



Autumn survey on how farmers are adapting to and mitigating rising input costs

Friday, September 30, 2022

Introduction

400 Total Responses

296 (74%) have a beef and / or sheep enterprise

145 (38%) have a dairy enterprise

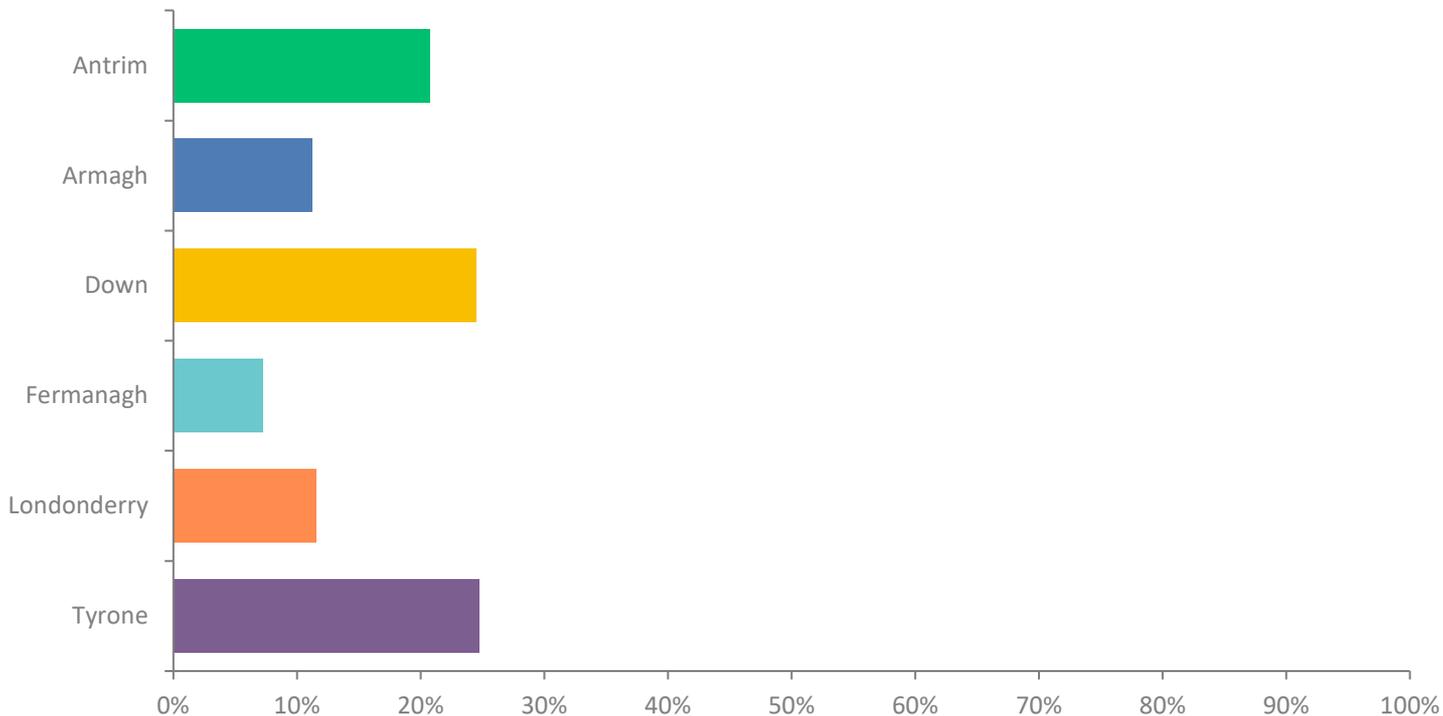
28 (8%) have a poultry enterprise

13 (4%) have a pig enterprise

76 (21%) have a cereal enterprise

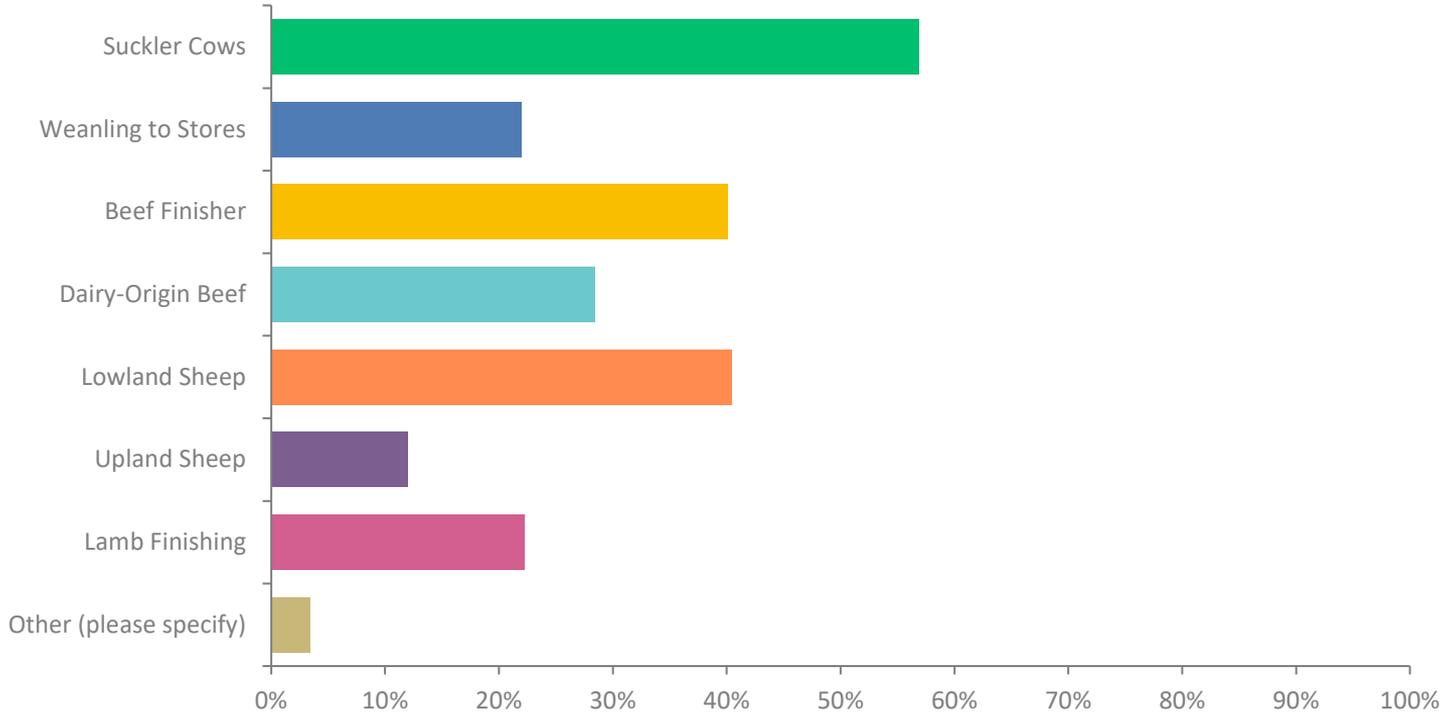
Q1: Which County do you farm in?

Answered: 400 Skipped: 0



Q3: Which Beef & Sheep Enterprises do you have? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 292 Skipped: 108



Q4: What are you intending to do with your stores this winter?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 118

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sell them prior to housing (but I normally do that anyway)	15.25%	43
Sell them prior to housing (where in the past years we would have kept them)	9.22%	26
Keep them as normal	51.77%	146
I would like to sell stores but I am locked up with TB	12.41%	35
Not applicable	11.35%	32
TOTAL		282

Q5: Are you intending to feed similar levels of concentrate (per head) this winter?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 118

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I will feed the same amount of concentrate per head	27.66%	78
I will feed the same amount of concentrate per head as along as the meal price doesn't go up much more	19.86%	56
I will feed a little less concentrate per head this winter	24.47%	69
I will feed a lot less concentrate per head this winter	16.67%	47
I will feed no concentrate this winter (and I normally would feed concentrate)	4.96%	14
I will feed no concentrate this winter (but I wouldn't normally feed concentrate anyway)	4.96%	14
I will feed more concentrate per head this winter	1.42%	4
TOTAL		282

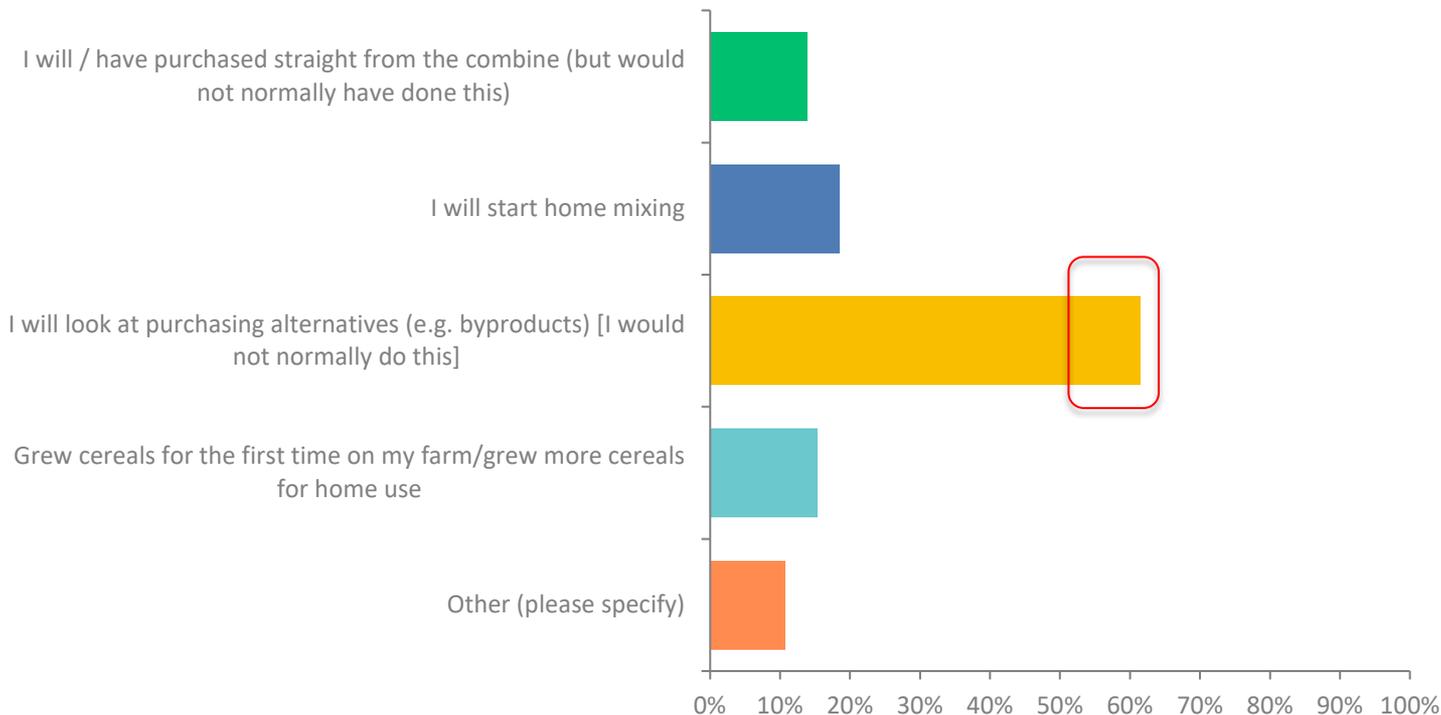
Q6: Are you planning to make any changes to meal sourcing this winter?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 118

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.76%	67
No	76.24%	215
TOTAL		282

Q7: What changes will you make to meal sourcing

Answered: 65 Skipped: 335



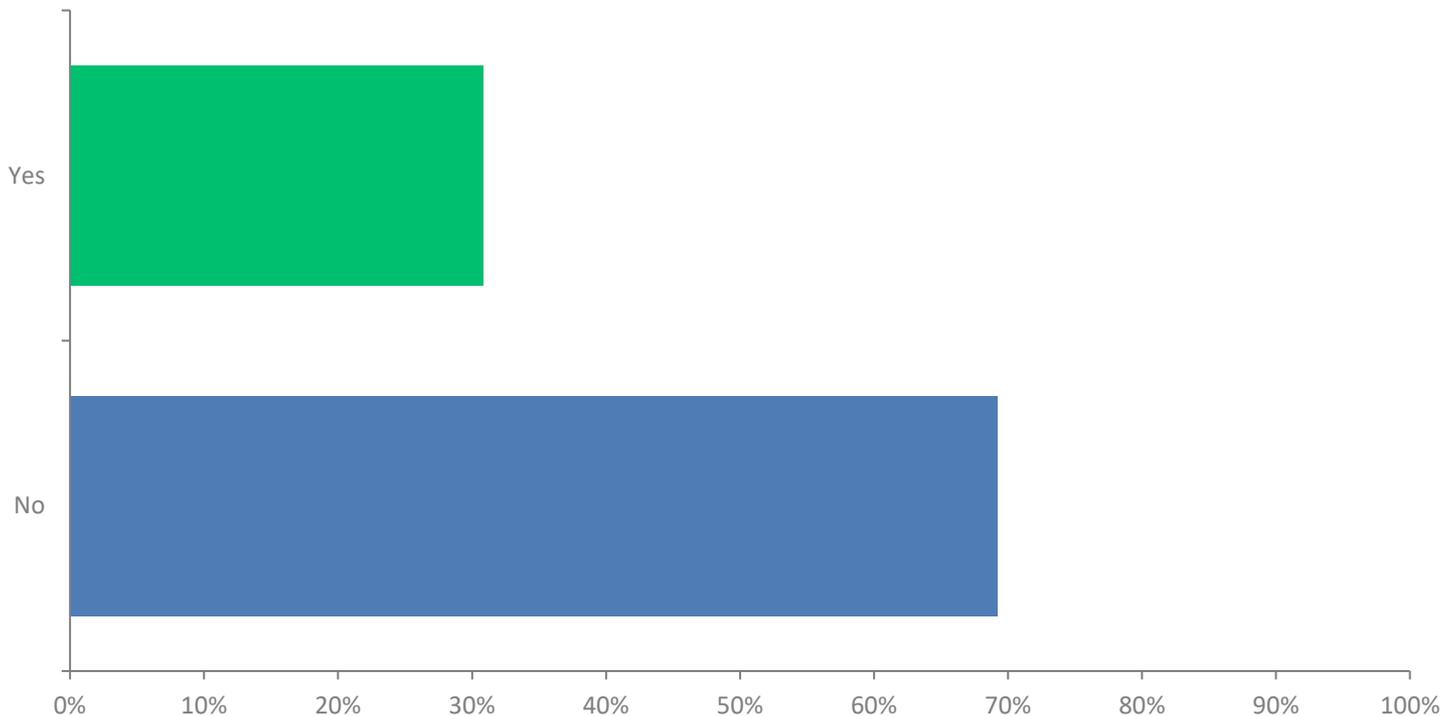
Q8: Stocking Rates

Answered: 279 Skipped: 121

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Livestock numbers on my farm have increased	16.13%	45
Livestock numbers have not changed significantly	53.41%	149
I have reduced livestock numbers slightly (up to 10%)	20.43%	57
I have reduced livestock numbers significantly (more than 10%)	10.04%	28
TOTAL		279

