

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

Results for June 2022



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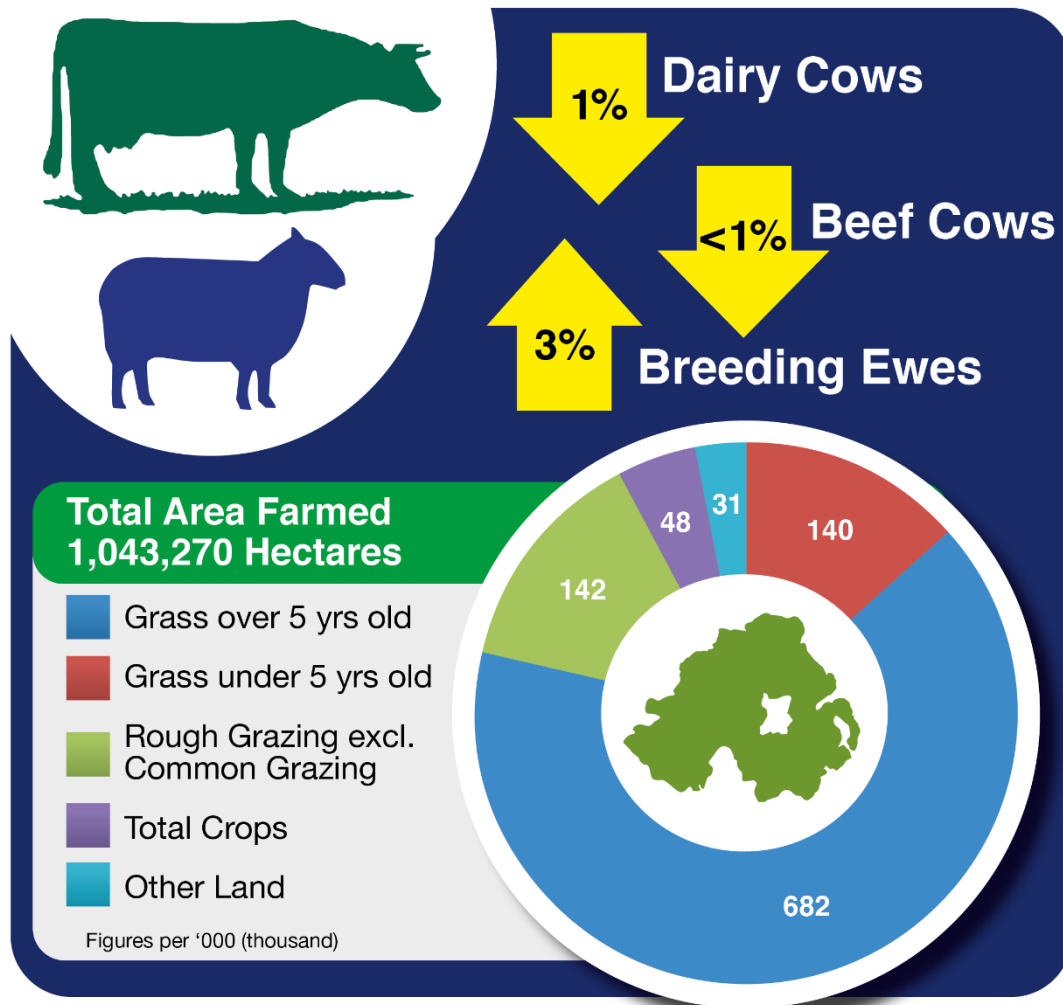
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Policy, Economics and Statistics Division

THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS
IN
NORTHERN IRELAND
RESULTS FOR JUNE 2022

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

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

Results of the NI Agricultural Census, June 2022



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THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND – RESULTS FOR JUNE 2022

Key Points

The main changes between June 2021 and June 2022 are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

