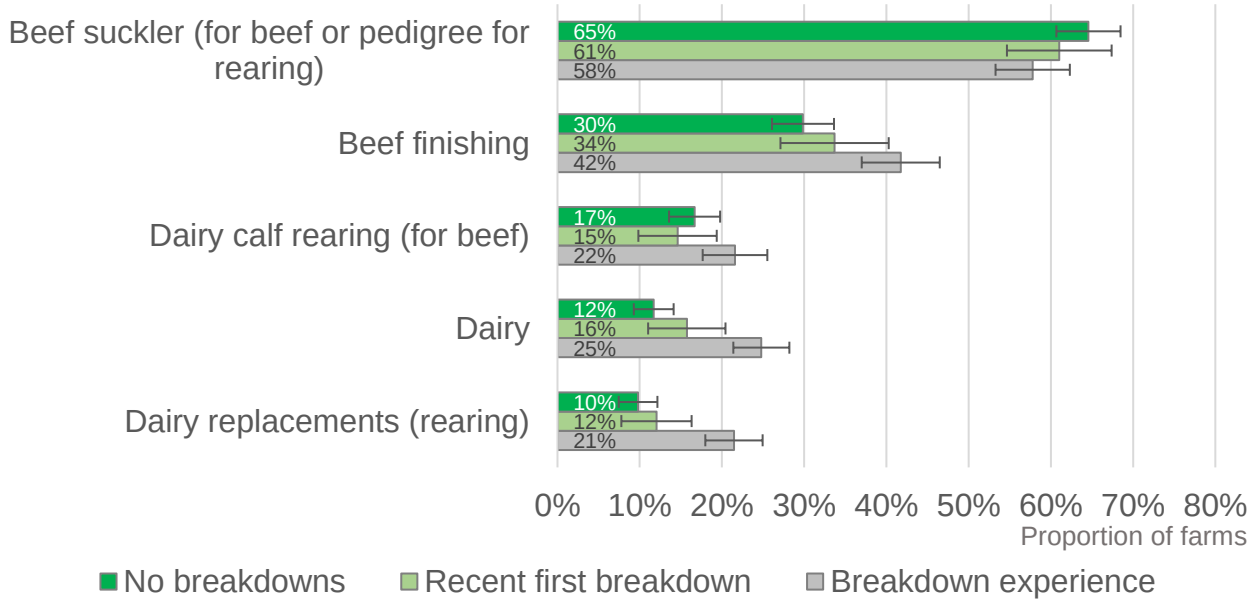
Farms with cattle were asked to indicate the type of cattle enterprises on their farm. Note that farms could select more than one enterprise type. Almost two thirds (62%) of farms with cattle had a beef suckler enterprise, 35% had a beef finishing enterprise, 19% had a dairy calf rearing (for beef) enterprise, 17% had a dairy enterprise and 15% had a dairy replacement (for rearing) enterprise (Figure 1.1)

Figure 1.1: Cattle enterprises on farms



Farms with the most cattle (150 and over) were more likely to have a dairy enterprise (49%). Cattle enterprises also varied by TB breakdown history (Figure 1.2), a quarter of farms with breakdown experience said they had a dairy enterprise compared to only 12% of farms with no breakdowns and 16% of farms with a recent first breakdown.

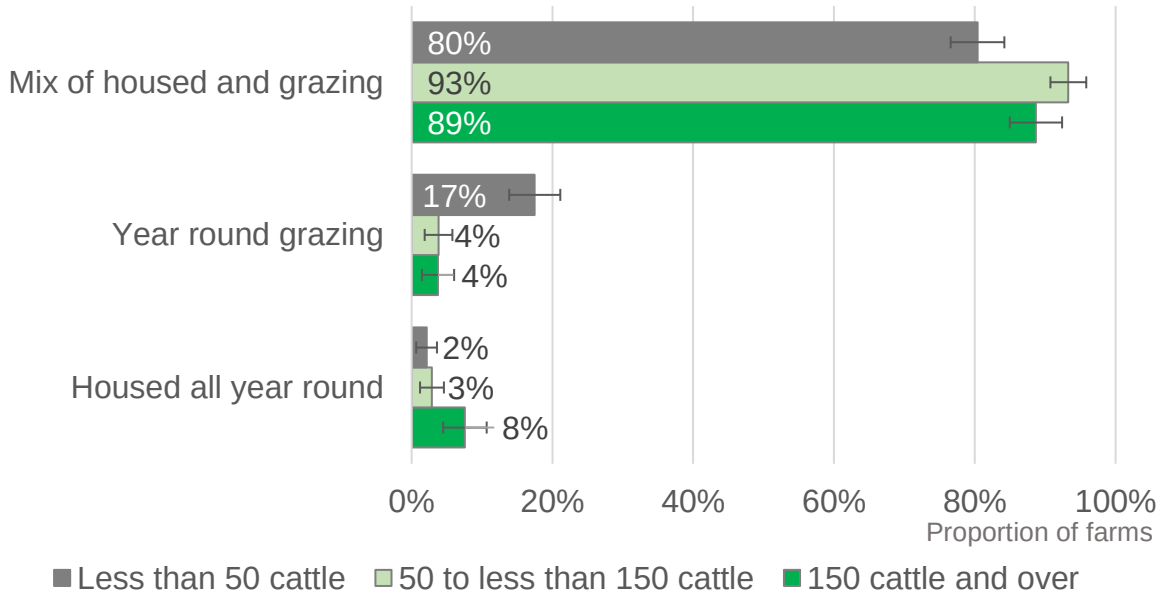
Figure 1.2: Cattle enterprises on farms, by TB breakdown history



The majority (87%) of farms with cattle used a mix of housed and grazing systems for their cattle. Only 9% had a year round grazing system and 4% housed their cattle all year round.

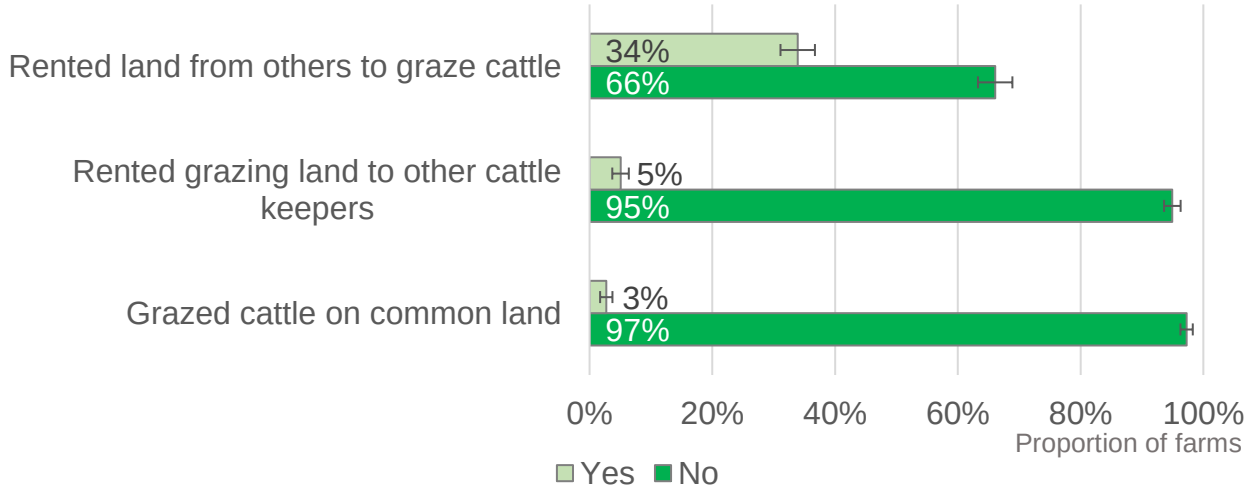
Those farms with smaller cattle numbers (less than 50) were more likely to have year round grazing systems (17%) than farms with more cattle although the majority of farms with less than 50 cattle still used a mix of housed and grazing systems (80%), (Figure 1.3).

Figure 1.3: Grazing systems on farms with cattle, by number of cattle



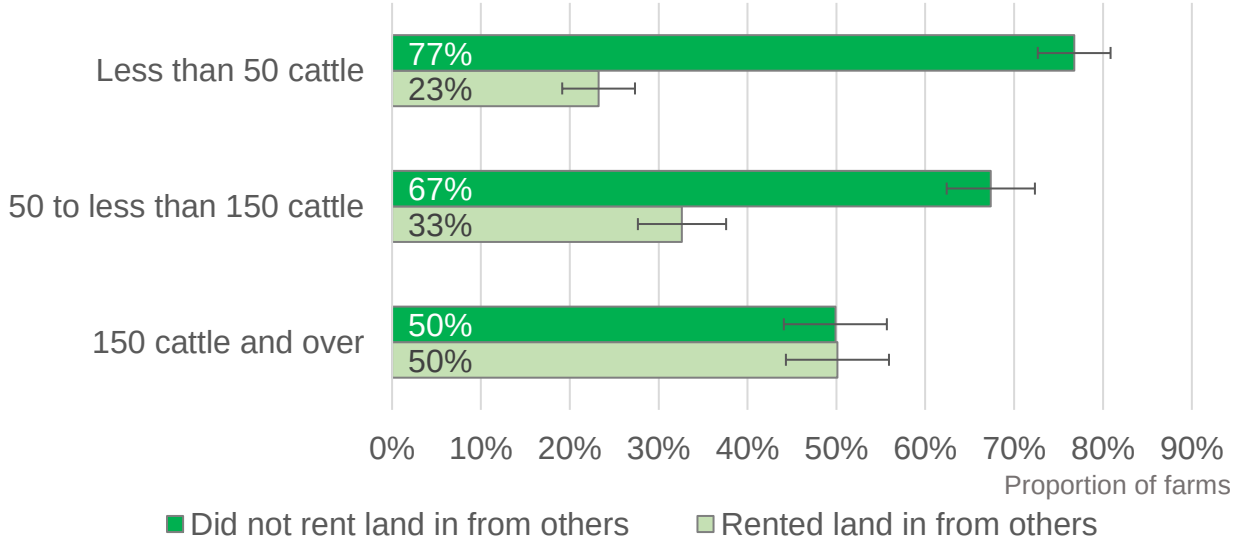
Few farms with cattle (5%) had rented their grazing land out to other cattle keepers in the past 12 months and very few, 3%, had grazed their cattle on common land in the past 12 months (Figure 1.4). These proportions were similar across all subgroups (TB breakdown history, TB risk area, number of cattle, region, farm type and farm size).

Figure 1.4: Shared grazing arrangements on farms with cattle in the past 12 months



Around a third of farms with cattle (34%) had rented land in from others to graze their cattle in the past 12 months. This varied by number of cattle[1] (Figure 1.5), with half (50%) of farms with 150 cattle and over renting land in, compared to 23% of farms with less than 50 cattle and 33% of farms with 50 to less than 150 cattle.

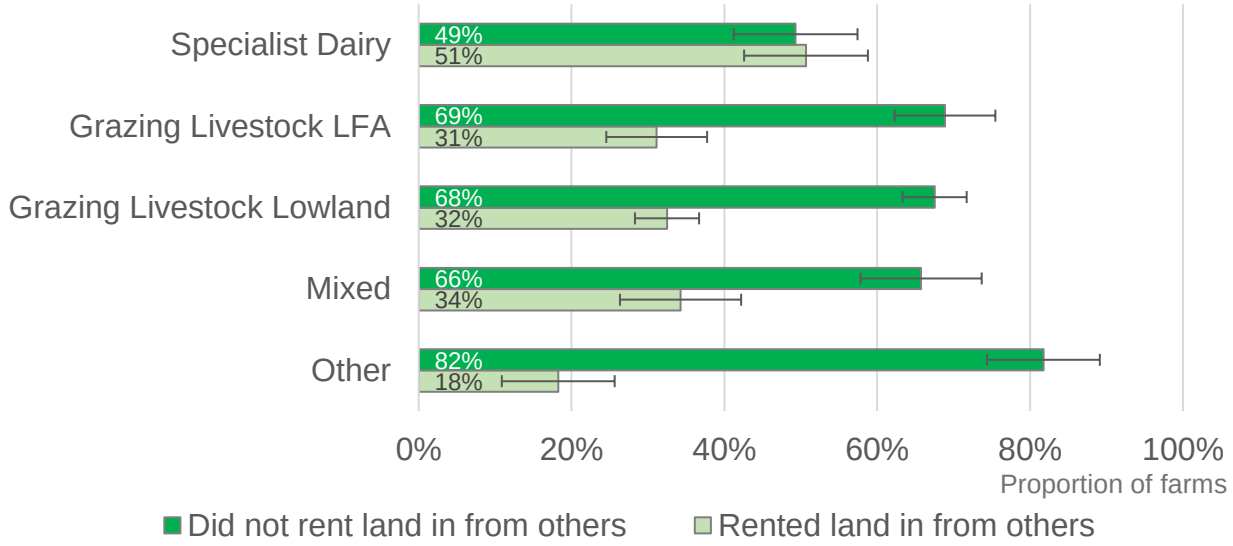
Figure 1.5: Land rented in from others to graze cattle in the past 12 months, by number of cattle



[1] This finding could be correlated with farm type. 81% of Specialist Dairy farm respondents had 150 cattle and over.

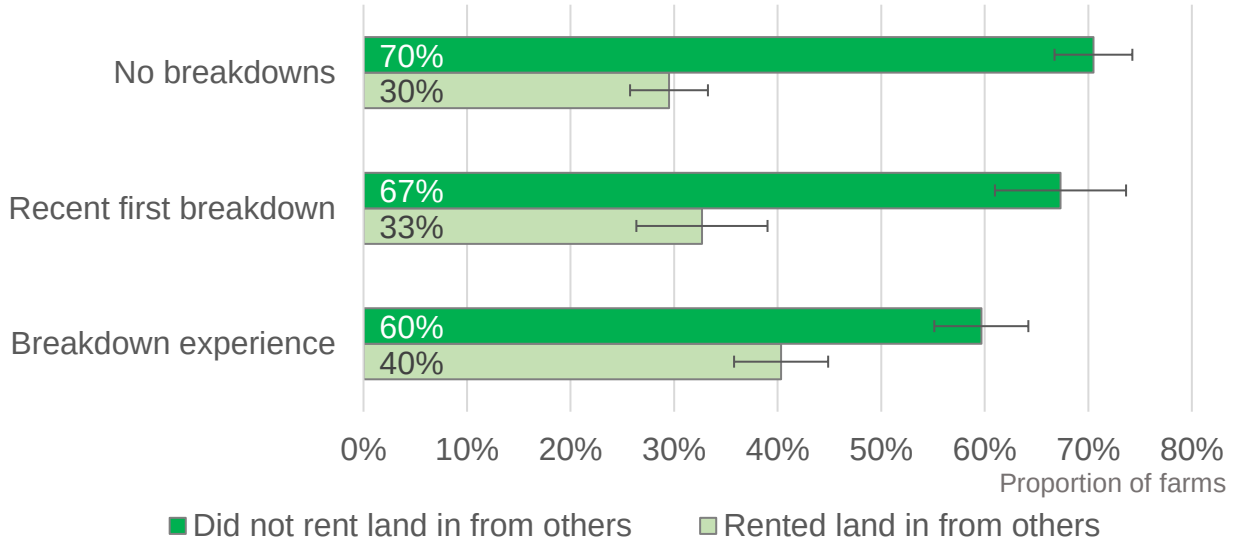
Additionally (Figure 1.6), over half of Specialist Dairy farms (51%) rented in land for grazing, compared to around a third of Grazing Livestock farms (LFA – 31%; Lowland – 32%).

Figure 1.6: Land rented in from others to graze cattle in the past 12 months, by farm type



This also varied by TB breakdown history (Figure 1.7). Under a third (30%) of farms with cattle with no breakdowns had rented land in from others to graze their cattle in the past 12 months and 33% of those with a recent first breakdown had done so compared to 40% of those with breakdown experience.

Figure 1.7: Land rented in from others to graze cattle in the past 12 months, by TB breakdown history



Section 2. Slurry spreading and storage

Key findings

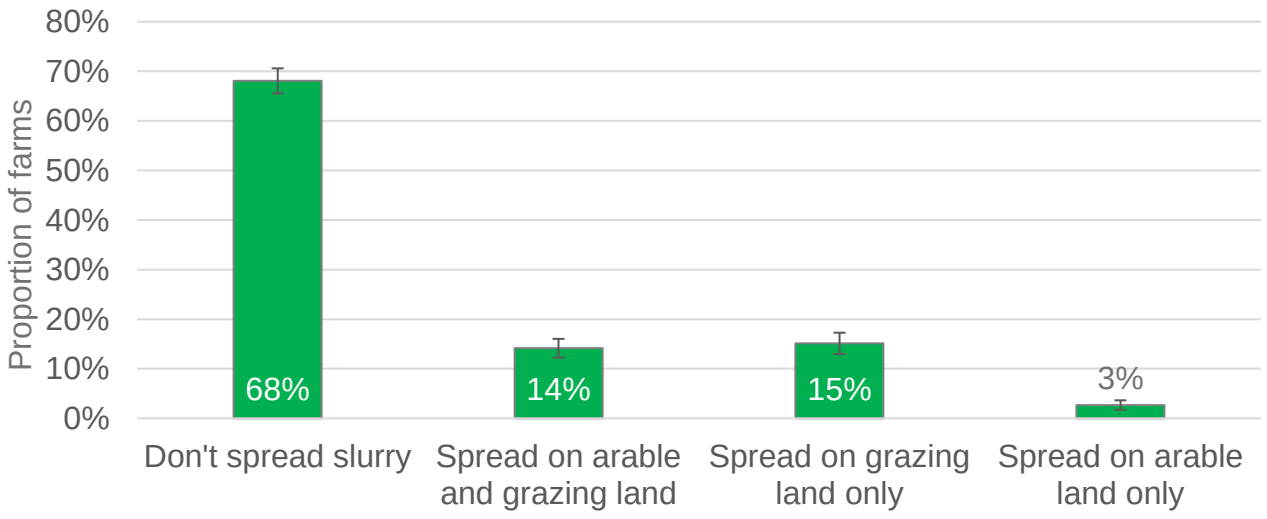
- Over two thirds of farms with cattle (68%) do not spread slurry on their land. There were considerable differences between farm types, Specialist Dairy farms were much more likely to spread slurry on their land than other farm types.
- The majority of farms with cattle that spread slurry on their land sourced it from the farm itself (93%).
- For the farms with cattle that do spread slurry on their land, a third (33%) always store it for at least 6 months before spreading compared to 45% who don't always or never store their slurry for 6 months before spreading.
- Nearly two thirds (63%) of farms that spread slurry have the capacity to store it for six months before use.

Almost two thirds (62%) of farms with cattle do not produce any slurry, 34% do produce slurry but do not send it to other farms and the remaining 4% do produce slurry and do send some or all of it to other farms.

This varied by farm type; only 5% of Specialist Dairy farms did not produce any slurry, 18% do but do not send it to other farms and the remaining 77% do produce slurry and do send some or all of it to other farms.

Over two thirds of farms with cattle (68%) do not spread slurry on their land (Figure 2.1). For the farms with cattle that do spread slurry on their land, roughly equal proportions spread it either on both arable and grazing land or on grazing land only (14% and 15% respectively). Only 3% of farms with cattle spread slurry on arable land only.

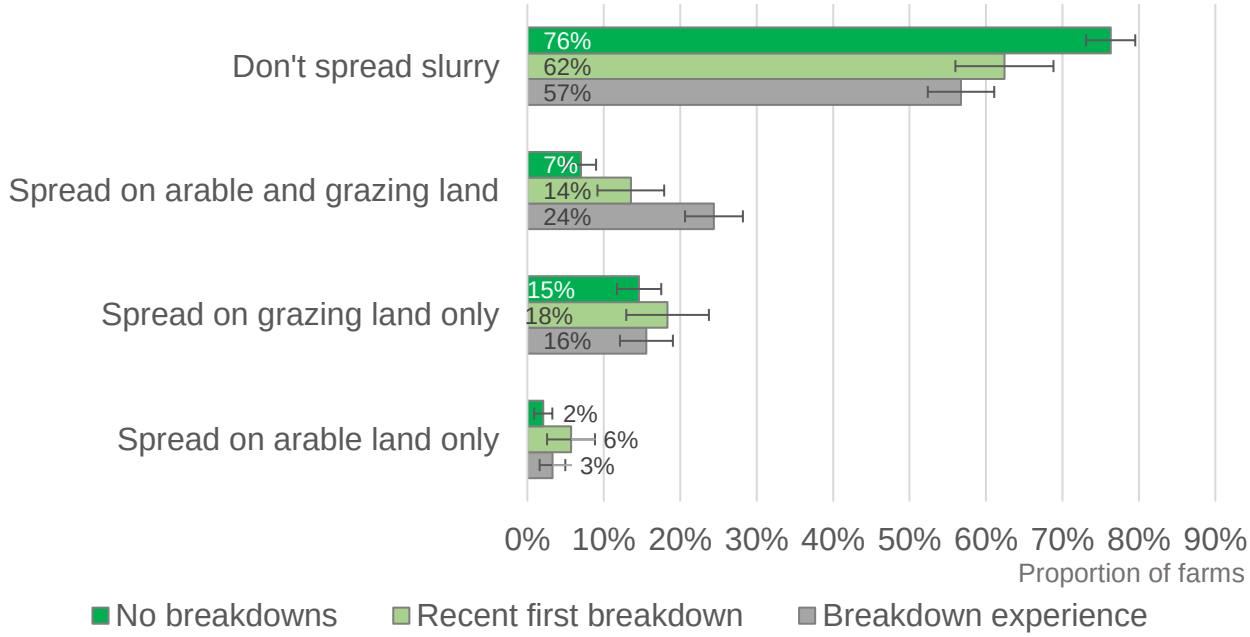
Figure 2.1: Slurry spreading on farms with cattle



Specialist Dairy farms were different to other farm types. Very few (5%) Specialist Dairy farms do not spread slurry on their land compared to 61% who spread slurry on both arable and grazing land, almost a third (31%) spread slurry on grazing land only and 3% on arable land only.

Similarly, slurry spreading varied by TB breakdown history (Figure 2.2). Farms with cattle and no previous breakdown history were more likely to not spread slurry (76%) than those with a recent first breakdown (62%) or those with breakdown experience (57%).

Figure 2.2: Slurry spreading on farms with cattle, by TB breakdown history



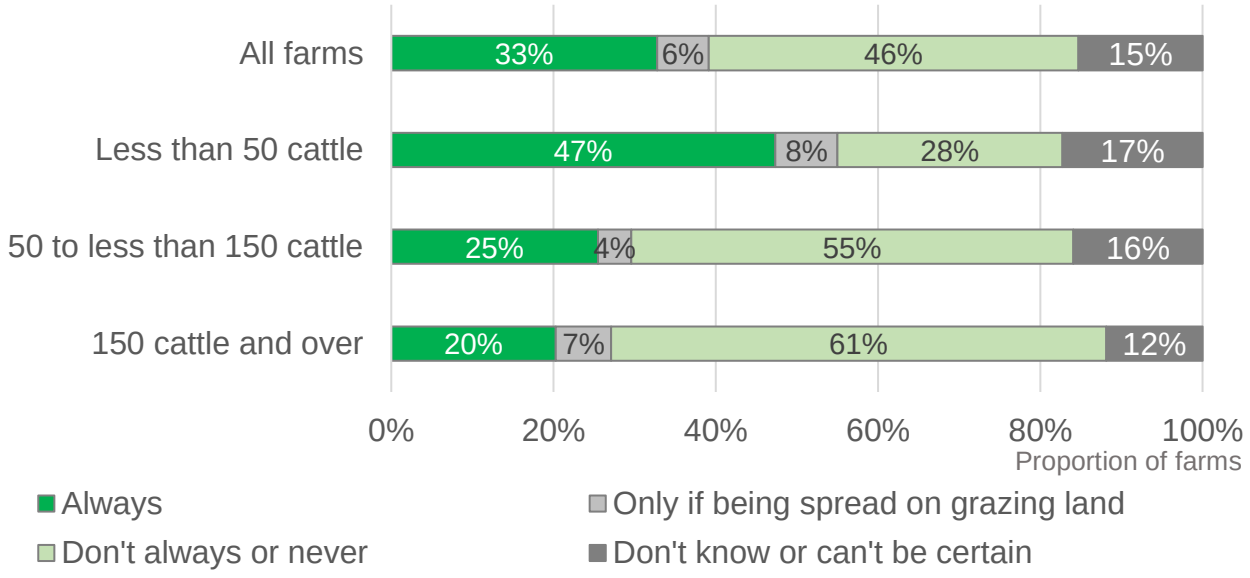
Farms with cattle who do spread slurry were also asked about the source of this slurry (Figure 2.3), the majority sourced the slurry only from the farm (93%).

