

# The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

## Results for June 2022



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Department of  
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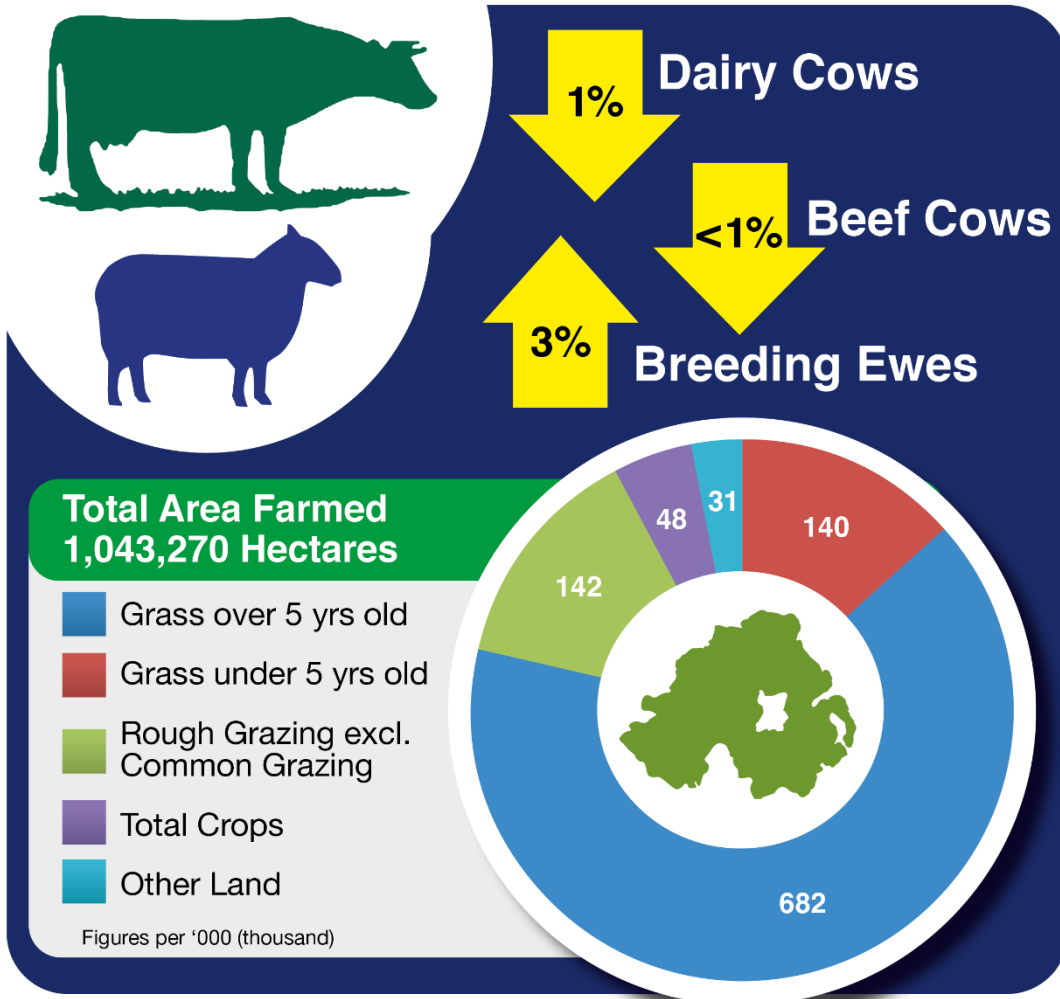
**Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**  
**Policy, Economics and Statistics Division**

**THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS**  
**IN**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**RESULTS FOR JUNE 2022**

**Revision Note:** A revision to this publication was published on 12/05/2023. Minor changes have been made to Tables 5.7, 5.10 and 3.7. Values for 'other ewes over 1 year old' were previously omitted in error from the 'total ewes' figure in Table 5.7 and have now been added. In addition, several typographical errors were identified. The percentage increase given for 'total number of laying birds' on pages 3 and 12 of the main report has been amended to accurately reflect the increase in the published figures. The figure for 'other poultry' in Table 3.7 in the separate published tables has been amended to match the figures published in the main report and annexed tables. The total number of farms and poultry reported for flocks between 20,000-29,999 and 30,000-49,999 in Table 5.10 were transposed and have been amended. A further change was made to table 6.5 to correct the order of the district councils.

If you have any queries or would like any further information about this revision please contact us at [Farmsurvey.PED@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Farmsurvey.PED@daera-ni.gov.uk)

# Results of the NI Agricultural Census, June 2022



*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

# THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND – RESULTS FOR JUNE 2022

## Key Points

**The main changes between June 2021 and June 2022 are:**

**Farms:** In June 2022 there were 26,089 farms in Northern Ireland with approximately one million hectares (1,043,270 hectares) of land farmed.

**Farm Structure:** Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,506 in 2022). 79 per cent of farms in Northern Ireland have some cattle, 38 per cent have some sheep and 3 per cent have some poultry.

**Farmers and workers:** In June 2022 there were a total of 51,760 farm workers, of which 78 per cent were farmers, directors, partners or spouses.

**Cattle:** Total cattle numbers have increased by less than 1 per cent to 1,686,999. The number of both beef and dairy cows remained relatively consistent (246,240 beef and 316,775 dairy cows).

**Sheep:** There was an increase of just 3 per cent in breeding ewes compared to 2021, with numbers increasing to 997,227. Overall, the total number of sheep recorded was 2.1 million, which was a just over 3 per cent rise from June 2021.

**Poultry:** Total poultry numbers on farms at June 2022 decreased by 16 per cent from 2021 levels with 20.6 million birds recorded. A combination of economic and animal health factors driving the change in the sector. Total number of laying birds saw an increase of 23 per cent whilst broiler numbers decreased by 25 per cent and other poultry by 73 per cent compared to June 2021.

**Pigs:** Total pig numbers recorded in June 2022 increased by just over 3 per cent to 738,540 compared to June 2021.

**Crop areas:** The total area of crops grown in Northern Ireland in 2022 was approximately 48,139 hectares, an increase of 4 per cent from 2021.

**Cereals:** The total area of cereals (32,681 hectares) grown in 2022 increased by 7 per cent from 2021. Wheat crops increased by 12 per cent to 8,625 hectares, Winter and Spring Barley increased by 8 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, while Oats increased by 5 per cent from 2021, at 1,973 hectares.

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# 1 Introduction

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The data in this statistical publication are sourced from the Agricultural Census which is conducted in June each year. Data is collected on crop areas, livestock numbers and farm labour. Outputs include time series data and frequency distributions. Results are presented at Northern Ireland and sub-regional level.

The statistics are compiled from a survey of farm businesses augmented by administrative data (Animal Public Health Information System, APHIS, cattle tracing system). In response to COVID-19, the data collection for the Farm Census moved entirely online since 2020. In 2022 the survey remained online with minor changes due to feedback. A large response was achieved from the online-only collection and focussed telephone follow-up. This has enabled detailed farm census statistics to be produced.

Since June 2020 new methodologies have been adopted to create the Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland sample using Departmental Administrative Data and to improve the quality of estimates for farms that did not respond. For some statistics within this publication this has created a break in the series of data and for these variables data should not be compared to published figures in previous years, these have been highlighted where applicable. Full explanation of these changes along with an analysis on data comparability is available in a standalone paper – available at: [Methodology Changes 2020](#)

– and within the background information on quality and methodology of the Agricultural Census available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>

The statistics provide robust estimates of crop areas, numbers of livestock and of farmers and workers on active farm businesses on the survey date of 1st June 2022.

The population of farms to which these statistics refer includes all active farm businesses having one or more hectare of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.

Farm numbers in 2022 remained largely stable with an increase of less than 1% to 26,089.

**Table 1.1    Number of farms Northern Ireland 2018-2022**

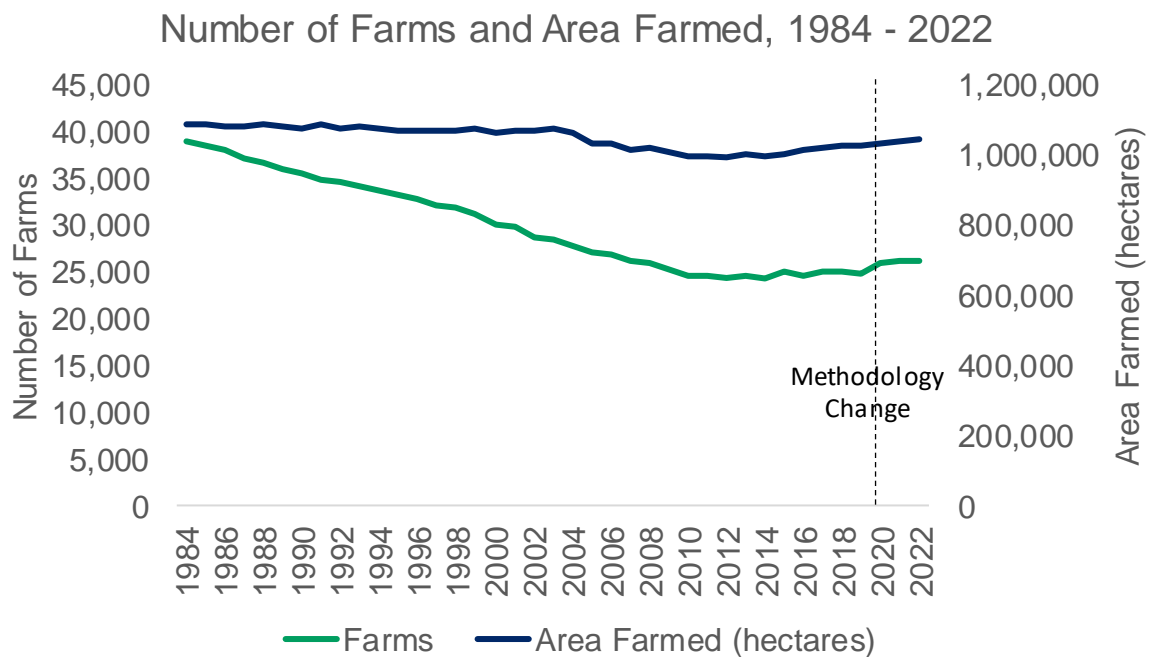
<b>Year</b>	<b>No. Farms</b>
<b>2018</b>	24,895
<b>2019</b>	24,827
<b>2020</b>	25,896
<b>2021</b>	26,077
<b>2022</b>	26,089



## 2 Executive Summary

**Farms:** In June 2022 there were 26,089 farms in Northern Ireland with approximately one million hectares (1,043,270 hectares) of land farmed.

**Figure 2.1 Number of farms and area farmed, Northern Ireland, 1984-2022<sup>1</sup>**



The area farmed (excluding common land) has remained relatively steady since 1984.

As with number of farms in 2022, the change in total area farmed recorded by the census matches the negligible increase in number of farms. An increase of 0.7 per cent suggests methodology and sample changes have had negligible effect on the land area variables.