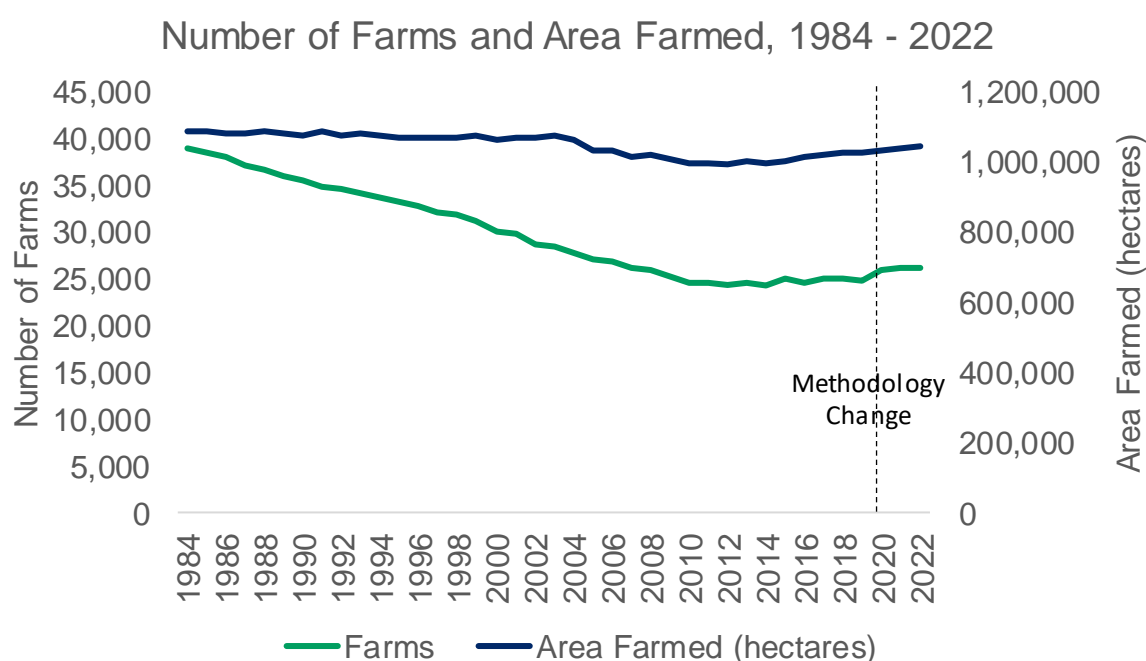
Table 1.1 Number of farms Northern Ireland 2018-2022

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

2 Executive Summary

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

Figure 2.1 Number of farms and area farmed, Northern Ireland, 1984-2022¹



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

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

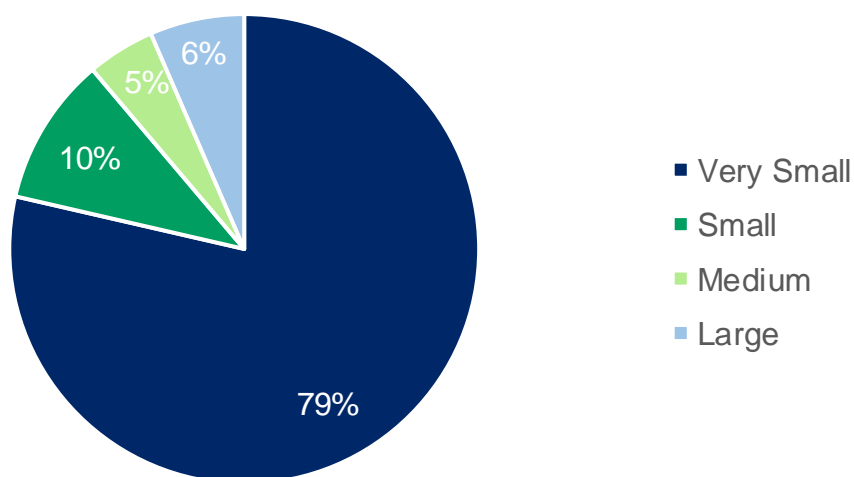
¹ Pre-1997 figures are estimates (based on combining overlapping series)

Table 2.1: Agricultural Land Area Northern Ireland 2017-2022

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

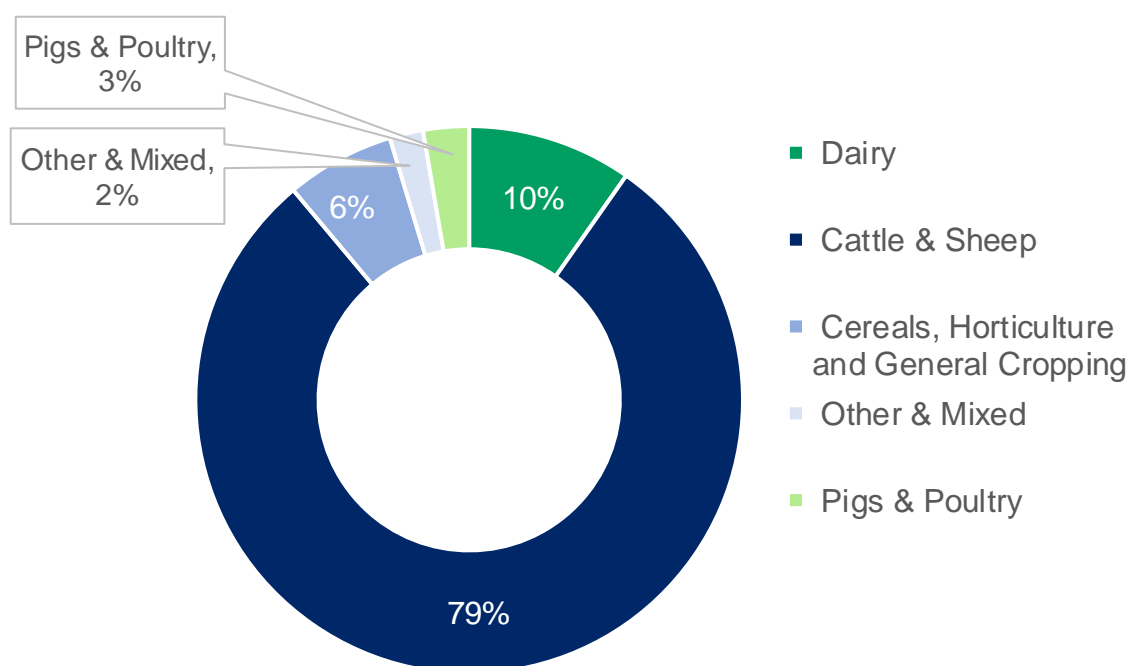
Farm Structure: Over three quarters of farms in Northern Ireland are very small (20,506 in 2022).

