

AgriSearch / UFU Farmer Survey on impact of high input prices

Results

Wednesday 11th May 2022

Introduction

807 Total Responses

560 (70%) have a beef and / or sheep enterprise

360 (45%) have a dairy enterprise

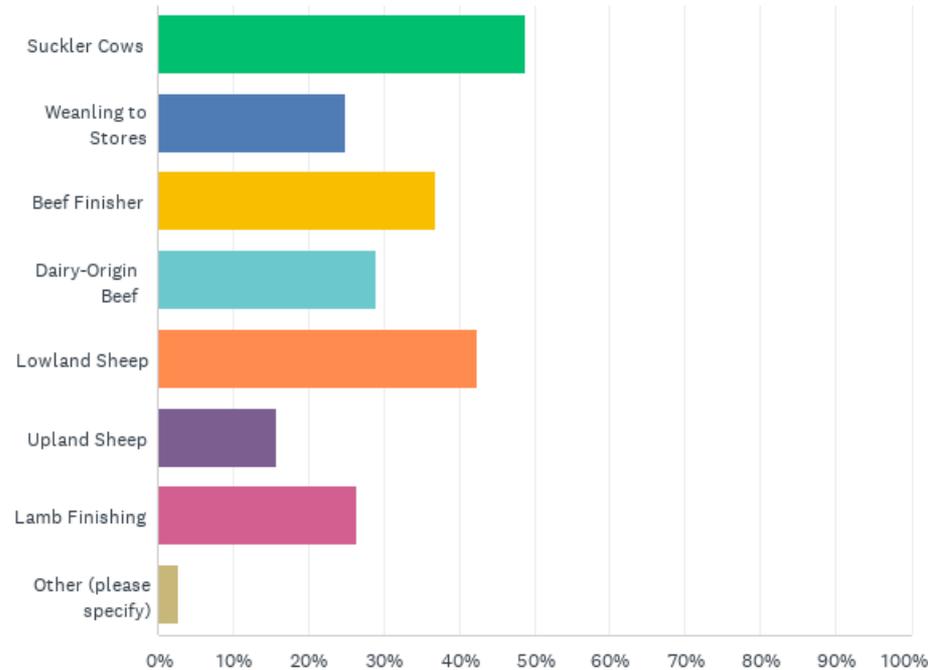
93 (12%) have a pig and/or poultry enterprise (21 pig farmers – 10%)

141 (18%) have a cereal, potato or horticulture enterprise

Thanks to all who helped disseminate the survey

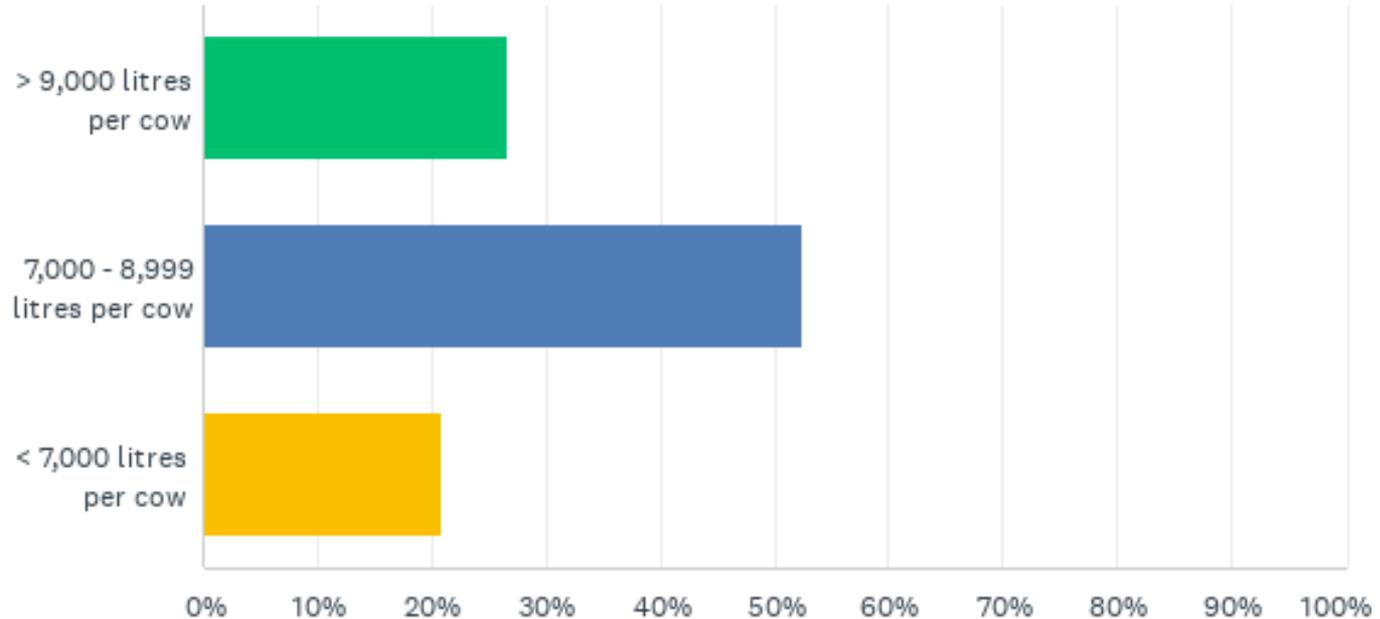
Q2: Which Beef & Sheep Enterprises do you have? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 556 Skipped: 251



