

2009 JUNE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

We have introduced some changes to the Single Application Form (SAF), which will enable us to use information provided on land use, to meet the statistical requirements of the June Agricultural Census (JAC). Details of these changes are contained in the 2009 SAF documentation.

This development will reduce burdens on producers, as those completing a SAF will no longer need to provide land use information on the JAC and will instead receive a reduced 2009 JAC form.

This development has been informed by a research project conducted by the Scottish Agricultural College and Macaulay Institute, titled :

"Research study to assess to what extent data from the Single Application Form could be used to meet the statistical requirements of the June Agricultural Census."

The findings from this study, were published on 13th October 2008 and are available on the SG website at :

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/06104732/0>

The key findings from this study showed:

- There was a high level of consistency in land use questions between the Single Application Form and the June Agricultural Census, with overall results and individual returns particularly close for cereal crops. For livestock, there were much greater differences in questions asked, overall results and individual returns. There was no duplication in the collection of labour information, which is only collected on the JAC form.
- In 2007, the results show that 59 per cent of all holdings accounting for 87 per cent of agricultural land were submitting a Single Application Form. There was a higher coverage of larger holdings, which also resulted in higher coverage of the main crops.

Based on these key findings and discussions with a range of stakeholders, the Scottish Government has put forward the following plans :

- To develop land use information collected through the Single Application Form, leading to a reduction in information gathered on the 2009 June Agricultural Census.
- To pursue the use of data from the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), in order to reduce the cattle information gathered on the June Agricultural Census and December Agricultural Survey, after 2009
- To pursue other sources of administrative data and to review the remainder of June Agricultural Census, after 2009.

Information on how to complete the SAF 2009 is given within the Notes for Guidance IACS (1) 2009 and Notes for Completion IACS (1a) 2009.