

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

Results for June 2021



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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 2021

Provisional results of the NI Agricultural Census, June 2021



Dairy Cows **2%**

Beef Cows

1%

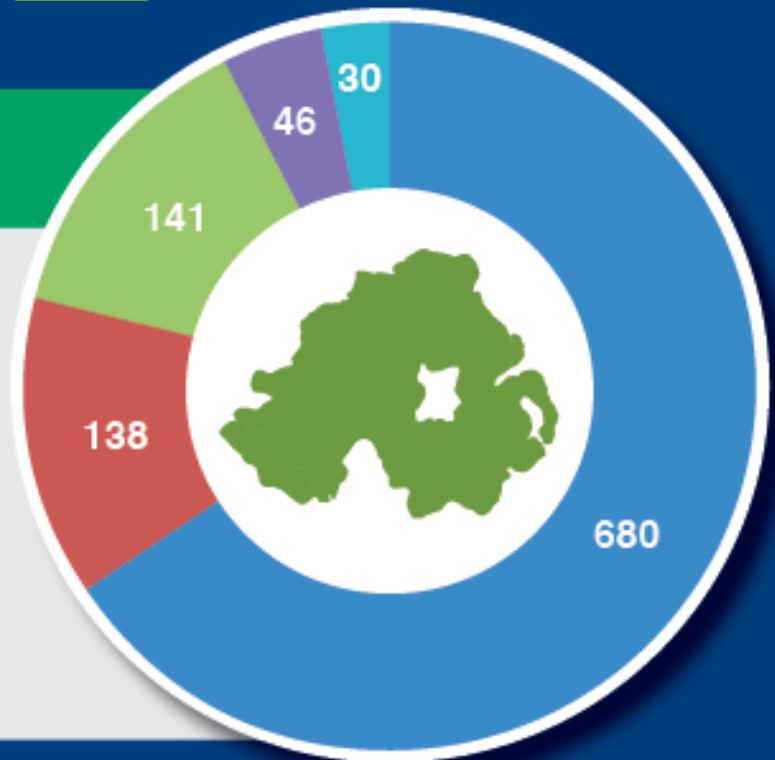
Breeding Ewes

2%

**Total Area Farmed
1,035,642 Hectares**

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

Figures per '000 (thousand)



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THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND – RESULTS FOR JUNE 2021

Key Points

The main changes between June 2020 and June 2021 are:

Farms: In June 2021 there were 26,077 farms in Northern Ireland with 1,035,642 hectares of land farmed. An increase of 181 farms from 2020.

Farm Structure: Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,454 in 2021). 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 2021 there were a total of 52,195 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 increased by 4% to 1,681,991. The number of beef cows have increased by 1% to 246,956 while the number of dairy cows increased by 2% to 318,372.

Sheep: There was an increase of 2% in breeding ewes compared to 2020, with numbers increasing to 968,300. Overall, the total number of sheep recorded was just over 2 million, which was also a 2% rise from June 2020.

Poultry: Total poultry numbers on farms at June 2021 remained unchanged from 2020 levels with 24.5 million birds recorded. However, within poultry categories there was a decrease in laying birds of 13% and an increase in broiler numbers of 4% compared to June 2020.

Pigs: Total pig numbers recorded in June 2021 increased by 5% to 716,798 compared to June 2020.

Crop areas: The total area of crops grown in Northern Ireland in 2021 was approximately 46,500 hectares, an increase of 2% from 2020.

Cereals: The total area of cereals (30,500 hectares) grown in 2021 increased by 4% from 2020. Wheat crops increased by 8% to 7,700 hectares, Winter and Spring Barley increased by 2% and 3% respectively, while Oats remained similar to the 2020 area recorded.

Contents

Section	Title	Page number
1	<u>Introduction</u>	1
2	<u>Executive Summary</u>	3
3	<u>Northern Ireland Totals</u>	15
4	<u>Farm Structure</u>	20
5	<u>Farm Activities</u>	23
6	<u>County & District Council Area Statistics</u>	28
7	<u>Less Favoured Area Statistics</u>	36
8	<u>Crop Yields and Production</u>	42
9	<u>Notes for Readers</u>	45

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 Farm Census moved entirely online since 2020. The questions on the survey were streamlined in 2020 to reduce the burden on farmers, streamlined questions were reinstated for this year. In 2021 the survey remained online with positive 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: <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 2021.

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 2021 remained largely stable with a change of less than 1% to 26,077. This further suggests the uplift seen in 2020 is likely to be a step change in data as a result of a new sampling methodology introduced in 2020. 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>

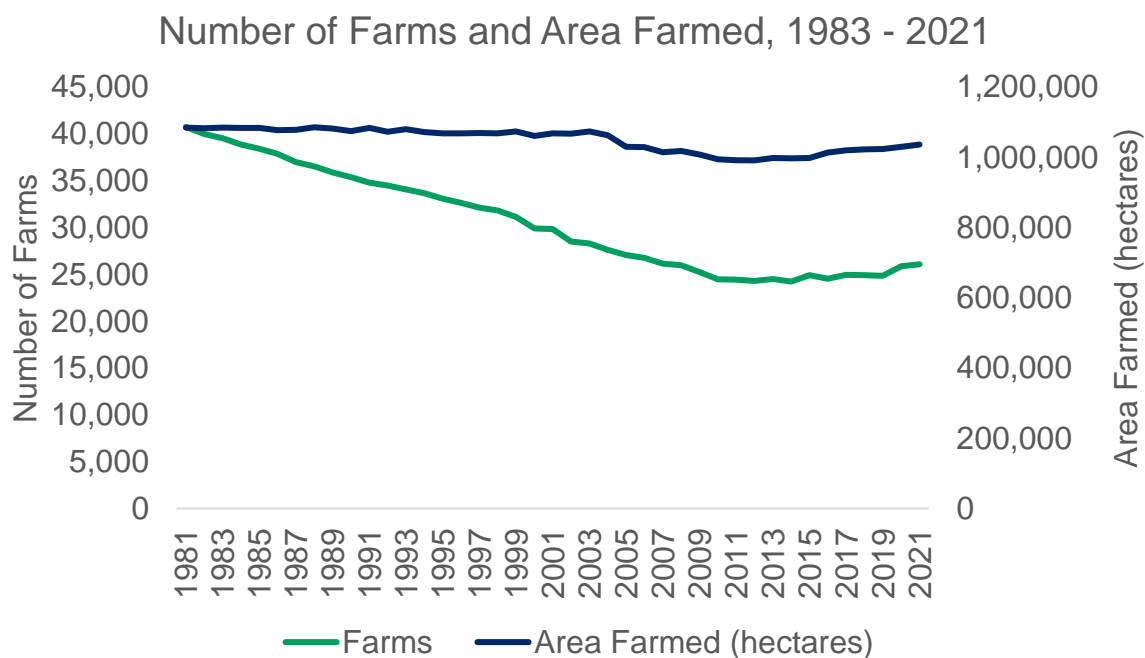
Table 1.1 Number of farms Northern Ireland 2016-2021

Year	No. Farms
2016	24,528
2017	24,956
2018	24,895
2019	24,827
2020	25,896
2021	26,077

2 Executive Summary

Farms: In June 2021 there were 26,077 farms in Northern Ireland with approximately one million hectares (1,035,642 hectares) of land farmed.

Figure 2.1 Number of farms and area farmed Northern Ireland 1983-2021¹



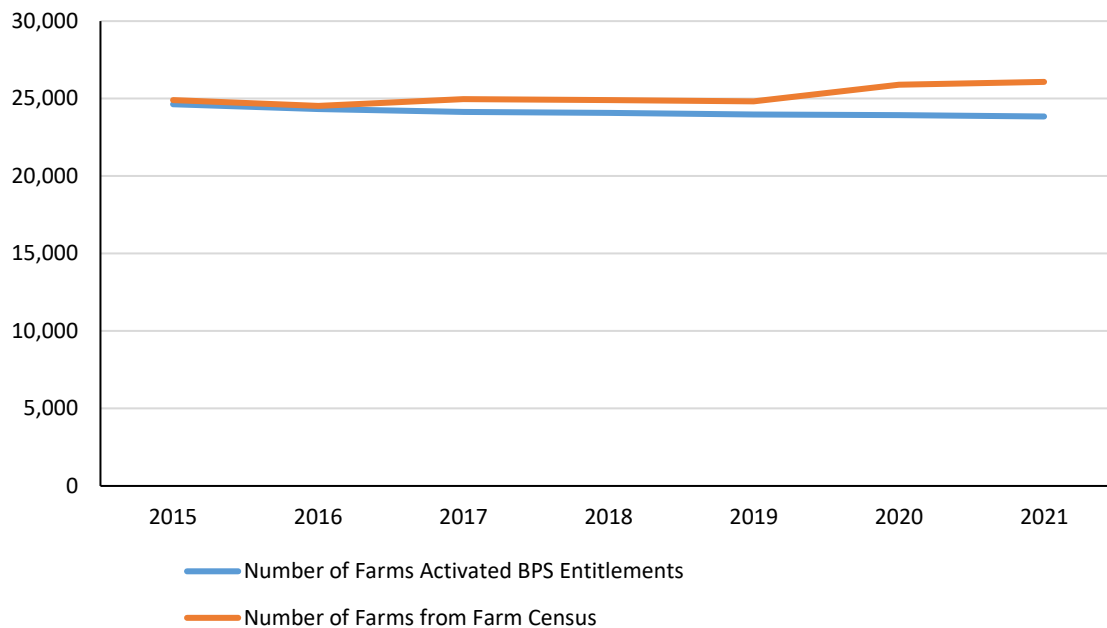
The area farmed (excluding common land) has remained relatively steady since 1981.