Q4: What is your average herd yield?

Answered: 339 Skipped: 468



Q6: Do you anticipate milk production for the 12 months from April 2022 to March 2023 will be....

Answered: 337 Skipped: 470

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Over 5% higher than last year	18.10%	61
Similar to last year (within 5% + or -)	55.49%	187
5-10% lower than last year	17.51%	59
10-15% lower than last year	5.34%	18
Over 15% lower than last year	3.56%	12
TOTAL		337

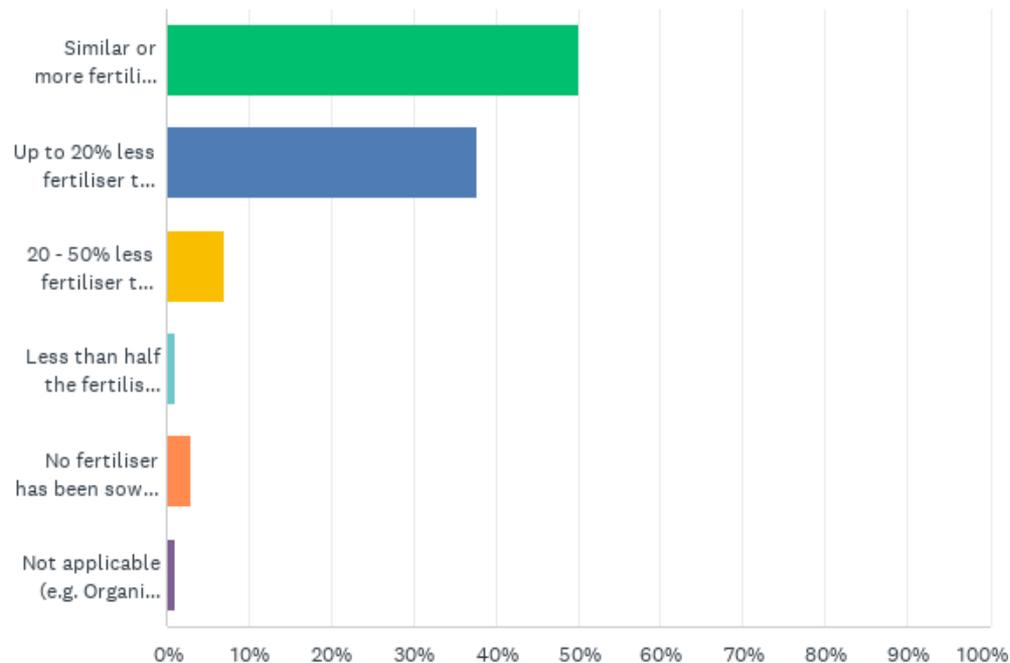
Q9: Have you increased the / decreased the area of winter crops planted?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 669