Figure 2.2 Farm Size, 2022



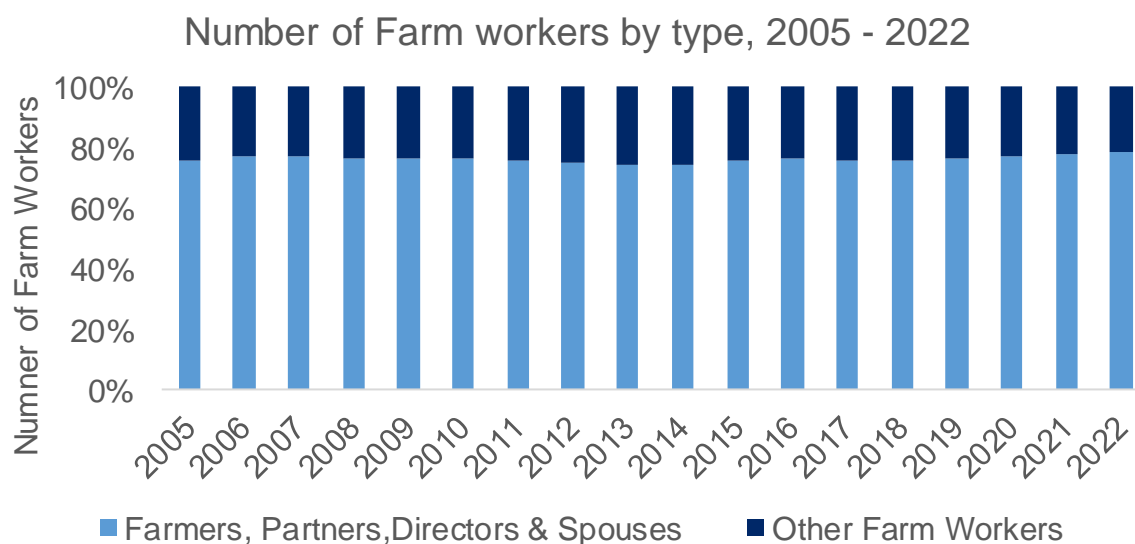
The predominant activity on Northern Ireland farms is cattle & sheep. 79 per cent of farms in Northern Ireland have some cattle, 38 per cent have some sheep, 3 per cent have some poultry and 2 per cent have some pigs. This is identical to the results in 2021 and 2020.

Figure 2.3 Number of farms by farm type, 2022



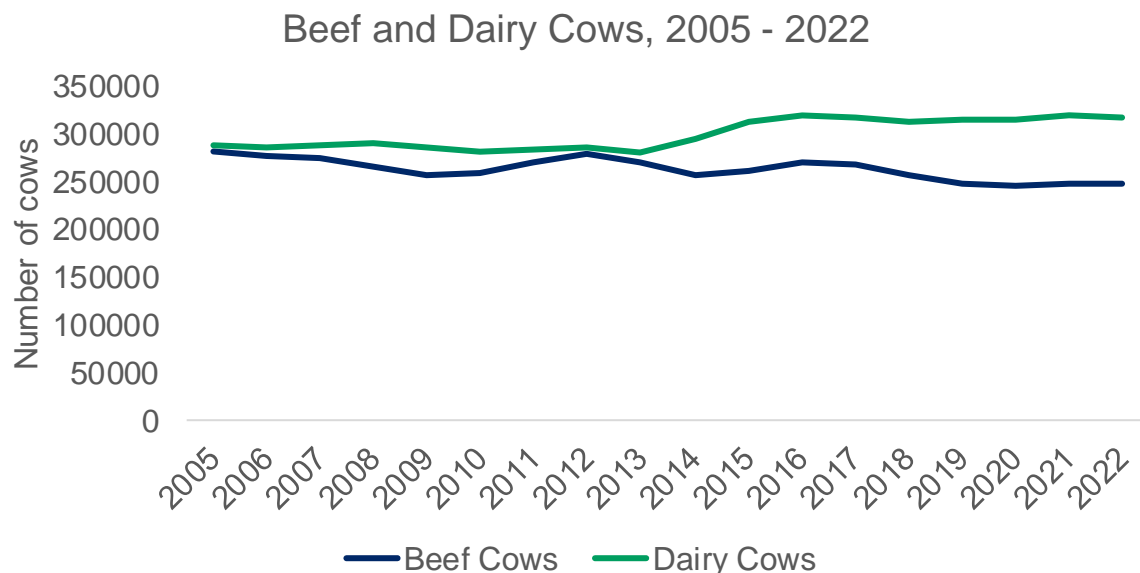
Farmers and workers: The total number of farm workers decreased by 1 per cent to 51,760 in 2022 from 52,195 in 2021. Figure 2.4 shows the breakdown of total farm workers between farmers, directors, partners or spouses (78 per cent) and all other farm workers (22 per cent) has remained relatively stable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

