



28 April 2016

## Total Income from Farming in the United Kingdom

### First estimate for 2015

This release presents the first estimate of Total Income from Farming for the United Kingdom for 2015. Total Income from Farming is the income to those with an entrepreneurial interest in the agricultural industry, typically farmers and partners. A second estimate incorporating data that becomes available later in the year will be published in November 2016.

There are revisions to previous year's data owing to further information becoming available and methodology revisions. These are highlighted in the revisions section of this document on page 12.

Key points:

- Total Income from Farming is estimated to have fallen between 2014 and 2015 by 29% (£1,526 million) in real terms, to £3,769 million. The 2015 value was driven by lower commodity prices and reduced direct payments resulting from the less favourable euro/sterling exchange rate.
- Total Income from Farming per annual work unit (AWU)<sup>1</sup> of entrepreneurial labour (farmers and other unpaid labour) is estimated to have fallen between 2014 and 2015 by 29% in real terms to £19,471.
- Gross value added at basic price<sup>2</sup>, which identifies agriculture's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), fell by £1,393 million to £8,495 million. In real terms, a 14% decrease.

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<sup>1</sup> Annual Work Unit (AWU) is equivalent to the input of one person engaged in agricultural activities of the farm business on a full-time basis for one year.

<sup>2</sup> Gross value added at basic price is the total value of outputs (plus any product related subsidies) less the value of intermediate consumption

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## Summary (in real terms)

Real term value is where previous year's data is adjusted to take account of inflation so the values are comparable. The following commentary refers to table 2.

In real terms Total Income from Farming in 2015 is estimated to be 29% lower than the 2014 total, a fall of £1,526 million to £3,769 million.

Following poor weather in 2012 and 2013 growing conditions were more favourable in 2014 and maintained in 2015 encouraging good crop growth and record yields. However in 2015 whilst production levels were maintained, lower commodity prices due to increased global production and stocks resulted in a fall of 8% in the value of outputs.

The value of intermediate consumption fell by 4.2%, due to the lower prices and to some degree a fall in volumes used, leading to a 14% (£1,393 million) fall in gross value added at basic price to £8,495 million.

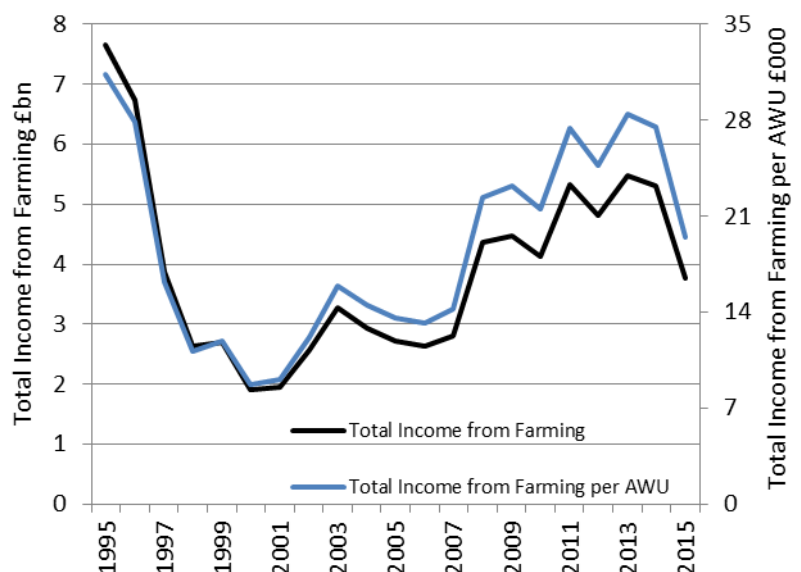
The pound further strengthened against the euro in 2015 and subsequently reduced the value of direct payments to farmers. It is estimated that the net value of Basic Payments (formerly Single Farm Payments) were 7.5% lower in 2015 than 2014. Direct payments are set in Euro and converted to sterling each year using the exchange rate for the month of September set by the European Central Bank.

Labour, rent and interest rises further contributed to the overall fall in Total Income from Farming.

Compared to 2011, a comparable year which was not adversely affected by the weather, outputs in 2015 were £1,197 million lower. This was driven by significantly lower farm gate prices which failed to offset higher volumes of production. The cost of intermediate consumption between the two years fell by £519 million with the increase in volumes used offset by lower prices. Gross value added at basic price was £678 million lower in 2015 compared to 2011. However the reduction in exchange rate reduced the amount of direct payment received by farmers by £880 million and led to total income from farming being £1,567 million less than 2011.