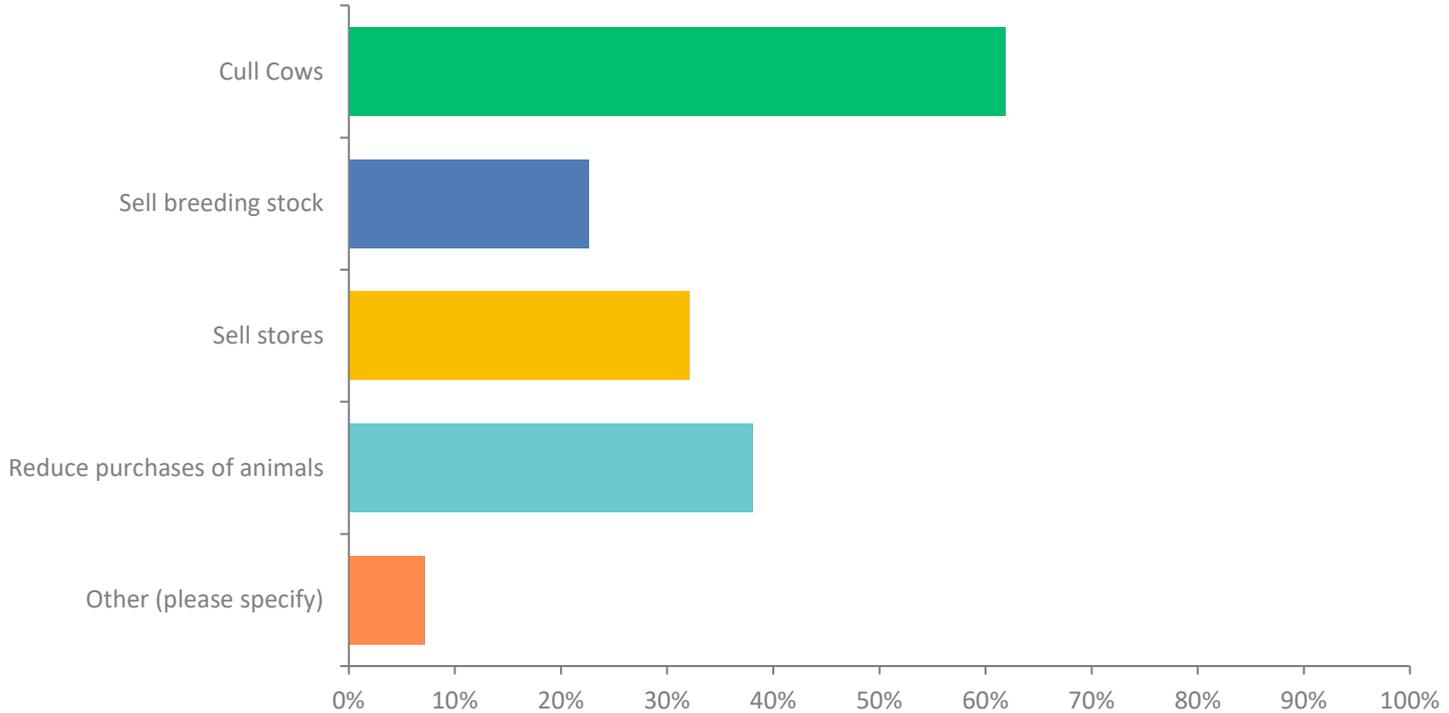
Q9: Are you planning to reduce livestock numbers (more than you usually would) prior to the winter season?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 121



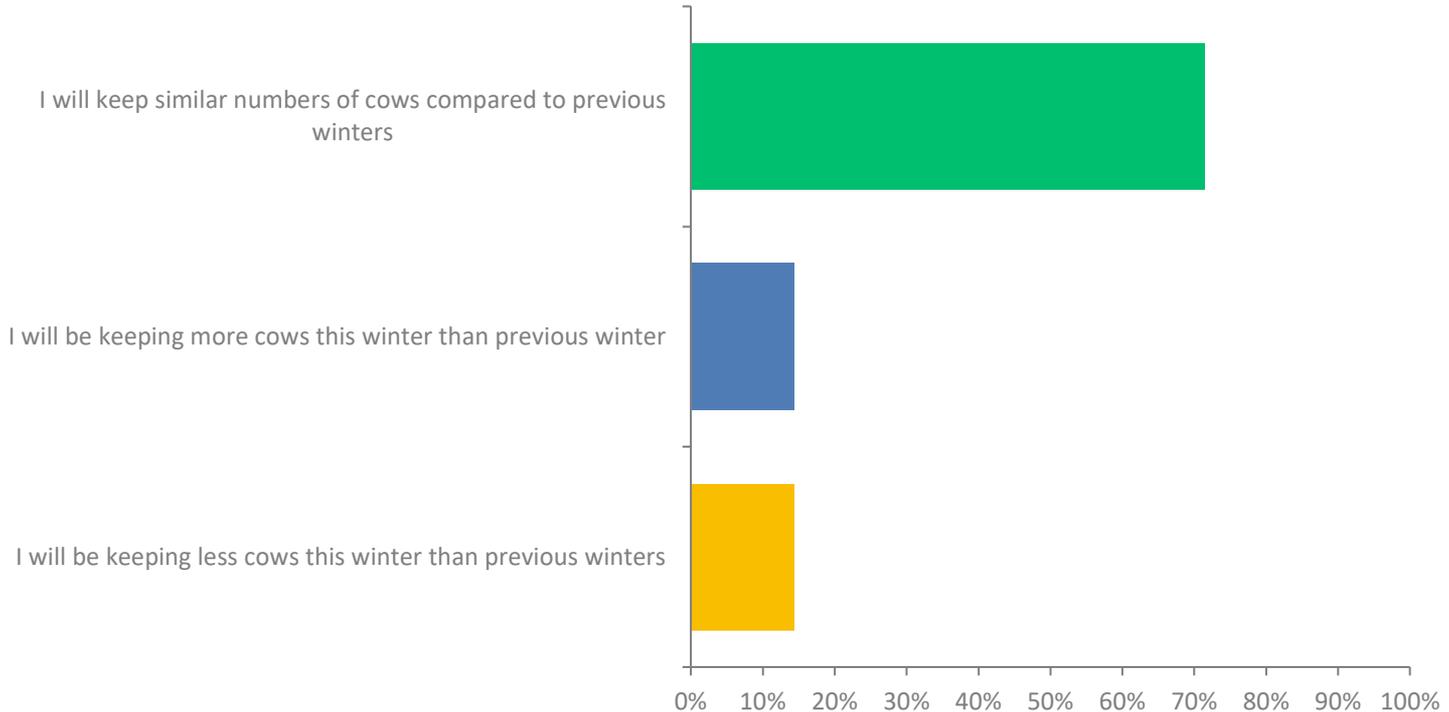
Q10: How are you intending to reduce livestock numbers prior to the Winter season?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 316



Q12: Are you intending to keep the same number of cows this winter (compared to previous years)

Answered: 140 Skipped: 260



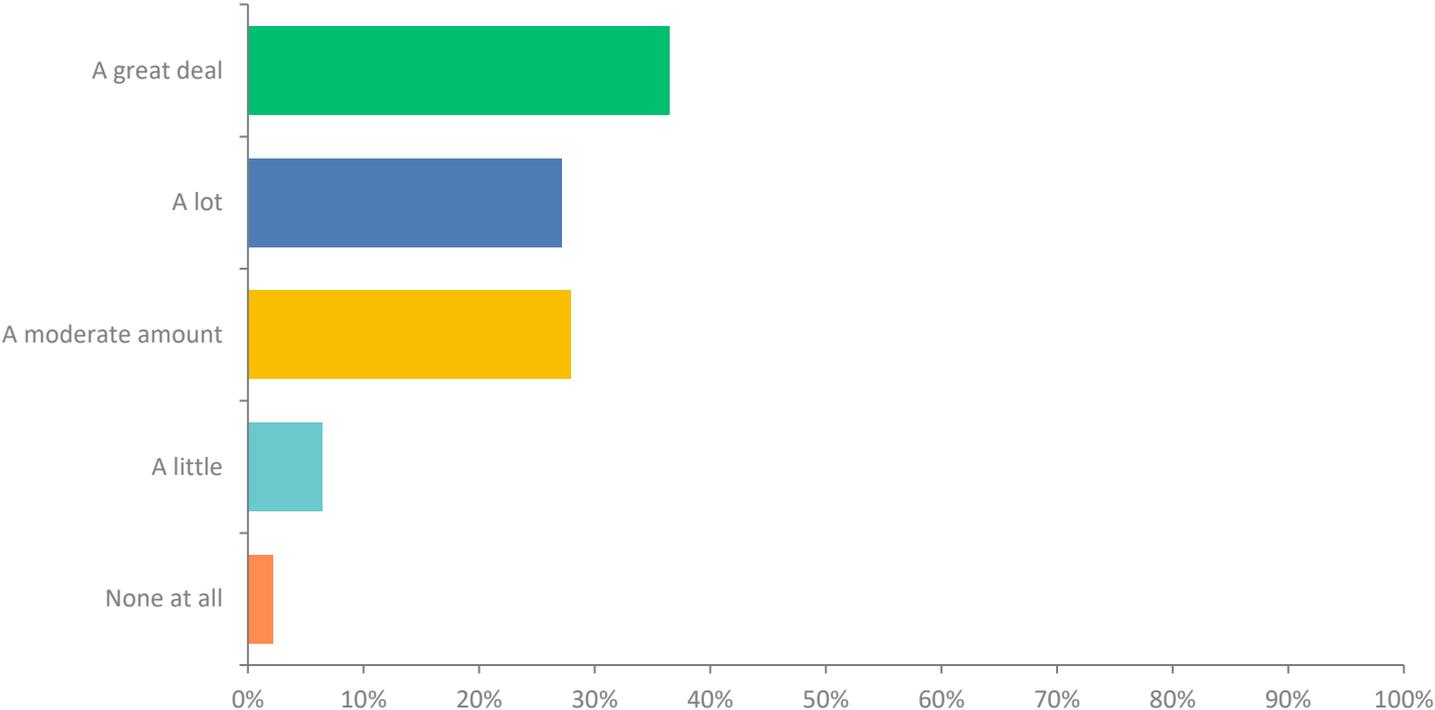
Q13: Are you intending to feed similar levels of concentrate (per cow) this winter?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 260

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I will feed the same amount of concentrate per cow	50.71%	71
I will feed the same amount of concentrate per cow as long as the meal price doesn't go up much more	22.86%	32
I will feed less concentrate per cow this winter	11.43%	16
I will feed more concentrate per cow this winter	6.43%	9
Unsure / Have not decided	8.57%	12
TOTAL		140

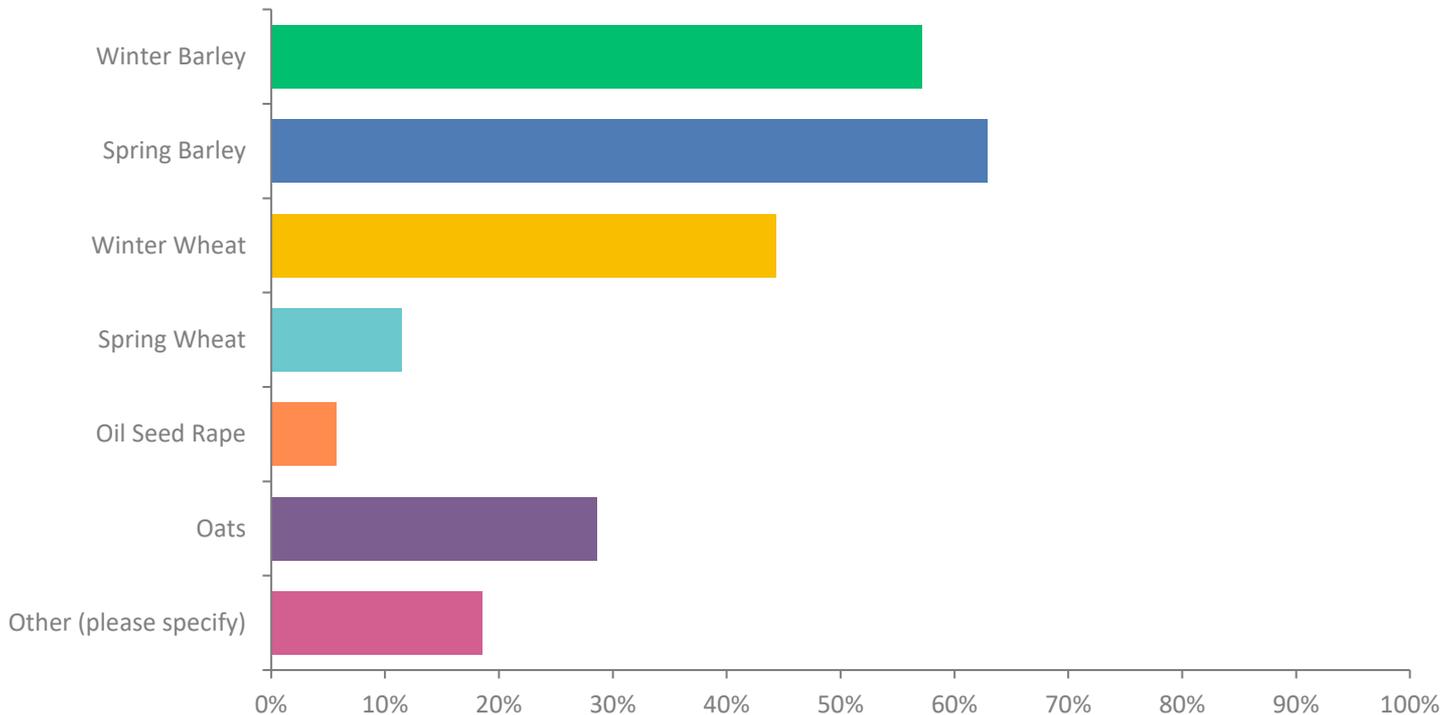
Q14: Is the rising cost of energy (electric and gas) having a significant impact on your farm cash flow?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 260



