

# **FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2007**

## **METHODOLOGICAL REPORT**

MEMBER STATE:  
NORTHERN IRELAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

## **Farm Structure Survey 2007 METHODOLOGICAL REPORT - NORTHERN IRELAND (UNITED KINGDOM)**

### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was responsible for collating FSS 2007 data from each of the four countries of the United Kingdom and submitting to Eurostat. The Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland is responsible for the collection of agricultural statistics for that country.

The register used in the conduct of DARD farm surveys contains all farm businesses who have contact with the Department, either in an administrative role (application for grants or subsidies) or in a statistical role (response to a statistical survey). The register is maintained by IACS administration and is updated on regular basis. The population for statistical purposes is established each year when a download of currently active businesses is obtained from the register.

All active farms in Northern Ireland (26,146) were eligible for surveying for the 2007 Structure Survey. The work was carried out in the following two postal surveys in addition to using administrative sources:

- Data on crop areas and livestock numbers were collected relating to the situation on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007.
- Other data were collected in a special additional survey carried out in March 2007.

Since the June questions were the same as in previous years no pilot exercise was required. The labour questions were largely the same as in previous surveys though with more detail, and were developed and checked in conjunction with a team of data users and were further tested by a number of Department staff who have close farming connections.

The response rate for the June survey was 69.8% and for the March survey 70.0%. For businesses which had made a return to earlier June surveys but which failed to respond in June 2007, estimates were provided, based on the previous year's return updated by trends reported by farms which did respond. For new businesses which failed to respond, estimates were made from administrative sources, covering the most significant crops and livestock. A different approach was used to deal with non-response to the March survey. The data were handled in a similar way as in a sample survey, with raising factors, based on farm type, size and location, added to the responses.

For the June survey data entry was carried out by a commercial company, Fujitsu, with double entry keying. Data from the March survey were captured by DARD statistical staff using a scanner. All data validation was carried out by staff of Farm Surveys Branch of DARD.

Preliminary results of the June survey were published on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and final results on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Work on validating the March data was spread over two periods, one before the June survey and the other after that had been completed,

The main strength of the Northern Ireland system was the link with administrative systems which provided an accurate and up to date register and which provided an important means of validating returns. Almost 95% of NI farms make IACS returns.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 History, scope**

#### History

The series of crop and livestock surveys for the island of Ireland which extends over 150 years is one of the oldest in the world. The first survey was carried out in 1847. Annual surveys of crop areas and livestock numbers have been carried out in Northern Ireland in each year since its inception in 1921. These, along with data from special surveys to complete the requirements, have contributed data to Farm Structure Surveys since 1975.

#### Scope

The surveys were addressed to all businesses which, at the time of preparing the mailing list, were believed to be active. All businesses which received grants or subsidies in relation to crops or livestock were included along with any others which were active in the previous statistical survey or which had contact with DARD indicating active participation in an agricultural or horticultural enterprise. Returns from inactive businesses were subsequently excluded from the database. (Current average annual turnover in businesses is estimated as 7% closing and 5% new, with a net reduction of 2% per year, however the vast majority of these changes are generational shifts rather than completely new entrants).

### **1.2 Legislation**

#### National farm survey legislation

The Agricultural Statistics (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 authorises DARD to demand response to a specific list of questions which encompasses those which were asked in the June survey. This legislation was used in the conduct of the June 2007 survey but, while DARD has the power to do so, it was not politically or practically appropriate to prosecute for non-response.

#### Relevance to FSS

The Order requires occupiers of agricultural land or the owners of livestock to furnish to DARD, at any time or times in any year, such returns as may be prescribed in relation to a list of topics such as crop areas and livestock numbers. It is not specific to any one survey.

#### Protection of respondents

The Order restricts the ways in which individual records may be used and/or disclosed. This guarantee is reinforced by the Northern Ireland Code of Practice on Confidentiality which is adhered to by all Government statisticians in Northern Ireland. Along with the Data Protection Act 1998, this Code extends the guarantee of confidentiality to respondents to voluntary surveys such as that undertaken in March 2007 for the FSS.

#### Legislation on survey costs

There is no specific legislation related to the cost of the FSS in Northern Ireland. The cost was met from the Department's annual budget. The collection of agricultural statistics contributes to one of the Departmental objectives, namely:

*"To promote sustainable development of the agri-food industry and the countryside and stimulate the economic and social revitalisation of disadvantaged rural areas."*

#### Northern Ireland's obligations to the UK

Following the devolution of powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, DARD's obligations to provide statistical data to enable DEFRA to meet UK obligations to the EU were embodied in a Concordat relating to the provision of statistical information.

### **1.3 Main changes in the 1990s**

The main change in the 1990s involved (a) an improvement to the register and (b) the advent of IACS and the subsequent access to administrative data leading to improved data quality.

#### The register

Prior to 1997 the register used in the conduct of farm surveys was specific to that task and was based on land ownership. It was updated by means of returns from annual surveys. It was divided into "mains" holdings (above 6 ha) and "minor" holdings, the former being surveyed each year and the latter every third year. The occupiers of one third of all holdings took no active part in farming, all the land being let out on a short term basis. Holdings in this category were included in the FSS up to and including 1990, though in that year records from such farms were subsequently excluded from the FSS file.

Since 1997 the register has been shared with IACS and other administrative sections of DARD and updated on an on-going basis. IACS checks ensure that, for the majority of those covered by the surveys, there is no duplication which had been a problem under the old system.

A break in statistical series occurred when the new register was introduced in 1997. The 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1997 Surveys were on the old basis and the Surveys since then, on the new.

