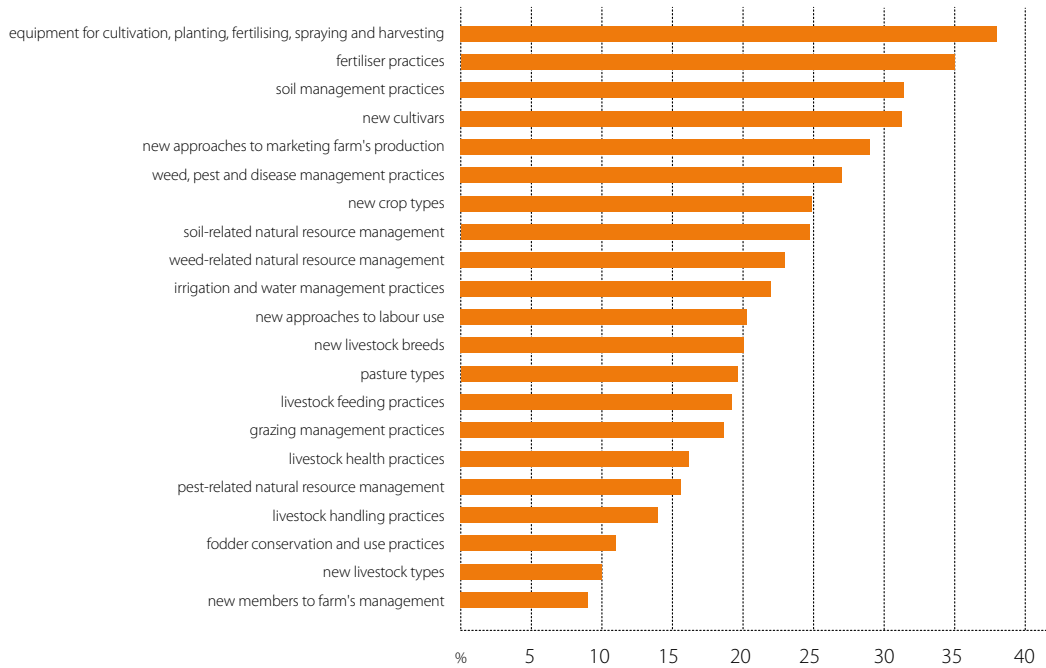


# Farm innovation in the broadacre and dairy industries, 2006-07 to 2007-08

From ABARE research report [09.16](#)

- A farm innovation survey was conducted by ABARE in 2008 as part of the 2007-08 Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industry Survey (AAGIS) and Australian Dairy Industry Survey (ADIS).
- This report presents preliminary results from the survey on the extent of innovation adoption by broadacre and dairy farms during 2006-07 and 2007-08 across a broad list of innovative activities.
- The results show most broadacre and dairy farms made at least one innovative change over the two years ending 2007-08. The most commonly adopted innovations by broadacre farmers were the introduction of new cropping equipment, new fertiliser practices and new soil management practices (figure a). In 2006-07 and 2007-08, dairy farmers predominantly introduced new irrigation and water management practices, new pasture types and new fodder conservation and use practices (figure b).
- Within broadacre agriculture, the adoption of innovative changes to farm management practices and technologies was higher among cropping farms than livestock farms. This result is consistent with productivity research that found cropping farms generally achieve higher productivity growth than livestock farms over time.
- In broad terms, innovative changes made by broadacre and dairy farms over the two years ending 2007-08 appear to have been mainly motivated by either an improved capability to implement changes as a consequence of increased income or reduced costs of implementation, or an imperative to act because of seasonal conditions and high farm input prices.
- The preliminary results from the farm innovation survey are generally consistent with the findings from Australian and international research on farm innovation adoption. The adoption of innovation is broadly associated with structural characteristics of farm businesses, such as business size, farmers' education, productivity type and farm financial characteristics, such as the level of farm cash income or the underlying long-term profitability of the farm business.
- However, the adoption of a range of innovations, in particular less capital-intensive and more management-intensive innovations, are likely to be driven by a wide range of factors including behavioural factors which were not investigated in this analysis.

**a** Proportion of farms adopting innovative changes: broadacre industry



**b** Proportion of farms adopting innovative changes: dairy industry