Figure 2.3: Sources of slurry for farms with cattle that do spread it (proportion of holdings)

The government recommends farms have enough capacity to store slurry for 4 months before spreading but it is thought TB may be able to survive for up to 6 months in stored slurry. For those farms with cattle that do spread slurry on their land, 45% don't; always or never store their slurry for 6 months before spreading, a third (33%) always store it for at least 6 months. A further 6% only store slurry for at least 6 months if it is to be spread on grazing land, and 15% don't know or can't be certain.

These findings vary by number of cattle[2] (Figure 2.4); a fifth of farms with 150 cattle and over always store slurry for 6 months before they spread it, compared to almost half (47%) of farms with less than 50 cattle.

Figure 2.4: Proportion of farms who store slurry for at least 6 months before spreading, by number of cattle



There were also differences across TB risk areas. Farms with cattle in Edge areas were more likely to always store slurry for 6 months before they spread it (48%) compared to only 34% in High risk areas and 24% in Low risk areas.

Farms with cattle that do spread slurry were also asked whether they had the capacity to store slurry for 6 months before spreading. Nearly two thirds (63%) did have this capacity and those farms with cattle in Edge areas (who were more likely to always store slurry for 6 months before spreading) were more likely to have the capacity (70% compared to 59% in Low risk areas and 63% in High risk areas), as would be expected.

[2] This finding could be correlated with farm type. 81% of Specialist Dairy farm respondents had 150 cattle and over.

Section 3. Purchasing cattle

Key findings

- 112 farms with cattle responded that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd). These were removed from the analysis of this section.
- Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were most likely (61%) to have bought cattle in the past 12 months directly from other farms (not via auction).
- 67% of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) always sought the date of the animal's pre-movement TB test before purchasing cattle; the proportion is lower (51%) for farms with cattle in Low TB risk areas.
- Over a quarter (28%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) made some use of ibTB to check for TB breakdowns. A greater proportion of those in Edge areas (40%) make use of this tool than those in Low (27%) or High (23%) risk areas.
- Around half (51%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) always isolate new cattle before introducing them into the herd whilst 17% never isolate new cattle.
- The majority (86%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) do not carry out post-movement TB testing on new cattle beyond the statutory requirement.
- The majority of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) in Low risk areas avoid buying cattle from Edge or High risk areas (88%). This compares to 58% for those in Edge areas and 43% for those in High risk areas.

There were 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd) and so these were not included in the analysis of this section.

Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were first asked how many cattle they had bought in the past 12 months. 344 respondents had either not purchased any cattle in the last 12 months or did not answer this question, but they did respond to the rest of this section and so have been included in the analysis.

Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were most likely (61%) to have bought cattle in the past 12 months directly from other farms (not via auction), followed by traditional cattle auctions or cattle marts (58%), cattle dealers (8%) and online cattle auctions (1%). Note that farms could select more than one method (Table 3.1).

However, whilst direct from other farms (not via auction) was the most common method, farms who purchased cattle this way only bought on average 36 cattle in the past 12 months using this method. Farms who bought cattle at traditional cattle auctions or cattle marts bought on average 74 cattle in the past 12 months using this method. On average 55 were bought through cattle dealers and 16 through online cattle auctions in the past 12 months (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Proportion of farms who purchased cattle in the past 12 months (and average number purchased), by purchasing method

	Proportion of farms that purchased cattle via each method		Average number of cattle purchased via each method	
	% of farms	95% CI	Number of cattle	95% CI
Traditional cattle auctions or cattle marts	58	±4	74	±29
Online cattle auctions	1	±1	16	±2
Directly from other farms (not via auction)	61	±4	36	±9
Cattle dealers	8	±2	55	±15

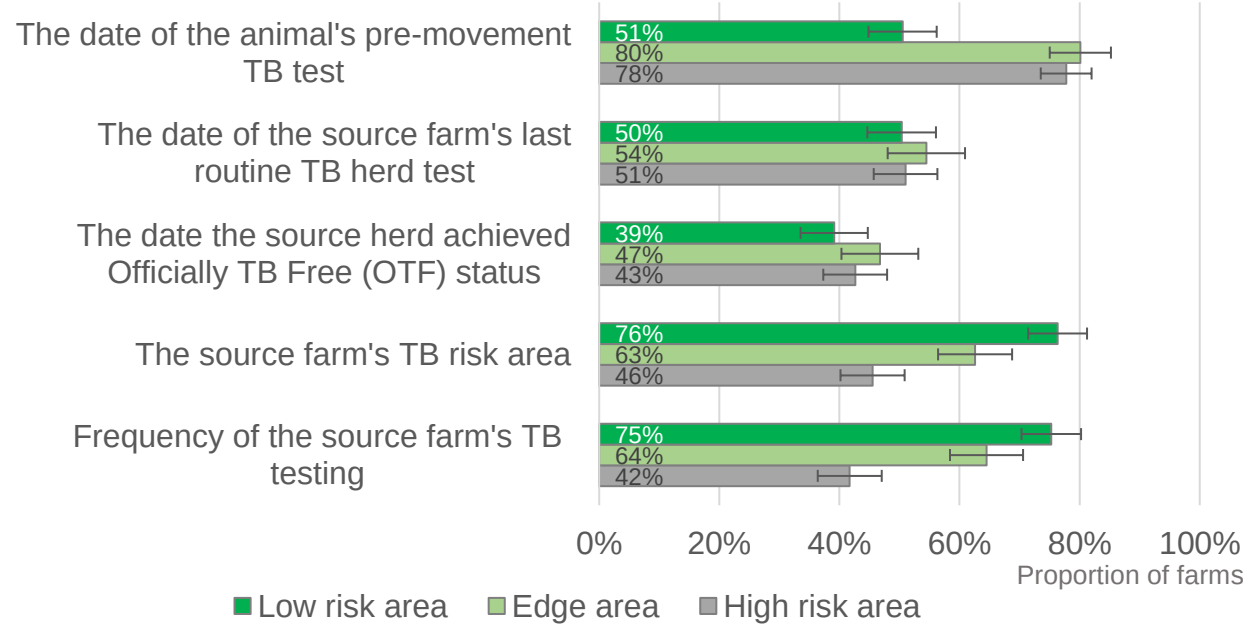
Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were asked about the TB risk information they sought when purchasing cattle and could select always, sometimes or never for each type of TB risk information listed.

About two thirds (67%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) always find out the date of the animal's pre-movement TB test. A lower proportion find out the source farm's TB risk area (61%), the frequency of the source farm's TB testing (59%), the date of the seller's last routine TB herd test (51%) and the date the herd became Officially TB-free (OTF) (42%).

When broken down by the TB risk area of the farm (Figure 3.2), the date of the animal's pre-movement TB test becomes more regularly sought out; 80% of farms in Edge areas and 78% of farms in High risk areas always find out this information, compared to 51% of farms in Low risk areas. Contrastingly, the source farm's TB risk area and frequency of it's TB testing is sought by a higher proportion of farms in Low risk areas than in High risk areas (76% and 75% respectively in Low risk areas; 46% and 42% respectively in High risk areas).

Figure 3.2: Types of TB risk information that farms always find out before purchasing cattle, by TB risk area

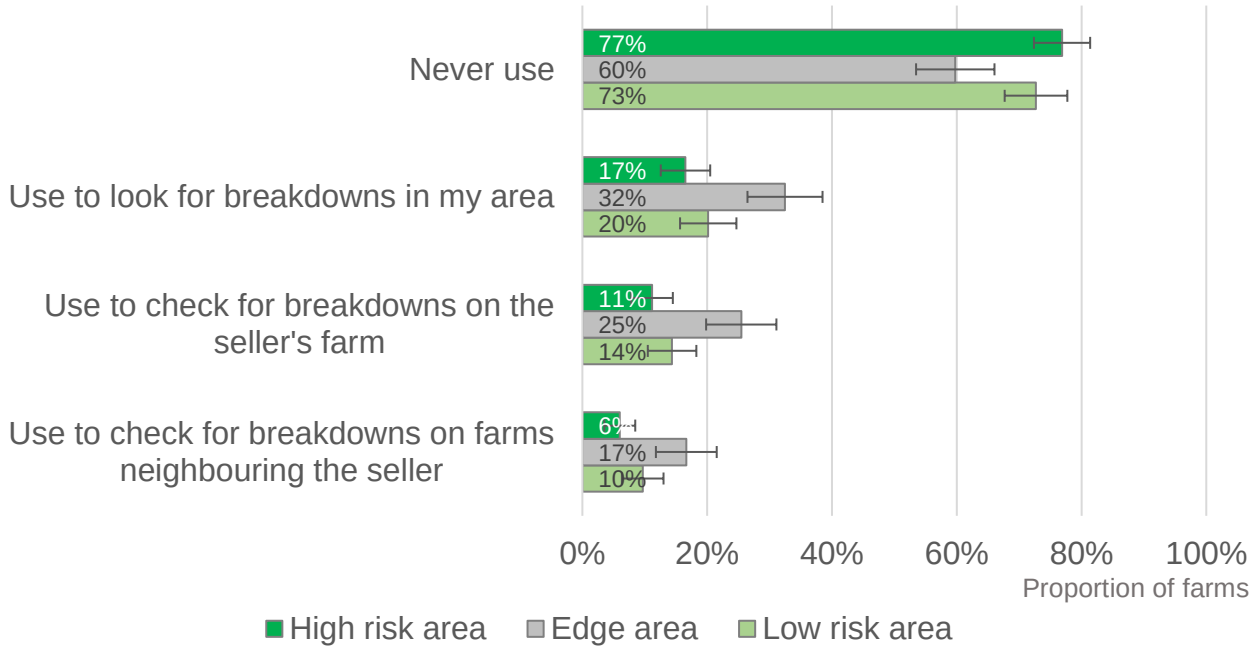


Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

‘Information bTB’ (ibTB) is a free to access interactive mapping tool showing the location of bovine TB outbreaks in England and Wales over the last 5 years. Over a quarter (28%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) made some use of ibTB, with 21% of farms using ibTB to check for breakdowns in their area. When purchasing cattle, 15% of farms use the ibTB tool to check for breakdowns on the seller’s farm, and 9% use it to check for breakdowns on farms neighbouring the seller.

Farms in Edge areas were more likely to make some use of ibTB (40%), compared to farms in Low risk (27%) and High risk (23%) areas (Figure 3.3). The most common use in all risk areas was “to look for breakdowns in my area”.

Figure 3.3: Use of ibTB on farms with cattle, by TB risk area



Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

Just over half (51%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) always isolate new cattle before introducing them into the herd and 17% indicated that they would never do this. A further 10% indicated they would do so if there was an increased risk of TB and 21% would sometimes do so for another reason.

The findings were similar for Low risk, Edge and High risk areas. It did vary slightly by number of cattle[3] (Table 3.4), with 22% of farms with less than 50 cattle never isolating new cattle, as opposed to 14% of farms with 50 to less than 150 and 14% of farms with 150 and over.

[3] This finding could be correlated with farm type. 81% of Specialist Dairy farm respondents had 150 cattle and over.