#### IACS and administrative data

Almost 95% of farms in Northern Ireland grow cereal crops or have cattle or sheep and are, therefore, included in the IACS system. This benefits the operation of the FSS first by facilitating the identification of all such businesses and second by providing basic data which can be used to verify returns. For example if a farm has received a subsidy in respect of ewes but omits sheep from his census return, a query will be made. Other administrative sources have also been used to improve data quality by flagging up which enterprises should be recorded in statistical returns for

specific farms. These sources include animal health registers and also reports by farm hygiene inspectors and farm and horticulture advisors.

## **2 CONTENT**

### **2.1 Characteristics**

For the most part information was collected in Northern Ireland and provided to Eurostat according to the accepted exclusions listed in Commission Decision 98/377/EC amending Annex 1 to Council Regulation 571/88/EC.

There were a number of exceptions where items, though existing in the UK, were non-existent in Northern Ireland. In such cases, most notably D11 (sugar beet) and G04 (vineyards), zero was recorded.

The UK was not authorised in 98/377/EC to collect information on Section M from a sample survey and all farms were asked to provide data on this. However non-response proved a problem and no acceptable method of imputing estimates for this could be found. To ensure good quality of data on this topic, raising factors were attached to data on this section (the same raising factors as for Section L).

From its register DARD identified<sup>1</sup> very few “group holdings” and information on this was not sought for Northern Ireland.

### **2.2 Questionnaires**

Two separate questionnaires were used --- one for crops and livestock (June) and the other for all other FSS items (March).

Both included questions not required for the FSS. The June form included a section on the numbers of farmers and workers<sup>2</sup> working on farms on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The March form sought information on the tasks for which agricultural contractors were employed (relating to the period March 2006 – March 2007). It also collected information on the ages of family and non-family regular workers and the other gainful activities of farmers’ spouses whether they worked on the farm or not.

Copies of the questionnaires and associated notes for guidance are attached.

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<sup>1</sup> The DARD business register includes background information on the composition of the ownership of each IACS business.

<sup>2</sup> The FSS labour definition do not satisfy the needs of other users of statistics on the agricultural labour force in Northern Ireland.

### 3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Survey organisation

The FSS in Northern Ireland was under the management of a Principal Agricultural Economist with one Deputy Principal Statistician and 6 administrative staff who organised and carried out all the work with the exception of printing and mailing forms and data entry for the June questionnaire.

The work of the team was monitored by the Farm Census Development Group that considered and recommended any changes from earlier surveys. This group comprised a number of key users of the data.

#### 3.2 Work process

Planning dates for the 2007 FSS can be seen in the table below:

##### March survey<sup>3</sup>

November 2006	First draft of the March questionnaire prepared
December 2006	Options discussed by the Farm Census Development Group
December 2006	Plans discussed at UK level to ensure co-ordination
January 2007	Farmers' associations informed of planned surveys in 2007
January 2007	Contracts for printing and addressing forms agreed
February 2007	Staff instructions prepared
February 2007	Validation programmes prepared
February 2007	Press Release about the survey issued
February 2007	Forms posted
March 2007	Reminder posted to non-respondents
May 2007	Validation process halted <sup>3</sup>
September 2007	Validation recommenced
October 2007	Clean file completed
April 2008	Results published

<sup>3</sup> Work on validating and checking the data from the March survey began in May 2007, then interrupted by the June survey and a further survey carried out in December, before being restarted in September 2007.



## June survey

The organisation of the June survey continues on an annual cycle but key dates in running the survey included the following.

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May 2007	Press Release issued
May 2007	Forms posted
June 2007	First reminder issued
July 2007	Second reminder sent
August 2007	Third reminder sent
August 2007	Preliminary results published
October 2007	Files closed
November 2007	Final results published
January 2008	Detailed analyses published

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### 3.3 Preparing the survey operations

#### 3.3.1 Population and frame

The population for the additional survey questions was based on the 2006 June Agricultural survey. There were 26,739 active farms recorded for that year according to EU definition 571/88.

##### Definition of a farm business

The definition of a farm business used in Northern Ireland<sup>4</sup> is:

*“a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products”*

Within that framework a threshold is applied so that the population surveyed includes:

*“all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre<sup>5</sup>, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity”.*

##### The Register

The IACS administrative system maintains a register of all DARD “clients”. Each person or company is allocated a client reference and each client is associated with a specific business, in accordance with the rules operated by the IACS controls. To this register have been added other clients and businesses, such as pig, poultry, horticulture or potato specialists, who have not made an IACS return but which are included on other DARD administrative registers, e.g. customers of the DARD Advisory Service. The

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<sup>4</sup> This differs from that used in the other UK countries.

<sup>5</sup> Conacre is the system of annual lets which involves 30% of agricultural land in Northern Ireland.

register also includes other businesses which Farm Census Branch have identified from external sources.

The register for each client includes

- name
- address
- telephone number
- a reference for the business with which he/she is associated. This business reference incorporates a grid reference of the main farm buildings.

Behind the register screen for each client the history of the associated business is held, including a report on its acceptance as a separate business and a note about which other clients are included in the business.

For each business a principal “client” is identified and a Survey Reference Number<sup>6</sup> attached to that client name.

The register does not hold statistical data about each business. A separate data file is held for each survey in SPSS for Windows. Files can be merged as required.

#### Identification of the survey population from the Register

Around one month before each survey, the population of possibly active farms is downloaded from the register. This is defined as any which

- received a grant or subsidy for crops or livestock within the previous 15 months; or
- were flagged as “survey active” after the previous annual June survey; or
- were identified from other sources in the course of the previous year and which were flagged accordingly (see next section).

#### Steps to improve the Survey Register

Each year, lists of agricultural producers are received from other sources such as mushroom growers from crop advisors or poultry producers from quality assurance personnel, not normally covered by IACS. These lists are compared to the previous years register to identify any new producers so that they will be included in the next survey. A check is made to ensure that the activity which is flagged is recorded in the subsequent return. Checks are also made to ensure no holding is duplicated within the sampling population.

