

This document is an updated section of the Farm Management Handbook. It was updated on 28th of June 2024. You can find the complete handbook, as well as other updated sections, on the FMH section of the FAS website.

#### Introduction

This section provides whole farm benchmarking data for typical farm types in England and Scotland.

Benchmarking is a valuable tool to appraise the financial performance of a business year on year, or in relation to the wider industry. In addition, the benchmarks in the following pages, particularly the fixed costs, when used in conjunction with the livestock and crop gross margin budgets shown earlier in the Farm Management Handbook are useful for budgeting purposes, strategic planning and to help assess potential 'What If' options.

#### Source of Contents for 2024

The data for England and Scotland has been produced using information from the Farm Business Survey 2022/2023 conducted in England by Promar International and by SAC Consulting in Scotland.

Data has been sourced from the publications listed below:

- Farm Accounts in England 2022/2023, Published December 2023.
- Scottish Farm Business Income: annual estimates 2022/2023, Published March 2024.

Full information for each survey can be found at:

- Farm accounts in England data sets
- Scottish farm business income annual estimates

The Farm Business Survey (FBS) is an annual survey providing information on the financial, physical and economic performance of commercial farm businesses to inform and evaluate policy decisions. It is intended to serve the needs of farmers, farming and land management interest groups, government, government partners, and researchers.

#### **England**

The Farm Business Survey covers all types of farming in all regions of England and incudes owner occupied, tenanted, and mixed tenure farms. FBS only includes farm businesses with a standard output of at least 25,000 Euros, based on activity recorded in the previous June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Results are weighted to represent the full population of farm businesses that have at least 25,000 Euros of Standard Output, equivalent to approximately £20,000. In 2022/23, the sample of 1,359 farms represented approximately 52,500 farm businesses in England.

The survey data is reported for each farm type as Farm Business Income (FBI). In simple terms, FBI is the output generated by the farm business including Farm Business Support Payments, Environmental payments and the net income from Diversification Enterprises (that use farm resources) minus total farm costs and is, in most cases, very similar to net profit. FBI is the gross margin less the sum of the fixed costs, Basic Farm Payment (BPS) and net margin from diversification enterprises that use farm resources.

The farms are ranked according to the output and input values for farm type and allocated to performance bands based on economic performance percentiles:

- Low performance band bottom 25% of economic performers
- Medium performance band middle 50% of economic performers
- High performance band top 25% of economic performers.

The tables present the data on a £ per farm basis.

#### Scotland

In Scotland, the Farm Business Survey is based on an annual survey of approximately 400 farms with an economic activity of at least 25,000 Euros of output, (equivalent to approximately £20,000) and are not considered as part-time farms (i.e. have a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of more than 0.5 labour units where 1 labour unit = 1,900 hours worked per annum). As the Scottish survey excludes farm types not in receipt of support payments; it does not include farms predominantly engaged in horticulture, poultry, egg production or pig production.

The benchmark data for Scotland is shown in the following tables for the upper 25% performing farms per farm type.

The data is represented on a £ per farm, £ per adjusted hectare, and % per output basis.

Average benchmarks for each farm type as well as more detailed physical and technical data are published on the <u>FAS website</u>.

### **Description of Farm Types**

The farm types are characterised with reference to European Commission (EC) typology.

The data for the farm types in England is measured and represented by Standard Output (SO). The data for farm types in Scotland, shown in the following pages, are distinguished by standard gross margin (SGM).

#### **England farm types**

*LFA grazing livestock farms:* Farms with 50% or more of total area in the Less Favoured Area (both Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged)

and with more than two-thirds of the total SO coming from sheep and beef cattle together.

Lowland grazing livestock farms: Farms with less than 50% of total area in the less favoured area and with more than two-thirds of the total SO coming from sheep and beef cattle together.

Dairy farms: Farms where the dairy enterprise, including followers, accounts for over two-thirds of the total SO.

Cereal farms: Farms where cereals, oilseeds, peas, and beans harvested dry account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.

General cropping farms: Farms with over two-thirds of the total SO coming from arable crops (including field scale vegetables) or a mixture of arable and horticulture crops; and where arable crops account for more than one third of total SO and no other group account for more than one third.

Specialist Pig farms: Farms on which pigs account for over two-thirds of the total SO.

Specialist Poultry farms: Farms on which poultry account for over two-thirds of the total SO.

Horticulture farms: Other farms where over two-thirds of the total SO comes from fruit, hardy nursery stock, glasshouse flowers and vegetables, market-garden-scale vegetables, outdoor bulbs and flowers.