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



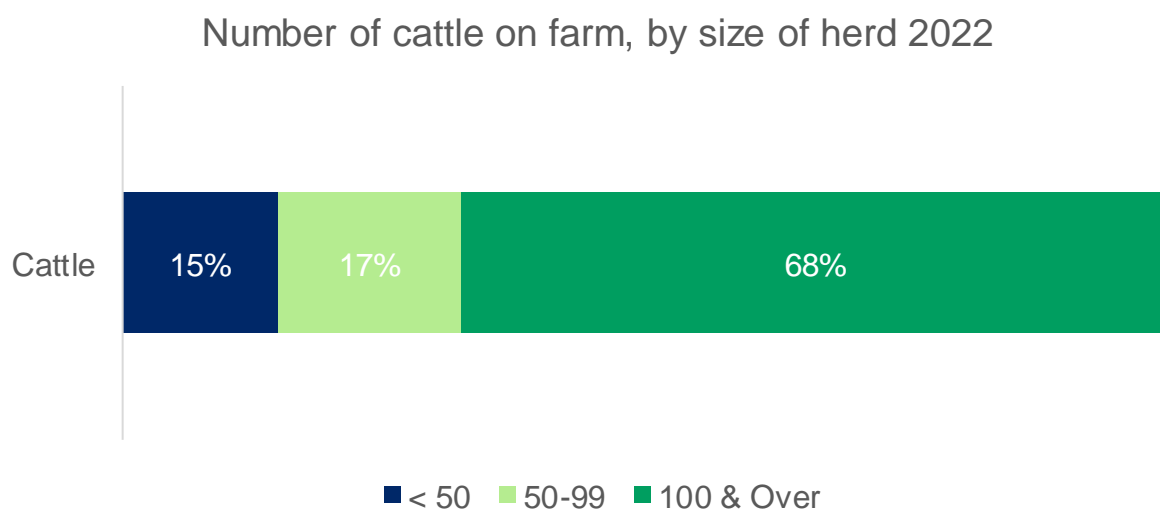
Cattle: Total cattle numbers have increased by less than 1 per cent to 1,686,999 between 2021 and 2022. The number of beef cows decreased by less than 1 per cent to 246,240 and the number of dairy cows decreased by less than 1 per cent to 316,775.

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



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

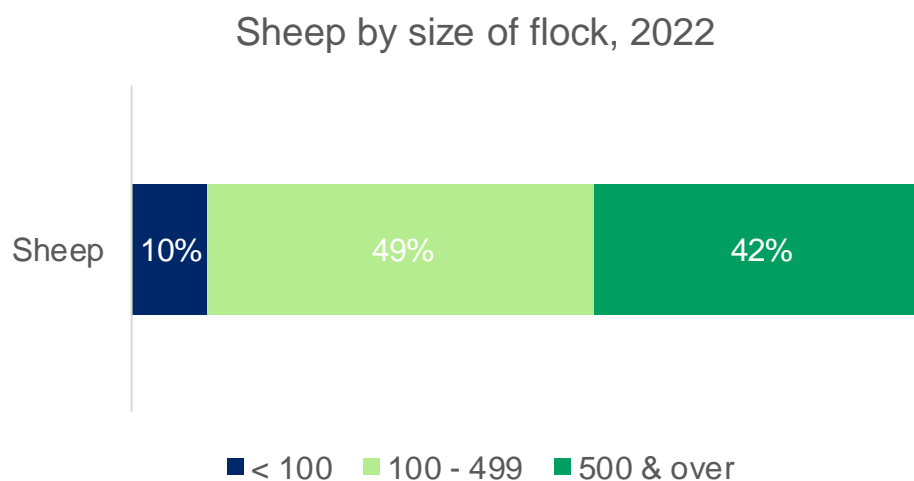
Figure 2.6 Number of cattle on farm by size of herd, 2022