### **3.3.2 Survey design**

The March and June surveys were conducted as sample surveys in which 21,911 farms were surveyed in June and 13,387 were surveyed in the March survey. For the June data, estimates were provided for non-respondents. However, because of lack of other information sources, no estimates were

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<sup>6</sup> It was found necessary to maintain Survey Reference numbers in addition to Business References to facilitate managing the dynamics of change of business identifications.

made for those who failed to respond to the March survey. In that case the data were treated as if they were derived from a sample survey, the sample consisting of those who responded.

#### Sampling/raising frame

Data from the March survey were raised in accordance with a 3 dimensional frame with 9 farm types by 3 business sizes by 4 NUTS3 areas. These were:

*Type of farm:* Cereals, General Cropping, Horticulture, Pigs & Poultry, Dairying, Cattle & Sheep: LFA, Cattle & Sheep: Lowland, Mixed, Other types.  
*Size of business:* Under 8 ESU, 8-<40 ESU, 40 ESU & over  
*NUTS3 area:* Belfast and Outer Belfast combined, East of NI, North of NI, West & South of NI.

Raising factors varied from 1.50 to 4.67 (excluding 1 record) with 87% of records having a raising factor of less than 4.00.

The sample frame for the questionnaires sent for the Labour information (March) included only those farms which were going to receive a June Survey form.

### **3.3.3 Pilot Survey**

The questions in the June 2007 survey were the same as those in previous June surveys so they were not tested through a pilot.

As changes to the basic Structure Survey questions were minimal – from the previous survey - a full pilot was not conducted in 2007 but the Department's 5 FADN data collectors were consulted as were a similar number of DARD personnel with close farming connections.

### **3.3.4 Informing and training staff and respondents**

#### Staff who investigated queries

For all surveys administrative staff whose job is to investigate and, if necessary, correct queried returns are provided with a detailed instruction manual which indicates the appropriate steps to be taken, i.e. where supporting evidence may be found in the IACS system and when a phone call to the farmer is necessary.

New staff are given individual training before beginning work on their first survey. DARD operates a comprehensive training programme. In addition to formal training delivered externally, manuals are provided for specific topics and staff units use these for more targeted training, e.g. good telephone techniques.

#### Respondents

Before the March survey a Press Release was issued, describing the role and coverage of the survey.

The June survey is regarded<sup>7</sup> as a routine part of the farming year and farmers do not have to be specially informed about it. However special posters giving notice of the survey are placed in strategic locations (markets, rural banks, local DARD offices) in May each year. E-mail reminders were also sent to those farmers who had registered their e-mail account with the Rural-NI farming portal.

### **3.4 Sampling, data collection and data entry**

#### **3.4.1 Drawing the sample**

All farms classified as small, medium and large / very large (using the SGM methodology) were included in the survey. An additional 50% of farms, classified as very small, were identified and surveyed. These farms are targeted on alternate years.

#### **3.4.2 Data collection**

##### Data collection methods

The data were collected by means of a postal survey.

Non-respondents who were believed to have pigs, poultry or potatoes were telephoned to obtain the maximum response.

DARD is committed to reducing the burden of form filling and all June surveys collect information on the time taken to complete the questionnaire time. The average in 2007 was 18 minutes. The time taken to collect the information of the specific Structure Survey was 14 minutes.

##### Data entry modes

The June data were captured using double entry keying system through a reputable professional company – using a heads down approach.

The March data were keyed in-house.

#### **3.4.3 Utilisation of administrative data sources**

Data was also obtained through administrative sources. Appendix 3 lists the variables associated with these. Each administrative unit used is based on the holding definitions used for any farm surveys. The coverage of data from administrative sources is complete, particularly those with financial links which are subject to stringent checks.

All of the data derived from administrative sources (with the exception of the ESA coverage) were matched using name and address as key identifiers. As the total numbers were small, each case was linked manually to eliminate errors.

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<sup>7</sup> As reported by one of the NI Farming Organisations.

### 3.4.4 Control of the data

#### June forms

An initial scrutiny of forms was made to ensure that they were legible before passing to the data entry process.

Data on the June forms were keyed twice into different files which were then compared to identify errors in data entry. The clean version was then returned to DARD for electronic validation. These were of 4 types:

**Sub-totals:** Sub-totals were included on the forms for land use and for each of the main livestock types.

**Maximum values:** For each item a maximum value was set, at a level below the absolute maximum expected.

**Credibility checks:** These identified unlikely scenarios, e.g. ewes but no lambs, sows but no piglets, large cereal areas but no setaside.

**Flag checks:** Before the survey a number of Yes/No flags were set against each Survey Reference number. Information to do this was derived from IACS and related information, from the previous survey return and from other sources during the preceding year. For example, if the business had received a sheep premium subsidy but no sheep were recorded on the form, this was rejected.

#### March forms

Forms which recorded a farm diversification activity (Section A) were scrutinised and checked to ensure that the particular type of activity was correctly identified (respondents were asked to give details of the activity as well as placing it in a category).

A series of validation programs were set up using the SPSS analytical package. These tested for logical errors and credibility checks. Second level checks applied when the information was converted from the format in which it was collected to that in which it was supplied to Eurostat. For example if the form indicated that the occupier was the manager, data for a separate manager were rejected. The third level checks were made when the Eurostat validation checks were run.

Missing data was investigated by administrative staff. Data credibility checks were scrutinised by administrative supervisors, under pre-set guidance instructions (e.g. maximum values).

### 3.4.5 Non response

Non-response was interpreted as questionnaires which are not returned at all. Partly completed ones were treated as queries and finalised by telephone contact with the farmer.