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.

¹ Pre-1997 figures are estimates (based on combining overlapping series)

In 2021 the number of farms that activated BPS entitlements continued that trend suggesting the uplift in Farm Census data in 2020 is a step change as a direct result of methodological changes.

Figure 2.2: Number of Farms Northern Ireland 2015-2021



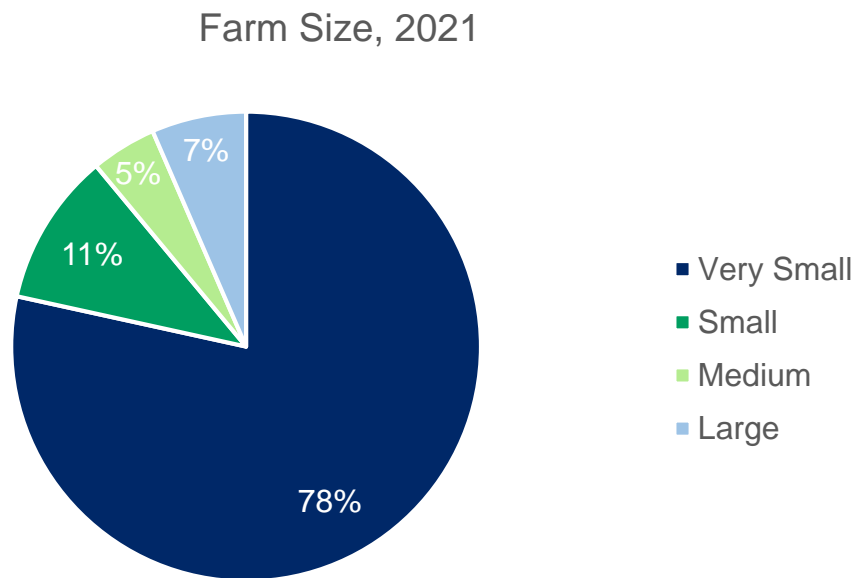
As with number of farms in 2021 the change in total area farmed recorded by the census matches the negligible increase in number of farms. An increase of 0.6% suggests methodology and sample changes have had negligible effect on the land area variables.

Table 2.1: Agricultural Land Area Northern Ireland 2016-2021

Year	Total Area Farmed Farm Census (ha)	Annual % Change
2016	1,013,248	1.6%
2017	1,019,736	0.6%
2018	1,022,395	0.3%
2019	1,023,163	0.1%
2020	1,029,822	0.7%
2021	1,035,642	0.6%

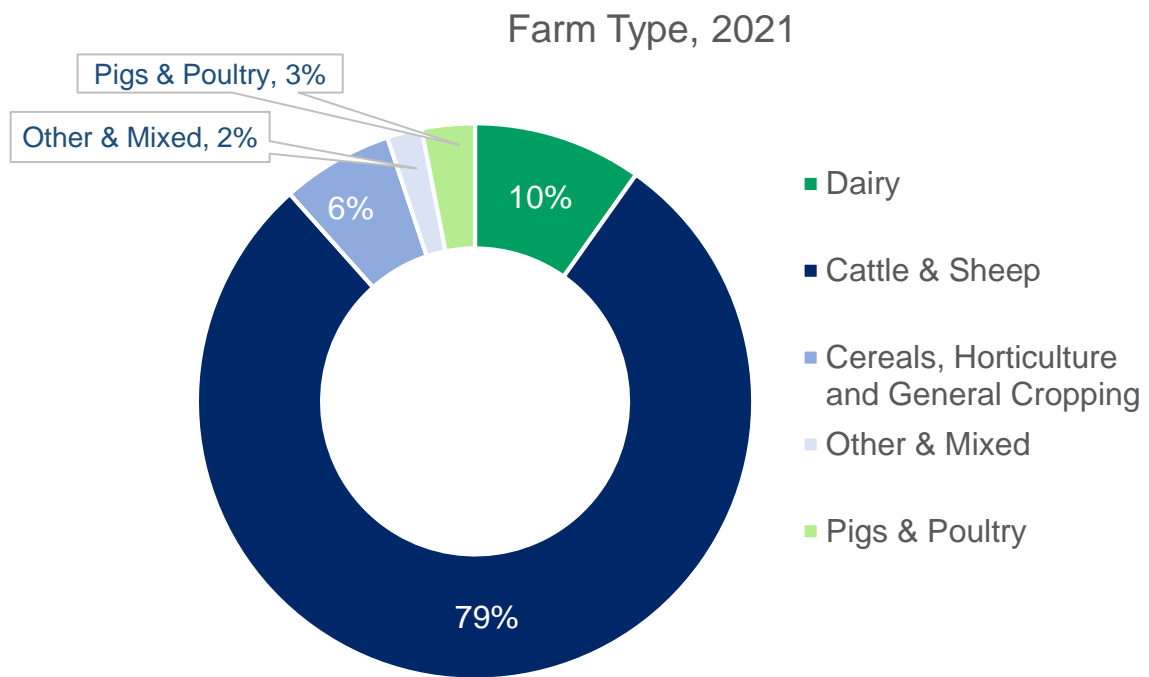
Farm Structure: Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,454 in 2021).

Figure 2.3 Farm Size, 2021



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 identical to the results in 2020.

Figure 2.4 Number of farms by farm type, 2021



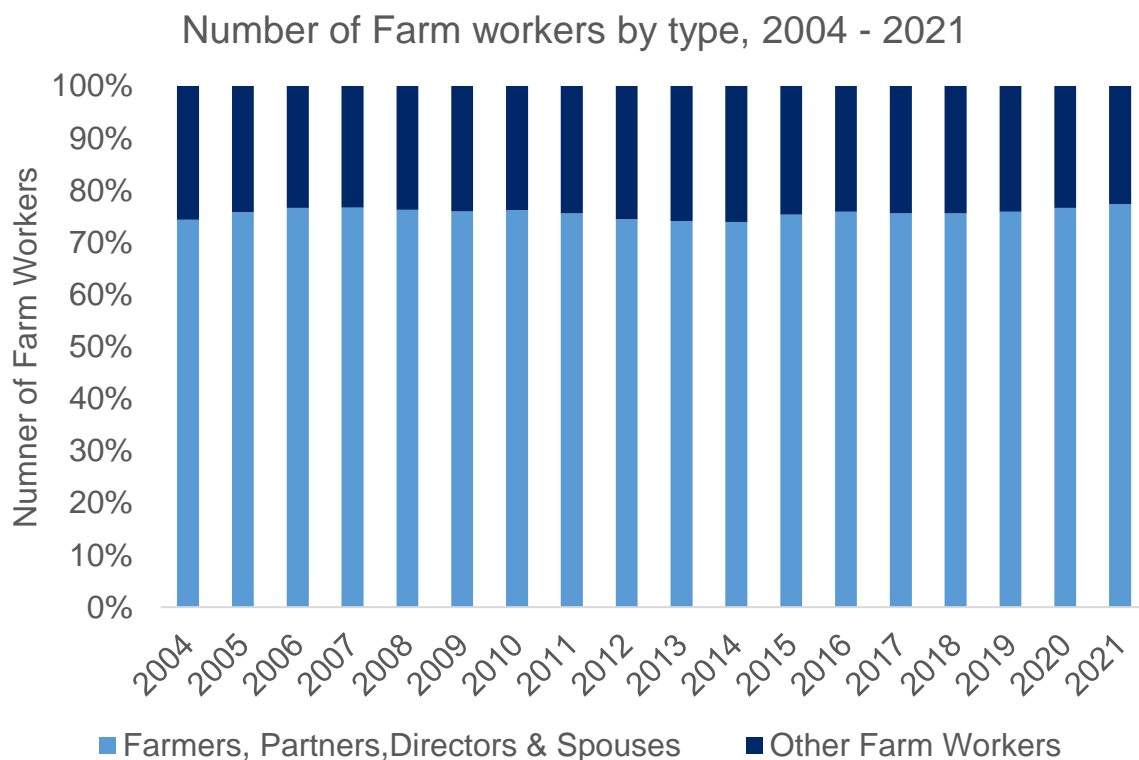
Farmers and workers: Major changes in methodology are likely to have been responsible for much of the increase experienced in 2020. However, recent data shows an overall rising trend in Farm workers which appears to be continuing into 2021.

It is important to note that further changes were made to the labour questions making up the 2021 Census. These questions were expanded and simplified in order to ensure higher quality of data. With this in mind, some of the increase in labour figures recorded in 2021 is likely due to these changes.