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased the area of winter crops planted	20.29%	28
Decreased the area of winter crops planted	8.70%	12
Area planted is around the same as previous years	41.30%	57
I have sown no winter crops (but I usually do so)	3.62%	5
I have sown no winter crops (but I don't usually grown winter crops)	26.09%	36
TOTAL		138

Q10: What fertiliser have your winter crops received?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 709



Q10: What fertiliser have your winter crops received?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 709

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Similar or more fertiliser than in previous years	50.00%	49
Up to 20% less fertiliser than in previous years	37.76%	37
20 - 50% less fertiliser than in previous years	7.14%	7
Less than half the fertiliser they received in previous years	1.02%	1
No fertiliser has been sown on my winter crops to date	3.06%	3
Not applicable (e.g. Organic farmer)	1.02%	1
TOTAL		98

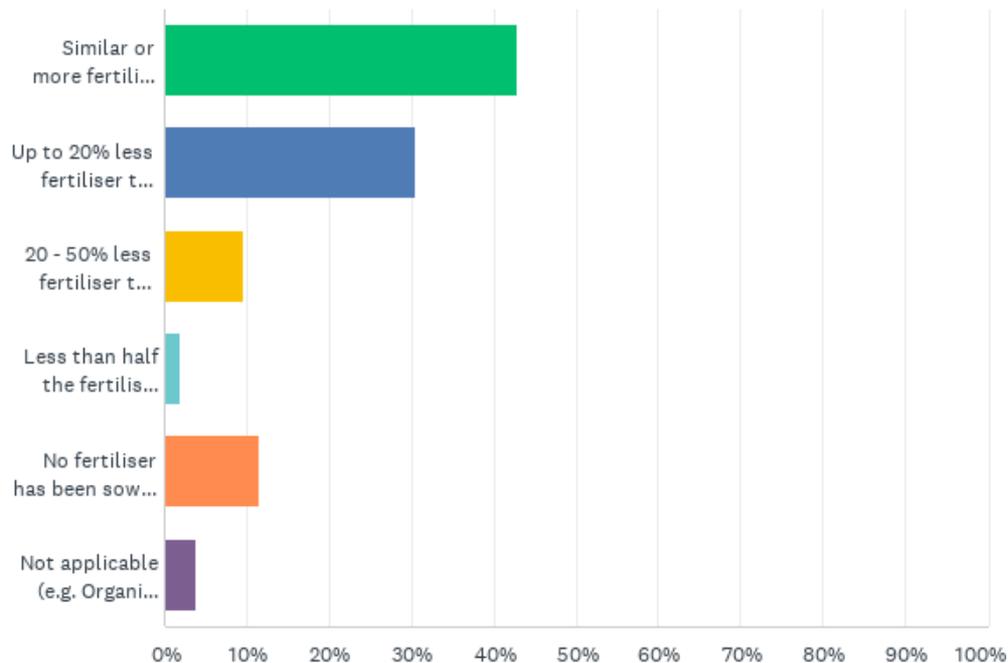
Q11: Have you increased the / decreased the area of spring crops planted?

Answered: 137 Skipped: 670

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased the area of spring crops planted	27.01%	37
Decreased the area of spring crops planted	5.84%	8
Area of spring crops planted is around the same as previous years	42.34%	58
I have sown no spring crops (but I usually do so)	4.38%	6
I have sown no spring crops (but I don't usually grow spring crops_	20.44%	28
TOTAL		137