#### Actions taken

One reminder was issued for the March survey and three for the June. Further reminders were not issued for March to avoid compromising responses to the June survey. The first June reminder was a card, the second and third included duplicate forms with the third reminder form to very small farms (<3ESU) shortened to include only aggregated data. The third reminder also included a short note of common questions concerning the census, with answers which aimed to highlight its importance.

Non-respondents were not prosecuted because legal advice indicated that a successful prosecution would be unlikely and that the step would be likely to lower response to subsequent surveys rather than improve it.

The Department is continuing to make the census as easy for the data providers as possible. The following is a list of ongoing activities to assist with this aim.

- Query calls are kept to a minimum through reference to other data sources;
- In most years the coverage of the June survey has been reduced from a full census to a sample survey;
- A poster campaign was adopted to present a more friendly image;
- Survey results are made freely available to all on the DARD website;
- Help is freely available to farmers in completing the form.
- An on-line version is available to anyone wishing to complete the form through those means

#### Reasons for non-response

Non-co-operation with Government is a political reality in some areas. There was a strong regional variation in response rates, ranging, for the June survey, from 60% to 72% across the six counties.

### **3.5 Data processing, analysis and estimation**

#### **3.5.1 Methods for handling missing or incorrect data items**

##### June survey

Queries on forms which were returned for the June survey were dealt with:

- by reference to the relevant administrative file, i.e. cereals, fodder areas from IACS, cattle from subsidy claims and milk quota records, sheep from sheep subsidy claims;
- for other items the farmer was contacted by telephone.

A significant number of forms were returned indicating that the business was no longer active and that the land had been let. In such cases the administrative files were checked to ensure that no subsidy claims had been made.

Data were imputed for forms which were not returned for the June survey:

- since the same questions had been asked in each previous year, the most recent return was used as the basis for imputation;
- for items where significant<sup>8</sup> changes between 2005 and 2007 were recorded by those farms which did respond, the “brought forward” data for non-respondents were trended accordingly;
- for farms believed to have pigs, 1000 or more poultry or to grow potatoes, telephone enquiries were made;
- for new businesses for which no “brought forward” record was available, estimates were made on the basis of the information in the IACS and other administrative systems.

#### March survey

Most queries on forms which were returned for the March survey were dealt with through telephone enquiries. However, for a number of questions a “no” answer was assumed if there was no response given, e.g. Section A (farm diversification), use of contractors, irrigation, other employment (if aged 50+).

#### Both surveys

Only staff of Farm Census Branch of DARD are authorised to make changes. All changes are checked by a second, more senior, member of staff. All data are processed using SPSS analyses programs. These include a suite of credibility checks and maximum values tests.

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<sup>8</sup> For different items the level at which a change was significant varied. Also a subjective view was taken on whether changes were due to the number of farms including a particular crop or livestock type or whether due to an increase or decrease in enterprise size.

### **3.5.2 Estimation and sampling errors**

A previous interview survey conducted among 10% of farm households in Northern Ireland indicated a good match with the FSS on the time spent on farm work and the incidence of other gainful employment. An analysis of the response rate across the nine main robust farm types shows a 0.998 correlation between sample responses and the population total.

### **3.5.3 Non-sampling errors**

#### Coverage errors

Coverage errors are believed to be minimal for the cattle, sheep and cereal sectors. The other sectors are targeted in rotation when other sources of information are consulted.

The potato and horticultural sectors were targeted in 2007 and the registers updated where appropriate. A separate Horticultural survey provided additional information on the coverage of this type of enterprise

Coverage of the poultry sector is difficult because the questions refer to one specific date when a number of producers are likely to have no birds on their farm and to be disinfecting their premises. It is believed that a significant number of farms (1 or 2%) fatten turkeys specifically for the Christmas market and do not have any on their farms on the June census date. The number of farms with poultry at any time is believed to be around 10% short, but the number of birds recorded on the census date is believed to give a good measure of the position at that time.

#### Measurement errors

The main cause of measurement errors arises from the difficulty in estimating the ages of cattle and the weights of pigs and piglets. IACS requires farmers to have farm maps with the areas of each field marked on them and a percentage of areas are checked by IACS staff each year, so that errors in area estimation are thought to be small.

#### Processing errors

Scope for these is limited by the procedures and checks which are in place.



#### Non-response errors

The main source of error in the FSS 2007 for Northern Ireland resulted from non-response. The means of dealing with non-response is detailed in Section 3.5.1. For enterprises for which administrative data were available (cereals, beef cows, dairy cows, ewes) and for activities which were specially targeted (pigs, poultry, potatoes) the impact of non-response in the totals is believed to have been within +/- 3%. It is likely to have been higher for other items, particularly those found on only a few farms.

#### **3.5.4 Evaluation of estimates**

The annual June survey covers all farms greater than the very small classification and an alternating half of those classified as very small, giving 78% coverage. Validations on census returns are carried out using the IACS and APHIS system ensuring the coverage is as robust as possible. The 2007 comparison of estimated survey total and APHIS total indicated a difference of <0.5% between the two systems. Comparisons between only those returns received for 2006 and 2007 and finalised totals (including estimates and new businesses) are favourable with only a few percent variation. Greater variations are seen in marginal or volatile enterprises such as pigs and poultry.

#### 4 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

##### June survey

25th August 2007	Preliminary results (macro level) published through a Press Release and the DARD website
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2007	Final results (macro level) published through a Press Release and the DARD website
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Final results (micro level analyses by enterprise size and by geographical area) published in a booklet which was freely available in full on the DARD website.

##### March survey

April 2008	Final results (micro level analyses by enterprise size and size) published in a booklet which was freely available in full on the DARD website.
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Both the published booklets contain full descriptions of the methodology

Both publications are available free to download from the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

Access to individual data is not possible.

