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Final areas, and a first look at the harvest

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

Official wheat figures come in more than one publication, a few weeks apart: a final June area in August, and a provisional English harvest in October.

Final areas, 27 August 2026

The official areas notice says: “The cereal and oilseed crop areas are final and will not be updated.” The official wheat area “decreased by 1.8% to 1.5 million hectares in 2026.” “Favourable planting conditions across the country during autumn 2025 supported crop establishment.” The official land-use release later includes those cereal and oilseed areas “for completeness and remain unchanged.”

A provisional English harvest, 8 October 2026

The official production notice is titled “Provisional cereal and oilseed production estimates for England 2026.” The official English wheat harvest is 10.8 million tonnes, up 0.8%, because the yield rose to 7.2 tonnes per hectare. The official barley harvest “is 3.7 million tonnes, a decrease of 11% on 2025,” “the smallest harvest of total barley since 2012.” “Oilseed rape production is estimated to have increased by 43% to 1.0 million tonnes in 2026.”

Still an English figure

The notice is “the first estimate of the 2026 English cereal and oilseed harvest.” Data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland “will be included within the final production estimates for the United Kingdom in December 2026.” Uncropped arable land in the land-use release “increased by 3.9% to 566 thousand hectares,” of which “82 thousand hectares were left as bare fallow and the remaining 484 thousand hectares were used for environmental benefit.”

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: Defra, Cereal and oilseed areas in England at 1 June 2026; Defra, Agricultural land use in England at 1 June 2026; Defra, Provisional cereal and oilseed production estimates for England 2026. This is not a Defra publication. wheat.farmyard.im is part of the ReallyByte network, run by REALLYBYTE, based in the Isle of Man. ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless.