



Published 20 December 2012

Farming Statistics Final Crop Areas, Yields, Livestock Populations and Agricultural Workforce at 1 June 2012, United Kingdom

The latest National Statistics on United Kingdom agriculture and horticulture, and cereals and oilseed rape production were released on 20 December 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. These data are produced by Defra on behalf of the agriculture departments of the United Kingdom.

This release has been updated to include final estimates for land use, crop areas, livestock populations, the agricultural workforce and the size of the UK cereals and oilseed rape harvest for 2012. These results replace those provisional results published on 15 October 2012. The key results are given below.

Agricultural land areas (Tables 1 - 2)

The total utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the UK remains unchanged at 17.2 million hectares. The increases in areas of total crops and temporary grass have offset the decreases seen in the uncropped arable land and permanent grassland areas.

Crop areas, yields and production (Table 3)

Wheat: The 2012 wheat harvest for the UK is 13.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 13% on 2011. This is a result of a 1.1% increase in the wheat area to 2.0 million hectares combined with a 14% decrease in the yield to 6.7 tonnes per hectare. This decrease is a result of the poor weather conditions this year.

Oilseed rape: The oilseed rape harvest has shown a decline of 7.3% to 2.6 million tonnes for 2012. The yield has decreased by 14% to 3.4 tonnes per hectare following the very poor weather during spring and summer. This has been balanced out by an increase in area of 7.3% to 756 thousand hectares following favourable planting conditions in autumn 2011.

Barley: Despite a small reduction in the yield, barley production for 2012 has remained almost static with only a slight increase of 0.5% to 5.5 million tonnes. The yield for barley has fallen by 2.7% to 5.5 tonnes per hectare. Winter barley area has increased by 7.2% to 385 thousand hectares, while the spring barley area has increased only very slightly by 1.1% to 618 thousand hectares.

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Horticultural crops (Tables 4 - 6)

The total area of horticultural crops has decreased by 2.0% between 2011 and 2012, now standing at 172 thousand hectares. Vegetables and salad for human consumption make up the majority of this area at 123 thousand hectares, a reduction of 4.1% from 2011.

Livestock (Tables 7 - 11)

- The total number of cattle and calves has remained almost unchanged between 2011 and 2012 at 9.9 million. Whilst the main beef herd saw a 1.0% decrease to just under 1.7 million, there was almost no change seen in the main dairy herd which remained at 1.8 million.
- Pig numbers saw a small increase of 0.9% from 2011, now standing at almost 4.5 million. This is mainly due to the 1.0% increase in fattening pigs as improvements in sow productivity means availability of pigs for slaughter has been good.
- The UK population of sheep and lambs has risen by 1.8% to 32 million animals, largely due to the 2.4% increase in the female breeding flock to 15 million.
- Laying and breeding fowl decreased by 4.1% between 2011 and 2012 and now stands at 47 million birds. The number of table chickens remained virtually unchanged at 103 million.

Agricultural workforce (Table 12)

The total number of people working on agricultural holdings in the UK is 481 thousand as at June 2012. This is an increase of 1.2% on the same period in 2011 and equates to a rise of approximately 5 thousand people.

Key country level changes

Figure 1 shows how the UK percentage change for certain items compares to the country level changes. Despite decreases seen in the wheat and potato areas in Scotland and Northern Ireland the small increases in the England areas have driven the UK level change. This is due to the largest proportion of these crops being grown in England.

Figure 1: Percentage changes between 2011 and 2012 by UK country

	UK	England	Scotland	N. Ireland	Wales
	% change	% change	% change	% change	% change
Wheat	1%	2%	-13%	-19%	-1%
Potatoes	2%	4%	-5%	-14%	16%
Pigs	1%	2%	-7%	0%	11%
Sheep	2%	2%	-1%	4%	3%
Cattle	0%	-1%	-1%	2%	-1%

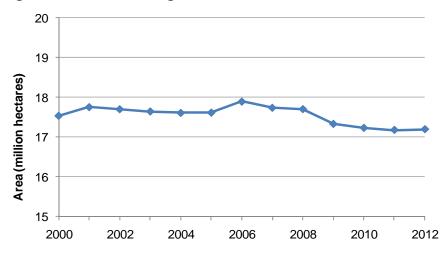
Data uses, next publications and survey methodology (pages 17 - 21)

Information on how each of the UK countries run their surveys can be found on pages 17 to 21 along with data uses and upcoming publication dates.

Detailed results

Utilised agricultural area

Figure 2: Total utilised agricultural area at 1 June 2000 to 2012



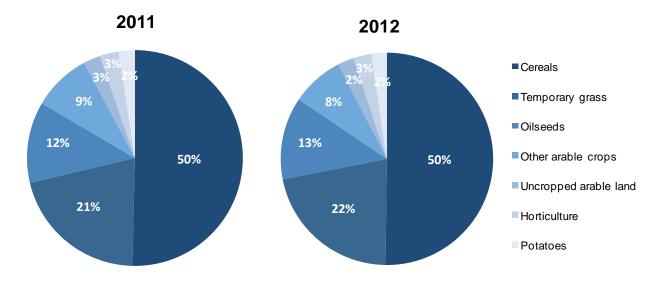
The utilised agricultural area is made up of all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, land used for outdoor pigs, temporary and grassland permanent common rough grazing. In June 2012 the total utilised agricultural area in the UK was 17.2 million hectares, covering 70% of the UK land area. Figure 2 shows that the total utilised agricultural area has been fairly stable since 2000.

Croppable area

Croppable land consists of land currently under arable or horticultural crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass. At June 2012 the croppable area stood at 6.3 million hectares, an increase of 2.5% from the same period in 2011. This area represents over a third of the utilised agricultural area.

Despite fluctuations in individual crop and land areas, the proportions of land that make up the croppable area tend to remain stable from year to year. Figure 3 shows how these proportions have remained almost unchanged between 2011 and 2012, with cereals continuing to account for half of the croppable area.

Figure 3: Breakdown of croppable area at 1 June 2012 compared to 2011



Cereals and oilseeds

Figure 4: Crop areas in the UK between 1984 and 2012

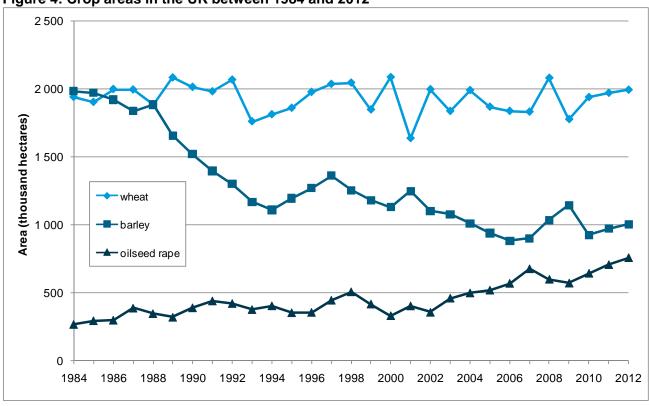


Figure 4 shows the area of the three most popular crops grown in the UK, wheat, barley and oilseed rape. Since 1984 the wheat area has fluctuated between approximately 1.6 and 2.1 million hectares. The area of barley has declined considerably over the years and now stands at roughly half the area it was in 1984. Conversely the area of oilseed rape has increased almost threefold from 269 thousand hectares in 1984 to 756 thousand hectares in 2012.

Figure 5: Crop production in the UK between 2011 and 2012

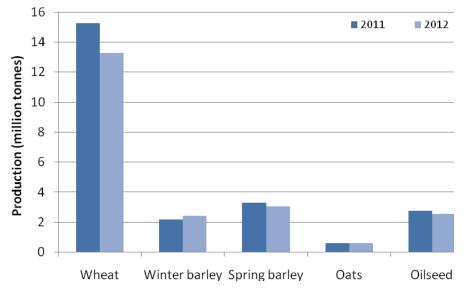


Figure 5 shows that wheat production was the hardest hit by the poor weather conditions in 2012 as poor yields greatly reduced the tonnage produced. Winter barley has shown a small increase in production while oats have remained fairly static. Spring barley and oilseed rape both showed drop production.

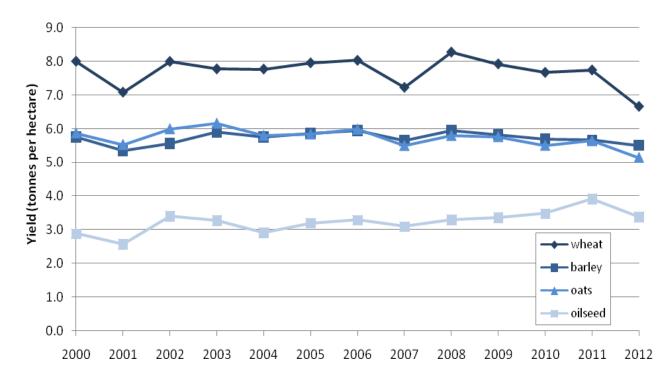


Figure 6: UK crops yields between 2000 and 2012

As figure 6 shows, yields for all crops shown have fallen between 2011 and 2012 with wheat and oilseed showing the greatest drops. The wheat yield is the lowest it has been during the last 20 years. Note that regional figures are available in the cereal and oilseed dataset on our website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/.

