

# December Agricultural Survey

(includes the Annual Sheep & Goat Inventory)



Please complete as at 1st December 2018

**You can save time by completing this form online.**

**Go to the website [www.scotEID.com/survey](http://www.scotEID.com/survey) and use the password printed on your form.**

Please find enclosed your **1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 Survey Form** (which includes the **Annual Sheep and Goat Inventory at section 7**).

You need to complete the survey with information held as at **1st December 2018**.

You can save time by completing the **survey online**, using your password at the top of the form. Otherwise, use the postage-paid envelope provided to return the form to us as soon as possible.

**We would like to remind you that this is a legal requirement. Failure to complete the inventory section will increase the chance of inspection.**

## **Q1. How do I complete the information online?**

**A.** Go to [www.scotEID.com/survey](http://www.scotEID.com/survey) Enter the password printed on the front of your form and then follow the instructions.

## **Q2 Why is it so important that I complete the survey?**

**A.** The survey provides an important source of statistical information about the agricultural sector and is used by the farming industry and its related bodies.

It is a legal requirement under the Agriculture Act 1947 and the statistics are also required by the EU.

If you do not complete the inventory information you are more likely to be inspected.

## **Q3. Are there any changes to the form this year?**

**A.** We have changed the labels for the sheep categories in section 7.

- The first category is for ewe lambs born in 2018 that have been put to ram.
- The second category is for all other lambs (ram lambs, ewe lambs being kept for breeding in the future, wether lambs, store lambs, fattening lambs...all other lambs).
- The third category is for all ewes born before 2018 (so including yearlings and anything older) that have been put to ram this winter.
- The fourth category is for all other sheep (male or female) born before 2018.

## **Q4. Which locations should I include on my survey?**

**A.** For nearly all of the questions you should respond concerning **only** the location code we have shown on the front of the form.

However, for the sheep & goat questions (section 7) you need to tell us about all of your locations. If you have received a survey form for more than one location code, you only need to put your sheep & goat figures on one form. On any other form simply tick the boxes.

## **Q5. Why is the deadline mid-December?**

**A.** The deadline of mid-December is very important. If you do not return the information on time we will need to send a reminder to you. This wastes public money. If you need more time to

complete the survey, please phone the census officer named on page 1 of the survey form. If we do not receive your survey by late-December, the reminder process will start automatically.

**Q6. Does the Scottish Government check every survey return?**

**A.** Yes. We check and use every survey return. Please check that totals for each section are correct, that the areas agree, and that you complete the declaration. This will help to reduce any follow-up enquiries we may have to make with you.

**Q7. Who uses the statistics gathered?**

**A.** The Scottish Government, the EU and the UN use the statistics to provide current information on the farming community and to determine future agricultural policies. This information is crucial to the farming industry and its related bodies and organisations including the NFU Scotland, The Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA), Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS). Statistics are also required at parish/region level for key farming research and animal disease prevention.

**Q8. I own the land but I am not 'the occupier'. I let the land out on a seasonal basis for cropping / grazing. Should I complete the form?**

**A.** Yes. When land is let on a seasonal basis only, the survey form should be completed by the owner NOT the seasonal tenant. The seasonal tenant should supply you with details of what they are doing with the land.

**Q9. Can I get help with completing my survey form?**

**A.** Yes. Agricultural census staff will be happy to give you all the assistance you need. They can be contacted on the number supplied on the front of your survey form.

**Q10. How will my personal information be treated?**

**A.** Any personal information you provide to us is treated in confidence. For more details please see the Privacy Notice that was sent to you.

**Q11. Will I get phone calls about this survey?**

**A.** Once you have returned your information, our agricultural census staff may contact you if we are unclear about any of the information you have given us. If our staff contact you by telephone, they will always identify themselves. To confirm who they are speaking to they may ask you for an address or some information from your survey form. They will **never** ask for personal information such as your date of birth or bank account details.

Filling in the form accurately reduces the likelihood that we will need to phone you.

For copies of other publications or ad hoc requests, please contact [agric.stats@gov.scot](mailto:agric.stats@gov.scot). Alternatively, you can view the information by going to: [www.gov.scot/agricstats](http://www.gov.scot/agricstats)

***Thank you for your support and co-operation with the survey  
By returning the survey form (either paper or online) you can.....***

- Help provide an accurate picture of farming in Scotland.
- Help those who promote and market Scottish agricultural produce.
- Help those who plan Scotland's future in agriculture.

Under the Agriculture Act 1947 you are required to provide the information.

**This is a Legal Requirement, and reduces the chance of you being inspected**