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

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

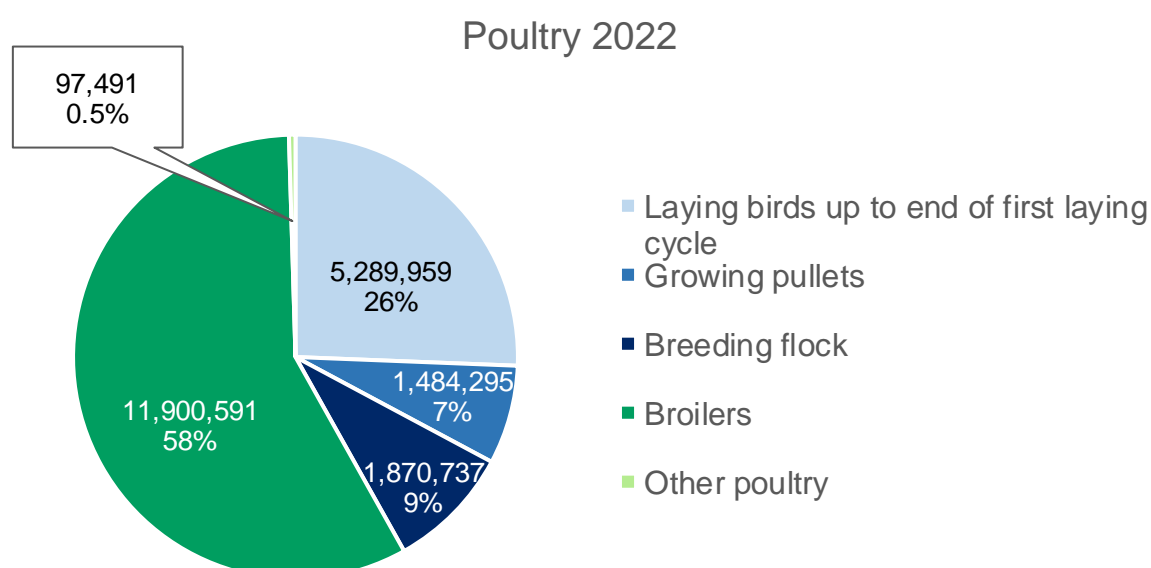
Figure 2.7 Number of sheep on farm by size of flock, 2022²



² Please note percentages provided do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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

Figure 2.8 Number of Poultry, 2022³

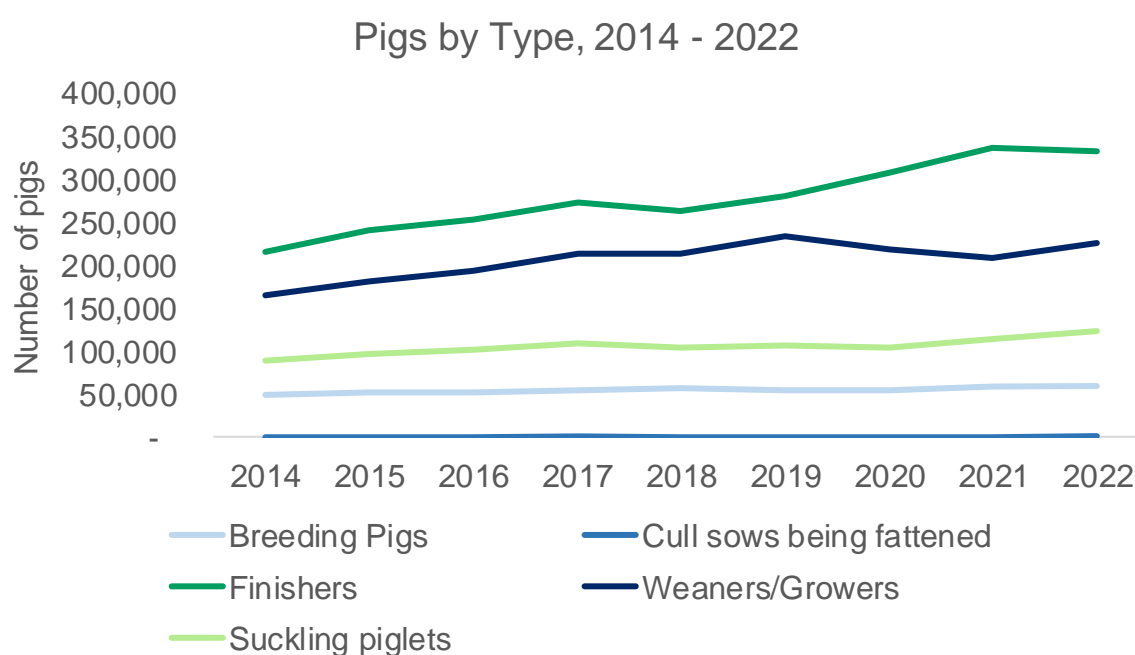


³ Please note percentages provided do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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

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

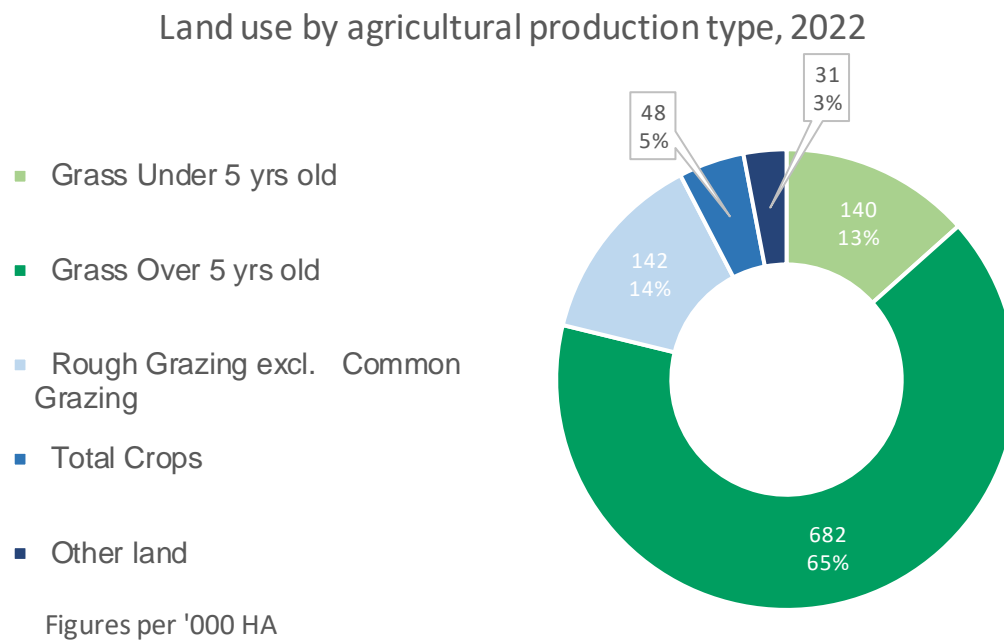
Figure 2.9 Type of Pigs, 2014 – 2022



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

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

Figure 2.10 Land use by agricultural production type, 2022



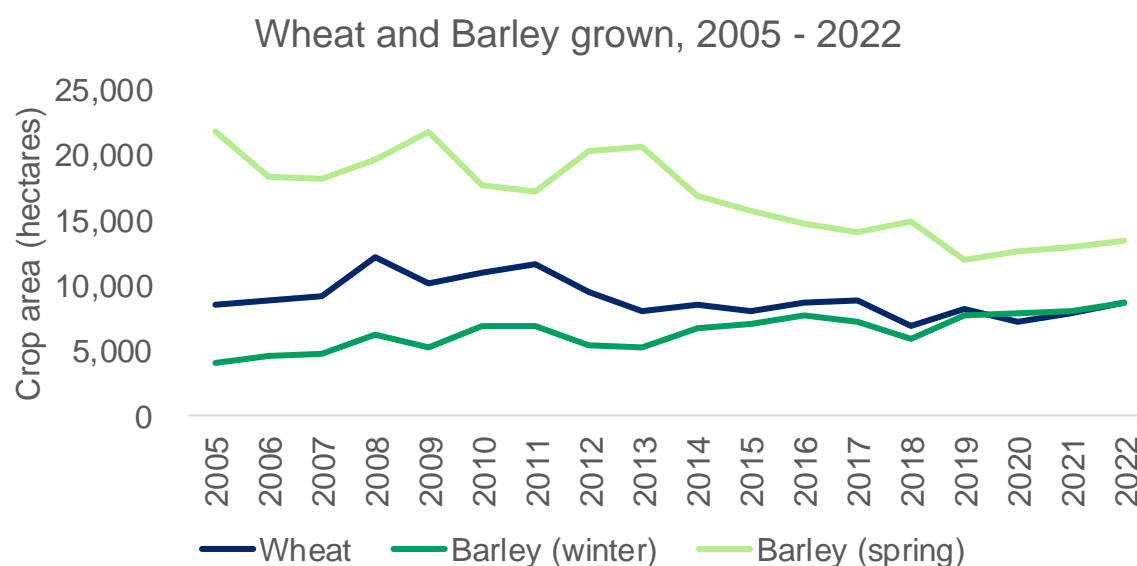
Cereals: The total area of cereals grown in 2022 increased by 7 per cent from 2021 to 32,681 hectares with wheat, winter and spring barley, oat and mixed corn crops all increasing over the same period.

