



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh  
Central Statistics Office

## Information Booklet

# Census of Agriculture 1 June 2010

The purpose of the 2010 Census of Agriculture is to collect detailed statistics on the structure of farming in Ireland. This information will be crucial in determining the development of agricultural policy in Ireland and the European Union.

The information that you provide in the 2010 Census of Agriculture questionnaire will be treated as **strictly confidential** and will be used for statistical purposes only. This is guaranteed by National and EU law.

The purpose of this booklet is to assist you in completing the 8 page Census of Agriculture questionnaire.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why am I receiving the 2010 Census of Agriculture questionnaire?**

The Central Statistics Office maintains a register of farm holdings in the state for the purpose of conducting the Census of Agriculture. This has been updated with information from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's client database. You are receiving this questionnaire because you are recorded as a holder of a farm.

#### **I am no longer farming. What should I do with this questionnaire?**

In this case, please complete the section on Agricultural Activity on Page 1 of the questionnaire, sign the declaration on page 8 and return the questionnaire in the freepost envelope provided.

#### **The questionnaire is addressed to a deceased relative. What should I do with it?**

- ➔ If the holding has been **sold or leased to another farmer**, please return the questionnaire to the CSO in the freepost envelope provided stating that the holder is deceased
- ➔ If you have **inherited** the holding, please add your name and address details to the front of the questionnaire and complete the questionnaire as if it was addressed to you.

#### **I have received two forms. What should I do?**

In this case, please complete only 1 questionnaire but return **both** and mark the second questionnaire as a duplicate.

While every effort is made to keep the register of farm holdings current, there will be instances where our records are not fully up to date. We would like to apologise for any hurt or inconvenience this may cause. **It is vitally important that a return is still made in all cases to prevent reminders or further questionnaires being issued.**

## **AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY (Page 1)**

- If you are actively engaged in farming or are maintaining the land in good agricultural and environmental condition in order to receive the Single Farm Payment (**Yes** to **either** of the questions) please enter your current and any previous herd number and proceed to page 2 of the Census questionnaire.
- If you answer **No** to **both** questions please record how the land has been disposed of (sold, let, or transferred) or whether the holding is temporarily idle (due to probate, destocking etc). Please also state if the holder is retired. Then simply sign the declaration on page 8 of the Census Questionnaire and return it in the free-post envelope provided.

## **1. LAND PARCELS & USE OF COMMONAGE (Page 2)**

- **Commonage** is land held in common ownership on which two or more farmers have grazing rights.
- For the purpose of the 2010 Census of Agriculture a **parcel** is defined as a piece of land farmed by the holding which is completely surrounded by land of other holdings and / or by roads forests, water, etc.

## **2. UTILISATION OF LAND ON 1 JUNE 2010 (Page 2)**

- Please indicate whether the area will be provided in Hectares or Acres and use this same unit of area in sections 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Any options that do not apply to you (e.g. if you have no land let) may be left blank.

## **3. ANALYSIS OF AREA FARMED (Page 3)**

- **Total Crops and Horticulture** should include all areas devoted to cereals, vegetables, fruit, nurseries, fodder crops, energy crops, and all fallow land, including fallow grassland.
- **Grass Silage, Hay and Pasture.** All areas of land should be recorded once. If a field is used for silage and subsequently grazed, it should be recorded under silage only. If an area of land produces more than one cut of silage or hay, this area should only be recorded once.
- The sum of items 8 – 12 in this section should equal the Area Farmed (Item 7) on Page 2.

## **4. SELECTED CROPS AND HORTICULTURE ON 1 JUNE 2010 (Page 3)**

- In order to reduce the burden on respondents the areas under certain crops are now obtained directly from the Single Farm Payment system. However, the items listed in Section 4 should still be recorded where applicable.
- **Low Cover** consists of sheets of plastic laid flat on the ground or low tunnels.
- **Arable Silage** is a mixture of a spring cereal and forage peas grown together to be used as a forage crop.
- **Fallow land subject to aid schemes.** This is either arable or pasture land not being used for productive purposes but for which subsidies such as the Single Farm Payment are being received.