Wheat

The final estimate of the UK wheat harvest for 2012 is 13.3 million tonnes which is a decrease of 13% on 2011. This decrease is mainly due to the large drop in yield to 6.7 tonnes per hectare along with a very slight 1.1% increase in the wheat area to 2.0 million hectares. The area of planted wheat in England which has been harvested as wholecrop for silage in 2012 was 25 thousand hectares, representing 1.4% of the total planted area. This is a slight increase on 2011 where the area of wheat taken for wholecrop represented 1.0% of the total planted area.

As figure 7 shows, wheat yields continue to vary between the English regions with the highest yield of 7.3 tonnes per hectare being found in the Eastern region. The lowest yield was in the North West and Merseyside at 5.0 tonnes per hectare. Yields have been affected by the poor weather this year which led to high levels of disease during spring and summer along with low sunlight levels during the grainfill period. This can be seen in figure 7 where all regions except the Eastern region have shown a noticeable decrease in yield.

9.0 ■2011 ■2012 8.0 7.0 (tonnes per hectare) 6.0 5.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 1.0 0.0 North East Yorkshire and East Midlands West Midlands **Fastern** South East and South West North West and Merseyside the Humber London

Figure 7: Wheat yield by English region 2011 to 2012

Barley

The yield for barley has decreased slightly on 2011 to 5.5 tonnes per hectare. On a regional basis, the highest yields for barley were in the Eastern region with an average of 6.4 tonnes per hectare. The lowest regional yield of 4.5 tonnes per hectare was in the North West and Merseyside.

Oilseed rape

UK production for 2012 has decreased by 7.3% to 2.6 million tonnes. This drop was due to a 14% decrease in yield to 3.4 tonnes per hectare, partially balanced by a 7.3% increase in area. This reflects a return to the level of yields seen in recent years. Yields have suffered in comparison to the very high yields of 2011, primarily as a result of wind and rain flattening the crop in the run up to the harvest, and low sunlight levels during pod fill.

Horticultural crops

The total area devoted to horticultural crops reduced by 2.0% between 2011 and 2012 to 172 thousand hectares. This decline was mainly driven by a 4.1% decrease in the area of vegetables and salad for human consumption, which fell to 123 thousand hectares and accounts for 72% of total horticultural land (see figure 8). Orchards account for the next largest area at 24 thousand hectares, followed by hardy nursery stock, small fruit and glasshouse.

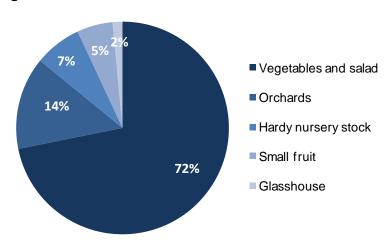
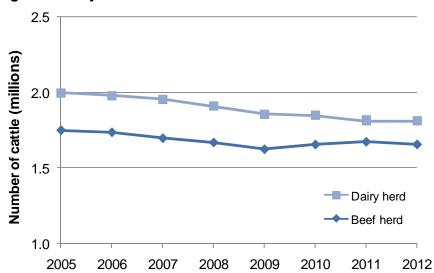


Figure 8: Breakdown of total horticultural area at 1 June 2012

Cattle

Figure 9: Dairy and beef herd numbers at June 2005 to 2012



The total number of cattle and calves in the UK remained almost unchanged in 2012 at 9.9 million head. Numbers in the dairy herd stayed virtually the same between 2011 and 2012 at 1.8 million, halting the long term decline seen since 2005 (see figure 9). The beef herd saw a 1.0% decrease from 2011 in contrast to the increases seen in previous two years. The main dairy and beef herds are made up of female cattle aged 2 years or more that have calved.

Pigs

The total number of pigs in the UK increased by 0.9% and now stands at 4.5 million. While the numbers of fattening pigs increased by 1.0% to almost 4.0 million, breeding pig numbers remained unchanged since 2011 at 523 thousand. A younger breeding herd has led to improvements in sow productivity therefore availability of pigs for slaughter is good, which may explain the increase in the fattening pigs. However recent high feed and input costs may start to impact on returns and some destocking is expected, which may have more impact later in 2012.

