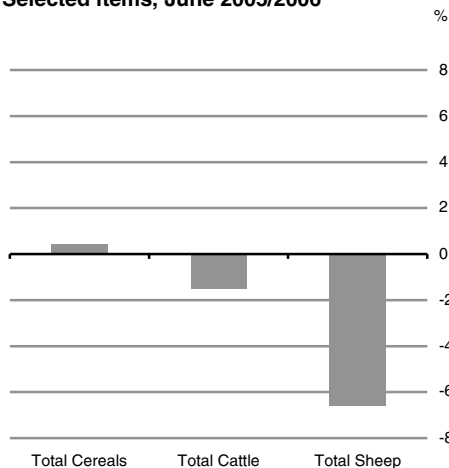




Crops and Livestock Survey June 2006 – Provisional Estimates

Selected items, June 2005/2006



	Total Cereals	Cattle	Sheep
	'000 ha	'000	'000
June 2005	282.0	6,982.6	6,392.2
June 2006	283.2	6,876.7	5,969.6
% change	0.4%	-1.5%	-6.6%

Sheep Numbers down 6.6% in June 2006

Preliminary estimates from the June 2006 agricultural survey show that the number of sheep (5,969,600) was down 6.6% on the previous year. This decrease was due to decreases in ewes under 2 years (-17.7%), ewes 2 years and over (-5.6%) and other sheep (-5.6%). The number of sheep is at its lowest since 1987. *See Table 2.*

The results also indicate the total number of cattle decreased by 105,900 (-1.5%). This was largely due to a decrease in males 1-2 years of 54,600 (-5.8%) and a decrease in males under 1 year of 45,800 (-5.4%). However, there was an increase of 7,800 (5.3%) in other heifers. *See Table 2.*

A comparison with the June 2005 results indicates that:

- ◆ The area under cereals has increased by 0.4%. There was an increase in the area under oats of 5,200 ha (31.2%) and under barley of 4,300 ha (2.6%). However, much of this increase was offset by a decrease in the area under wheat 7,600 ha (-8.0%).
- ◆ The area under potatoes fell 4.2% to 11,300 ha.

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Table 1 Area under Crops

Description	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	Change 2005 - 2006	
	'000 hectares			'000 ha	%
Wheat - total	102.7	95.2	87.6	-7.6	-8.0
Winter wheat	71.5	65.0	58.7	-6.3	-9.7
Spring wheat	31.2	30.2	28.9	-1.3	-4.3
Oats - total	20.0	16.8	22.0	5.2	31.2
Winter oats	12.9	8.6	10.1	1.5	17.2
Spring oats	7.0	8.2	12.0	3.8	45.9
Barley - total	183.7	164.4	168.7	4.3	2.6
Winter barley	20.5	17.0	16.0	-1.0	-6.1
Spring barley	163.2	147.4	152.7	5.3	3.6
Other cereals	3.8	5.5	4.9	-0.6	-10.8
Total cereals	310.2	282.0	283.2	1.2	0.4
Potatoes	13.3	11.8	11.3	-0.5	-4.2

Table 2 Number of Livestock

Description	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	Change 2005 - 2006	
	'000			'000	%
Total cattle	7,015.6	6,982.6	6,876.7	-105.9	-1.5
Breeding cattle	2,798.8	2,788.1	2,778.3	-9.8	-0.4
Dairy cows ¹	1,156.1	1,113.7	1,110.1	-3.6	-0.3
Other cows	1,207.1	1,227.8	1,215.0	-12.8	-1.0
Dairy heifers ²	229.6	230.2	228.1	-2.1	-0.9
Other heifers	139.6	148.1	155.9	7.8	5.3
Bulls	66.5	68.3	69.2	0.9	1.4
Other cattle	4,216.8	4,194.5	4,098.3	-96.2	-2.3
Male: 2 years and over	605.4	619.3	640.1	20.8	3.4
Female: 2 years and over	305.2	310.2	313.5	3.3	1.1
Male: 1-2 years	949.8	940.2	885.6	-54.6	-5.8
Female: 1-2 years	585.0	635.3	634.7	-0.6	-0.1
Male: under 1 year	929.8	842.5	796.7	-45.8	-5.4
Female: under 1 year	841.6	847.0	827.7	-19.3	-2.3
Total sheep	6,777.2	6,392.2	5,969.6	-422.6	-6.6
Breeding sheep	3,670.0	3,454.5	3,196.1	-258.4	-7.5
Ewes: 2 years and over	2,985.6	2,774.7	2,619.4	-155.3	-5.6
: under 2 years	584.8	583.5	480.2	-103.3	-17.7
Rams	99.6	96.3	96.6	0.3	0.3
Other sheep	3,107.3	2,937.8	2,773.5	-164.3	-5.6

¹ Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for human consumption.

² Heifers in calf intended for the dairy herd.

Area under selected cereals, May/June 2005

'000 ha

Country	Wheat	Oats	Barley
European Union	22,870	*	13,076
Austria	289	30	192
Belgium	214	*	40
Cyprus	6	1	56
Czech Republic	820	52	522
Denmark	676	69	705
Estonia	85	34	144
Finland	215	346	595
France	5,272	111	1,603
Germany	3,174	210	1,947
Greece	845	38	85
Ireland	95	17	164
Italy	2,123	175	320
Latvia	187	58	149
Lithuania	369	60	349
Luxembourg	12	2	10
Hungary	1,131	62	317
Malta	*	*	*
Netherlands	136	2	50
Poland	2,218	539	1,113
Portugal	123	54	34
Slovakia	376	20	206
Slovenia	30	3	15
Spain	2,250	452	3,144
Sweden	354	193	372
United Kingdom	1,869	*	944

* Data not available

Source: New Cronos database, Eurostat and National Data

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents provisional estimates of land utilisation and livestock numbers in June 2006 at State level. The estimates are based on returns from the June 2006 Crops and Livestock Survey.

Coverage Farms where the agricultural area used was at least 1 hectare (2.47 acres) may be included in the June Agricultural Survey. Farms with less than 1 hectare may also be included if they were engaged in intensive production (e.g. pigs, poultry).

Results The results are based on the trends between June 2005 and June 2006 obtained by comparing the returns from the 2005 sample with the 2006 returns for the same 15,700 farms.

As the figures in the text and tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 units there may be slight discrepancies between the sum (or difference) of the constituent items and the total shown. Percentage changes have been calculated on actual figures.

Comparison with DAF CMMS Data The Department of Agriculture and Food Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) has provided new administrative information on cattle numbers and on flows into/out of the cattle population since December 2002. Overall, the CMMS figure for 31 December 2005 indicated total cattle numbers some 5.2% higher than the CSO estimate for 1 December 2005.

The CSO is continuing to compare the CMMS and CSO survey figures at farm level, in order to provide a more detailed analysis and explanation of the reasons for the differences in level between the two sources of data.