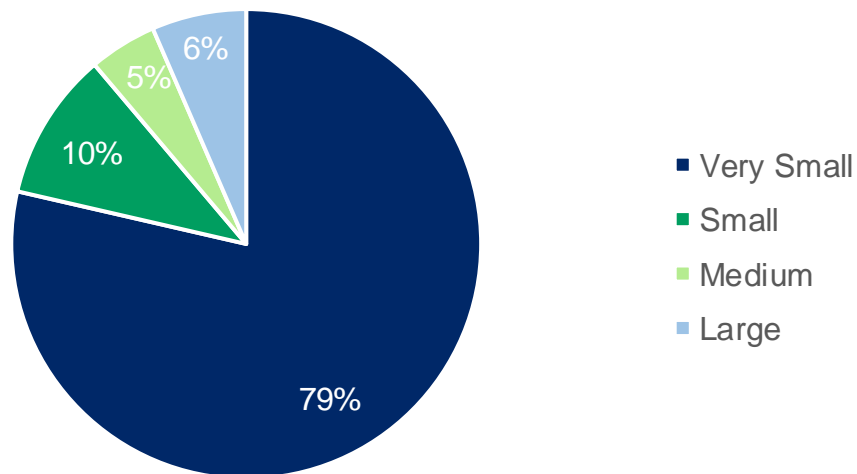
<sup>1</sup> Pre-1997 figures are estimates (based on combining overlapping series)

**Table 2.1: Agricultural Land Area Northern Ireland 2017-2022**

Year	Total Area Farmed Farm Census (ha)	Annual % Change
2018	1,022,395	0.3%
2019	1,023,163	0.1%
2020	1,029,822	0.7%
2021	1,035,642	0.6%
2022	1,043,760	0.8%

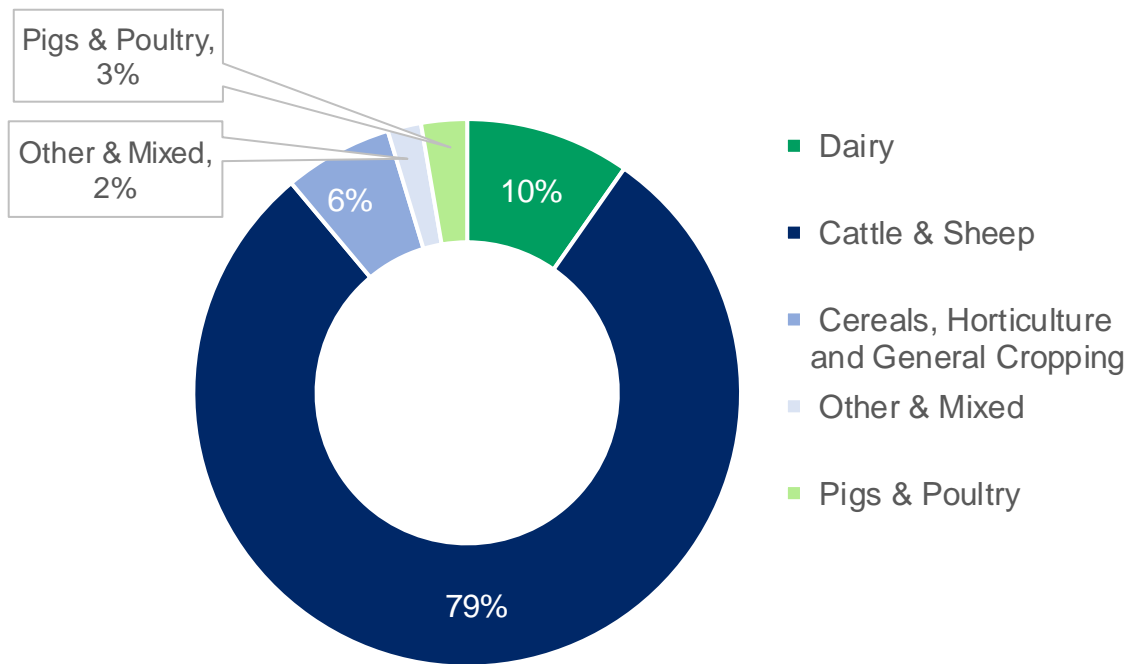
**Farm Structure:** Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,506 in 2022).

**Figure 2.2 Farm Size, 2022**



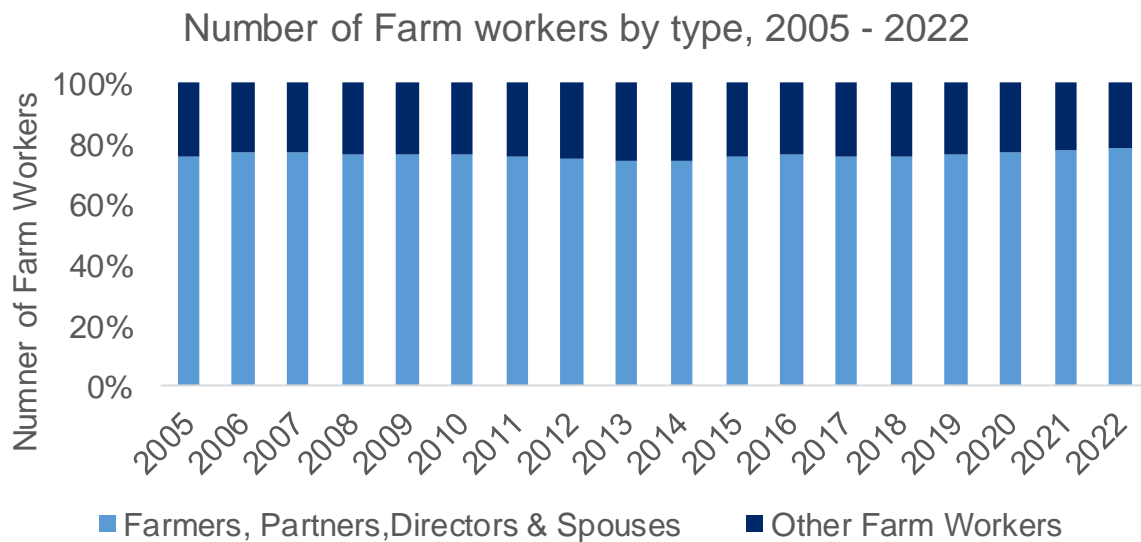
The predominant activity on Northern Ireland farms is cattle & sheep. 79 per cent of farms in Northern Ireland have some cattle, 38 per cent have some sheep, 3 per cent have some poultry and 2 per cent have some pigs. This is identical to the results in 2021 and 2020.

**Figure 2.3 Number of farms by farm type, 2022**



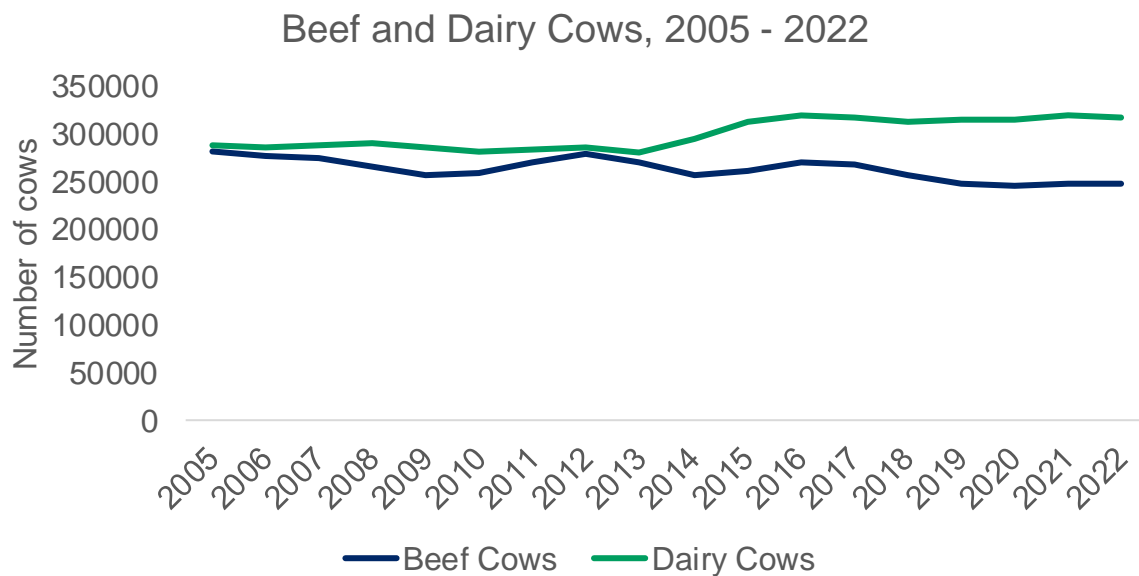
**Farmers and workers:** The total number of farm workers decreased by 1 per cent to 51,760 in 2022 from 52,195 in 2021. Figure 2.4 shows the breakdown of total farm workers between farmers, directors, partners or spouses (78 per cent) and all other farm workers (22 per cent) has remained relatively stable since 2004.

**Figure 2.4 Percentage of farm workers by type, Northern Ireland 2005-2022**



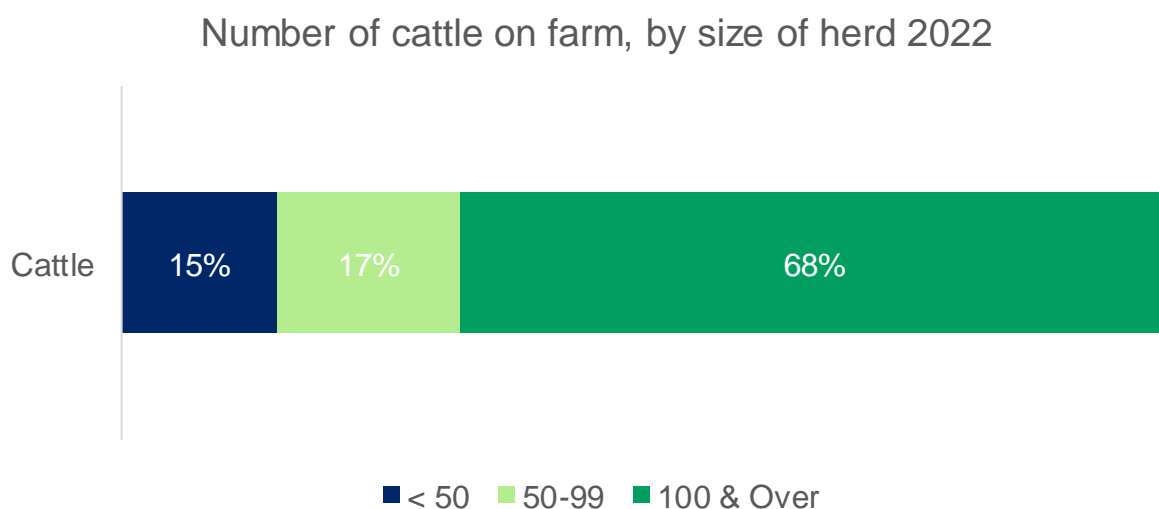
**Cattle:** Total cattle numbers have increased by less than 1 per cent to 1,686,999 between 2021 and 2022. The number of beef cows decreased by less than 1 per cent to 246,240 and the number of dairy cows decreased by less than 1 per cent to 316,775.

