

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

Results for June 2020



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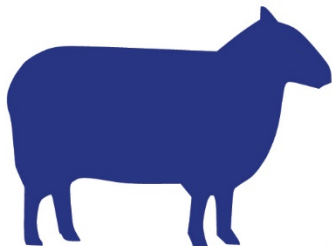
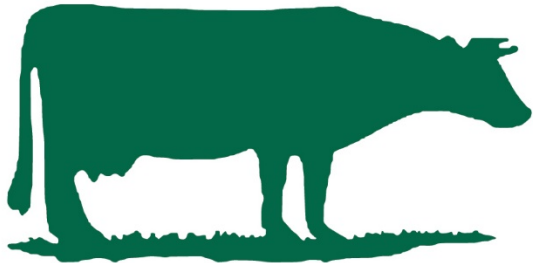


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Policy, Economics and Statistics Division

THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS
IN
NORTHERN IRELAND
RESULTS FOR JUNE 2020

Results of the NI Agricultural Census, June 2020



0% Dairy Cows

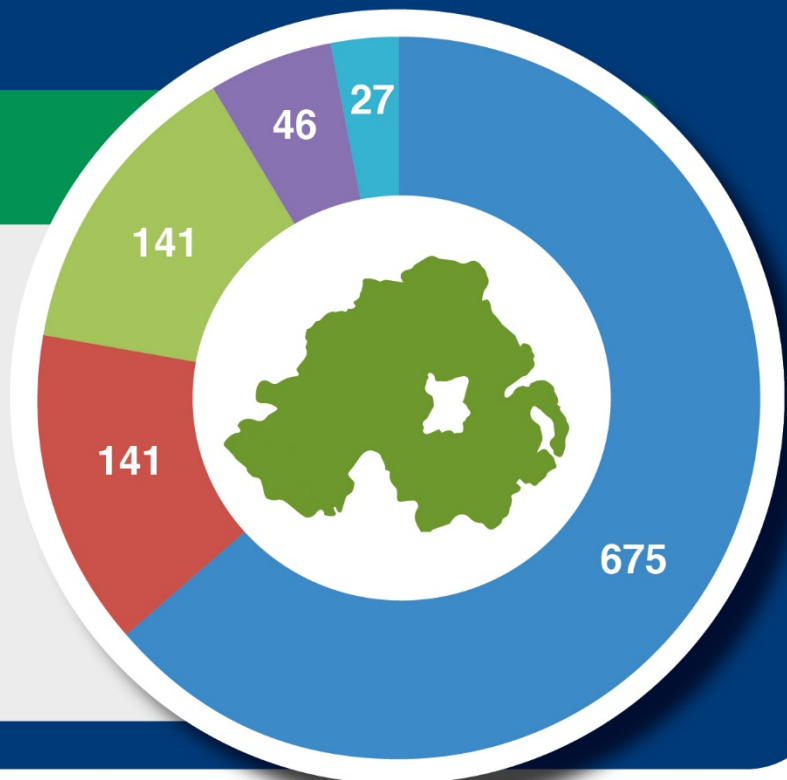
1% Beef Cows

1% Breeding Ewes

**Total Area Farmed
1,029,822 Hectares**

- Grass over 5 yrs old
- Grass under 5 yrs old
- Rough Grazing excl. Common Grazing
- Total Crops
- Other Land

Figures per '000 (thousand)



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

THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND – RESULTS FOR JUNE 2020

Key Points

The main changes between June 2019 and June 2020 are:

Farms: In June 2020 there were 25,896 farms in Northern Ireland with 1,029,822 hectares of land farmed. An increase of 1,069 farms from 2019 resulting principally from key methodological changes in 2020 both in how the Agricultural Census data was collected and processed. Further details of this can be found in the Quality and Methodology report¹.

Farm Structure: Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,329 in 2020). 79 per cent of farms in Northern Ireland have some cattle, 38 per cent have some sheep and 4 per cent have some poultry.

Farmers and workers: In June 2020 there were a total of 51,301 farm workers, of which 77 per cent were farmers, directors, partners or spouses and 23 per cent of all other farm workers.

Cattle: Total cattle numbers have stayed consistent at 1.61 million between 2019 and 2020. The number of beef cows decreased by 1 per cent to 244,702 and dairy cow numbers stayed consistent at 313,283.

Sheep: The total number of sheep of approximately 2 million remained similar to last year.

Poultry: There was a 2 per cent decrease in total poultry on farms at June 2020 to 24.4 million birds. Broiler poultry account for three fifths of all birds.

Pigs: There has been an increase in Northern Ireland total pig numbers recorded in June 2020 of 1 per cent to 681,467. The increase in pig numbers was a result of a higher number of fattening pigs.

Crop areas: The area of crops remained similar to last year. Grass accounted for 79 per cent of all area farmed.

Cereals: The total area of cereals grown in 2020 decreased by 1 per cent from 2019 to 29,460 hectares with oat, winter and spring barley crops increasing while wheat and mixed corn crops decreasing over the same period.

¹ The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland Methodology and Quality Report for June 2020 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>

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1 Introduction

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 2020 Farm Census moved entirely online for the first time. The questions on the survey were streamlined to reduce the burden on farmers, and this was supported by a media campaign to encourage completion. A large response was achieved from the online-only collection and focussed telephone follow-up compared to online returns in previous years. This has enabled detailed farm census statistics to be produced.

In 2020 new methodologies were 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. Full explanation of these changes along with an analysis on data comparability is available in a standalone paper – available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Farm%20Census%20Methodology%20Changes%202020.pdf>

– and within the background, quality and methodology of the Agricultural Census are 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 2020.

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 2020 increased by 1,069 farms predominantly as a result of a new sampling methodology. Further information on the background, quality and methodology of the Agricultural Census are available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>

Despite this increase in farm numbers in 2020, the overall trend is downward with farm numbers having decreased by 10 per cent over the 15 year period between 2019 and 2004.

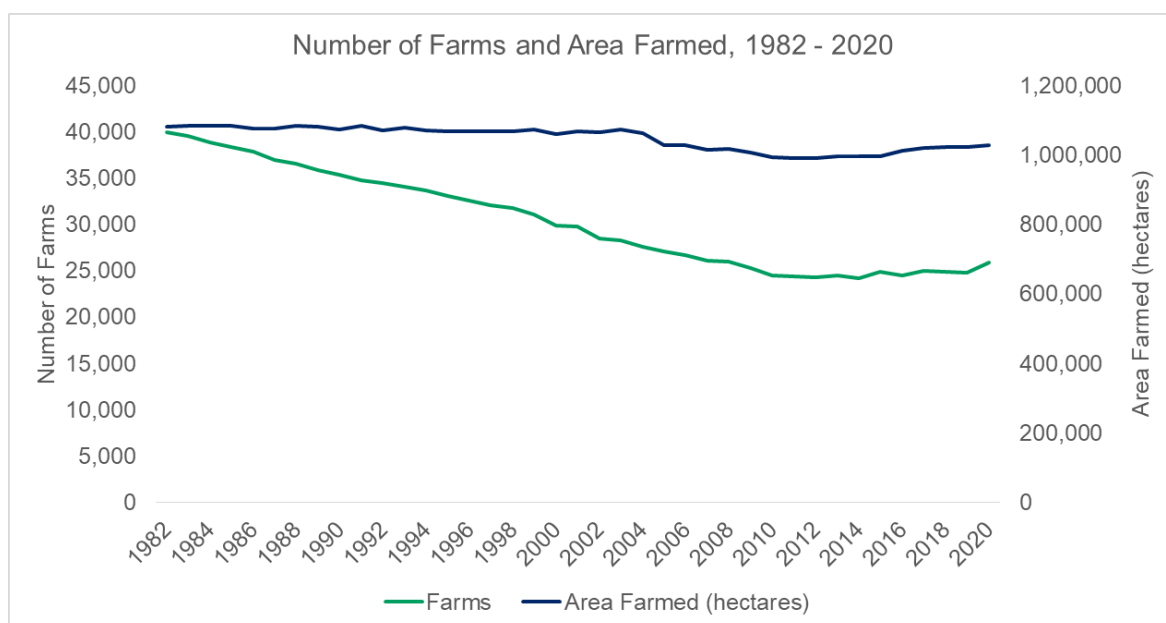
Table 1.1 Number of farms Northern Ireland 2015-2020

Year	No. Farms
2015	24,907
2016	24,528
2017	24,956
2018	24,895
2019	24,827
2020	25,896

2 Executive Summary

Farms: In June 2020 there were 25,896 farms in Northern Ireland with approximately one million hectares (1,029,822 hectares) of land farmed.