Total Income from Farming per AWU of entrepreneurial labour follows a similar trend to Total Income from Farming, but owing to a decline in the number of farmers and other unpaid workers has performed better over time (see figure 1). In 2015 total Income from Farming per AWU of entrepreneurial labour is 29% lower than 2014.

**Figure 1 Agriculture industry income trends in the UK (in real terms)**



**Table 1 Total Income from Farming and Total Income from Farming per annual work unit (AWU) of entrepreneurial labour in real terms: United Kingdom 1995 to 2015**

	calendar years			
	Total Income from Farming (£ billion)	Year-on-year change	Total Income from Farming per AWU (£000)	Year-on-year change
1995	8	15%	31	17%
1996	7	-12%	28	-11%
1997	4	-42%	16	-42%
1998	3	-32%	11	-31%
1999	3	3%	12	6%
2000	2	-29%	9	-27%
2001	2	2%	9	5%
2002	3	31%	12	34%
2003	3	28%	16	30%
2004	3	-10%	15	-9%
2005	3	-8%	14	-7%
2006	3	-3%	13	-3%
2007	3	7%	14	8%
2008	4	55%	22	57%
2009	4	2%	23	4%
2010	4	-8%	22	-7%
2011	5	29%	27	27%
2012	5	-10%	25	-10%
2013	5	14%	28	15%
2014	5	-3%	27	-3%
2015	4	-29%	19	-29%

**Table 2 Aggregate Agricultural Accounts: real term price production and income accounts for the United Kingdom**

£ million	Calendar years			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Output of cereals	3 332	3 445	3 477	2 947
of which:				
wheat	2 250	2 116	2 470	2 033
barley	958	1 159	902	824
oats	119	163	99	86
2 Output of industrial crops	1 412	1 208	1 162	1 048
of which:				
oilseed rape	1 043	784	701	715
protein crops	102	126	123	137
sugar beet	236	275	316	173
3 Output of forage plants	152	221	265	259
4 Output of vegetables and horticultural products	2 496	2 582	2 386	2 411
of which:				
fresh vegetables	1 307	1 367	1 218	1 263
plants and flowers	1 189	1 215	1 168	1 149
5 Output of potatoes (including seeds)	686	966	678	547
6 Output of fruit	597	614	623	690
7 Output of other crop products incl. seeds	670	593	649	573
<b>Total crop output (sum 1-7)</b>	<b>9 345</b>	<b>9 630</b>	<b>9 241</b>	<b>8 474</b>
8 Output of livestock	8 981	9 316	8 981	8 573
primarily for meat	7 540	7 897	7 482	7 367
of which:				
cattle	2 909	2 945	2 616	2 739
pigs	1 178	1 301	1 266	1 078
sheep	1 069	1 059	1 124	1 105
poultry	2 163	2 372	2 255	2 226
gross fixed capital formation	1 441	1 419	1 499	1 207
of which:				
cattle	891	936	927	686
pigs	9	6	5	4
sheep	330	278	332	284
poultry	211	199	234	233
9 Output of livestock products	4 670	5 177	5 380	4 433
of which:				
milk	3 921	4 359	4 603	3 663
eggs	689	733	681	681
<b>Total livestock output (8+9)</b>	<b>13 651</b>	<b>14 493</b>	<b>14 361</b>	<b>13 006</b>
10 Other agricultural activities	1 057	1 074	1 124	1 132
11 Inseparable non-agricultural activities	1 084	1 200	1 178	1 201
12 Output (at market prices) (sum 1 to 11)	25 136	26 396	25 904	23 813
13 Total subsidies (less taxes) on product	21	21	21	38
<b>14 Gross output at basic prices (12+13)</b>	<b>25 157</b>	<b>26 418</b>	<b>25 925</b>	<b>23 852</b>

continued

**Table 2 Aggregate Agricultural Accounts: real term price production and income accounts for the United Kingdom (continued)**