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

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

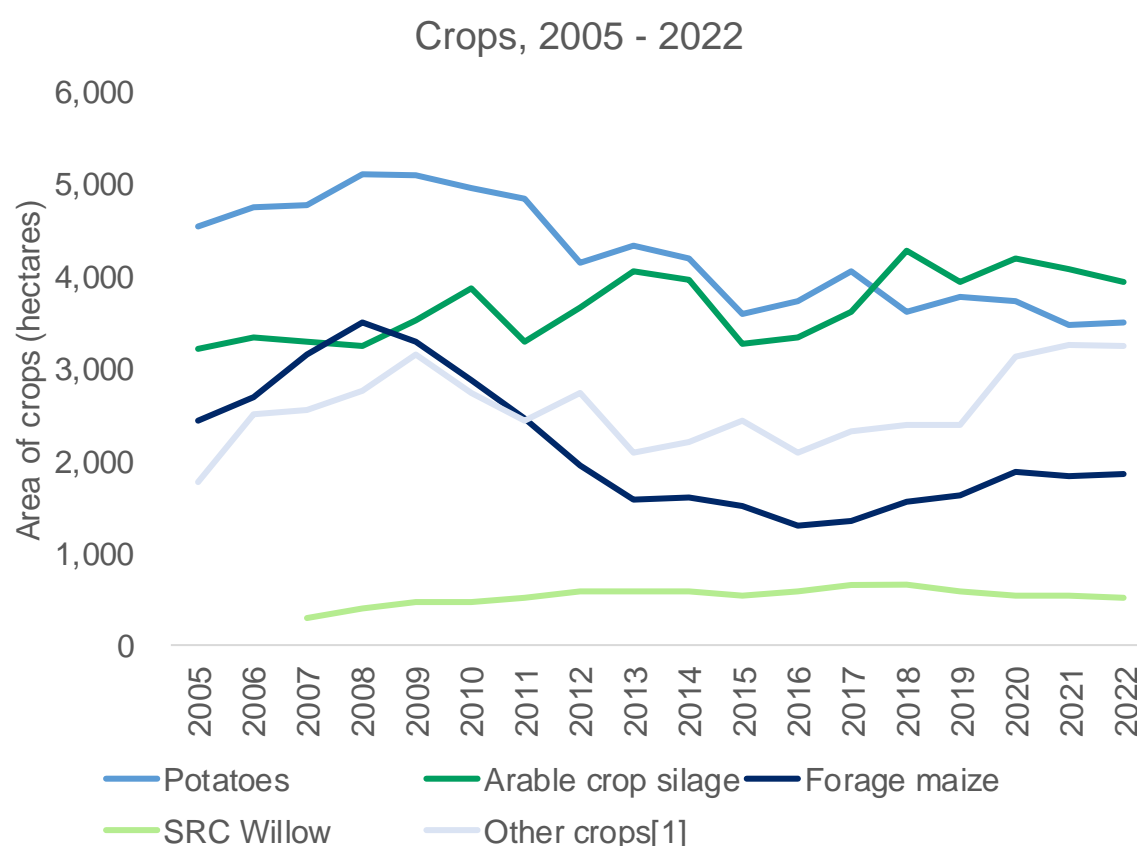
Oat crops increased by 5 per cent from 2021, at 1,973 hectares. Area of mixed corn remains relatively small in 2022 but has more than doubled in size to 126 hectares compared to 57 hectares in June 2021.

Figure 2.11 Wheat and Barley grown, 2005 – 2022



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

Figure 2.12 Area of other field crops, 2005 – 2022⁴



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

⁴ Figures for willow crops are only available from 2007 onwards.

3 Northern Ireland Totals

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

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

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

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

⁶ Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2018-2022⁷

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

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

Table 3.3 Sheep in Northern Ireland 2018-2022⁸

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

Table 3.4 Horses and Ponies in Northern Ireland 2018-2022

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

Table 3.5 Goats in Northern Ireland 2018-2022

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

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

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

Table 3.6 Pigs in Northern Ireland 2018-2022¹⁰

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

Table 3.7 Poultry in Northern Ireland 2018-2022¹³

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

¹⁰ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and the farm census.¹¹ Data not collected in 2020¹² Prior to 2020 pet pig responses were included with Finishers.¹³ Data derived from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update and the farm Census.

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

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

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

4 Farm Structure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Farm Business Size				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Farmers, Partners, Directors & Spouses¹⁵:					
Full-time	11,927	3,076	1,726	3,011	19,740
Part-time	17,466	1,686	652	847	20,651
Total	29,393	4,762	2,378	3,858	40,391
Other workers:					
Full-time	512	245	245	1,694	2,696
Part-time	2,204	577	365	807	3,953
Casual/Seasonal	2,359	707	429	1,225	4,720
Total other workers	5,075	1,529	1,039	3,726	11,369
Total agricultural labour force	34,468	6,291	3,417	7,584	51,760

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

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

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

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 2022

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

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

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

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

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

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁷ From 2020 includes farms with less than 250 birds