Figure 2.1 Number of farms and area farmed Northern Ireland 1982-2020²



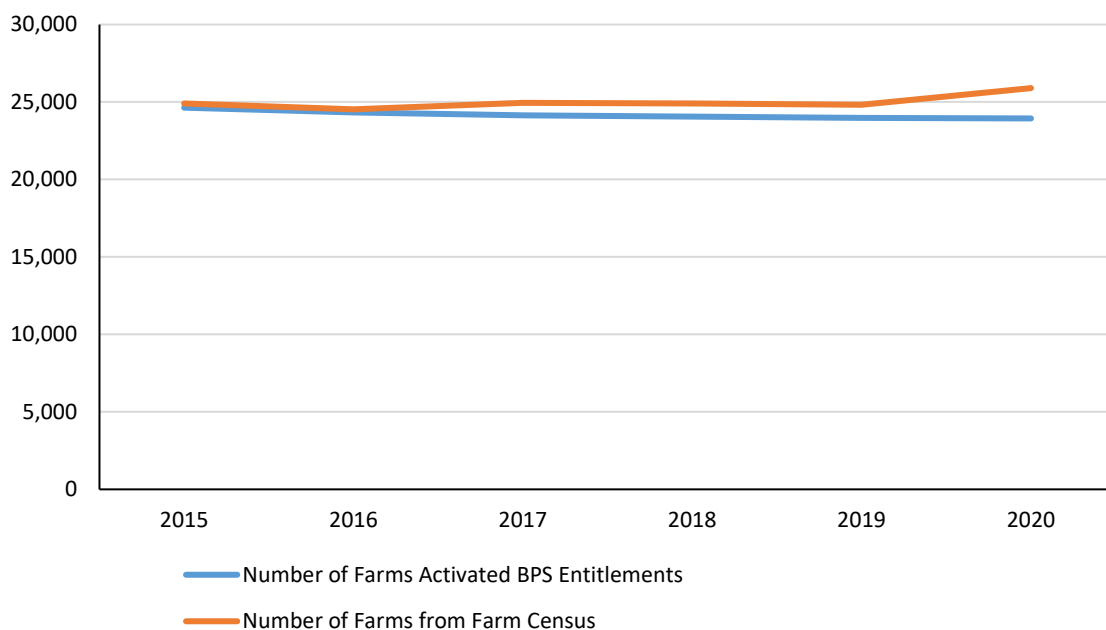
The area farmed (excluding common land) has remained relatively steady since 1981. The number of farms increased from 24,827 in 2019, to 25,896 in 2020. An increase resulting principally from key methodological changes in 2020 both in how the Agricultural Census data was collected and processed. A sample was drawn using signs of farm activity from all available Departmental Administrative Datasets and included 1,500 farms that had never been incorporated in previous farm census samples. Further analysis of the completed returns from newly identified farms can be found in the short paper <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Farm%20Census%20Methodology%20Changes%202020.pdf>

² Pre-1997 figures are estimates (based on combining overlapping series)

Figure 2.2 shows the number of farms activating Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Entitlements since 2015 compare to the number of active farms included on the Farm Census. Although the definition of active farm is slightly different between the two sources both sources show minor year on year figures changes with an overall declining number of farms.

In 2020 the number of farms that activated BPS entitlements continued that trend suggesting the uplift in Farm Census data is a step change as a direct result of these methodological changes.

Figure 2.2: Number of Farms Northern Ireland 2015-2020



As with number of farms we can compare the total area farmed to available administrative data sources. Maximum Eligible Area (MEA) from the single farm payment scheme can provide an estimate for the agricultural area of Northern Ireland. The MEA does not include all land types included in the Farm Census but does show how total agricultural land can vary from year to year. Table 2.1 shows the Maximum Eligible Area from the single farm payment scheme since 2015 compared to the area farmed included on the Farm Census along with the annual percentage change for each. The table shows how small variations in land area are

to be expected and are likely due to expected errors in data collection rather than any significant change in farming practise.

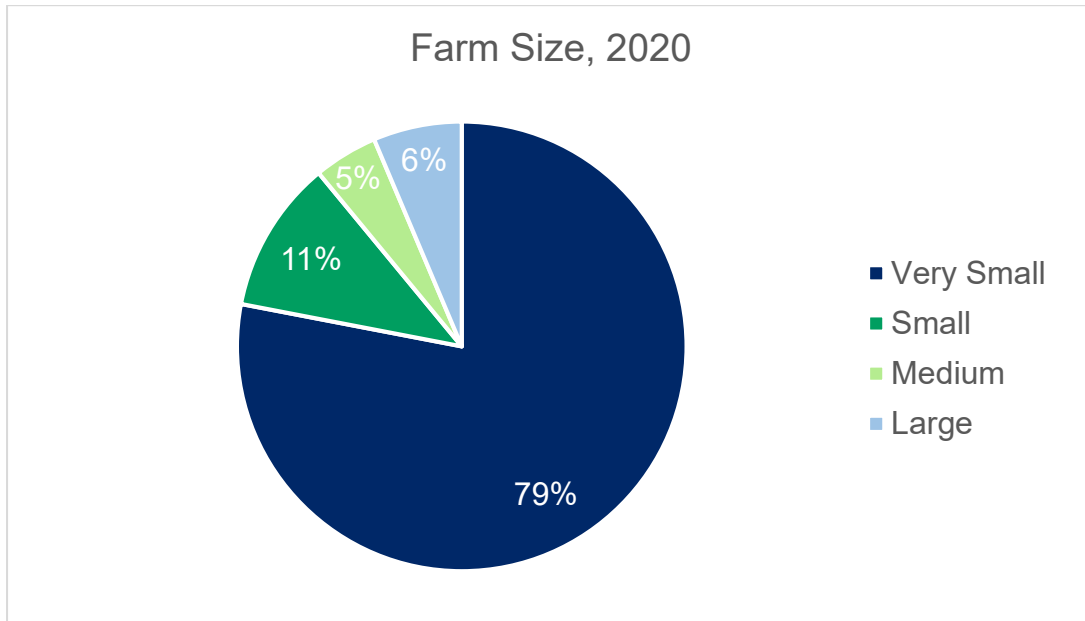
In 2020 the change in total area farmed of 0.7% suggests methodology and sample changes have had negligible effect on the land area variables.

Table 2.1: Agricultural Land Area Northern Ireland 2015-2020

Year	Maximum Eligible Area (excl. commons) (ha)	Annual % Change	Total Area Farmed Farm Census (ha)	Annual % Change
2015	1,004,125		997,748	
2016	1,002,656	-0.1%	1,013,248	1.6%
2017	984,012	-1.9%	1,019,736	0.6%
2018	983,207	-0.1%	1,022,395	0.3%
2019	1,003,930	2.1%	1,023,163	0.1%
2020	1,001,988	-0.2%	1,029,822	0.7%

Farm Structure: Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,329 in 2020).

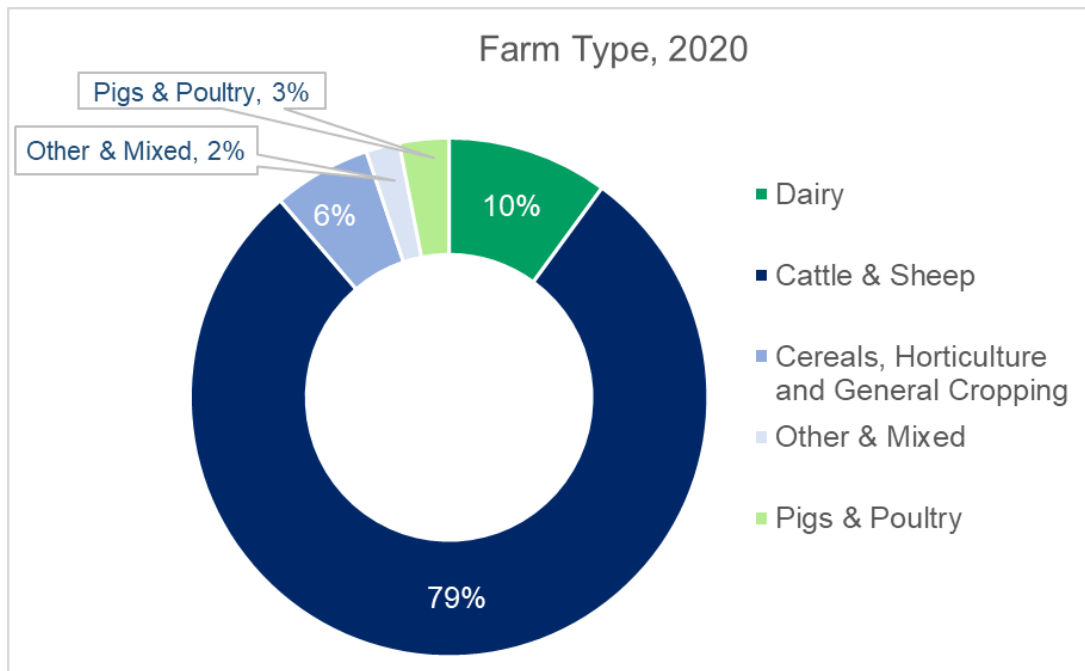
Figure 2.3 Farm Size, 2020



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, 4 per cent have some poultry and 2 per cent have some pigs. This is very similar to the results in 2019 (80 per cent cattle, 40 per cent sheep, 3 per cent poultry and 1 per cent pigs). It is worth noting in 2020 the 2013 Standard Output Classification was used to produce farm type. In 2019 and previous years the 2010 Standard Output Classification was used. Further details of this update in methodology can be found in the Agricultural Census Methodology and Quality report³.

³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>

Figure 2.4 Number of farms by farm type, 2020



Farmers and workers: In June 2020 there were a total of 51,301 farm workers, an increase of 4 per cent from 49,423 in 2019. It can be seen below that this was a result of key methodological changes in 2020 both in how the Agricultural Census data was collected and processed resulting in 1,500 returns from farms that have never previously been included in the farm census sample. Analysis of these newly surveyed farms in the paper <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Farm%20Census%20Methodology%20Changes%202020.pdf> shows an additional 2,200 farm workers.