£ million	Calendar years			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Intermediate consumption</b>				
15 Seeds	772	885	770	707
16 Energy	1 488	1 480	1 399	1 182
of which: electricity and fuels for heating	402	394	374	363
motor and machinery fuels	1 086	1 087	1 026	819
17 Fertilisers	1 585	1 542	1 469	1 353
18 Plant protection products	873	873	945	907
19 Veterinary expenses	438	456	458	458
20 Animal feed	5 091	5 677	5 074	4 864
of which: compounds	2 994	3 357	3 005	2 845
straights	1 508	1 606	1 417	1 294
feed produced & used on farm	589	714	652	725
21 Total maintenance	1 501	1 531	1 547	1 475
of which: materials	940	957	963	890
buildings	561	575	584	585
22 Agricultural services	1 057	1 074	1 124	1 132
23 FISIM	111	118	104	117
24 Other goods and services	3 246	3 205	3 145	3 162
<b>25 Total intermediate consumption (sum 15 to 24)</b>	<b>16 163</b>	<b>16 843</b>	<b>16 036</b>	<b>15 356</b>
<b>26 Gross value added at market prices (12-25)</b>	<b>8 973</b>	<b>9 554</b>	<b>9 868</b>	<b>8 457</b>
<b>27 Gross value added at basic prices (14-25)</b>	<b>8 995</b>	<b>9 575</b>	<b>9 888</b>	<b>8 495</b>
28 Total consumption of Fixed Capital	4 172	4 068	4 084	3 963
of which: equipment	1 676	1 708	1 722	1 763
buildings	1 045	999	987	995
livestock	1 451	1 360	1 376	1 206
cattle	906	875	878	700
pigs	8	7	5	4
sheep	313	273	295	290
poultry	224	206	197	212
<b>29 Net value added at market prices (26-28)</b>	<b>4 801</b>	<b>5 486</b>	<b>5 783</b>	<b>4 494</b>
<b>30 Net value added at basic prices (27-28)</b>	<b>4 822</b>	<b>5 507</b>	<b>5 804</b>	<b>4 532</b>
31 Other taxes on production	- 126	- 120	- 96	- 96
32 Other subsidies on production	3 395	3 407	2 958	2 803
<b>33 Net value added at factor cost (30+31+32)</b>	<b>8 092</b>	<b>8 794</b>	<b>8 666</b>	<b>7 239</b>
34 Compensation of employees	2 450	2 452	2 410	2 479
35 Rent	511	530	554	561
36 Interest	321	334	407	431
<b>37 Total income from farming (33-34-35-36)</b>	<b>4 810</b>	<b>5 478</b>	<b>5 295</b>	<b>3 769</b>

## **Aggregate Agricultural Accounts: production and income accounts: main findings in current price**

The following commentary refers to table 3 detailed production and income accounts from the aggregate agricultural accounts. Values are expressed in current prices, i.e. based on prices in the year in question.

### **Headline figures**

In 2015 Total Income from Farming fell by £1,516 million to £3,769 million, a 29% decrease on 2014. The key contributors to the change were the decreases in: milk by £931 million, wheat by £432 million, pigs by £186 million, subsidies on production by £150 million, and sugar beet by £142 million. This was to a small extent offset by a decrease in energy costs £215 million and animal feed costs by £201 million.

Gross value added at basic price, which identifies agriculture's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), fell by £1,374 million to £8,495 million, a 14% decrease.

### **Details**

#### **Outputs: Crops**

Overall output of crops value fell by £749 million to £8,474 million, a fall of 8.1%, with most crops seeing falls with the exception of oilseed, protein crops and fruit and vegetables.

2015 was a good year for crop production. Good weather for the second year running led to record high cereal yields. In comparison lower prices and increased supplies drove values down.

The value of wheat fell by £432 million to £2,033 million. Planted area was down but the highest recorded yield saw wheat production levels only slightly down on 2014. Again the quality of the wheat crop was generally good but plentiful global supplies resulted in domestic price 17% lower than in 2014.

The value of barley fell by £76 million to £824 million. This fall was entirely due to lower price, 13% down on 2014, as planted area was 2% higher and, as with wheat, yield was at a record high resulting in an overall 5.4% rise in volume.

The value of oilseed rape rose for the first time in three years. At £706 million, this 3.2% rise was entirely due to a rise in volume as good yields offset a reduction in crop area and led to a 3.4% increase in production.

The value of protein crops increased by £14 million to £137 million. The crop area of peas and beans more than doubled in 2015 as farmers planted to comply with Common Agriculture Policy greening rules which led to a 52% rise in volume. In contrast the price fell and some farmers experienced difficulties in marketing these crops.