In June 2021, there were 52,195 farm workers, an increase of 2 per cent from 51,301 in 2020

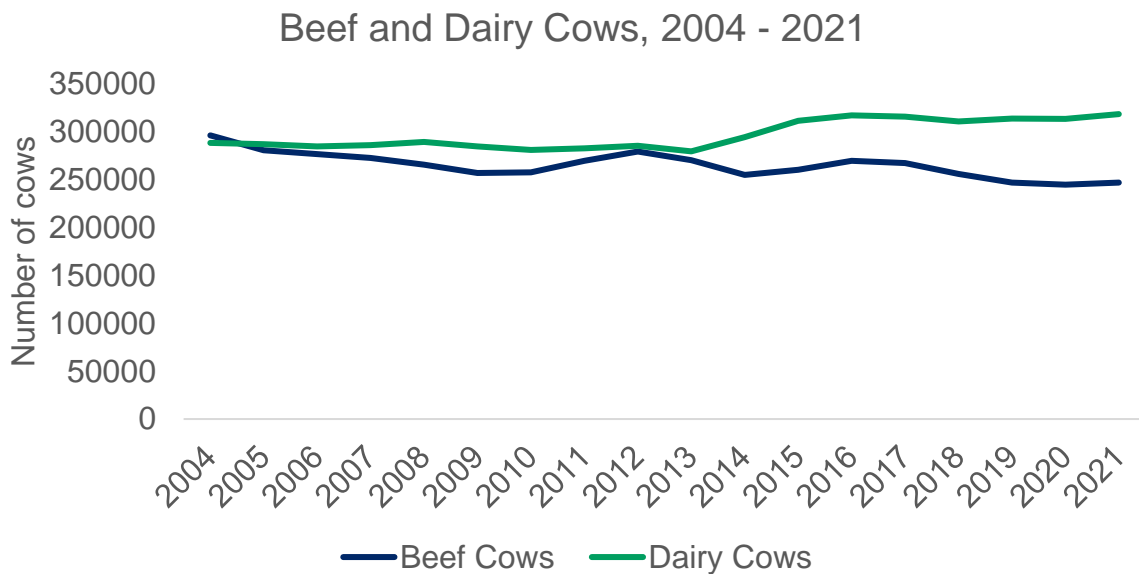
Figure 2.5 shows the breakdown of total farm workers between farmers, directors, partners or spouses (77 per cent) and all other farm workers (23 per cent) has remained relatively stable since 2004.

Figure 2.5 Number of farm workers by type, Northern Ireland 2004-2021



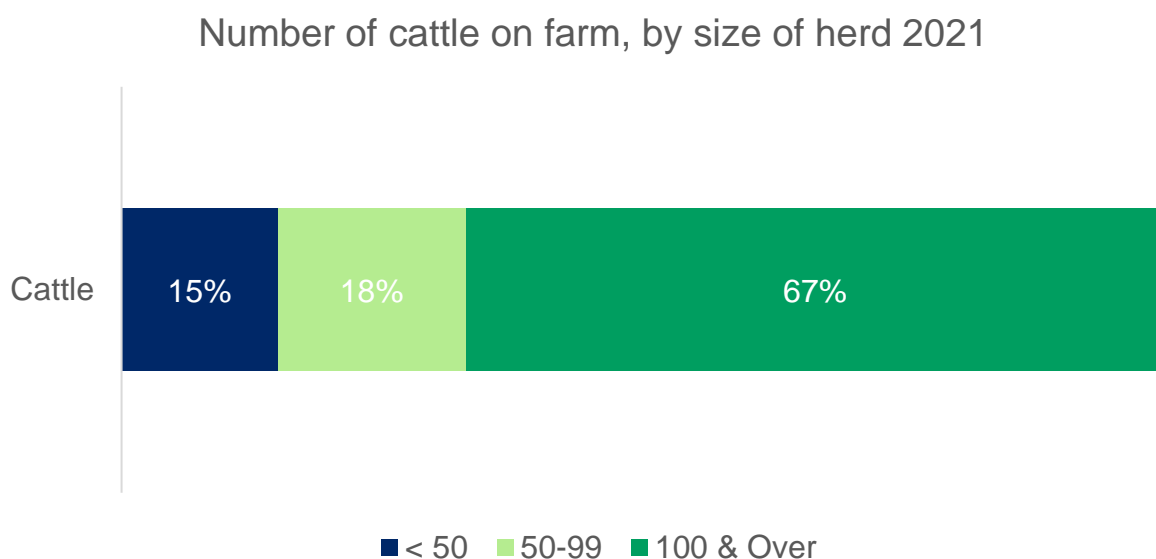
Cattle: Total cattle numbers have increased by 4 per cent to 1.68 million between 2020 and 2021. The number of beef cows increased by 1 per cent to 246,956 and the number of dairy cows increased by 2 per cent to 318,372.

Figure 2.6 Number of beef and dairy cows, 2004-2021



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

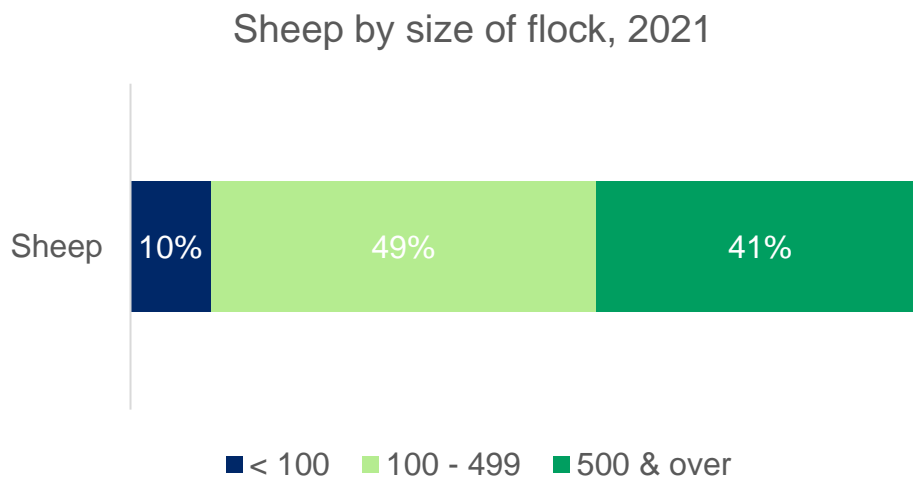
Figure 2.7 Number of cattle on farm by size of herd, 2021



Sheep: The total number of sheep increased by just over 2 percent in 2021 to just over 2 million. There was a 2 per cent increase in the number of breeding ewes compared with 2020 with numbers rising to 968,300.

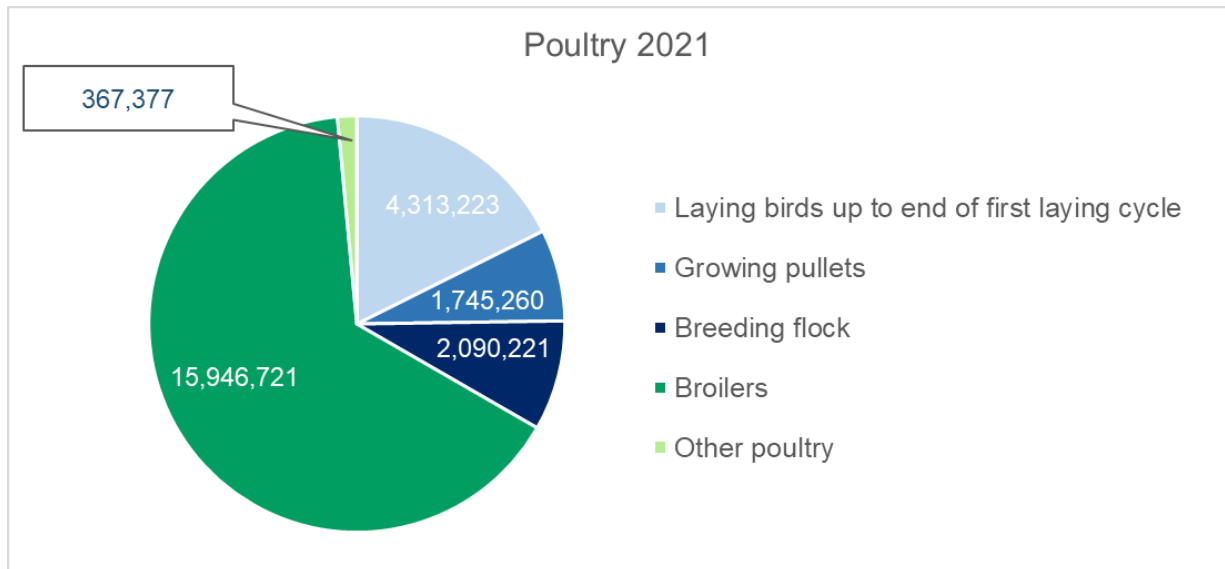
Farms with more than 500 sheep on 1st June account for 41 per cent of the total sheep population.

Figure 2.8 Number of sheep on farm by size of flock, 2021



Poultry: The number of total poultry on farms remained virtually unchanged between June 2020 and June 2021. Broiler poultry account for three fifths of all birds.

