



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Note of the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group, 12 May 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 12 May 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 remains broadly stable. Beef prices show slight easing but remain above long-term averages, while sheep prices continue to strengthen. Pig prices remain under pressure with ongoing declines. Poultry and eggs continue to see steady growth, although the ongoing trend is one of declining consumer demand for turkey meat. The dairy sector continues to face downward pressure, with falling farmgate prices and strong milk supply. Arable and horticulture markets remain stable with typical seasonal trends.

The Group agreed to continue to closely monitor input costs, particularly in the light of the current situation in Iran. 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 April 2026, the pound sterling showed mixed movement against some major currencies Month on Month (MoM). The pound slipped against the Australian dollar (-0.3% MoM) and the Euro (-0.3% MoM). In contrast, it strengthened against the US Dollar, (+1.1% MoM), and the New Zealand dollar (+0.8% MoM). On an annual basis, the pound recorded gains against the US dollar (+2.6%) and the New Zealand dollar (+2.1%), though it remained down against both the Euro (-1.7%) and the Australian dollar (-9.2%).

Energy markets in April 2026 continued to be volatile as the war in the Middle East drags on. Brent crude oil price increased 13.7% MoM to reach US\$117.29 per barrel and is up 72.1% Year on Year (YoY). The red diesel price increased 31.2% MoM and 56% YoY to 117.6 pence per litre. The European Title Transfer Facility (TTF) price was down 14.2%

MoM but is 29.2% higher YoY. The American Henry Hub decreased 10.3% MoM and is down 22.7% YoY.

## Sector discussions

### Dairy

The UK Farmgate Milk Price (FGMP) for March 2026 fell to 35 pence per litre, down 2.4% MoM, 22% YoY, and 9.9% on the 5-year average. Weekly average UK milk volume was 316 million litres, up 3.8% MoM, 2.3% YoY and 5% on the 5-year average. UK daily milk deliveries (7-day average) reached 47 million litres on 25 April 2026, down 0.18% YoY.

The Actual Milk Price Equivalent (AMPE) for April 2026 stands at 35 ppl, down 5.6% MoM and down 21% YoY. The Milk for Cheese Value Equivalent (MCVE) sits at 35 ppl, down 0.18% 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 March 2026, Weekly Average Beef and Veal production was down 5.7% MoM, up 4.1% YoY, and down 0.30% on the 5-year average. In March 2026, Weekly Average Prime Cattle slaughter was down 4% MoM, up 1.9% YoY, and down 0.9% on the 5-year average.

### Sheep

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

In March 2026, Weekly Average Mutton and Lamb production was up 3.5% MoM, 11% YoY, and 6.7% against the five-year average. Weekly Average Clean Sheep slaughter for March 2026 was up 2.1% MoM, 10% YoY and 6.4% against the 5-year average.

### Horticulture

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

- Apple prices were up 1.4% MoM and down 7% YoY
- Strawberry prices were up 54% MoM and down 29% YoY
- Carrot prices were up 0.38% MoM and 31% YoY
- Onion prices were up 1.4% MoM and 0.5% YoY
- Lettuce prices were down 3.5% MoM and 1.2% YoY

- Tomato prices were up 50% YoY.

## **Arable**

For the week ending 26 April 2026:

- The price of Bread Milling Wheat was up 7.7% week on week (WoW), 9.2% MoM but down 2.2% YoY.
- The price of Feed Wheat was up 1.7% WoW, 3.4% MoM, and 4.6% YoY.
- The price of Feed Barley was down 1.3% WoW, up 0.29% MoM, and down 2% 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 March 2026 the price of Northern Ireland Potato Washing was up 2.8% MoM and down 0.83% YoY. For the same month Northern Ireland Potato Processing prices were down 4.3% MoM and down 25% YoY.

In April 2026 the price of Oilseed Rape was up 3.3% MoM and down 6.6% YoY.

## **Pigs**

In March 2026, the Monthly Standard Pig Price (SPP) Deadweight GB price was down 2.1% MoM and 10% YoY, but up 0.48% on the 5-year average. The Weekly SPP Deadweight GB price on 25 April 2026 was down 0.32% WoW.

In March 2026, Weekly Average Clean Pig Slaughter was down 0.98% MoM, up 7.9% YoY, and 1.9% on the 5-year average. Weekly Average Pigmeat Production was down 2% MoM, up 11% YoY and 5.2% on the 5-year average.

## **Poultry**

In March 2026:

- Weekly Average Poultry Meat Production was up 4.2% MoM, 3.9% YoY, and 2.6% on the 5-year average.
- Weekly Average Broiler Slaughter was 21 million birds, down 1.8% MoM, up 1.9% YoY and down 3.5% on the 5-year average.
- Weekly Average Boiling Fowl Slaughter was 0.46 million birds, down 16% MoM, 20% YoY and 35% on the 5-year average.
- Weekly Average Turkey Slaughter was 0.12 million birds, down 2.6% MoM, up 21% YoY, and down 9.2% on the 5-year average. This continues to reflect the lower consumer demand.

## Eggs

The Average Egg price in Quarter 1 2026 was up 0.3% on the previous quarter and 6% YoY. Free Range Egg prices were up 1.2% on the previous quarter and 0.9% YoY.

The Total Egg Production for Human Consumption was up 0.3% on the previous quarter and 6% YoY.

Weekly Average Commercial Layer Eggs set in March 2026 was down 16% MoM, up 11% YoY and 11% on the 5-year average. Weekly Average Commercial Layer Chicks placed in March 2026 was up 13% MoM, 3.2% YoY and 12% on the 5-year average.

Data from the sector indicates continued growth.

## Any other business

No other issues were raised.

## Date of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the UKAMMG will take place on Tuesday 9 June 2026.



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