**Figure 2.5** Number of beef and dairy cows, 2005-2022



Over two thirds of cattle are in herds of 100 or more.

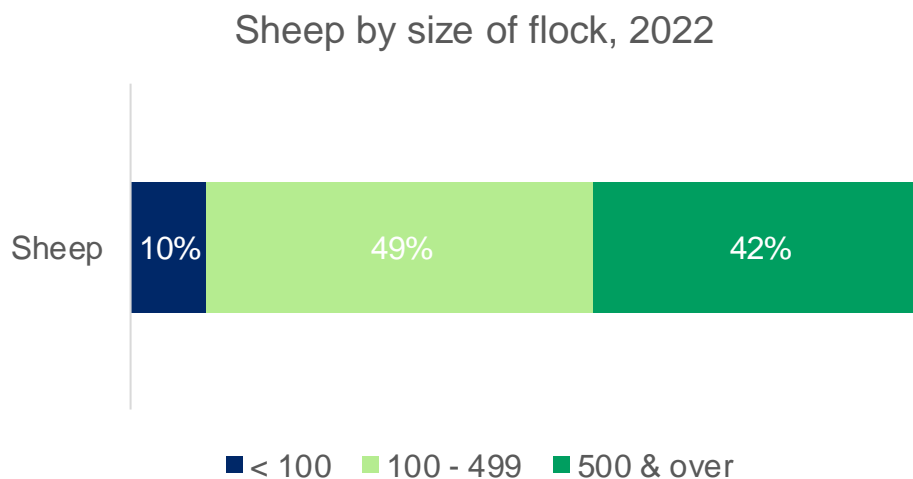
**Figure 2.6** Number of cattle on farm by size of herd, 2022



**Sheep:** The total number of sheep increased by just over 3 per cent in 2022 to 2.1 million. There was a 3 per cent increase in the number of breeding ewes compared with 2021 with numbers rising to 997,227.

Farms with more than 500 sheep on 1st June 2022 account for 42 per cent of the total sheep population.

**Figure 2.7** Number of sheep on farm by size of flock, 2022<sup>2</sup>

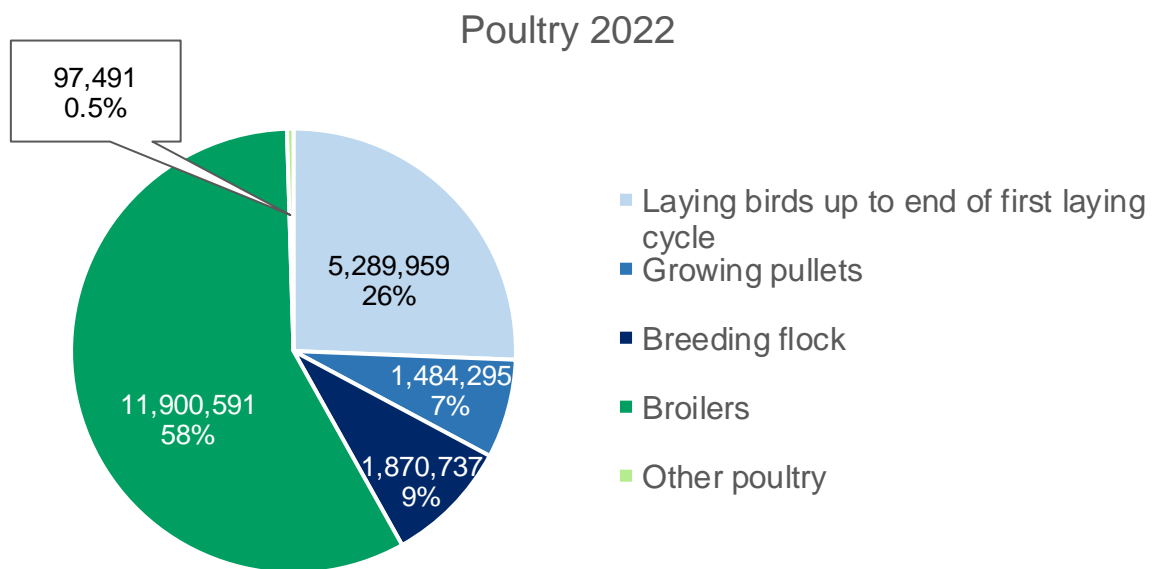


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<sup>2</sup> Please note percentages provided do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Poultry:** Total poultry numbers on farms at June 2022 decreased by 16 per cent from 2021 levels with 20.6 million birds recorded. A combination of economic and animal health factors drove the change in the sector. Total number of laying birds saw an increase of 23 per cent whilst broiler numbers decreased by 25 per cent and other poultry by 73 per cent compared to June 2021.

**Figure 2.8 Number of Poultry, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

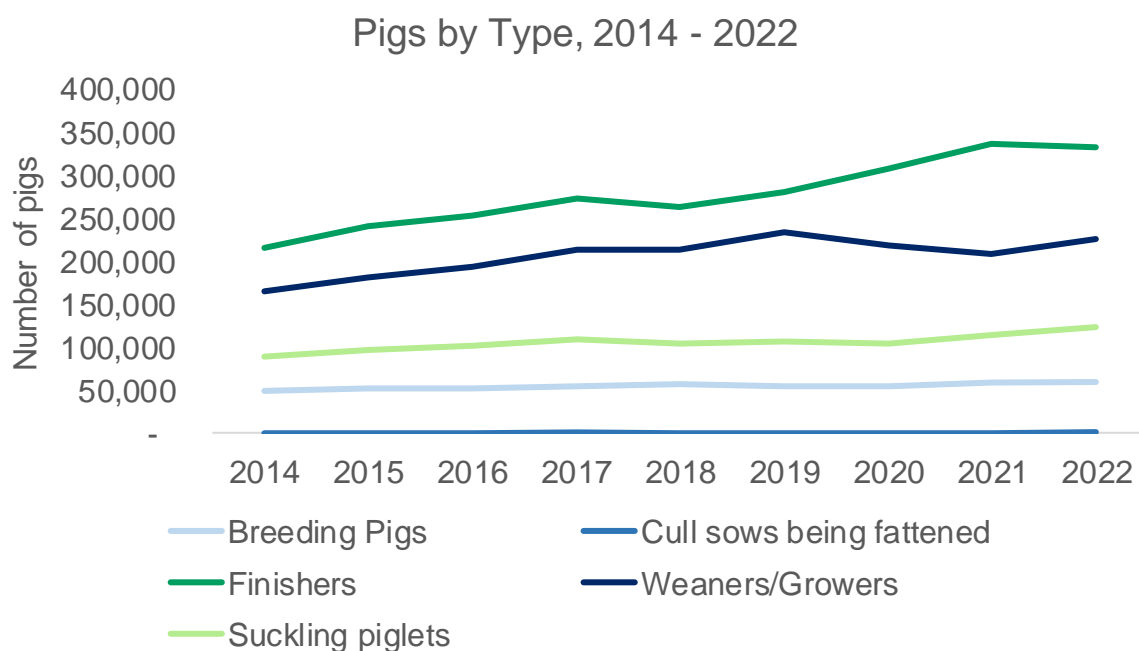


<sup>3</sup> Please note percentages provided do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Pigs:** There has been an increase in total pig numbers recorded on the farm census in June 2022 of just over 3 per cent to 738,540. The increase in pig numbers was primarily as a result of a higher number of weaners, growers and suckling piglets.

In comparison to 2021, the total breeding herd was similar at 58,130 (58,370 in 2021). The number of Weaners and Growers grew by almost 8 per cent to 224,971 and suckling piglets grew by almost 9 per cent to 122,842.

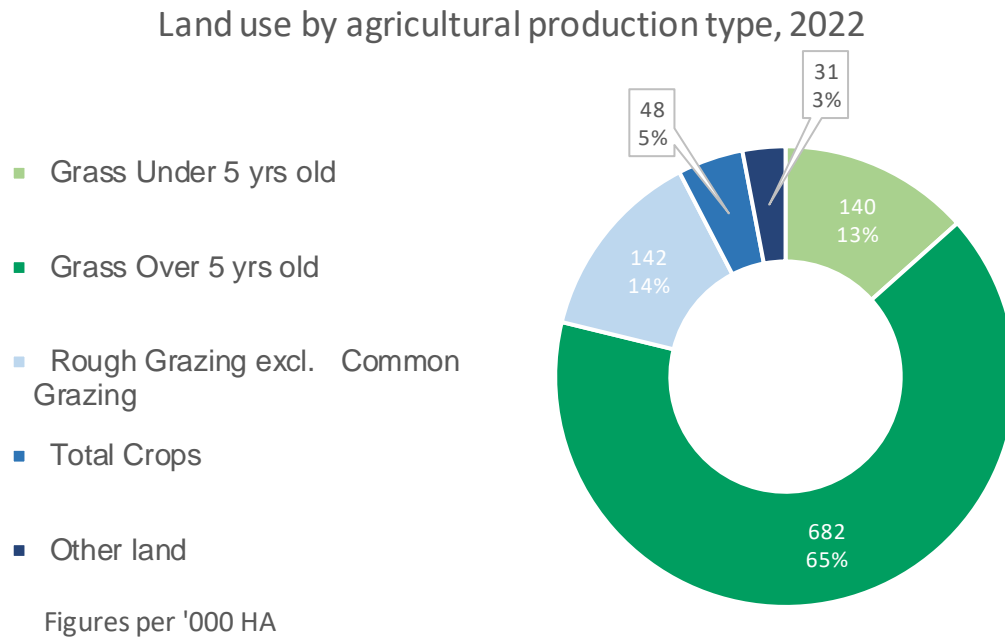
**Figure 2.9 Type of Pigs, 2014 – 2022**



Most pigs are concentrated in relatively few farms, with units of more than 200 sows on 1st June accounting for 18 per cent of herds but almost 80 per cent of total breeding sows.

**Crop areas:** The area of crops increased by 3.6 per cent between June 2021 and June 2022 to 48,139 hectares. Grass accounted for 79 per cent of all area farmed.