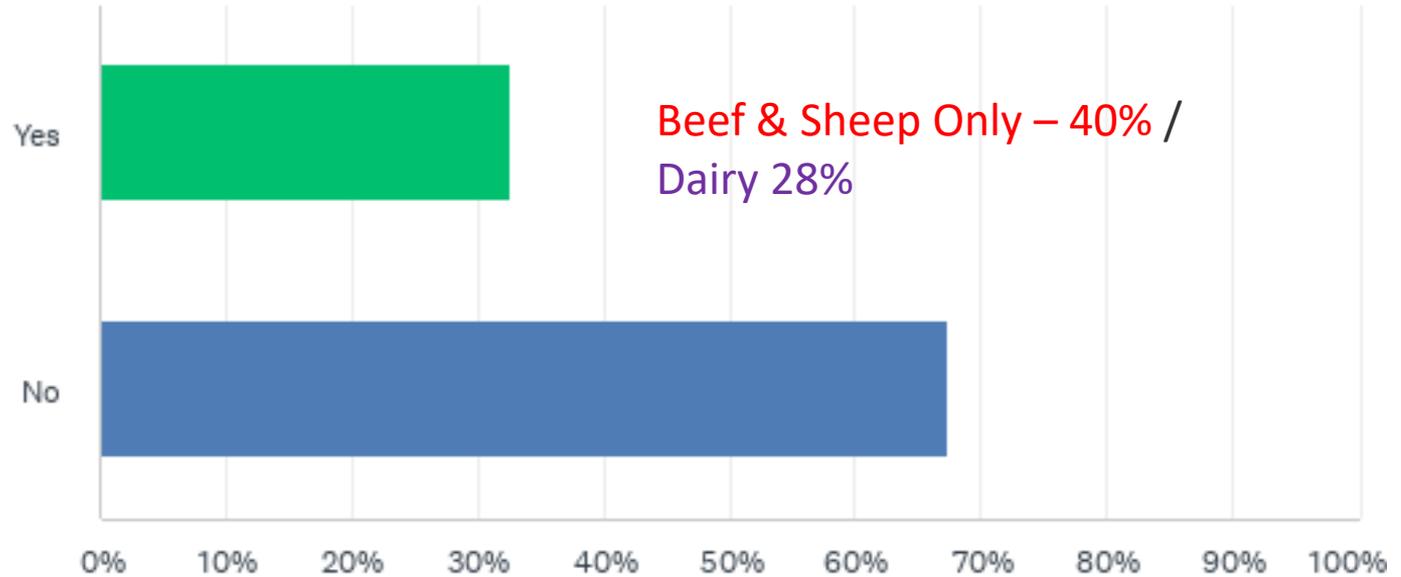
Q12: What fertiliser have / will your spring crops receive?

Answered: 105 Skipped: 702



Q18: Are you finding it difficult to get fertiliser delivered?

Answered: 758 Skipped: 49



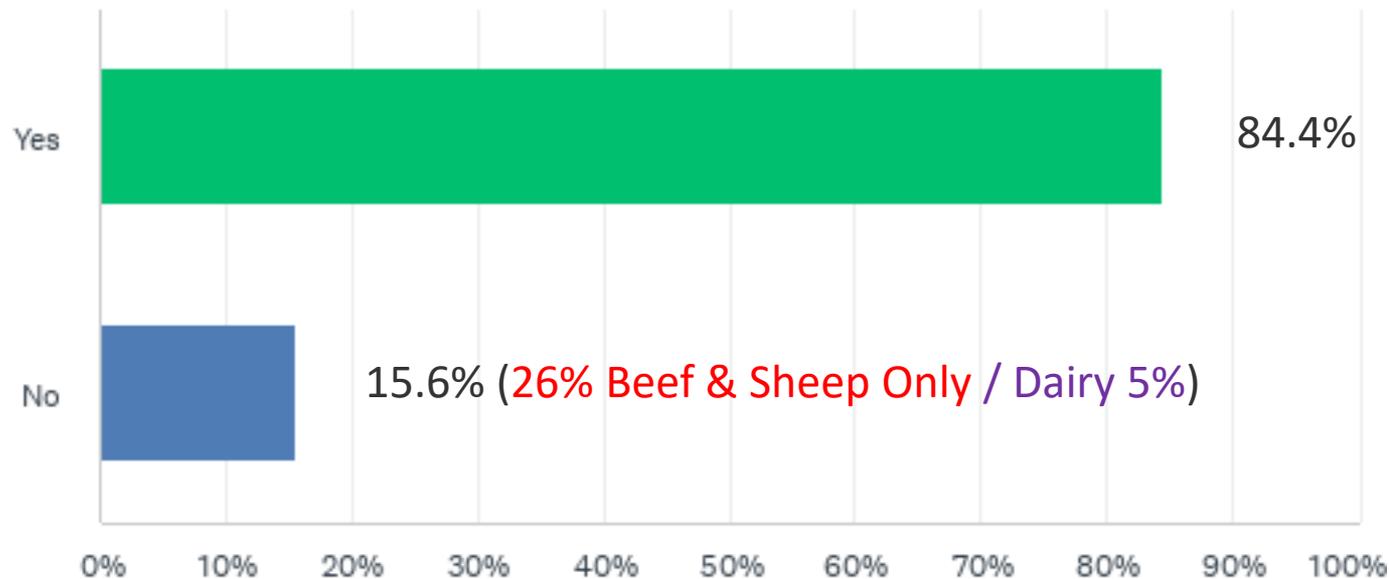
Q19: What is the issue with getting fertiliser delivered?