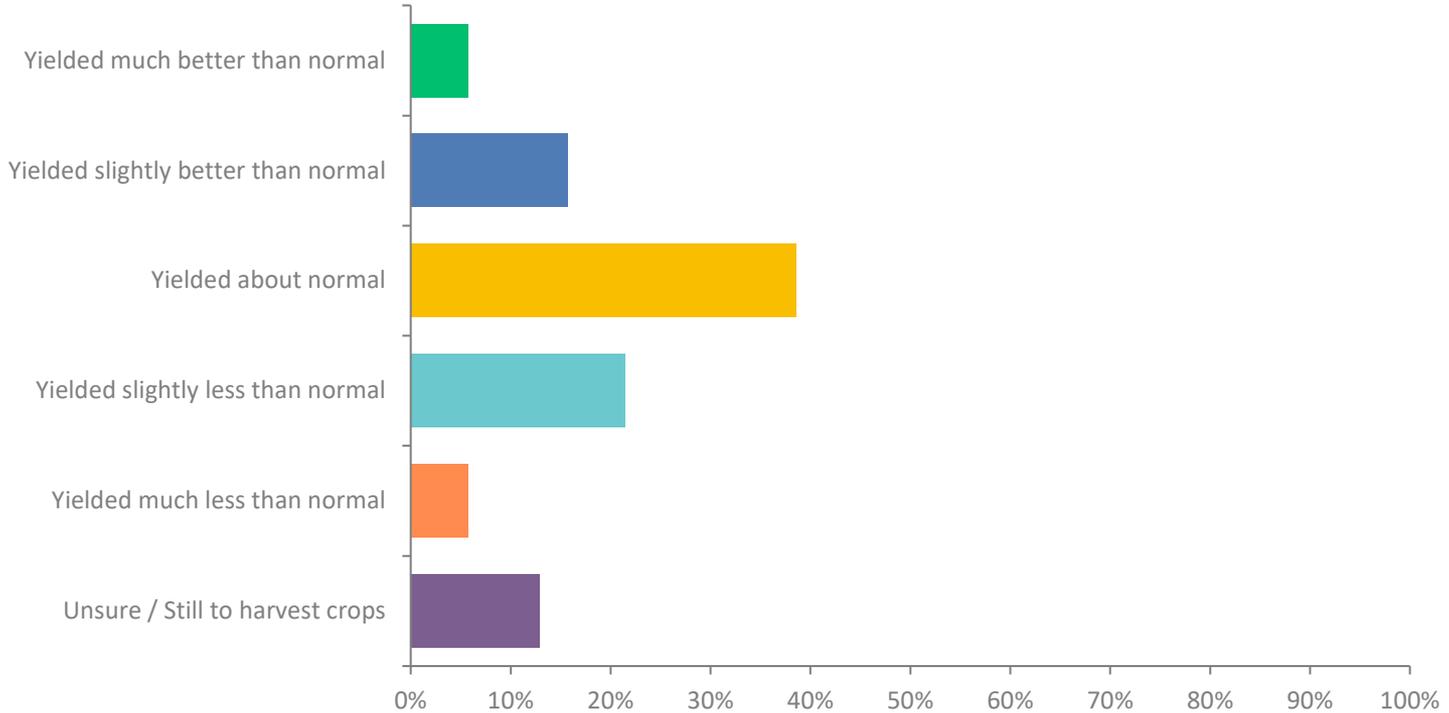
Q17: What crops do you grow?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330



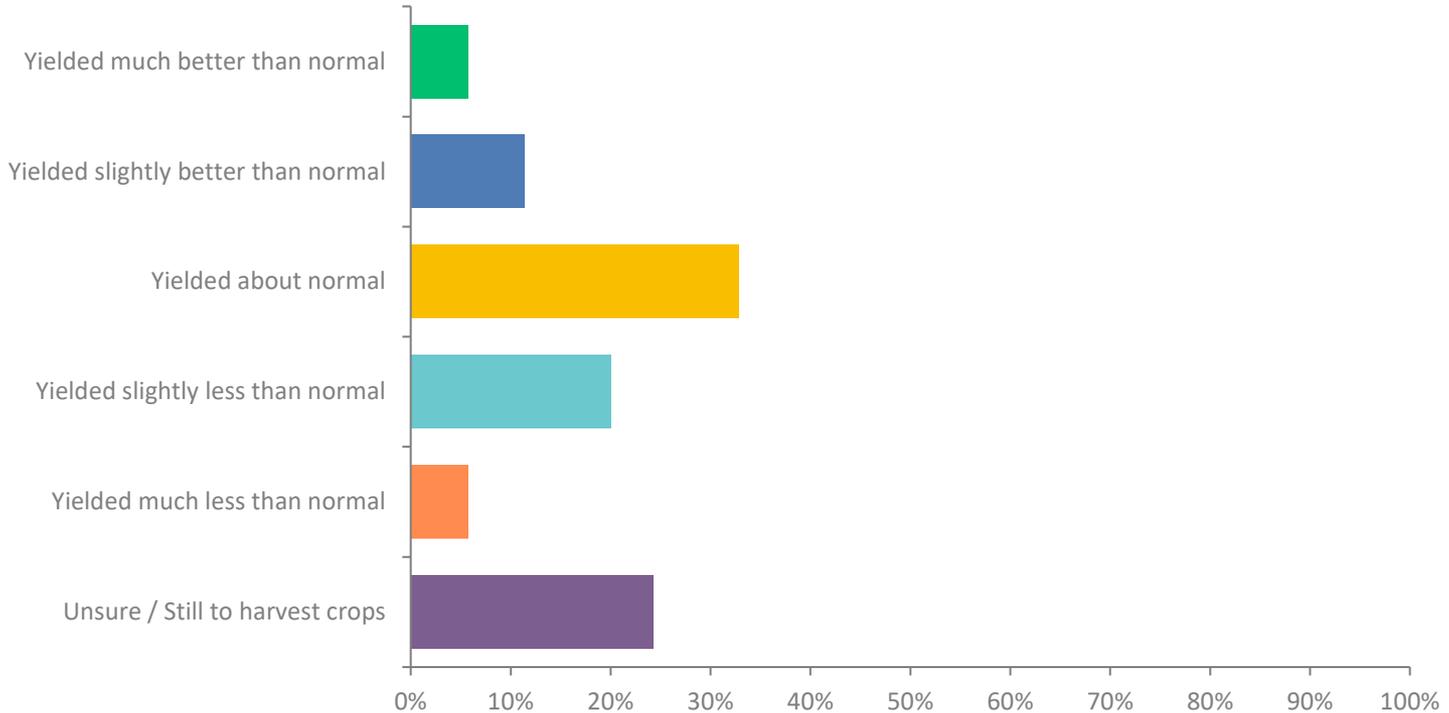
Q18: How have the winter crops yielded?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330



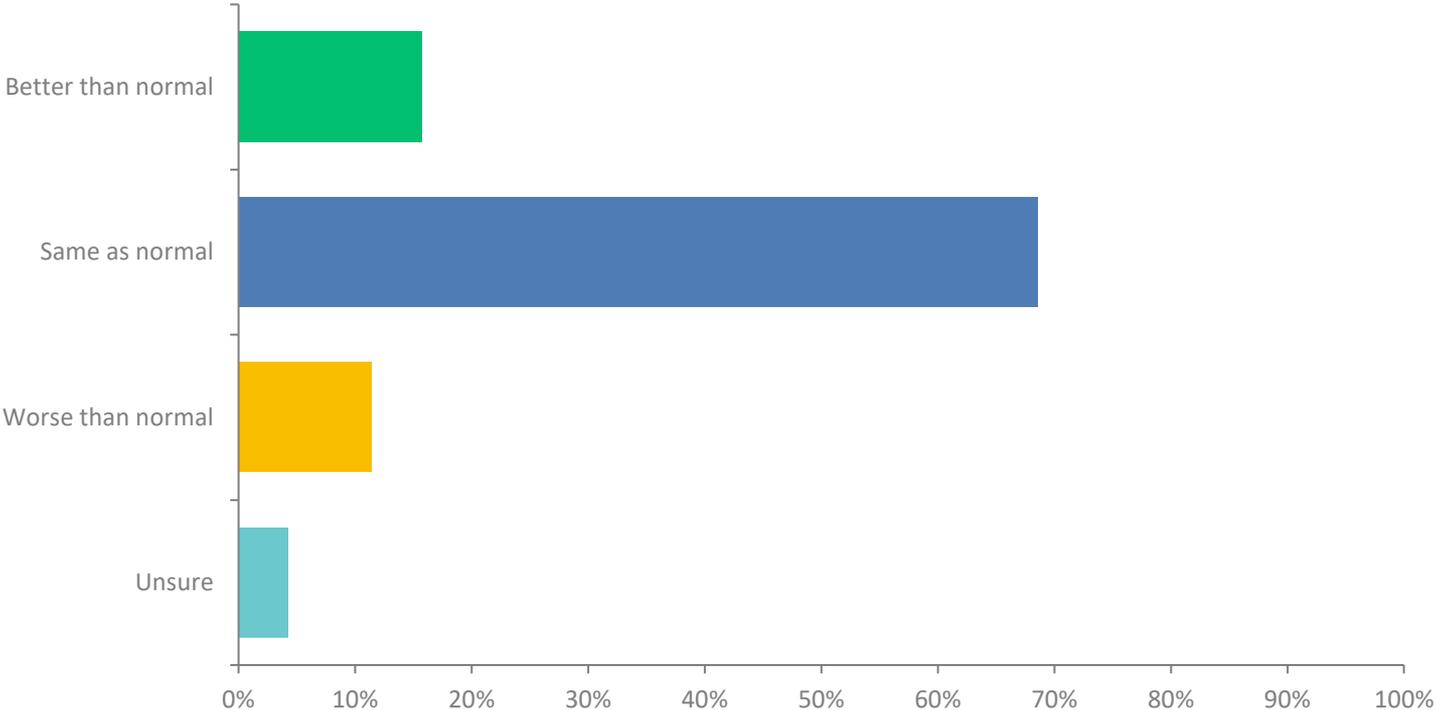
Q19: How have the spring crops yielded?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330



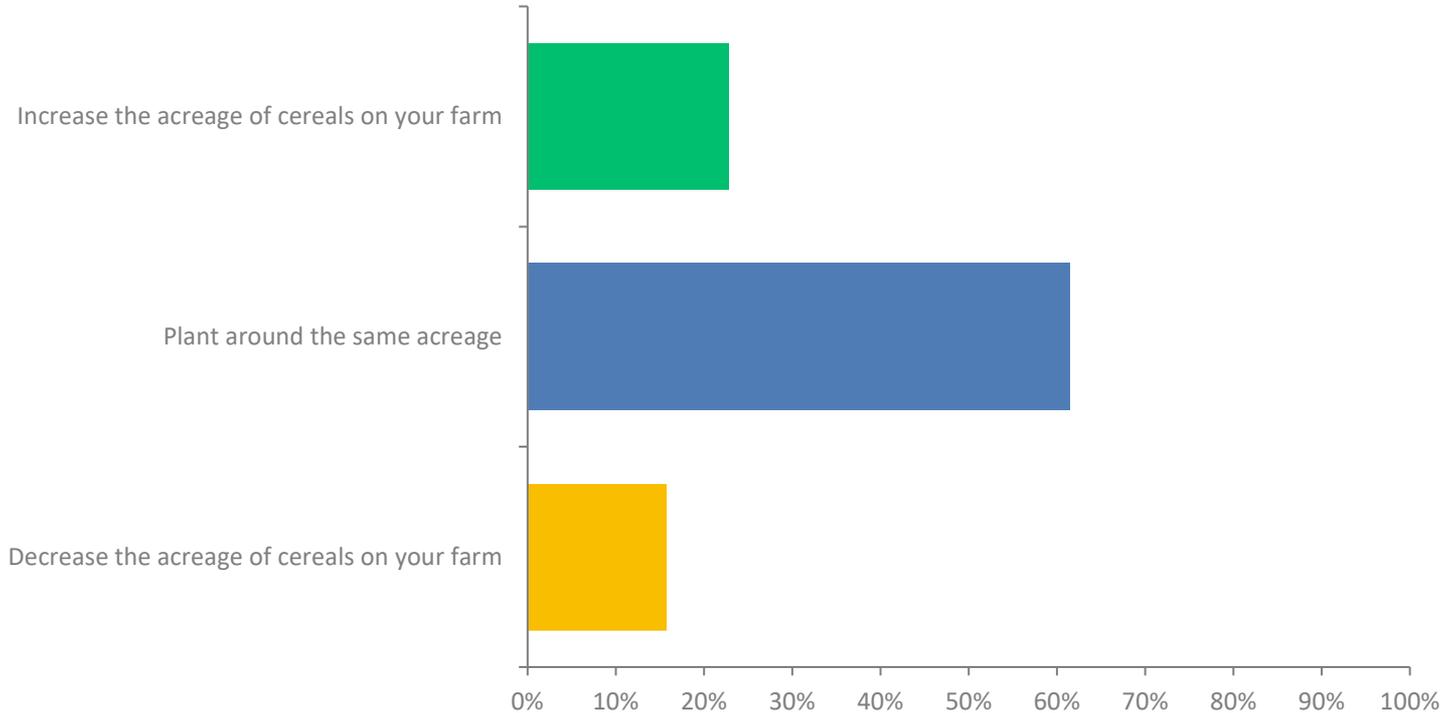
Q20: Is the quality of the crops?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330