Table 3.4: Proportion of farms that isolate new cattle before introducing them into the herd, by number of cattle

Number of cattle	Always		If there is an increased risk of TB		Sometimes, for another reason		Never	
	% of farms	95% CI	% of farms	95% CI	% of farms	95% CI	% of farms	95% CI
Less than 50	49	±5	10	±3	19	±4	22	±4
50 to less than 150	53	±6	11	±4	22	±5	14	±4
150 and over	53	±7	10	±4	23	±6	14	±5
All farms	**51**	**±3**	**10**	**±2**	**21**	**±3**	**17**	**±3**

Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

Post-movement TB testing is required by law in certain cases https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-information-note-0116-post-movement-testing. Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were asked if they carry out post-movement TB testing beyond the statutory requirement. The majority (86%) do not carry out post-movement TB testing on new cattle beyond the statutory requirement (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Proportion of farms with cattle which carry out post-movement TB testing beyond the statutory requirement

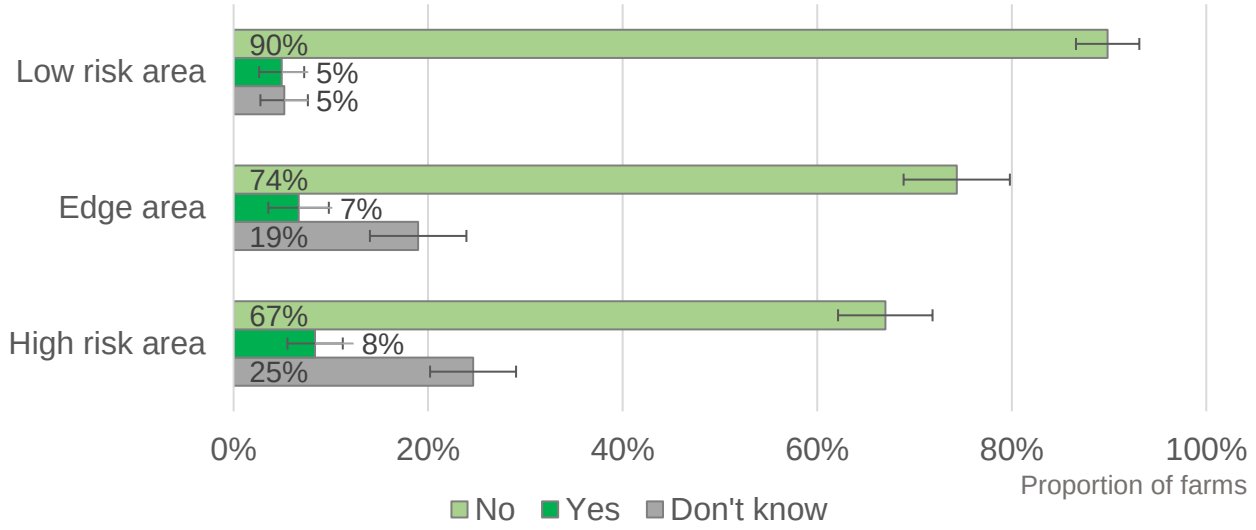
Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

This varies by the TB risk area of the farm with 89% of farms in High risk areas, and 87% of farms in Low risk areas, never carrying out post-movement testing beyond the statutory requirement, compared to 79% of farms in Edge areas.

Just over three quarters (77%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) did not purchase cattle from herds with an increased risk of TB in the previous 12 months. An additional 16% did not know whether or not they had done this and 7% of farms indicated that they had purchased cattle from increased risk herds in the past 12 months.

This varied between TB risk areas (Figure 3.6). Those in Low risk areas were more likely not to have bought from herds with an increased risk of TB whilst those in Edge and High risk areas were more likely not to have known whether there was an increased risk.

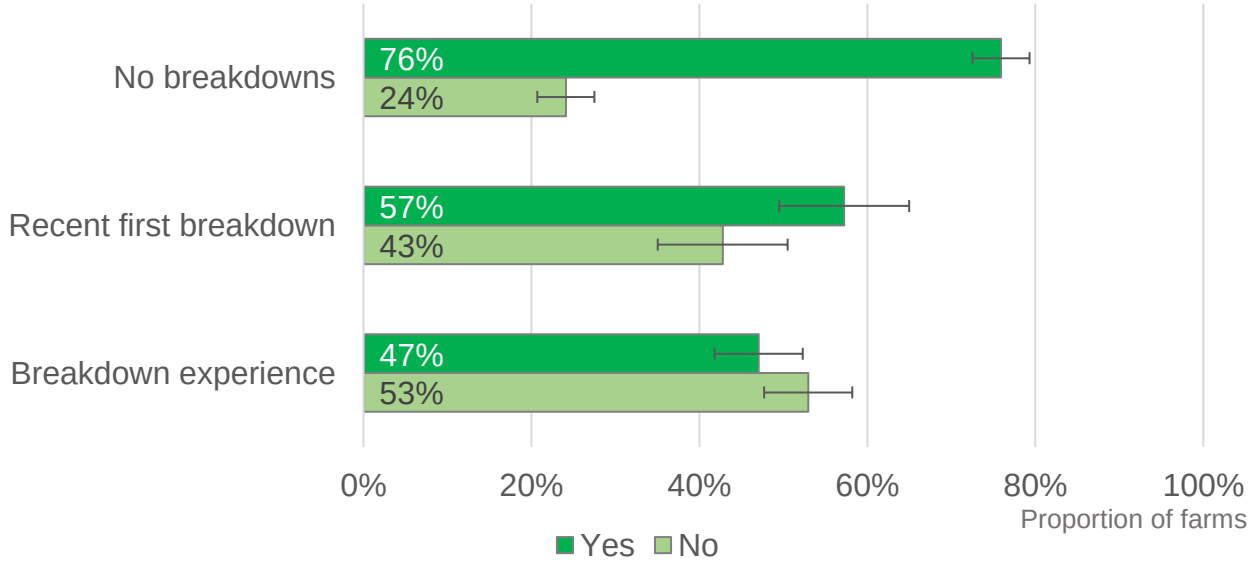
Figure 3.6: Proportion of farms that have bought cattle from herds with an increased risk of TB in the past 12 months, by TB risk area



Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

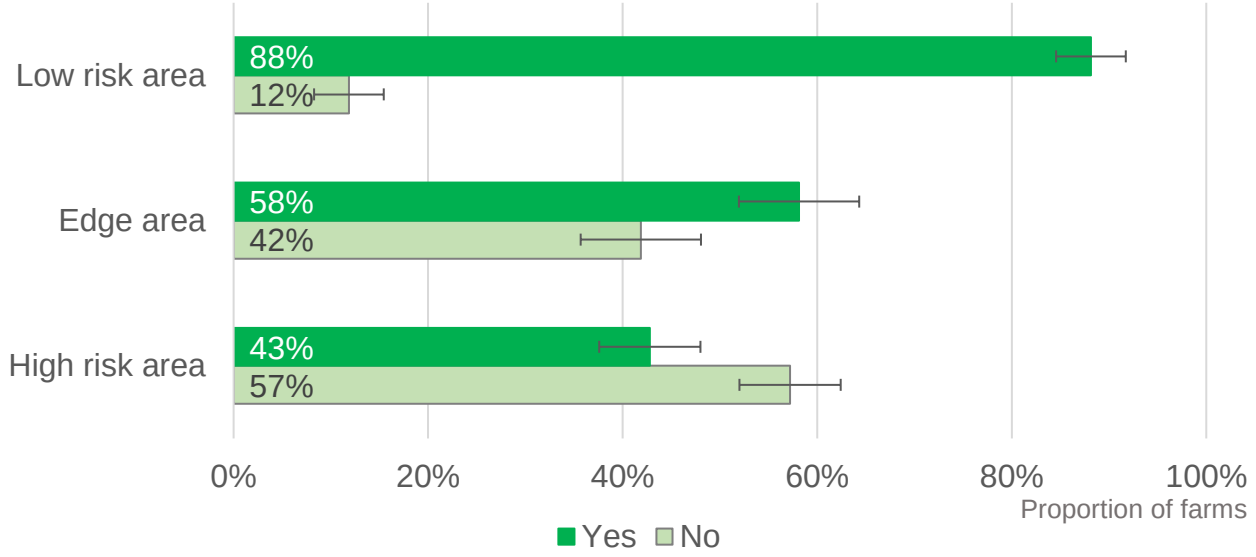
Two thirds (64%) of farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) avoided buying from farms in Edge or High risk areas. This was particularly prevalent for farms that have no previous TB breakdown history (76%; Figure 3.7) and for farms in Low risk areas (88%; Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.7: Proportion of farms that avoid buying cattle from Edge or High risk area herds, by TB history



Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

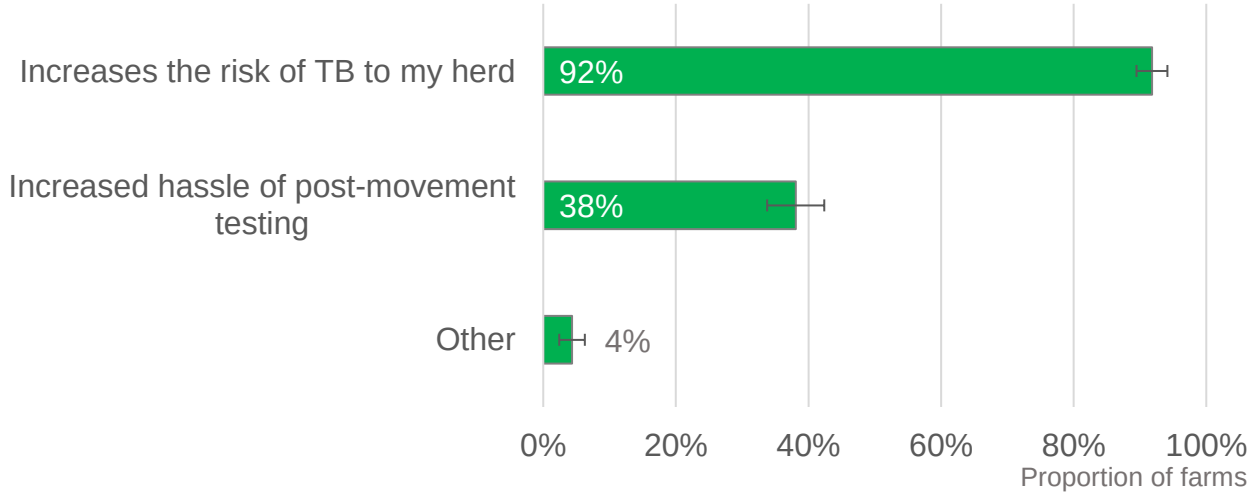
Figure 3.8: Proportion of farms, by their TB risk area, that avoid buying cattle from Edge or High risk area herds



Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

For most (92%) of those farms that avoid buying cattle from Edge or High risk areas, this was because of an increased risk of TB to their own herd (Figure 3.9). Over a third (38%) said that the avoidance was due to the increased hassle of post-movement testing. Other reasons given included not wanting to put neighbouring farms at risk and high costs for the extra tests.