Answered: 248 Skipped: 559

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Type of fertiliser I want is currently not in stock	35.89%	89
Merchant cannot guarantee delivery	33.47%	83
Delivery confirmed but will be delayed	17.34%	43
Other (please specify)	13.31%	33
TOTAL		248

Q20: Have you bought any manufactured fertiliser this year or carried over significant stocks from last year?

Answered: 751 Skipped: 56



Q27: You say you have bought no fertiliser so far this year. Please elaborate:

Answered: 121 Skipped: 686

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
Total Responses	121	17	81
I do not normally buy fertiliser for my farm	15.7%	11.8%	7.4%
I normally buy fertiliser, I have not done so yet but I intend to later this year	29.8%	29.4%	33.3%
I normally buy fertiliser, but I do not intend doing so this year	39.7%	47.1%	46.9%
Other (please specify)	14.9%	11.8%	12.4%

Q28: Why have you not purchased any fertiliser when you usually do so? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 82 Skipped: 725

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
Total Responses	82	13	63
Unable to source fertiliser	2.4%	0.0%	1.6%
Too Expensive	86.6%	61.5%	90.5%
Unable to secure funds to pay (I have tried and been unsuccessful)	12.2%	30.8%	9.5%
Don't think I would be able to secure additional funds (but have not spoken to my bank about this)	17.1%	23.1%	15.9%
Other (please specify)	13.4%	15.4%	14.3%

Q21: Have you / are you intending to sow (on grassland): [Compared to previous years]

