



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Note of the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group, 13 January 2026

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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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 13 January 2026. Present were representatives of Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DAERA (Northern Ireland). The meeting assessed current and on-going 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

Many sectors in UK agriculture remain broadly stable with commodity prices and production near the average for the time of the year. Global supply dynamics and disease risks remain key watchpoints. The exception is the arable sector which has seen the price of bread milling and feed wheat decline by 3.5% and 1.6%, respectively, from the previous month, placing them 16% and 9%, respectively, under the average for the time of the year.

Dairy markets continue to face downward pressure as global milk supply remains high, with farmgate prices likely to soften after a relatively strong and stable period.

Intervention scheme announcements

No new market intervention schemes have been announced.

Market inputs overview

In December 2025, the Bank of England exchange rates saw the pound sterling gain value modestly against the US dollar and remain mostly flat against the Euro, the Australian dollar, and the New Zealand dollar month on month (MoM).

Year on year (YoY) the pound gained value against the US dollar (up by 5.8%), the Australian dollar (up by 1%), and the New Zealand dollar (up by 5.2%) but lost value against the Euro (down by 5.4%).

In December 2025, the Brent crude oil price fell by 1.9% month on month and 15% year on year, settling at US \$62.59 per barrel. The Title Transfer Facility (TTF) natural gas price, the benchmark for Europe, also decreased, down 12% month on month and 39% year on year to €27.46 per megawatt-hour.

In contrast, the Henry Hub natural gas price, the main US benchmark, rose by 11% month on month and 29% year on year to €12.44 per megawatt-hour.

Sector discussions

Dairy

No new monthly UK farmgate milk prices or Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) quoted weekly average UK milk volumes were available for discussion in the meeting as these are next scheduled to be updated on 22 January 2026.

In October 2025:

- the Farmgate Milk Price (FGMP) rose 1.1% MoM, 2.4% YoY, and was 19% above the 5-year average
- the weekly average UK volume of milk rose 3.5% MoM, 6.9% YoY, and was 8.9% above the 5-year average

In December 2025, the key milk commodity prices moved as follows:

- the Actual Milk Price Equivalent (AMPE) was down 11% MoM and 38% YoY
- the Milk for Cheese Value Equivalent (MCVE) was down 4.7% MoM and 32% YoY
- the Bulk Cream price was down 25% MoM, 56% YoY and 36% on the 5-year average

Beef

In November 2025:

- the monthly prime cattle deadweight price rose 1.7% MoM, 25% YoY, and was 48% above the 5-year average
- the monthly cow deadweight price rose 0.3% MoM, 47% YoY, and was 79% above the 5-year average
- weekly average beef and veal production fell 2.9% MoM, 2.2% YoY, and was 4.2% below the 5-year average
- weekly average prime cattle slaughter fell 2.8% MoM, 4.5% YoY, and was 5% below the 5-year average

Sheep

In November 2025:

- the monthly Standard Quality Quotation (SQQ) clean lamb Great Britain price rose 4% MoM, 5.8% YoY, and was 22% above the 5-year average
- weekly average mutton and lamb production fell 7.9% MoM, 12% YoY, and was 20% below the 5-year average

weekly average clean sheep slaughter fell 6.6% MoM, 13% YoY, and was 20% below the 5-year average

Horticulture

In December 2025, the key winter fruit and vegetable prices moved as follows:

- Apple prices were up 1.2% MoM and down 2.3% YoY
- Onion prices were down 2.3% MoM and up 2.7% YoY
- Carrot prices were down 6.2% MoM and up 4.7% YoY
- Cauliflower prices were up 16% MoM and down 27% YoY
- White cabbage prices were up 4.8% MoM and up 3% YoY
- Brussels sprouts prices were up 8% MoM and up 1% YoY
- Swede prices were down 1.1% MoM and are down 23% YoY.

All the price movements reflect seasonal trends except for cauliflower which sat below the 5-year price range.

Arable

For the week ending 14 December 2025:

- the price of bread milling wheat was down 5.2% week on week (WoW), 3.5% MoM, and 16% YoY
- the price of premium malting barley was up 4.1% MoM and down 2.6% YoY

For the week ending 21 December 2025:

- the price of feed wheat was down 0.35% WoW, 1.6% MoM, and 9.3% YoY
- the price of feed barley was down 1.3% WoW, up 1.1% MoM, and down 4.2% YoY

In November 2025:

- Northern Ireland potato washing prices fell 10% MoM and 8.1% YoY
- Northern Ireland potato processing prices fell 2.9% MoM and 2.6% YoY

In December 2025 the price of oilseed rape was up 0.79% MoM and down 0.93% YoY.

Final UK harvest estimates published in December showed a 1.1% decline in arable crop area in 2025, falling to 4.1 million hectares.

Pigs

In November 2025:

- the monthly Standard Pig Price (SPP) deadweight Great Britain price fell 1.7% MoM, fell 2.8% YoY, and was 8.8% above the 5-year average
- the weekly SPP deadweight price on 20 December 2025 fell 0.51% WoW
- weekly average clean pig slaughter fell 5.4% MoM, 1.4% YoY, and was 5.6% below the 5-year average
- weekly average pigmeat production fell 4.9% MoM, rose 1.2% YoY, and was 3.2% below the 5-year average

Poultry

No new poultry production data was discussed in the meeting. The data is next scheduled to be updated on 15 January 2026.

In October 2025:

- weekly average poultry meat production fell 0.41% MoM, rose 2.2% YoY, and was 2.2% above the 5-year average
- weekly broiler slaughter averaged 22 million birds, down 0.4% MoM, down 0.69% YoY, and 5.8% above the 5-year average
- boiling fowl slaughter averaged 600,000 birds, down 13% MoM, up 19% YoY, and 25% below the 5-year average
- turkey slaughter averaged 110,000 birds, down 12% MoM, 21% YoY, and 36% below the 5-year average, reflecting continued lower consumer demand

Eggs

No new egg prices or production data was discussed in the meeting. Similarly, no new hatchery data was discussed in the meeting. This data is next scheduled to be updated on 22 January 2026 and 15 January 2026 respectively.

The average egg price in quarter 3 of 2025 was down 0.44% on quarter 2 of 2025 and up 1.8% YoY. Free-range egg prices were down 0.81% quarterly and 0.2% YoY. The total egg production for human consumption was up 2% on quarter 2 of 2025 and 5.1% YoY.

Weekly average commercial layer eggs set in October was down 9.8% MoM, up 9.6% YoY, and up 6% on the 5-year average. Weekly average commercial layer chicks placed in October was up 18% MoM, 3.3% YoY, and 6.9% on the 5-year average.

UKAMMG is closely monitoring the number, size and impacts of Avian Influenza outbreaks across the poultry and egg sectors.

Any other business

No other issues were raised.

Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the UKAMMG will take place on Tuesday 10 February 2026.



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