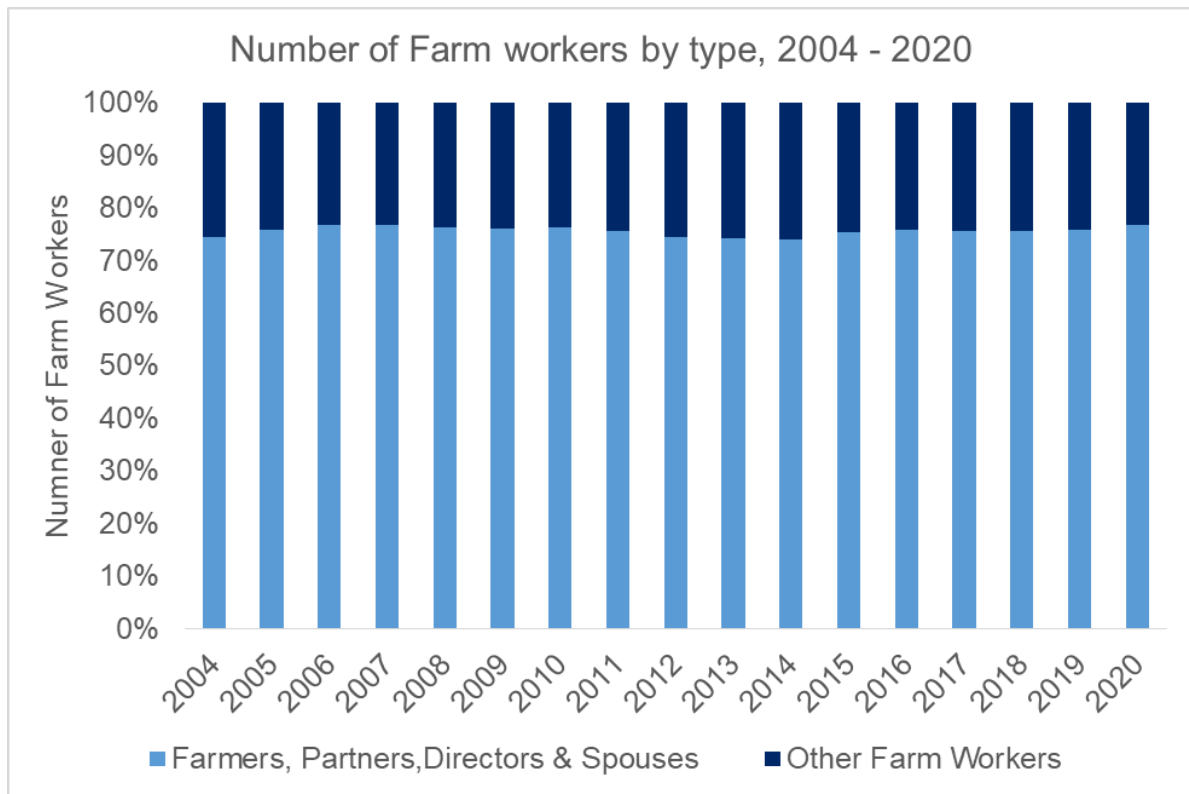
Table 2.2 shows the small positive percentage changes in the total workforce in the 23,200 farming businesses that appeared in all four consecutive farm censuses from 2016 to 2020. It can therefore be stated that the 4 per cent step change of farm workers between the full 2019 and 2020 farm censuses is directly as a result of methodological changes.

Table 2.2 Percentage change in the number of farm workers on 23,200 farms that occurred on all four censuses between 2017 and 2020.

	% change total farm workers
2017	-
2018	1.4%
2019	0.7%
2020	0.7%

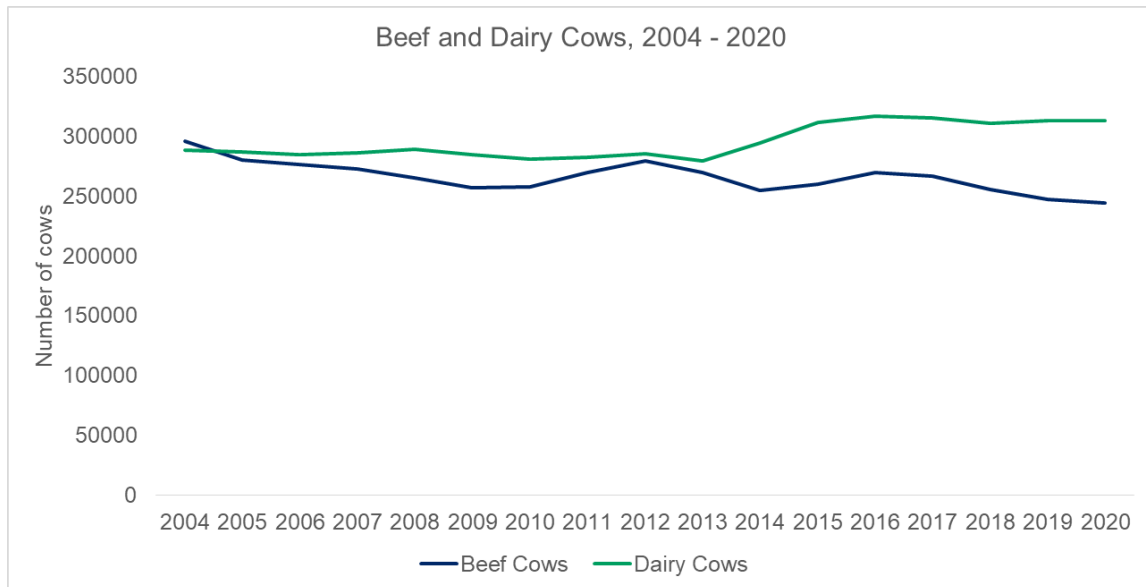
Figure 2.5 shows the breakdown of total farm workers between farmers, directors, partners or spouses (77 per cent) and all other farm workers (23 per cent) has remained relatively stable since 2004.

Figure 2.5 Number of farm workers by type, Northern Ireland 2004-2020



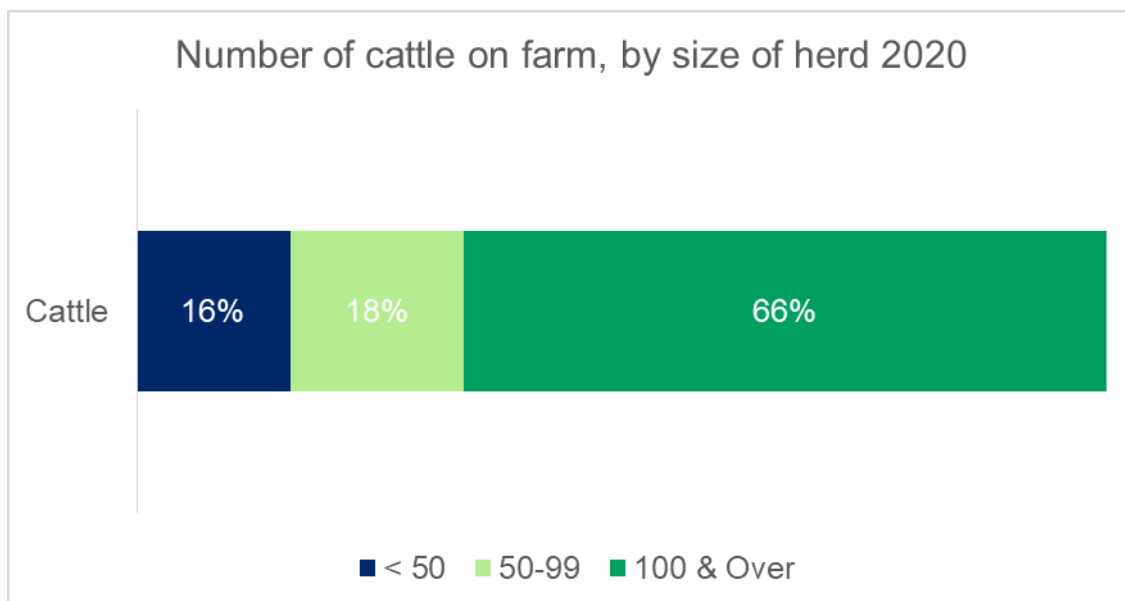
Cattle: Total cattle numbers have stayed consistent at 1.61 million between 2019 and 2020. The number of beef cows decreased by 1 per cent to 244,702 and dairy cow numbers stayed consistent at 313,283.

Figure 2.6 Number of beef and dairy cows, 2004-2020



Two thirds of cattle are in herds of 100 or more.

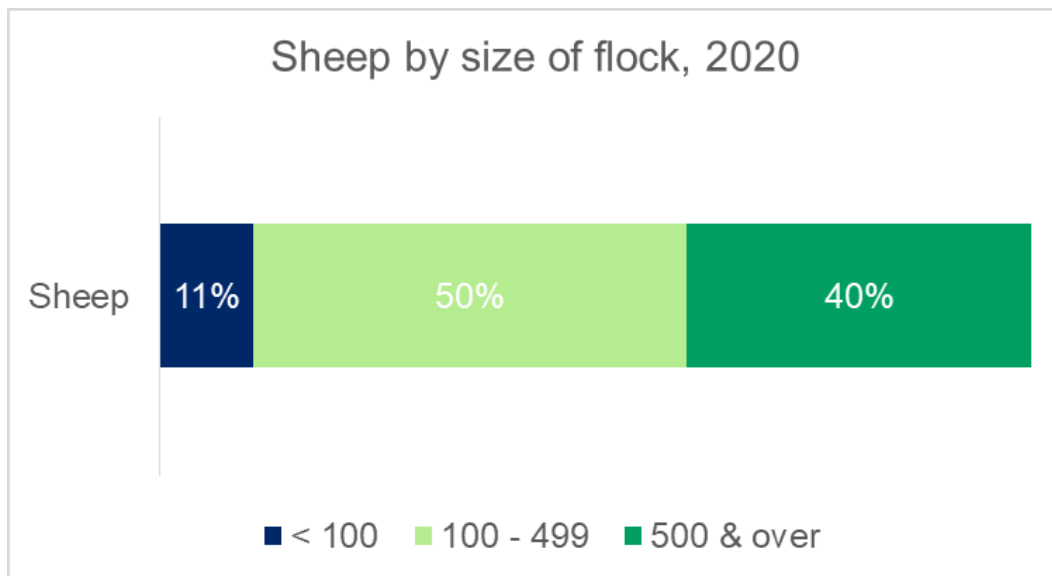
Figure 2.7 Number of cattle on farm by size of herd, 2020



Sheep: The total number of sheep of approximately 2 million remained similar to last year. There was a 1 per cent increase in the number of breeding ewes compared with 2019 with numbers rising to 946,054.

