

Published 4 February 2010

SURVEY OF LAND UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 2008 / 09 CROP YEAR - ENGLAND

Statistics from the Defra Survey of Land under Environmental Management for the 2008/09 crop year were released on 4 February. The survey is the first of its kind and has been run to gather baseline data against which the effectiveness of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (the Campaign) can be monitored. The survey was run at the beginning of November 2009 so results relate to this point in time and to the 2008/09 crop year.

The key results for holdings in England are given below.

Familiarity with the Campaign ([section 1](#))

Just over half of arable holdings indicated that they were aware of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment to a certain degree. Of this, 15% of holdings indicated that they were fully aware of the implications of the Campaign for their farms. 31% of holdings indicated that they had heard of the Campaign but were not aware of its details and 15% indicated they had no awareness of the Campaign at all.

Intention to sign up to the Campaign ([section 2](#))

Around 63% of holdings indicated that they are not yet sure if they will sign up to the Campaign. The most common reason given was that they were unaware of the Campaign (43%). For holdings indicating that they will not be signing up to the Campaign the most common reason given was that they were focussing on maximising productivity (26%).

Land area not in production ([section 4](#))

51% of all arable holdings indicated that they left cultivable land out of production during the 2008/09 crop year that was not part of a formal agri-environment scheme.

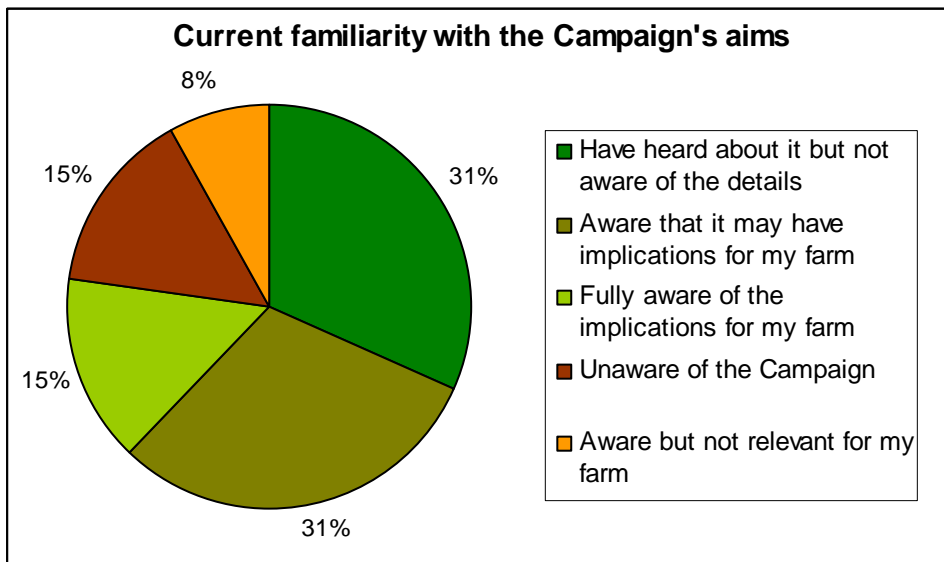
Introduction

The Campaign for the Farmed Environment and other leading farming organisations are working together to encourage farmers and land managers to voluntarily adopt important land management practices that will benefit the environment. The main themes of the Campaign are focussed around resource protection, farmland birds and farm wildlife.

The information collected by this Defra baseline survey and the on-going monitoring surveys that will run over the next 3 years will be used by the Campaign project team and Defra policy teams to assess the level of awareness of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment. The results will also be used to estimate the total areas of (non agri-environment scheme) land which are managed for conservation either as uncropped and/or under some other form of voluntary environmental management. All this land contributes to the Campaign's target of retaining the environmental benefits of set-aside. The Campaign is also seeking to establish at least a further 30,000ha of voluntarily managed land and improve the environmental management of uncropped land.

