



January 2026

ABARES Survey Collection Officer Fact Sheet

Ever thought about helping collect the insights that shape Australia's agricultural future? Join the ABARES Farm Survey Team as a Survey Collection Officer.

Survey Collection Officers travel to rural and regional locations in Australia to conduct face-to-face interviews with farmers.

ABARES Farm Surveys Program

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) is the research arm of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Our mission is to provide professionally independent data, research, analysis and advice that informs public and private decisions affecting Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

ABARES has been conducting surveys of primary producers for over 70 years. To collect data about the performance of Australia's farm sector, ABARES Survey Collection Officers interview around 2200 primary producers each year. ABARES farm surveys collect information from a range of agricultural industries to guide industry and government policy and program investments. Survey Collection Officers collect core data about the physical, financial and management characteristics of farms. Additional questions are included each year to address current or emerging issues. For example, in recent years ABARES has collected additional data about natural resource management and technology adoption.

The quality of the data collected in ABARES farm surveys is critical to the overall reliability and value of ABARES research. Information needs to be collected in an unbiased and systematic way by all Survey Collection Officers. Producers who are surveyed also need to have confidence that we will protect their privacy and respect the time and effort they give voluntarily to ABARES research effort.

Survey Collection Officer

Survey Collection Officers are engaged as casual employees. Most work is available during June to November. The volume of work depends on the number of surveys conducted and the sample size for each survey. We prefer to employ people who are interested in doing the job long-term, and stay for multiple years.

Duties

- Conducting face-to-face interviews with farmers (phone surveys are also conducted when required)
- Travel away from home for up to 2-3 weeks at a time
- Completing data entry and finalising travel-related administration (this is often done during periods of time at home)

- Working flexibly to respond to the workload. While out in the field this can be up to 12 hours a day, 5-6 days a week – but can also include days where there may only be a few hours of work a day.

Required knowledge and capabilities

- Knowledge of Australian agriculture – sufficient understanding of farming systems and farm finances to hold informed conversations and accurately capture survey information.
- Strong communication and engagement skills and judgement – ability to build rapport with farmers, encourage participation in voluntary surveys, and exercise sound judgement in the field.
- Independent and adaptable – able to work autonomously in regional and remote locations, manage changing priorities, and stay motivated.
- Organised and reliable – capable of planning travel and logistics, managing workload, meeting deadlines, and delivering high-quality outcomes.
- Professional and trustworthy – works well in a team, uses computer systems confidently, adheres to policies and business processes, and maintains confidentiality and data quality standards.

Work/salary conditions

- Casual hourly rate ~\$41/hour (APS Level 3)
- Can involve work on Saturdays when working in the field
- Limited work on Sundays and public holidays
- Superannuation 15.4%

All travel expenses are paid by the department. This includes flights, accommodation, hire cars, public transport, meal allowances and incidentals.

See full conditions here <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/DAFF-Enterprise-Agreement-2024-2027.pdf>

Training and support

- New starter training – one week in Canberra and one week in the field with a mentor
- Training workshop with the whole team in Canberra each June
- When working in the field, there is regular contact with the Operations Team in Canberra, support from a mentor and wellbeing officer

More information

Contact the Farm Survey Operation Manager through ABARES.Collector.Recruitment@aff.gov.au

Apply to be a Survey Collection Officer

Submit an application to the [Temporary Employment Register](#) and notify the Farm Survey Operation Manager through ABARES.Collector.Recruitment@aff.gov.au.

In the application form, select 'Canberra, ACT' as the location you wish to be considered for and select 'Research' as an area of interest. Please include covering information in your resume/CV about how your experience makes you suitable for the duties and required knowledge and capabilities of the role.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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