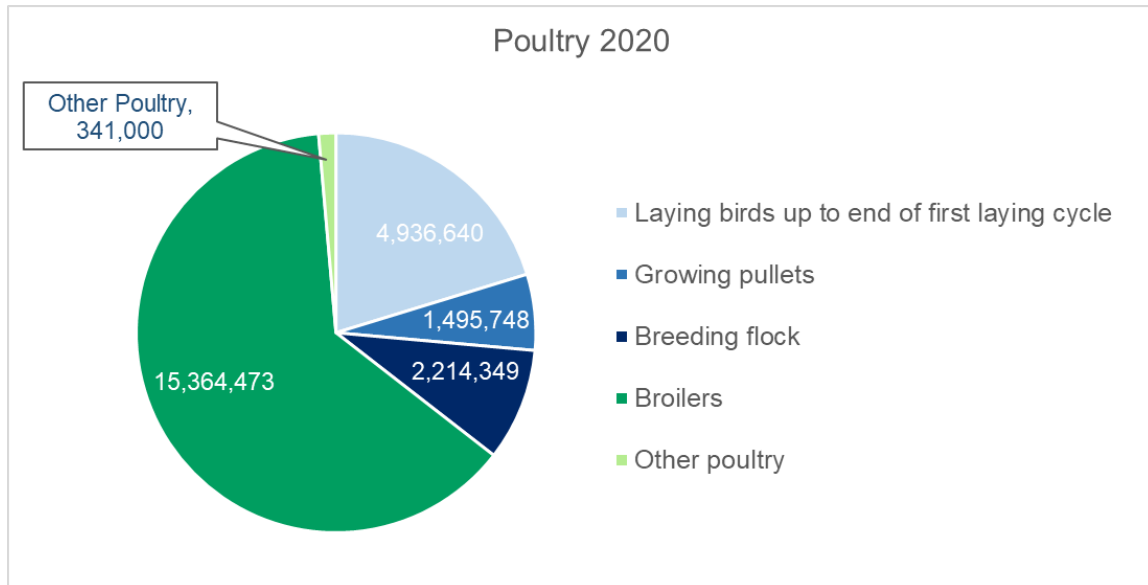
Farms with more than 500 sheep on 1st June account for 40 per cent of the total sheep population.

Figure 2.8 Number of sheep on farm by size of flock, 2020



Poultry: There was a 2 per cent decrease in total poultry on farms at June 2020 to 24.4 million birds. Broiler poultry account for three fifths of all birds.

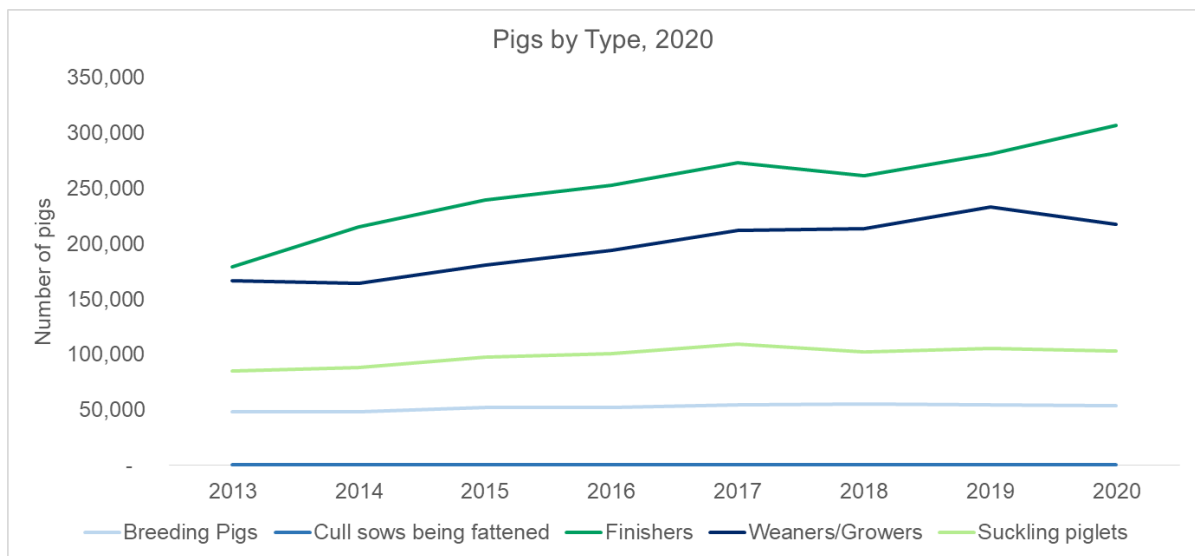
Figure 2.9 Number of Poultry, 2020



Pigs: There has been an increase in Northern Ireland total pig numbers recorded in June 2020 of 1 per cent to 681,467. The increase in pig numbers was a result of a higher number of fattening pigs.

In comparison to 2019, the total female breeding herd decreased by 3 per cent to 45,896. Weaners and Growers decreased by 7 per cent to 217,511. This was offset by an increase of 9 percent in finishers to 306,563.

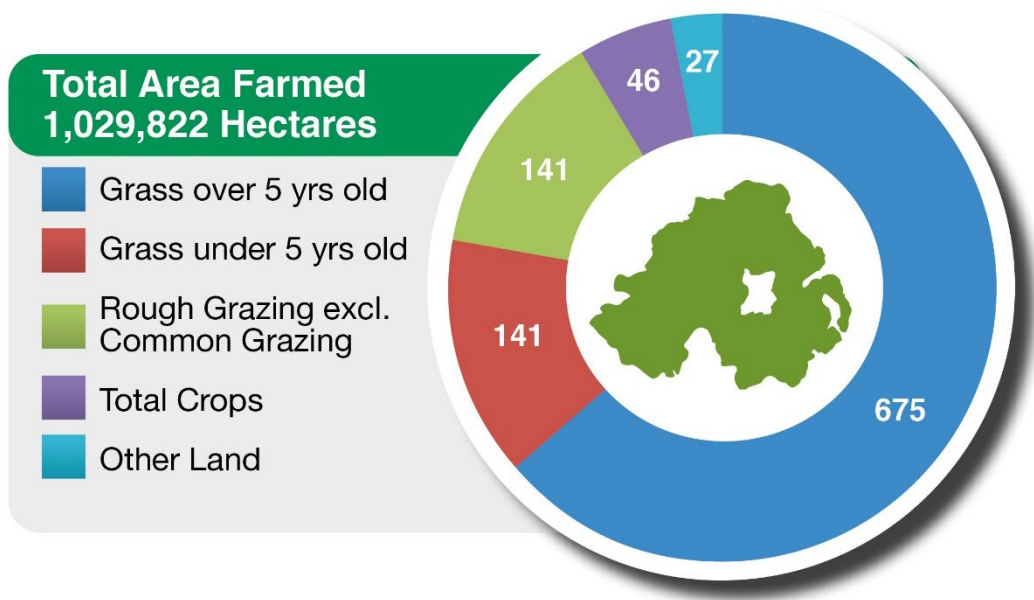
Figure 2.10 Type of Pigs, 2013 – 2020



Most pigs are concentrated in relatively few farms, with units of more than 200 sows on 1st June accounting for 17 per cent of herds but over three-quarters of total breeding sows.

Crop areas: The area of crops remained similar to last year. Grass accounted for almost 79 per cent of all area farmed.

Figure 2.11 Land use by agricultural production type, 2020



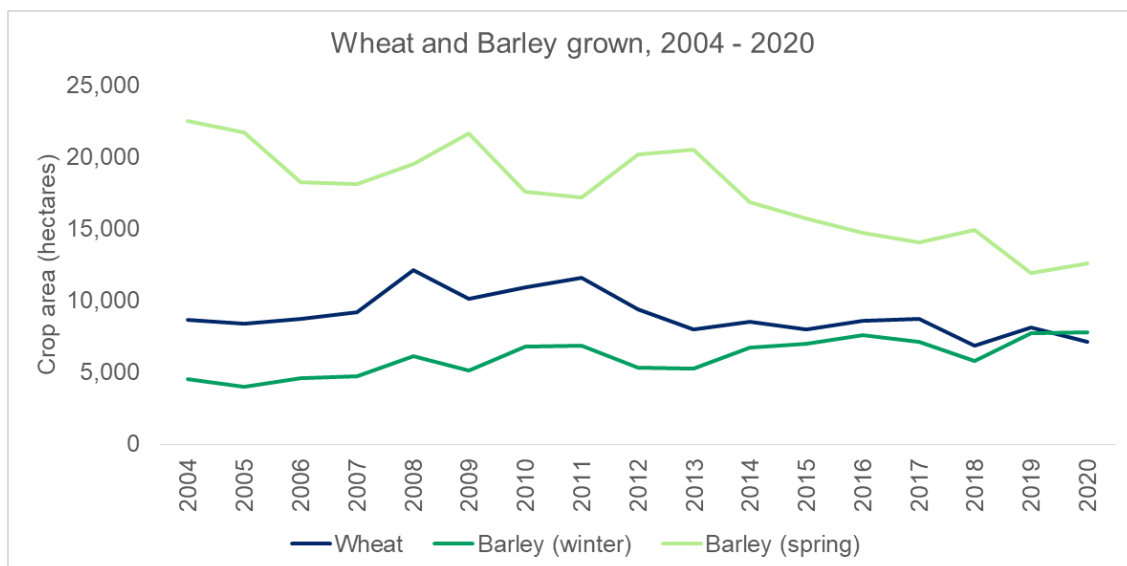
Cereals: The total area of cereals grown in 2020 decreased by 1 per cent from 2019 to 29,460 hectares with oat, winter and spring barley crops increasing while wheat and mixed corn crops decreasing over the same period.

The area of spring barley grown in June 2020 showed the largest increase of 5 per cent from 2019 thus remaining the most popular crop grown in Northern Ireland.

The area grown of wheat decreased by 12 per cent in the same period. For the first time the total of winter barley grown has surpassed the total area of wheat.

Oat crops increased by 1 per cent from 2019 to 2020 whilst mixed corn fell by 30 per cent from 161 hectares to 113 hectares in the same period.

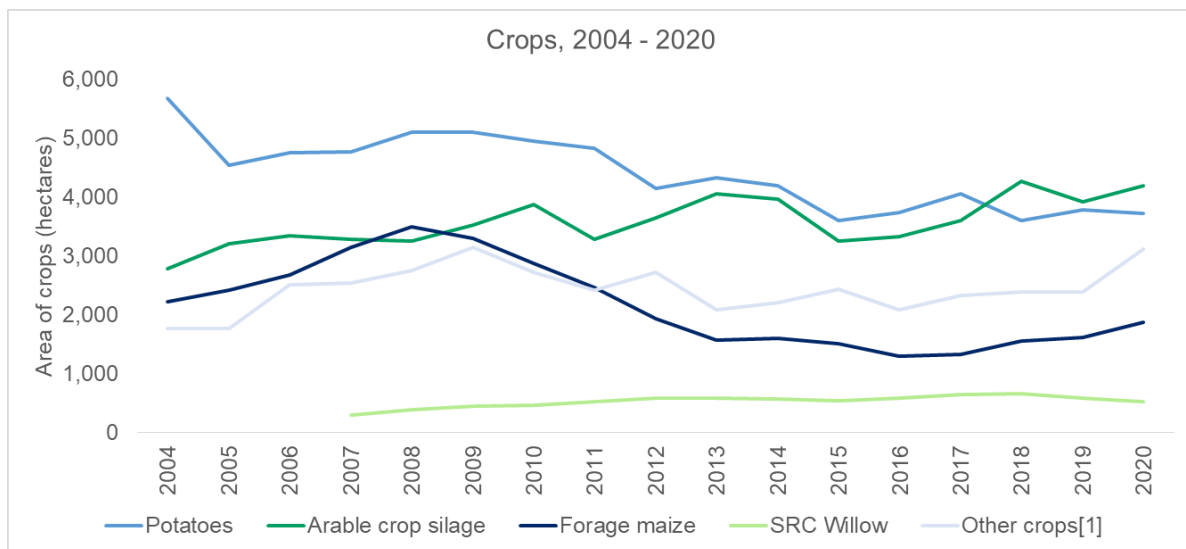
Figure 2.12 Wheat and Barley grown, 2004 – 2020



Other crops: The total area of other field crops increased by 9 per cent between 2019 and 2020. The area of forage maize increase by 16 per cent to 1,874 hectares and arable crop silage increased by 7 per cent to 4,187 hectares. There was a small decrease of 2 per cent in the area of potatoes to 3,715 hectares.

The area of the other crops increased by 30 per cent to 3,114 however this change should be regarded with caution as it is most likely due to changes in methodology rather than a true increase. In 2020 the horticultural survey was not conducted and a proportion of crop questions were omitted from the 2020 online survey to promote ease of use, resulting in a greater uptake of the generic 'other crop' question.

Figure 2.13 Area of other crops, 2004 – 2020



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 2016 to 2020 at 1st June each year.

Table 3.1 Crop areas in Northern Ireland 2016-2020 (hectares)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grass					
Under 5 years old	148,166	144,354	144,454	148,818	141,424
Over 5 years old	652,613	660,598	663,166	659,927	674,833
Total grass	800,780	804,952	807,620	808,745	816,257
Total Hill or rough land	137,191	140,400	143,156	143,609	140,581
Cereals					
Oats	2,257	2,252	2,013	1,868	1,879
Wheat	8616	8730	6845	8104	7,132
Barley (winter)	7,628	7,114	5,809	7,739	7,772
Barley (spring)	14,708	14,031	14,894	11,948	12,564
Mixed corn	230	170	101	161	113
Total cereals	33,439	32,298	29,662	29,820	29,460
Other field crops					
Potatoes	3,737	4,053	3,601	3,777	3,715
Arable crop silage	3,324	3,605	4,272	3,924	4,187
Forage maize	1,294	1,334	1,558	1,618	1,874
SRC Willow	593	644	655	586	533
Other crops ⁴	2,086	2,321	2,391	2,392	3,114
Total other field crops	11,033	11,957	12,477	12,296	13,422
Horticultural crops					
Fruit	1,501	1,522	1,474	1,441	1,330
Vegetables	1,234	1,262	1,125	1,163	1,178
Ornamentals	182	188	199	179	172
Total horticultural crops	2,917	2,973	2,798	2,782	2,680
Total crops	47,388	47,227	44,937	44,898	45,562
Other land					
Woods and plantations	16,133	15,786	16,307	15,669	17,276
Other land ⁵	10,486	10,060	10,376	10,243	10,145
Total other land	26,618	25,846	26,683	25,912	27,421
Total Area Farmed	1,013,248	1,019,736	1,022,395	1,023,163	1,029,822

⁴ Other Crops - Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stock feed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax, other glasshouse crops, Hemp and WBC.

⁵ Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2016-2020⁶

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dairy cows	317,146	315,782	310,718	313,549	313,283
Other Dairy Females					
2 years old	48,060	48,707	49,235	45,987	41,530
1-2 years	94,127	92,977	82,667	85,913	88,212
Total	142,187	141,684	131,902	131,900	129,742
Beef cows	269,746	267,102	255,904	247,009	244,702
Other Beef Females					
2 years old	54,015	56,496	62,235	67,312	62,569
1-2 years	143,285	155,249	156,142	150,551	146,524
Total	197,300	211,745	218,377	217,863	209,093
Breeding bulls					
2 years old and over	13,713	13,587	13,288	12,985	12,264
1-2 years	3,681	3,652	3,572	3,473	7,729
Total	17,394	17,239	16,860	16,458	19,993
Other Males					
2 years old	43,688	44,439	48,423	51,595	47,606
1-2 years	166,636	177,494	172,094	164,285	160,204
Total	210,324	221,933	220,517	215,880	207,810
6-12 months					
Male	97,698	90,341	89,000	84,268	88,557
Female	115,636	109,206	109,287	106,223	113,664
Total	213,334	199,547	198,287	190,491	202,221
Under 6 months					
Male	141,990	140,611	131,243	132,012	134,373
Female	155,171	150,803	145,260	146,614	150,250
Total	297,161	291,414	276,503	278,626	284,623
Total Cattle	1,664,592	1,666,446	1,629,068	1,611,776	1,611,467

⁶ Data derived from the Animal and Public Health Information System, (APHIS).

Table 3.3 Sheep in Northern Ireland 2016-2020⁷

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ewes					
Ewes which lambed	833,610	846,268	829,636	813,964	800,656
Others for breeding	121,588	127,073	126,912	124,493	145,398
Total	955,198	973,341	956,548	938,457	946,054
Other sheep					
Rams for service	28,267	28,567	28,229	28,334	28,526
Not for breeding	18,140	15,248	15,944	17,716	17,021
Total	46,407	43,815	44,173	46,050	45,547
Lambs < 1 year old	1,021,368	1,035,399	1,005,277	1,002,425	999,337
Total					
Total Sheep	2,022,973	2,052,555	2,005,998	1,986,932	1,990,938

Table 3.4 Horses and Ponies in Northern Ireland 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁸
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	8,434	7,853	7,316	7,000	5,558
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	1,860	1,782	1,654	1,707	1,430
Total Horses & Ponies	10,294	9,635	8,970	8,707	6,988

Table 3.5 Goats in Northern Ireland 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁸
Female goats which have kidded	1,564	1,837	1,673	1,676	1,347
All other goats and kids	2,251	2,329	2,087	1,741	1,642
Total Goats	3,815	4,166	3,760	3,417	2,989

⁷ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Sheep on holding and the Farm Census.

⁸ 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 2016-2020⁹

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Female breeding herd					
Sows in pig	31,707	33,106	34,775	34,447	37,319
Gilts in pig	6,268	7,032	8,499	7,535	8,577
Others sows for breeding	8,468	7,767	6,361	5,547	N/A ¹⁰
Other breeding pigs					
Boars being used for service	824	912	843	753	730
Maiden gilts	5,463	5,812	4,909	6,184	7,259
Total breeding pigs	52,730	54,629	55,387	54,466	53,885
Other pigs					
Cull sows being fattened	491	462	603	534	540
Finishers	252,856	272,786	261,250	280,631	306,563
Weaners/Growers	193,822	211,739	213,770	233,082	217,511
Suckling piglets	101,177	109,504	102,634	105,715	102,894
Pet Pigs ¹¹					74
Total Other pigs	548,346	594,491	578,257	619,962	627,582
Total Pigs	601,101	649,120	633,644	674,428	681,467

Table 3.7 Poultry in Northern Ireland 2016-2020¹²

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	3,550,012	3,962,799	4,331,920	4,998,723	4,936,640
Growing pullets	961,861	1,201,972	1,121,315	1,481,216	1,495,748
Breeding flock	2,282,720	2,526,871	2,515,873	2,558,685	2,214,349
Table birds					
Broilers	14,459,168	16,766,630	17,663,015	15,351,573	15,364,473
Other poultry	530,019	452,304	398,460	390,184	341,000
Total Poultry	21,783,780	24,910,576	26,030,583	24,780,381	24,352,210

⁹ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

¹⁰ Data not collected in 2020.

¹¹ Prior to 2020 pet pig responses were included with Finishers.

¹² Data derived from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 3.8 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2015-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ¹³
Farmers, partners & directors:¹⁴					
Full-time	16,233	16,760	16,964	16,954	20,253
Part-time	13,571	13,586	13,721	13,859	19,065
Total farmers	29,804	30,346	30,685	30,813	39,318
Total spouses	6,410	6,449	6,542	6,700	N/A
Total Farmers, Partners, Directors & Spouses	36,214	36,795	37,227	37,513	39,318
Other workers:					
Full-time	3,209	3,441	3,411	3,430	3,058
Part-time	4,215	4,319	4,340	4,453	3,829
Casual/Seasonal	4,100	4,149	4,270	4,027	5,096
Total other workers	11,498	11,909	12,021	11,910	11,983
Total agricultural labour force	47,712	48,704	49,248	49,423	51,301

¹³ Methodology changes in 2020 have created a break in time series and data should not be compared to previous years.