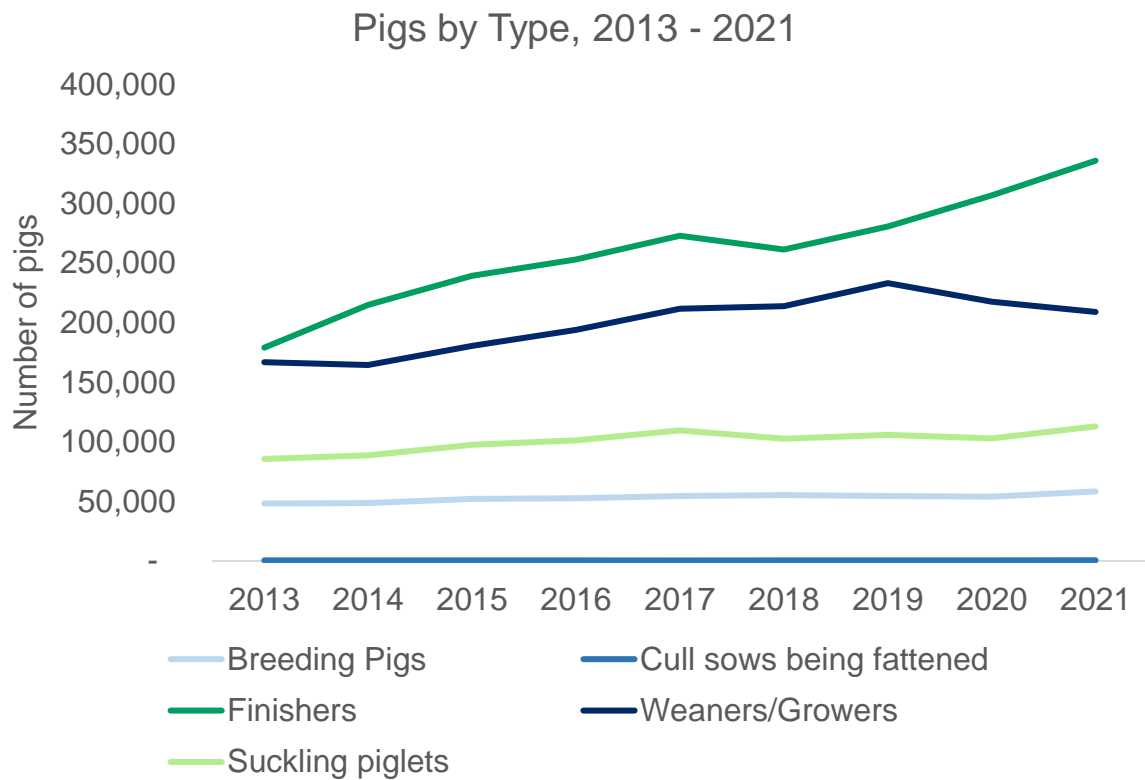
Figure 2.9 Number of Poultry, 2021



Pigs: There has been an increase in Northern Ireland total pig numbers recorded on the farm census in June 2021 of 5 per cent to 716,798. The increase in pig numbers was a result of a higher number of breeding pigs and fattening pigs.

In comparison to 2020, the total female breeding herd increased by 9 per cent to 50,086. Weaners and Growers decreased by 4 per cent to 208,944. This was offset by an increase of 10 per cent in finishers to 335,793.

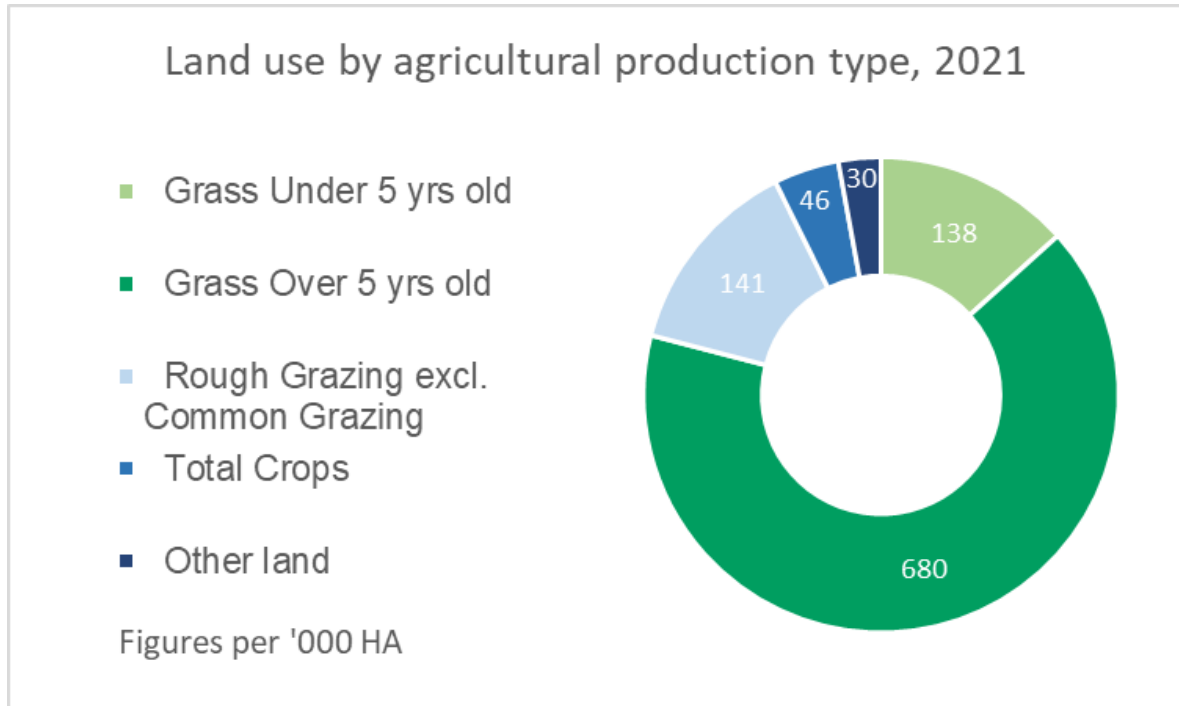
Figure 2.10 Type of Pigs, 2013 – 2021



Most pigs are concentrated in relatively few farms, with units of more than 200 sows on 1st June accounting for 19 per cent of herds but almost 80 per cent of total breeding sows.

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

Figure 2.11 Land use by agricultural production type, 2021



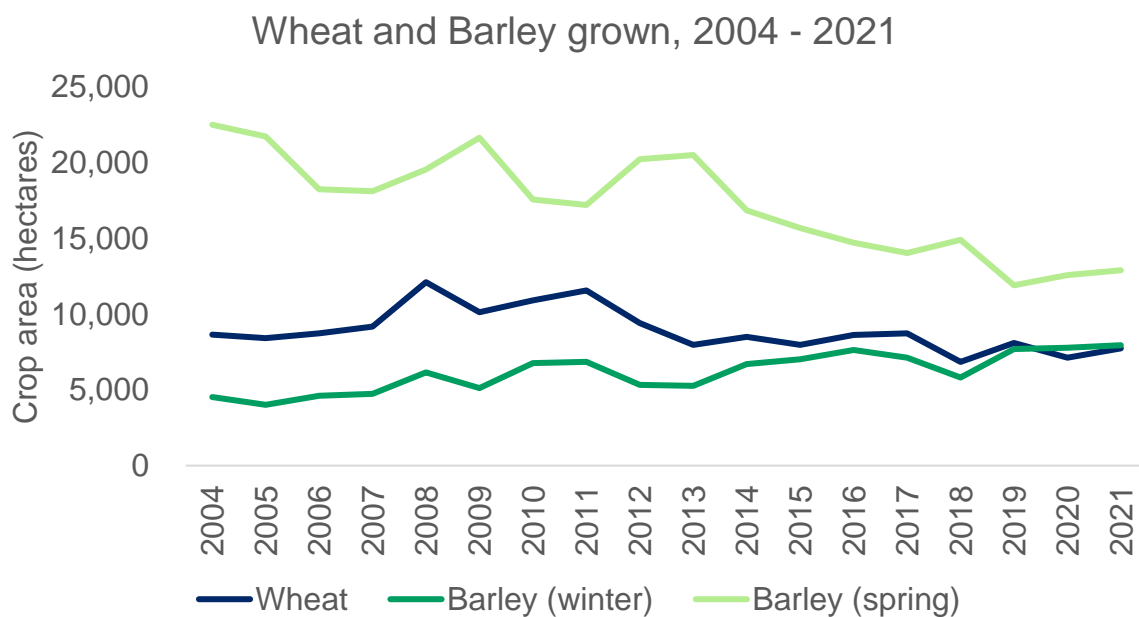
Cereals: The total area of cereals grown in 2021 increased by 4 per cent from 2020 to 30,507 hectares with wheat, winter and spring barley crops increasing while oat and mixed corn crops decreasing over the same period.

The area of spring barley grown in June 2020 increased by 3 per cent from 2020 and remains the most popular crop grown in Northern Ireland.

The area grown of wheat increased by 8 per cent in the same period. And winter barley grown increased by 2 percent and continues to surpass the total area of wheat.

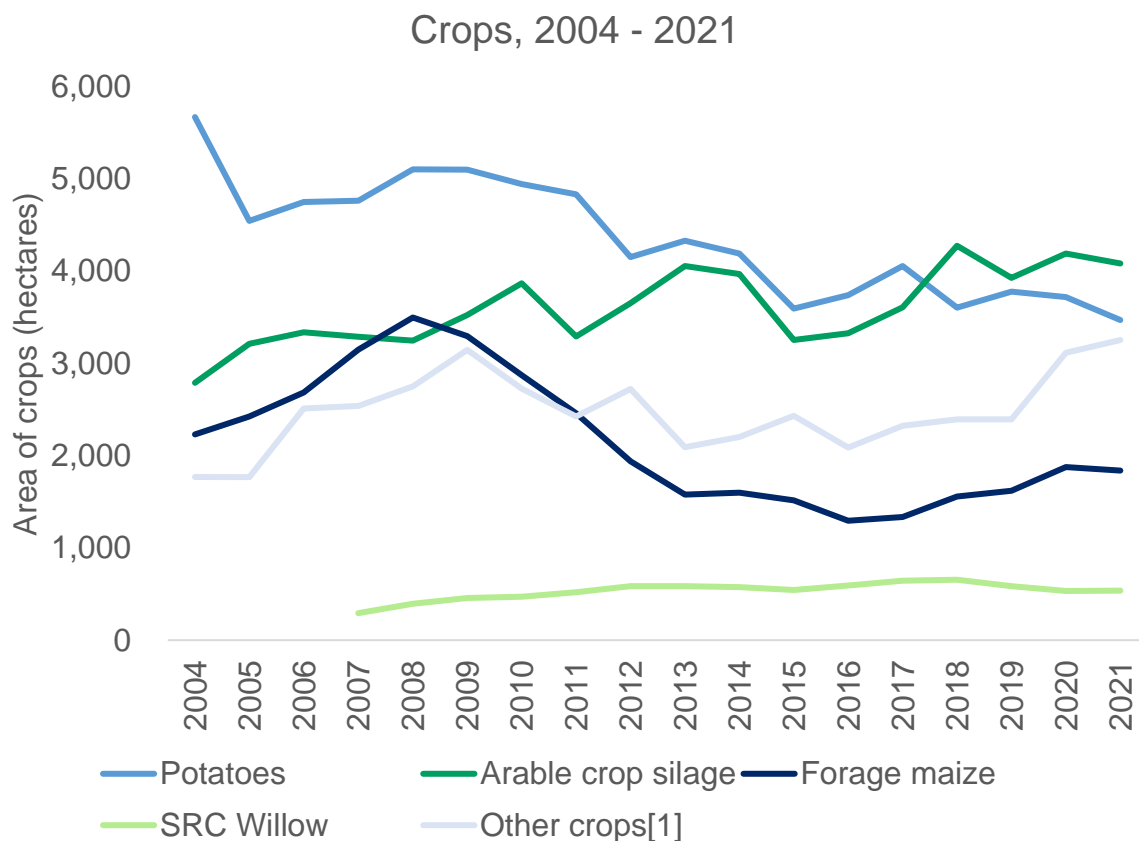
Oat crops remain similar to area grown in 2020, at 1,874 hectares, whilst mixed corn fell by 50 per cent from 113 hectares to 57 hectares in the same period.