Figure 3.9: Reasons why farms avoid buying cattle from Edge or High risk area herds

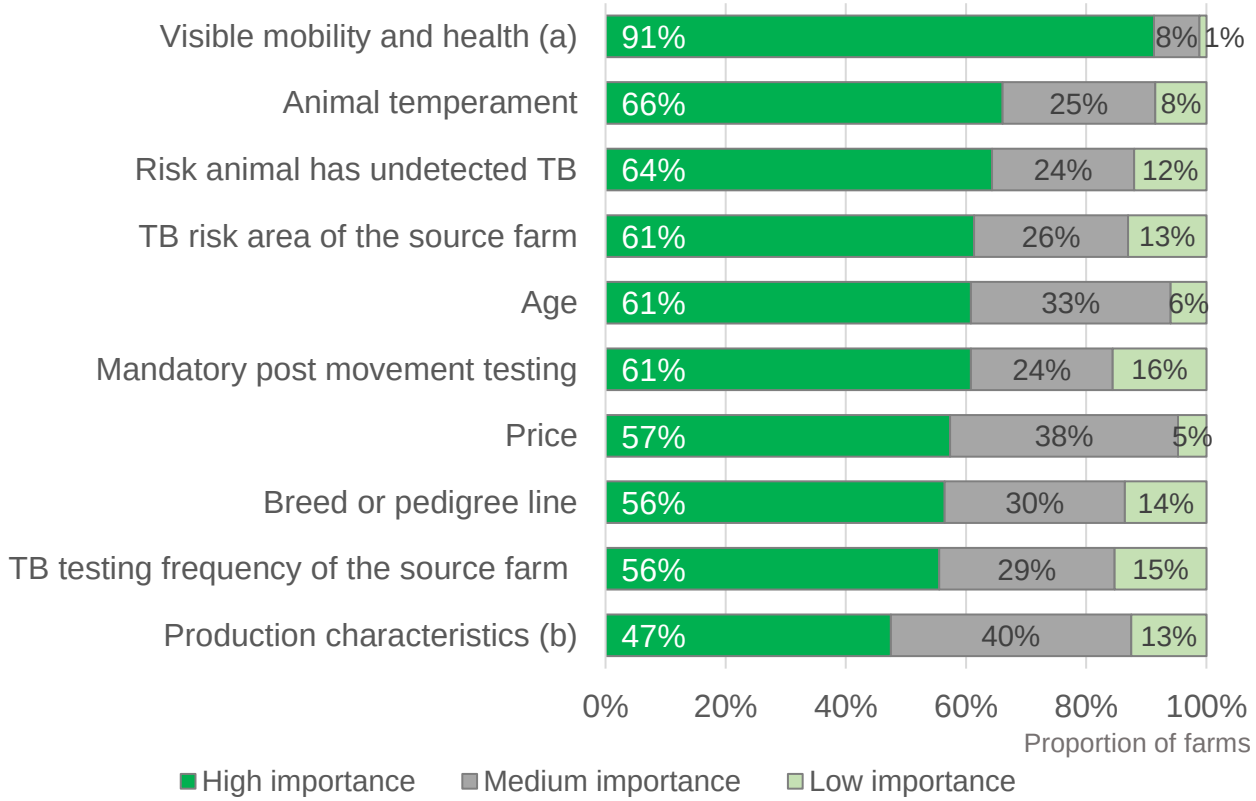


Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

Farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) were asked how important (high, medium or low) certain factors were when purchasing cattle. The listed factors included price, breed, age, temperament, visible mobility and health, production characteristics (e.g. milk yield), TB risk, source farm's TB risk area, frequency of the source farm's TB testing and whether the animal will need mandatory post-movement TB testing.

Visible mobility and health was the most common factor cited by farms with cattle (excluding closed herds) as being of high importance when purchasing cattle (91%). Production chracteristics (e.g. weight gain per day, milk yield and breeding potential) was the least commonly selected as being of high importance (47%). Between 56% and 66% of farms selected the other factors as being of high importance (Figure 3.10).

Figure 3.10: Importance of TB-related factors considered when purchasing cattle



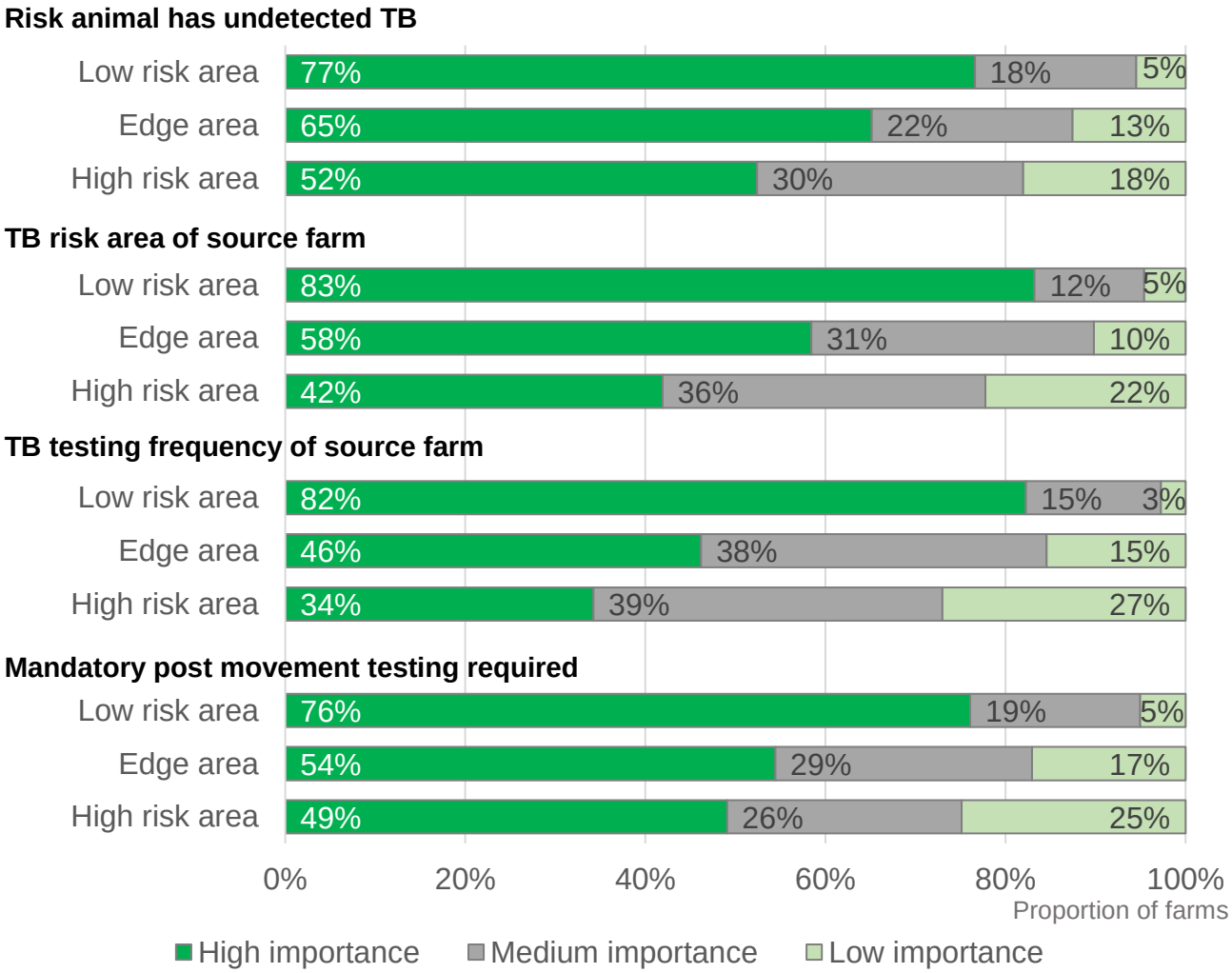
(a) Such as coat, eyes, nose, etc.

(b) E.g. weight gain per day, milk yields, breeding potential

Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

There were differences between TB risk areas (Figure 3.11). Farms in Low risk areas were more likely to see the TB-related factors as being of high importance than those in Edge or High risk areas.

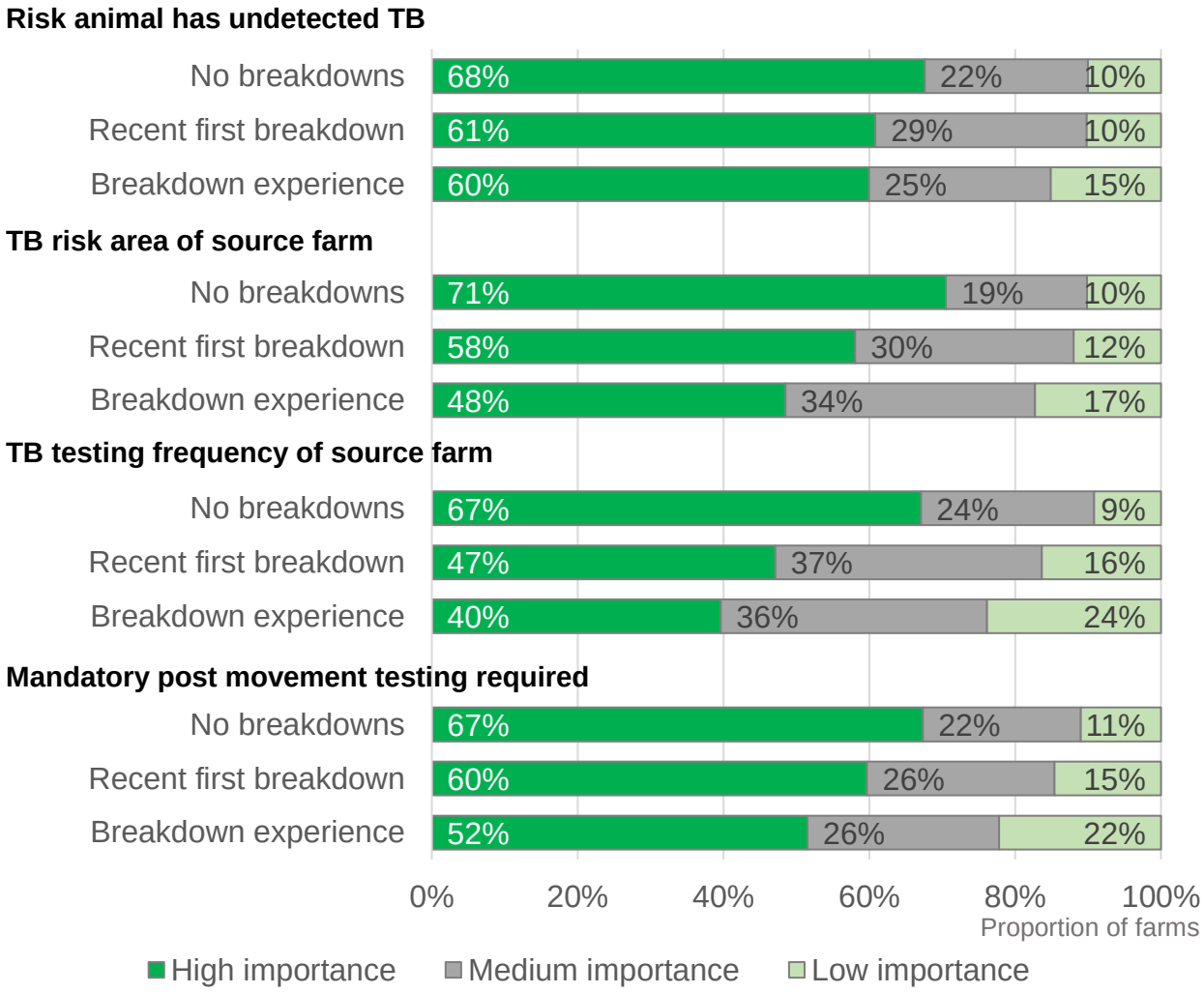
Figure 3.11: Importance of TB-related factors considered when purchasing cattle, by TB risk area



Note: Excludes 112 respondents who stated that they never purchase cattle (i.e. they have a closed herd)

Farms with no previous TB breakdown history were also more likely to see the TB-related factors as being of high importance than those with recent first breakdowns or breakdown experience (Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12: Importance of TB-related factors considered when purchasing cattle, by TB breakdown history



Section 4. Biosecurity

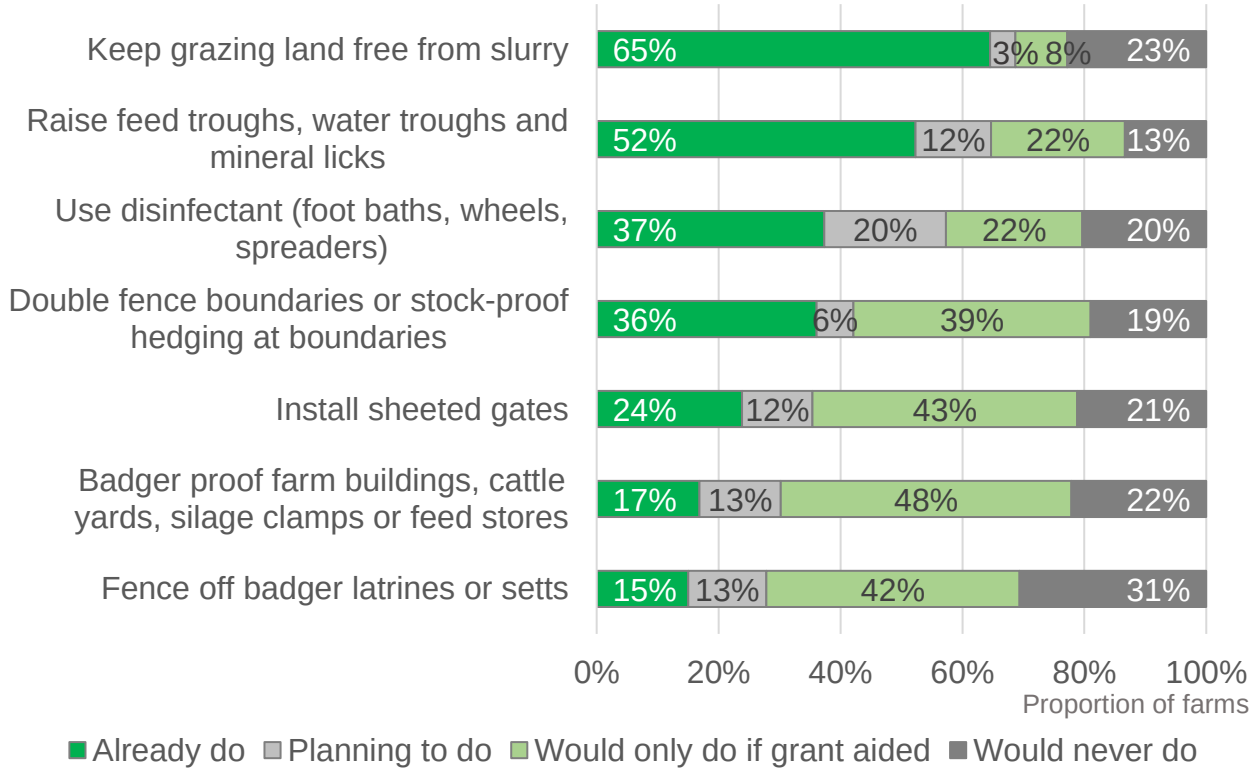
Key findings

- Of the measures listed, keeping grazing land free from slurry was the measure most commonly implemented already (65%) to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown.
- Specialist Dairy farms were less likely than other farm types to have implemented this measure, with only 24% saying that they already keep grazing land free from slurry.
- Of the measures provided, raising feed/water troughs and mineral licks (56% of farms with cattle) and badger proofing farm buildings, cattle yards, silage clamps or feed stores (52%) were the most commonly thought to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown.
- The measure seen as least likely to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown was keeping grazing land free from slurry (30% of farms with cattle).

Farms with cattle were provided with a list of measures that can be implemented to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown and were asked which they had already implemented, were planning to implement, would implement if it was grant aided and would never implement.

The most commonly implemented measure (65% of farms with cattle) was to keep grazing land free from slurry (Figure 4.1), followed by raising feed troughs, water troughs and mineral licks (52%). The least commonly implemented measures were badger proofing buildings, yards and feed stores (17%) and fencing off badger latrines and setts (15%). These two measures were the most likely to be selected as measures that farms would implement if it was grant aided (48% and 42% respectively).

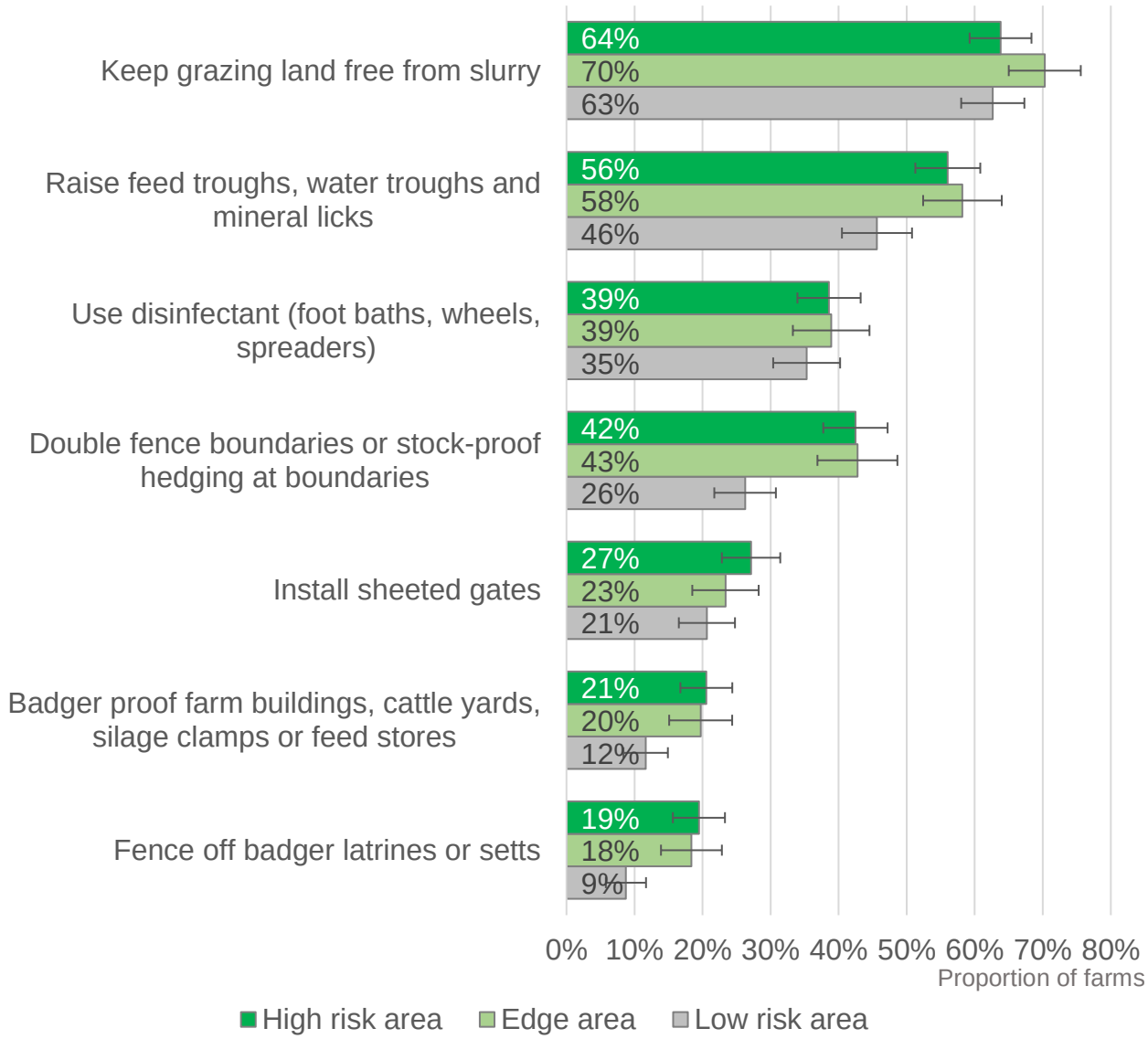
Figure 4.1: Uptake of measures to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown on farms with cattle



There were some differences between farm types; a quarter of Specialist Dairy farms already kept grazing land free from slurry, compared to over 60% of all other farm types with cattle. There were also differences between number of cattle[4], 78% of those with less than 50 cattle had implemented this measure compared to 46% of those with over 150 cattle.

There were some differences in overall response patterns between TB risk areas (Figure 4.2). Those farms in Low risk areas were less likely to have implemented or plan to implement most measures than those in Edge or High risk areas (Figure 4.2).

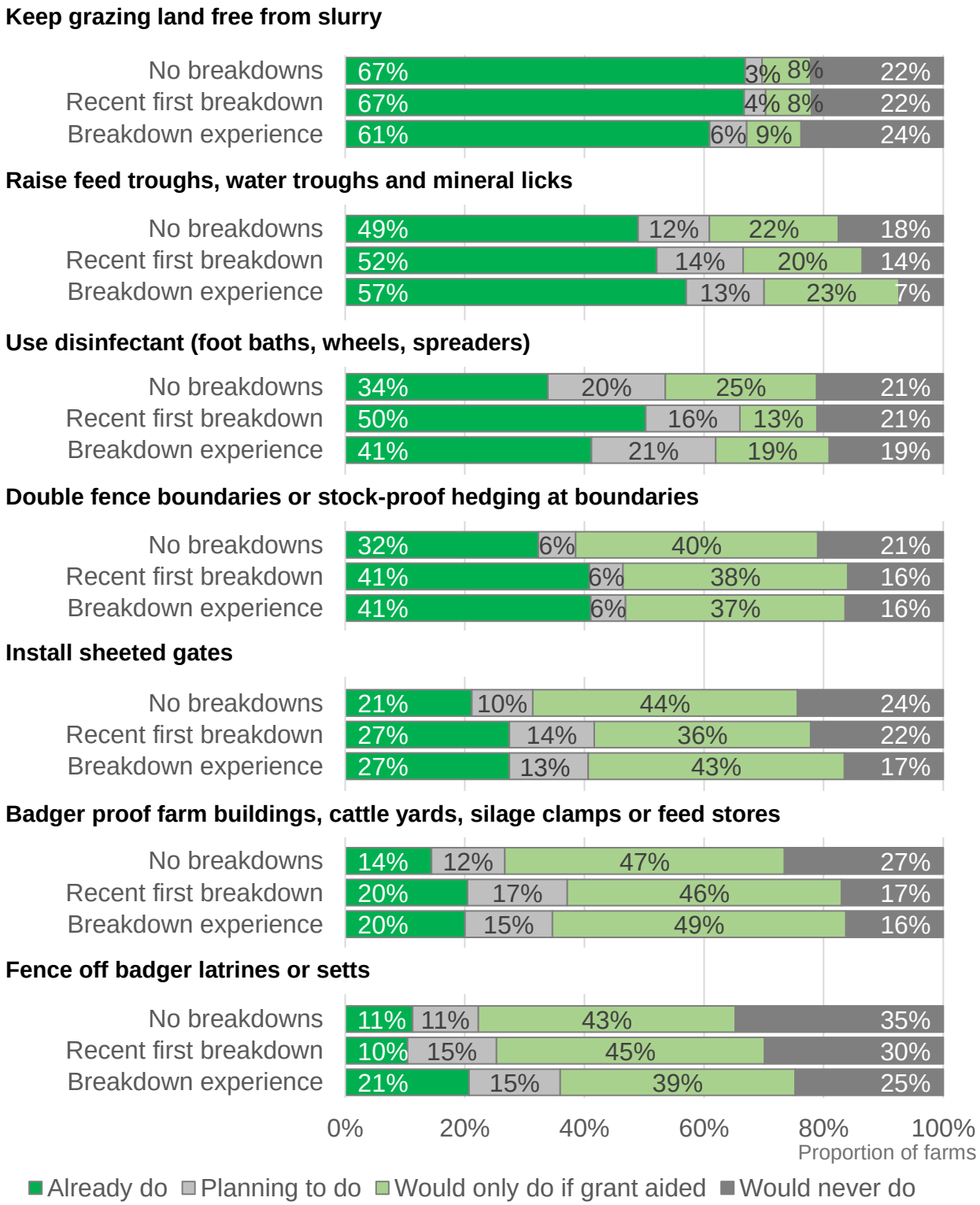
Figure 4.2: Measures to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown that farms with cattle have already implemented, by TB risk area



[4] This finding could be correlated with farm type. 81% of Specialist Dairy farm respondents had 150 cattle and over.