¹⁴ In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. 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-efficients 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 2020

Crops & grass farmed (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 10	6,596	35,325
10 - 19.9	5,928	85,572
20.0 - 29.9	4,002	97,615
30.0 - 49.9	4,273	164,566
50.0 - 99.9	3,615	247,550
100 & over	1,482	231,190
Total	25,896	861,819

Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area farmed in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Total area farmed (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 10	5,651	31,490
10 - 19.9	5,604	81,281
20.0 - 29.9	4,007	97,915
30.0 - 49.9	4,457	172,266
50.0 - 99.9	4,128	285,152
100 & over	2,049	361,717
Total	25,896	1,029,822

Table 4.3 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2020

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Owner-occupied land (% area farmed)					
All	12,295	822	259	246	13,622
50-99%	4,595	1,258	607	856	7,316
1-49%	2,382	597	278	516	3,773
None	1,057	88	23	17	1,185
Total	20,329	2,765	1,167	1,635	25,896
Average % Owner Occupied	79.4%	69.0%	70.3%	61.1%	72.6%

Table 4.4 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2020

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Farmers, Partners, Directors & Spouses¹⁵:					
Full-time	12,281	3,361	1,724	2,887	20,253
Part-time	16,328	1,517	538	682	19,065
Total	28,609	4,878	2,262	3,569	39,318
Other workers:					
Full-time	613	334	246	1,865	3,058
Part-time	2,178	649	292	710	3,829
Casual/Seasonal	2,738	866	481	1,011	5,096
Total other workers	5,529	1,849	1,019	3,586	11,983
Total agricultural labour force	34,138	6,727	3,281	7,155	51,301

¹⁵ In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. 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 2020

	Farm Business Size				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
(a) Farm Type					
Cereals	197	39	12	6	254
General cropping	1,016	36	16	37	1,105
Horticulture	92	38	28	68	226
Pigs	61	26	22	64	173
Poultry	143	263	118	104	628
Dairy	261	700	597	1,045	2,603
Cattle & sheep: LFA ¹⁶	13,698	1,093	215	131	15,137
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,559	486	112	73	5,230
Mixed and Other type	302	84	47	107	540
(b) Area of crops & grass farmed (hectares)					
Under 10	6,358	128	45	65	6,596
10 - 19.9	5,693	176	29	30	5,928
20.0 - 29.9	3,676	247	38	41	4,002
30.0 - 49.9	3,185	809	180	99	4,273
50.0 - 99.9	1,320	1,110	620	565	3,615
100 & over	97	295	255	835	1,482
(c) Total area farmed (hectares)					
Under 10	5,439	111	42	59	5,651
10 - 19.9	5,408	137	29	30	5,604
20.0 - 29.9	3,728	210	30	39	4,007
30.0 - 49.9	3,509	695	156	97	4,457
50.0 - 99.9	1,924	1,073	598	533	4,128
100 & over	321	539	312	877	2,049
Total	20,329	2,765	1,167	1,635	25,896

¹⁶ 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 2020

Area of cereals on farms (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 5	708	2,040
5 - 9.9	471	3,347
10 - 19.9	364	5,068
20 - 29.9	145	3,447
30-49.9	116	4,422
50 & over	119	11,137
Total	1,923	29,460

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms and crops by area of barley in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Area of barley on farms (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 5	622	1,826
5 - 9.9	427	3,015
10 - 19.9	301	4,216
20 - 29.9	119	2,804
50 & over	151	8,476
Total	1,620	20,336

Table 5.3 Distribution of farms and crops by area in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Area of crop on farms (hectares)	Winter Barley		Spring Barley		Oats		Wheat	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 5	209	651	602	1,727	160	409	186	547
5 - 9.9	194	1,386	349	2,463	56	389	157	1,112
10 - 19.9	140	1,942	234	3,169	40	546	118	1,587
20 - 29.9	45	1,080	79	1,841	11	257	45	1,066
30 - 39.9	24	788	26	901	*	159	18	618
40 and over	33	1,925	40	2,463	*	119	34	2,200
Total	645	7,772	1,330	12,564	274	1,879	558	7,132

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)	Farms	Area
under 1	83	38
1 - 2.9	83	141
3 - 4.9	58	226
5 - 9.9	53	363
10 - 14.9	28	323
15 and over	70	2,624
Total	375	3,715

Table 5.5 Distribution of farms and dairy/beef cows by number of dairy/beef cows in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Number of cows on farm	Dairy cows		Beef cows	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 10	210	1,369	6,303	27,256
10 - 14	91	1,086	2,209	26,221
15 - 19	75	1,268	1,609	27,121
20 - 29	198	4,903	1,916	45,880
30 - 39	211	7,226	927	31,529
40 - 49	229	10,144	476	21,035
50 - 59	252	13,775	309	16,709
60 - 69	251	16,206	167	10,722
70 - 99	565	47,298	242	19,755
100 & over	1,190	210,008	131	18,474
Total	3,272	313,283	14,289	244,702

Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Number of cattle on farm	Farms	Cattle
< 10	2,605	14,234
10 - 19	3,038	43,643
20 - 29	2,530	61,605
30 - 39	1,969	67,265
40 - 49	1,543	68,480
50 - 69	2,219	131,029
70 - 99	1,904	158,058
100 - 149	1,717	207,827
150 - 199	959	165,191
200 & over	1,949	694,135
Total	20,433	1,611,467

Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and ewes/total sheep by number of ewes/total sheep in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Number of ewes/sheep on farm	Ewes		Total sheep	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,294	30,862	1,216	15,883
25 - 49	2,118	76,720	1,280	46,922
50 - 99	2,323	164,696	2,118	150,607
100 - 199	1,784	248,597	2,308	328,101
200 - 299	653	158,036	1,114	272,866
300 - 399	249	84,480	635	219,539
400 - 499	124	54,387	377	169,070
500 - 999	142	94,957	723	482,845
1,000 & over	23	33,319	195	305,105
Total	9,710	946,054	9,966	1,990,938

Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Number of sows on farm	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	97	282
10 - 49	49	1,362
50 - 99	33	2,356
100 - 199	46	6,502
200 & over	46	35,394
Total	271	45,896

Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and finisher/weaner and total pigs by number of pigs in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Number of pigs on farm	Finisher/weaner pigs		Total pigs	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	67	207	132	363
10 - 49	35	737	50	1,175
50 - 99	11	783	17	1,142
100 - 399	38	9,279	37	8,279
400 - 999	50	32,684	50	32,945
1,000 - 1,999	49	71,068	53	82,948
2,000 & over	45	409,856	57	554,615
Total	295	524,614	396	681,467

Table 5.10 Distribution of farms by size of poultry flock in Northern Ireland, June 2020

Size of flock on farm	Farms	Total Poultry
under 1,000*	217	11,709
1,000 - 4,999	27	87,403
5,000 - 9,999	102	761,080
10,000 - 19,999	237	3,473,032
20,000 - 29,999	96	2,376,424
30,000 - 49,999	147	5,397,447
50,000 and over	130	12,245,115
Total	956	24,352,210

* 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.

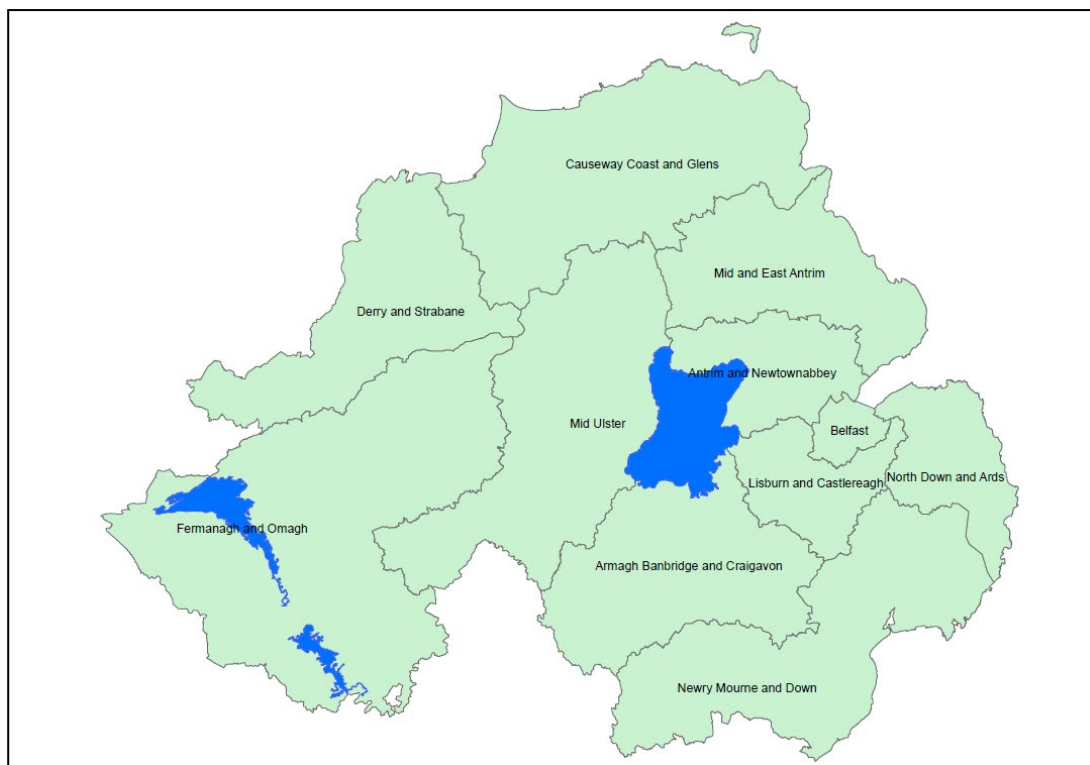


Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2020

	Number of farms					Ave hectare /farm
	0-9.9 ha	10-19.9 ha	20-29.9 ha	30+ ha	Total	
County						
Antrim ¹	1,123	893	645	1,847	4,508	39
Armagh	1,157	938	580	946	3,621	26
Down	1,510	1,165	707	1,727	5,109	32
Fermanagh	571	706	536	1,242	3,055	36
Londonderry	800	756	516	1,364	3,436	36
Tyrone	1,435	1,470	1,018	2,244	6,167	32
District Council						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	213	159	140	396	908	43
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,037	800	518	1,076	3,431	30
Belfast ¹	14	13	5	15	47	41
Causeway Coast and Glens	564	478	346	1,199	2,587	43
Derry City and Strabane	343	369	285	785	1,782	39
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,018	1,244	916	2,070	5,248	34
Lisburn and Castlereagh	243	188	122	352	905	38
Mid and East Antrim	497	386	264	691	1,838	35
Mid Ulster	1,181	1,084	698	1,394	4,357	29
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,306	1,060	627	1,063	4,056	25
Ards and North Down	180	147	81	329	737	42
Total	6,596	5,928	4,002	9,370	25,896	33