Figure 2.12 Wheat and Barley grown, 2004 – 2021



Other crops: The total area of other field crops decreased by 2 per cent between 2020 and 2021. The area of forage maize decreased by 2 per cent to 1,836 hectares and arable crop silage decreased by 3 per cent to 4,082 hectares. There was a decrease of 7 per cent in the area of potatoes to 3,468 hectares. The area of other crops increased by 4 per cent to 3,251.

Figure 2.13 Area of other field crops, 2004 – 2021



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

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 2017 to 2021 at 1st June each year.

Table 3.1 Crop areas in Northern Ireland 2017-2021 (hectares)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Grass					
Under 5 years old	144,354	144,454	148,818	141,424	137,772
Over 5 years old	660,598	663,166	659,927	674,833	680,496
Total grass	804,952	807,620	808,745	816,257	818,269
Total Hill or rough land	140,400	143,156	143,609	140,581	141,272
Cereals					
Oats	2,252	2,013	1,868	1,879	1,874
Wheat	8730	6845	8104	7,132	7,734
Barley (winter)	7,114	5,809	7,739	7,772	7,944
Barley (spring)	14,031	14,894	11,948	12,564	12,898
Mixed corn	170	101	161	113	57
Total cereals	32,298	29,662	29,820	29,460	30,507
Other field crops					
Potatoes	4,053	3,601	3,777	3,715	3,468
Arable crop silage	3,605	4,272	3,924	4,187	4,082
Forage maize	1,334	1,558	1,618	1,874	1,836
SRC Willow	644	655	586	533	536
Other crops ¹	2,321	2,391	2,392	3,114	3,251
Total other field crops	11,957	12,477	12,296	13,422	13,172
Horticultural crops					
Fruit	1,522	1,474	1,441	1,330	1,266
Vegetables	1,262	1,125	1,163	1,178	1,357
Ornamentals	188	199	179	172	159
Total horticultural crops	2,973	2,798	2,782	2,680	2,782
Total crops	47,227	44,937	44,898	45,562	46,461
Other land					
Woods and plantations	15,786	16,307	15,669	17,276	18,761
Other land ²	10,060	10,376	10,243	10,145	10,878
Total other land	25,846	26,683	25,912	27,421	29,639
Total Area Farmed	1,019,736	1,022,395	1,023,163	1,029,822	1,035,642

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

² Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2017-2021¹

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dairy cows	315,782	310,718	313,549	313,283	318,372
Other Dairy Females					
2 years old	48,707	49,235	45,987	41,530	40,353
1-2 years	92,977	82,667	85,913	88,212	95,949
Total	141,684	131,902	131,900	129,742	136,302
Beef cows	267,102	255,904	247,009	244,702	246,956
Other Beef Females					
2 years old	56,496	62,235	67,312	62,569	67,166
1-2 years	155,249	156,142	150,551	146,524	157,195
Total	211,745	218,377	217,863	209,093	224,361
Breeding bulls					
2 years old and over	13,587	13,288	12,985	12,264	11,902
1-2 years	3,652	3,572	3,473	7,729	8,307
Total	17,239	16,860	16,458	19,993	20,209
Other Males					
2 years old	44,439	48,423	51,595	47,606	50,015
1-2 years	177,494	172,094	164,285	160,204	172,958
Total	221,933	220,517	215,880	207,810	222,973
6-12 months					
Male	90,341	89,000	84,268	88,557	92,929
Female	109,206	109,287	106,223	113,664	122,777
Total	199,547	198,287	190,491	202,221	215,706
Under 6 months					
Male	140,611	131,243	132,012	134,373	140,717
Female	150,803	145,260	146,614	150,250	156,395
Total	291,414	276,503	278,626	284,623	297,112
Total Cattle	1,666,446	1,629,068	1,611,776	1,611,467	1,681,991

¹ Data derived from the Animal and Public Health Information System, (APHIS).

Table 3.3 Sheep in Northern Ireland 2017-2021¹

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ewes					
Ewes which lambed	846,268	829,636	813,964	800,656	812,864
Others for breeding	127,073	126,912	124,493	145,398	155,436
Total	973,341	956,548	938,457	946,054	968,300
Other sheep					
Rams for service	28,567	28,229	28,334	28,526	28,105
Not for breeding	15,248	15,944	17,716	17,021	10,327
Total	43,815	44,173	46,050	45,547	38,432
Lambs < 1 year old					
Total	1,035,399	1,005,277	1,002,425	999,337	1,028,054
Total Sheep	2,052,555	2,005,998	1,986,932	1,990,938	2,034,786

Table 3.4 Horses and Ponies in Northern Ireland 2017-2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020 ²	2021
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	8,434	7,853	7,316	5,558	4,816
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	1,860	1,782	1,654	1,430	1,361
Total Horses & Ponies	10,294	9,635	8,970	6,988	6,177

Table 3.5 Goats in Northern Ireland 2017-2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020 ²	2021
Female goats which have kidded	1,837	1,673	1,676	1,347	1,072
All other goats and kids	2,329	2,087	1,741	1,642	1,802
Total Goats	4,166	3,760	3,417	2,989	2,874

¹ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Sheep on holding and the Farm Census.

² 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 2017-2021¹

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female breeding herd					
Sows in pig	33,106	34,775	34,447	37,319	37,178
Gilts in pig	7,032	8,499	7,535	8,577	7,476
Others sows for breeding	7,767	6,361	5,547	N/A ²	5,432
Other breeding pigs					
Boars being used for service	912	843	753	730	676
Maiden gilts	5,812	4,909	6,184	7,259	7,608
Total breeding pigs	54,629	55,387	54,466	53,885	58,370
Other pigs					
Cull sows being fattened	462	603	534	540	650
Finishers	272,786	261,250	280,631	306,563	335,795
Weaners/Growers	211,739	213,770	233,082	217,511	208,944
Suckling piglets	109,504	102,634	105,715	102,894	112,937
Pet Pigs ³				74	102
Total Other pigs	594,491	578,257	619,962	627,582	658,428
Total Pigs	649,120	633,644	674,428	681,467	716,798

Table 3.7 Poultry in Northern Ireland 2017-2021⁴

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Laying Birds					
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	3,962,799	4,331,920	4,998,723	4,936,640	4,313,223
Growing pullets	1,201,972	1,121,315	1,481,216	1,495,748	1,745,260
Breeding flock	2,526,871	2,515,873	2,558,685	2,214,349	2,090,221
Table birds					
Broilers	16,766,630	17,663,015	15,351,573	15,364,473	15,946,721
Other poultry	452,304	398,460	390,184	341,000	367,377
Total Poultry	24,910,576	26,030,583	24,780,381	24,352,210	24,462,802

¹ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and the far census.

² Data not collected in 2020

³ Prior to 2020 pet pig responses were included with Finishers.

⁴ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update and the farm Census.

Table 3.8 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2017-2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Farmers, partners & directors:¹					
Full-time	16,760	16,964	16,954	20,253	20,294
Part-time	13,586	13,721	13,859	19,065	20,073
Total farmers	30,346	30,685	30,813	39,318	40,367
Total spouses	6,449	6,542	6,700	N/A	N/A
Total Farmers, Partners, Directors & Spouses	36,795	37,227	37,513	39,318	40,367
Other workers:					
Full-time	3,441	3,411	3,430	3,058	2,902
Part-time	4,319	4,340	4,453	3,829	4,018
Casual/Seasonal	4,149	4,270	4,027	5,096	4,908
Total other workers	11,909	12,021	11,910	11,983	11,828
Total agricultural labour force	48,704	49,248	49,423	51,301	52,195

¹ 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 2021

Crops & grass farmed (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 10	6,748	35,894
10 - 19.9	5,948	85,681
20.0 - 29.9	4,021	98,041
30.0 - 49.9	4,207	161,581
50.0 - 99.9	3,627	247,285
100 & over	1,526	236,248
Total	26,077	864,730

Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area farmed in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Total area farmed (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 10	5,867	32,275
10 - 19.9	5,571	80,470
20.0 - 29.9	3,960	96,583
30.0 - 49.9	4,425	170,589
50.0 - 99.9	4,158	286,132
100 & over	2,096	369,594
Total	26,077	1,035,642

Table 4.3 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2021

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Owner-occupied land (% area farmed)					
All	12,302	806	243	250	13,601
50-99%	4,614	1,254	617	891	7,376
1-49%	2,453	610	286	542	3,891
None	1,085	77	31	16	1,209
Total	20,454	2,747	1,177	1,699	26,077
Average % Owner Occupied	79	70	68	60	72