Sheep

In June 2012 there were 32 million sheep and lambs in the UK, an increase of 1.8% on the 2011 figure. This increase has mainly been driven by the 2.4% increase in the female breeding flock which now stands at 15 million head. The number of rams has also increased between 2011 and 2012, rising from 378 to 392 thousand, while lamb numbers have increased by 1.5% to 16 million.

On the whole conditions have been favourable this year. A mild winter combined with a younger breeding flock, good feed availability in most regions and exports remaining strong have all contributed to the increase seen in the breeding flock.

Poultry

In 2012 the total number of laying and breeding fowl fell by 4.1% from 49 million in 2011 to 47 million. The number of table chickens remained almost unchanged from 2011 at 103 million, whereas the total number of ducks, geese, turkeys and other poultry fell by 5.3%.

Agricultural workforce

The number of farmers, partners, directors and spouses remained almost unchanged between 2011 and 2012 at 298 thousand. The number of salaried managers saw a small decrease of 1.2% but still remains at approximately 11 thousand as it has since 2009.

Regular and casual workers saw an increase of 3.6%, which was largely due to the 6.9% increase in seasonal and casual workers. Traditionally this category of workers tends to fluctuate more than the others due to the seasonal nature of the work.

Comparisons to other EU countries

Data on livestock populations are collected each year under EU Regulation 1165/2008 (cattle, pigs and sheep) and 543/2009 (crops and land). Therefore, results can be compared across EU Member States. Data are available to search and download on the Eurostat website at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/data/main_tables.

According to the latest data from 2010, the UK is the 7th largest cereal producer, the largest producer of sheep and the 3rd largest producer of cattle of the EU 27 Member States. Figures 10 to 12 below show the comparison of these activities across all Member States.

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Figure 10: Cereal areas in 2010 by EU Member State Figure 11: Number of sheep in 2010 by EU Member State

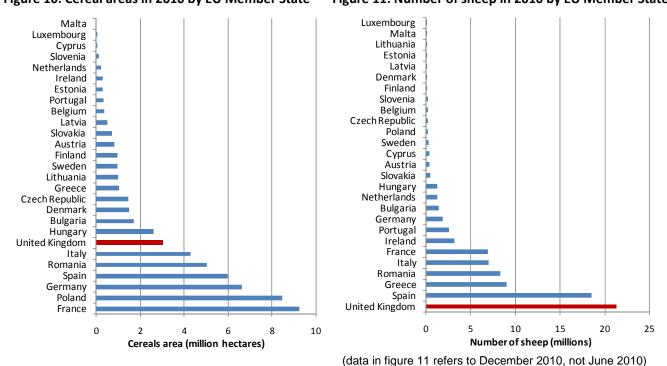
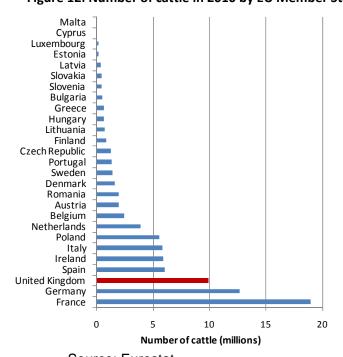


Figure 12: Number of cattle in 2010 by EU Member State



Source: Eurostat

Table 1: Summary of land use on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Utilised agricultural area ^(a)	17 234	17 172	17 190	0.1
Total agricultural land (including common rough grazing)	18 282	18 263	18 349	0.5
Common rough grazing	1 228	1 199	1 200	0.1
Total area on agricultural holdings	17 054	17 064	17 149	0.5
Total croppable area	6 015	6 106	6 258	2.5
Total crops	4 610	4 673	4 748	1.6
Arable crops	4 441	4 497	4 576	1.7
Cereals	3 013	3 075	3 142	2.2
Oilseeds	686	742	785	5.8
Potatoes	138	146	149	1.8
Other arable crops	604	534	500	-6.3
Horticultural crops	169	175	172	-2.0
Uncropped arable land ^(b)	174	156	153	-1.6
Temporary grass under 5 years old	1 232	1 278	1 357	6.2
Permanent grassland (incl. rough grazing)	9 980	9 858	9 725	-1.4
Grass over 5 years old	5 925	5 877	5 799	-1.3
Sole right rough grazing (c)	4 055	3 981	3 926	-1.4
Other land on agricultural holdings	1 059	1 100	1 166	6.1
Woodland	774	786	827	5.3
Land used for outdoor pigs	10	9	7	-16.0
All other non-agricultural land	274	305	332	8.7

⁽a) Includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs (excludes woodland and other non-agricultural land).