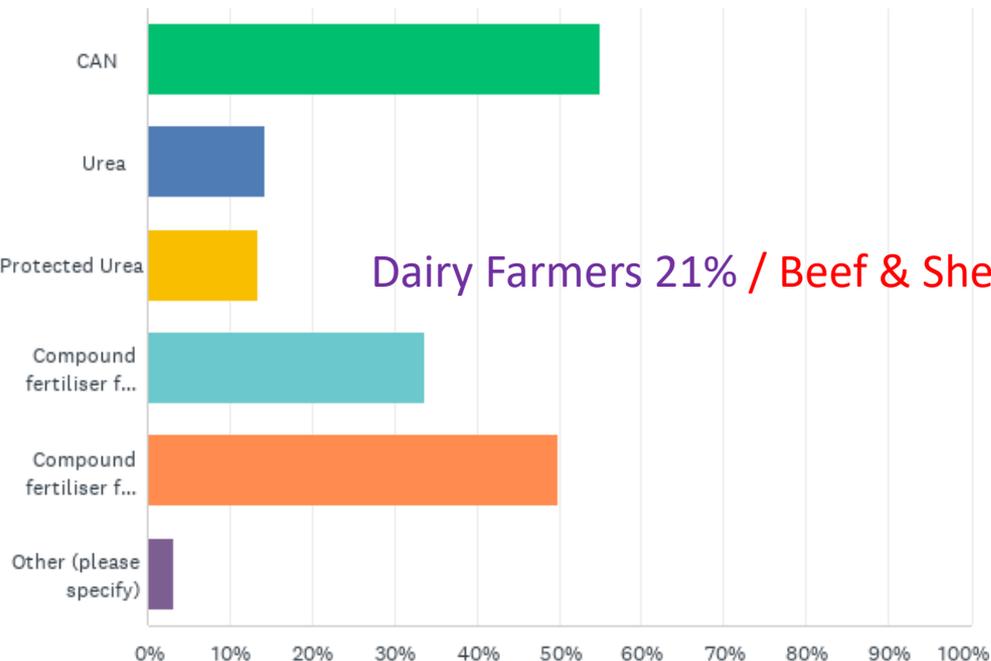
Answered: 608 Skipped: 199

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
More fertiliser	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
About the same	27.6%	35.0%	18.6%
10-25% less	39.6%	47.1%	30.1%
25-50% less	23.9%	14.4%	35.2%
> 50% less	8.7%	3.3%	16.1%

Q22: What type of grassland fertilisers have you predominately been purchasing? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 606 Skipped: 201

Missed Opportunity?



Dairy Farmers 21% / Beef & Sheep 6%

Q23: Can you / will you be using merchant credit to by fertiliser this year?

Answered: 609 Skipped: 198

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
Yes I am using merchant credit this year on similar terms to previous years	27.3%	39.0%	14.6%
Yes I am using merchant credit but with shorter repayment terms than previous years	11.3%	11.8%	9.9%
No - I have been able to use merchant credit in the past but my suppliers are now demanding cash or / prior to delivery	22.0%	17.4%	27.9%
No - but I do not normally use merchant credit to purchase fertiliser	39.4%	31.8%	47.6%

Q24: How will you pay for fertiliser this year?

Answered: 606 Skipped: 201

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
I will be able to purchase fertiliser within existing farm finance facilities (overdraft limit / deposits)	64.9%	71.9%	54.3%
I will require additional finance facilities (e.g. extension to overdraft / short term loan etc)	15.2%	17.2%	14.5%
I will draw on personal / family funds to pay for fertiliser this year	16.1%	8.0%	26.9%
Other (please specify)	3.8%	3.0%	4.3%

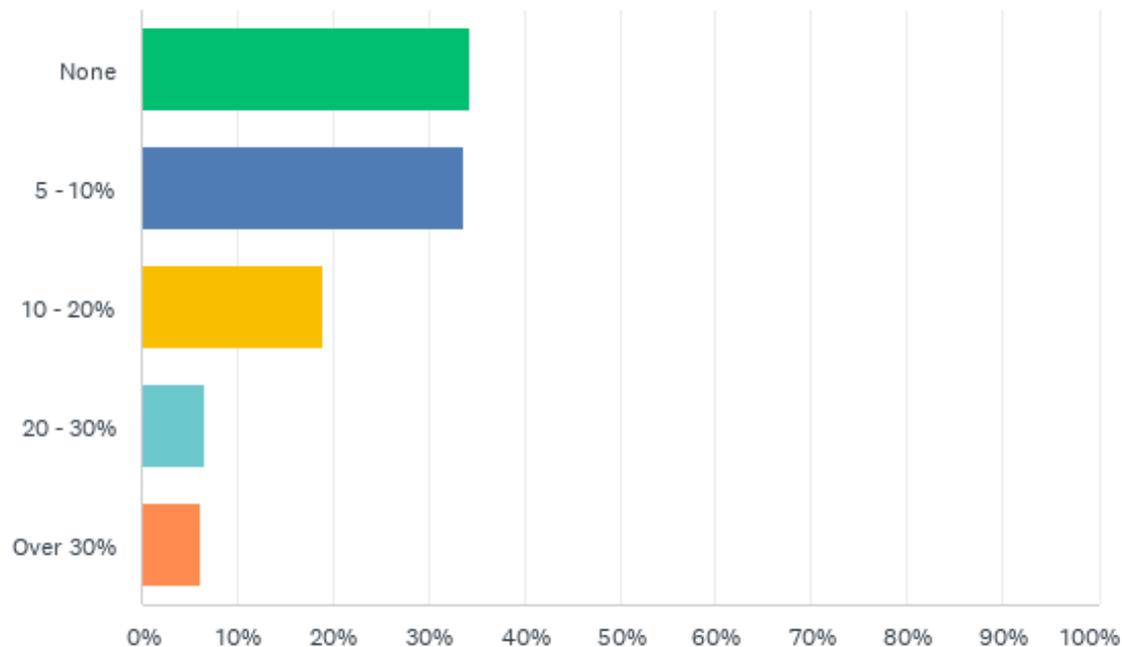
Q25: What stocks of fertiliser do you currently have?

