

## 'Supporting NI Farmers in Times of Rapid Change'

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £200 voucher kindly donated by Taggart Jack

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £100 voucher kindly donated by John McElderry M & T LTD

Thank you for participating in this Farm Support Survey. The answers will help identify the pressures the farming community are currently under in Northern Ireland, from the farmer perspective, and help inform and develop Rural Support services. Research highlights may also be disseminated within the local press and by social media and a summary of the findings will be available on request.

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability and be assured that all answers are confidential. To be entered into the draw please add your contact details at the end after completing all questions.

### Q1. What age were you on your last birthday?

17-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>
35-44	<input type="checkbox"/>	45-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
55-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>
75+	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Q2. What gender are you?

Male  Female  Other

### Q3. What best describes your marital status?

Married/Civil Partnership

Cohabiting

Single

Divorced/Dissolved Civil Partnership

Widowed

Separated

Prefer not to say

Other (Please indicate below)

### Q4. What best describes your role on the farm?

Main farmer

Main farmer's spouse/ partner

Farming member of family farm

Non-farming member of family farm

Farm employee

Farm Contractor

Other (Please indicate below)

### Q5. Where is your farm located?

Co Antrim	<input type="checkbox"/>	Co Armagh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co Down	<input type="checkbox"/>	Co Fermanagh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co Londonderry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Co Tyrone	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Q6. How many acres do you farm?

0-50	<input type="checkbox"/>	51-100	<input type="checkbox"/>
101-150	<input type="checkbox"/>	151-200	<input type="checkbox"/>
201-300	<input type="checkbox"/>	301 - 500	<input type="checkbox"/>
501-750	<input type="checkbox"/>	751-1000	<input type="checkbox"/>
1000+	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Q7. Is your land...

Mostly SDA

Mostly DA

Mostly Lowland

### Q8. What % of the land you actively farm is taken in conacre?

0-20%

20-40%

40-60%

60% +

### Q9. What best describes your farm status?

Full-time  Part-time  Not Actively Farming

**Q10. What enterprise(s) do you have on your farm?**

	Your Main Enterprise	Any Additional Enterprise(s)
Dairy		
Beef Finishing		
Beef Suckler		
Sheep		
Pigs		
Poultry		
Arable		
Horticulture		
Renewable Energy		
<b>Other</b> (Please indicate below):		

**Q11. How many hours do you work on farm in an average week?**

0-20                       21-40   
 41-60                       61-80   
 80+

**Q12. How often per week would you work alone on the farm?**

Never     Rarely     Most of the time

**Q13. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being the least & 5 being the most) please circle the box that demonstrates how concerned you are about each of the following issues:**

	1	2	3	4	5
Financial Pressures	1	2	3	4	5
Rising Costs	1	2	3	4	5
Produce Price Volatility	1	2	3	4	5
Changes to Farm Subsidies	1	2	3	4	5
Workload	1	2	3	4	5
Labour Shortages	1	2	3	4	5
Family Relationships	1	2	3	4	5
Isolation	1	2	3	4	5
Farm Inspections	1	2	3	4	5
Farm Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining Farm Records	1	2	3	4	5
Animal Disease – TB, Bird Flu	1	2	3	4	5
Climate Change Legislation	1	2	3	4	5
Rural Crime	1	2	3	4	5
Land Availability	1	2	3	4	5
Farm Business Succession	1	2	3	4	5
Mental Wellbeing	1	2	3	4	5
Physical Health	1	2	3	4	5

**Q14. Please list your top 3 concerns in relation to YOUR farm business now and in the next 18 months.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Q15. Please list your top 3 concerns in relation to YOUR farm family now and in the next 18 months.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Q16. On average how often do you get off farm for leisure purposes? E.g. visiting friends/family, sports activities, attend the gym etc.**

Hardly ever/ never	Less than once a month	Once a month	Once a week	Two or more times a week

**Q17. Below are some statements about feeling and thoughts. Please circle the box that best describes your experience of each over the last 2 weeks.**

	None of the time	Rarely	Some of the time	Often	All of the time
I've been feeling optimistic about the future	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling useful	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling relaxed	1	2	3	4	5
I've been dealing with problems well	1	2	3	4	5
I've been thinking clearly	1	2	3	4	5
I've been feeling close to other people	1	2	3	4	5
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	1	2	3	4	5

**Q18. Who are you most likely to confide in if you needed to talk about something personal?**

- Spouse/family member
  - Close friend
  - GP/Health professional
  - Support organisation
  - No one
  - Other (please indicate below)
- 

**Q19. Has a potential successor been identified for your farm business?**

- Yes
- No

**Q20. If not, what are the barriers?**

- Lack of communication
  - Family relationships
  - No one of appropriate age
  - No one seems interested
  - No family
  - Other (please indicate below)
- 

**Q21. Do you have an up to date will in place?**

- Yes
- No

**Q22. If not, what are the barriers?**

- Lack of communication
  - Family relationships
  - Not engaged with a solicitor/accountant
  - Don't know where to start
  - Other matters taking priority
  - Other (Please indicate below)
- 

**Q23. Do you have a Power of Attorney in place for your own affairs?**

- Yes
- No

**Q24. Do you participate in any of the following groups?**

- Business Development Group
  - Young Farmers' Clubs Ulster
  - Ulster Farmers' Union
  - Local farmers' group
  - Other community group:(please indicate below)
- 

**Q25. What publications do you read on a regular basis?**

- Farming Life/Farm Week
  - Irish Farmers Journal
  - Local Newspapers
  - Other (please indicate below)
- 

**Q26. What Social Media platforms do you regularly engage with?**

- Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
  - Tik Tok
  - Snapchat
  - YouTube
  - I don't engage with social media
  - Other (Please indicate below)
- 

**Q27. Which of the following activities have you used the internet for in the past 3 months?**

- Emails
- Shopping
- Updating farm business records
- Finding information
- Downloading films
- Watching sports
- Watching farming webinars
- Farm business banking transactions
- I don't use the internet
- Other (Please indicate below)

**Q28. Have you availed of any Rural Support's services?**  
E.g. attended an event, joined a programme,  
participated in a workshop, contacted the RS Support  
Line etc.

Yes   
No   
Don't know

**Q30. Where have you seen Rural Support advertised or  
mentioned?**

Social Media  Farming Press   
Local Papers  Leaflet/Poster   
Radio  Never heard of Rural Support   
Other (please indicate below)

**Q29. If so, would you recommend Rural Support to  
others?**

Yes   
No  (if no please provide reason below)  
Don't know

Please use this space for any further comments you may have.

Thank you for completing our Farm Support Survey. To enter our prize draw please add  
your details below.

Name:

Tel Number:

Email:

Do you consent to be added to our prize draw?

Do you consent to be added to our database so that you can receive updates about our programmes and services?

Please tick which method you wish to be contacted by: Email  Phone  Text

*If you need support with issues raised within this questionnaire, please call Rural Support on 0800 138 1678,  
lines are open 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday.*

*For further information about this questionnaire please contact Rural Support on 0800 138 1678 or email  
[farmsupport@ruralsupport.org.uk](mailto:farmsupport@ruralsupport.org.uk)*

*This survey is organised by Rural Support and supported by the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.*



NFU Mutual  
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Please return completed survey to your local NFU Mutual office or post via the prepaid envelope  
to: Rural Support, Estate Building, Loughry Campus, Cookstown BT80 9AA by Monday 5th June  
2023. Alternatively you can complete it online at [www.ruralsupport.org.uk](http://www.ruralsupport.org.uk) or scan the OR code.



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