

Health and Well-Being of the Farm Community in England and Wales

INFORMATION SHEET V2 (stakeholder distribution)

Project summary
<p>This project is being conducted by the Centre for Rural Policy Research (CRPR) at the University of Exeter and is primarily funded by the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI). We are interested in better understanding the current health and wellbeing of members of the farming community and how this may impact on business performance and preparedness. The questionnaire may be completed by farmers and other members of farming households (such as spouses and adults aged children). We also welcome responses from agricultural workers.</p> <p>Our research seeks to provide robust data on the mental health and well-being and also physical health of members of the farming community. We are not seeking to diagnose any specific health problem but are trying to understand underlying issues that may mean that individuals are more susceptible to mental health conditions or which may comprise physical health and the ability to safely perform normal work activities. The results of this important survey will help inform future work of RABI and others involved in support the farm sector.</p>
Why have I been approached?
<p>Regardless of your mental and physical health or your experience of social isolation and loneliness, we would like to invite you to complete a short questionnaire designed to capture your current health and well-being status.</p>
What does taking part involve?
<p>Taking part involves completing the online questionnaire. By submitting your questionnaire responses you are deemed to have consented to the use and storage of your information as outlined in this information sheet.</p>
What are the possible benefits of taking part?
<p>If you wish, you may opt in to the opportunity to win a voucher of your choice for £50 as a thank you for completing the survey.</p> <p>Although there are no other direct personal benefits from taking part, we hope that you will help us build an accurate and up to date picture of the health status of the farming community. The results will be used to help inform the future work of RABI and other farm support organisations.</p>
What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
<p>We recognise that a survey of health and well-being includes questions that are personal and sensitive in nature. We do not wish to cause you discomfort and if any of the questions cause you distress then please feel free to skip the question (in fact you are free to skip any question, although the more you complete the better informed we will become).</p>
What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?
<p>Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your legal rights being affected. You can also stop completing the survey at any time. Survey participants may request to withdraw from the project and have their data destroyed up to 31st March 2021. However, unless you opt in to the draw for a voucher or opt in to being contacted for follow up research we will not have any of your contact information and it may not be possible to remove the information provided by you. After 31st March 2021 data will have been anonymised and it may not be possible to remove the information provided by you. Please contact</p>

Becca Wheeler at the University of Exeter (r.wheeler3@exeter.ac.uk or 01392 723170) if you no longer wish to be involved in this study.

How will my information be kept confidential?

All information you disclose in the questionnaire will be kept confidential. Information will be anonymised using an 'ID tag' such as 'Farmer 1; Farm family member 2; Farm worker 3' and collated with information from other participants. None of your personal details will be made publicly available or appear in any publication related to the research.

Your data will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, which means that data will be anonymised and kept securely, indefinitely on the University of Exeter secure OneDrive.. If you opt in to giving us your name and contact details for the purposes of further research these details will be held securely on the University's secure OneDrive for five years. It will not be possible for anyone to link your contact details to your answers to the questionnaire. Fully anonymised data (which means there is no means of identifying you) will be shared with RABI after the project is completed. Under no circumstances will we pass any personal data (eg name, contact information) to RABI.

The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The university will endeavour to be transparent about processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University of Exeter's Data Protection Officer by emailing dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk or at www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this study will be used to inform the support that RABI provides to members of the farming community, as well as for academic purposes (e.g. research papers in academic journals, conferences and seminars). We will also write articles for the popular press and farming press. Research highlights will also be disseminated by social media. A summary of findings will be available on request.

Who is organising and funding this study?

This research is funded by RABI and the College of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of Exeter.

Who has reviewed this study?

This project has been reviewed by the College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter.

Further information and contact details:

For questions about your questionnaire please contact: Becca Wheeler, Email; r.wheeler3@exeter.ac.uk; Tel: 01392 723170. For further information about the research please contact: Professor Matt Lobley: Centre for Rural Policy Research, Lazenby House, Prince of Wales Road, University of Exeter, EX4 4PJ; Tel: 01392 724539; email: M.Lobley@exeter.ac.uk

If you have any other concerns or wish to make a complaint please contact the University of Exeter Research Ethics Officer at ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk; Tel: 01392 72 3499

Thank you for your interest in this project