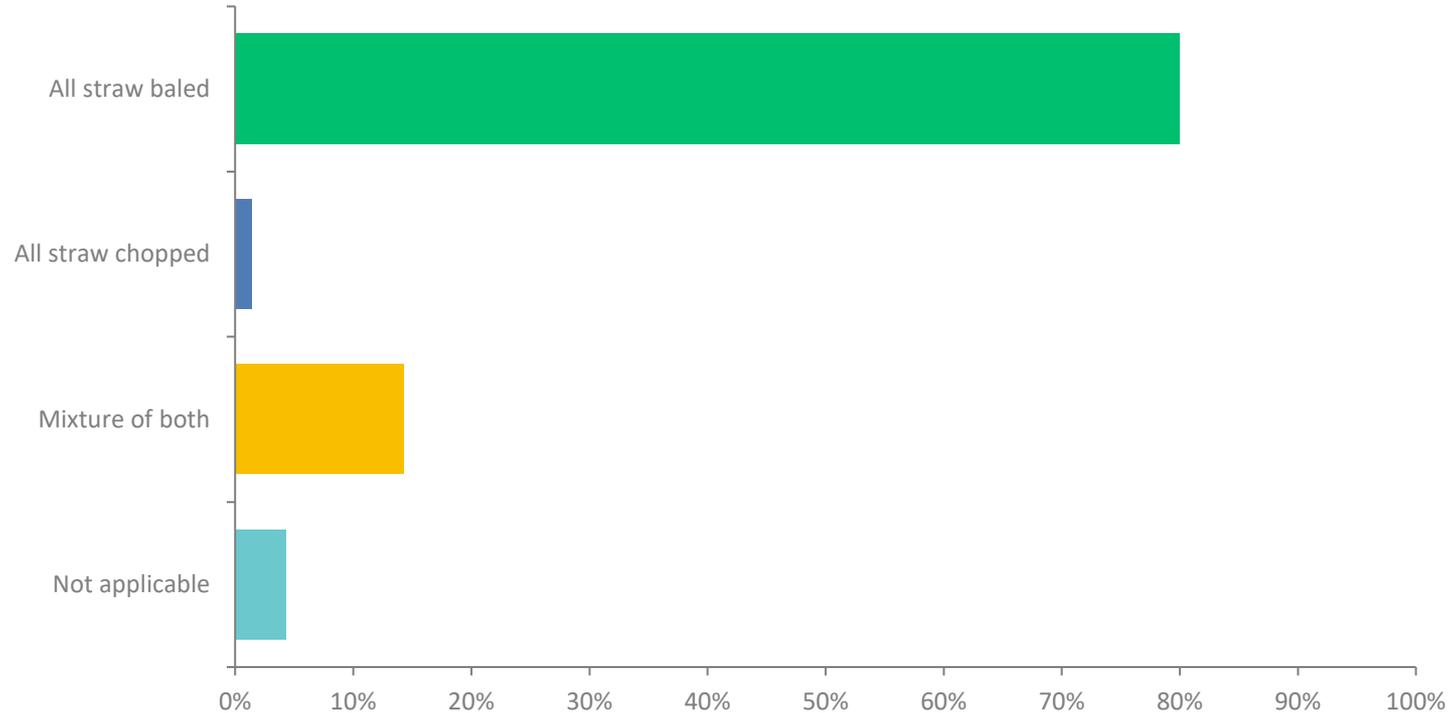
Q21: During this autumn and the following spring do you intend to:

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330



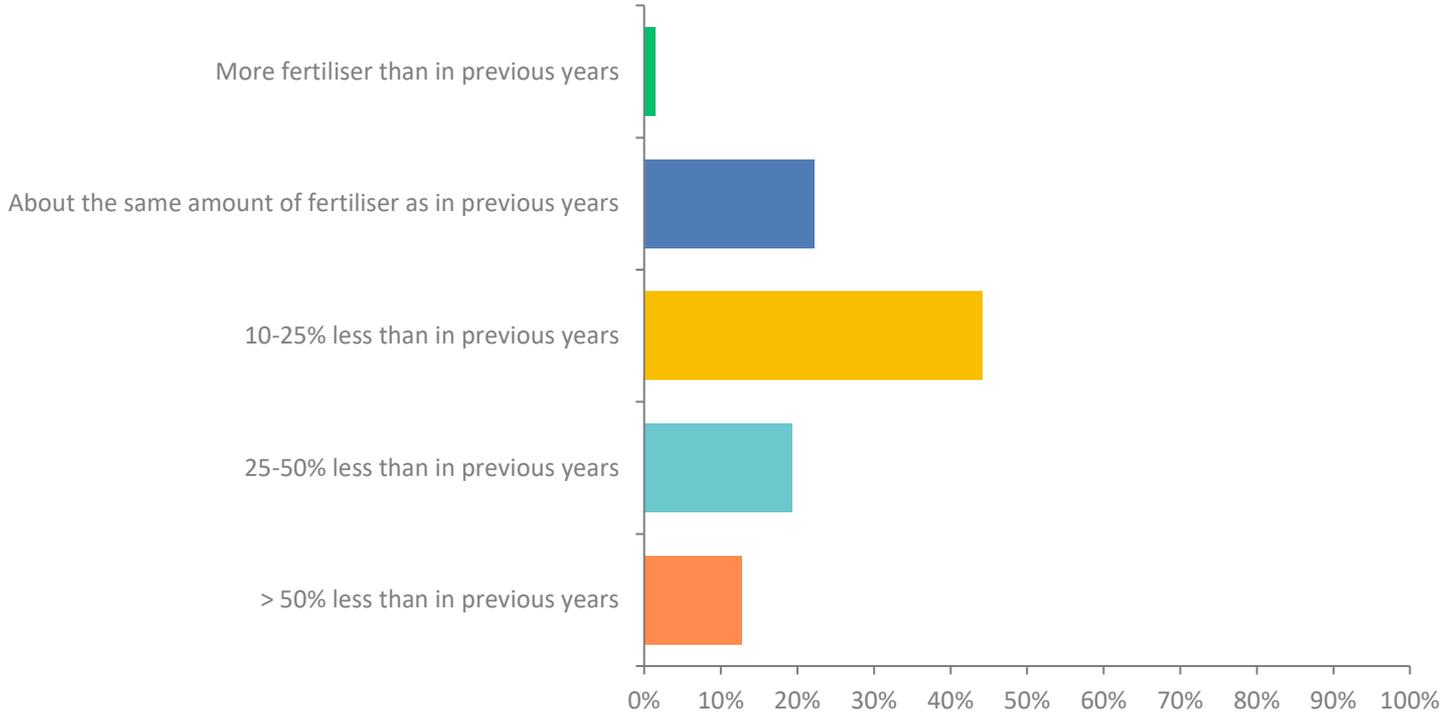
Q22: When harvesting barley, wheat and / or oats did you / will you bale up the straw (either for own use and / or for sale) or was it chopped to plough in?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 330

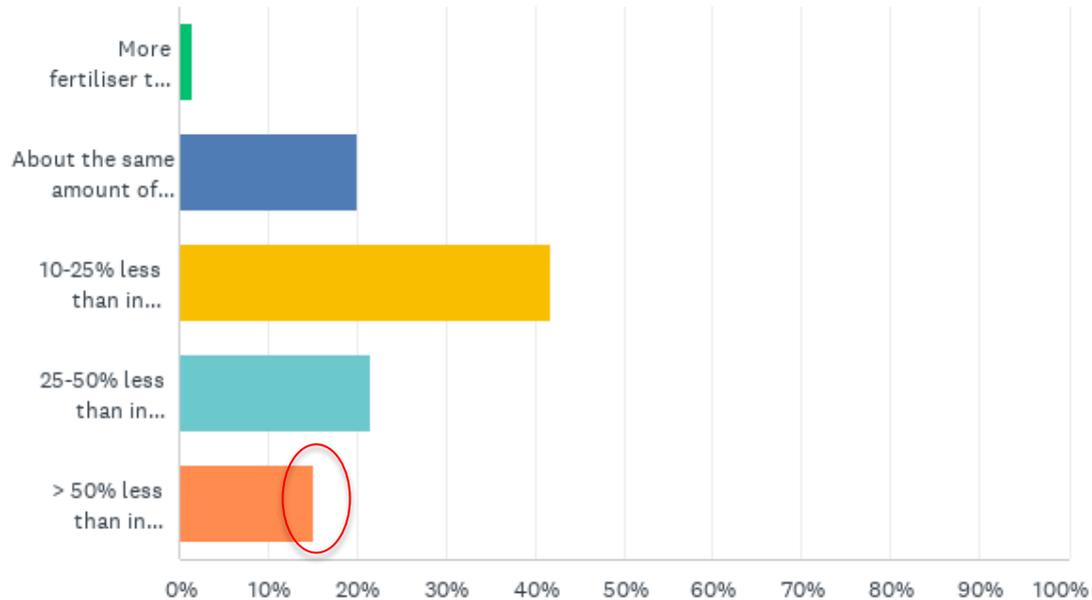


Q24: How much fertiliser did you sow this year? (All farms)

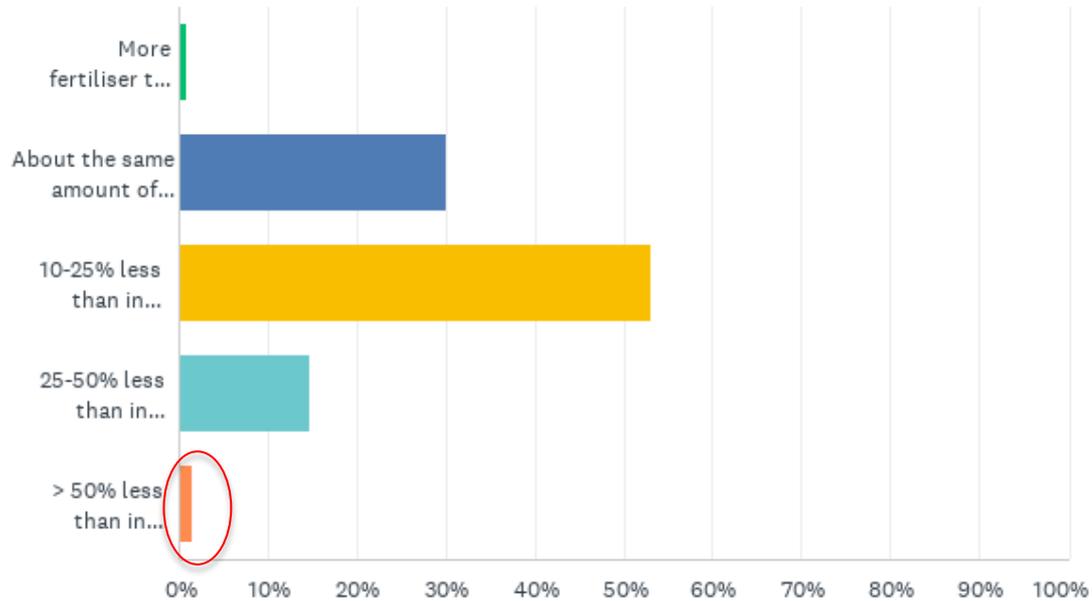
Answered: 351 Skipped: 49



Q24 How much fertiliser did you sow this year? (Beef and Sheep)



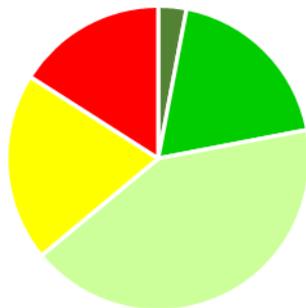
Q24 How much fertiliser did you sow this year? (Dairy)



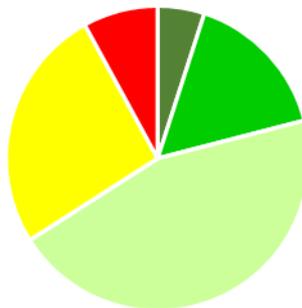
How much fertiliser did you sow this year? (by county)

- More than in previous years
- About the same as previous years
- 10-25% less than previous years
- 25-50% less than previous years
- >50% less than previous years