## 5 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER TASKS

Each year a review of the farm survey system is to be undertaken..

The main issues in the reviews are include:

- revised use of IACS data in light of SFP processes
- wider use of the cattle tracing system
- access to other administrative systems
- improving response
- targeting the non-IACS sectors
- The demand for more focused information
- The demand for information for equality proofing

### IACS data

With the introduction of the Single Farm Payment the change in the data collected via the IACS system will have to be taken into consideration when preparing the census forms.

### Cattle tracing system (APHIS)

The data extracted from the APHIS database is considered to be of excellent quality and suitable for use for statistical purposes.

### Other administrative systems

Wherever possible, all DARD administrative systems are being linked to the central DARD client register.

### Improving response

Major improvements to response rates are unlikely to be achieved over the next few years but steps can be taken to safeguard against further deterioration. These include giving publicity to the role played by good statistics in developing Government policies and continuing to ensure that no lapse in confidentiality occurs.

### Targeting the non-IACS sectors

Currently new means of sharing the information held and gathered by the horticultural advisory service are being explored. This has improved coverage of horticultural activities in 2007 and will be continued. Other sectors are targeted in rotation.

## REFERENCES

Most information on the statistics collected in the FSS 2007 in Northern Ireland can be found on the DARD website at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/econs/econ0033.htm> . This includes:

- Census 2007
- European Union Structure Survey 2007

Alternatively hard copies may be obtained from DARD of:

- The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for June 2007
- EU Farm Structure Survey 2007, Northern Ireland:

## CONTACTS

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Appendix 1 – Structure Survey

**Section D Contractors and Casual Labour**

Did you employ contractors to carry out any work relating to crop production, livestock production or hedge cutting (not building) during the past 12 months? Yes  No

If yes, please give the number of person-days worked by contractors and their staff (e.g. 3 workers for 2 days = 6 person-days)

For which activities were contractors employed?

Hay/silage making <input type="checkbox"/>	Milking <input type="checkbox"/>
Crop harvesting <input type="checkbox"/>	Sheep shearing <input type="checkbox"/>
Spreading slurry/manure/fertilisers/lime <input type="checkbox"/>	Other livestock work <input type="checkbox"/>
Other field work <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge cutting <input type="checkbox"/>

Have you employed any casual labour on the farm during the past 12 months? Yes  No

If yes, please give the number of person-days worked by casual workers (e.g. 3 workers for 2 days = 6 person-days)

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**Section E Farm diversification**

Other commercial enterprises run on this farm

Please tick a box beside any of the commercial enterprises listed below but exclude mainstream farming, i.e. livestock breeding and rearing, and crop production. Also exclude activities run by persons who are not part of your farm business.

Tourism (accommodation) <input type="checkbox"/>	Letting of farm buildings for non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism (other) <input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock haulage <input type="checkbox"/>
Direct sales <input type="checkbox"/>	Equine sport <input type="checkbox"/>
Processing of farm products <input type="checkbox"/>	Other sport <input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable energy production <input type="checkbox"/>	Other commercial activities <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural contracting <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-agricultural contracting <input type="checkbox"/>	

If you have ticked 'Other commercial activities', please specify (e.g. aquaculture, bee keeping, handicrafts, wood processing, etc.)

Please indicate the length of time in minutes taken to complete this form

DARD (NI) is committed to reducing the burden of form filling and this information may help.

**Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

**EUROPEAN UNION STATISTICAL ENQUIRY**

Notice requiring attention by  
15th March 2007

Business ID

Grid Reference

You can now complete your survey form over the Internet by clicking Census Online at [www.ruralni.gov.uk](http://www.ruralni.gov.uk)  
Please use the Business ID and Grid reference above to gain secure access

**Explanatory note**

The Statistical Office of the European Union requires Member States to carry out a statistical survey of farms in 2007.

The statistics on farm structure which this survey provides are used in the formulation and assessment of agricultural policies.

The questions in the 2007 survey reflect the EU's growing interest in issues relating to farm labour.

Data will be anonymised before transmission to the EU. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only.

Further information about the survey including the results of the last such survey can be obtained from the Department's website ([www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk))


Most of the information on the structure of Northern Ireland farms will be derived from the June Census but you are asked to provide some additional information on this form which you should return in the postage paid envelope enclosed by 15th March 2007.

Notes and definitions are provided on a separate page (enclosed).

For help or further information please telephone 028 9052 4532.

Please return this form in the envelope provided to:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Farm Census  
Farm Surveys Branch  
Room 908, Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

  
www.dardni.gov.uk

**How to complete this form**

Write clearly in black ink. DO NOT strike through boxes like this . Do not write in boxes like this  NONE.

Tick boxes like this . Enter one number in each box like this  1  2.

---

**Section A Status of the farm business**

Who has legal and financial responsibility for the farm? (tick one box only)

The occupier  Occupier and other partner(s)   
Occupier and family partner(s)  An institution (eg hospital, school, church) or a limited company

Who is mainly responsible for the day-to-day running of the farm? (tick one box only)

The occupier  A member of the occupier's family  If ticked complete 'manager' column at section B  
The occupier's spouse  Another person

---

**Section B The occupier, occupier's spouse, manager**

Please designate one person as the principal occupier and complete the following section. Remember to complete the 'manager' column if applicable

Does the principal occupier have a spouse? Yes  No

	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Manager
Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	Under 25 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	25 - 34 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	35 - 44 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	45 - 54 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	55 - 64 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	65 and over <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working on THIS FARM as a proportion of a full working year	None <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some, less than 1/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/4 to less than 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/2 to less than 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3/4 to less than full <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A full year <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working ELSEWHERE	None <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some, less than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Some, more than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section C Other persons who regularly worked on the farm during the past 12 months**

If there is no occupier, or the business is a partnership other than a family one, record all workers as hired

