



Agreement to Participate in the Farm Business Survey

Farm number:

Research Officer:

The data collected as part of the Farm Business Survey (FBS) is a vital evidence base for the development and evaluation of farming policy in England and is used to compile a number of [National Statistics publications](#) and fulfil legal requirements to submit data for The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (England Order). The data are used as a basis for [farm benchmarking](#) to provide relevant feedback to participating farmers and growers on the performance of their business. The anonymised data are also held at the [UK Data Archive](#) run by the University of Essex, where they are made available to approved researchers and academics.

Rural Business Research (RBR), a consortium of 6 universities and colleges is contracted to collect data for the FBS on behalf of Defra. The 6 universities and colleges are: University of Reading, University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham, Duchy College, Askham Bryan, Newcastle University.

To improve the usefulness of the FBS data, and to reduce the amount of information that needs to be collected from you, other data sources may be added to your FBS dataset. This will be information that Defra already collect, such as June/census data, farm practice survey (FPS) data, livestock monitoring systems (such as the Cattle Tracing System), or publicly available such as meteorological data, land classification data and other geographical variables (e.g., nitrate vulnerable zones) from publicly available datasets may also be added to your FBS dataset. Your data will only ever be linked to data sources for analytical and research purposes. It will never be used or shared for inspection, enforcement, or tax purposes or financial gain.

In return for your participation in the FBS, you will receive a fully reconciled business management account from RBR. Each farm is provided with its own detailed management accounts, together with data assembled from farms of a similar type and size in its region. This data is usually provided to you as an average for a particular group of farms and for the most profitable farms, helping you to make comparisons with others in the industry which can aid your business planning. Whilst RBR take care to provide accurate information, no liability can be accepted for any omission or inaccuracy of fact or opinion, or any loss caused by your use of these comparative data.

Attached to this participation form is a Privacy Notice (Annex A) which explains the lawful basis used to process your personal data and provides information regarding the collection, processing and sharing of your personal data. It also outlines the rights available to you under data protection law.

I have read the Farm Business Survey Privacy Notice provided and agree to participate in the survey.

Farmer's signature:

Farmer's name (in capitals):

Date:



Annex A

Farm Business Survey (FBS) Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice sets out the following information regarding how your personal data will be used.

1. [Background, the purposes and use of the FBS data](#)
2. [The laws applying to the collection and further processing of information collected](#)
3. [The lawful basis for the processing of personal data](#)
4. [Who your personal data is shared with](#)
5. [Retention periods for the personal data](#)
6. [The rights available to individuals in respect of the processing of personal data](#)
7. [Contact details of the Data Controller/s and Data Protection Officer/s](#)
8. [The right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority](#)

1. Background, the purposes and use of the FBS data

The FBS is a survey commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is widely recognised as the most authoritative source of information on the economics of farm businesses since it began in 1936.

Defra has contracted Rural Business Research (RBR), a consortium of 6 universities and colleges, to collect farm data and send the data to Defra and the UK Data Archive in an anonymised format.

The data that you provide for the FBS survey enables important information to be compiled on the financial, physical, and environmental performance of farm businesses in England. It is used

- By Defra to develop and evaluate policy decisions that affect farming in England.
- To fulfil legal requirements to submit data for [The Agricultural Holdings \(Units of Production\) \(England Order\)](#)
- By farmers (for benchmarking),
- By farming and land management interest groups,
- By government partners (AHDB).
- For compiling the FBS is the official source of farm income figures and is the data source for a number of [National Statistics publications](#).
- By approved researchers and academics

The anonymised data are held at the [UK Data Archive \(UKDA\)](#) where they are made available to approved researchers and academics on a case by case basis under [strict access and publishing conditions](#).

In return for your participation in the FBS, you will receive valuable business management information from RBR. Each farm is provided with its own detailed management accounts, together with data assembled from farms of a similar type and size in its region. This data is usually provided to you as an average for a particular group of farms and for the most profitable farms, helping you to make comparisons with others in the industry which can aid your business planning. Whilst RBR take care to provide accurate information, no liability can be accepted for any omission or inaccuracy of fact or opinion, or any loss caused by your use of these comparative data.



2. The laws applying to the collection and further processing of the information

The Data Protection laws applicable for the FBS in England are [UK GDPR](#) and the Data Protection Act 2018 ([DPA 2018](#)). Defra and RBR will use any **personal data** gathered for the FBS in accordance with the Data Protection laws.

What is personal data?

Personal data is information relating to identifiable, living people. [The full definition of personal data is in Article 4\(1\) of the GDPR.](#)

The controllers of personal data in respect of the FBS

Defra and RBR are joint controllers of your personal Data in respect of the processing of this data for the purposes of the FBS and act under a 'Joint Data Controller Agreement'. RBR require your name, address, and contact details to administer your participation in the FBS. These personal data are not shared with anyone else.