Answered: 613 Skipped: 194

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
I have sufficient for first cut only	41.1%	36.9%	47.7%
I have sufficient to do up to second cut	30.2%	38.8%	20.9%
I have sufficient for the whole year	17.1%	17.6%	14.0%
I do not have sufficient fertiliser for current needs	11.6%	6.8%	17.5%

Q29: What percentage of your fodder (silage) for next winter will be carried over from the winter just gone?

Answered: 716 Skipped: 91



Q30: Are you intending to reduce the amount of concentrates fed (per animal) this year

Answered: 717 Skipped: 90

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
No I will feed similar or more concentrates this year per animal than in previous years	43.9%	59.9%	29.1%
Yes I am intending to reduce my concentrates feeding slightly (up to 25% less per animal)	39.6%	34.2%	45.7%
Yes I am intending to reduce my concentrate feeding significantly (more than 25% less per animal)	7.3%	4.4%	11.5%
I am intending to feed little or no concentrates this year	6.7%	1.6%	13.1%

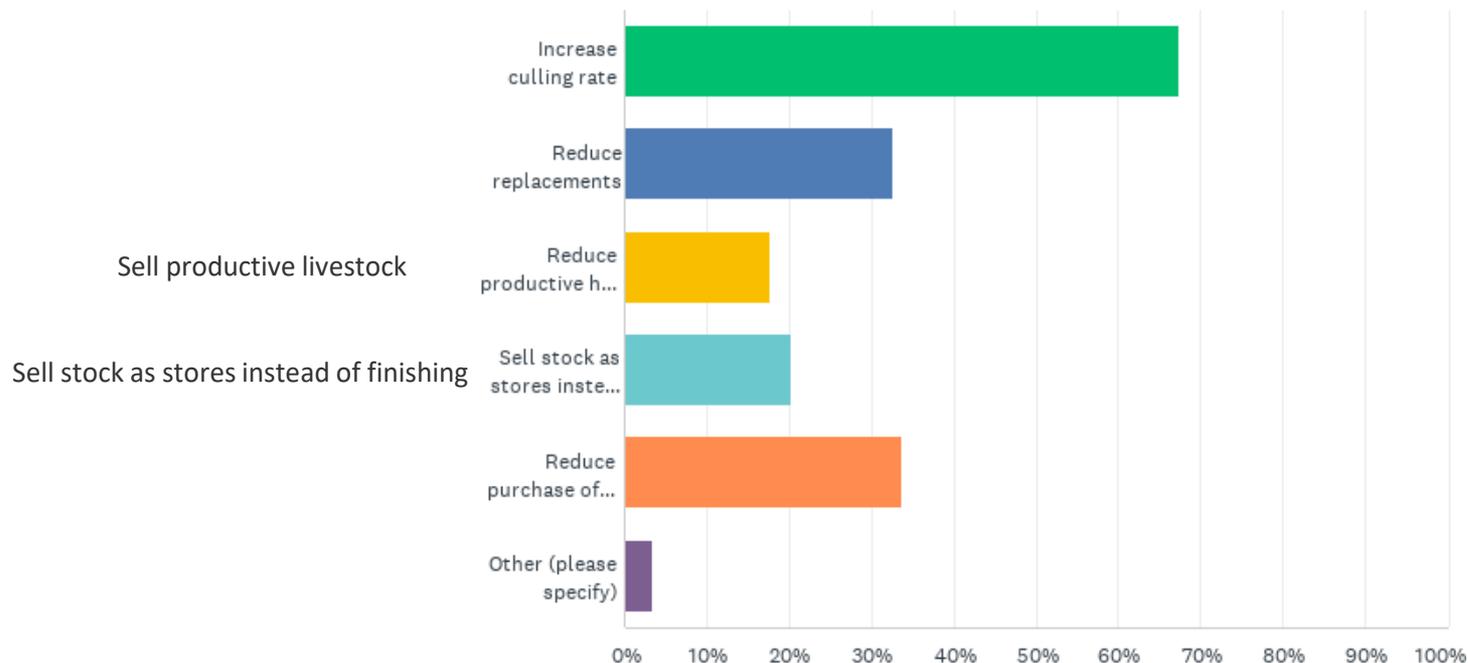
Q31: Stocking Rates

Answered: 722 Skipped: 85

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
I plan to increase livestock numbers	6.4%	7.7%	4.5%
I have no plans to change livestock numbers	46.0%	54.8%	37.2%
I plan to reduce livestock numbers slightly (up to 10%)	31.0%	31.6%	34.6%
I plan to reduce livestock numbers significantly (more than 10%)	14.4%	5.9%	23.7%

Q32: How do you intend to reduce livestock numbers? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 332 Skipped: 475



Q33: Are you intending to do any of the following to increase fodder production? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 693 Skipped: 114

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	25.11%	174
Rent additional land area	9.81%	68
Purchase additional fodder for winter	10.82%	75
Grow cereals for combining / whole cropping (if not already doing so)	6.49%	45
Grow brassicas or other catch crop for winter grazing	3.61%	25
Grow home grown protein crops	2.02%	14