⁽b) Includes all arable land not in production, including GAEC12 land, game strips, wild bird cover and game cover.

⁽c) Classified as mountains, hills, heathland or moorland.

Table 2: Area of arable crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	Thousand not			
	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total arable crops	4 441	4 497	4 576	1.7
Cereals	3 013	3 075	3 142	2.2
Wheat	1 939	1 969	1 992	1.1
Barley	921	970	1 002	3.3
winter	383	359	385	7.2
spring	539	611	618	1.1
Oats	124	109	122	12.3
Rye, mixed corn and triticale	29	27	26	-5.5
Oilseed crops	686	742	785	5.8
Oilseed rape	642	705	756	7.3
winter	622	680	744	9.3
spring	20	24	12	-51.1
Linseed	44	36	28	-23.7
Borage	1	1	1	26.6
Potatoes	138	146	149	1.8
Other (non-horticultural) crops	604	534	500	-6.3
Sugar beet (not for stock feeding)	118	113	120	6.5
Field beans	168	125	96	-23.4
Peas for harvesting dry	42	30	24	-19.6
Maize (incl. fodder and grain maize)	164	164	158	-4.1
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	34	32	32	0.5
Other crops for stock feeding (a)	37	37	38	1.8
All other arable crops (b)	40	32	32	0.0

⁽a) Includes leguminous forage crops.

⁽b) Includes short rotation coppice, miscanthus and crops for aromatic or medical use.

Table 3: Area, yield and production of cereals and oilseed rape on agricultural holdings (a)

rabic o. Arca, yiela a		Area		Yield			Production		
	(thou	usand he	ctares)	(tonnes per hectare)			(thousand tonnes)		
			%			%			%
	2011	2012	change	2011	2012	change	2011	2012	change
			2012-11			2012-11			2012-11
Total cereals (b)	3 075	3 142	2.2	7.0	6.2	-11.1	21 485	19 515	-9.2
Wheat	1 969	1 992	1.1	7.7	6.7	-14.1	15 257	13 261	-13.1
Barley	970	1 002	3.3	5.7	5.5	-2.7	5 494	5 522	0.5
winter	359	385	7.2	6.1	6.4	4.1	2 200	2 456	11.6
spring	611	618	1.1	5.4	5.0	-7.9	3 294	3 066	-6.9
Oats	109	122	12.3	5.6	5.1	-8.9	613	627	2.2
Minor cereals (c)	27	26	-5.5	4.4	4.0	-7.6	120	105	-12.6
Oilseed rape (d)	705	756	7.3	3.9	3.4	-13.6	2 758	2 557	-7.3

⁽a) Regional results for cereal and oilseed rape production are available on our website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/.

- (b) All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content.
- (c) Minor cereals are a total of rye, mixed corn and triticale.
- (d) Oilseed rape production estimates have been standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 4: Area of fruit and vegetables grown in the open on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	Thousand neotan				
	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11	
Total fruit and vegetables	155	162	157	-3.1	
Orchards ^(a)	24.0	23.7	24.2	2.2	
Small fruit (b) (c) (d)	10.4	9.7	9.3	-4.1	
Strawberries	4.3	3.8	3.3	-15.0	
Other small fruit (incl. gooseberries and blackberries)	6.1	5.9	6.1	3.1	
Vegetables and salad for human consumption (b) (e)	121	129	123	-4.1	
Peas and beans	34	39	37	-6.0	
All other vegetables and salad	87	90	87	-3.2	

⁽a) Includes both commercial and non-commercial orchards. Commercial orchards are those from which growers intend to sell fruit.

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/1148/4.

⁽b) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

⁽c) Small fruit includes crops grown in Spanish tunnels.

⁽d) A change in the way glasshouse and open field areas for strawberries, raspberries and blackcurrants were collected in Scotland has resulted in a large shift between areas counted as open field and those counted as glasshouse or walk-in plastic structures. More information can be found at:

⁽e) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

Table 5: Area of hardy nursery stock on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers ^(a)	11.7	11.3	12.3	9.3
Hardy nursery stock	6.2	6.0	6.1	0.8
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	5.3	4.9	5.9	20.3

⁽a) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

Table 6: Area of glasshouses and protected crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June (a) (b) (c)

Hectares

	2010		2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total glasshouse area on 1 June ^(d)	1 751	#	1 977	2 586	30.8
Vegetables, salad and fruit	920	#	1 147	1 717	49.7
Flowers, foliage and other plants	599	#	606	601	-0.8
Not in use on 1 June	193		187	234	25.5

[#] Minor revisions were made to the 2010 glasshouse figures on 15 October 2012 to account for changes to the Northern Ireland figures.