3. The lawful bases for collecting and processing personal data for the purposes of the FBS

The lawful basis applicable to the processing of your personal data for the purposes of the FBS is [Article 6\(1\)\(c\) of the GDPR](#) – *processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the data controller is subject; [The Agricultural Holdings \(Units of Production\) \(England Order 2021\)](#) and [Article 6\(1\)\(e\) of the GDPR](#) - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest*

Where Defra processes data relating to your ethnicity or race, which is deemed Special Category Personal Data as per Article 9 of the GDPR, Defra relies on the lawful basis of substantial public interest. In particular it relies upon the condition set out in [paragraph 8 of part 2 of Schedule 1 of the DPA 2018](#) which applies where data is

- a) of a specified category of personal data and
- b) it is necessary for the purposes of identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people specified in relation to that category with a view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained.

4. Who your personal data is shared with

Defra supply RBR with a list of farmers' details from the June survey register for the purposes of recruitment for the FBS. Once the dataset is compiled by RBR it is then anonymised before it is shared with [Defra](#) or lodged with the [UKDA](#). Data is always encrypted and transmitted securely with any identifying data such as name address removed CPH removed.

Although data provided to Defra and UKDA are anonymised, the data are still subject to strict controls to ensure your identities are not revealed. For example, in Defra, all users of the FBS data are required to sign an undertaking agreeing not to attempt to identify individual farmers or their businesses and the data are only accessible and handled by a small number of staff in Defra.



The UKDA provide access to the anonymised data to researchers and academics under strict measures to ensure confidentiality. For example, measures are imposed on the researchers to ensure the identities of participants cannot be derived when accessing or publishing the FBS data. The UKDA requires a special user licence agreement to be signed and information only published where information relates to more than five farms. Moreover, users must destroy the data at the end of the access period.

In the event of a change in contractor for the FBS data, to ensure and maintain collection of this data, it would be necessary to provide your contact details to any replacement contractor. Should this occur we would only share your personal data with a new contractor with your agreement.

More information about Defra's FBS confidentiality and disclosure protection policy here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farm-business-survey-technical-notes-and-guidance>

[Defra's Personal Information charter](#) gives details of Defra's commitments to the handling of your personal data.

5. Retention periods for your personal data

We will retain your personal data for no longer than necessary for the purpose it was obtained, unless a longer retention period is required or permitted by law. Where personal data is gathered and used for statistical purposes and it is in the public interest to retain the data it will be retained indefinitely.

6. The rights available to individuals in respect of the processing of personal data

By law you have rights over your personal data, which are summarised below. Some of the rights are complex and not all the detail is included in our summaries. Some of your rights may also carry exceptions. For example, where data is processed for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research historical research or statistical purposes, where erasure, objection or restriction is likely to render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of that processing. You should therefore read the relevant guidance on the Information Commissioner's Office website: [Individual rights | ICO](#).

To exercise your rights you can contact your allocated research officer, alternatively you can contact your relevant Data Protection Officer, whose details are provided at the end of this notice in [section 7](#). As data controllers Defra and RBR are required to ensure we can adequately comply with GDPR. Given Defra do not hold directly identifiable personal data of the FBS participants, all Subject Access Requests (SARs) should be submitted to the relevant RBR Data Protection Officer.

Your right to be informed – You have the right to be informed about the collection and use of their personal data. This is a key transparency requirement under the GDPR.

Your right of access - You have the right to ask us for a copy of your personal data. This is known as a subject access request (SAR).

Your right to rectification - You have the right to ask us to rectify information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete. This right always applies.



Your right to erasure – Where personal data is processed under the lawful basis of official authority and used for statistical purposes, if the erasure, objection or restriction is likely to render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of that processing, this information will not be erased.

Your right to restriction of processing – You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your information. There are some exceptions to this.

Your right to object to the use of your data - You have the right to object to the processing (use) of your personal data.

For requests we have one month to respond to you. If we plan to use your personal data for a new purpose, we will update our Privacy Notice and communicate the changes to you before starting any new processing

7. Contact details of the Data Controller/s and Data protection Officers

For general changes or updating of information you can contact your local Research Officer. However if you would like to exercise your rights or complain about the way your personal data has been handled during this Survey, these can be made to the relevant Data Protection Officer detailed below.

Data Controller	State RBR - Consortium unit	Defra
Data Protection Officer	University DPO	Data Protection Team
Contact Details		DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gov.uk data.protection@defra.gov.uk

8. Your right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office

If you believe that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk