



FARMING
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Farming Connect Baseline Survey Results (Summer 2016)

BACKGROUND

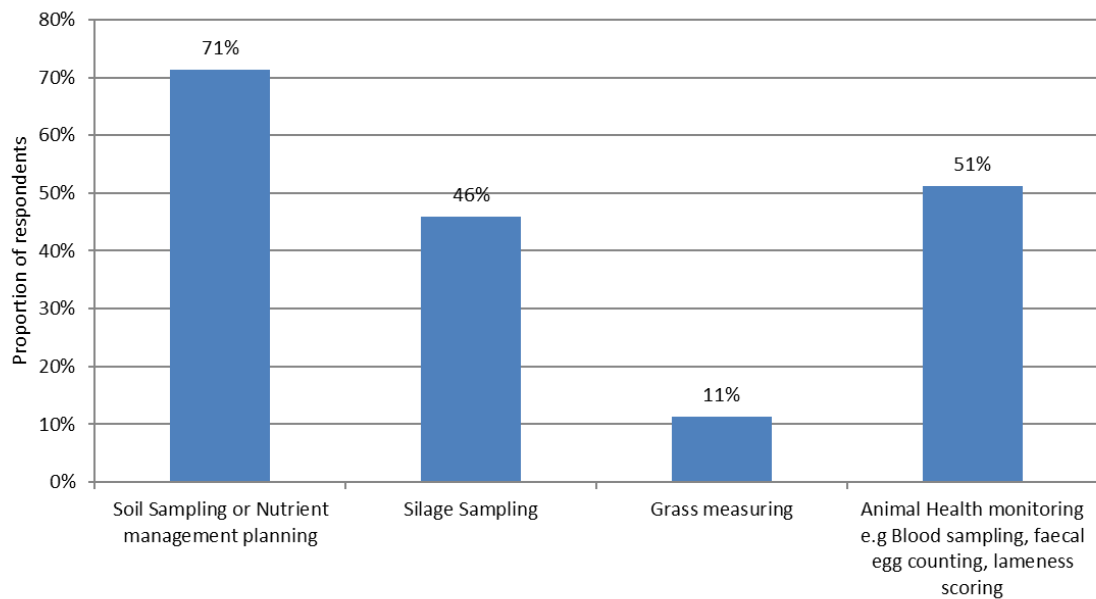
- Baseline Survey undertaken to discover the needs of Farming Connect registered farmers and foresters
- Survey questions designed in consultation with members of the Farming Connect Strategic Advisory Board
- Surveying commenced on 1st August '16
- Surveying completed on 16th September '16
- Final number surveyed – 1,182

(which equated to 27% of businesses registered by 1st August 2016)

SURVEY RESULTS

1) Benchmarking & Monitoring

- 79% of respondents did not benchmark
- 83% (246) of those who do benchmark, benchmark physical and financial performance
- 74% (181) said that they had made changes within the previous two years as a result of the benchmarking
- 36% (50) said that they benchmark as a result of Farming Connect activity, FBS – 28% (38 respondents)
- 85% of respondents had undertaken at least one of the following activities;