Improve grassland management (e.g. move to rotational grazing if previously set stocked)	29.00%	201
Sow clover / multi-species swards	15.30%	106
Extend grazing season / increase grazing platform	18.33%	127
Import organic manures / digestate	9.81%	68
Soil Test	39.54%	274
Other (please specify)	3.17%	22
Total Respondents: 693		

Q34: Silage cutting. Do you intend to:

Answered: 697 Skipped: 110

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
Cut earlier / more frequently than previous years (increase quality)	12.0%	13.2%	10.8%
Cut later / less frequently than previous years (increase quantity)	16.8%	10.0%	24.9%
Make no significant changes to silage cutting	66.9%	76.2%	59.7%
Not applicable (no silage made or no livestock kept)	2.9%	0.3%	2.0%
Other	1.6%	0.3%	2.6%

Q35: Have you any concerns fodder supplies on your farm for next winter? (2022/23)

Answered: 698 Skipped: 109

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
A great deal	12.9%	11.2%	16.7%
A lot	9.6%	7.1%	12.8%
A moderate amount	22.8%	21.2%	27.2%
A little	34.5%	39.1%	27.5%
None at all	18.6%	21.5%	15.7%
Not Applicable (no livestock kept)	1.6%	-	-

Q36: Have you carried out fodder plan for next winter? (2022/23)

Answered: 699 Skipped: 108

Answer Choices	All	Dairy	Beef & Sheep Only
Yes	21.3%	19.1%	23.0%
No but I intend to do it soon	34.2%	32.6%	38.4%
Will think about it autumn	23.8%	26.8%	22.0%
I have no plans to carry out a fodder budget	18.7%	21.4%	16.7%
Not applicable (No livestock kept)	2.0%	-	-

Summary

- Area of cereals has increased but with less fertiliser applied
- 15.6% have bought no fertiliser to date (**26% B&S** / **5% Dairy**)
- Of those that have bought: 72% intending sowing >10% less
 - (**81% Beef & Sheep** / **65% Dairy**)
- 68% have <10% of silage left over from winter just gone
- 56% are intending to reduce concentrate feeding (**70% B&S** / **40% Dairy**)
- However, only 45% plan to reduce stocking rates (**58% B&S** / **37% Dairy**)
- 53% are either not concerned or only a little concerned about fodder supplies for next winter