

BPS – Where we are in England

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BPS in England

- **UK implementation**
 - devolved programmes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
 - Issues for cross-border farm businesses and competent authorities
- **England CAP Implementation**
 - Policy decisions agreed December 2014 – ‘Simple’ approach opted for basic Commission regulation – no coupled schemes
 - **Greening** – opted for standard elements of Crop Diversification and Permanent Grassland monitored at national level. ‘Simple’ EFA options chosen – nitrogen fixing crops, buffer strips, fallow, catch & cover crops and hedges
 - **Active Farmer** – no additional categories of ineligible business activity
- **Two Reforms in England :**
 - **Policy changes** - move from SPS to BPS
 - **Administration changes** - move to 100% online with new software

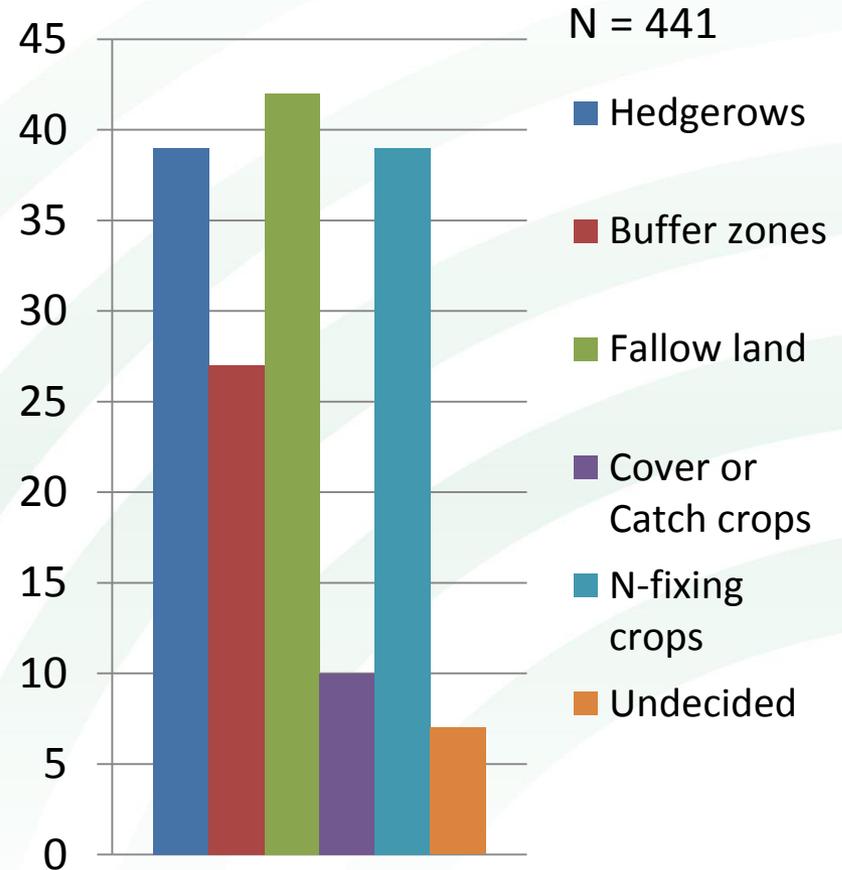
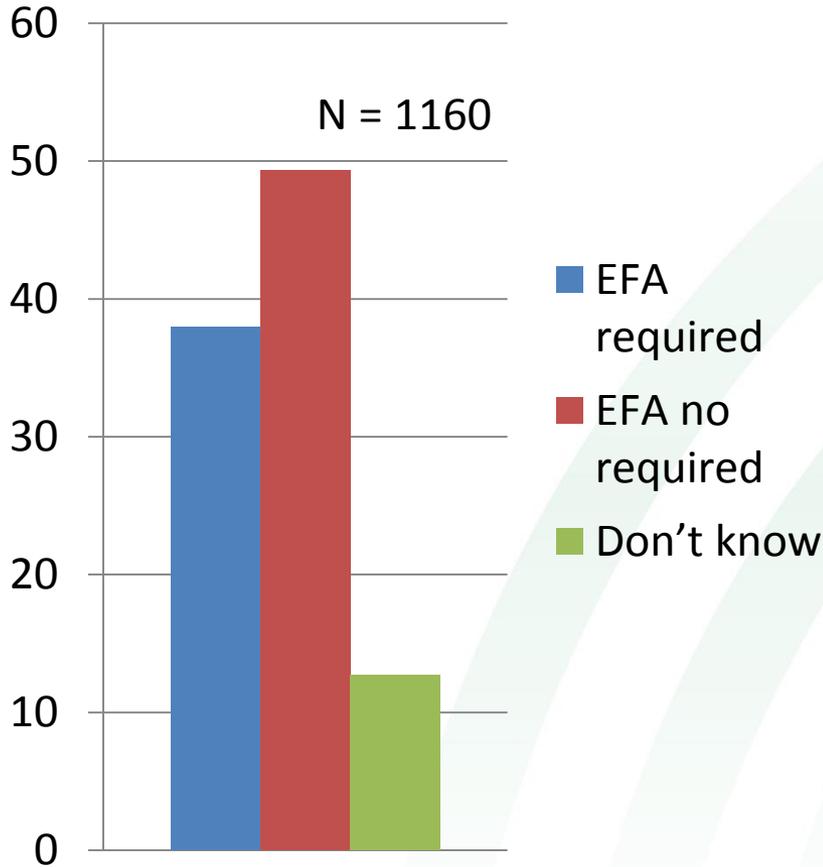


BPS in England

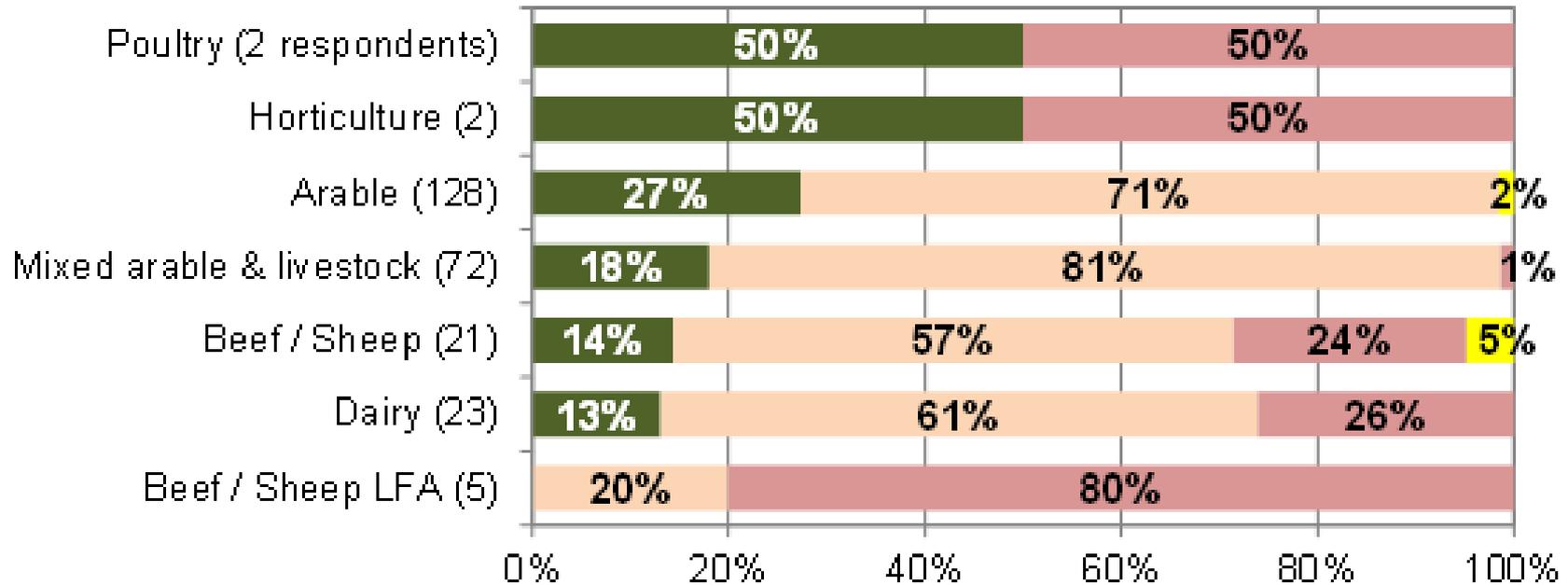
- **“Online only” application process** – reverted to ‘paper based’ application process on 19 March
- **Extended BPS Deadline** – England took up the option of 15 June
- **50 drop-in centres** , re-written guidance, NFU roadshows to 5000 members
- **14,000 fewer applicants** – no claims below 5ha reduced claimants by net 14,000
- **Mixed application formats** – 12% electronic reminding paper-based need to be digitised
- **Professional help** – 51% applicants used professionals to apply and 38% needed to update mapping
- **Progress since 15 June:**
 - RPA still inputting data, no data on Young Farmer Scheme, National Reserve etc.
 - Little information on application quality but expecting more problems in first year and revised application approach



Greening EFA requirements



Greening - Crop Diversification



- Yes - cropping will need to change
- No - previous cropping plans comply with the crop diversification requirement
- Not applicable / exempt (e.g. do not grow crops / below the area threshold or organic)
- Don't know

BPS Process – Where are we now?

BPS 2015 – Application Processing Activities



- **New IT system** – Critically new to RPA and needing to be adapted for BPS in England. We are not yet through the first BPS claim cycle – it needs to work
- **Data capture** – New information on paper forms manually entered onto new IT – this has impacted on progress
- **At the moment** – Inspections, Validation & Verification of claims ongoing
- **Key challenge** - Merging all data sources - mapping changes / entitlements transfers / greening data etc.
- **Complex Cases** (10% of population) - Concerned about those with common land, greening, cross border claims – these are going to take longer to process
- **Minimum farmer contact to date** – concerns due to delay in processing

Summary

- **Industry cash flow** – need for prompt payments
 - The RPA will make full payments on BPS claims from December and as early as possible in the payment window, with the “majority” in December and the “vast majority” by the end of January 2016.
- **Hogan Package** – UK Government proven reluctant to adopt early payment or adopt flexibilities indicated by Commission and Commissioner
 - too risky
- **Most BPS Payments made in Sterling** - Exchange Rate lower by c6% from SPS 2014, so we expecting lower payments
- **Awaiting entitlement and greening values** – these affected by a number of factors, not least changes to the distribution of BPS monies between lowland and upland areas
- **Looking for further reform** – on greening especially