**Figure 2.10 Land use by agricultural production type, 2022**





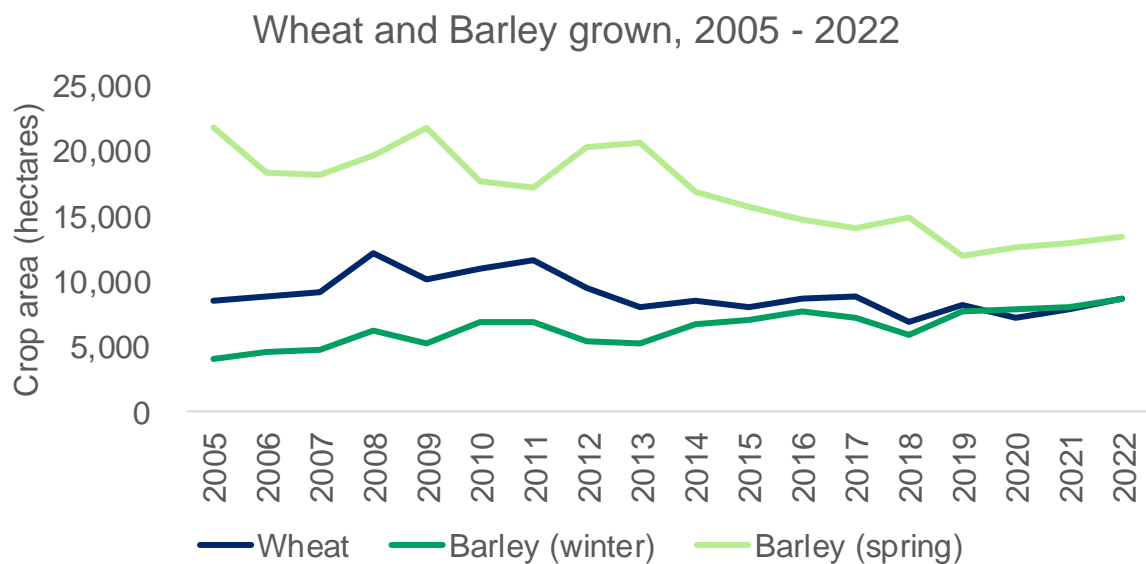
**Cereals:** The total area of cereals grown in 2022 increased by 7 per cent from 2021 to 32,681 hectares with wheat, winter and spring barley, oat and mixed corn crops all increasing over the same period.

The area of spring barley grown in June 2022 increased by 4 per cent from 2021 to 13,353 hectares and remains the most popular crop grown in Northern Ireland.

The area grown of wheat increased by 12 per cent to 8,625 hectares in the same period, to surpass the area of winter barley grown (8,604 hectares).

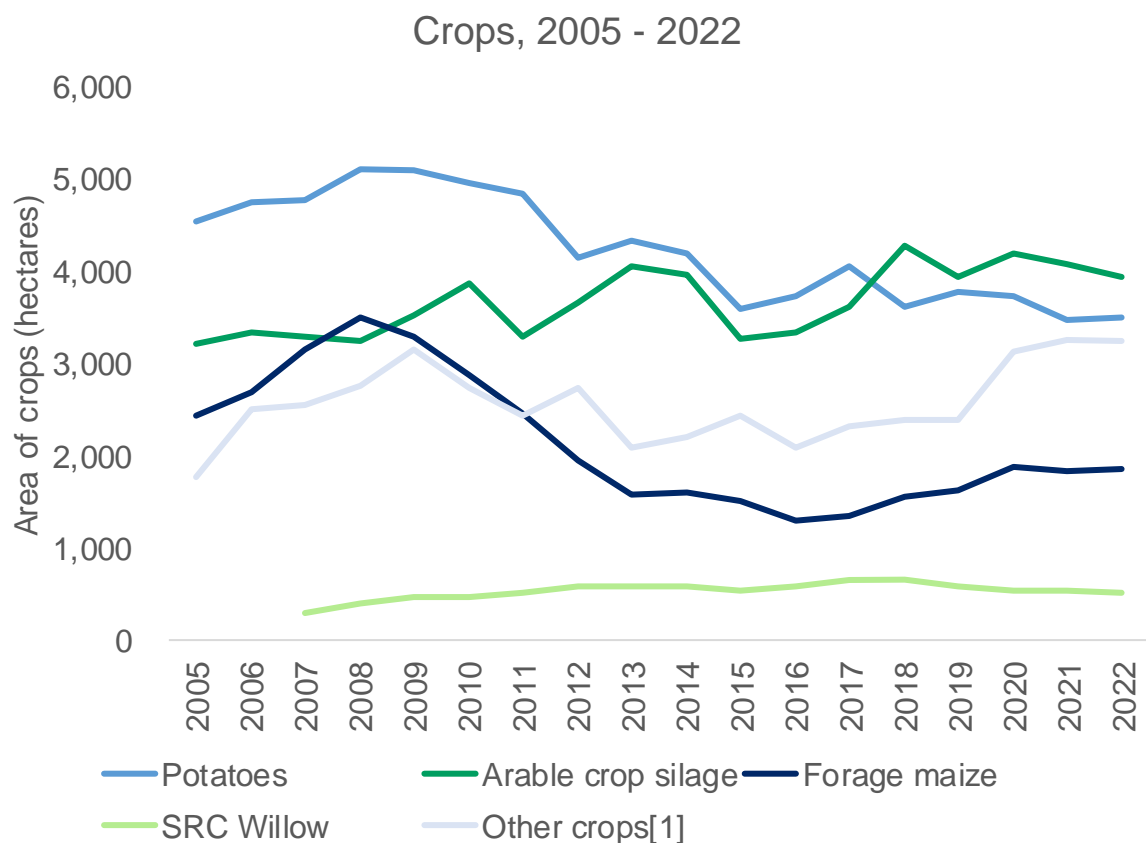
Oat crops increased by 5 per cent from 2021, at 1,973 hectares. Area of mixed corn remains relatively small in 2022 but has more than doubled in size to 126 hectares compared to 57 hectares in June 2021.

**Figure 2.11 Wheat and Barley grown, 2005 – 2022**



**Other crops:** The total area of other field crops decreased by 1 per cent between 2021 and 2022. The area of forage maize increased by 0.8 per cent to 1,850 hectares and arable crop silage decreased by 3.6 per cent to 3,936 hectares. There was an increase of less than 1 per cent in the area of potatoes to 3,486 hectares. The area of other crops remained relatively stable at 3,247.

**Figure 2.12 Area of other field crops, 2005 – 2022<sup>4</sup>**



[1] Other Crops - Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stock feed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax, other glasshouse crops, Hemp and WBC.

<sup>4</sup> Figures for willow crops are only available from 2007 onwards.

## 3 Northern Ireland Totals

The tables in this section show the crop areas, livestock numbers and numbers of farmers and other workers for the 5 year period 2018 to 2022 at 1st June each year.

**Table 3.1 Crop areas in Northern Ireland 2018-2022 (hectares)**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Grass</b>					
Under 5 years old	144,454	148,818	141,424	137,772	139,764
Over 5 years old	663,166	659,927	674,833	680,496	682,420
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>807,620</b>	<b>808,745</b>	<b>816,257</b>	<b>818,269</b>	<b>822,184</b>
<b>Total Hill or rough land</b>	<b>143,156</b>	<b>143,609</b>	<b>140,581</b>	<b>141,272</b>	<b>141,565</b>
<b>Cereals</b>					
Oats	2,013	1,868	1,879	1,874	1,973
Wheat	6845	8104	7,132	7,734	8,625
Barley (winter)	5,809	7,739	7,772	7,944	8,604
Barley (spring)	14,894	11,948	12,564	12,898	13,353
Mixed corn	101	161	113	57	126
<b>Total cereals</b>	<b>29,662</b>	<b>29,820</b>	<b>29,460</b>	<b>30,507</b>	<b>32,681</b>
<b>Other field crops</b>					
Potatoes	3,601	3,777	3,715	3,468	3,486
Arable crop silage	4,272	3,924	4,187	4,082	3,936
Forage maize	1,558	1,618	1,874	1,836	1,850
SRC Willow	655	586	533	536	521
Other crops <sup>5</sup>	2,391	2,392	3,114	3,251	3,247
<b>Total other field crops</b>	<b>12,477</b>	<b>12,296</b>	<b>13,422</b>	<b>13,172</b>	<b>13,040</b>
<b>Horticultural crops</b>					
Fruit	1,474	1,441	1,330	1,266	1,268
Vegetables	1,125	1,163	1,178	1,357	998
Ornamentals	199	179	172	159	152
<b>Total horticultural crops</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>2,418</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>44,937</b>	<b>44,898</b>	<b>45,562</b>	<b>46,461</b>	<b>48,139</b>
<b>Other land</b>					
Woods and plantations	16,307	15,669	17,276	18,761	18,987
Other land <sup>6</sup>	10,376	10,243	10,145	10,878	12,395
<b>Total other land</b>	<b>26,683</b>	<b>25,912</b>	<b>27,421</b>	<b>29,639</b>	<b>31,382</b>
<b>Total Area Farmed</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>	<b>1,023,163</b>	<b>1,029,822</b>	<b>1,035,642</b>	<b>1,043,270</b>

<sup>5</sup> Other Crops - Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stock feed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax, other glasshouse crops, Hemp and WBC.

<sup>6</sup> Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

**Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2018-2022<sup>7</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Dairy cows</b>	<b>310,718</b>	<b>313,549</b>	<b>313,283</b>	<b>318,372</b>	<b>316,775</b>
<b>Other Dairy Females</b>					
2 years old	49,235	45,987	41,530	40,353	41,391
1-2 years	82,667	85,913	88,212	95,949	103,519
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,902</b>	<b>131,900</b>	<b>129,742</b>	<b>136,302</b>	<b>144,910</b>
<b>Beef cows</b>	<b>255,904</b>	<b>247,009</b>	<b>244,702</b>	<b>246,956</b>	<b>246,240</b>
<b>Other Beef Females</b>					
2 years old	62,235	67,312	62,569	67,166	66,978
1-2 years	156,142	150,551	146,524	157,195	156,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,377</b>	<b>217,863</b>	<b>209,093</b>	<b>224,361</b>	<b>223,805</b>
<b>Breeding bulls</b>					
2 years old and over	13,288	12,985	12,264	11,902	11,452
1-2 years	3,572	3,473	7,729	8,307	8,453
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,860</b>	<b>16,458</b>	<b>19,993</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>19,905</b>
<b>Other Males</b>					
2 years old	48,423	51,595	47,606	50,015	49,115
1-2 years	172,094	164,285	160,204	172,958	173,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>220,517</b>	<b>215,880</b>	<b>207,810</b>	<b>222,973</b>	<b>222,354</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>					
Male	89,000	84,268	88,557	92,929	92,974
Female	109,287	106,223	113,664	122,777	129,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,287</b>	<b>190,491</b>	<b>202,221</b>	<b>215,706</b>	<b>222,597</b>
<b>Under 6 months</b>					
Male	131,243	132,012	134,373	140,717	132,792
Female	145,260	146,614	150,250	156,395	157,621
<b>Total</b>	<b>276,503</b>	<b>278,626</b>	<b>284,623</b>	<b>297,112</b>	<b>290,413</b>
<b>Total Cattle</b>	<b>1,629,068</b>	<b>1,611,776</b>	<b>1,611,467</b>	<b>1,681,991</b>	<b>1,686,999</b>

<sup>7</sup> Data derived from the Animal and Public Health Information System, (APHIS).