In 2015 the value of sugar beet fell by £142 million to £173 million. Planted area fell for the fourth year running and led to a 33% fall in volume. Strong global supplies put pressure on price, down over a quarter on 2014.

In 2015 the value of potatoes fell by £131 million to £547 million. A reduction in planted area led to a 19% fall in volumes whilst price was virtually unchanged on 2014.

### **Outputs: Livestock**

Overall the total value of output of livestock was 9.3% lower at £13,006 million. In 2015 all livestock values were lower than 2014 with the exception of cattle.

The value of milk decreased by £940 million to £3,663 million. In 2015 milk volume rose by 2.6% with monthly domestic production consistently higher than 2014. Good grazing due to the favourable weather conditions led to high milk yields. This contributed to an abundance of supply and subsequent fall in milk price. The average price of milk in 2015 (calendar year) was 24.5 pence per litre (ppl) compared to 31.5 ppl in 2014.

The value of livestock primarily for meat fell by £101 million with decreases seen in all sectors apart from cattle which rose by £128 million to £2,739 million. Despite fewer prime cattle slaughterings, higher cull cow numbers and heavier weights resulted in a 3.4% increase in volumes. Price for adult cattle were ahead of 2014 and contributed to the 1.5% increase in price.

The value of pig meat fell by £186 million to £1,078 million. This fall was entirely due to the lower price in 2015 compared to 2014 as volumes rose by 3.3%. The value of sheep meat decreased by £17 million to £1,105 million with production virtually unchanged and price down on 2014.

The value of poultry meat fell by £25 million to £2,226 million, the second year a decline has been seen on the back of steady growth in the last ten years. Production levels rose by 2.0% whereas price fell by 3.0%.

### **Intermediate consumption**

The total cost of intermediate consumption fell by £649 million to £15,356 million.

Reduced energy, animal feed and fertiliser costs were the main contributors to the fall in intermediate consumption.

The value of energy fell by £215 million to £1,182 million driven by the fall in global oil prices which led to lower fuel costs, just over a fifth down on 2014. The good weather and efficiency savings kept volumes virtually unchanged on the year.

In 2015 the value of animal feed fell by £201 million to £4,864 million, with both price and volume lower. Volumes fell by 9.0% as favourable weather conditions led to good grass growth and livestock been kept outside for longer reducing the need for animal feed. Feed prices fell by 10% as higher crop production pushed down grain prices.

The value of fertiliser fell by to £114 million to £1,353 million. Reductions in planted areas and the switch in planted crops led to a 2.3% fall in volume and the lower oil price put downward pressure on price.

### **Compensation of employees**

There was an increase of £73 million to compensate employees in 2015. This was due to an increase in rates of pay and in the number of employees. The total value of compensation to employees in 2015 was £2,479 million.

### **Other subsidies on production**

Direct payments fell by £150 million to £2,803 million. Overall this is a 5% decrease in payments and is mainly due to the reduction in euro/sterling exchange rate and is a significant contributor to the fall in the Total Income from Farming.



**Table 3 Aggregate Agricultural Accounts: Current price production and income accounts for the United Kingdom**

£ million	Calendar years			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Output of cereals	3 201	3 375	3 470	2 947
of which: wheat	2 162	2 073	2 465	2 033
barley	920	1 136	900	824
oats	114	160	99	86
2 Output of industrial crops	1 356	1 183	1 160	1 048
of which: oilseed rape	986	744	684	706
protein crops	98	123	123	137
sugar beet	227	270	315	173
3 Output of forage plants	146	217	265	259
4 Output of vegetables and horticultural products	2 398	2 530	2 382	2 411
of which: fresh vegetables	1 255	1 340	1 216	1 263
plants and flowers	1 142	1 191	1 166	1 149
5 Output of potatoes (including seeds)	659	947	677	547
6 Output of fruit	573	602	622	690
7 Output of other crop products incl. seeds	644	581	648	573
<b>Total crop output (sum 1-7)</b>	<b>8 977</b>	<b>9 435</b>	<b>9 223</b>	<b>8 474</b>
8 Output of livestock	8 628	9 128	8 964	8 573
primarily for meat	7 244	7 738	7 468	7 367
of which: cattle	2 794	2 886	2 611	2 739
pigs	1 132	1 274	1 264	1 078
sheep	1 027	1 037	1 122	1 105
poultry	2 078	2 324	2 250	2 226
gross fixed capital formation	1 384	1 390	1 496	1 207
of which: cattle	856	917	925	686
pigs	8	6	5	4
sheep	317	272	332	284
poultry	203	195	234	233
9 Output of livestock products	4 486	5 072	5 369	4 433
of which: milk	3 767	4 271	4 594	3 663
eggs	662	718	679	681
<b>Total livestock output (8+9)</b>	<b>13 113</b>	<b>14 200</b>	<b>14 333</b>	<b>13 006</b>
10 Other agricultural activities	1 015	1 052	1 122	1 132
11 Inseparable non-agricultural activities	1 041	1 176	1 176	1 201
12 Output (at market prices) (sum 1 to 11)	24 146	25 864	25 854	23 813
13 Total subsidies (less taxes) on product	20	21	21	38
<b>14 Gross output at basic prices (12+13)</b>	<b>24 166</b>	<b>25 885</b>	<b>25 875</b>	<b>23 852</b>

