

farmers &
mercantile
insurance brokers

Rural Information Summary July 2019



ARABLE | LIVESTOCK | MOTOR | ENVIRONMENTAL | DIVERSIFICATION | SMALLHOLDERS

Dairy prices normally drop this time of year due to poor grazing conditions. Compared to last year the latest grass growth figures showed an improvement of 3%. Prices are slightly ahead of the latest milk forecast for July.

The general demand for butter and cream has continued to decrease, with trading activity being very low. June figures showed it's lowest in nearly three years, with butter prices expecting to continue to decline over the next decade.

Source - AHDB Dairy

Cattle prices have

continued to decline and will continue to drop throughout the next few months. Beef trade is poor and consumption this month is down by 2%.

This could be down to poor consumer demand at retail level, reduction in average UK export prices and the general impact of Brexit.

Source - AHDB Beef & Lamb

Prime Cattle



Please contact us at your convenience to discuss your requirements

Lamb prices have decreased this month. This drop could mean that prices remain similar to the five year average for the first time this year.

The industry suggests that the demand for lamb in the continent is not great, which is supported by French retail sales. It is also suggested there is strong competition between the UK and Spain for the market share in France.

Good weather throughout the year has led to good grass growth and brought lambs to finish quicker than usual.

Source - AHDB Beef & Lamb

Prime New Season Lambs











Arable prices

Harvest has started in the south with good yields being recorded; however farmers in the north are still waiting for harvest to start. Winter barley and oil seed rape have already been sprayed in most parts of the UK. Pest damage continues to ruin the oil seed rape harvest, with the worst rape yields on record being recorded this year.

Last autumn was the start of farms experiencing problems with flea beetles. With climate change causing dry summers and mild winters, this is simply not killing off the beetles and encouraging larvae numbers. This could lead to huge reductions in oil seed rape over the next 5 years.

Our new Crop Shortfall insurance aims to protect against the reductions in crop yields caused by volatile weather, long term climate change, plant diseases and pests.

Arable Crops (£ per tonne)	A year ago	July 2019	Change
Feed Peas	177	203	
Oilseed Rape	318	309	
Feed Barley	139	120	
Milling Wheat	176	169	
Feed Wheat	161	145	
Hay & Straw	95	61	
Courgette	£0.73£/kg	1.05£/kg	
Milk Prices (per litre)	27.40ppl	28.49ppl	

Source - Farmers Weekly | DEFRA | AHDB

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Three new licences announced

Recent evidence demonstrated a range of impacts that individuals and groups experienced as a result of the revocation of the three general licences for controlling certain wild bird species in England on the 25th of April 2019. The revoked licences covered 16 species of birds including members of the crow family, some gulls and pigeons. With many agreeing given the time of year, farmers will have issues protecting their newly born livestock.

On June the 14th new licenses for the killing or taking of wild birds in England was issued, which now allowed users to control certain species of wild birds in order to preserve public health and safety, conserve wild birds, prevent serious damage to livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber and fisheries or inland waters.

- To conserve wild birds and flora or fauna – Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Rook, Canada Goose, Egyptian goose, monk parakeet, ring necked parakeet, scared ibis and Indian house.
- To preserve the public health or public safety – Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie, Feral Pigeon, Rook, Canada goose and monk parakeet.
- To prevent serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland waters – Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie, Feral Pigeon, Rook, Woodpigeon, Canada Goose, Egyptian Goose, Monk Parakeet and ring necked parakeet.

Source - GOV.uk

Agriculture still needs more women

Agriculture has long been perceived as a male dominated industry, however in recent years it's seen a dramatic rise in female farmers. In the past women were not encouraged to take over the family farm, but this is changing in many farms as many now realise and respect women's capabilities.

In 2017 it was reported that the number of women running farms in the UK has risen by 10%, with this figure continuing to increase agricultural sector's male dominated workforce, with many hardworking women in agriculture driving British Agriculture to new frontiers and more key farming organisations taking on more woman in senior positions. In 2018 Minette Batters became the first female president of the National Farmers Union in England and Wales in its 110 year history.

In 2016, farming was reported as one of the UK's fastest growing university subjects, with more students wanting to pursue agricultural careers than any other. The need for agricultural jobs is always growing, as previously there have not been enough graduates to meet the growing demand in agricultural science, agribusiness and food science. The degrees available are not just for farmers; agricultural students have careers in areas as wide as research and technology to marketing and the media. There are dozens of career options available, and with many challenges faced by farmers today, such as climate change, reliance on subsidies, market volatility, new opportunities are being created all the time.

Source - AgriRS

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Health & Safety

Farm Safety Week (15th – 19th July)

The annual Farm Safety Week campaign ran from the 15th – 19th of July, and aims to reduce the number of accidents that continue to make farming one of the most dangerous industry's in the UK.

Farm Safety Week will also deliver stories of resilience, inspiration and clear messages to drive action and help inspire farmers to look after their physical and mental health and reduce the number of life changing and life ending accidents on farms.

From 2018-2019 the number of people killed in agricultural related deaths is 39. This included seven members of the public and two children aged three. This total doesn't include the deaths of two children on the 8th of July aged 15 and 4, who were killed in separate farm related incidents. This figure is six times higher than the five year average.

Most of the incidents were a result of workers being struck by moving vehicles (14), injured by an animal (9) and falling from height (7). Out of all the deaths, nearly half of them were for workers aged 60 years or older, along with the fatal injury rate being five times higher in workers aged 60-64 and nearly seven times as high in workers aged 65 and over.

Many farmers are using technology and learning new business skills to take innovative steps to make their farm businesses safe, resilient and sustainable. Despite increased awareness of the issue with 68% of farmers being aware of Farm Safety Week, farming still has the highest rate of fatal injury of all main industry sectors. It has been revealed that although there is seven times more workers employed in the construction industry than agriculture, forestry and fishing, you are actually seven times more likely to be killed on a farm than on a construction site.

Source - HSE.GOV.uk

Exchange rates

Currency		This Morning	One Week ago	Fortnight ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months ago	One Year ago
€:£	£1 =	€1.111	€1.115	€1.116	€1.1	€1.158	€1.129
	€1=	0.899p	0.896p	0.896p	0.855	0.894p	0.885p
\$:£	£1=	\$1.250	\$1.257	\$1.268	\$1.307	\$1.283	\$1.321
	\$1=	0.799p	0.795p	0.787p	0.761p	0.779p	0.753p

Exchange rate alterations over the last 6 years:

Year	€1=	£1=
2012	0.789p	€1.271
2013	0.864p	€1.154
2014	0.795p	€1.259
2015	0.724p	€1.391
2016	0.834p	€1.173
2017	0.875p	€1.129
2018	0.883p	€1.132

Source - OFX.com

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