Mixed farms: Farms where crops account for one-third, but less than two-thirds of the total SO and livestock accounts for one-third but less than two-thirds of total SO. It includes holdings with mixtures of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, and holdings where one or other of these groups is dominant.

#### Scotland farm types

Specialist sheep (mainly hard hill): Farms in the less favoured areas with more than two-thirds of the total standard output coming from sheep.

Specialist beef (LFA): Farms in the less favoured areas with more than two-thirds of the total standard output coming from beef cattle.

Cattle and sheep (LFA): Farms in the less favoured areas with more than two-thirds of the total standard output coming from beef cattle and sheep together.

Dairy: Farms where more than two-thirds of the total standard output comes from dairy cows.

Specialist cereals: Farms where more than two-thirds of the total standard output comes from cereals and oilseeds.

General cropping: Farms where more than two-thirds of the total standard output comes from all crops.

*Mixed:* Farms where no enterprise contributes more than two-thirds of the total standard output.

#### **Definition of Terms**

#### **Enterprise output**

Total sales for an enterprise plus the value of transfers out, crops and good in store and the value of produce used or consumed for which no cash is receivable (by the business) less expenditure on, and the value of transfers in of livestock.

Agri-environmental payments have been detailed in the English data however this data is not published in Scotland. Subsidy output and diversification surplus is shown separately from enterprise output.

#### Variable costs

Those costs, which can both be readily allocated to a specific enterprise and will vary in approximately direct proportion to changes in the scale of that enterprise. Examples of variable costs are:

- Seeds, fertilisers, and lime.
- Sprays and sundry crop expenses.
- Concentrate feeding stuffs (purchased or home-grown).
- Sundry livestock expenses (vet, medicine, tags etc).

Purchases of livestock are not treated as variable costs. They are deducted when calculating the individual enterprise gross output.

#### **Gross margin**

The Gross Margin is the Total Farm Output less the sum of Variable Costs of the business enterprises.

#### Fixed costs

Examples of fixed costs include:

- Labour regular and casual labour.
- Power and machinery repairs, fuel (including drying fuel), oil, electricity, contracting, crop and livestock haulage, machinery leasing and hire.
- Overheads property repairs, rates, insurance, and miscellaneous (e.g., office expenses & professional fees).
- Depreciation \* machinery and property depreciation.
- Rent and finance interest (bank, HP, and loans) and rent (excluding keep).
- \* Machinery depreciation is calculated on a replacement cost basis. Rates of depreciation are intended to reflect the degree of deterioration of the asset.

## **England - LFA Grazing Livestock Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	1,200	2,600	9,100
Livestock	31,400	76,700	142,600
Agri-environment	5,200	10,800	36,900
Other	2,553	6,073	3,000
	40,353	96,173	191,600
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	3,400	6,500	10,500
Livestock Specific Costs	19,700	35,200	58,100
Contract costs	3,500	4,500	9,500
Casual labour	700	1,900	3,400
Sundry costs	3	36	67
	27,303	48,136	81,567
GROSS MARGIN	13,050	48,037	110,033
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	200	2,404	12,232
Power and machinery	13,672	19,489	26,400
Overheads	18,900	26,800	41,000
	32,772	48,693	79,632
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	-19,722	- 656	30,401
(excl. BPS and diversification)			
BPS	9,900	16,600	35,400
Diversification surplus	1,600	3,600	4,300
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 8,222	19,544	70,101
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 103	145	209
No. of farms in sample	25	96	46
Average farm size (ha)	80	135	336
No. of ewes	173	360	709
No. of breeding cows	8	21	25