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/1148/4.

⁽a) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

⁽b) 'Glasshouse' includes any fixed or mobile structure high enough to walk through, which is glazed or clad with film, rigid plastics or other glass substitutes. It excludes lights, low plastic tunnels, French and Spanish tunnels. These are reported as crops grown in the open (table 4).

⁽c) A change in the way glasshouse and open field areas for strawberries, raspberries and blackcurrants were collected in Scotland has resulted in a large shift between areas counted as open field and those counted as glasshouse or walk-in plastic structures. More information can be found at:

⁽d) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

Table 7: Cattle and calves on agricultural holdings on 1 June (a)

Thousands

				Inousands
	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total cattle and calves	10 112	9 933	9 900	-0.3
All female cattle	7 250	7 186	7 151	-0.5
Aged 2 years or more	4 350	4 291	4 216	-1.7
Total breeding herd - Beef herd - Dairy herd	3 503 1 657 1 847	3 489 1 675 1 814	3 469 1 657 1 812	-0.6 -1.0 -0.1
Other female cattle - Beef - Dairy	846 451 395	803 404 399	748 370 378	-6.9 -8.4 -5.3
Aged between 1 and 2 years - Beef - Dairy	1 406 866 540	1 378 838 541	1 398 845 553	1.4 0.9 2.3
Less than 1 year - Beef - Dairy	1 495 969 526	1 517 981 536	1 537 991 546	1.3 1.0 1.8
All male cattle Aged 2 years or more Aged between 1 and 2 years Less than 1 year	2 862 425 1 071 1 366	2 747 376 1 042 1 330	2 749 360 1 021 1 369	0.1 -4.3 -2.0 2.9

⁽a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) in England and Wales, the equivalent APHIS system in Northern Ireland and June Survey data in Scotland.

Table 8: Pigs on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change
	2010	2011	2012	2012-11
Total pigs	4 460	4 441	4 481	0.9
Breeding pigs	518	523	523	0.0
Female breeding herd	427	432	425	-1.5
Sows in pig	281	279	293	4.9
Gilts in pig	67	70	69	-2.0
Other sows (a)	79	83	64	-22.7
Other breeding pigs	91	92	98	6.8
Boars being used for service	17	16	16	-2.4
Gilts intended for first time breeding	75	75	82	8.9
Fattening pigs (incl. barren sows)	3 942	3 917	3 958	1.0

⁽a) Either being suckled or dry sows being kept for further breeding.

Table 9: Sheep and lambs on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total sheep and lambs	31 084	31 634	32 215	1.8
Female breeding flock	14 740	14 868	15 229	2.4
Ewes intended for further breeding or for slaughter	12 505	12 644	12 799	1.2
Ewes intended for first time breeding	2 235	2 224	2 431	9.3
Other sheep and lambs	16 344	16 765	16 985	1.3
Lambs under 1 year old	15 431	15 990	16 229	1.5
Rams	362	378	392	3.8
Other sheep 1 year and over	551	398	364	-8.6

Table 10: Poultry on agricultural holdings on 1 June (a)

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total poultry	163 867	162 551	160 061	-1.5
Total breeding and laying fowl	47 107	48 610	46 633	-4.1
Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating	37 497	38 357	36 646	-4.5
Breeding flock	9 610	10 253	9 987	-2.6
Table chickens (broilers)	105 309	102 461	102 558	0.1
Other poultry	11 451	11 481	10 870	-5.3
Ducks	2 470	2 367	2 294	-3.1
Geese	123	111	92	-16.8
Turkeys	3 892	3 930	3 747	-4.7
All other poultry	4 966	5 072	4 737	-6.6

⁽a) Due to production cycles, subgroups within the poultry population are often volatile as the 'point in time' nature of the June Survey can lead to large variations in the numbers in each category.

Table 11: All other livestock on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Thousands

	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total other livestock	453	459	466	1.5
Goats	93	94	98	3.8
Farmed deer	31	33	31	-4.5
Horses	311	313	315	0.7
Any livestock not recorded elsewhere (a)	18	19	21	13.6
- of which alpacas	10	13	14	2.7
- of which llamas	1	1	2	78.9

⁽a) Includes camelids, donkeys and mules.

