Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

# Note of the meeting of the UK Agricultural Market Monitoring Group, 15 July 2026

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 15 July 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 agricultural market remained broadly stable in June 2026, although performance varied across sectors. Conditions were strongest in sheep where prices, production, and exports continued to improve, while poultry, eggs and horticulture generally remained well supported by steady production, firm demand, and favourable seasonal conditions. Arable markets were mixed but generally positive, with harvest progressing well but price movements differing across crops.

The dairy and pig sectors are currently facing the greatest pressure amongst the farming sectors. Milk prices and market indicators continued to ease with firm milk supplies and weaker commodity returns, while pig producers faced ongoing margin pressure, with prices down year-on-year and production and slaughter falling.

Whilst it is too early to establish impacts of the period of warm, dry weather across much of the UK, the UKAMMG will monitor this in the coming months.

# Intervention scheme announcements

The Scottish Government has announced a scheme consisting of £2 million for independent pig producers. The announcement can be found in the following link: [£2 million for independent pig producers - gov.scot]

## Market inputs overview

In June 2026, the pound sterling strengthened month-on-month (MoM) against the euro, Australian dollar and New Zealand dollar, but weakened against the US dollar. In June 2026 most fertiliser prices eased MoM by less than 5% except urea which eased by almost 12% and Triple Superphosphate (TSP) which increased by almost 4%. All fertiliser prices remain considerably elevated compared to 2025. Crude oil, red diesel and European natural gas prices fell MoM, while the American natural gas price rose MoM. The July to September weather outlook pointed to a higher chance of warmer conditions, with rainfall most likely near usual levels. Temporary agricultural worker arrivals in June 2026 were higher year-on-year (YoY), with no labour supply issues reported.

# Sector discussions

## Dairy

UK Farmgate milk prices fell marginally MoM in May 2026 and remained lower YoY and below than the five-year average, while dairy commodity prices and dairy market indicators eased in June 2026 and remained down YoY.

Milk production in May 2026 increased MoM and was in line with May 2025 production.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK dairy exports to the world and imports from the world both increased in value and volume compared with the previous 12-month period, with the EU remaining the main trading partner.

## Beef

Beef prices eased in June 2026 but remained well above the five-year average.

May 2026 beef production and prime cattle slaughter were lower YoY and below the five-year average, reflecting longer-term declines in the national herd.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK beef exports to the world increased in value and volume compared with the previous 12-month period, with most exports going to the EU. Import values also increased in the 12 months to April 2026, although import volumes were broadly flat for the same period.

## Sheep

Sheep prices remained strong in June 2026, with monthly clean lamb prices well above June 2026 levels and the five-year average.

May 2026 production and clean sheep slaughter were also up YoY and above the five-year average.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK lamb and mutton exports to the world increased in value and volume compared with the previous 12-month period, with nearly all exports going to the EU. Imports rose in value but were slightly lower by volume. The UK remained a net exporter.

## Horticulture

Fruit and vegetable prices in June 2026 were generally stronger YoY, with tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce, carrots, onions and apples all higher, although several eased MoM as seasonal supply improved.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK fresh fruit exports and imports with the world both increased compared with the previous 12 months. Fresh vegetable exports fell for the same period in both volume and value, and fresh vegetable imports rose in value but fell in volume.

## Arable

Arable markets were mixed in June 2026. Feed wheat, feed barley and oilseed rape prices rose YoY but fell MoM, while bread milling wheat and potato prices were softer MoM and YoY.

Harvest progress started early and crop development is progressing well.

In the 12 months to April 2026, the UK remained a net importer of cereals, oilseed, sugar crop and potatoes; cereal import and export values were both lower than in the previous 12-month period, while oilseed exports increased.

## Pigs

Pig prices softened in June 2026 and remained down YoY, with average producer margins below the cost of production. AHDB data suggests that in Q1 2026 average producer margins were -£4 per head.

Slaughter and production for May 2026 eased MoM and YoY. Both measures also went below the five-year average.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK pork exports to the world increased in value and volume compared with the previous 12-month period, while imports from the world fell in value and volume.

## Poultry

EU broiler prices in June 2026 increased slightly MoM and were marginally below YoY.

Poultry production in May 2026 was broadly steady MoM, with total meat output flat YoY and above the five-year average. Broiler slaughter was slightly lower, while turkey slaughter was higher YoY.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK poultry export value to the world increased but export volume fell compared with the previous 12-month period. Imports from the world increased in both value and volume, with the EU accounting for most trade.

## Eggs

Egg prices in Q1 2026 remained up YoY and production for human consumption also increased.

Hatchery indicators in May 2026 also higher YoY and above the five-year-average.

In the 12 months to April 2026, UK egg and egg product export value to the world was broadly unchanged but export volumes were lower than in the previous 12-month period. Import value from the world increased in the same period by slightly more than 10%, while import volumes from the world remained flat.

## Any other business

No other issues were raised.

## Date of next meeting

UKAMMG meetings will pause for August, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 8 September 2026.



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