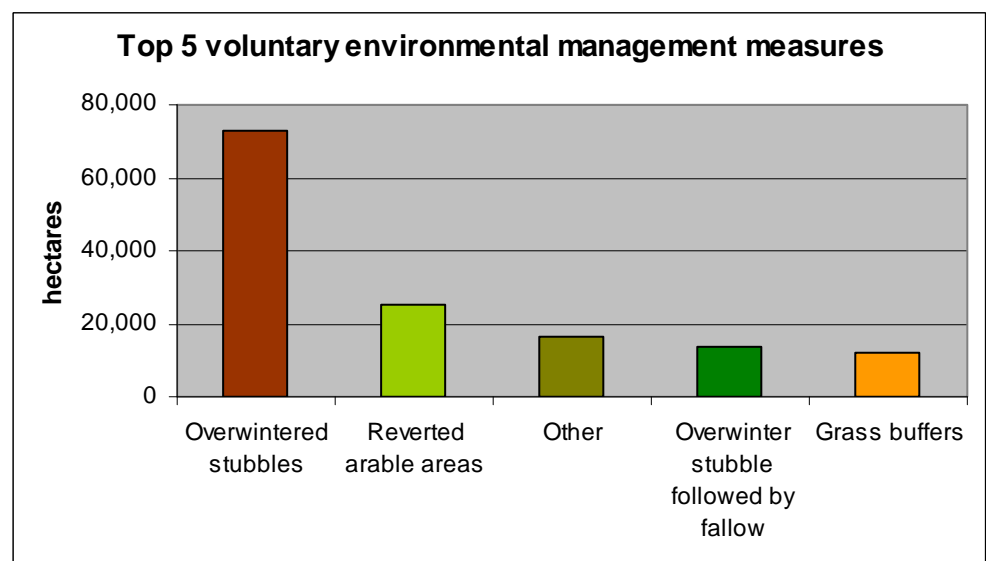
For further information about the Campaign and its aims please see www.cfeonline.org.uk.

Main findings



The results of the survey show that over half of all respondents are aware of the aims of the Campaign to some degree. Only 15% of respondents were totally unaware of the Campaign, and 31% have heard of the Campaign but are not aware of its details.

The measure for voluntary environmental management of land covering the greatest area in England during the 2008/09 crop year was the overwintered stubbles measure with a coverage of over 70,000 hectares. The top 5 measures covered a total of 141 thousand hectares which is just over 80% of all the land detailed as being under voluntary environmental management but not within agri-environment schemes.



Survey methodology

The results provided in this release are based on results from the Survey of Land under Environmental Management for the 2008/09 crop year, sent to a representative sample of arable holdings across English regions and farm sizes. The survey was sent to 5,000 holdings with over 20ha of arable land (which is defined as land either under crops, uncropped arable land or temporary grassland) which are not in an area classed as a SDA (Severely Disadvantaged Area). The results have then been weighted to be representative of all holdings over 10ha to match the threshold defined by the Campaign. The survey is voluntary and the response rate was 58%. Many thanks to all of the farmers who completed a survey form.

A breakdown of the response rates by region are shown below.

English region	no. sampled	no. responses	response rate (%)
North East	226	148	65
North West & Merseyside	270	137	51
Yorkshire & Humberside	649	400	62
East Midlands	798	462	58
West Midlands	549	282	51
Eastern	1,046	654	63
South East & London	619	347	56
South West	843	468	56
Total	5,000	2,898	58

A short telephone survey was conducted following the paper survey to a small number of non-respondents to check for any non-response bias. The results of this showed similar distributions of agri-environment scheme take up but it also indicated a slightly lower proportion of holdings with cultivable land out of production (36% compared to 51%). However, the small sample size of this follow up survey would naturally lead to some variation in the results so we are confident this does not indicate a high level of response bias.

Data analysis

Results have been analysed using a standard methodology for stratified random surveys to produce national estimates. With this method, all of the data is weighted according to the inverse sampling fraction.

Accuracy and reliability of the results

We show 95% confidence intervals against the figures. These show the range of values that may apply to the figures. They mean that we are 95% confident that the true value lies within this range either side of the estimate. They are based on the Standard Errors (SE) multiplied by 1.96 to give the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The standard errors only give an indication of the sampling error. They do not reflect any other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias.

Availability of results

This release contains results for the 2008 / 09 crop year. The next on-going monitoring survey is being run in the middle of February 2010 to gather data on the 2009 / 10 crop year. Results from this survey will be available at the end of May on the Defra web-site at:

<https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/campaignfarmenvns.htm>.

Other Defra statistical notices can be viewed on the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk. This site also shows details of future publications, with pre-announced dates.

Results

1. Familiarity with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment

Table 1.1 How familiar are you with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment and its aims?

	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval
Fully aware of the implications for my farm	15%	± 2
Aware that it may have implications for my farm	31%	± 2
Aware but not relevant for my farm	8%	± 1
Have heard about it but not aware of the details	31%	± 2
Unaware of the Campaign	15%	± 2

Number of records used: 2,843. Results are based on all holdings that completed the question.

2. Intention to sign up to the Campaign for the Farmed Environment

Table 2.1 Do you intend to sign up to the Campaign?

	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval
Yes	20%	± 2
No	17%	± 2
Not sure	63%	± 2

Number of records used: 2,834. Results are based on all holdings that completed the question.