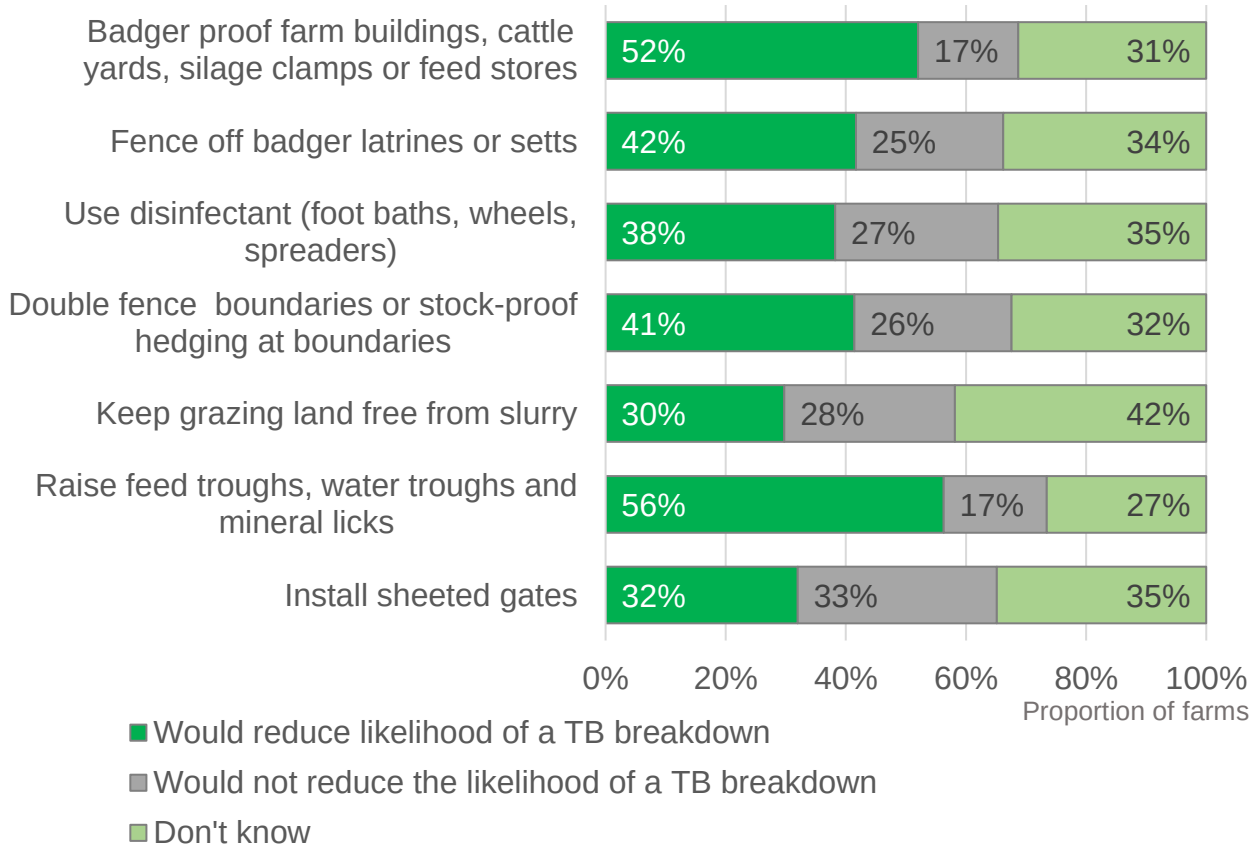
Similarly farms with no previous TB breakdowns (Figure 4.3) were less likely to have implemented most measures and more likely to say they would never implement the measures.

Figure 4.3: Uptake of measures to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown on farms with cattle, by TB breakdown history



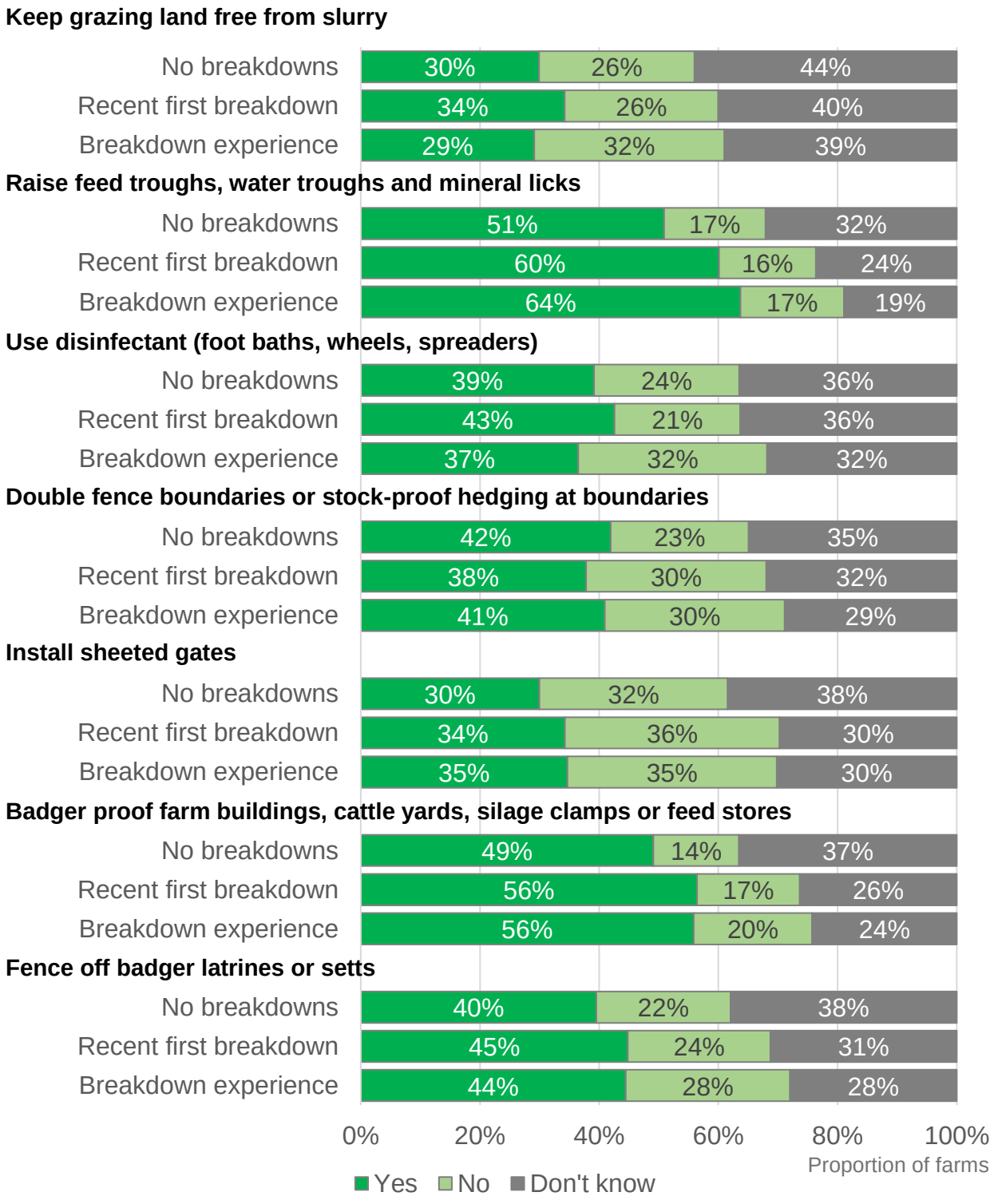
Farms were also asked whether they thought each of the measures listed would reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown. More than half of farms with cattle think raising feed troughs, water troughs and mineral licks (56%) and badger proofing farm buildings, cattle yards, silage clamps or feed stores (52%) will reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown. “Don’t know” was selected by more than a quarter of farms for each option, rising to 42% for keeping grazing land free from slurry (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Measures farms with cattle think would reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown



There was some variation in response between farm characteristics. Farms in Low risk areas were more likely to select “Don’t know” for all measures as were farms with no previous TB breakdown history. The differences across TB breakdown history are shown below in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.5: Measures farms with cattle think would reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown, by TB breakdown history



Section 5. Advice and guidance

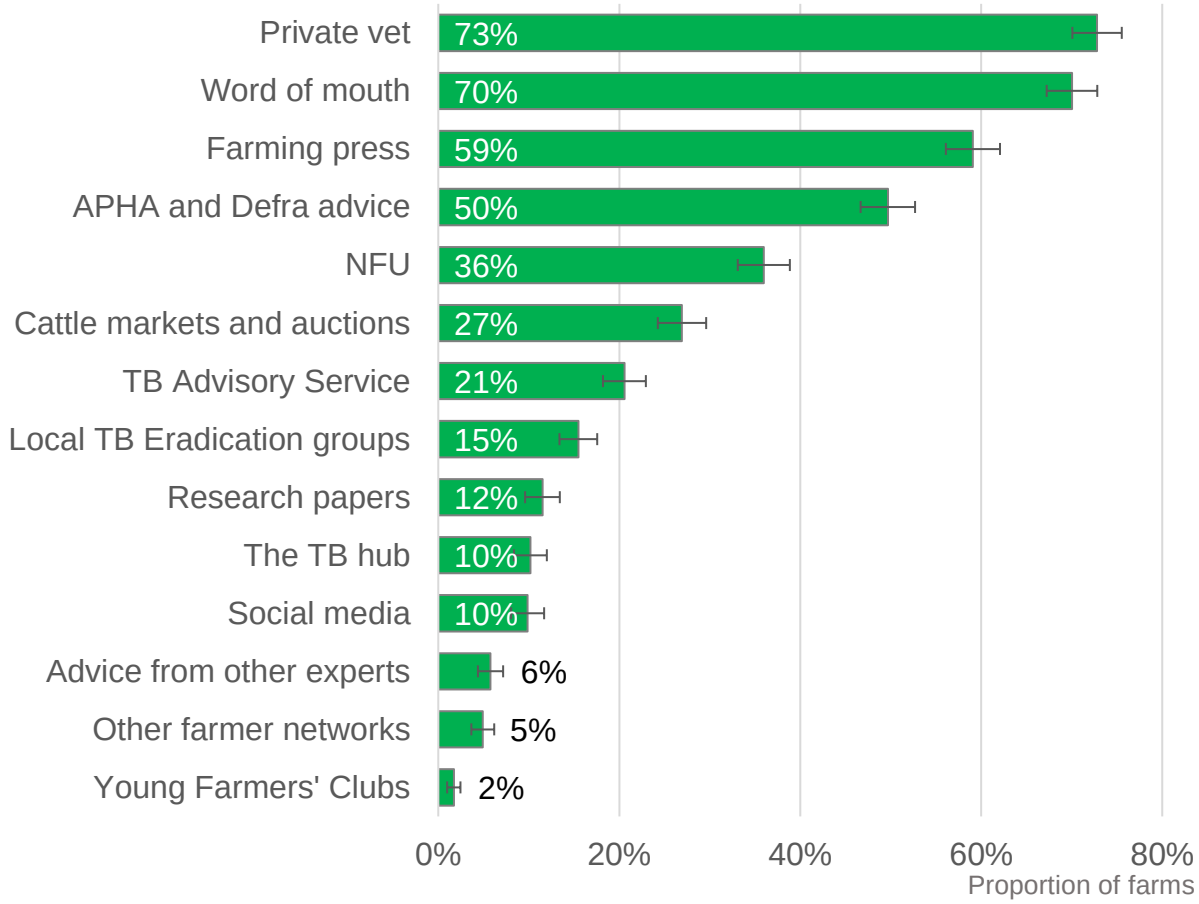
Key findings

- Private vets were the most likely sources of advice and information to have influenced the way TB risk is managed on farms with cattle, with 73% indicating this source.
- 70% of farms with cattle said that word of mouth had influenced the way they manage TB risk.
- The TB advisory service and local TB eradication groups influenced a greater proportion of farms with cattle in High risk and Edge areas than in Low risk areas.

Farms with cattle were provided with a list of sources of advice and information and were asked which had influenced the way TB risk is managed on their farm.

Private vets, selected by 73% of farms with cattle, and word of mouth (70%) were the most common sources of advice and information that have influenced the way TB risk is managed on farms (Figure 5.1).