**Table 3.3 Sheep in Northern Ireland 2018-2022<sup>8</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Ewes</b>					
Ewes which lambed	829,636	813,964	800,656	812,864	840,000
Others for breeding	126,912	124,493	145,398	155,436	157,227
<b>Total</b>	<b>956,548</b>	<b>938,457</b>	<b>946,054</b>	<b>968,300</b>	<b>997,227</b>
<b>Other sheep</b>					
Rams for service	28,229	28,334	28,526	28,105	29,100
Not for breeding	15,944	17,716	17,021	10,327	11,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,173</b>	<b>46,050</b>	<b>45,547</b>	<b>38,432</b>	<b>40,227</b>
<b>Lambs &lt; 1 year old</b>	<b>1,005,277</b>	<b>1,002,425</b>	<b>999,337</b>	<b>1,028,054</b>	<b>1,063,432</b>
<b>Total</b>					
<b>Total Sheep</b>	<b>2,005,998</b>	<b>1,986,932</b>	<b>1,990,938</b>	<b>2,034,786</b>	<b>2,100,886</b>

**Table 3.4 Horses and Ponies in Northern Ireland 2018-2022**

	2018	2019	2020 <sup>9</sup>	2021	2022
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	7,316	7,000	5,558	4,816	4,841
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	1,654	1,707	1,430	1,361	1,436
<b>Total Horses &amp; Ponies</b>	<b>8,970</b>	<b>8,707</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>6,177</b>	<b>6,277</b>

**Table 3.5 Goats in Northern Ireland 2018-2022**

	2018	2019	2020 <sup>9</sup>	2021	2022
Female goats which have kidded	1,673	1,676	1,347	1,072	1,119
All other goats and kids	2,087	1,741	1,642	1,802	1,700
<b>Total Goats</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>3,417</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>2,819</b>

<sup>8</sup> Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Sheep on holding and the Farm Census.

<sup>9</sup> Methodology changes in 2020 have created a break in time series and data should not be compared to previous years. This is explained in further detail in the Farm Census Methodology Changes 2020 report.

**Table 3.6 Pigs in Northern Ireland 2018-2022<sup>10</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Female breeding herd</b>					
Sows in pig	34,775	34,447	37,319	37,178	33,624
Gilts in pig	8,499	7,535	8,577	7,476	7,278
Others sows for breeding	6,361	5,547	N/A <sup>11</sup>	5,432	5,755
<b>Other breeding pigs</b>					
Boars being used for service	843	753	730	676	473
Maiden gilts	4,909	6,184	7,259	7,608	11,000
<b>Total breeding pigs</b>	<b>55,387</b>	<b>54,466</b>	<b>53,885</b>	<b>58,370</b>	<b>58,130</b>
<b>Other pigs</b>					
Cull sows being fattened	603	534	540	650	759
Finishers	261,250	280,631	306,563	335,795	331,717
Weaners/Growers	213,770	233,082	217,511	208,944	224,971
Suckling piglets	102,634	105,715	102,894	112,937	122,842
Pet Pigs <sup>12</sup>			74	102	121
<b>Total Other pigs</b>	<b>578,257</b>	<b>619,962</b>	<b>627,582</b>	<b>658,428</b>	<b>680,410</b>
<b>Total Pigs</b>	<b>633,644</b>	<b>674,428</b>	<b>681,467</b>	<b>716,798</b>	<b>738,540</b>

**Table 3.7 Poultry in Northern Ireland 2018-2022<sup>13</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Laying Birds</b>					
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	4,331,920	4,998,723	4,936,640	4,313,223	5,289,959
Growing pullets	1,121,315	1,481,216	1,495,748	1,745,260	1,484,295
Breeding flock	2,515,873	2,558,685	2,214,349	2,090,221	1,870,737
<b>Table birds</b>					
Broilers	17,663,015	15,351,573	15,364,473	15,946,721	11,900,591
Other poultry	398,460	390,184	341,000	367,377	97,491
<b>Total Poultry</b>	<b>26,030,583</b>	<b>24,780,381</b>	<b>24,352,210</b>	<b>24,462,802</b>	<b>20,643,073</b>

<sup>10</sup> Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and the farm census.<sup>11</sup> Data not collected in 2020<sup>12</sup> Prior to 2020 pet pig responses were included with Finishers.<sup>13</sup> Data derived from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update and the farm Census.

**Table 3.8 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2018-2022**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Farmers, partners &amp; directors:<sup>14</sup></b>					
Full-time	16,964	16,954	20,253	20,294	19,740
Part-time	13,721	13,859	19,065	20,073	20,651
<b>Total farmers</b>	<b>30,685</b>	<b>30,813</b>	<b>39,318</b>	<b>40,367</b>	<b>40,391</b>
<b>Total spouses</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total Farmers, Partners, Directors &amp; Spouses</b>	<b>37,227</b>	<b>37,513</b>	<b>39,318</b>	<b>40,367</b>	<b>40,391</b>
<b>Other workers:</b>					
Full-time	3,411	3,430	3,058	2,902	2,696
Part-time	4,340	4,453	3,829	4,018	3,953
Casual/Seasonal	4,270	4,027	5,096	4,908	4,720
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>11,910</b>	<b>11,983</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>11,369</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>49,248</b>	<b>49,423</b>	<b>51,301</b>	<b>52,195</b>	<b>51,760</b>

<sup>14</sup> From 2020 onwards, spouses are included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors category. In previous years, data on spouses was collected as a separate question.

## 4 Farm Structure

The tables in this section focus on the farm business type. Farms are classified according to the type of farming found on the holding. In 2020 the business type classification was updated from 2010 Standard Output (SO) co-efficient to the more current 2013 SO values to align with other publications produced by the Department and across the UK. It is therefore worth noting that any comparison done on farm type data between 2020 and preceding years is not directly comparable. Further information on these classifications are available in our methodology and quality report which is available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>

**Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by crop & grass area farmed in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

<b>Crops &amp; grass farmed (hectares)</b>	<b>No. Farms</b>	<b>Area Farmed</b>
Under 10	6,749	36,095
10 - 19.9	5,930	85,590
20.0 - 29.9	4,034	98,224
30.0 - 49.9	4,242	163,215
50.0 - 99.9	3,593	245,761
100 & over	1,541	241,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,089</b>	<b>870,323</b>

**Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area farmed in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

<b>Total area farmed (hectares)</b>	<b>No. Farms</b>	<b>Area Farmed</b>
Under 10	5,913	32,656
10 - 19.9	5,533	79,997
20.0 - 29.9	3,980	97,001
30.0 - 49.9	4,431	171,195
50.0 - 99.9	4,106	283,647
100 & over	2,126	378,773
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,089</b>	<b>1,043,270</b>



**Table 4.3 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2022**

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
<b>Owner-occupied land (% area farmed)</b>					
All	12,267	755	264	240	13,526
50-99%	4,599	1,257	618	913	7,387
1-49%	2,496	587	304	532	3,919
None	1,144	68	31	14	1,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>26,089</b>
<b>Average % Owner Occupied</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>76</b>

**Table 4.4 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
<b>Farmers, Partners, Directors &amp; Spouses<sup>15</sup>:</b>					
Full-time	11,927	3,076	1,726	3,011	19,740
Part-time	17,466	1,686	652	847	20,651
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,393</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>40,391</b>
<b>Other workers:</b>					
Full-time	512	245	245	1,694	2,696
Part-time	2,204	577	365	807	3,953
Casual/Seasonal	2,359	707	429	1,225	4,720
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>5,075</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>11,369</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>34,468</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>3,417</b>	<b>7,584</b>	<b>51,760</b>

<sup>15</sup> From 2020 onwards, spouses are included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors category. In previous years, data on spouses was collected as a separate question.

**Table 4.5 Number of farms by (a) type of farm; (b) crops and grass area and (c) total area by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Farm Business Size				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
<b>(a) Farm Type</b>					
Cereals	220	40	11	6	<b>277</b>
General cropping	1,123	31	15	37	<b>1,206</b>
Horticulture	58	36	28	70	<b>192</b>
Pigs	41	18	28	65	<b>152</b>
Poultry	122	195	134	103	<b>554</b>
Dairy	201	670	602	1,064	<b>2,537</b>
Cattle & sheep: LFA <sup>16</sup>	13,839	1,123	238	151	<b>15,351</b>
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,616	474	120	94	<b>5,304</b>
Mixed and Other type	286	80	41	109	<b>516</b>
<b>(b) Area of crops &amp; grass farmed (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	6,558	94	41	56	<b>6,749</b>
10 - 19.9	5,690	157	45	38	<b>5,930</b>
20.0 - 29.9	3,681	250	60	43	<b>4,034</b>
30.0 - 49.9	3,187	768	193	94	<b>4,242</b>
50.0 - 99.9	1,276	1,104	621	592	<b>3,593</b>
100 & over	114	294	257	876	<b>1,541</b>
<b>(c) Total area farmed (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	5,754	70	39	50	<b>5,913</b>
10 - 19.9	5,329	131	39	34	<b>5,533</b>
20.0 - 29.9	3,690	203	51	36	<b>3,980</b>
30.0 - 49.9	3,517	648	168	98	<b>4,431</b>
50.0 - 99.9	1,870	1,086	594	556	<b>4,106</b>
100 & over	346	529	326	925	<b>2,126</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>26,089</b>

<sup>16</sup> LFA = Less Favoured Area

## 5 Farm Activities

The tables in this section refer to all farming activities conducted on a holding, regardless of the farm business type classification in the previous chapter.

**Table 5.1** Distribution of farms and cereals by area of cereals in Northern Ireland, June 2022

<b>Area of cereals on farms (hectares)</b>	<b>No. Farms</b>	<b>Area Farmed</b>
Under 5	781	2,231
5 - 9.9	506	3,609
10 - 19.9	426	5,908
20 - 29.9	150	3,549
30-49.9	131	4,944
50 & over	134	12,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>32,681</b>

**Table 5.2** Distribution of farms and crops by area of barley in Northern Ireland, June 2022

<b>Area of barley on farms (hectares)</b>	<b>No. Farms</b>	<b>Area Farmed</b>
Under 5	691	2,003
5 - 9.9	448	3,159
10 - 19.9	356	4,931
20 - 29.9	127	2,999
50 & over	162	8,865
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>21,957</b>

**Table 5.3 Distribution of farms and crops by area in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Area of crop on farms (hectares)	Winter Barley		Spring Barley		Oats		Wheat	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 5	263	827	627	1,760	162	389	203	595
5 - 9.9	195	1,393	380	2,660	58	412	149	1,059
10 - 19.9	184	2,466	252	3,440	42	555	153	2,058
20 - 29.9	51	1,226	84	1,999	15	343	53	1,232
30 - 39.9	27	906	25	846	*	142	24	802
40 and over	33	1,787	43	2,648	*	133	44	2,879
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>13,353</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>8,625</b>

\*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

**Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)	Farms	Area
under 1	85	40
1 - 2.9	88	150
3 - 4.9	66	249
5 - 9.9	48	328
10 - 14.9	29	336
15 and over	65	2,382
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>3,485</b>

**Table 5.5 Distribution of farms and dairy/beef cows by number of dairy/beef cows in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Number of cows on farm	Dairy cows		Beef cows	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 10	188	1,221	6,169	26,605
10 - 14	72	858	2,099	24,968
15 - 19	76	1,281	1,550	26,144
20 - 29	154	3,815	1,919	45,717
30 - 39	193	6,684	926	31,413
40 - 49	229	10,215	514	22,681
50 - 59	255	13,872	289	15,697
60 - 69	237	15,184	177	11,265
70 - 99	580	48,395	264	21,560
100 & over	1,201	215,250	144	20,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,185</b>	<b>316,775</b>	<b>14,051</b>	<b>246,240</b>

**Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Number of cattle on farm	Farms	Cattle
< 10	2,574	13,857
10 - 19	3,049	43,390
20 - 29	2,475	60,097
30 - 39	1,960	67,029
40 - 49	1,497	66,202
50 - 69	2,185	128,380
70 - 99	2,000	166,293
100 - 149	1,728	210,747
150 - 199	978	168,030
200 & over	2,072	762,974
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,518</b>	<b>1,686,999</b>

**Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and ewes/total sheep by number of ewes/total sheep in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Number of ewes/sheep on farm	Ewes		Total sheep	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,325	30,544	1,269	17,005
25 - 49	1,911	68,554	1,232	44,936
50 - 99	2,267	160,309	1,976	141,717
100 - 199	1,949	269,190	2,212	316,513
200 - 299	649	157,038	1,266	311,431
300 - 399	302	101,854	684	235,934
400 - 499	141	62,263	355	158,314
500 - 999	160	106,604	797	538,725
1,000 & over	28	40,871	212	336,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,732</b>	<b>997,227</b>	<b>10,003</b>	<b>2,100,886</b>

**Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Number of sows on farm	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	102	298
10 - 49	45	1,110
50 - 99	30	2,138
100 - 199	42	6,067
200 & over	48	37,044
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>46,657</b>

**Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and finisher/weaner and total pigs by number of pigs in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Number of pigs on farm	Finisher/weaner pigs		Total pigs	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	60	223	148	467
10 - 49	45	973	54	1,264
50 - 99	16	1,127	18	1,222
100 - 399	32	7,613	34	7,567
400 - 999	42	27,511	42	27,200
1,000 - 1,999	37	53,194	37	54,710
2,000 & over	58	466,806	73	646,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>557,447</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>738,540</b>

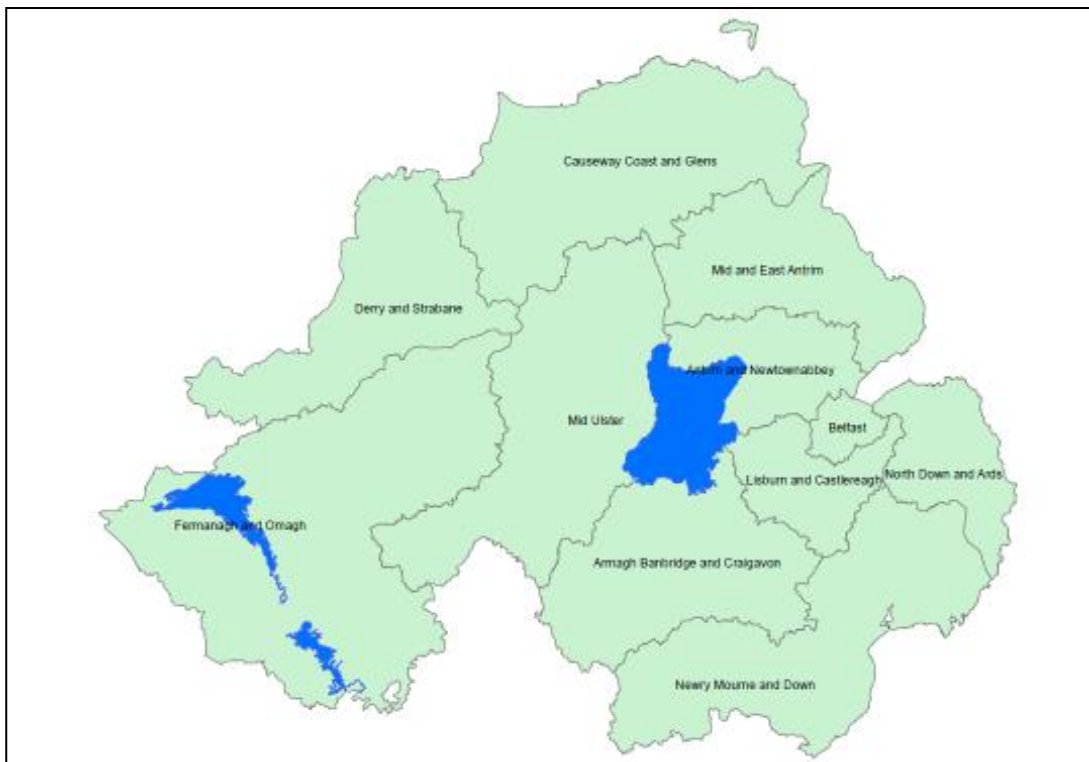
**Table 5.10 Distribution of farms by size of poultry flock in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

Size of flock on farm	Farms	Total Poultry
under 1,000 <sup>17</sup>	285	14,881
1,000 - 4,999	22	70,325
5,000 - 9,999	90	676,257
10,000 - 19,999	221	3,336,868
20,000 - 29,999	95	2,333,957
30,000 - 49,999	126	4,532,810
50,000 and over	104	9,677,975
<b>Total</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>20,643,073</b>

<sup>17</sup> From 2020 includes farms with less than 250 birds

# 6 County & District Council Area

The tables in this section show data for Northern Ireland counties and for local district council area. Farms are allocated based on the Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) of the farmer's main dwelling (i.e. where he/she resides). Where the UPRN is not available the postcode is used for allocation. Where the farmer has deceased the farm may be allocated a temporary location based on a relative's address or a solicitor's office if the estate is subject to probate at the time of the survey.





**Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Number of farms					Ave hectare /farm
	0-9.9 ha	10-19.9 ha	20-29.9 ha	30+ ha	Total	
<b>County</b>						
Antrim <sup>18</sup>	1,161	911	679	1,842	<b>4,593</b>	<b>38</b>
Armagh	1,179	936	558	967	<b>3,640</b>	<b>26</b>
Down	1,594	1,159	730	1,705	<b>5,188</b>	<b>32</b>
Fermanagh	562	678	544	1,228	<b>3,012</b>	<b>36</b>
Londonderry	844	755	516	1,354	<b>3,469</b>	<b>36</b>
Tyrone	1,409	1,491	1,007	2,280	<b>6,187</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>District Council</b>						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	222	164	137	394	<b>917</b>	<b>43</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,073	812	492	1,100	<b>3,477</b>	<b>30</b>
Belfast <sup>1</sup>	37	25	13	27	<b>102</b>	<b>32</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	592	492	351	1,186	<b>2,621</b>	<b>42</b>
Derry City and Strabane	338	372	289	772	<b>1,771</b>	<b>39</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	985	1,229	914	2,069	<b>5,197</b>	<b>35</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	249	198	131	337	<b>915</b>	<b>37</b>
Mid and East Antrim	493	390	285	682	<b>1,850</b>	<b>35</b>
Mid Ulster	1,204	1,072	696	1,426	<b>4,398</b>	<b>29</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,344	1,038	641	1,063	<b>4,086</b>	<b>25</b>
Ards and North Down	212	138	85	320	<b>755</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>5,930</b>	<b>4,034</b>	<b>9,376</b>	<b>26,089</b>	<b>33</b>

<sup>18</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address

**Table 6.2 Number of farms by farm business size by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Number of farms				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
<b>County</b>					
Antrim <sup>19</sup>	3,334	585	256	418	<b>4,593</b>
Armagh	2,971	309	141	219	<b>3,640</b>
Down	4,091	488	210	399	<b>5,188</b>
Fermanagh	2,543	270	118	81	<b>3,012</b>
Londonderry	2,687	399	169	214	<b>3,469</b>
Tyrone	4,880	616	323	368	<b>6,187</b>
<b>District Council</b>					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	671	105	54	87	<b>917</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,675	359	165	278	<b>3,477</b>
Belfast <sup>19</sup>	92	*	*	*	<b>102</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,854	367	132	268	<b>2,621</b>
Derry City and Strabane	1,334	206	108	123	<b>1,771</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,313	476	211	197	<b>5,197</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	698	*	*	*	<b>915</b>
Mid and East Antrim	1,365	229	107	149	<b>1,850</b>
Mid Ulster	3,498	437	231	232	<b>4,398</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	3,481	308	128	169	<b>4,086</b>
Ards and North Down	525	81	43	106	<b>755</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>26,089</b>

\*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

<sup>19</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address.

**Table 6.3 Number of farms by farm type by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Cereal	General cropping	Hortic-ulture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle/ Sheep LFA	Cattle/ Sheep lowland	Mixed & Other	Total
<b>County</b>										
Antrim <sup>20</sup>	*	230	19	*	141	533	2,574	954	*	<b>4,593</b>
Armagh	30	164	121	15	72	285	2,081	801	71	<b>3,640</b>
Down	134	329	24	34	49	504	1,987	1,947	180	<b>5,188</b>
Fermanagh	*	91	5	*	40	250	2,603	14	*	<b>3,012</b>
Londonderry	68	191	9	26	31	323	1,945	785	91	<b>3,469</b>
Tyrone	20	201	14	46	221	642	4,161	803	79	<b>6,187</b>
<b>District Council</b>										
Antrim and Newtownabbey	*	54	*	7	19	*	410	297	*	<b>917</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	61	191	119	22	78	346	1,181	1,355	124	<b>3,477</b>
Belfast <sup>20</sup>	*	15	0	0	*	*	65	17	*	<b>102</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	36	120	7	8	61	317	1,402	607	63	<b>2,621</b>
Derry City and Strabane	20	55	*	*	10	188	1,254	195	34	<b>1,771</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	*	156	*	15	90	487	4,336	83	19	<b>5,197</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	28	88	11	10	18	98	253	379	30	<b>915</b>
Mid and East Antrim	*	78	*	11	60	211	1,180	273	28	<b>1,850</b>
Mid Ulster	37	201	11	45	179	413	2,448	974	90	<b>4,398</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	47	173	14	19	34	255	2,757	716	71	<b>4,086</b>
Ards and North Down	38	75	7	*	*	117	65	408	38	<b>755</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>15,351</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>26,089</b>

\*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

<sup>20</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address.