**Other family workers**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working on THIS FARM as a proportion of a full working year	Some, less than 1/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/4 to less than 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/2 to less than 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3/4 to less than full <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A full year <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working ELSEWHERE	None <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Less than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	More than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Hired workers**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working on THIS FARM as a proportion of a full working year	Some, less than 1/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/4 to less than 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1/2 to less than 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3/4 to less than full <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A full year <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time spent working ELSEWHERE	None <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Less than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	More than on the farm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Migrant workers**

Have you made use of any workers, during the past 12 months, who were neither British nor Irish nationals? Yes  No

**Appendix 2 – June Census**

Farm Census  
 Farm Surveys Branch  
 Room 908, Dundonald House  
 Upper Newtownards Road  
 Belfast BT4 3SB  
 Telephone (028) 9052 5432

<b>Agricultural &amp; Horticultural Census</b>
<b>IT IS COMPULSORY TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM</b>

**June  
2007**

*Business ID*

*Grid Reference*

*Area owned  
(hectares)*

Or Business Partner

You can now submit your census form over the Internet by clicking on the **CENSUS ONLINE** button  
 at the [www.ruralni.gov.uk](http://www.ruralni.gov.uk) website

Please use the Business ID and Grid Reference above to gain secure access

Dear Farmer / Grower,

**AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL CENSUS, JUNE 2007**

Under the Agricultural Statistics (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 you are required to complete **all** of this form in respect of the land you occupy. **This is a legal requirement.** Under Section 6.1 of the Order, anyone who without reasonable excuse fails to complete and return this form shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

**Information to be supplied**

The information which you are asked to supply concerns the use, by you and other partners in your business, of agricultural and horticultural land, the numbers of livestock you own on **1 June 2007** and the numbers of persons working in your business on that date. Data collected under the Agricultural Statistics (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 may only be used for specified purposes, such as the preparation of statistics or to assist with the control of serious animal diseases.

**Notes:**

- **Please return the form, in the pre-paid envelope provided, by 15th June 2007. A stamp is not required.**
- Further notes for guidance are enclosed. Should you have any problems with the completion of this form, please telephone (028) 9052 5432.
- An occupiers copy of the form is enclosed for you to retain for your own records.

**Mr Norman Fulton**  
 Director of Policy & Economics

OFFICIAL BOX			
Query	Cleared	Checked	Notes
1st Scrutiny		2nd Scrutiny	
Inits.	Date	Inits.	Date

# FSS Methodological Report 2007: Northern Ireland (UK)

## AREAS OF CROPS, GRASS AND OTHER LAND AS ON 1 JUNE 2007

You are asked to state which crops are grown on the land you FARM, including any land you take in conacre (or which you crop or stock for another person), and excluding land you let to someone else.

### 1 IF YOU HAVE STOPPED FARMING

Please indicate the reason by ticking the relevant box:

Sold farm

Transferred farm

Other (Please state)

All land is let or leased

Name and address of new owner:

If possible, please pass this form to the new owner for completion. Or else complete the declaration on the back of this form and return in the pre-paid envelope.

**PLEASE ENTER AREAS IN HECTARES  
TO 1 DECIMAL PLACE ONLY  
E.G. 10.3**

(1 acre = 0.4ha)

### 2 AREA OF HOLDING

		Hectares	Official Use
Owned Land	Area owned by your business	1	•
Land Taken	Area which you take in conacre or on lease	2	•
Land Let	Area which you let out in conacre or lease to another business	3	•
<b>AREA FARMED</b>	Area farmed by your business (including horticultural and wooded areas) (Items 1 + 2 + 3)	4	•

The remaining questions on this form refer to the area at **Item 4**, i.e. the land actually **farmed** by you.

### 3 DESIGNATED LAND TYPE

		Hectares	Official Use
Land officially designated as Less Favoured	Area of SDA, "old LFA" land	5	•
	Area of DA, "new LFA" land	6	•
Area not in LFA		7	•
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED (= Item 4)</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>•</b>

### 4 GRASS, CROPS AND OTHER USES OF THE LAND (i.e. area at item 4)

		Hectares	Official Use	
Grass for grazing, hay or silage	Grass under 5 yrs old	20	•	
	Grass 5 yrs old and over	21	•	
Rough grazing (sole rights)	Hill or rough land on which implements cannot be used	22	•	
Cereals and other crops for threshing (not set-aside crops)	Oats	25	•	
	Wheat	26	•	
	Barley	Winter	27	•
		Spring	28	•
	Mixed corn	29	•	
	Oilseed rape	30	•	
Potatoes	Ware	35	•	
	Seed (certified)	36	•	
Fodder Crops	Whole crops cereals	40	•	
	Turnips, swedes, fodder beet, and other forage root crops	41	•	
	Kale or cabbage	42	•	
	Forage maize	43	•	
Fruit, vegetables and flowers grown outdoors or under cloches for sale	Other crops for stockfeed	44	•	
	Apples	45	•	
	Strawberries	46	•	
	Other fruit	47	•	
	Vegetables for sale	48	•	
Glasshouse area (or plastic houses)	Bulbs and flowers	49	•	
	Hardy nursery stock	50	•	
Bio-mass Fuels	Please state crops: SRC Willow	63	•	
Other crops	Please state crops: .....	•	•	
Set-aside	Under the Single Farm Payment Scheme	65	•	
Woodlands	Woods and plantations	70	•	
All other land	Roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens, land for recreation etc.	72	•	
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED (Items 20 to 72 = Item 4)</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>•</b>	

FSS Methodological Report 2007: Northern Ireland (UK)

**LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AS ON 1 JUNE 2007**

**5 CATTLE**

Tick this box if no Cattle

For the June 2007 Census some of the details on cattle will be taken from APHIS. However, you are asked to complete section 5a (and 5b if applicable).