¹ 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 2020

	Number of farms				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
County					
Antrim ¹	3,242	613	254	399	4,508
Armagh	2,945	334	131	211	3,621
Down	4,004	508	210	387	5,109
Fermanagh	2,589	285	104	77	3,055
Londonderry	2,675	379	174	208	3,436
Tyrone	4,874	646	294	353	6,167
District Council					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	661	111	48	88	908
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,622	374	165	270	3,431
Belfast ¹	40	*	*	*	47
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,820	357	152	258	2,587
Derry City and Strabane	1,337	228	94	123	1,782
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,377	495	203	173	5,248
Lisburn and Castlereagh	687	101	40	77	905
Mid and East Antrim	1,354	242	102	140	1,838
Mid Ulster	3,479	439	205	234	4,357
Newry, Mourne and Down	3,445	335	114	162	4,056
Ards and North Down	507	*	*	*	737
Total	20,329	2,765	1,167	1,635	25,896

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

¹ 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 2020

	Cereal	General cropping	Hortic-ulture	Pigs	Pou-ltry	Dairy	Cattle/ Sheep LFA	Cattle/ Sheep lowland	Mixed	Others	Total
County											
Antrim ¹	15	211	22	32	163	554	2,464	938	97	12	4,508
Armagh	24	156	129	21	96	293	2,032	792	68	10	3,621
Down	136	298	42	39	54	519	1,946	1,901	161	13	5,109
Fermanagh	*	95	*	*	39	257	2,636	10	5	*	3,055
Londonderry	59	163	*	*	37	324	1,925	796	86	7	3,436
Tyrone	*	182	18	49	239	656	4,134	793	73	*	6,167
District Council											
Antrim and Newtownabbey	6	48	6	7	26	109	393	296	17	0	908
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	54	178	132	30	98	355	1,123	1,340	110	11	3,431
Belfast ¹	*	8	0	*	0	*	27	9	0	*	47
Causeway Coast and Glens	33	110	6	11	65	332	1,366	592	66	6	2,587
Derry City and Strabane	16	64	*	14	13	189	1,252	199	31	*	1,782
Fermanagh and Omagh	*	159	7	16	93	501	4,371	77	16	*	5,248
Lisburn and Castlereagh	27	78	14	8	15	99	242	384	36	2	905
Mid and East Antrim	*	65	10	14	79	213	1,153	271	25	*	1,838
Mid Ulster	31	157	*	45	192	419	2,425	976	89	*	4,357
Newry, Mourne and Down	39	167	17	25	42	260	2,726	705	65	10	4,056
Ards and North Down	43	71	13	*	5	*	59	381	35	*	737
Total	254	1,105	226	173	628	2,603	15,137	5,230	490	50	25,896

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

¹ 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 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
County					
Antrim ¹	1,392	1,674	3,066	1,442	4,508
Armagh	655	1,804	2,459	1,162	3,621
Down	995	1,247	2,242	2,867	5,109
Fermanagh	2,890	153	3,043	12	3,055
Londonderry	1,344	863	2,207	1,229	3,436
Tyrone	2,741	2,273	5,014	1,153	6,167
District Council					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	148	347	495	413	908
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	298	1,160	1,458	1,973	3,431
Belfast ¹	*	*	32	15	47
Causeway Coast and Glens	995	618	1,613	974	2,587
Derry City and Strabane	1,038	407	1,445	337	1,782
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,270	859	5,129	119	5,248
Lisburn and Castlereagh	76	236	312	593	905
Mid and East Antrim	686	729	1,415	423	1,838
Mid Ulster	1,139	1,830	2,969	1,388	4,357
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,331	1,755	3,086	970	4,056
Ards and North Down	*	*	77	660	737
Total	10,017	8,014	18,031	7,865	25,896

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

¹ 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 2020 (hectares)

	Cereals	Pota- toes	Other farm crops*	Horticul- ture crops**	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land***	Total area farmed
County									
Antrim ¹	4,497	604	1,544	100	6,744	168,068	39,426	3,315	217,554
Armagh	2,618	91	1,197	1,468	5,374	87,772	2,557	1,157	96,859
Down	13,060	1,856	3,519	952	19,387	143,265	14,633	12,177	189,461
Fermanagh	31	5	241	6	284	108,275	10,780	2,116	121,455
Londonderry	7,087	958	1,769	46	9,859	114,270	33,161	2,352	159,642
Tyrone	2,167	201	1,438	109	3,915	194,608	40,023	6,304	244,851
District Council									
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,158	25	369	16	1,567	37,602	3,042	910	43,121
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	5,033	278	2,174	1,486	8,971	92,920	4,534	1,245	107,669
Belfast ¹	30	18	60	0	108	1,834	294	42	2,277
Causeway Coast and Glens	6,052	908	1,417	51	8,428	101,801	31,721	2,212	144,163
Derry City and Strabane	2,260	431	1,173	27	3,891	65,913	24,164	2,935	96,903
Fermanagh and Omagh	239	8	533	16	796	178,659	26,662	3,993	210,110
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,914	206	559	171	3,851	30,155	1,439	1,690	37,135
Mid and East Antrim	667	87	491	20	1,265	62,893	18,443	978	83,578
Mid Ulster	2,421	269	877	101	3,668	123,349	18,424	2,836	148,278
Newry, Mourne and Down	4,444	861	1,244	25	6,574	96,341	11,633	9,121	123,670
Ards and North Down	4,243	624	809	768	6,444	24,789	225	1,459	32,918
Total	29,460	3,715	9,708	2,680	45,562	816,257	140,581	27,421	1,029,822

¹ May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address

* 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.

Table 6.6 Livestock numbers by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2020 (hectares)

	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry
County								
Antrim ¹	70,278	46,395	322,739	268,009	568,167	4,332	60,010	6,494,985
Armagh	36,125	28,278	221,443	46,674	97,993	11,951	201,088	3,596,872
Down	70,987	41,033	329,157	175,197	356,810	6,634	73,568	2,086,006
Fermanagh	22,142	41,710	156,662	57,578	122,678	172	5,698	1,195,162
Londonderry	40,683	29,991	206,423	195,636	411,437	4,971	58,209	1,521,204
Tyrone	73,068	57,295	375,043	202,960	433,853	17,836	282,894	9,457,981
District Council								
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15,498	12,342	77,345	35,471	80,112	1,430	16,703	850,910
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	46,816	24,181	238,727	56,180	117,152	12,736	210,596	3,871,488
Belfast ¹	353	764	3,119	1,006	2,127	0	*	36
Causeway Coast and Glens	44,169	22,104	186,567	189,031	398,189	1,852	25,692	2,975,299
Derry City and Strabane	26,465	14,548	110,526	133,952	284,251	3,256	44,252	378,652
Fermanagh and Omagh	47,142	63,037	278,393	129,813	277,557	3,025	41,056	2,759,192
Lisburn and Castlereagh	14,664	7,495	65,838	17,324	37,999	1,204	13,937	726,299
Mid and East Antrim	25,195	18,014	117,711	122,630	259,007	1,345	19,751	3,096,133
Mid Ulster	44,242	40,025	262,188	107,014	223,853	15,909	253,191	8,250,509
Newry, Mourne and Down	28,771	36,572	206,950	135,253	270,645	4,063	47,750	1,328,382
Ards and North Down	19,968	5,620	64,103	18,380	40,046	1,076	*	115,310
Total	313,283	244,702	1,611,467	946,054	1,990,938	45,896	681,467	24,352,210

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

¹ May be a temporary address for the business/ or correspondence address

Table 6.7 Labour force by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2020

	Farmers, partners, directors & spouses ¹		Other workers			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	
County						
Antrim ²	3,918	3,142	484	700	966	9,210
Armagh	2,500	2,741	700	494	863	7,298
Down	4,123	4,012	813	896	1,095	10,939
Fermanagh	2,262	2,254	153	315	434	5,418
Londonderry	2,720	2,552	323	558	723	6,876
Tyrone	4,730	4,364	585	866	1,015	11,560
District Council						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	785	655	161	168	188	1,957
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,665	2,559	742	568	961	7,495
Belfast ²	40	30	*	*	7	85
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,363	1,803	265	384	595	5,410
Derry City and Strabane	1,493	1,235	201	299	407	3,635
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,944	3,768	312	608	785	9,417
Lisburn and Castlereagh	748	708	*	*	204	1,981
Mid and East Antrim	1,543	1,297	149	291	378	3,658
Mid Ulster	3,166	3,232	409	626	692	8,125
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,828	3,204	449	546	682	7,709
Ards and North Down	678	574	222	158	197	1,829
Total	20,253	19,065	3,058	3,829	5,096	51,301

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints

¹ In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions.

² 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 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Farm Type						
Cereals	5	32	37	217	14.6	254
General cropping	260	323	583	522	52.8	1,105
Horticulture	11	64	75	151	33.2	226
Pigs	38	60	98	75	56.6	173
Poultry	174	239	413	215	65.8	628
Dairy	516	951	1,467	1,136	56.4	2,603
Cattle & Sheep	8,936	6,201	15,137	0	100.0	15,137
Lowland	0	0	0	5,230	0.0	5,230
Mixed	55	128	183	307	37.3	490
Other type	22	16	38	12	76.0	50
Farm business size						
Very small	8,480	6,309	14,789	5,540	72.7	20,329
Small	969	846	1,815	950	65.6	2,765
Medium	303	351	654	513	56.0	1,167
Large	265	508	773	862	47.3	1,635
Total	10,017	8,014	18,031	7,865	69.6	25,896

Table 7.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing & other land by LFA category in Northern Ireland, June 2020 (hectares)

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Cereal Crops						
Oats	119	339	458	1,421	24.4	1,879
Wheat	201	904	1,105	6,026	15.5	7,132
Winter barley	187	1,065	1,252	6,519	16.1	7,772
Spring barley	382	2,097	2,479	10,085	19.7	12,564
Mixed corn	21	36	56	56	50.1	113
Total cereals	910	4,442	5,352	24,108	18.2	29,460
Other Crops						
Potatoes	271	558	829	2,886	22.3	3,715
Other crops**	1,021	1,979	2,999	6,708	30.9	9,708
Total other crops	1,291	2,537	3,828	9,594	28.5	13,422
Fruit, vegetables & flowers:						
Fruit	*	*	244	1,086	18.3	1,330
Vegetables	*	*	91	1,088	7.7	1,178
Ornamentals	19	28	47	125	27.4	172
Total fruit, veg & flowers	30	351	381	2,298	14.2	2,680
Total crops	2,231	7,330	9,561	36,001	21.0	45,562
Grass						
Grass < 5 years	43,974	40,372	84,346	57,077	59.6	141,424
Grass 5 years +	270,931	199,067	469,998	204,835	69.6	674,833
Total grass	314,905	239,439	554,344	261,913	67.9	816,257
Total crops and grass						
Rough grazing	126,746	8,710	135,456	5,125	96.4	140,581
Woods & plantations	4,983	4,213	9,196	8,080	53.2	17,276
Other land***	2,590	1,959	4,549	5,596	44.8	10,145
Total	451,456	261,651	713,107	316,715	69.2	1,029,822

*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.

Table 7.3 Numbers of cattle by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Dairy cows Total	47,566	107,014	154,580	158,703	49.3	313,283
Other Dairy Female						
2 years old	6,640	14,402	21,042	20,488	50.7	41,530
1-2 years	12,046	29,462	41,508	46,704	47.1	88,212
Total	18,686	43,864	62,550	67,192	48.2	129,742
Beef cows Total	113,272	72,124	185,396	59,306	75.8	244,702
Other Dairy Female						
2 years old	20,213	21,286	41,499	21,070	66.3	62,569
1-2 years	43,975	48,767	92,742	53,782	63.3	146,524
Total	64,188	70,053	134,241	74,852	64.2	209,093
Breeding bulls						
2 years old and over	4,725	3,759	8,484	3,780	69.2	12,264
1-2 years	1,812	2,415	4,227	3,502	54.7	7,729
Total	6,537	6,174	12,711	7,282	63.6	19,993
Other Male						
2 years old and over	7,924	16,026	23,950	23,656	50.3	47,606
1-2 years	33,949	55,857	89,806	70,398	56.1	160,204
Total	41,873	71,883	113,756	94,054	54.7	207,810
6-12 months						
Male	23,442	30,032	53,474	35,083	60.4	88,557
Female	28,166	37,580	65,746	47,918	57.8	113,664
Total	51,608	67,612	119,220	83,001	59.0	202,221
Under 6 months						
Male	44,333	42,510	86,843	47,530	64.6	134,373
Female	45,708	48,752	94,460	55,790	62.9	150,250
Total	90,041	91,262	181,303	103,320	63.7	284,623
Total Cattle	433,771	529,986	963,757	647,710	59.8	1,611,467

Table 7.4 Numbers of sheep, horses & goats by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Ewes						
Ewes which lambed	454,891	179,383	634,274	166,382	79.2	800,656
Others for breeding	89,912	28,907	118,819	26,579	81.7	145,398
Total	544,803	208,290	753,093	192,961	79.6	946,054
Other sheep						
Rams for service	15,654	6,572	22,226	6,300	77.9	28,526
Lambs 1 year old +	7,824	4,472	12,296	4,725	72.2	17,021
Lambs Under 1 year	558,010	233,666	791,676	207,661	79.2	999,337
Total Sheep	1,126,291	453,000	1,579,291	411,647	79.3	1,990,938

Table 7.5 Numbers of horses by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	1,245	1,701	2,946	2,612	53.0	5,558
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	204	338	542	888	37.9	1,430
Total Horses & Ponies	1,449	2,039	3,488	3,500	49.9	6,988

Table 7.6 Numbers of goats by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Total Goats	1,036	1,085	2,121	868	71.0	2,989

Table 7.7 Numbers of pigs by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Female breeding herd						
Sows in pig	4,909	10,222	15,131	22,188	40.5	37,319
Gilts in pig	1,004	1,479	2,483	6,094	28.9	8,577
Other breeding pigs						
Boars being used for service	73	169	242	488	33.2	730
Maiden gilts	1,054	1,169	2,223	5,036	30.6	7,259
Total breeding pigs	7,040	13,039	20,079	33,806	37.3	53,885
Other pigs						
Cull sows being fattened	*	*	229	311	42.4	540
Finishers	25,815	66,329	92,144	214,419	30.1	306,563
Weaners/Growers	26,417	51,374	77,791	139,720	35.8	217,511
Suckling piglets	12,809	26,230	39,039	63,855	37.9	102,894
Pet pigs	*	*	20	54	27.0	74
Total Other pigs	65,130	144,093	209,223	418,359	33.3	627,582
Total Pigs	72,170	157,132	229,302	452,165	33.6	681,467

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints

Table 7.8 Numbers of poultry by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	1,872,914	1,640,513	3,513,427	1,423,213	71.2	4,936,640
Growing pullets	173,382	636,375	809,757	685,991	54.1	1,495,748
Breeding flock	815,877	705,707	1,521,584	692,765	68.7	2,214,349
Table birds						
Broilers	2,439,735	6,244,164	8,683,899	6,680,574	56.5	15,364,473
Other poultry	187,586	119,165	306,751	34,249	90.0	341,000
Total Poultry	5,489,494	9,345,924	14,835,418	9,516,792	60.9	24,352,210

Table 7.9 Farm labour force on farms by LFA category, June 2020

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Farmers, partners, directors & spouses*:						
Full-time	7,294	6,159	13,453	6,800	66.4	20,253
Part-time	7,477	5,877	13,354	5,711	70.0	19,065
Total	14,771	12,036	26,807	12,511	68.2	39,318
Other workers:						
Full-time	599	919	1,518	1,540	49.6	3,058
Part-time	1,207	1,200	2,407	1,422	62.9	3,829
Casual/Seasonal	1,589	1,453	3,042	2,054	59.7	5,096
Total other workers	3,395	3,572	6,967	5,016	58.1	11,983
Total agricultural labour force	18,166	15,608	33,774	17,527	65.8	51,301

* In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions.

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 2020. The estimates for cereal yields were obtained from a post-harvest survey of 217 growers, whilst potato estimates were derived from a survey involving pre-harvest digs covering potato crops on approximately 66 farms.

- There was a decrease in yield (tonnes per hectare) and overall production (tonnes) for winter barley, wheat, oats and potatoes in 2020.
- **Barley:** Total production of barley decreased to approximately 122,000 tonnes, a decrease of 8 percent compared to 2019. Spring barley production rose by 10 percent to 71,000 tonnes while winter barley production fell 18 percent to 51,000 tonnes.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat decreased from 2019 levels to 46,000 tonnes, a decrease of 24 percent.
- **Oats:** Oat yields decreased 8 percent to 5 tonnes per hectare in 2020. The total area of oats planted increased by only 1 per cent resulting in an overall decrease in production of 8 percent (10,000 tonnes).
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of main crop ware and seed potatoes is 130,000 tonnes, a similar level to 2019. In 2020 the area planted decreased by 2 per cent to 3,700 hectares.

Table 8.1 Estimates of Crop Yields (Tonnes per Hectare)

	2019	2020		% Change 2019/20	2020 confidence limits (95%)
Cereals¹:					
Barley - Spring	5	6	(5.81)	4	+/- 0.29
- Winter	8	7	(6.73)	-18	+/- 0.29
All Barley	6	6		-7	
Wheat	8	6	(6.94)	-14	+/- 0.57
Oats	6	5	(5.55)	-8	+/- 0.41
Potatoes:					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	35	36		1	+/- 2.52

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. Yields unadjusted for moisture are shown in brackets.

2. Marketable yield includes crop over 45 mm for ware crops and over 28mm for seed.

Table 8.2 Estimates of Crop Production ('000 Tonnes)

	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2018/19	% Change 2019/20	2020 confidence limits (95%)
Cereals:						
Barley - Spring	77	65	71	-16	10	+/- 3.9
- Winter	40	62	51	55	-18	+/-2.7
All Barley	117	127	122	8	-4	
Wheat	48	61	46	28	-24	+/- 5.1
Oats	10	11	10	9	-8	+/- 1.2
Potatoes:						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ¹	115	129	130	13	0	N/A

1. Maincrop yield only

Table 8.3 Area Grown (hectares)

	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2018/19	% Change 2019/20
Cereals:					
Barley - Spring	14894	11948	12564	-20	5
- Winter	5809	7739	7772	33	0
All Barley	20703	19687	20336	-5	3
Wheat	6845	8104	7132	18	-12
Oats	2013	1868	1879	-7	1
Potatoes:					
Maincrop ware & seed	3601	3777	3715	5	-2

9 Notes for Readers

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. Questions on pigs and poultry, normally gathered from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs and Update of NI Bird Register, were added because the inventories were postponed until later in 2020.
 - 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 12,600 completed questionnaires augmented with data from the APHIS cattle tracing system.
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 810
Statistics and Analytical Services Branch,
Policy, Economics and Statistics Division of the

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,
Dundonald House,
Upper Newtownards Road,
Belfast,
BT4 3SB
Email: farmsurvey.ped@daera-ni.gov.uk
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
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; and from the UK Statistics Authority at
<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

**Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB**



Department of
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