



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Note of the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group, 14 April 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 (UKAMMG) held on 14 April 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 aims to provide transparency and accountability. The accompanying data reports will be published on the same GOV.UK landing page.

Key points: market situation

The UK agriculture market across most sectors is generally stable. Livestock markets remain firm overall, with beef and sheep prices still elevated compared to long-term averages. Pig prices, however, continue to soften, with month-on-month (MoM) declines. Poultry and egg production continue to show steady growth. Arable and horticulture markets show normal seasonal movements, although most arable prices remain down year-on-year (YoY).

The dairy sector continues to face challenges, with farmgate prices remaining under downward pressure as supply now exceeds demand after a period of tight availability and elevated prices. However, some indicators are suggesting commodity markets may be recovering and falls in the farmgate milk price are slowing. The group will continue to monitor prices and production closely.

The group agreed to continue to closely monitor input costs, particularly in the light of the current situation in Iran. It was noted that energy, fuel, and fertiliser prices are all currently volatile. Prolonged disruptions through key shipping routes could add pressure to supply chains, including fertiliser and feed ingredients.

Intervention scheme announcements

No new market intervention schemes have been announced.

Market inputs overview

In March 2026, the pound sterling weakened against some major currencies MoM. The pound slipped against the Australian dollar (-1.2% MoM) and the US dollar (-1.8% MoM). In contrast, it strengthened against the Euro, (+0.5% MoM), and the New Zealand dollar (+1% MoM).

On an annual basis, the pound recorded gains against the US dollar (+3.3%) and the New Zealand dollar (+1.2%), though it remained down against both the Euro (-3.4%) and the Australian dollar (-7.2%).

Energy markets in March 2026 increased sharply. Brent crude oil price increased 45.5% MoM to reach US\$103.13 per barrel and is up 41.8% YoY. The red diesel price increased 19.6% MoM and 14.8% YoY to 89.6 pence per litre. Natural gas markets showed divergent trends. The European Title Transfer Facility (TTF) price increased 55.3% MoM and is 20.5% higher YoY. The American Henry Hub decreased 14% MoM and is down 30.9% YoY.

Sector discussions

Dairy

The UK Farmgate Milk Price (FGMP) for February 2026 fell to 36 pence per litre, down 3.8% MoM, 21% YoY, and 8.9% on the 5-year average. Weekly average UK milk volume was 305 million litres, up 1.5% MoM, 4% YoY and 6% on the 5-year average. UK daily milk deliveries (7-day average) reached 45 million litres on 21 March 2026, up 2.6% YoY.

Milk utilisation prices showed gradual signs of at least some temporary stabilisation. The Actual Milk Price Equivalent (AMPE) for March 2026 stands at 37 pence per litre (ppl), up 14% MoM and down 17% YoY. The Milk for Cheese Value Equivalent (MCVE) sits at 35 ppl, up 6.7% MoM, but remains 24% lower YoY. In March 2026 bulk cream is at £1,556/t, up 24% MoM, down 41% YoY and down 23% on the 5-year average.

Beef

In March 2026, the Monthly Prime Cattle Deadweight price was down 0.27% MoM, down 5% YoY but up 29% on the 5-year average. The Monthly Cow Deadweight price was up 2.2% MoM, 5.3% YoY and 43% on the 5-year average.

In February 2026, Weekly Average Beef and Veal production was up 7% MoM, down 0.14% YoY, and down 1.7% on the 5-year average. In February 2026, Weekly Average Prime Cattle slaughter was up 9.7% MoM, down 1.8% YoY, and down 2.3% on the 5-year average.

Sheep

In March 2026, the Monthly Standard Quality Quotation (SQQ) Clean Lamb Great Britain price was up 13% MoM, 11% YoY, and 25% on the 5-year average.

In February 2026, Weekly Average Mutton and Lamb production was up 18% MoM, 9.8% YoY, and 7.8% against the 5-year average. Weekly Average Clean Sheep slaughter for February 2026 was up 20% MoM, 8.2% YoY and 8.8% against the 5-year average.

Horticulture

In January 2026, onion prices were up 6.9% MoM and 8.6% YoY.

In March 2026, other key winter fruit and vegetable prices moved as follows:

- Apple prices were up 6.9% MoM and down 1.8% YoY
- Carrot prices were up 16% MoM and 44% YoY
- Cauliflower prices were up 22% MoM and 18% YoY
- White cabbage prices were down 1.5% MoM and 6.8% YoY
- Brussels sprouts prices were down 2.9% MoM and 9.5% YoY
- Swede prices were up 1.5% MoM and down 9.9% YoY.

Arable

For the week ending 29 March 2026:

- The price of Bread Milling Wheat was down 2.4% week on week (WoW), 2.3% MoM and 8.8% YoY.
- The price of Feed Wheat was up 2.2% WoW, up 4.2% MoM, and down 1% YoY.
- The price of Feed Barley was up 0.67% WoW, up 2.4% MoM, and down 1% YoY.

For the week ending 14 December 2025:

- The price of Premium Malting Barley was up 4.1% MoM and down 2.6% YoY.

In December 2025 the price of Northern Ireland Potato Washing was up 2.1% MoM and down 1.9% YoY. For the same month Northern Ireland Potato Processing prices were down 24% MoM and down 32% YoY.

In March 2026 the price of Oilseed Rape was up 2.9% MoM and up 4.4% YoY.

Pigs

In March 2026, the Monthly Standard Pig Price (SPP) Deadweight Great Britain price was down 2.1% MoM and 10% YoY, but up 0.48% on the 5-year average. The Weekly SPP Deadweight Great Britain price on 28 March 2026 was down 0.22% WoW.

In February 2026, Weekly Average Clean Pig Slaughter was up 7.2% MoM, 2.3% YoY, and 0.61% on the 5-year average. Weekly Average Pigmeat Production was up 6.7% MoM, 5.2% YoY and 4% on the 5-year average.

Poultry

In February 2026:

- Weekly Average Poultry Meat Production was down 9.8% MoM, 4.8% YoY, and 4.5% on the 5-year average.

- Weekly Broiler Slaughter averaged 22 million birds, up 0.83% MoM, 0.30% YoY and 1.5% on the 5-year average.
- Boiling Fowl Slaughter averaged 540,000 birds, down 7% MoM, 0.73% YoY and 25% on the 5-year average.
- Weekly Average Turkey Slaughter was 120,000 birds, up 13% MoM, up 18% YoY, and down 13% on the 5-year average. This continues to reflect the lower consumer demand.

Eggs

The Average Egg price in Quarter 4 of 2025 was up 0.26% on the previous quarter and 1.2% YoY. Free Range Egg prices were up 0.11% on the previous quarter and down 0.67% YoY.

The Total Egg Production for Human Consumption was up 1.6% on the previous quarter and 7% YoY.

Weekly Average Commercial Layer Eggs set in February 2026 was up 10% MoM, 14% YoY and 23% on the 5-year average. Weekly Average Commercial Layer Chicks placed in January 2026 was down 4.6% MoM, up 3.3% YoY and up 3.5% on the 5-year average.

Data from the sector indicates continued growth.

Any other business

No other issues raised.

Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the UKAMMG will take place on Tuesday 12 May 2026.



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