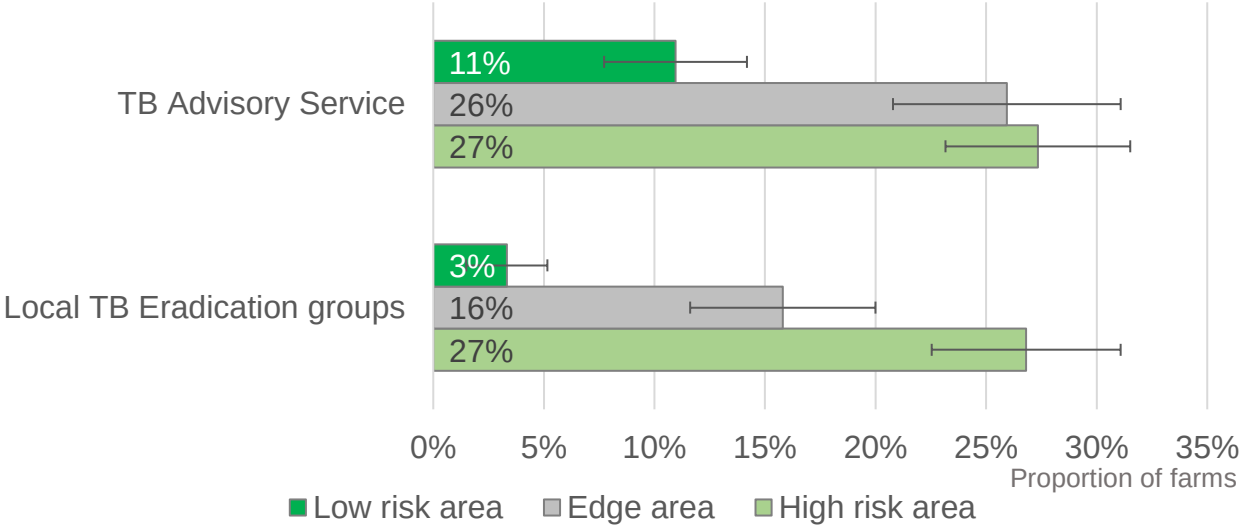
Figure 5.1: Sources of advice and information that had influenced the way TB risk is managed on farms with cattle



There was some variaton in response between the TB breakdown history of the farm. Farms with no previous breakdown history were less likely to select the TB hub, APHA/Defra advice, local TB eradication groups, private vets and the TB advisory service.

Similarly, the TB advisory service and local TB eradication groups influenced a greater proportion of farms with cattle in High risk and Edge areas than in Low risk areas. These sources of information are shown seperately in Figure 5.2 below.

Figure 5.2: Sources of advice and information that had influenced the way TB risk is managed on farms with cattle, by TB risk area



Survey methodology

Survey content

This release contains the results from the Cattle Farm Practices Survey run in April 2019. The survey focused on farm practices such as grazing systems, slurry spreading and storage, purchasing cattle. biosecurity and advice. The main purpose was to determine whether there were any differences in farm practices between different farm characteristics including their bovine tuberculosis (TB) breakdown history (as of 22 March 2019), TB risk area, number of cattle, region, farm type and farm size.

The results provided in this release are based on questions sent to 3,001 holdings with cattle in England. These holdings were targeted by bovine tuberculosis (TB) breakdown history (as of 22 March 2019), TB risk area and number of cattle to ensure a representative sample. The survey was voluntary and 1,363 responses were received, the response rate was 45%. Thank you to all of the farmers who completed this survey.

To be included in the main sample, holdings had to be considered commercial holdings as at June 2018 and have at least 1 cow in the cattle herd. The results given in this statistical release reflect the 37,682 holdings that met these requirements out of the total English population of almost 107 thousand commercial holdings.

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

TB breakdown history	Number of eligible holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Number of responses	Response rate %
No breakdown	21,428	1,373	587	43%
Recent first breakdown	1,288	438	219	50%
Breakdown experience	14,966	1,190	557	47%
All farms	**37,682**	**3,001**	**1,363**	**45%**

TB risk area	Number of eligible holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Number of responses	Response rate %
Low risk area	14,987	1,186	552	47%
Edge area	6,827	687	321	47%
High risk area	15,868	1,128	490	43%
All farms	**37,682**	**3,001**	**1,363**	**45%**

Number of cattle	Number of eligible holdings in England	Number of holdings sampled	Number of responses	Response rate %
Less than 50	15,194	1,143	518	45%
50 to less than 150	11,563	912	428	47%
150 and over	10,925	946	417	44%
All farms	**37,682**	**3,001**	**1,363**	**45%**

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.

Definitions
Definitions are given on page 2 of this statistical release.

Availability of results
This release contains headline results for each section. The full breakdown of results by bovine tuberculosis (TB) breakdown history (as of 22 March 2019), TB risk area, number of cattle as well as by region, farm type and farm size, will be available 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 provide up-to-date information on current issues to help inform policy decisions. The survey has a wide customer base within Defra and its agencies and other external bodies.

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.gov.uk.

Annex I

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

If there are any amendments to your contact details, please notify the Rural Payments Agency :-
online - https://bit.ly/RPAchange or
telephone - 03000 200 301

Cattle Farm Practices Survey - 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

You are invited to participate in the Cattle Farm Practices Survey. 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, will not affect your Basic Payment Scheme payment and will not be used to inform your bTB testing or have any impact on your compensation in the event of a breakdown.

The results from this survey are important and will be used within Defra, its agencies and other external bodies to ensure that those making decisions affecting farmers know what really happens on farms.

I would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete this form and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope. If you could complete and return it within 2 weeks of receipt, this will avoid the need for reminder letters. For guidance on completing the form, please telephone or email using the details below.

Data Protection
Any information you provide to us is treated in confidence. Defra is the Data Controller in respect of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The purposes for which it is used are set out in full in a privacy notice which can be found at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776866/Farm-Surveys-Privacy-Notice-06feb19.pdf
Alternatively we can send you a copy if you call 03000 600 140 or email surveys@defra.gov.uk.

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

Francesca Parrott
Farming Statistics Team

Official Use Only

Name/Address	
Comments in box	
Comments elsewhere	

If you require a large print form please contact us on 03000 600 140

For help with completion of the form contact us at:

Helpline: 03000 600 140 Mon-Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm

Email: surveys@defra.gov.uk

Section 1: Farm type

1. What type of holding is this? Tick all that apply

Dairy	☐	A60	Beef suckler (for beef or pedigree for rearing)	☐	A63
Dairy replacements (rearing)	☐	A61	Beef finishing	☐	A64
Dairy calf rearing (for beef)	☐	A62			

Section 2: Grazing and cattle housing

2. What type of grazing system is used on your farm? Tick one box only

Housed all year round	☐ 1	
Year round grazing	☐ 2	D90
Mix of housed and grazing (e.g. summer grazing)	☐ 3	

3. In the past 12 months, have you rented your grazing land to other cattle keepers (including informal arrangements)?
Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 D91

4. In the past 12 months, have you rented land from others to graze your cattle (including informal arrangements)?
Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 D92

5. In the past 12 months, have you used common land to graze your cattle?
Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 D93

Section 3: Slurry

6. Where do you spread slurry on your farm? Tick one box only

I don't spread slurry	☐ 1 →	If you don't spread slurry, go to question 10
On arable and grazing land	☐ 2	M40
On grazing land only	☐ 3	
On arable land only	☐ 4	

7. Where do you source the slurry used on this farm? Tick one box only

All sourced from this farm	☐ 1	
Some sourced from this farm and some brought in from other farms	☐ 2	M41
All brought in from other farms	☐ 3	

Section 3: Slurry (continued)

8. Do you store slurry for at least six months before spreading? Tick one box only

Yes, always	☐ 1	
Only if being spread on grazing land	☐ 2	
Don't always store for six months or never store for six months	☐ 3	M42
Don't know or can't be certain	☐ 4	

9. Does your farm have the capacity to store slurry for six months before use? Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 M43

10. Is any of your slurry sent to other farms? Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Do not produce slurry ☐ 3 M44

Section 4: Purchasing cattle

11. In the past 12 months, how many cattle did you purchase via each method below?
Please enter a number in each box, enter '0' if you didn't purchase any cattle via that method.

	Number	
Traditional cattle auctions or cattle marts		Q50
Online cattle auctions		Q51
Directly from other farms (not via auction)		Q52
Cattle dealers		Q53

12. Before purchasing cattle, what TB risk information do you find out? Tick one box in each row

	Always	Sometimes	Never	
The date of the animal's pre-movement TB test	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q54
The date of the seller's last routine TB herd test	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q55
The date the herd achieved Officially TB Free (OTF) status	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q56
The farm's TB risk area (High Risk Area, Edge, Low Risk Area)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q57
Whether the farm is subject to 6 monthly, annual or 4 yearly testing	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q58

13. Do you use ibTB to check for TB breakdowns? Tick all that apply

Yes, when purchasing cattle to check for breakdowns on the seller's farm	☐ Q59
Yes, when purchasing cattle to check for breakdowns on neighbouring farms to the seller	☐ Q60
Yes, to look for the location of breakdowns in my area	☐ Q61
No, never	☐ Q62

Section 4: Purchasing cattle (continued)

14. Do you isolate new cattle before introducing them to your herd? Tick one box only

Yes, always	Sometimes, if there is an increased risk of TB	Sometimes, for another reason	Never	
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	Q63

15. When introducing new cattle to your herd, do you carry out post-movement TB testing beyond the statutory requirement? Tick one box only

Yes, always	Sometimes, if there is an increased risk of TB	Sometimes, for another reason	No, only where there is a statutory requirement	
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	Q64

16. In the past 12 months, have you bought cattle from herds with an increased risk of TB? Tick one box only

Yes, I have bought cattle from herds with an increased risk of TB	No, I have not bought cattle from herds with an increased risk of TB	Don't know, never check for TB risk	
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q65

17. Do you avoid buying cattle from Edge or High Risk Area herds? Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Q66

→ If no, go to question 19

18. Why do you avoid buying cattle from Edge or High Risk Area herds? Tick all that apply

Increases the risk of TB to my herd	☐ Q67	
The increased hassle of post-movement testing	☐ Q68	
Other (please state)	☐ Q69	Q70

19. How important are the following factors in your decision making when purchasing cattle?

Tick one box in each row

	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	
Price	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q71
Breed or pedigree line	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q72
Age	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q73
Animal temperament	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q74
Visible mobility and health (coat, eyes, nose etc.)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q75
Production characteristics (e.g. weight gain per day, milk yield, breeding potential)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q76
The risk the animal has undetected TB	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q77
TB risk area of the source farm (High Risk/Low Risk/Edge area)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q78
If the source farm is subject to 6 monthly, annual or 4 yearly testing	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q79
Whether the animal will need mandatory post–movement testing for TB	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	Q80

Section 5: Biosecurity

20. Which measures have you implemented to reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown ?

	Tick one box in each row				
	Already do	Planning to do	Would only do if grant aided	Would never do	
Install sheeted gates	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S50
Raise feed troughs, water troughs and mineral licks	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S51
Keep grazing land free from slurry	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S52
Double fence boundaries or stock-proof hedging at boundaries	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S53
Use disinfectant (foot baths, wheels, spreaders)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S54
Fence off badger latrines or setts	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S55
Badger proof farm buildings or cattle yards or silage clamps or feed stores	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	S56

21. Do you think these measures will reduce the likelihood of a TB breakdown ?

	Tick one box in each row			
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Install sheeted gates	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S57
Raise feed troughs, water troughs and mineral licks	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S58
Keep grazing land free from slurry	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S59
Double fence boundaries or stock-proof hedging at boundaries	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S60
Use disinfectant (foot baths, wheels, spreaders)	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S61
Fence off badger latrines or setts	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S62
Badger proof farm buildings or cattle yards or silage clamps or feed stores	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	S63

Section 6: Advice and guidance

22. Which sources of advice and information have influenced the way TB risk is managed on your farm?

Tick all that apply

The TB hub	U30	Local TB Eradication groups	U37
Social media (Facebook, twitter)	U31	National Farmers Union (NFU)	U38
Word of mouth or conversations with other farmers	U32	National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs	U39
APHA and Defra advice	U33	Other farmer networks (FCN, FAS, Farming Forum)	U40
Research papers	U34	Private vet	U41
Farming press (newspapers, radio, television, online articles)	U35	TB Advisory Service	U42
Cattle markets, online auction sites, and auctioneers	U36	Tailored advice from other experts (consultants, testers)	U43

Declaration

Signature V3

Date

Name (please print)

Telephone number V8

Time taken to complete this form minutes V1

E-mail address V5

Please enter any comments you may have on the figures provided. This may remove the need for us to contact you.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

Please now return this form in the pre-paid envelope to ONS, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.