**Table 6.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>21</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	Total
<b>County</b>					
Antrim <sup>22</sup>	1,414	1,742	3,156	1,437	<b>4,593</b>
Armagh	665	1,812	2,477	1,163	<b>3,640</b>
Down	991	1,293	2,284	2,904	<b>5,188</b>
Fermanagh	2,847	147	2,994	18	<b>3,012</b>
Londonderry	1,361	865	2,226	1,243	<b>3,469</b>
Tyrone	2,752	2,279	5,031	1,156	<b>6,187</b>
<b>District Council</b>					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	148	363	511	406	<b>917</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	308	1,180	1,488	1,989	<b>3,477</b>
Belfast <sup>1</sup>	58	17	75	27	<b>102</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,011	631	1,642	979	<b>2,621</b>
Derry City and Strabane	1,032	406	1,438	333	<b>1,771</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,222	848	5,070	127	<b>5,197</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	79	246	325	590	<b>915</b>
Mid and East Antrim	679	753	1,432	418	<b>1,850</b>
Mid Ulster	1,158	1,837	2,995	1,403	<b>4,398</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,328	1,780	3,108	978	<b>4,086</b>
Ards and North Down	7	77	84	671	<b>755</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>8,138</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>7,921</b>	<b>26,089</b>

<sup>21</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

<sup>22</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address

**Table 6.5 Crop and grass areas by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022 (hectares)**

	Cereals	Pota- toes	Other farm crops*	Horticul- ture crops**	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land***	Total area farmed
<b>County</b>									
Antrim <sup>23</sup>	5,265	518	1,299	135	<b>7,217</b>	169,086	39,003	3,943	<b>219,249</b>
Armagh	3,164	180	1,101	1,536	<b>5,981</b>	89,084	2,442	1,335	<b>98,842</b>
Down	14,079	1,764	3,625	619	<b>20,086</b>	144,196	15,090	13,472	<b>192,844</b>
Fermanagh	108	5	228	14	<b>356</b>	108,318	10,877	3,043	<b>122,594</b>
Londonderry	7,471	826	1,886	31	<b>10,213</b>	113,543	34,876	2,573	<b>161,205</b>
Tyrone	2,595	193	1,414	84	<b>4,286</b>	197,958	39,276	7,016	<b>248,536</b>
<b>District Council</b>									
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,217	19	329	14	<b>1,579</b>	38,054	3,095	1,105	<b>43,833</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	5,782	334	2,149	1,550	<b>9,816</b>	94,881	4,252	1,397	<b>110,346</b>
Belfast <sup>1</sup>	149	28	17	56	<b>249</b>	3,040	826	850	<b>4,966</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	6,693	749	1,518	21	<b>8,981</b>	101,607	31,465	2,383	<b>144,436</b>
Derry City and Strabane	2,393	334	1,056	32	<b>3,816</b>	65,255	24,728	3,042	<b>96,841</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	468	7	602	24	<b>1,101</b>	180,109	25,918	5,243	<b>212,371</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,976	236	527	138	<b>3,877</b>	30,253	1,524	1,829	<b>37,482</b>
Mid and East Antrim	823	90	352	14	<b>1,280</b>	62,886	18,524	1,235	<b>83,925</b>
Mid Ulster	2,715	281	796	64	<b>3,856</b>	124,823	18,984	3,282	<b>150,945</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	4,958	803	1,344	28	<b>7,132</b>	96,927	11,922	9,259	<b>125,240</b>
Ards and North Down	4,507	605	864	477	<b>6,453</b>	24,349	325	1,758	<b>32,885</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,681</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>9,554</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>48,139</b>	<b>822,184</b>	<b>141,565</b>	<b>31,382</b>	<b>1,043,270</b>

\* Other Farm Crops include Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stock feed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax, Other glasshouse crops, Hemp and WBC plus Arable silage, Forage and Willow.

\*\* Horticultural Crops include Fruit, Vegetables and Ornamentals.

\*\*\* Other land includes Woodland, Mushrooms, Fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

<sup>23</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address.

**Table 6.6 Livestock numbers by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	<b>Dairy cows</b>	<b>Beef cows</b>	<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>Breeding ewes</b>	<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>Sows &amp; gilts</b>	<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>Total poultry</b>
<b>County</b>								
Antrim <sup>24</sup>	70,534	48,291	341,088	288,458	614,794	3,570	61,559	6,179,592
Armagh	36,838	28,806	233,161	48,307	102,181	11,813	231,766	2,659,781
Down	70,951	41,042	338,708	183,546	373,443	5,271	87,896	1,765,754
Fermanagh	22,537	41,024	161,781	62,138	131,499	269	5,644	891,811
Londonderry	40,550	30,021	214,856	200,587	422,792	4,885	69,093	1,148,020
Tyrone	75,365	57,056	397,405	214,191	456,177	15,094	282,582	7,998,115
<b>District Council</b>								
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15,401	12,976	81,715	38,892	87,601	1,198	21,491	730,704
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	46,856	24,541	251,784	58,925	125,088	12,505	243,201	2,989,657
Belfast <sup>24</sup>	411	913	3,818	2,275	4,670	0	0	16,510
Causeway Coast and Glens	43,261	22,994	194,386	200,868	425,837	1,359	23,506	2,438,112
Derry City and Strabane	26,773	14,401	115,185	138,192	290,971	2,047	32,041	305,457
Fermanagh and Omagh	48,979	62,288	292,448	136,790	291,335	2,676	47,944	2,245,718
Lisburn and Castlereagh	15,124	7,631	68,267	19,604	42,127	1,102	20,126	661,152
Mid and East Antrim	26,110	18,383	125,333	128,818	272,433	1,242	17,334	3,192,698
Mid Ulster	44,836	39,740	276,453	113,079	238,496	14,848	270,019	6,948,932
Newry, Mourne and Down	29,269	36,856	212,650	140,560	280,396	3,068	47,289	1,034,161
Ards and North Down	19,755	5,517	64,960	19,224	41,932	857	15,589	79,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>316,775</b>	<b>246,240</b>	<b>1,686,999</b>	<b>997,227</b>	<b>2,100,886</b>	<b>40,902</b>	<b>738,540</b>	<b>20,643,073</b>

<sup>24</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address

**Table 6.7 Labour force by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Farmers, partners, directors & spouses <sup>25</sup>		Other workers			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	
<b>County</b>						
Antrim <sup>26</sup>	3,773	3,570	477	806	882	<b>9,508</b>
Armagh	2,495	2,927	538	474	809	<b>7,243</b>
Down	3,884	4,443	741	978	1,113	<b>11,159</b>
Fermanagh	2,230	2,282	144	318	349	<b>5,323</b>
Londonderry	2,623	2,762	269	551	610	<b>6,815</b>
Tyrone	4,735	4,667	527	826	957	<b>11,712</b>
<b>District Council</b>						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	737	722	153	200	146	<b>1,958</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,634	2,792	581	570	911	<b>7,488</b>
Belfast <sup>2</sup>	60	84	20	19	28	<b>211</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,280	1,946	245	412	539	<b>5,422</b>
Derry City and Strabane	1,468	1,279	172	286	375	<b>3,580</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,877	3,914	292	600	704	<b>9,387</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	702	800	131	185	278	<b>2,096</b>
Mid and East Antrim	1,487	1,475	176	349	366	<b>3,853</b>
Mid Ulster	3,163	3,520	339	583	577	<b>8,182</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,700	3,486	376	545	623	<b>7,730</b>
Ards and North Down	632	633	211	204	173	<b>1,853</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,740</b>	<b>20,651</b>	<b>2,696</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>4,720</b>	<b>51,760</b>

<sup>25</sup> From 2020 onwards spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors category.

<sup>26</sup> May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address.

# 7 Less Favoured Area

The tables in this section show the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms which are wholly or mainly in areas classed as Severely Disadvantaged (SDA), Disadvantaged (DA) or Lowland.

Less Favoured Areas (LFA) is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. The LFA consists of Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) which is the original LFA as designated in 1975 and the Disadvantaged Area (DA) which was designated following reviews in 1984 and 1990.

**Table 7.1 Numbers of farms by type of farm and farm business size by LFA category in Northern Ireland, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>27</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Farm Type</b>						
Cereals	11	38	49	228	17.7	<b>277</b>
General cropping	267	368	635	571	52.7	<b>1,206</b>
Horticulture	15	55	70	122	36.5	<b>192</b>
Pigs	29	56	85	67	55.9	<b>152</b>
Poultry	165	195	360	194	65.0	<b>554</b>
Dairy	507	926	1,433	1,104	56.5	<b>2,537</b>
Cattle & LFA	8,998	6,353	15,351	0	100.0	<b>15,351</b>
Sheep Lowland	0	0	0	5,304	0.0	<b>5,304</b>
Mixed	38	147	185	331	35.9	<b>516</b>
<b>Farm business size</b>						
Very small	8,480	6,402	14,882	5,624	72.6	<b>20,506</b>
Small	927	838	1,765	902	66.2	<b>2,667</b>
Medium	341	373	714	503	58.7	<b>1,217</b>
Large	282	525	807	892	47.5	<b>1,699</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>8,138</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>7,921</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>26,089</b>

<sup>27</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA



**Table 7.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing & other land by LFA category in Northern Ireland, June 2021 (hectares)**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>28</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Cereal Crops</b>						
Oats	97	366	463	1,510	23.5	<b>1,973</b>
Wheat	297	1,200	1,498	7,127	17.4	<b>8,625</b>
Winter barley	223	1,212	1,435	7,169	16.7	<b>8,604</b>
Spring barley	640	2,183	2,824	10,530	21.1	<b>13,353</b>
Mixed corn	32	13	44	82	35.1	<b>126</b>
<b>Total cereals</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>6,264</b>	<b>26,417</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>32,681</b>
<b>Other Crops</b>						
Potatoes	239	609	848	2,638	24.3	<b>3,486</b>
Other crops**	1,120	1,722	2,842	6,712	29.7	<b>9,554</b>
<b>Total other crops</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>3,690</b>	<b>9,350</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>13,040</b>
<b>Fruit, vegetables &amp; flowers:</b>						
Fruit	8	239	247	1,021	19.5	<b>1,268</b>
Vegetables	16	59	75	923	7.5	<b>998</b>
Ornamentals	31	47	78	74	51.3	<b>152</b>
<b>Total fruit, veg &amp; flowers</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>2,418</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>7,651</b>	<b>10,354</b>	<b>37,785</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>48,139</b>
<b>Grass</b>						
Grass < 5 years	41,291	41,328	82,619	57,144	59.1	<b>139,764</b>
Grass 5 years +	274,763	202,111	476,873	205,547	69.9	<b>682,420</b>
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>316,054</b>	<b>243,439</b>	<b>559,493</b>	<b>262,692</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>822,184</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>						
Rough grazing	128,059	8,145	136,204	5,361	96.2	<b>141,565</b>
Woods & plantations	5,800	4,586	10,386	8,601	54.7	<b>18,987</b>
Other land***	3,463	2,599	6,062	6,333	48.9	<b>12,395</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>456,079</b>	<b>266,420</b>	<b>722,499</b>	<b>320,772</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>1,043,270</b>

\*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

\*\* Other Farm Crops include Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stock feed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax, Other glasshouse crops, Hemp and WBC plus Arable silage, Forage and Willow.