**England - Lowland Grazing Livestock Farms** 

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	3,500	13,700	34,300
Livestock	29,700	71,200	108,000
Agri-environment	3,200	9,600	14,700
Other	2,664	6,900	10,200
	39,064	101,400	167,200
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	2,600	8,100	13,800
Livestock Specific Costs	14,500	33,300	39,500
Contract costs	4,400	6,900	10,900
Casual labour	500	900	2,000
Sundry costs	110	355	472
•	22,110	49,555	66,672
GROSS MARGIN	16,954	51,845	100,528
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	1,300	4,100	6,100
Power and machinery	13,635	21,000	29,500
Overheads	20,900	33,000	41,900
	35,835	58,100	77,500
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	-18,881	- 6,255	23,028
(excl. BPS and diversification)			
BPS	7,000	14,300	19,500
Diversification surplus	2,300	5,600	26,100
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 9,581	13,645	68,628
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 174	130	501
No. of farms in sample	40	137	91
Average farm size (ha)	55	105	137
No. of ewes	58	167	226
No. of breeding cows	14	20	25
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## **England - Dairy Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	11,000	41,500	24,900
Livestock	381,500	968,600	1,258,600
Agri-environment	3,800	9,100	13,000
Other	4,100	16,600	10,100
	400,400	1,035,800	1,306,600
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	21,300	57,000	55,600
Livestock Specific Costs	183,400	416,900	446,100
Contract costs	23,900	47,800	51,200
Casual labour	6,600	23,100	14,100
Sundry costs	13	800	119
	235,213	545,600	567,119
GROSS MARGIN	165,187	490,200	739,481
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	26,800	62,000	87,300
Power and machinery	49,015	101,925	96,339
Overheads	75,000	153,800	148,100
	150,815	317,725	331,739
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	14,372	172,475	407,742
(excl. BPS and diversification)			
BPS	14,900	23,200	25,500
Diversification surplus	5,100	19,800	11,000
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	34,372	215,475	444,242
Farm Business Income £/ha	330	1,306	2,414
No. of farms in sample	56	136	70
Average farm size (ha)	104	165	184
No. dairy cows	116	214	287

## **England - Cereal Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	144,200	307,900	532,800
Livestock	5,400	10,700	3,600
Agri-environment	7,000	13,000	22,600
Other	11,062	19,921	29,000
	167,662	351,521	588,000
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	58,000	94,700	131,900
Livestock Specific Costs	3,900	6,200	1,800
Contract costs	21,100	32,400	28,600
Casual labour	800	1,700	2,800
Sundry costs	500	1,500	2,000
	84,300	136,500	167,100
GROSS MARGIN	83,362	215,021	420,900
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	10,643	17,460	27,800
Power and machinery	34,297	52,382	66,004
Overheads	52,100	78,700	85,200
	97,040	148,542	179,004
FARM BUSINESS INCOME (excl. BPS and diversification)	- 13,678	66,479	241,896
BPS	20,300	30,600	48,300
Diversification surplus	7,900	28,200	38,600
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	14,522	125,279	328,796
Farm Business Income £/ha	105	599	973
No. of farms in sample	46	145	71
Average farm size (ha)	138	209	338
No. dairy cows	59	114	187

## **England - General Cropping Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crop	195,600	426,600	474,100
Livestock	2,300	37,100	21,300
Agri-environment	7,500	21,800	8,900
Other	25,300	29,125	21,000
	230,700	514,625	525,300
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop specific costs	86,400	128,500	121,200
Livestock specific costs	1,300	21,900	6,700
Contract costs	30,100	36,800	36,500
Casual labour	7,700	6,400	2,900
Sundry costs	400	1,100	231
•	125,900	194,700	167,531
GROSS MARGIN	104,800	319,925	357,769
FIXED COSTS Labour Power and machinery Overheads	23,412 62,690 92,000	38,521 81,800 123,500	18,310 76,227 81,100
Overneads	178,102	243,821	175,637
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 73,302	76,104	182,132
(excl. BPS and diversification) BPS	19,500	38,800	39,700
Diversification surplus	24,900	23,400	28,200
Diversification surplus	24,900	23,400	20,200
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 28,902	138,305	250,032
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 189	499	944
No. of farms in sample	19	56	21
Average farm size (ha)	153	277	265
Cereals (ha)	34	109	128
Potatoes (ha)	5	8.1	5
Other crops (ha)	55	97	74