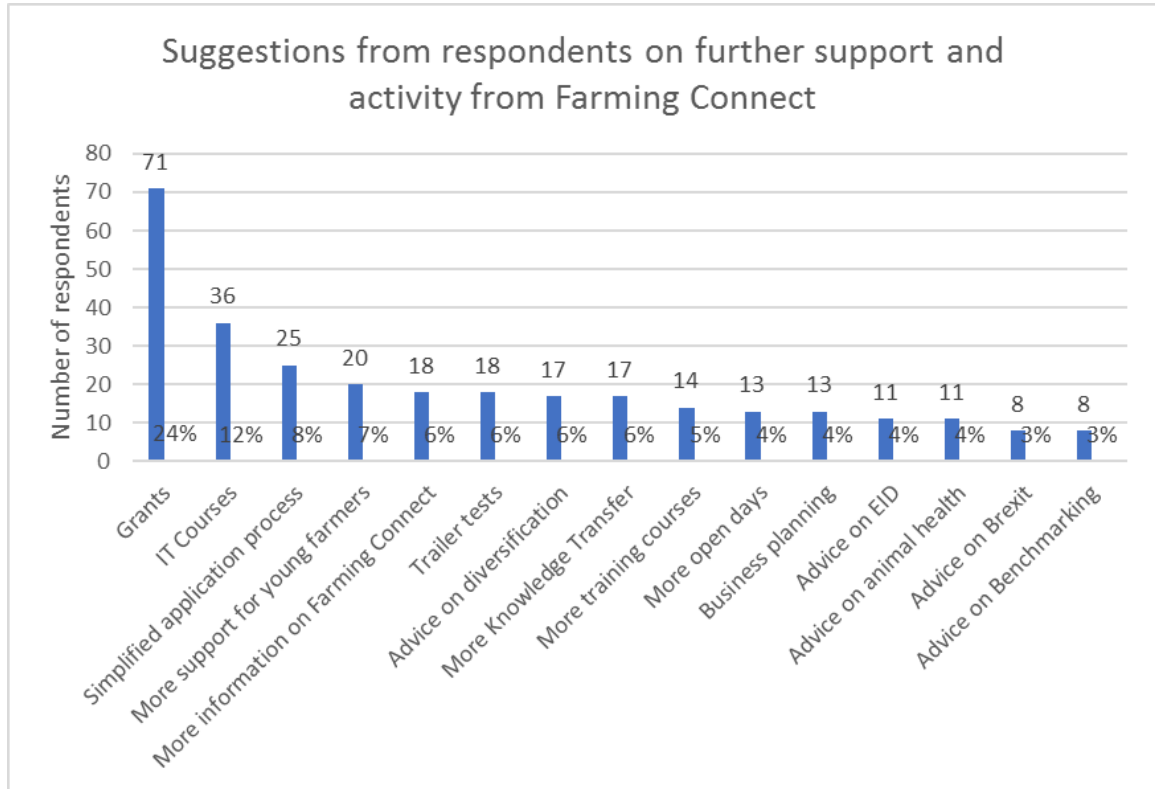
2) Business and Succession Planning

- 53% said that they have a clear ambition for their business over the next 3-5 years
- Of those with a clear ambition, 28% said that they had a written business plan outlining how they would deliver the ambition
- 46% of respondents said that they had a succession plan in place
- 33% use electronic recording software to manage performance

3) Training and Further Assistance

- 85% said that they or others working on the holding intend to undertake training through Farming Connect
- 52% of respondents either did not make any suggestion or else indicated that they were happy with Farming Connect provision

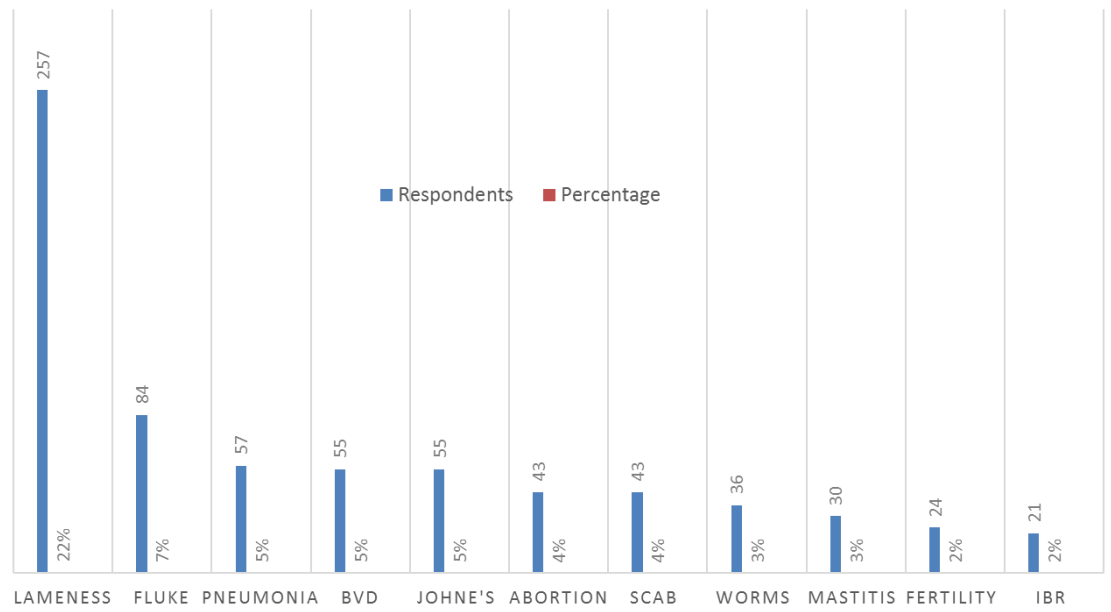
4) Suggestions and Further Assistance



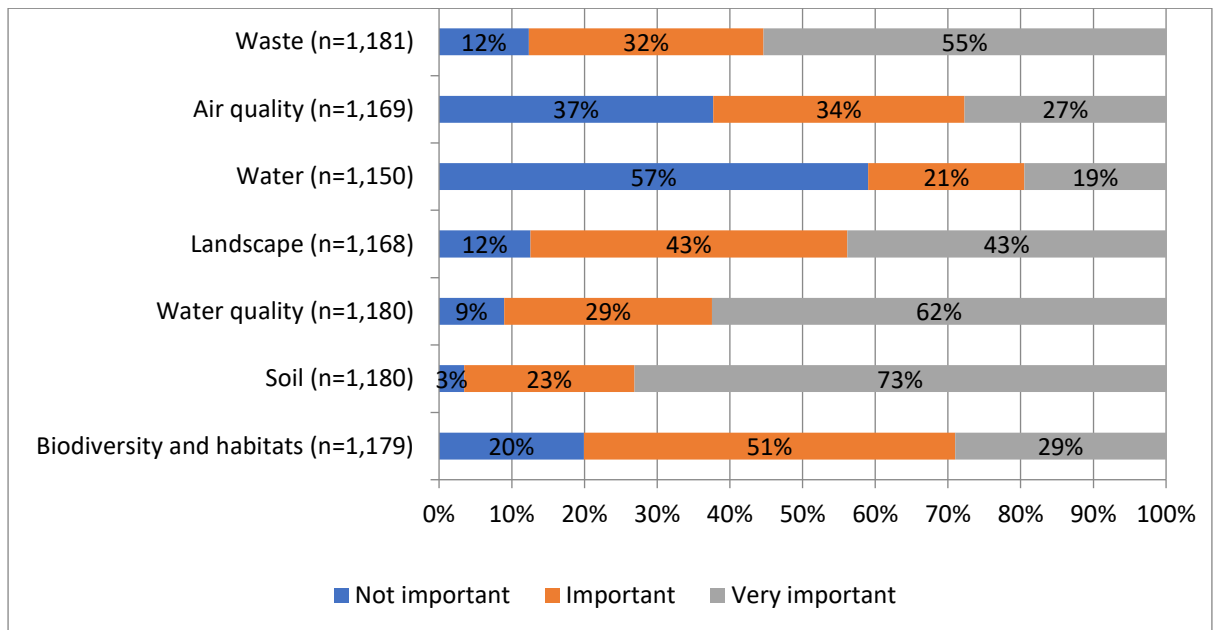
5) Farm Woodland

- 62% of respondents have woodland on their farm
- 47% of respondents manage their woodland or use the timber for business use

6) The most significant animal health issues (other than TB)



7) Importance of managing the environment



NEXT STEPS

- All enquiries and requests for further support have been distributed to the relevant Development Officer
- The analysis of the data will be used to influence the design of the Knowledge Transfer programme – e.g. lameness projects and dissemination of information
- Follow up in 3 years with the same businesses to assess impact