**5a Total Cattle & Calves**

	Number	Official Use
TOTAL CATTLE AND CALVES	100	

**5b Heifer Replacement Stock**

Heifers intended for replacements **can not** be identified from APHIS. If you have replacement heifers, please complete this section.

Number of heifers in calf (with first calf) being kept for Dairy production		
	Number	Official Use
2 years old and over	82	
Over 1 year and under 2 years old	83	

Number of heifers in calf (with first calf) being kept for Beef production		
	Number	Official Use
2 years old and over	86	
Over 1 year and under 2 years old	87	

Number of heifers not in calf being kept for Dairy or Beef breeding		
	Number	Official Use
2 years old and over	92	
Over 1 year and under 2 years old	95	

**6 SHEEP**

Tick this box if no Sheep

	Number	Official Use
Ewes put to the ram in 2006 and still on farm at 1 June 2007	109	
Rams for Service	112	
Other Sheep 1 year old and over	For breeding	114
	Other	116
Lambs under 1 year	119	
<b>TOTAL SHEEP (Items 109-119)</b>	<b>120</b>	

**7 GOATS**

Tick this box if no Goats

	Number	Official Use
Female goats which have kidded	125	
All other goats and kids	126	
<b>TOTAL GOATS (Items 125-126)</b>	<b>130</b>	

**8 FARMED DEER**

Tick this box if no Deer

	Number	Official Use
Total Farmed Deer	140	

**9 HORSES AND PONIES**

Tick this box if no Horses/Ponies

	Number	Official Use
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	155	
Horses/Ponies NOT owned by occupier	156	
<b>TOTAL HORSES/PONIES (Items 155-156)</b>	<b>160</b>	

**10 PIGS**

Tick this box if no Pigs

Tick this box if you intend to restock

	Number	Official Use
Pigs for Breeding	Breeding Sows	170
	Gilts in pig	171
	Boars	173
	Maiden Gilts	174
Sows waiting on cull	175	
All other Pigs by Liveweight	110kg and above (Finishers)	176
	80 to 110kg (Finishers)	177
	50 to 80kg (Finishers)	178
	20 to 50kg (Second stage weaners)	179
	8 to 20kg (First stage weaners)	180
Under 8kg (Suckling pigs)	181	
<b>TOTAL PIGS (Items 170 -181)</b>	<b>185</b>	

**11 POULTRY**

Information on poultry numbers will be taken from the Update of Northern Ireland Bird Register



# FSS Methodological Report 2007: Northern Ireland (UK)

## PEOPLE WORKING ON THE FARM ON 1 JUNE 2007

### 12 FARMERS & WORKERS

**INCLUDE**

- All persons engaged in agricultural or horticultural work in the business on 1st June 2007.
- Those who are **normally** employed in the business but who were absent on the census date.
- Persons working on your farm as self employed agricultural or horticultural workers on 1st June (record as paid workers).

**EXCLUDE**

- School children.
- Individuals employed by others but working on your farm on a contract basis on 1st June.

**AGRICULTURAL / HORTICULTURAL WORK**

- **INCLUDES** care of crops and livestock, managerial, supervisory and office work, preparation and marketing of produce, maintenance (e.g. ditching, etc).
- **EXCLUDES** gardening, housework, work on capital investments (i.e. on new buildings).

	Time normally spent on farm work in this business	NUMBER OF MALES		NUMBER OF FEMALES	
<b>FARMERS</b>					
<b>Farmer or principal partner (one only)</b>	30 hrs/week or more	220		250	
	Less than 30hrs/week	221		251	
<b>Spouse</b> (i.e husband or wife) of farmer or principal partner ( <b>if working on the farm</b> )	30 hrs/week or more	225		255	
	Less than 30hrs/week	226		256	
<b>Other partners</b> in this farm business	30 hrs/week or more	227		257	
	Less than 30hrs/week	228		258	
<b>PAID WORKERS</b>					
<b>Regular paid workers</b> (including waged family members) who work on the farm for <b>20 weeks or more</b> per year.	30 hrs/week or more	229		259	
	Less than 30hrs/week	230		260	
<b>Paid casual/seasonal workers</b> who work for less than 20 weeks per year (exclude contractors).	All times	231		261	
<b>UNPAID WORKERS</b>					
<b>Regular unpaid workers</b> (include unwaged family members) aged 16 or over who work on the farm for <b>20 weeks or more</b> per year.	30 hrs/week or more	236		266	
	Less than 30hrs/week	237		267	
<b>Unpaid casual/seasonal workers</b> who work for less than 20 weeks per year (exclude contractors).	All times	238		268	
<b>TOTAL FARMERS AND WORKERS</b>		240		270	

### 13 OTHER DETAILS

Please indicate (  ) any of the following circumstances that apply.

- |  |                          |  |     |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----|
| (1) I/we grow <b>mushrooms</b> for sale  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number of <b>mushroom houses/tunnels</b> |     |
| (2) I/we have <b>no livestock</b> now but expect to have some later this year    | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |     |
| (3) I/we have <b>no livestock</b> now but expect to make hay or silage this year | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | 280 |
| (4) My/our land is <b>not farmed</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | 290 |

### 14 DECLARATION

I declare that the information I have given on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/mobile number \_\_\_\_\_

Could you please indicate the length of time taken to complete this form?  (mins)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

The results will be published on our website [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

Appendix 3 - Bird Register

**Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

Update of Northern Ireland Bird Register 2007

Flock Number:

Business ID:

Site Grid Reference

Dear Keeper

You have been sent this form because you have registered birds on the Northern Ireland Bird Register.

We now wish to update the information we hold to ensure it is accurate and also to ensure we have the information that will allow us to contact you quickly if the need arises, for example in the event of an avian influenza outbreak in the UK.