Table 2.2 Reasons for not signing up to the Campaign

	Do not intend to sign up to the Campaign		Unsure of intentions to sign up to the Campaign	
	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval
Unaware of the Campaign	19%	± 5	43%	± 4
Not interested in the Campaign	14%	± 4	3%	± 2
Not enough time	16%	± 5	18%	± 3
Focussing on maximising farm productivity	26%	± 5	16%	± 3
Campaign measures inappropriate for farm (a)	17%	± 5	6%	± 2
Other	25%	± 5	24%	± 4

Number of records used for those who **will not** be signing up to the Campaign: 358.

Number of records used for those **not sure** if they intend to sign up to the Campaign: 787.

Results are for holdings that completed the question and indicated either that they **do not** intend to sign up to the Campaign or that they are **not sure** of their intentions to sign up to the Campaign. When answering this question respondents were allowed to choose as many reasons as were applicable.

a) The main reason given for this option was that the holding was all grassland.

Table 2.3 Breakdown of the main responses given for the 'Other' reason for not signing up:

Comment	Numbers of holdings		Total
	Do not intend to sign up to the Campaign	Unsure of intentions to sign up to the Campaign	
More details required	1	82	83
Already in a scheme or doing enough for the environment	65	100	165
Leaving farming soon (retiring or selling)	14	3	17
Anything else	13	28	41
Total	93	213	306

Results are for respondents who entered a comment in 'Other' and do not intend to sign up to the Campaign or are unsure of whether they will sign up.

3. Agri-environment schemes

Table 3.1 Holdings indicating they are already in agri-environment schemes

	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval
ELS (Entry Level Stewardship)	63%	± 2
OELS (Organic Entry Level Stewardship)	5%	± 1
HLS (Higher Level Stewardship)	6%	± 1
ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Areas)	5%	± 1
CSS (Countryside Stewardship Scheme)	17%	± 2
Other	2%	± 0
Not answered / Not in agri-environment scheme	25%	± 2

Number of records used: 2,898. Results are for all holdings, including those that did not answer the question. For those holdings that did not answer this question we have assumed this indicates that they are not in an agri-environment scheme.

4. Cultivable land not in production which is not within agri-environment schemes

Table 4.1 Holdings with cultivable land out of production that was not part of a formal agri-environment scheme (in the 2008/09 crop year)

	Percentage of holdings	95% confidence interval
With cultivable land out of production	51%	± 2
No cultivable land out of production	49%	± 2

Number of records used: 2,536. Results are for holdings that completed the question.

Table 4.2 Total area of cultivable land out of production not in agri-environment schemes

	Estimated England total	95% confidence interval
Area (hectares)	157,355	± 13,653

Number of records used: 1,448. Results are for holdings that completed the question and indicated they did leave cultivable land out of production that was not part of a formal agri-environment scheme.

5. Voluntary environmental management measures which are not within agri-environment schemes

Table 5.1 Total area and numbers of plots of the voluntary environmental management measures outside of agri-environment schemes in the 2008/09 crop year

Voluntary measure	Total number of plots	95% confidence interval	Total area (ha)	95% confidence interval
Grass buffers alongside temporary and permanent water courses	23,792	± 2,912	12,203	± 1,698
Grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off	2,826	± 685	2,612	± 878
Reverted arable areas	16,292	± 2,042	25,371	± 4,508
Reverted arable areas with scrub management	4,096	± 1,065	5,596	± 1,826
Skylark plots (a)	3,069	± 1,172	n/a	n/a
Fallow plots	1,374	± 547	1,933	± 826
Overwinter stubble followed by spring/summer fallow	2,878	± 793	13,797	± 3,715
Overwintered stubbles	11,993	± 1,880	72,866	± 11,541
Overwintered stubbles - optional for vulnerable soils	1,211	± 522	5,774	± 2,368
Uncropped, cultivated margins (not GAEC margins)	2,480	± 1,152	923	± 417
Wild bird seed mixture (arable/grassland areas)	4,723	± 965	3,076	± 654
Game strips	14,762	± 2,022	9,361	± 1,460
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Un-harvested cereal headlands	769	± 412	636	± 506
Pollen & nectar mixtures (all options) (b)	1,187	± 356	909	± 356
Sown wildflower headlands	691	± 406	745	± 547
Selective use of spring herbicides	365	± 258	1,146	± 1,060
Enhanced management of Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) (all options) (c)	201	± 146	228	± 224
Other	10,228	± 5,203	16,634	± 4,963
Total	102,937	± 7,277	173,808	± 14,485

average number of records used: 2897

(a) The total area for skylark plots is not reported as the area is negligible and the number of plots is the better indicator for this measure.

(b) This option includes results for both pollen measures (arable/grassland areas and those for horticultural growers) as there are not enough data points to report these results separately.

(c) This option includes results for both SRC measures (rides, margins, headlands and cropped area) as there are not enough data points to report these results separately.