Table 12: Number of people working on agricultural holdings on 1 June

Number of people (thousands)

	Number of people (thousands)			
	2010	2011	2012	% change 2012-11
Total number of people working on agricultural holdings	466	476	481	1.2
Farmers, partners, directors and spouses	295	299	298	-0.1
Full time	134	140	141	0.6
Part time (a)	161	159	158	-0.8
Salaried managers	11	11	11	-1.2
Regular and casual workers	160	166	172	3.6
Regular workers	103	104	105	1.7
- Full time	64	64	65	0.6
- Part time ^(a)	39	39	41	3.5
Casual workers	56	62	67	6.9
- Male	40	44	48	7.1
- Female	17	18	19	6.4

⁽a) Part time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week.

Data uses

Land

- Data on crop areas (both arable and horticultural) help us monitor the long term trends in cropping. Amongst many other things, this helps us assess the impacts of the abolition of formal set-aside.
- The data will enable us to assess how land areas vary across the UK regions and in different geographic areas (such as the Uplands, National Parks, River Basin Districts).
- The cereals and oilseed rape harvest estimates are heavily used by the cereals industry to monitor the availability of grain throughout the year.
- Any changes in the agricultural sector also affect people. For many, it is their livelihood and a way of life. We also use the data to estimate the numbers of tenant farmers so we know the impacts of any changes in their sector.

Livestock

- Data from the June Survey help us monitor changes in livestock populations over time and the effects of CAP reform on the industry.
- The numbers are also used to make forecasts of meat and milk production to inform industry of the availability of supply which affects prices.
- Livestock distributions across the UK help assess the risk of veterinary disease and to control outbreaks.
- The data are also used heavily in calculations of the greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions inventories.



Other survey results and next publications due

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website via the following link: http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/. This also contains details of future publication dates. The next publications due from the June Survey of Agriculture and the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Surveys are:

England Publications

- August 2013: Farming Statistics provisional arable crop areas at 1 June 2013 England
- September 2013: Farming Statistics final crop areas and cattle, sheep and pig populations at 1 June 2013 – England
- November 2013: Farming Statistics final land use, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2013 - England

UK Publications

- October 2013: Farming Statistics provisional crop areas, yields and livestock populations at 1 June 2013 – United Kingdom
- December 2013: Farming Statistics final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2013 – United Kingdom

Results published by the other UK countries can be found on their websites:

Scotland:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus

Wales:

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

Northern Ireland:

http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/news/press-releases-statistical/press-release-statistical-current.htm

Methodology: June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Data on crop areas and livestock populations are collected in the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture carried out by each of the UK agriculture departments. The methodology adopted by each country is below.

England

England results are the final results from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture in 2012. This is historically a postal survey run annually, however in 2011 the survey was run predominantly online with an option for farmers to complete a paper form if they preferred. This method was repeated in 2012 and is likely to continue for future years.

We identified approximately 23 thousand commercial holdings for which we had a valid email address and these holdings were sent an email invitation to complete the survey online. A further 7 thousand commercial holdings were sent a paper form to complete. 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.

Checks were carried out to ensure the sample was representative across farm size. The size of a farm is determined by its Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). In the SLR system, each livestock type and land-use has a theoretical amount of labour required each year. This value is multiplied by the land area or livestock numbers and then summed to give the SLR for the holding. The SLR represents the typical number of full time workers required on the holding.

The small farms (those with low SLRs) were sampled at a low rate and the sampling rate increased with farm size as in figure 13 below. This method minimises the burden on farmers whilst maximising the coverage. To improve the coverage of the pig and poultry sectors, a special data collection exercise was run to collect data from a central point for some of the largest companies.

Figure 13: June 2012 sample design

Stratum	Description	Sampling rate (%)	Population size
1	SLR < 0.5	14	47 535
2	SLR >= 0.5 and < 1	18	15 261
3	SLR >= 1 and < 2	30	16 143
4	SLR >= 2 and < 3	46	8 670
5	SLR >= 3 and < 5	60	8 330
6	SLR >= 5	73	7 892
10	SLR unknown	32	3 081
All		28	106 912

The 2012 English results in this statistical release are based on responses from 20 thousand commercial holdings, representing a response rate of 67%. English results for 2010 and 2011 are also based on commercial holdings only.

Cattle results are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error. More information on the use of this administrative data can be found on the "About Farming Statistics" web page via the UK Bovine Registers link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/aboutfarmstats/.

Final results from the England 2012 June Survey were published on 1 November 2012 and can be viewed on our website via the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/.

More details on the June Survey methodology can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/farmstats/aboutfarmstats/.

