

Farm Business Survey Modules

Within the Farm Business Survey (FBS) ‘modules’ have been included to look at a particular facet of the farm business. Some modules such as those looking at enterprise margins, rents, and household income (until 2015) are repeated annually. Below is a list of ad-hoc modules that have been undertaken.

Countryside Maintenance and Management, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09 and 2010/11

Countryside and agri-environment practices have become increasingly important in recent years and on some farms agri-environmental schemes make a significant contribution to farm output and farm profitability. The incidence of these activities and where possible their associated costs have been collected through this module. Any relationships between production, incomes and practices can be investigated.

Water usage in agriculture and horticulture, 2009/10

Data have been collected on the supply and utilisation of water, economic cost of water and water related activities and behavioral attitudes among farmers to water management. Collection of this data through the FBS has allowed the examination of relationships between water usage and farm type, size, profitability and location.

Farm Business Management Practices, 2007/08 and 2011/12

This module was included to collect data on business management practices, techniques, skills and qualifications that farmers use to make business decisions. When combined with other data from the survey this helped to explain farm business’ behavior and how this varies with parameters such as economic performance, farm type and farm size.

In 2011/12 questions on animal health and welfare and climate change practices were also included as part of the module.

Energy use on farms, 2007/08 and 2011/12

This module collected data relating to energy use, including physical quantities of inputs. Collection of this data through the FBS allowed for examination of the relationship between physical quantities of inputs and economic performance. The data from this module has also been used by Cranfield University to estimate greenhouse gas emissions on commercial farms in England.

Animal Health and Welfare, 2005/06

This module collected information on animal health planning, and detailed information by livestock type on expenditure, disease prevention and veterinary expenses.

Feed, Forage and Livestock practices 2012/13

This module collected data primarily on ruminant livestock feeding regimes and productivity. This data will form part of the underlying data within the inventory reporting on average emissions from farm types typical of UK agriculture.

Farmer Intentions Survey 2010/11 to 2014/15

This module collected information on farmers’ aspirations and plans for the whole business and for individual enterprises including the strength of these intentions and the reasons behind them. In 2013/14 and 2014/15 information was also collected on any innovations or new practices adopted by the business.

Greening Module 2014/15 and 2015/16

An additional module was included within the 2014/15 Farm Business Survey (FBS) to collect information on the total area of EFA features on farms in England prior to the implementation of the new CAP greening rules. This was to establish a baseline and to allow an assessment of the impact of the greening requirements. The module was repeated as part of the 2015/16 FBS to look at the total area of EFA features on farm after the implementation of the greening requirements