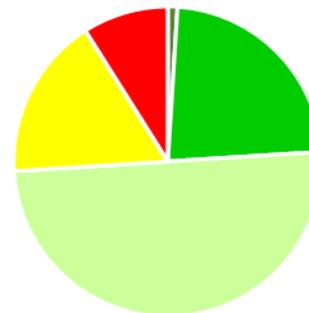
Antrim



Armagh



Down



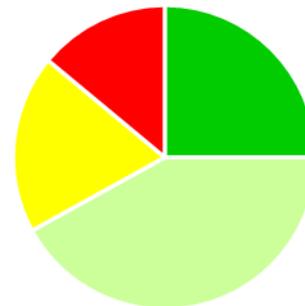
Fermanagh



Londonderry

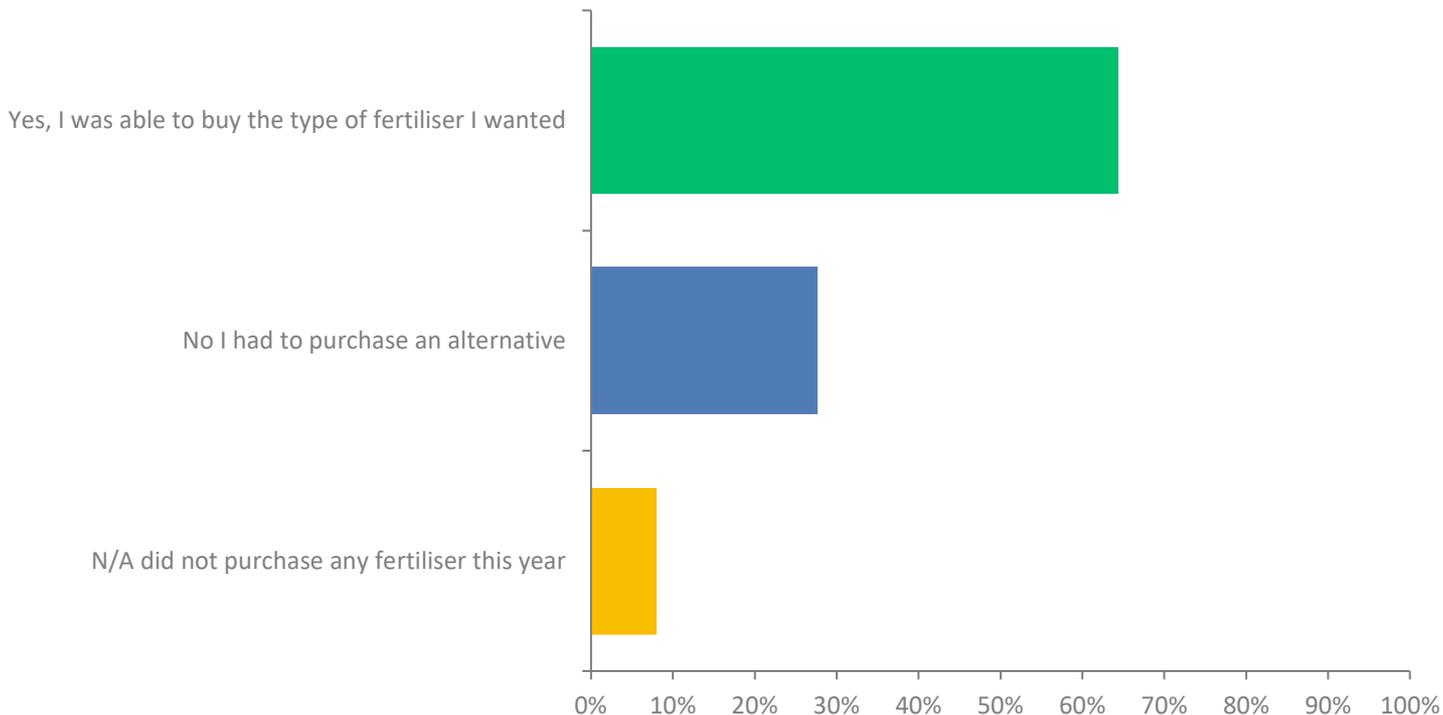


Tyrone



Q25: Were you able to buy the fertiliser type you wanted (i.e. with the right amounts of P & K (e.g. 23:0:10))

Answered: 351 Skipped: 49



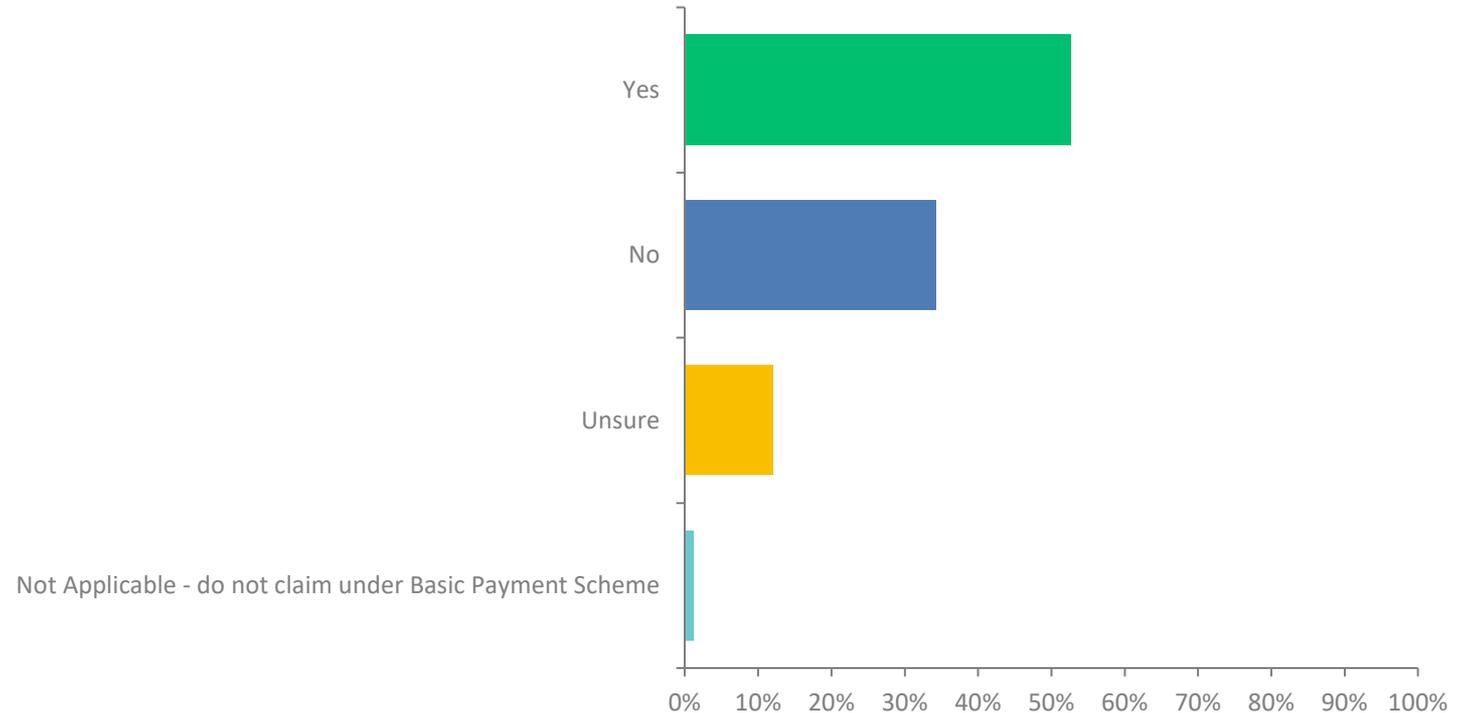
Q26: How have you paid for fertiliser this year?

Answered: 342 Skipped: 58

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I was able to purchase fertiliser within existing farm finance facilities (overdraft limit / deposits)	66.67%	228
I required additional finance facilities (e.g. extension to overdraft / short term loan etc)	9.36%	32
I drew on personal / family funds to pay for fertiliser this year	16.96%	58
Other (please specify)	7.02%	24
TOTAL		342

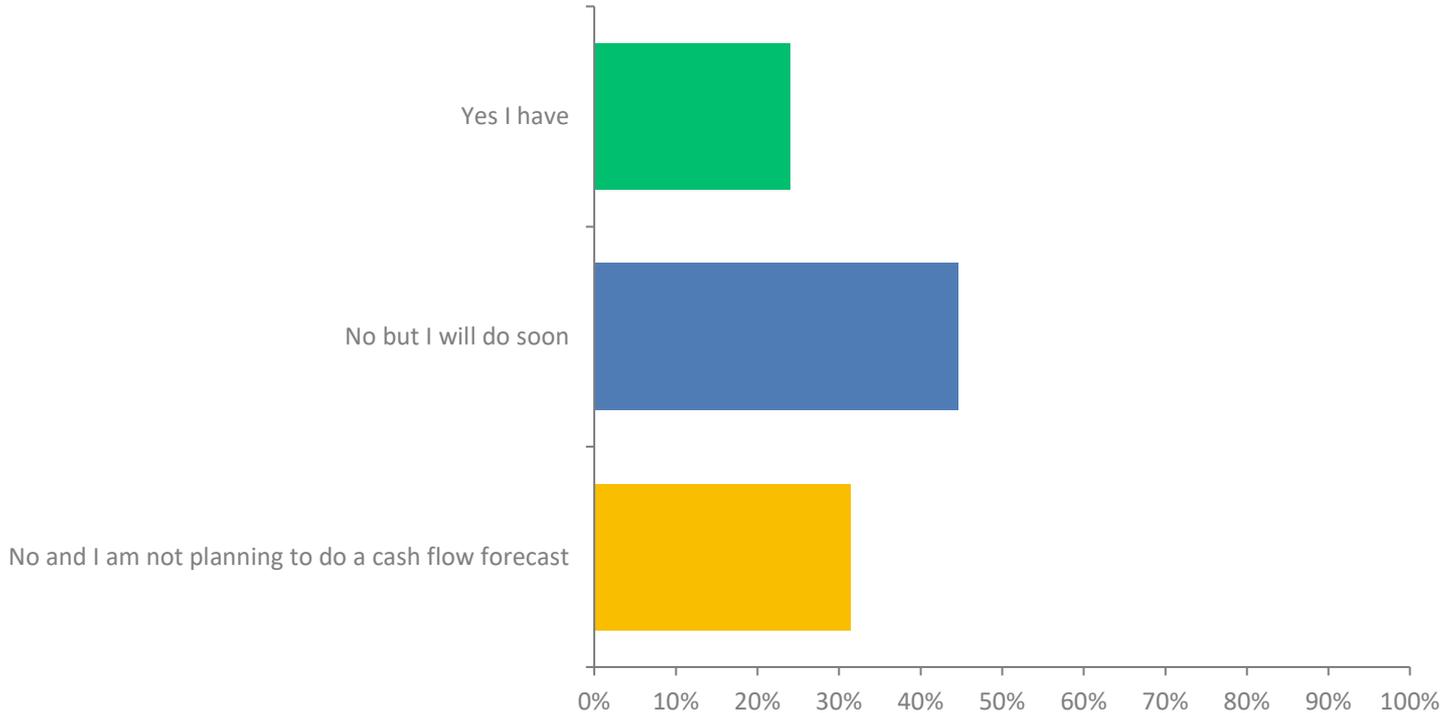
Q27: Are you intending to devote more of your direct payment under the basic payment scheme (BPS) to clearing feed and fertiliser bills than usual?

Answered: 350 Skipped: 50



Q28: Have you completed a cash flow forecast for the coming months?

Answered: 350 Skipped: 50



Q29: Do you have concerns over access to finance to fund purchase of feed and fertiliser this winter?

Answered: 347 Skipped: 53

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I have sufficient funds available	57.93%	201
I have already secured additional finance	9.22%	32
This is giving me cause for concern as I am already under pressure from creditors and/ or the Bank	25.07%	87
I have requested additional finance and this has been refused	2.31%	8
Other (please specify)	5.48%	19
TOTAL		347

Q30: Are you intending to forward buy fertiliser for use next spring?

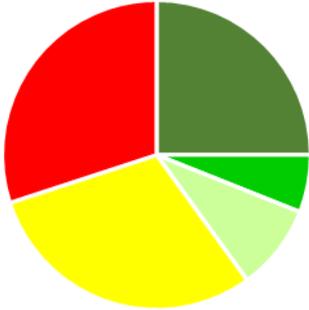
Answered: 351 Skipped: 49

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I already have	24.22%	85
I haven't purchased any for next Spring as have kept some that didn't sow this year (due to having adequate silage stocks / not sowing during dry weather etc)	2.85%	10
I haven't forward bought yet but intend to	11.40%	40
It depends on the price	31.62%	111
No I do not intend to forward buy fertiliser	29.91%	105
TOTAL		351

Forward Purchasing (by county)

- Already have
- No as have kept what I didn't sow this year
- No but I intend to
- Depends on price
- No

Antrim



Armagh



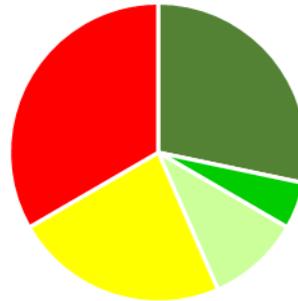
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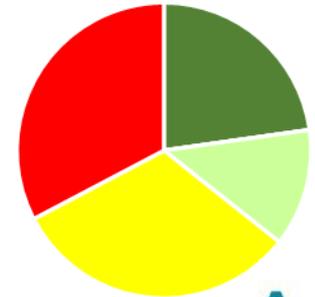
Fermanagh



Londonderry

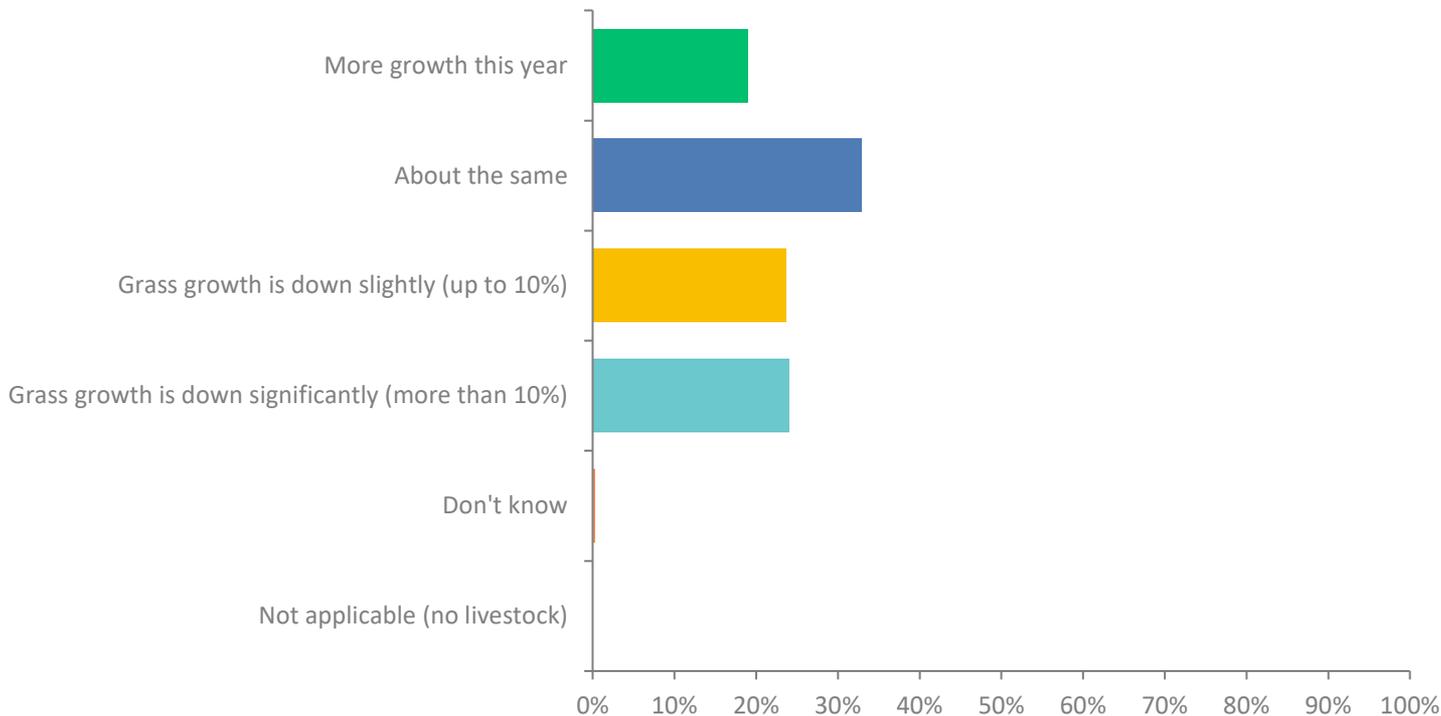


Tyrone



Q32: How would you compare grass growth on your farm this year to previous years

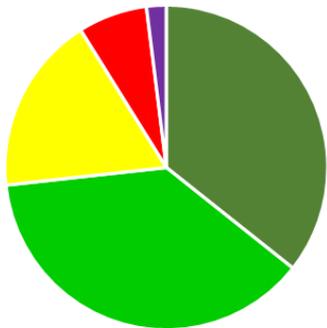
Answered: 295 Skipped: 105



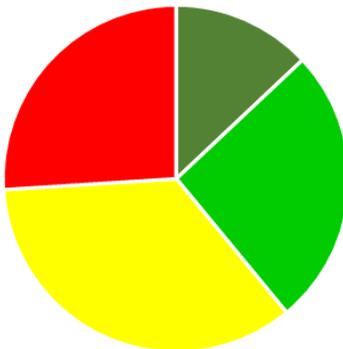
Grass Growth Compared to previous years (by county)

■ More ■ Same ■ Down (10%) ■ Down (more than 10%) ■ Don't Know

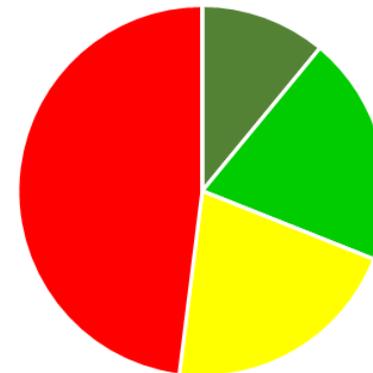
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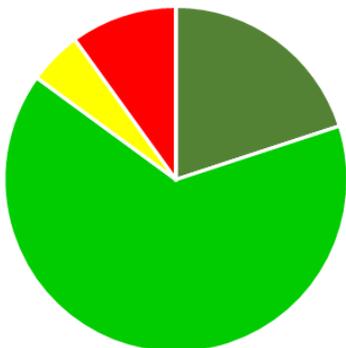
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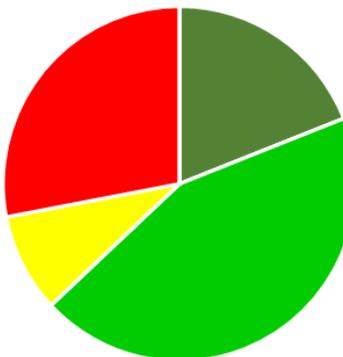
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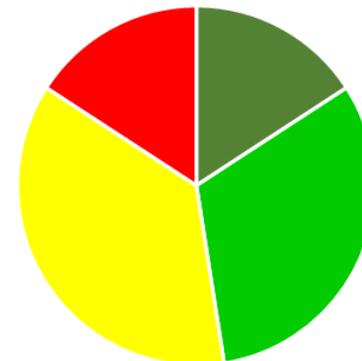
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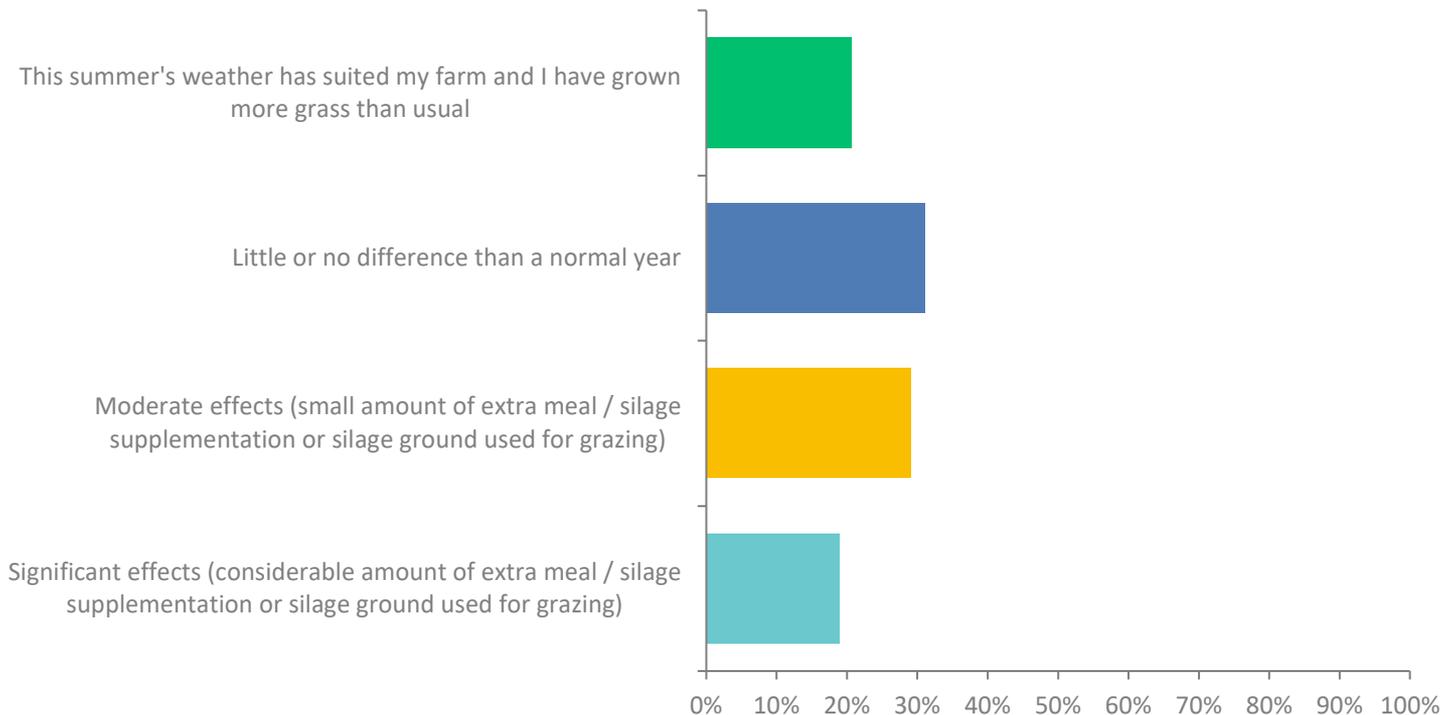


Tyrone



Q33: Have the lower rainfall levels this summer negatively affected grass growth and covers on your farm?

Answered: 295 Skipped: 105



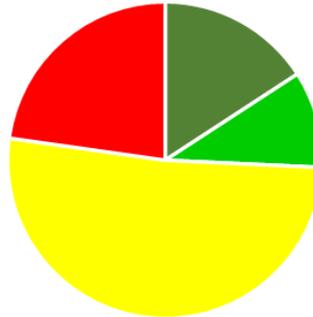
How has low summer rainfall affected grass growth / cover on farm?

- Suited my farm and I have grown more grass
- Little to no difference
- Moderate effects
- Significant effects

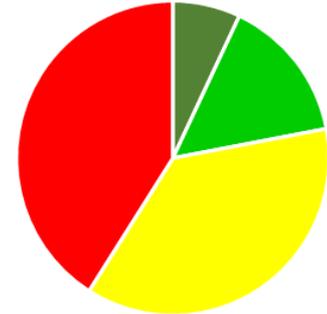
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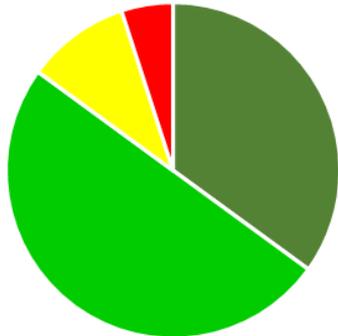
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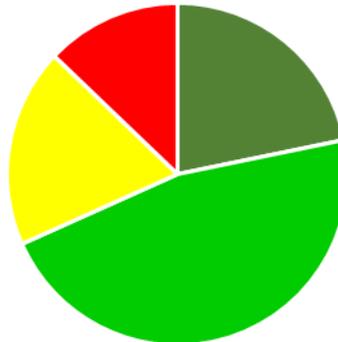
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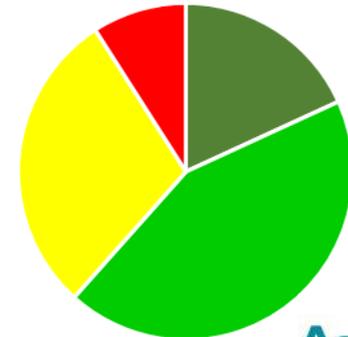
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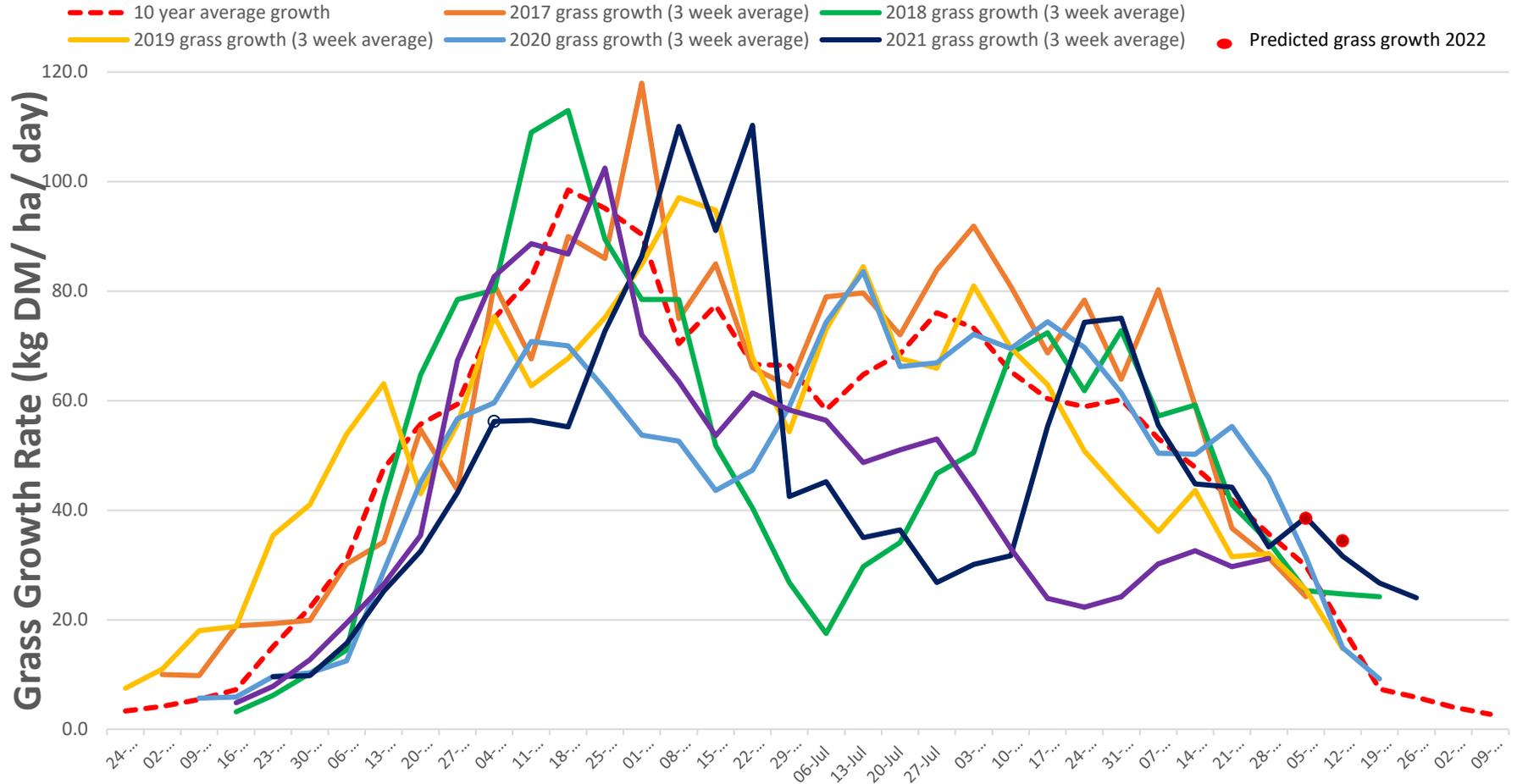
Londonderry



Tyrone



Climate Adaptation – An increasing issue?