Table 4.4 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2021

	Farm Business Size				Total
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Farmers, Partners, Directors & Spouses¹:					
Full-time	12,340	3,226	1,693	3,035	20,294
Part-time	17,028	1,640	641	764	20,073
Total	29,368	4,866	2,334	3,799	40,367
Other workers:					
Full-time	652	279	240	1,731	2,902
Part-time	2,302	631	316	769	4,018
Casual/Seasonal	2,490	758	471	1,189	4,908
Total other workers	5,444	1,668	1,027	3,689	11,828
Total agricultural labour force	34,812	6,534	3,361	7,488	52,195

¹ 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 2021

	Farm Business Size				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
(a) Farm Type					
Cereals	213	39	10	5	267
General cropping	1,118	30	17	36	1,201
Horticulture	94	42	28	62	226
Pigs	62	25	27	68	182
Poultry	137	254	123	108	622
Dairy	229	693	578	1,062	2,562
Cattle & sheep: LFA ¹	13,739	1,116	229	151	15,235
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,582	466	121	86	5,255
Mixed and Other type	280	82	44	121	527
(b) Area of crops & grass farmed (hectares)					
Under 10	6,523	122	40	63	6,748
10 - 19.9	5,705	173	38	32	5,948
20.0 - 29.9	3,674	261	45	41	4,021
30.0 - 49.9	3,127	789	195	96	4,207
50.0 - 99.9	1,318	1,102	606	601	3,627
100 & over	107	300	253	866	1,526
(c) Total area farmed (hectares)					
Under 10	5,669	107	33	58	5,867
10 - 19.9	5,374	133	35	29	5,571
20.0 - 29.9	3,671	214	39	36	3,960
30.0 - 49.9	3,479	679	168	99	4,425
50.0 - 99.9	1,938	1,070	583	567	4,158
100 & over	323	544	319	910	2,096
Total	20,454	2,747	1,177	1,699	26,077

¹ 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 2021

Area of cereals on farms (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 5	763	2,187
5 - 9.9	476	3,391
10 - 19.9	394	5,462
20 - 29.9	139	3,336
30-49.9	124	4,660
50 & over	127	11,472
Total	2,023	30,507

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms and crops by area of barley in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Area of barley on farms (hectares)	No. Farms	Area Farmed
Under 5	678	1,933
5 - 9.9	444	3,160
10 - 19.9	321	4,492
20 - 29.9	113	2,682
50 & over	159	8,576
Total	1,715	20,843

Table 5.3 Distribution of farms and crops by area in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Area of crop on farms (hectares)	Winter Barley		Spring Barley		Oats		Wheat	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 5	235	725	628	1,746	162	403	165	477
5 - 9.9	187	1,355	376	2,638	58	414	152	1,073
10 - 19.9	149	2,041	235	3,228	37	514	141	1,911
20 - 29.9	55	1,299	72	1,707	11	247	47	1,133
30 - 39.9	25	823	32	1,085	*	176	24	832
40 and over	31	1,702	42	2,494	*	119	35	2,308
Total	682	7,944	1,385	12,898	275	1,874	564	7,734

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)	Farms	Area
under 1	78	37
1 - 2.9	101	171
3 - 4.9	57	220
5 - 9.9	58	407
10 - 14.9	25	292
15 and over	66	2,341
Total	385	3,468

Table 5.5 Distribution of farms and dairy/beef cows by number of dairy/beef cows in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Number of cows on farm	Dairy cows		Beef cows	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 10	207	1,346	6,157	26,412
10 - 14	87	1,009	2,272	27,006
15 - 19	77	1,289	1,524	25,757
20 - 29	168	4,165	1,936	46,267
30 - 39	210	7,282	939	31,941
40 - 49	230	10,233	478	20,979
50 - 59	247	13,434	293	15,892
60 - 69	236	15,196	189	12,144
70 - 99	575	47,967	249	20,369
100 & over	1,215	216,451	142	20,189
Total	3,252	318,372	14,179	246,956

Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Number of cattle on farm	Farms	Cattle
< 10	2,376	13,049
10 - 19	3,034	43,096
20 - 29	2,509	60,914
30 - 39	1,987	68,099
40 - 49	1,514	67,284
50 - 69	2,194	128,630
70 - 99	2,092	174,071
100 - 149	1,744	212,825
150 - 199	958	165,167
200 & over	2,066	748,856
Total	20,474	1,681,991

Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and ewes/total sheep by number of ewes/total sheep in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Number of ewes/sheep on farm	Ewes		Total sheep	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,303	30,503	1,266	16,336
25 - 49	1,972	70,830	1,235	45,280
50 - 99	2,203	155,436	2,022	143,760
100 - 199	1,859	255,500	2,175	312,087
200 - 299	652	156,266	1,151	280,712
300 - 399	294	99,457	659	225,332
400 - 499	134	58,650	384	171,411
500 - 999	154	101,531	743	501,735
1,000 & over	28	40,127	218	338,133
Total	9,599	968,300	9,853	2,034,786

Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Number of sows on farm	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	92	301
10 - 49	47	1,264
50 - 99	32	2,167
100 - 199	48	6,834
200 & over	51	39,520
Total	270	50,086

Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and finisher/weaner and total pigs by number of pigs in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Number of pigs on farm	Finisher/weaner pigs		Total pigs	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	60	211	128	382
10 - 49	49	1,003	55	1,326
50 - 99	9	597	21	1,421
100 - 399	41	8,678	41	9,625
400 - 999	48	33,462	39	26,434
1,000 - 1,999	55	83,020	54	80,689
2,000 & over	45	418,418	66	596,921
Total	307	545,389	404	716,798

Table 5.10 Distribution of farms by size of poultry flock in Northern Ireland, June 2021

Size of flock on farm	Farms	Total Poultry
under 1,000 ¹	285	13,006
1,000 - 4,999	20	65,329
5,000 - 9,999	95	717,913
10,000 - 19,999	230	3,404,136
20,000 - 29,999	97	2,310,031
30,000 - 49,999	143	5,107,494
50,000 and over	140	12,844,893
Total	1,010	24,462,802

¹ * 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.

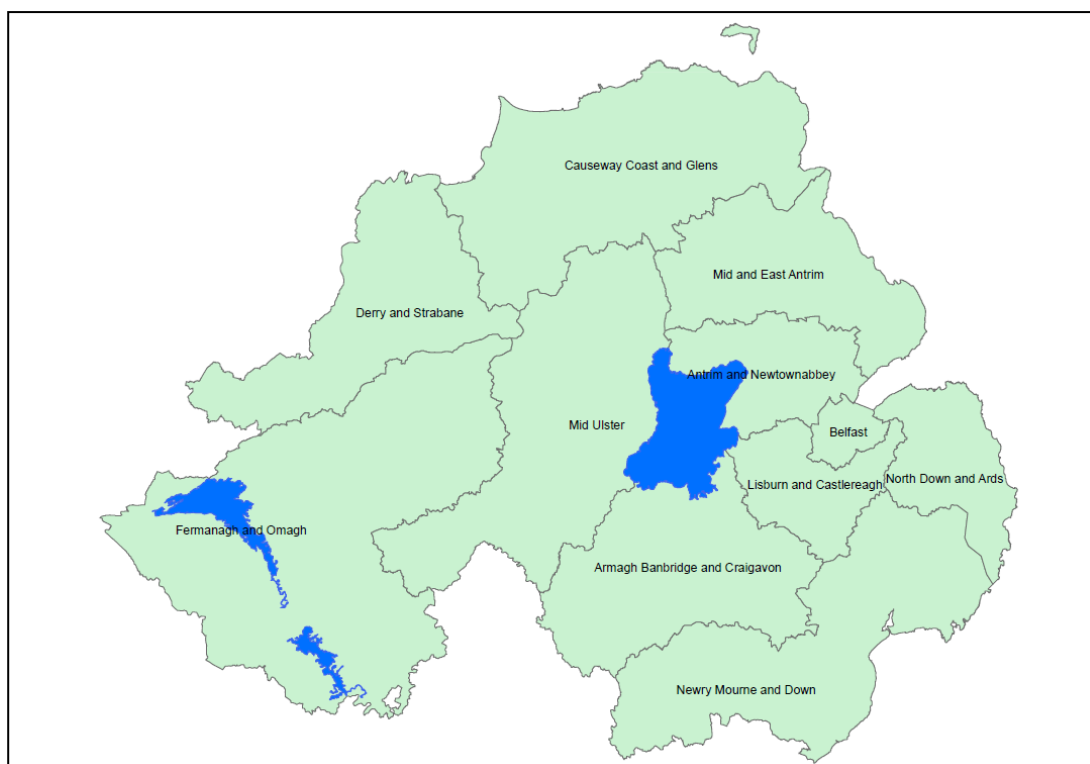


Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2021

	Number of farms					Ave hectare /farm
	0-9.9 ha	10-19.9 ha	20-29.9 ha	30+ ha	Total	
County						
Antrim ¹	1,171	916	657	1,851	4,595	38
Armagh	1,173	923	566	975	3,637	26
Down	1,571	1,174	725	1,703	5,173	32
Fermanagh	559	696	541	1,226	3,022	36
Londonderry	847	773	504	1,349	3,473	35
Tyrone	1,427	1,466	1,028	2,256	6,177	32
District Council						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	222	176	132	391	921	42
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,054	796	506	1,114	3,470	30
Belfast ¹	35	25	15	24	99	31
Causeway Coast and Glens	597	482	350	1,199	2,628	42
Derry City and Strabane	337	380	289	760	1,766	39
Fermanagh and Omagh	997	1,232	918	2,069	5,216	35
Lisburn and Castlereagh	252	187	129	339	907	37
Mid and East Antrim	497	398	268	684	1,847	34
Mid Ulster	1,214	1,076	696	1,407	4,393	29
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,335	1,061	634	1,046	4,076	25
Ards and North Down	208	135	84	327	754	41
Total	6,748	5,948	4,021	9,360	26,077	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 2021

	Number of farms				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
County					
Antrim ¹	3,323	601	256	415	4,595
Armagh	2,956	322	139	220	3,637
Down	4,069	509	199	396	5,173
Fermanagh	2,560	270	110	82	3,022
Londonderry	2,693	385	175	220	3,473
Tyrone	4,853	660	298	366	6,177
District Council					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	667	112	58	84	921
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,656	366	163	285	3,470
Belfast ¹	88	5	*	*	99
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,860	354	142	272	2,628
Derry City and Strabane	1,322	225	94	125	1,766
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,335	489	204	188	5,216
Lisburn and Castlereagh	695	93	*	*	907
Mid and East Antrim	1,357	240	102	148	1,847
Mid Ulster	3,488	446	219	240	4,393
Newry, Mourne and Down	3,458	338	119	161	4,076
Ards and North Down	528	79	40	107	754
Total	20,454	2,747	1,177	1,699	26,077

*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 2021

	Cereal	General cropping	Horticulture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle/ Sheep LFA	Cattle/ Sheep lowland	Mixed	Others	Total
County											
Antrim ¹	*	240	27	32	168	535	2,533	933	105	*	4,595
Armagh	27	170	127	*	82	279	2,052	796	82	*	3,637
Down	138	321	38	43	59	506	1,966	1,931	171	0	5,173
Fermanagh	*	88	*	*	40	262	2,607	12	*	*	3,022
Londonderry	60	185	*	29	37	328	1,937	789	94	*	3,473
Tyrone	22	197	*	53	236	652	4,140	794	*	*	6,177
District Council											
Antrim and Newtownabbey	5	59	6	8	26	104	402	290	21	0	921
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	64	182	126	31	91	344	1,158	1,349	125	0	3,470
Belfast ¹	*	14	0	*	*	*	66	12	*	*	99
Causeway Coast and Glens	32	132	5	12	72	315	1,387	602	71	0	2,628
Derry City and Strabane	19	57	*	13	12	192	1,246	195	28	*	1,766
Fermanagh and Omagh	*	150	9	18	89	508	4,346	80	11	*	5,216
Lisburn and Castlereagh	20	87	17	9	20	*	239	383	*	0	907
Mid and East Antrim	*	70	11	12	73	212	1,160	273	34	*	1,847
Mid Ulster	35	193	18	48	195	417	2,432	968	87	0	4,393
Newry, Mourne and Down	41	185	*	24	39	251	2,732	709	75	*	4,076
Ards and North Down	45	72	13	*	*	119	67	394	33	0	754
Total	267	1,201	226	182	622	2,562	15,235	5,255	519	8	26,077

*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 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
County					
Antrim ¹	1,420	1,741	3,161	1,434	4,595
Armagh	660	1,814	2,474	1,163	3,637
Down	991	1,275	2,266	2,907	5,173
Fermanagh	2,860	147	3,007	15	3,022
Londonderry	1,347	867	2,214	1,259	3,473
Tyrone	2,748	2,279	5,027	1,150	6,177
District Council					
Antrim and Newtownabbey	150	367	517	404	921
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	312	1,174	1,486	1,984	3,470
Belfast ¹	59	18	77	22	99
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,002	634	1,636	992	2,628
Derry City and Strabane	1,020	408	1,428	338	1,766
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,240	854	5,094	122	5,216
Lisburn and Castlereagh	77	240	317	590	907
Mid and East Antrim	680	746	1,426	421	1,847
Mid Ulster	1,160	1,833	2,993	1,400	4,393
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,319	1,770	3,089	987	4,076
Ards and North Down	7	79	86	668	754
Total	10,026	8,123	18,149	7,928	26,077

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 2021 (hectares)

	Cereals	Pota- toes	Other farm crops*	Horticul- ture crops**	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land***	Total area farmed
County									
Antrim ¹	4,772	563	1,360	163	6,858	168,774	40,531	3,618	219,782
Armagh	2,941	118	1,189	1,621	5,869	89,246	2,384	1,731	99,229
Down	13,118	1,690	3,653	883	19,343	143,722	14,849	12,118	190,032
Fermanagh	32	5	248	5	289	107,807	11,440	2,688	122,224
Londonderry	7,226	889	1,858	30	10,003	112,563	33,307	2,636	158,510
Tyrone	2,417	203	1,397	81	4,099	196,157	38,762	6,847	245,865
District Council									
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,035	34	371	26	1,465	37,672	3,116	940	43,193
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	5,648	272	2,285	1,635	9,840	94,787	4,419	1,718	110,763
Belfast ¹	71	28	74	56	229	2,868	593	63	3,753
Causeway Coast and Glens	6,401	817	1,422	30	8,670	101,029	31,633	2,337	143,669
Derry City and Strabane	2,312	334	1,083	21	3,750	64,860	23,847	3,145	95,602
Fermanagh and Omagh	267	6	641	15	930	179,194	26,609	4,864	211,597
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,846	188	591	169	3,794	30,106	1,367	1,760	37,027
Mid and East Antrim	742	114	375	17	1,248	62,196	19,450	1,234	84,128
Mid Ulster	2,612	292	783	69	3,755	124,365	18,188	3,012	149,319
Newry, Mourne and Down	4,394	830	1,134	27	6,385	96,462	11,813	9,173	123,833
Ards and North Down	4,179	554	946	717	6,396	24,730	236	1,394	32,757
Total	30,507	3,469	9,705	2,782	46,462	818,269	141,272	29,639	1,035,641

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 2021

	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry
County								
Antrim ¹	70,995	47,531	337,518	280,086	594,297	3,975	55,921	7,129,912
Armagh	36,942	28,171	233,288	46,534	97,549	13,060	219,207	3,173,467
Down	71,781	41,148	338,544	177,596	363,074	5,881	81,961	2,255,498
Fermanagh	22,410	41,466	161,746	60,119	126,630	181	4,081	882,262
Londonderry	40,719	30,338	214,314	197,128	413,438	4,787	62,341	1,444,224
Tyrone	75,525	58,302	396,581	206,837	439,798	16,770	293,287	9,577,439
District Council								
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15,286	12,641	80,636	37,469	84,003	1,233	17,106	916,296
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	47,857	24,047	251,901	56,555	119,135	13,738	231,124	3,732,751
Belfast ¹	415	963	3,907	2,319	4,496	0	1,591	16,012
Causeway Coast and Glens	43,619	22,755	193,897	196,597	411,771	1,773	23,489	3,095,160
Derry City and Strabane	27,125	14,819	114,039	135,745	287,037	2,908	40,102	405,661
Fermanagh and Omagh	48,640	62,918	290,482	132,241	280,559	3,447	51,799	2,159,822
Lisburn and Castlereagh	15,064	7,652	67,899	18,197	39,420	1,101	18,141	687,859
Mid and East Antrim	26,201	18,159	123,437	125,112	266,215	1,321	15,467	3,449,898
Mid Ulster	45,124	40,738	277,823	109,172	228,265	14,562	259,408	8,629,795
Newry, Mourne and Down	29,160	36,759	213,465	136,173	273,468	3,505	48,870	1,295,128
Ards and North Down	19,881	5,505	64,505	18,720	40,417	1,066	9,701	74,420
Total	318,372	246,956	1,681,991	968,300	2,034,786	44,654	716,798	24,462,802

*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 2021

	Farmers, partners, directors & spouses ¹		Other workers			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	
County						
Antrim ²	3,858	3,467	466	790	923	9,504
Armagh	2,565	2,840	647	516	937	7,505
Down	4,065	4,285	754	974	1,026	11,104
Fermanagh	2,324	2,227	145	332	393	5,421
Londonderry	2,685	2,709	305	589	675	6,963
Tyrone	4,797	4,545	585	817	954	11,698
District Council						
Antrim and Newtownabbey	757	730	167	187	184	2,025
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,691	2,717	663	592	1,039	7,702
Belfast ²	59	77	13	15	29	193
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,327	1,948	245	423	557	5,500
Derry City and Strabane	1,480	1,265	198	266	370	3,579
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,006	3,820	315	609	744	9,494
Lisburn and Castlereagh	727	762	153	201	203	2,046
Mid and East Antrim	1,524	1,388	136	346	344	3,738
Mid Ulster	3,215	3,413	384	625	637	8,274
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,841	3,341	434	566	594	7,776
Ards and North Down	667	612	194	188	207	1,868
Total	20,294	20,073	2,902	4,018	4,908	52,195

¹ From 2020 onwards spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors category.