The information may also be shared with the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in GB for the purpose of UK disease surveillance. Some of the information will also be used by the Department for statistical purposes.

Please complete this form and return it in the postage paid envelope provided by Friday 6 July 2007.

Keepers of birds should remain vigilant for signs of disease and observe a high standard of biosecurity.

Further information on avian influenza, including biosecurity advice is available on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

If you have any queries, please contact the Dard Helpline on 028 9052 4999.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Jackie Robinson  
Animal Disease Control Branch



Return completed form to:  
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Animal Disease Control Branch  
Room 715  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

**Section 1 General Information**

**1a** Your details (person in day to day charge)

Address (if different from front) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**1b** Place where birds are kept

Address (if different from front) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
PBF, NIPHAS or Egg Market Number (if held) \_\_\_\_\_

**1c** Owner of the birds

Owners Name (if different from front) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if different from front) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**1d** Organisation or Bird club to which you are affiliated (if applicable)

(tick as appropriate)

Organisation  Club  Name of organisation/club \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**1e** Herd/flock numbers for animals held by person in day-to-day charge of birds

Please note the number of any references listed below which you hold

Herd number (cattle) \_\_\_\_\_

Holding number (pigs) \_\_\_\_\_

Flock number (sheep/goats) \_\_\_\_\_

Business identifier (if not on front of this form) \_\_\_\_\_

IACS number(client reference) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 Birds and Use**

Birds kept for commercial purposes\*  
 If not kept for commercial purposes please go to 2d (\*see notes for guidance)

**2a** Purpose of production

Egg production/line  Meat production/line  Rearing

**2b** Stage in chain

Grandparents  Parents  Commercial  Hatchery

**2c** Information on the birds

Chickens		Actual Number of birds	Max number of birds on site	Number of Houses	Numbers per House
For producing table eggs	Laying birds from point of lay to end of first cycle				
	Hens retained after first cycle				
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay				
Mainly for producing hatching eggs	Hens, pullets, cockerels, etc (not turkeys, ducks, etc)				
Broilers and other table chickens					

Other poultry

Turkeys				
Geese				
Ducks				
Pheasants				
Pigeons				
Partridges				
Guinea-fowl				
Quail				
Others (please specify) _____				

**2d** Husbandry system - how you keep your birds - see Notes for Guidance (tick appropriate box)

Free range  Partially housed  Housed at all times

**2e** Birds kept other purposes (tick appropriate box)

Hobby/Racing  Rare Breed

	Actual Number of birds	Max number of birds on site	Number of Houses	Numbers per House
Chickens				
Turkeys				
Geese				
Ducks				
Pheasants				
Pigeons				
Partridges				
Guinea-fowl				
Quail				
Others (please specify) _____				

Signature of bird keeper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Name in BLOCK CAPITALS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix 4 – Administrative Sources**

### 1. Organic producers

A register of all organic producers is held by a specialist unit at Greenmount Campus (College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise). This consists of the name and address – including postcode – of the participants, coupled with the area currently considered organic or under conversion plus the types of enterprises conducted there. A sub-list of poultry producers is also held were the actual area of production may be registered as zero. This list was merged with the sample drawn for the Structure Survey using both address and name as key variables.

### 2. Agricultural areas with environmental restrictions

A list of postcodes covering the ESA areas was obtained from the branch administering the scheme. This was merged with the census data to indicate the status of the each farm using name and address as key variables.

## **Appendix 5 – F03 variable**

Northern Ireland has predominantly grass based agricultural systems consisting of relatively intensive dairy farming and relatively extensive beef and sheep production. Approximately one-third of the agricultural area is rented by farmers on an annually renewable basis - mostly for grazing and the production of winter forage. The existence of a large and flexible short-term rental market for land means that there is no incentive to hold land unused, when rent income (albeit modest) is readily available. Renting does not compromise eligibility for payment under the Single Payment System. As a consequence of these characteristics, the area of permanent grassland (eligible for subsidies) and not being used for grazing or silage / conserved fodder purposes is, at present, judged to be insignificant.

Additionally, for permanent pasture areas, to be entitled for a “Less Favoured Area” subsidy (covering 70% of NI) a minimum stocking density is needed. Farmers are careful to ensure this requirement is met, which when coupled with the requirement that all land receiving subsidy is in good agricultural condition (involving an inspection regime) results in all land being grazed – even if it is low intensity.

The total area of “set-aside” land in the country was less than 2,000 hectares, as the cereal sector is small – and is largely producing grain for fodder. It is again unlikely that any of this land would ever fall within this category.

To confirm that the F03 category did not exist in any measurable quantity in 2007, briefings were undertaken with Farm Account Officers who are involved in the Farm Business Survey (which collects data for FADN). These revealed that there was none of this type of land present on any of the farms included in this survey. This mechanism will allow a rolling and robust assessment of the situation and if/when land of this type appears, either an assessment can be made directly from the farmers in 2010, through the questionnaire, or, interrogation of the single farm payment system may allow figures to be derived.

**Appendix 6 - Cattle data extracted from the APHIS (Animal and Public Health Information System) database**

An extraction of the APHIS system was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 (allowing time for late updates to occur) and consisted of all cattle alive in Northern Ireland as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007. The variables extracted, for each animal, from the system included

Date of Birth  
Sex  
Breed  
Progeny  
Herd / Business number  
Animal Number

Using breed as a reliable measure of Dairy / Beef production status, it is possible to segregate the data into most of the categories needed. Aggregation by business number allows this data to be appended to that collected through survey or other administration sources

Information on heifers is obtained through the June survey. This survey covers approximately half of all NI farms. The numbers of heifers, determined from this survey, are then used to expand on the APHIS data.