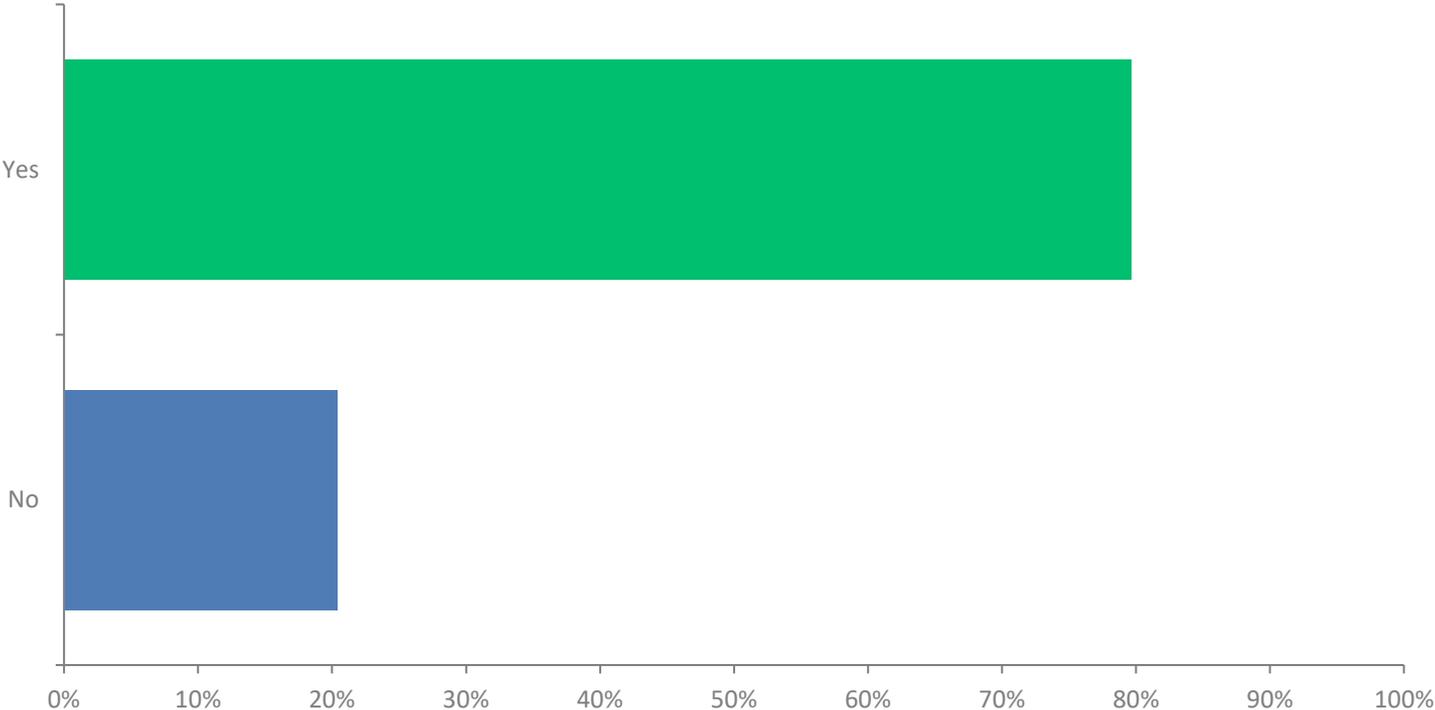
	Yes, I did this for the first time	Yes, but I normally do this	Yes, but I did less of it this year	No, but I would consider doing this	No, I would not consider doing this
Soil Analysis	7%	72%	9%	11%	1%
Lime Spreading	12%	52%	13%	20%	3%
Reseeding (without clover)	6%	29%	8%	30%	29%
Reseeding (with clover)	9%	31%	11%	36%	13%
Stitching in clover	7%	7%	2%	62%	22%
Established MSS	4%	4%	1%	56%	36%
Drawn up nutrient management plan	3%	35%	5%	49%	9%
Measured grass	3%	17%	6%	45%	30%
Rotationally grazed	7%	73%	8%	9%	4%
Drainage works	2%	29%	19%	37%	14%
Imported slurry/FYM/poultry litter	7%	20%	7%	27%	41%

BEEF AND/OR SHEEP	Yes, I did this for the first time	Yes, but I normally do this	Yes, but I did less of it this year	No, but I would consider doing this	No, I would not consider doing this
Soil Analysis	7%	70%	9%	12%	1%
Lime Spreading	11%	49%	13%	23%	4%
Reseeding (without clover)	5%	20%	9%	33%	34%
Reseeding (with clover)	10%	32%	11%	36%	12%
Stitching in clover	7%	7%	2%	64%	20%
Established MSS	4%	4%	0.5%	55%	37%
Drawn up nutrient management plan	3%	31%	5%	51%	9%
Measured grass	3%	14%	5%	47%	32%
Rotationally grazed	8%	72%	8%	8%	4%
Drainage works	2%	24%	18%	39%	16%
Imported slurry/FYM/poultry litter	7%	24%	6%	30%	33%

DAIRY	Yes, I did this for the first time	Yes, but I normally do this	Yes, but I did less of it this year	No, but I would consider doing this	No, I would not consider doing this
Soil Analysis	7%	76%	7%	9%	2%
Lime Spreading	15%	59%	11%	12%	2%
Reseeding (without clover)	8%	54%	5%	21%	12%
Reseeding (with clover)	9%	28%	12%	31%	20%
Stitching in clover	8%	5%	0%	53%	34%
Established MSS	5%	2%	2%	52%	40%
Drawn up nutrient management plan	3%	47%	4%	40%	7%
Measured grass	1%	25%	7%	39%	28%
Rotationally grazed	4%	81%	4%	8%	4%
Drainage works	0%	40%	18%	32%	10%
Imported slurry/FYM/poultry litter	3%	6%	2%	24%	65%

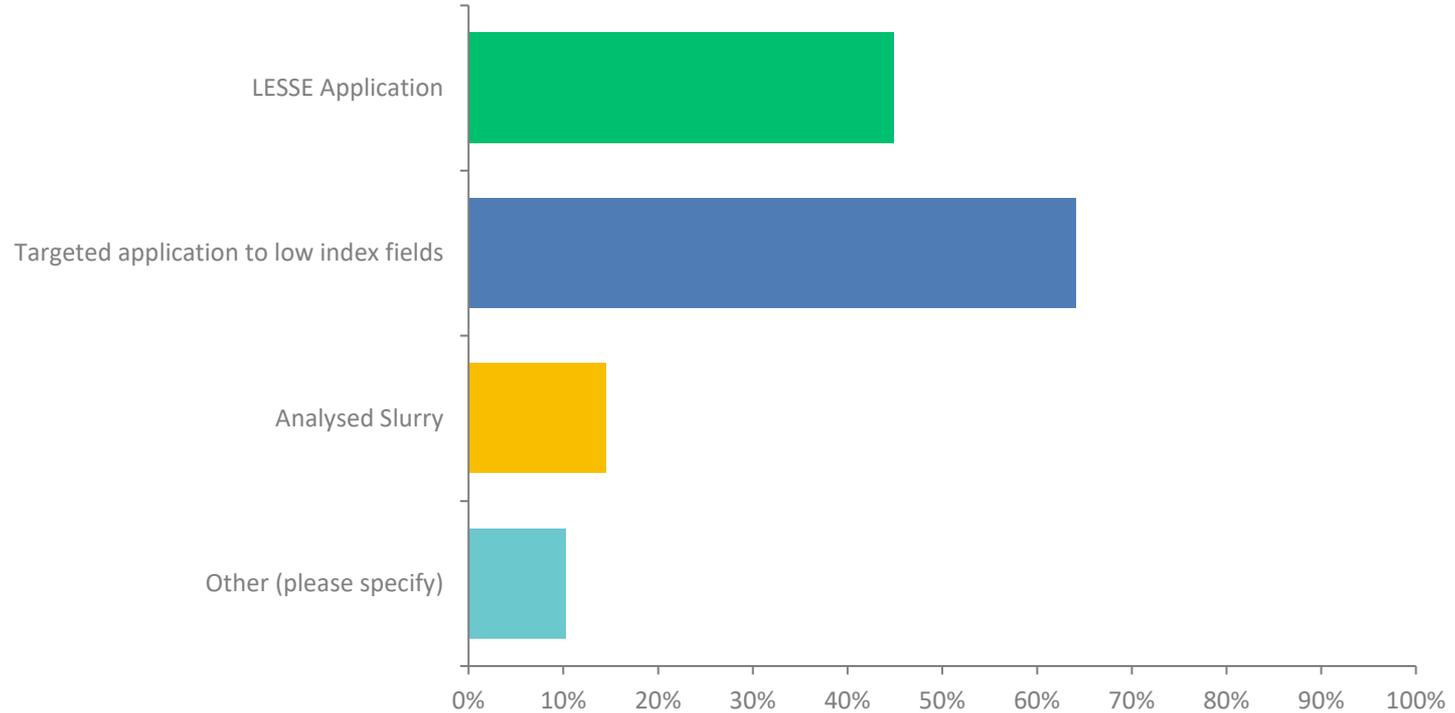
Q35: Did you make better use of slurry this year?

Answered: 295 Skipped: 105



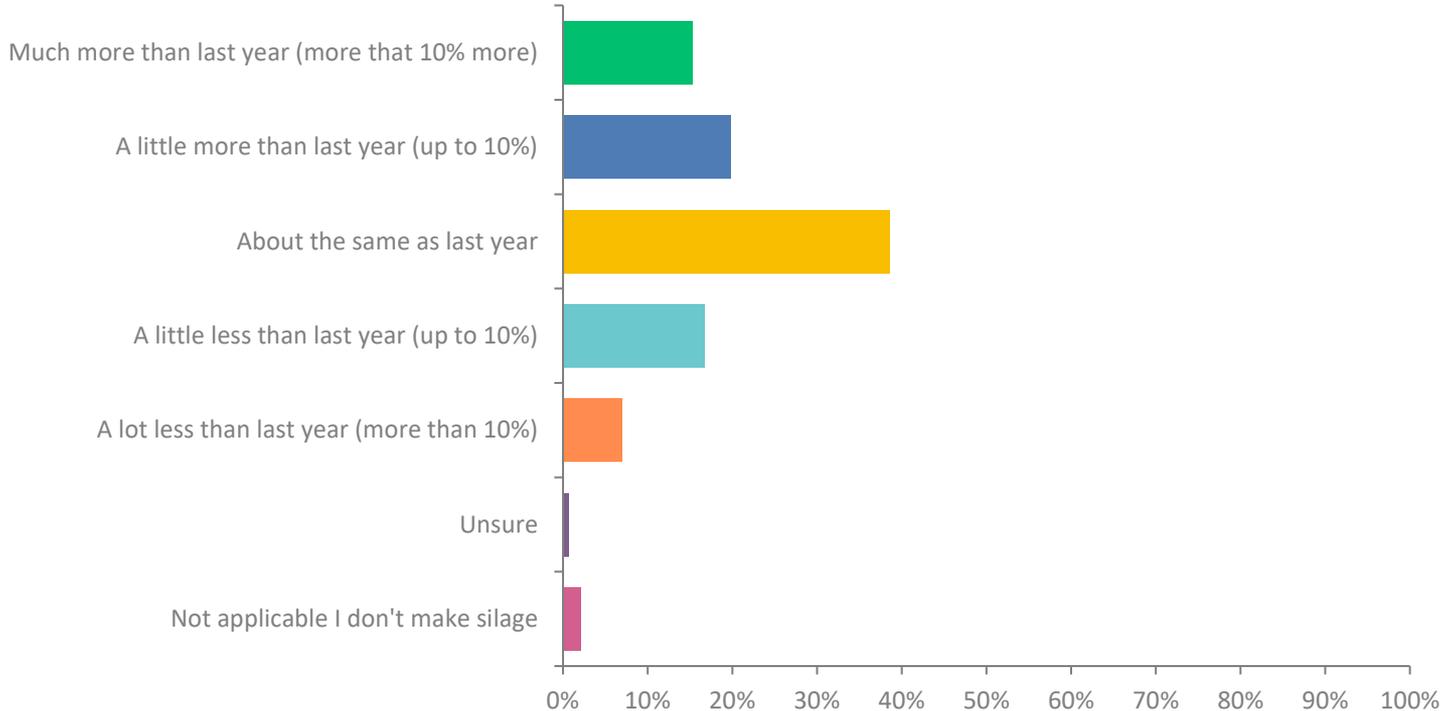
Q36: How did you make better use of slurry?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 166



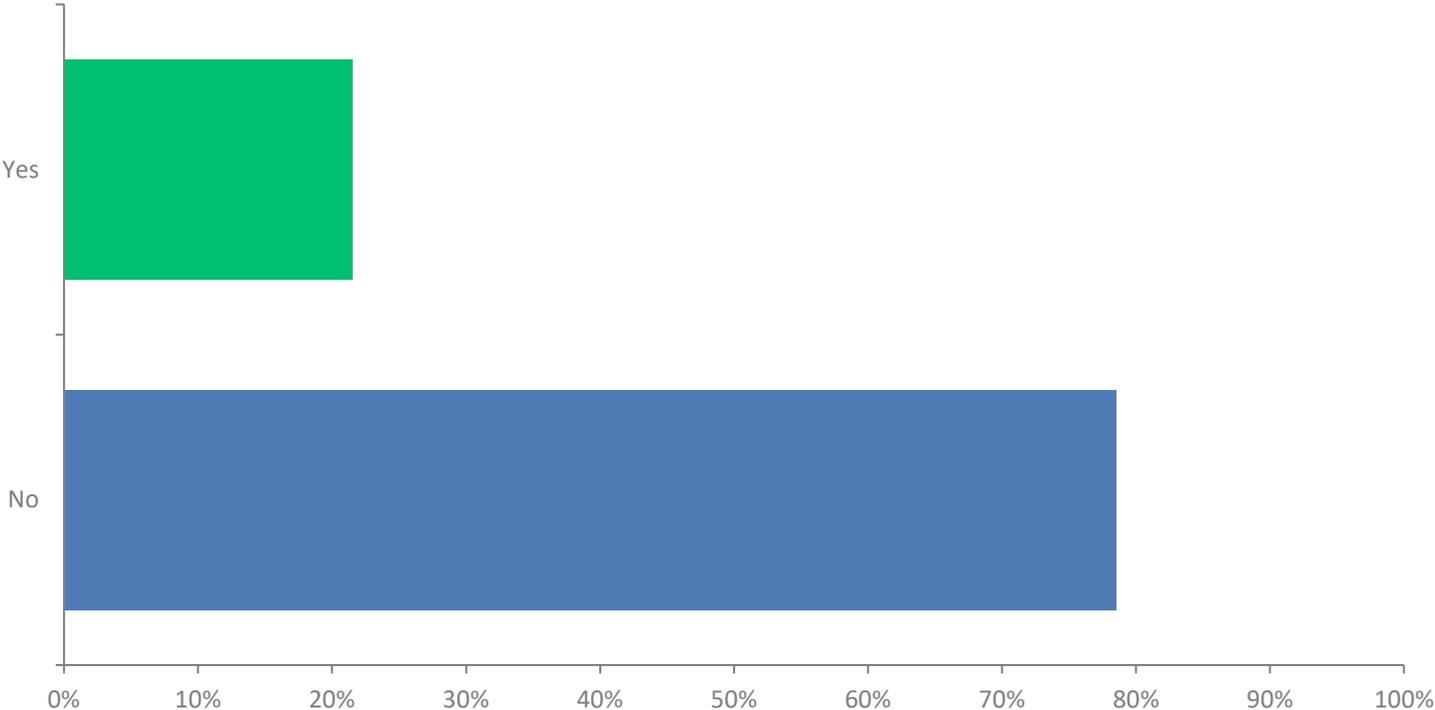
Q37: Would you estimate the QUANTITY of silage you have in store?

Answered: 288 Skipped: 112



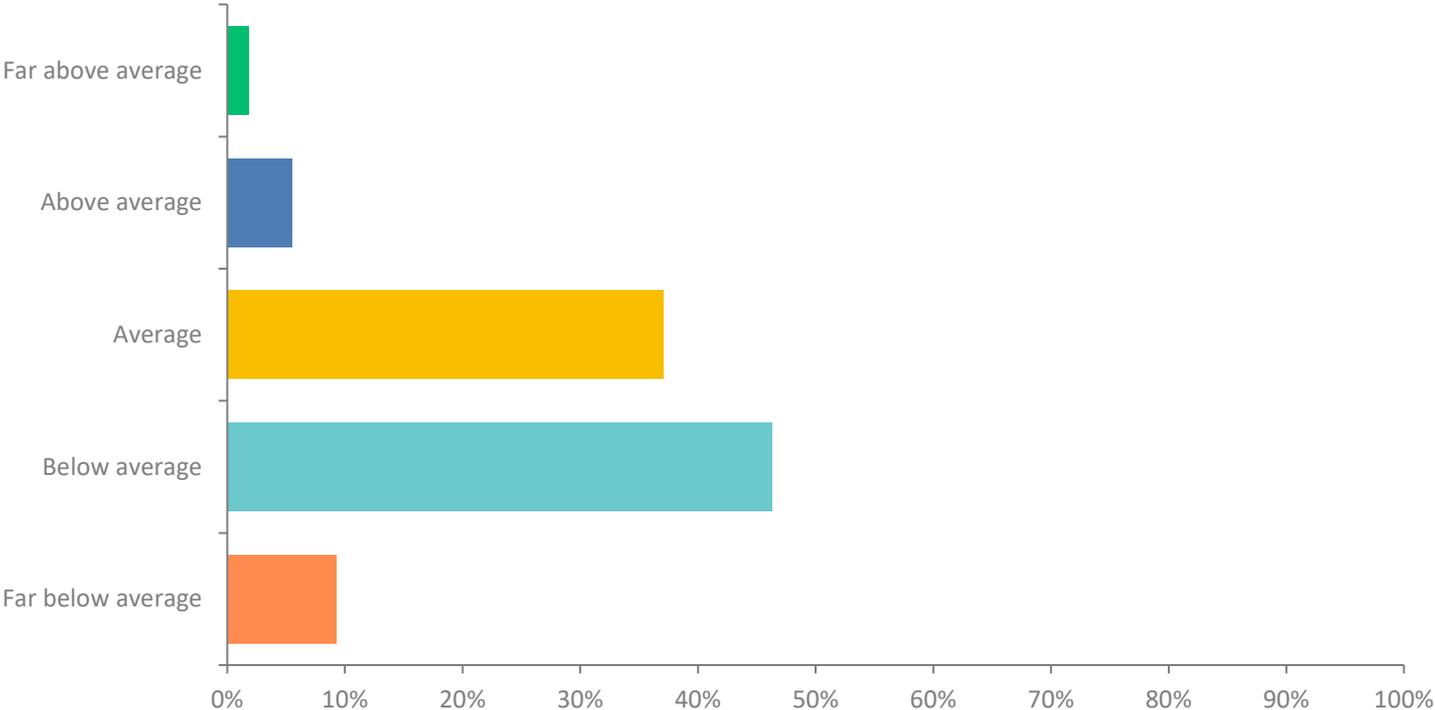
Q38: Have you analysed any of your silage to date?

Answered: 288 Skipped: 112



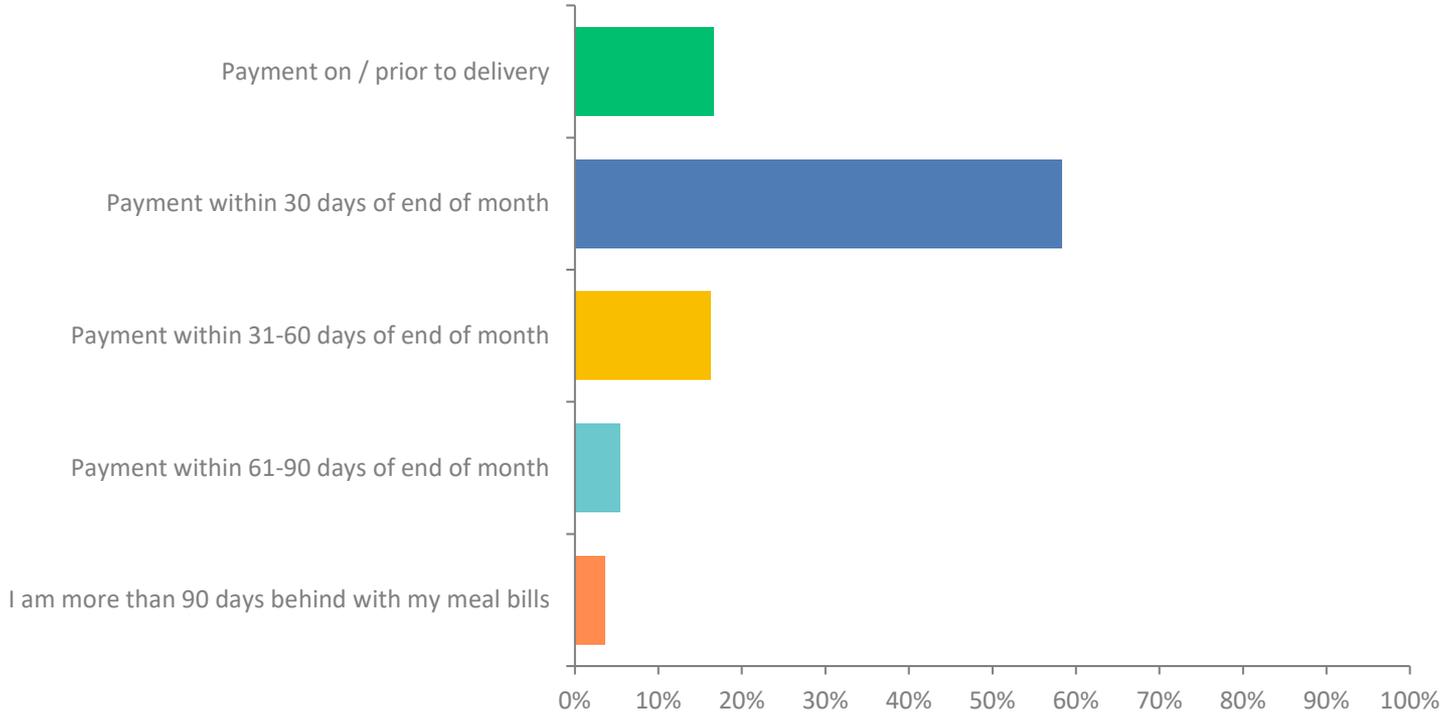
Q41: Are these silages above or below your normal quality?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 346



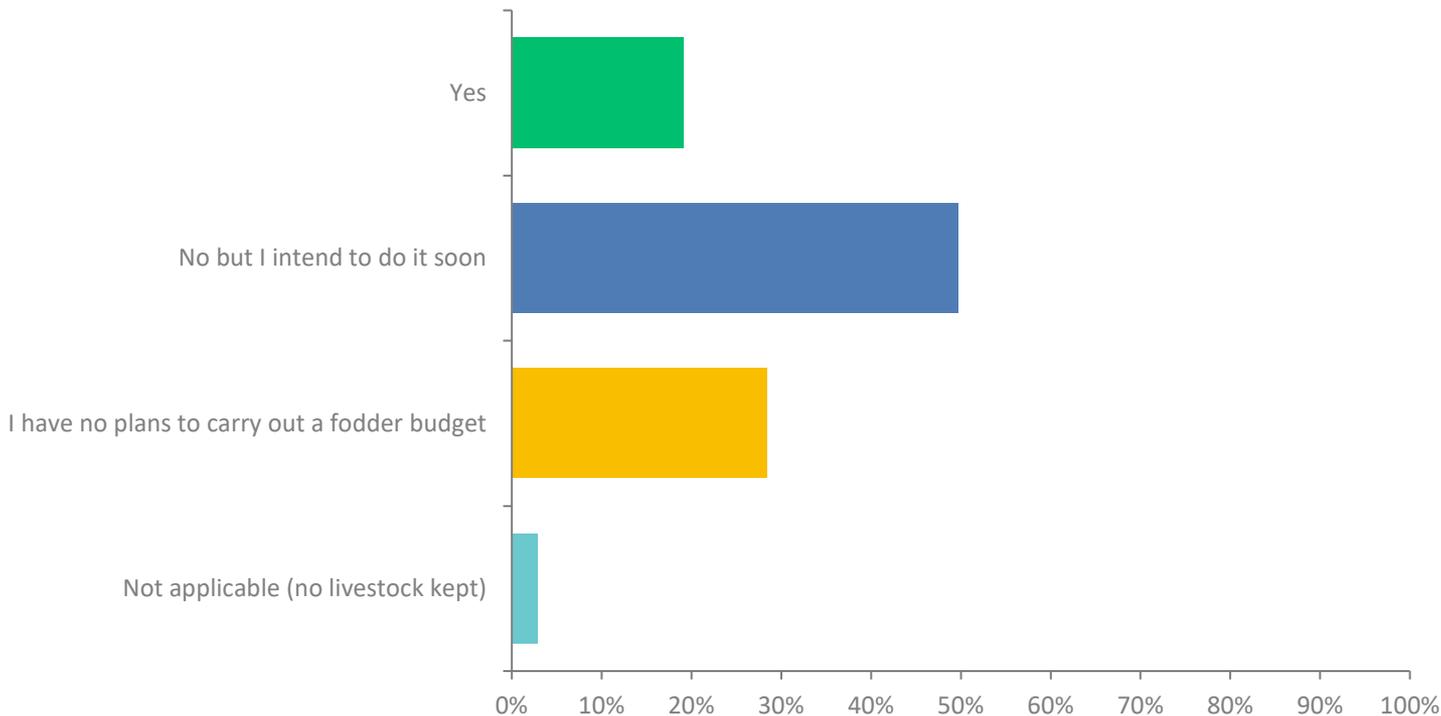
Q42: How are you currently paying for purchased feed?

Answered: 278 Skipped: 122



Q43: Have you carried out fodder plan for the coming winter?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 118



Q45: With regard to forward planning for next year, do you plan to make changes?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 118

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't plan to make any changes	18.44%	52
Sow more clover	26.95%	76
Better use of slurry	51.42%	145
Use less fertiliser	37.59%	106
Reduce livestock numbers	28.01%	79
Other (please specify)	9.93%	28
TOTAL		486

Summary (1)

- Not likely to be huge flush of extra stores in markets this winter (~9%)
- However, 30% of beef & sheep farmers do intend to reduce stock numbers (mainly culling cows & purchasing less)
- Over half of beef & sheep farmers have below average silage but still 46% intend to feed less concentrate
- Little change in dairy cow numbers. A minority of farmers (11%-43%) may feed less meal.
 - 57% have below average silage (of which 12% is far below average)
- Modest increases in acreage of cereals

Summary (2)

- 76% of farmers sowed less fertiliser this year
- Silage yields up but overall grass growth about the same
- Considerable regional variations (78% of farmers in County Down affected by the dry weather)
- Less than 20% of farmers have completed a fodder plan
- Farmers generally on top of feed & fertiliser bills but more of SFP being used for these purposes this year
 - 27% say they are under pressure / have been refused finance
- Only 24% have completed a cash flow forecast
- Significant interest in forward buying fertiliser (only 30% ruled it out)
- Considerable interest in clover / MSS and nutrient management planning