Scotland

Data collection

The June Agricultural Census is conducted annually by the Scottish Government's Rural & Environment Science & Analytical Services (RESAS). Data for the June Census are collected from two sources:

- Land data are extracted from the Single Application Form (SAF) database for around 25,500 holdings that are claiming Single Farm Payment (SFP). These data are accurate as farmers can face penalties for supplying incorrect data. A cut-down survey form is sent to 18,500 of these holdings so that additional data on livestock and labour can be collected.
- The remaining 10,600 holdings that needed to be surveyed in 2012 were sent a full census form covering land, livestock and labour.

There are around 52,600 agricultural holdings in Scotland. In 2012 a total of 29,100 holdings were surveyed with either a full or cut-down form. Results in this release are based on the 20,100 census forms that were returned and the information collated via the SAF database.

In 2012 the overall response rate was 69%. This breaks down:

- For holdings that received a full census form (i.e. those holdings where we collected full data through the June Census) the response rate was 60%.
- By contrast, the response rate for holdings that received a reduced census form (i.e. those holdings where we collected land data through the SAF database) was 74%. These are the holdings that generally cover a larger proportion of overall agricultural activity.

Please note that the rates quoted here relate to the number of survey forms received as a proportion of total forms issued. This masks the fact that we effectively receive 100% response for land items that are extracted from the SAF database as detailed above. Therefore, although the overall response rate of 69% may seem low, we can in fact be very confident about the accuracy of the majority of the land data that are supplied to us which also covers the bulk of the larger (by activity) agricultural holdings in Scotland.

Final results for Scotland were published on 25 September 2012 by the **Scottish Government Rural** and **Environment Research and Analysis Directorate** and are available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus.

Contact details - Saughton House (Q Spur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD (telephone: 0300 244 9709, email: agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Wales

The Welsh population currently stands at around 41,000 holdings. In 2012 a total of 14,400 survey forms were sent out. Final results were based on a response rate of 48%.

Final results for Wales were published by the Welsh Assembly Government on 21 November 2012 at: www.wales.gov.uk/statistics. For further details contact the Statistical Directorate 6, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ (telephone: Cardiff (02920) 825082).

Northern Ireland

In 2012 the Northern Ireland Agricultural and Horticultural Survey was conducted as a sample survey. A total of 19,330 forms were sent out. Data for the cattle section is a complete census as it is extracted from the APHIS cattle tracing database. Final results were published on 29 November 2012 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SB (telephone: Belfast (02890) 524850) and are available on the internet at: http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/news/press-releases-statistical/press-release-statistical-current.htm.

Methodology: Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey

England

Cereals and Oilseed Rape yield and production estimates

Results are based on final results from the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey, a representative sample of cereal and oilseed rape growers across English regions and farm sizes. These final results are based on responses from 2,790 farms (80% response rate) across the country.

Figure 14: Response rate for Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey 2012 by region

English region	Number sampled	Number of responses	Response rate (%)
North East	163	127	78
North West and Merseyside	249	194	78
Yorkshire and the Humber	517	412	80
East Midlands	449	370	82
West Midlands	242	185	76
Eastern	887	723	82
South East and London	392	306	78
South West	601	473	79
Total	3 500	2 790	80

This year for the first time, the Cereal Production Survey and Oilseed Rape Production Survey have been brought together on the same survey form. This action was taken to save the time and costs of running two separate surveys.

The Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey gathers data on production tonnages and moisture content for the various cereal and oilseed rape crops and seeks confirmation of the planted areas for these crops gathered from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. All moisture contents are standardised to ensure production estimates are comparable. Cereal production estimates are standardised to 14.5% moisture content and oilseed rape to 9% moisture content, with production tonnages being adjusted accordingly. These data are then used to calculate regional yield estimates for each crop type. Yield estimates are applied to regional June crop areas to derive England production estimates for each of the cereal and oilseed rape crops.

Wales

No yield data were collected for Wales. The Welsh production figures have been estimated on a regional basis within Wales using the results of their June 2012 Survey along with the yields for the English regions bordering Wales.

Scotland

The 2012 estimates of production are based on final crop areas from the 2012 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture, along with crop yield estimates from Scottish Government Agricultural Staff, supplemented by discussions with industry experts and trade organisations.

Northern Ireland

Areas are based on final estimates from the 2012 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Production figures are based on yield estimates from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland.

Data notes

The cereal production (tonnage) figures include tail corn, cereals still to be harvested for grain, grain to be crimped and cereals intended for seed production. The figures exclude crops which have become unfit for harvesting, carry over stocks from the 2011 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.