continued

**Table 3: Aggregate Agricultural Accounts: Current price production and income accounts for the United Kingdom (continued)**

£ million	Calendar years			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Intermediate consumption</b>				
15 Seeds	742	867	769	707
16 Energy	1 429	1 450	1 397	1 182
of which: electricity and fuels for heating	386	386	373	363
motor and machinery fuels	1 043	1 065	1 024	819
17 Fertilisers	1 523	1 511	1 466	1 353
18 Plant protection products	839	856	943	907
19 Veterinary expenses	420	447	458	458
20 Animal feed	4 891	5 563	5 065	4 864
of which: compounds	2 876	3 290	2 999	2 845
straights	1 448	1 574	1 415	1 294
feed produced & used on farm	566	699	651	725
21 Total maintenance	1 442	1 500	1 544	1 475
of which: materials	903	937	961	890
buildings	539	563	583	585
22 Agricultural services	1 015	1 052	1 122	1 132
23 FISIM	106	116	103	117
24 Other goods and services	3 118	3 140	3 139	3 162
<b>25 Total intermediate consumption (sum 15 to 24)</b>	<b>15 526</b>	<b>16 503</b>	<b>16 005</b>	<b>15 356</b>
<b>26 Gross value added at market prices (12-25)</b>	<b>8 620</b>	<b>9 361</b>	<b>9 849</b>	<b>8 457</b>
<b>27 Gross value added at basic prices (14-25)</b>	<b>8 640</b>	<b>9 382</b>	<b>9 869</b>	<b>8 495</b>
28 Total consumption of Fixed Capital	4 008	3 986	4 077	3 963
of which: equipment	1 610	1 674	1 719	1 763
buildings	1 004	979	985	995
livestock	1 394	1 333	1 373	1 206
cattle	870	857	876	700
pigs	8	7	5	4
sheep	301	267	295	290
poultry	216	202	197	212
<b>29 Net value added at market prices (26-28)</b>	<b>4 612</b>	<b>5 376</b>	<b>5 772</b>	<b>4 494</b>
<b>30 Net value added at basic prices (27-28)</b>	<b>4 632</b>	<b>5 396</b>	<b>5 793</b>	<b>4 532</b>
31 Other taxes on production	- 121	- 118	- 96	- 96
32 Other subsidies on production	3 262	3 338	2 953	2 803
<b>33 Net value added at factor cost (30+31+32)</b>	<b>7 773</b>	<b>8 617</b>	<b>8 650</b>	<b>7 239</b>
34 Compensation of employees	2 353	2 403	2 406	2 479
35 Rent	491	520	553	561
36 Interest	308	327	406	431
<b>37 Total income from farming (33-34-35-36)</b>	<b>4 620</b>	<b>5 367</b>	<b>5 285</b>	<b>3 769</b>

## Description of Total income from Farming

Total Income from Farming is income generated by production within the agriculture industry including subsidies and represents business profits and remuneration for work done by owners and other unpaid workers. It excludes changes in the values of assets, including stocks, due to price changes but includes non-agricultural activities such as further processing or tourist activities where these cannot be separated from the agricultural business. It is the preferred measure of aggregate income for the agricultural industry conforming to internationally agreed national accounting principles required by the UK National Accounts and by Eurostat.

