



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Note of the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group: 11 February 2025

The UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group comprises representatives from Defra, DAERA, Scottish Government and Welsh Government.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Introduction

This note records the key points discussed at the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group (UK AMMG) held on 11 February 2025. Present were representatives of Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DAERA (Northern Ireland). The meeting assessed issues impacting on the agricultural sector and reviewed the market situation across a range of UK agricultural commodities.

The publication of these notes is in the interest of preserving transparency and accountability. The accompanying data reports will be published on the same GOV.UK landing page.

Key points: Market situation

- Farming sectors are performing well, with prices well above the 5-year average in the beef and sheep sectors as well as in the pig sector despite a gradual decline in prices for pigmeat over the past year. The market dynamics were influenced by currency fluctuations, fuel prices, and varying demand across different agricultural products.
- The Met Office projections suggest near average temperatures for the February- April 2025 period, with a slightly elevated chance of mild temperatures. The period is likely to be wetter than average, making impacts from heavy rainfall possible.

Intervention scheme announcements

There were no new market intervention schemes announced.

Overview and market updates

In January 2025 Pound Sterling lost value against all currencies monitored, particularly against the Euro and US Dollar.

Supply of seasonal workers is meeting demand and initial deployment of 2025 seasonal workers for the daffodil and ornamental sector has begun.

In January 2025, Brent crude oil prices increased month-on-month (MoM) by 9.5% and 1.2 % year-on-year (YoY).

In January 2025, red diesel prices increased by 0.9% MoM but were down by 4.6% YoY.

In January 2025, European natural gas prices were pushed up due to a number of factors including conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, unsettled weather and infrastructure (energy) outages.

UK demand for fertilisers has increased as expected, largely from grassland farmers while buying interest for urea and ammonium nitrate (AN) for arable crops remains low.

Sector discussions

Horticulture

The Group focussed on key seasonal commodities. Apples showed a slight increase in price from December 2024 to January 2025 and a small decline in price Year on Year (YoY).

Onion prices show a small decrease from December 2024 to January 2025 and prices have dropped by over a quarter YoY. Carrot prices are showing a small decrease from December 2024 to January 2025 however are up by nearly a quarter YoY.

Cauliflower prices rose sharply between December 2024 and January 2025 but are down by 13% YoY. Cabbage prices have remained fairly static from December 2024 to January 2025 and are showing a small YoY increase.

Brussel Sprouts prices were up marginally between December 2024 and January 2025 though prices are down almost a third on the price YoY. Swede prices have remained fairly static between December 2024 and January 2025, and YoY.

Dairy

UK December 2024 farmgate milk price (FGMP) of 47.1ppl is up Month on Month (MoM) with UK milk supply for December 2024 also up both MoM and YoY. Daily UK milk deliveries continued to be strong into mid-January 2025, up 4.1% YoY.

The Actual Milk Price Equivalent (AMPE) and the Milk for Cheese Value Equivalent (MCVE) are both down marginally MoM but from high levels with both remaining firm. They are up 18% and 16% respectively YoY (between January 2024 and January 2025).

Arable

Feed wheat and bread milling wheat prices are up marginally MoM in January 2025 but down YoY. Feed barley prices are up 1.7% and down 1.7% YoY. Malting barley prices are down MoM in January 2025. All sit below the 5-year average.

Oilseed rape prices are 1.5% up MoM and up 24% YoY in January 2025.

Beef

Prime cattle prices are up 15% YoY and 37% above the 5-year average in January 2025. Cow prices are up 19% YoY. December 2024 production levels are down by 15% MoM

but following usual seasonal trends. There has been a slight increase in production and slaughter YoY.

Sheep

Deadweight lamb prices increased 19% YoY (between January 2024 and January 2025) and are 35% above the 5-year average.

UK sheep production dropped 5% YoY (between January 2024 and December 2025), with slaughter numbers down 4.4% YoY.

Pigs

The monthly Standard Pig Price (SPP) (204.7.2p/kg, January 2025) has continued in a gradual decline. Although prices are lower than they were last year, they remain above the 5-yr average. The monthly All Pig Price (APP) (208.1p/kg, January 2025) saw a small decline (0.1%) MoM but is also still high above the 5-yr average.

In December 2024, UK weekly pig meat production was 17,500 tonnes, 8.9% higher than December 2023. In December 2024, UK weekly clean pig slaughter was 192,300 tonnes, 8.9% higher than December 2023.

Poultry

Although down on the month (-8%) and the 5-year average (-2.9%), December 2024 broiler slaughter numbers remain higher than December 2023 (+1.4%). Broiler slaughter typically declines on the month in December due to slaughterhouses closing during the Christmas holiday season.

December 2024 turkey slaughter numbers declined MoM and YoY. The 5-year trend (-34%) is one of declining consumer demand for turkey meat.

Weekly average poultry meat production is down MoM (-5.0%), up YoY (+8.4%), and on par with the 5-year average (+0.1%).

Eggs

The average egg price in Q4 2024 was 146.9 p/dozen, a 6.3% YoY increase. The total egg production for human consumption in Q4 2024 was 253.6 million dozen – this is a 4.2% increase YoY and a 0.2% decrease on Q3 2024. The weekly average for commercial layer eggs set was down 1.1% MoM (between November 2024 and December 2024), and up 11% YoY. The weekly average for commercial layer chicks placed was 0.83 million, up MoM (between November 2024 and December 2024) by 23% and YoY by 35%.

Any other business

No other issues were raised.

Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the UKAMMG will take place on 11 March 2025.



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