- **Diversification into Non-Agricultural Activities:** This option refers to any measure delivered by Local Action Groups through the LEADER programme to any farm diversifying into on-farm non-agricultural activities such as farm shops, art and crafts, speciality food provision.

## **2. Any other activities carried out on the holding (or within the farm household) from which an income is earned?**

- Please X as appropriate and select the activities from the list at question 3. More than one may apply.
- Please estimate what proportion these activities contribute to the total output of the holding.

## **14. MEASURING RESPONSE BURDEN (Page 8)**

Please state approximately how many minutes it took you to complete this questionnaire.

## **DECLARATION**

Please sign the declaration and return the form in the free-post preaddressed envelope by Tuesday 8th of June 2010.

If you have any queries relating to the completion of the 2010 Census of Agriculture questionnaire please contact the Central Statistics Office on

**LoCall: 1890 924 990**

**E-mail: agri@cso.ie**

**Thank you for your co-operation in completing the  
2010 Census of Agriculture questionnaire**

## 11. CASUAL WORKERS, AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS AND FARM RELIEF SERVICES (Page 7)

Estimate the number of days worked in the year ending 31st May 2010 by each of the 3 categories of worker.

Example:

- A contractor carries out spreading of slurry using two staff for one day amounts to 2 days.
- A contractor makes silage using 3 staff for ½ a day amounts to 1.5 days.
- A contractor carries out trimming of hedgerows using one person for ½ a day amounts to ½ a day.

The total number of days worked on the farm by Agricultural Contractors is 4 days.

## 12. MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING (Page 7)

Vocational Training in the past 12 months refers to practical courses relating to a specific aspect of a farming activity such as crop production, animal husbandry, environmental management (REPS) or Farm Safety training.

## 13. RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURES (Page 8)

1. If the holding has participated in any of the following schemes since June 1st 2008, please mark 'X' in the appropriate box.

- **REPS/AEOS:** This option refers to the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (now closed) and the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (launched 2010) operated by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF).
- **Organic Farming Scheme:** This refers to the Organic Farming Scheme operated by DAFF.
- **Suckler Herds Welfare Scheme:** This refers to the Suckler Herds Welfare Scheme operated by DAFF providing a payment of €80 per head.
- **Farm Improvement Scheme:** This refers to the Farm Improvement Scheme (now closed) which was launched by DAFF in 2007 and provided for investment in such items as dairy hygiene, storage facilities and animal housing. This option **does not** refer to any investment made under the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- **Natura 2000 Payments:** This refers to a scheme set up by DAFF to compensate farmers for mandatory restrictions placed on Natura 2000 sites which would otherwise be considered utilisable agricultural land. Natura sites are classified into 2 land types; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) & Special Preservation Areas (SPAs).
- **Encouragement of Tourism Activities:** This option refers to any measure delivered by Local Action Groups through the LEADER programme to promote the tourism potential of rural areas.

## 5. OTHER HORTICULTURAL ITEMS (Page 4)

- These crops usually cover only small areas of land. For this reason you are requested to record the area of these crops in **ares** and not in hectares or acres.
- **Low Cover** consists of sheets of plastic laid flat on the ground or low tunnels.
- **Glass/Other protective cover** are greenhouses or rigid or flexible plastic covering which is directly accessible.
- **Base area of Mushroom beds.** Only record the base area i.e. the area used at least once for the production of mushrooms.

## 6. ORGANIC FARMING (Page 4)

- If your holding is a **registered** organic farm or **in conversion** to registered organic status, please X the Yes box and record the areas of cereals, pasture and meadow and other crops being grown either to registered organic standards or in conversion to registered organic standards.
- Record the total numbers of livestock being raised according to organic production standards.
- If your holding is neither a registered organic farm nor in conversion to organic status please X the No box and move to the next section.

## 7. ENERGY CROPS (Page 4)

- The purpose of this section is to record the areas devoted to the production of energy crops and the area of these crops being grown on former set-aside land.
- **Miscanthus** is a very fast growing grass plant also known as "Elephant Grass" with the capability to produce high yields of biomass for either burning or ethanol production, or both.
- **Short Rotation Coppicing** uses fast growing tree species (usually willow or poplar) repeatedly cut back at regular intervals through the crops lifespan to produce woodchip.
- **Other energy crops** Crops for the production of ethanol or bio-diesel such as rapeseed, sugar beet etc.