\*\*\* Other land includes Woodland, Mushrooms, Fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

<sup>28</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

**Table 7.3 Numbers of cattle by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>29</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Dairy cows Total</b>	<b>49,701</b>	<b>106,881</b>	<b>156,582</b>	<b>160,193</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>316,775</b>
<b>Other Dairy Female</b>						
2 years old	6,694	14,247	20,941	20,450	50.6	41,391
1-2 years	15,107	34,133	49,240	54,279	47.6	103,519
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,801</b>	<b>48,380</b>	<b>70,181</b>	<b>74,729</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>144,910</b>
<b>Beef cows Total</b>						
<b>Other Beef Female</b>	<b>112,928</b>	<b>73,778</b>	<b>186,706</b>	<b>59,534</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>246,240</b>
2 years old	22,039	22,459	44,498	22,480	66.4	66,978
1-2 years	47,329	51,879	99,208	57,619	63.3	156,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,368</b>	<b>74,338</b>	<b>143,706</b>	<b>80,099</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>223,805</b>
<b>Breeding bulls</b>						
2 years old and over	4,278	3,599	7,877	3,575	68.8	11,452
1-2 years	1,935	2,756	4,691	3,762	55.5	8,453
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,213</b>	<b>6,355</b>	<b>12,568</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>19,905</b>
<b>Other Male</b>						
2 years old and over	9,097	16,159	25,256	23,859	51.4	49,115
1-2 years	36,879	59,818	96,697	76,542	55.8	173,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,976</b>	<b>75,977</b>	<b>121,953</b>	<b>100,401</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>222,354</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>						
Male	24,660	31,544	56,204	36,770	60.5	92,974
Female	31,754	42,698	74,452	55,171	57.4	129,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,414</b>	<b>74,242</b>	<b>130,656</b>	<b>91,941</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>222,597</b>
<b>Under 6 months</b>						
Male	43,304	42,621	85,925	46,867	64.7	132,792
Female	46,144	51,041	97,185	60,436	61.7	157,621
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,448</b>	<b>93,662</b>	<b>183,110</b>	<b>107,303</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>290,413</b>
<b>Total Cattle</b>	<b>451,849</b>	<b>553,613</b>	<b>1,005,462</b>	<b>681,537</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>1,686,999</b>

<sup>29</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

**Table 7.4 Numbers of sheep, horses & goats by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>30</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Ewes</b>						
Ewes which lambed	473,608	190,794	664,402	175,598	79.1	<b>840,000</b>
Others for breeding	96,662	31,470	128,132	29,095	81.5	<b>157,227</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>570,270</b>	<b>222,264</b>	<b>792,534</b>	<b>204,693</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>997,227</b>
<b>Other sheep</b>						
Rams for service	16,057	6,845	22,902	6,198	78.7	<b>29,100</b>
Lambs 1 year old +	4,232	3,909	8,141	2,986	73.2	<b>11,127</b>
Lambs Under 1 year	586,330	251,377	837,707	225,725	78.8	<b>1,063,432</b>
<b>Total Sheep</b>	<b>1,176,889</b>	<b>484,395</b>	<b>1,661,284</b>	<b>439,602</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2,100,886</b>

**Table 7.5 Numbers of horses by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>30</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	956	1,452	2,408	2,433	49.7	<b>4,841</b>
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	230	382	612	824	42.6	<b>1,436</b>
<b>Total Horses &amp; Ponies</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>6,277</b>

<sup>30</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

**Table 7.6 Numbers of goats by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>31</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Total Goats</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>2,819</b>

**Table 7.7 Numbers of pigs by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>31</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Female breeding herd</b>						
Sows in pig	4,025	8,153	12,178	21,446	36.2	<b>33,624</b>
Gilts in pig	563	1,102	1,665	5,613	22.9	<b>7,278</b>
Other sows for breeding	750	1,857	2,607	3,148	45.3	<b>5,755</b>
Boars being used for service	62	183	245	228	51.8	<b>473</b>
Maiden gilts	548	939	1,487	9,513	13.5	<b>11,000</b>
<b>Total breeding pigs</b>	<b>5,948</b>	<b>12,234</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>39,948</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>58,130</b>
<b>Other pigs</b>						
Cull sows being fattened	71	206	277	482	36.5	<b>759</b>
Finishers	25,024	63,348	88,372	243,345	26.6	<b>331,717</b>
Weaners/Growers	25,990	49,543	75,533	149,438	33.6	<b>224,971</b>
Suckling piglets	12,435	24,000	36,435	86,407	29.7	<b>122,842</b>
Pet pigs	25	16	41	80	33.9	<b>121</b>
<b>Total Other pigs</b>	<b>63,545</b>	<b>137,113</b>	<b>200,658</b>	<b>479,752</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>680,410</b>
<b>Total Pigs</b>	<b>69,493</b>	<b>149,347</b>	<b>218,840</b>	<b>519,700</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>738,540</b>

<sup>31</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

**Table 7.8 Numbers of poultry by LFA category, June 2022**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>32</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	1,654,523	2,048,502	3,703,025	1,586,934	70.0	5,289,959
Growing pullets	91,946	836,547	928,493	555,802	62.6	1,484,295
Breeding flock	710,661	543,273	1,253,934	616,803	67.0	1,870,737
<b>Table birds</b>						
Broilers	2,700,675	4,198,990	6,899,665	5,000,926	58.0	11,900,591
Other poultry	30,198	42,589	72,787	24,704	74.7	97,491
<b>Total Poultry</b>	<b>5,188,003</b>	<b>7,669,901</b>	<b>12,857,904</b>	<b>7,785,169</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>20,643,073</b>

**Table 7.9 Farm labour force on farms by LFA category, June 2021**

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA <sup>32</sup>	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
<b>Farmers, partners, directors &amp; spouses*:</b>						
Full-time	7,035	6,131	13,166	6,574	66.7	19,740
Part-time	7,984	6,369	14,353	6,298	69.5	20,651
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,019</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>27,519</b>	<b>12,872</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>40,391</b>
<b>Other Paid workers:</b>						
Full-time	550	781	1,331	1,365	49.4	2,696
Part-time	1,262	1,160	2,422	1,531	61.3	3,953
Casual/Seasonal	1,401	1,332	2,733	1,987	57.9	4,720
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>3,273</b>	<b>6,486</b>	<b>4,883</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>11,369</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>18,232</b>	<b>15,773</b>	<b>34,005</b>	<b>17,755</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>51,760</b>

\*From 2020 onwards spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors category.

<sup>32</sup> Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

## 8 Crop Yields and Production

The tables in this section show yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2022. The estimates for cereal yields were obtained from a post-harvest survey of 234 growers, whilst potato estimates were derived from a survey involving pre-harvest digs covering potato crops on approximately 70 farms.

- There was a decrease in yield (tonnes per hectare) for winter barley, spring barley, wheat. However, overall production (tonnes) for cereals increased in 2022.
- **Barley:** Total production of barley increased in 2022 to approximately 138,000 tonnes, an increase of 1 per cent compared to 2021. Spring barley production rose by 1 per cent to 78,000 tonnes while winter barley production remained relatively stable at 60,000 tonnes. The overall area grown increased by 5 per cent from 2021 levels which accounts for the increase in production as yields for both winter (8 t/ha) and spring (6 t/ha) crops decreased by 7 and 2 per cent respectively from 2021.
- **Wheat:** The total area of wheat grown increased by 12 per cent with production of wheat increasing to 68,000 tonnes, an increase of 6 per cent from 2021. As with Barley, this increase is a direct result of increase in area grown as yields decreased by 5 per cent compared to 2021.
- **Oats:** Oat yields increased by 7 per cent in 2022. The total area of oats planted increase by 5 per cent in 2022. This increase in both yield and area planted lead to an overall increase in production of 13 per cent (12,000 tonnes).
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of main crop ware and seed potatoes is 139,000 tonnes, an increase of 18 per cent from 2021. In 2022, the area planted remained similar to 2021 and yields increased by 17 per cent to 40 tonnes per hectare.

**Table 8.1 Estimates of Crop Yields (Tonnes per Hectare)**

	2021	2022		% Change 2021/22	2022 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals<sup>33</sup>:</b>					
Barley - Spring	6	6	(5.95)	-2	+/- 0.20
- Winter	8	7	(7.05)	-7	+/- 0.26
<b>All Barley</b>	7	6		-4	
Wheat	8	8	(8.27)	-5	+/- 0.23
Oats	6	6	(6.29)	7	+/- 1.04
<b>Potatoes:</b>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>34</sup>	34	40		17	+/- 3.91

<sup>33</sup> Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. Yields unadjusted for moisture are shown in brackets.

<sup>34</sup> Marketable yield includes crop over 45 mm for ware crops and over 28mm for seed.

**Table 8.2 Estimates of Crop Production ('000 Tonnes)**

	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2020/21	% Change 2021/22	2022 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals:</b>						
Barley - Spring	71	77	78	9	1	+/- 2.6
- Winter	51	60	60	17	0	+/- 2.2
<b>All Barley</b>	122	137	138	12	1	
Wheat	46	64	68	37	6	+/- 2.0
Oats	10	11	12	7	13	+/- 2.1
<b>Potatoes:</b>						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>35</sup>	130	118	139	-9	18	N/A

<sup>35</sup> Maincrop yield only

**Table 8.3 Area Grown (hectares)**

	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2020/21	% Change 2021/22
<b>Cereals:</b>					
Barley - Spring	12,564	12,898	13,353	3	4
- Winter	7,772	7,944	8,604	2	8
<b>All Barley</b>	<b>20,336</b>	<b>20,843</b>	<b>21,957</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Wheat	7,132	7,734	8,625	8	12
Oats	1,879	1,874	1,973	0	5
<b>Potatoes:</b>					
Maincrop ware & seed	3,715	3,468	3,486	-7	1



## 9 Notes for Readers

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1. The survey results were prepared by statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) working within DAERA. Further information about NISRA can be found: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/>
2. There were key methodological changes in 2020 both in how the Agricultural Census data was collected and processed. These included
  - The creation of a revised farm census sample using departmental administrative data sources.
  - Due to COVID-19, a letter inviting farms to take part was issued to all farms and data collected online only for the first time.
  - Some questions were simplified or removed to streamline the online collection experience and reduce the burden on farms.
  - Data for the cattle section was extracted from the APHIS cattle tracing database as in previous years.
  - Telephone support was provided for farmers who could not complete online and a focussed telephone follow-up of non-responding farms was carried out.
  - New estimation and imputation methods were used to create statistics for those who did not provide a return.
3. Full details on the methodology, coverage of the census and terms are available in the Agricultural Census Methodology and Quality report which can be found: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>
4. Results are based on 17,223 completed questionnaires augmented with data from the APHIS cattle tracing system, Northern Ireland Bird Register and Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.
5. These statistics are released according to the Statement of Compliance with the Pre-release access to Official Statistics Order (NI) 2009.

6. Enquiries about this Agricultural Census publication should be addressed to:

Farm Census Team  
Room 546  
Statistics and Analytical Services Branch,  
Policy, Economics and Statistics Division of the  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,  
Dundonald House,  
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BT4 3SB  
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Tel: 02890 525 432

All media queries should be made to DAERA Press Office on 028 90524619

7. All recent DAERA statistical releases can be found at:

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/statistics](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/statistics)

8. The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

This designation means that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall be observed regarding them.

In March 2019, the Northern Ireland June Agricultural Census statistics were assessed by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to ensure compliance with National Statistics standards and are considered by OSR to meet the standards required for designation as National Statistics. A copy of the compliance check letter can be found here:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-of-statistics-from-the-northern-ireland-june-agricultural-census/>

Further information on National Statistics can be accessed at: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk); and from the UK Statistics Authority at <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

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