6 County & District Council Area

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

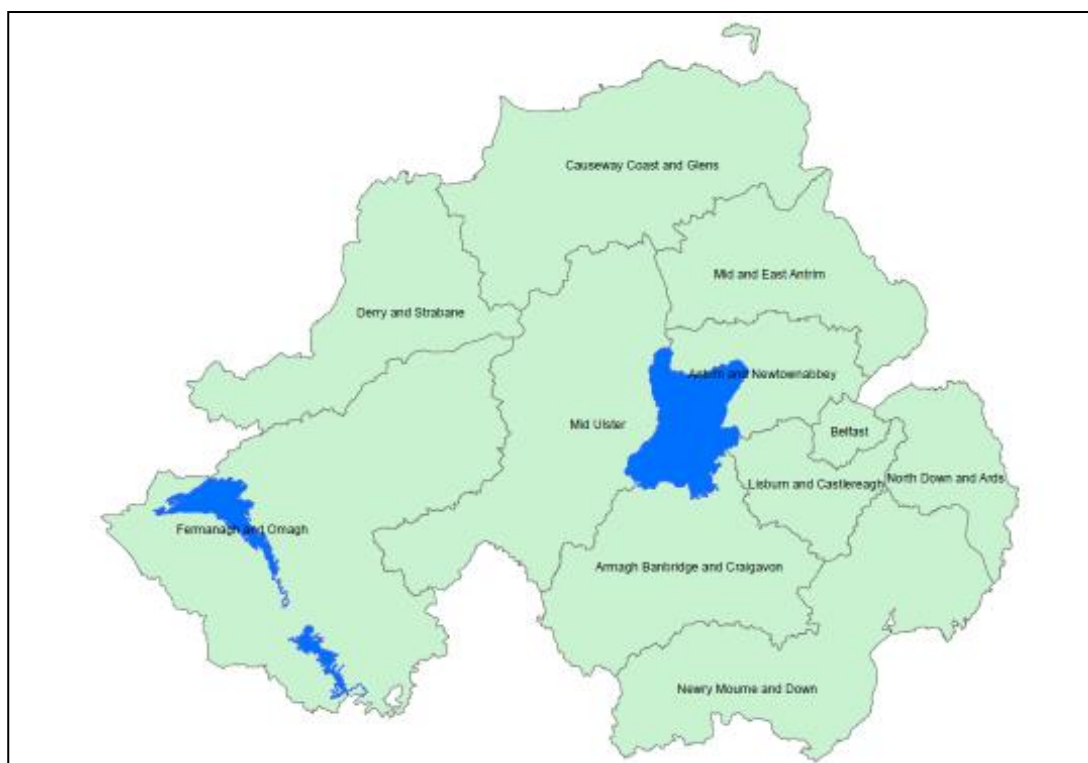


Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by County & District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2022

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

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

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

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

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

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

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

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

*Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

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

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

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

²¹ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

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

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

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

* 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 Less Favoured Area

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

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

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

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

²⁷ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

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

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

*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.

²⁸ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

Table 7.3 Numbers of cattle by LFA category, June 2022

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

²⁹ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

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

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

Table 7.5 Numbers of horses by LFA category, June 2022

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

³⁰ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

Table 7.6 Numbers of goats by LFA category, June 2022

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

Table 7.7 Numbers of pigs by LFA category, June 2022

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

³¹ Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

Table 7.8 Numbers of poultry by LFA category, June 2022

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

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

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

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

³² Mainly LFA farms are made up of those designated Mainly SDA and Mainly DA

8 Crop Yields and Production

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

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

Table 8.1 Estimates of Crop Yields (Tonnes per Hectare)

	2021	2022		% Change 2021/22	2022 confidence limits (95%)
Cereals³³:					
Barley - Spring	6	6	(5.95)	-2	+/- 0.20
- Winter	8	7	(7.05)	-7	+/- 0.26
All Barley	7	6		-4	
Wheat	8	8	(8.27)	-5	+/- 0.23
Oats	6	6	(6.29)	7	+/- 1.04
Potatoes:					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ³⁴	34	40		17	+/- 3.91

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

³⁴ Marketable yield includes crop over 45 mm for ware crops and over 28mm for seed.

Table 8.2 Estimates of Crop Production ('000 Tonnes)

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

³⁵ Maincrop yield only

Table 8.3 Area Grown (hectares)

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

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.
 - Data for the cattle section was extracted from the APHIS cattle tracing database as in previous years.
 - Telephone support was provided for farmers who could not complete online and a focussed telephone follow-up of non-responding farms was carried out.
 - New estimation and imputation methods were used to create statistics for those who did not provide a return.
3. Full details on the methodology, coverage of the census and terms are available in the Agricultural Census Methodology and Quality report which can be found: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland>
4. Results are based on 17,223 completed questionnaires augmented with data from the APHIS cattle tracing system, Northern Ireland Bird Register and Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.
5. These statistics are released according to the Statement of Compliance with the Pre-release access to Official Statistics Order (NI) 2009.

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

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Room 546
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Policy, Economics and Statistics Division of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,
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BT4 3SB
Email: farmsurvey.ped@daera-ni.gov.uk
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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/>

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