# **England - Specialist Pig Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	_	138,600	204,400
Livestock specific costs	-	941,300	218,500
Agri-environment	_	3,000	6,900
Other	-	33,900	32,000
		1,116,800	461,800
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop specific costs	-	44,100	50,900
Livestock specific costs	-	757,500	88,100
Contract costs	-	29,100	19,700
Casual labour	-	2,900	3,100
Sundry costs		403	157
		834,003	161,957
GROSS MARGIN		282,797	299,843
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	_	68,000	30,000
Power and machinery	_	66,007	70,029
Overheads	_	159,558	98,500
Cverneads		293,565	198,529
FARM BUSINESS INCOME		- 10,768	101,314
(excl. BPS and diversification)			
BPS	_	17,000	23,700
Diversification surplus	_	62,700	35,900
		5_,: 55	,
FARM BUSINESS INCOME		68,932	160,914
Farm Business Income £/ha		584	1,032
		-	
No. of farms in sample	-	16	17
Average farm size (ha)	-	118	156
No. of sows	-	240	39
No. of other pigs	-	3,194	3,049
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# **England - Specialist Poultry Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crop	22,000	70,800	44,000
Livestock	627,700	1,482,000	1,058,800
Agri-environment	2,000	3,100	1,000
Other	500	9,900	1,500
	652,200	1,565,800	1,105,300
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	7,000	24,600	12,300
Livestock Specific Costs	454,400	1,089,300	687,000
Contract costs	35,600	27,000	10,400
Casual labour	1,800	6,000	5,200
Sundry costs	0	15	22
	498,800	1,146,915	714,922
GROSS MARGIN	153,400	418,885	390,378
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	34,500	59,200	16,605
Power and machinery	39,204	79,825	36,202
Overheads	152,669	225,341	146,437
Overridado	226,373	364,367	199,244
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 72,973	54,518	191,134
(excl. BPS and diversification)		01,010	
BPS	6,900	10,500	6,900
Diversification surplus	7,200	48,300	32,400
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 58,873	113,319	230,434
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 1,154	1,434	5,009
No. of farms in sample	13	30	14
Average farm size (ha)	51	79	46
No. hens and pullets in lay	13,044	19,049	6,731
Other poultry	19,021	68,445	48,963
Sais. poulay	10,021	00, 110	10,000

## **England - Horticulture Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crop	47,800	741,300	874,900
Livestock	13	600	900
Agri-environment	3,400	1,800	2,300
Other	900	11,200	52,000
	52,113	754,900	930,100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop Specific Costs	12,400	276,100	298,200
Livestock Specific Costs	24	400	300
Contract costs	2,000	23,300	31,100
Casual labour	6,700	93,900	27,300
Sundry costs	8	3	0
	21,132	393,703	356,900
GROSS MARGIN	30,981	361,197	573,200
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	19,800	154,600	181,409
Power and machinery	10,119	84,205	50,103
Overheads	17,200	114,173	149,847
	47,119	352,978	381,360
FARM BUSINESS INCOME (excl. BPS and diversification)	-16,138	8,219	191,840
BPS	1,200	5,300	1,800
Diversification surplus	8,100	25,800	99,900
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 6,838	39,318	293,540
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 526	690	13,343
No. of farms in sample	13	44	19
Average farm size (ha)	13	57	22

## **England - Mixed Farms**

	Lower £/farm	Average £/farm	Higher £/farm
OUTPUT			
Crops	52,900	154,000	310,100
Livestock	39,300	212,500	163,300
Agri-environment	11,900	9,700	20,600
Other	4,500	19,200	19,000
	108,600	395,400	513,000
VARIABLE COSTS			
Crop specific costs	24,900	53,500	85,600
Livestock specific costs	26,100	150,800	78,200
Contract costs	13,200	18,000	20,500
Casual labour	600	10,900	4,400
Sundry costs	307	1,400	486
	65,107	234,600	189,186
GROSS MARGIN	43,493	160,800	323,814
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	6,200	22,828	31,400
Power and machinery	30,259	55,326	76,342
Overheads	40,100	84,700	91,400
	76,559	162,854	199,142
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 33,066	- 2,054	124,672
(excl. BPS and diversification)	45 400	00.000	40.500
BPS	15,400	23,200	42,500
Diversification surplus	2,200	19,300	34,400
FARM BUSINESS INCOME	- 15,466	40,446	201,572
Farm Business Income £/ha	- 141	251	717
No. of farms in sample	25	65	41
Average farm size (ha)	110	161	281

## Scotland - Specialist Sheep (LFA) Farms

	Upper 25%		
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	37,016	333	40
Crops	1,814	16	2
Subsidies	42,162	378	46
Diversification surplus	1,632	15	2
Other	8,911	80	10
	91,535	821	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	19,576	176	21
Crop expenses	1,416	13	2
	20,992	189	23
GROSS MARGIN	70,543	632	77
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	9,541	86	10
Power and machinery	9,467	85	10
Overheads	8,685	78	9
Depreciation	11,080	100	12
Rent and finance	813	7	1
	39,586	356	43
FARM PROFIT	30,957	276	34
No. of farms in sample	7		
Average farm size (ha)	111		
No. of ewes	547		
No. of breeding cows	-		

# Scotland - Specialist Beef (LFA) Farms

		Upper 25%	
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	99,277	940	56
Crops	17,548	167	10
Subsidies	37,123	351	21
Diversification surplus	4,219	40	2
Other	17,739	168	10
	175,906	1,666	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	32,453	307	19
Crop expenses	18,843	178	10
	51,296	485	29
GROSS MARGIN	124,610	1,181	71
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	4,263	40	2
Power and machinery	24,091	228	14
Overheads	16,333	155	9
Depreciation	28,939	274	16
Rent and finance	4,196	40	2
	77,822	736	43
FARM PROFIT	46,788	444	28
No. of farms in sample	24		
Average farm size (ha)	106		
No. of ewes	87		
No. of breeding cows	64		