## 8. RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION (Page 4)

- **Wind Energy production** Turbines producing energy for the market (connected to the national electricity grid) or for own agricultural production (not connected to the national grid)
- **Biomass and Bio-methane** Biomass is solid, liquid or gaseous organic material (e.g. animal waste or wood waste) used for the production of heat, electricity or transport fuel. Bio-methane is a bio-gas from the fermentation of animal slurries or other waste.
- **Solar** refers to the use of solar radiation for the purpose of producing electricity or heat.

## 9. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY HELD ON 1 JUNE 2010 (Page 5)

- It is not necessary to provide details of cattle as these will be obtained from the Animal Identification and Movement database.
- Livestock grazing on rented or commonage land as well as livestock being raised to organic production standards (excluding cattle) should be included here.

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## 10. HOLDER, SPOUSE AND FARM WORKFORCE DETAILS (Page 6-7)

This section should be completed for:

- The farm holder and their spouse/partner (where applicable) **even if they did not** carry out farmwork in the past 12 months.
- Members of the holders family, 15 years of age and older, **who did** carry out some farmwork in the past 12 months.
- Regular non-family workers, employed each week, either part time or full time.

### Manager

The Manager is the person responsible for the day to day decision-making and management of the holding. There should only be one person recorded as the Manager for each holding.

### Engaged in farmwork in the past 12 months?

- This question only applies to the holder and their spouse/partner (where applicable).
- If the holder's spouse/partner did not carry out any farmwork please X the 'Subsidiary Occupation' box in respect of the 'Importance of Farmwork'.

### Time spent on farmwork

- Please indicate the average number of hours per week spent on farmwork throughout the year.
- This should include time spent on farm management, accounts etc. but should exclude time spent on housework in the farm dwelling.

### Importance of farmwork

Please indicate the importance of farmwork in comparison to time spent on other occupations from which an income is earned.

- If farming is the **only** occupation from which an income is earned then farmwork is the **sole occupation**.
- If more time is devoted to farmwork than to the other occupation then farmwork is the **major occupation**.
- If more time is devoted to the other occupation than to farmwork then farmwork is the **subsidiary occupation**.

### If farming was not the sole occupation, is the other occupation directly related to the holding?

Only tick this option if the other occupation is **directly related** to the holding. Examples of activities directly relating to the holding could include:

- Contract work using machinery of the holding
- Tourism, accommodation and other leisure activities
- Production of renewable energy
- Processing of farm products
- Wood processing
- Forestry
- Handicraft
- Aquaculture

## Example

A. Holder & Spouse / Partner		Holder	Spouse / Partner
Gender (Please X)	Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age		<input type="text" value="57"/>	<input type="text" value="53"/>
Manager (Please X if manager)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engaged in farming in the past 12 months? (Please X if yes)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time Spent on Farmwork Average number of hours per week spent on farmwork throughout the year (Please X appropriate box)	Less than 9 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9 hours or more but less than 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18 hours or more but less than 27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	27 hours or more but less than 36	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	36 hours and above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Importance of Farmwork (Please X appropriate box)	Sole Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Major Occupation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Subsidiary Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If farming was <b>not</b> the sole occupation, is the other occupation directly related to the holding? (Please X if yes)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the example above the **holder** was actively engaged in farming over the past 12 months so the 'Engaged in farming in the past 12 months?' box has been marked with an X. During this period an average 30 hours per week was spent on farmwork. The holder is also marked as the manager - i.e. he is responsible for day-to-day running of the farm.

He also has another job from which he obtains an income, but work on the farm takes up more of his time and thus, farmwork is his major occupation. His other job is as an agricultural contractor, using the machinery of the holding and so the box relating to the question, "Is the other occupation directly related to the holding?" has been marked with an X.

The **holder's spouse** didn't work on the farm in the last year and so the 'Engaged in farming in the past 12 months?' box has been left blank.

She does, however, work full-time outside of the farm, so under the heading 'Importance of Farmwork', the 'Subsidiary occupation?' box has been marked with an X.