Total Income from Farming per Annual Work Unit (AWU) of entrepreneurial labour is a related measure. It expresses Total Income from Farming in terms of AWU of entrepreneurial labour input. An AWU of entrepreneurial labour input corresponds to the input of one person with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business who is engaged in agricultural activities on a full-time basis over an entire year. AWU are used rather than the number of individuals so to take account of part-time and seasonal work.

Total Income from Farming is designed to show the performance of the whole of the agricultural industry. A measure of farm incomes, Farm Business Income, designed to compare performance across different types of farming, is available in the publication Farm Accounts in England on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/farm-business-income>

## Definitions and explanations

Annual work unit:	the input of one person in the farm business who is engaged in agricultural activities on a full-time basis over an entire year.
Basic prices:	market prices plus directly paid subsidies that are linked to the production of specific products.
Current prices:	the value based on prices during the reference year.
Entrepreneurial labour:	the input of people who have an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business, e.g. farmers and other unpaid workers, usually expressed in annual work units.
Gross output:	the total value of output by producing enterprises.
Intermediate consumption:	the goods and services used as inputs in the productive process, e.g. feed, and fertiliser.
Real terms:	the value adjusted for inflation.
Total Income from Farming:	income to those with an entrepreneurial interest in the agricultural industry.

## Revisions

Over time, as more data becomes available, estimates will be revised and forecasts replaced, for example intermediate consumption and other costs data estimated for the April publication will, in November, be replaced with the Farm Business Survey data.

In this edition there are minor revisions to livestock output data all the way back to 1985. These revisions are a result of changes implemented following a review of methodology in the calculation of minor items.

There are some revisions to data back to 2010, in particular intermediate consumption items, following the publication of Total Income from Farming for Scotland in January by the Scottish government. More detailed information is available in a revisions document on their website at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/01/3641/downloads>. There are also minor revisions to data as a result of the publication of incomes by Northern Ireland and Wales.

Total Income from Farming is sensitive to small percentage changes in the values of outputs and intermediate consumption. A combination of a revision downwards in output and revision upwards in intermediate consumption leads to more sizeable revisions in percentage terms to Gross Value Added and Total Income from Farming.

**Table 4 Revisions made to the 2014 aggregate agricultural account between November 2015 and April 2016**

	Nov 2015 2014	Apr 2016 2014	% change to 2014
Gross output (£m)	25 778	25 875	0.4%
Intermediate consumption (£m)	15 852	16 005	1.0%
GVA (£m)	9 926	9 869	-0.6%
NVA at factor cost (£m)	8 722	8 650	-0.8%
TIFF (£m)	5 413	5 285	-2.4%

## Summary quality report

A summary quality report for this statistical release can be found on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/aggregate-agricultural-accounts>.

This is an overview note which is not release specific but will be reviewed and updated at regular intervals. It pulls together key qualitative information on the various dimensions of quality as well as providing a summary of methods used to compile the output. It relates to estimates of Total Income from Farming and aim to provide users with information on usability and fitness for purpose of these estimates.

## Quality Assurance

Defra has in place quality assurance processes to check the accuracy and reliability of the aggregate agricultural accounts that includes:

- Ongoing review of methods employed in the calculation of the accounts.
- Assessment of the quality of the estimates of components of the accounts with internal experts.
- Discussion of components of the accounts with external experts.
- Quality assessments made by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

## Development areas

Defra statisticians carry out a continuous review of methods employed in making estimates of the production and income accounts. This may lead to revisions to data series owing to improvements in methods in addition to the use of later information.

## Main users and uses of the aggregate agricultural accounts

The aggregate agricultural accounts are used in conjunction with other economic information to:

- Monitor the productivity and competitiveness of the farming industry.
- Inform policy decisions and to help monitor and evaluate current policies relating to agriculture in the UK by Government and in the European Union by the European Commission.
- Inform stakeholders of the performance of the agricultural industry.
- Inform research into the economic performance of the agricultural industry.
- Total Income from Farming sets the context when looking at a number of policies; the agricultural industry contributes around £3.8 billion to the national economy and accounts for about 0.5% of national Gross Domestic Product. It is most relevant to policies relating to Common Agricultural Policy reform and the competitiveness of farming.

## **User engagement**

As part of our ongoing commitment to compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>), we wish to strengthen our engagement with users of these statistics and better understand the use made of them and the types of decisions that they inform. Consequently, we invite users to make themselves known, to advise us of the use they do, or might, make of these statistics, and what their wishes are in terms of engagement. Feedback on this notice and enquiries about these statistics are also welcome.