### Scotland - Cattle and Sheep (LFA) Farms

		Upper 25%	
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	89,691	503	53
Crops	6,684	37	4
Subsidies	53,693	301	32
Diversification surplus	487	3	0
Other	19,299	108	11
	169,854	952	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	39,741	223	23
Crop expenses	10,667	59	6
	50,408	282	29
GROSS MARGIN	119,446	670	71
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	7,124	40	4
Power and machinery	18,394	103	11
Overheads	17,062	96	10
Depreciation	26,098	146	15
Rent and finance	6,606	37	4
	75,284	422	44
FARM PROFIT	44,162	248	27
No officers in country	4.4		
No. of farms in sample	14		
Average farm size (ha)	178		
No. of ewes	498		
No. of breeding cows	37 55		
No. of other cattle	55		

### **Scotland - Dairy Farms**

	£/farm	Upper 25% £/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT		-	-
Livestock	883,854	4,871	93
Crops	20,661	114	2
Subsidies	40,281	222	4
Diversification surplus	- 485	- 3	- 0
Other	10,589	58	1
	954,900	5,262	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	325,876	1,795	35
Crop expenses	44,345	244	4
	370,221	2,040	39
GROSS MARGIN	584,679	3,222	61
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	48,644	268	5
Power and machinery	90,871	501	10
Overheads	36,291	200	4
Depreciation	96,496	532	10
Rent and finance	17,271	95	2
	289,573	1,596	31
FARM PROFIT	295,106	1,626	30
No. of farms in sample	11		
Average farm size (ha)	182		
No. of dairy cows	210		
Output yield per dairy cow (It)	7,867		
Revenue value (ppl)	45.17		

## Scotland - Specialist Cereal Farms

	Upper 25%		
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	5,034	38	1
Crops	222,719	1677	65
Subsidies	28,691	216	8
Diversification surplus	19,474	147	6
Other	66,339	499	19
	342,257	2,577	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	1,657	12	0
Crop expenses	71,443	537	21
	73,100	549	21
GROSS MARGIN	269,157	2,028	79
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	14,870	112	4
Power and machinery	37,374	281	11
Overheads	27,024	203	8
Depreciation	48,578	366	14
Rent and finance	9,092	68	3
	136,938	1,030	40
FARM PROFIT	132,219	998	39
No. of forms in sample	12		
No. of farms in sample	133		
Average farm size (ha)	133 88		
Cereals (ha)	00		

### **Scotland - General Cropping Farms**

	Upper 25%		
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	20,134	62	2
Crops	1,127,515	3,453	89
Subsidies	60,201	184	5
Diversification surplus	9,950	30	1
Other	52,204	160	4
	1,270,004	3,889	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	7,737	24	1
Crop expenses	256,681	787	19
	264,418	811	20
GROSS MARGIN	1,005,586	3,078	80
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	135,582	415	11
Power and machinery	191,994	588	15
Overheads	83,597	256	7
Depreciation	208,835	640	16
Rent and finance	96,926	297	8
	716,934	2,196	57
FARM PROFIT	288,652	882	23
No. of farms in sample	8		
Average farm size (ha)	326		
Cereals (ha)	164		
Potatoes (ha)	72		
Other crops (ha)	23		

### **Scotland - Mixed Farms**

		Upper 25%	
	£/farm	£/adj. ha	% output
OUTPUT			
Livestock	84,869	599	31
Crops	127,747	902	47
Subsidies	35,533	251	13
Diversification surplus	7,645	54	3
Other	14,387	102	5
	270,181	1,907	100
VARIABLE COSTS			
Livestock expenses	31,515	223	12
Crop expenses	48,110	340	17
	79,625	562	29
GROSS MARGIN	190,556	1,345	71
FIXED COSTS			
Labour	4,084	29	2
	33,292	235	12
Power and machinery Overheads	23,105	163	9
Depreciation	41,803	295	15
Rent and finance	8,103	57	3
Nent and illiance	110,388	779	41
FARM PROFIT	80,168	566	30
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No. of farms in sample	21		
Average farm size (ha)	142		
No.of ewes	31		
No. of breeding cows	40		
No. of other cattle	85		
Cereals (ha)	56		
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