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 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Farm Type						
Cereals	*	*	*	*	16.1	267
General cropping	264	370	634	567	52.8	1,201
Horticulture	13	70	83	143	36.7	226
Pigs	35	63	98	84	53.8	182
Poultry	174	236	410	212	65.9	622
Dairy	518	932	1,450	1,112	56.6	2,562
Cattle & Sheep	8,967	6,268	15,235	0	100.0	15,137
Mixed	0	0	0	5,255	0.0	5,255
Other type	45	145	190	329	36.6	519
	*	*	*	*	75.0	8
Farm business size						
Very small	8,477	6,362	14,839	5,615	72.5	20,454
Small	956	869	1,825	922	66.4	2,747
Medium	321	360	681	496	57.9	1,177
Large	272	532	804	895	47.3	1,699
Total	10,026	8,123	18,149	7,928	69.6	26,077

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	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Cereal Crops						
Oats	90	374	464	1,410	24.7	1,874
Wheat	165	1,041	1,206	6,528	15.6	7,734
Winter barley	187	989	1,175	6,769	14.8	7,944
Spring barley	456	2,015	2,471	10,428	19.2	12,898
Mixed corn	19	13	32	25	55.9	57
Total cereals	916	4,431	5,347	25,160	17.5	30,507
Other Crops						
Potatoes	245	619	865	2,603	24.9	3,468
Other crops**	1,190	1,781	2,970	6,734	30.6	9,705
Total other crops	1,435	2,400	3,835	9,338	29.1	13,172
Fruit, vegetables & flowers:						
Fruit	*	*	239	1,027	18.9	1,266
Vegetables	*	*	71	1,286	5.2	1,357
Ornamentals	18	37	55	104	34.5	159
Total fruit, veg & flowers	36	329	365	2,417	13.1	2,782
Total crops	2,386	7,160	9,547	36,915	20.5	46,461
Grass						
Grass < 5 years	41,306	40,420	81,726	56,047	59.3	137,772
Grass 5 years +	271,079	202,410	473,489	207,007	69.6	680,496
Total grass	312,385	242,830	555,215	263,054	67.9	818,269
Total crops and grass						
Rough grazing	127,051	8,633	135,683	5,589	96.0	141,272
Woods & plantations	5,789	4,619	10,409	8,353	55.5	18,761
Other land***	3,124	2,062	5,186	5,692	47.7	10,878
Total	450,735	265,304	716,039	319,603	69.1	1,035,642

*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 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Dairy cows Total	48,991	107,243	156,234	162,138	49.1	318,372
Other Dairy Female						
2 years old	6,583	13,831	20,414	19,939	50.6	40,353
1-2 years	12,814	32,374	45,188	50,761	47.1	95,949
Total	19,397	46,205	65,602	70,700	48.1	136,302
Beef cows Total	113,457	73,592	187,049	59,907	75.7	246,956
Other Dairy Female						
2 years old	21,876	22,407	44,283	22,883	65.9	67,166
1-2 years	47,067	52,729	99,796	57,399	63.5	157,195
Total	68,943	75,136	144,079	80,282	64.2	224,361
Breeding bulls						
2 years old and over	4,451	3,687	8,138	3,764	68.4	11,902
1-2 years	1,898	2,561	4,459	3,848	53.7	8,307
Total	6,349	6,248	12,597	7,612	62.3	20,209
Other Male						
2 years old and over	8,534	16,459	24,993	25,022	50.0	50,015
1-2 years	36,397	59,909	96,306	76,652	55.7	172,958
Total	44,931	76,368	121,299	101,674	54.4	222,973
6-12 months						
Male	24,126	32,439	56,565	36,364	60.9	92,929
Female	30,399	40,431	70,830	51,947	57.7	122,777
Total	54,525	72,870	127,395	88,311	59.1	215,706
Under 6 months						
Male	45,807	45,561	91,368	49,349	64.9	140,717
Female	47,443	50,280	97,723	58,672	62.5	156,395
Total	93,250	95,841	189,091	108,021	63.6	297,112
Total Cattle	449,843	553,503	1,003,346	678,645	59.7	1,681,991

Table 7.4 Numbers of sheep, horses & goats by LFA category, June 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Ewes						
Ewes which lambed	456,271	186,859	643,130	169,734	79.1	812,864
Others for breeding	96,939	31,347	128,286	27,150	82.5	155,436
Total	553,210	218,206	771,416	196,884	79.7	968,300
Other sheep						
Rams for service	15,370	6,720	22,090	6,015	78.6	28,105
Lambs 1 year old +	3,896	3,585	7,481	2,846	72.4	10,327
Lambs Under 1 year	567,279	243,806	811,085	216,969	78.9	1,028,054
Total Sheep	1,139,755	472,317	1,612,072	422,714	79.2	2,034,786

Table 7.5 Numbers of horses by LFA category, June 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	1,058	1,452	2,510	2,306	52.1	4,816
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	236	361	597	764	43.9	1,361
Total Horses & Ponies	1,294	1,813	3,107	3,070	50.3	6,177

Table 7.6 Numbers of goats by LFA category, June 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Total Goats	1,240	741	1,981	893	68.9	2,874

Table 7.7 Numbers of pigs by LFA category, June 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Female breeding herd						
Sows in pig	4,697	9,674	14,371	22,807	38.7	37,178
Gilts in pig	718	1,297	2,015	5,461	27	7,476
Other sows for breeding	551	1,643	2,194	3,238	40.4	5,432
Boars being used for service	67	137	204	472	30.2	676
Maiden gilts	723	1,049	1,772	5,836	23.3	7,608
Total breeding pigs	6,756	13,800	20,556	37,814	35.2	58,370
Other pigs						
Cull sows being fattened	81	142	223	427	34.3	650
Finishers	22,770	63,829	86,599	249,196	25.8	335,795
Weaners/Growers	27,785	53,703	81,488	127,456	39.0	208,944
Suckling piglets	12,220	25,636	37,856	75,081	33.5	112,937
Pet pigs	25	13	38	64	37.3	102
Total Other pigs	62,881	143,323	206,204	452,224	31.3	658,428
Total Pigs	69,637	157,123	226,760	490,038	31.6	716,798

Table 7.8 Numbers of poultry by LFA category, June 2021

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	1,466,302	1,536,808	3,003,110	1,310,113	69.6	4,313,223
Growing pullets	103,336	911,915	1,015,251	730,009	58.2	1,745,260
Breeding flock	765,917	695,248	1,461,165	629,056	69.9	2,090,221
Table birds						
Broilers	2,920,795	6,513,482	9,434,277	6,512,444	59.2	15,946,721
Other poultry	200,959	126,398	327,357	40,020	89.1	367,377
Total Poultry	5,457,309	9,783,851	15,241,160	9,221,642	62.3	24,462,802

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

	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	LFA % of total	Northern Ireland Total
Farmers, partners, directors & spouses*:						
Full-time	7,303	6,246	13,549	6,745	66.8	20,294
Part-time	7,749	6,186	13,935	6,138	69.4	20,073
Total	15,052	12,432	27,484	12,883	68.1	40,367
Other Paid workers:						
Full-time	587	821	1,408	1,494	48.5	2,902
Part-time	1,242	1,242	2,484	1,534	61.8	4,018
Casual/Seasonal	1,460	1,435	2,895	2,013	59.0	4,908
Total other workers	3,289	3,498	6,787	5,041	57.4	11,828
Total agricultural labour force	18,341	15,930	34,271	17,924	65.7	52,195

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

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 2021. The estimates for cereal yields were obtained from a post-harvest survey of 235 growers, whilst potato estimates were derived from a survey involving pre-harvest digs covering potato crops on approximately 70 farms.

- There was an increase in yield (tonnes per hectare) and overall production (tonnes) for winter barley, spring barley, wheat and oats in 2021.
- **Barley:** Total production of barley increased in 2021 to approximately 137,000 tonnes, an increase of 12 percent compared to 2020. Spring barley production rose by 9 percent to 77,000 tonnes while winter barley production rose by 17 percent to 60,000 tonnes. The overall area grown increased by 2 per cent from 2020 levels but most of the increase in production was due to higher yields for both winter (8 t/ha) and spring (6 t/ha) crops which increased by 15 and 6 per cent respectively from 2020.
- **Wheat:** The total area of wheat grown increased by 8 percent with production of wheat increasing to 64,000 tonnes, an increase of 37 percent from 2020. The majority of this increase can be attributed to the 27 per cent increase in yields since 2020.
- **Oats:** Oat yields increased to 6 tonnes per hectare in 2021 from 5 tonnes per hectare in 2020. The total area of oats planted stayed the same with an overall increase in production of 7 percent (11,000 tonnes).
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of main crop ware and seed potatoes is 118,000 tonnes, a decrease of 9 per cent from 2020. In 2021, the area planted decreased by 7 per cent to 3,468 hectares and yields fell by 3 per cent to 34 tonnes per hectare.

Table 8.1 Estimates of Crop Yields (Tonnes per Hectare)

	2020	2021		% Change 2020/21	2021 confidence limits (95%)
Cereals¹:					
Barley - Spring	6	6	(6.09)	6	+/- 0.20
- Winter	7	8	(7.67)	15	+/- 0.31
All Barley	6	7		10	
Wheat	6	8	(8.63)	27	+/- 0.46
Oats	5	6	(5.98)	7	+/- 0.46
Potatoes:					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	36	34		-3	+/- 2.56

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)

	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2019/20	% Change 2020/21	2021 confidence limits (95%)
Cereals:						
Barley - Spring	65	71	77	9	9	+/- 2.5
- Winter	62	51	60	-18	17	+/- 2.5
All Barley	127	122	137	-4	12	
Wheat	61	46	64	-24	37	+/- 3.5
Oats	11	10	11	8	7	+/- 0.9
Potatoes:						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ¹	129	130	118	0	-9	N/A

¹ Maincrop yield only

Table 8.3 Area Grown (hectares)

	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2019/20	% Change 2020/21
Cereals:					
Barley - Spring	11,948	12,564	12,898	5	3
- Winter	7,739	7,772	7,944	0	2
All Barley	19,687	20,336	20,843	3	2
Wheat	8,104	7,132	7,734	-12	8
Oats	1,868	1,879	1,874	1	0
Potatoes:					
Maincrop ware & seed	3,777	3,715	3,468	-2	-7

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 16,378 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
**Agriculture, Environment
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