



## Latest Defra & Government Releases

### Greenhouse gas mitigation practices - Farm Practices Survey England 2020

- [Defra](#) has released results from the February 2020 Farm Practices Survey which focused on practices relating to greenhouse gas mitigation. Key results for 2020 include:
- Nutrient Management: 57% of holdings have a nutrient management plan.
- Anaerobic digestion: 6.6% of farmers process waste by anaerobic digestion
- Emissions: 66% of farmers are currently taking action to reduce GHG emissions from their farm.
- Fertiliser, manure and slurry spreaders: 76% of holdings spread manure or slurry on grass or arable land
- Livestock feeding regimes and breeding practices: 71% of holdings with livestock use a ration formulation programme or nutritional advice.

## Sector Headlines

### Upward trend continues for deadweight cattle prices

- In the week ending 6 June, GB deadweight cattle prices rose strongly again across the board. The all-prime GB price averaged 353.0p/kg, up nearly 8p on the week.
- The price is 9.1p above the same week last year, and 8.0p above the five-year average. Estimated abattoir throughputs stood at 34,800 head for the week, up 3,500 head on the week.
- Cow prices also continued upwards, although growth was slightly more subdued than that of prime prices. The overall average cow price totalled 251.6p/kg, up 4.4p on the week. The overall cow price is now 7.8p higher than last year and 6.9p above the five-year average.
- Estimated cow throughputs for the week stood at 12,400 head, up 2,400 head on the week before.

### Lamb prices decline

- Liveweight prices continued to follow the seasonal trend this week. In the week ended 10 June, the GB liveweight NSL SQQ fell by 4p, to 234.22p/kg.
- Throughputs for the week totalled 104,400 head, up 3,500 head week-on-week.
- During the week ending 6 June, the GB deadweight NSL SQQ slipped 35.1p, to 491.6p/kg, although prices continue to be above year earlier levels by around 19p. Week-on-week price declines would be expected at this time of year as the number available for kill increases.

## Wider Economy

### UK economy shrinks record 20.4% in April due to lockdown

- The UK's economy shrank by 20.4% in April - the largest monthly contraction on record - as the UK spent its first full month in lockdown.
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the "historic" fall affected virtually all areas of activity. The contraction is three times greater than the decline seen during the whole of the 2008 to 2009 economic downturn. But analysts said April was likely to be the worst month, as the government began easing the lockdown in May.
- The ONS said "April's fall in GDP is the biggest the UK has ever seen, more than three times larger than last month and almost 10 times larger than the steepest pre-Covid-19 fall," The ONS numbers add to the pressure to ease the lockdown more quickly, but fears around the control of the disease have led to a step-by-step cautious approach.



- There is some pressure on the Treasury to consider similar economic rescue packages to those made across Europe. Germany, for example, has cut VAT and offered billions in a package to help families with children and purchasers of green cars. France is offering huge rescue funds to the car and aerospace industry.

## Coronavirus lockdown: All shops can open on Monday 15 June in England

- All non-essential shops will be allowed to reopen in England on Monday, the business secretary has confirmed. Alok Sharma said "we continue to meet" the government's five tests for lifting coronavirus lockdown restrictions.
- He said retailers can open as long as they follow safety guidelines, or they could face enforcement notices. He also said pubs, bars, restaurants and hairdressers will not be able to reopen until 4 July "at the earliest".
- Some companies have called on the government to halve the 2m rule, the trade body UK Hospitality estimated that, with a 2m rule still in place, outlets would be able to make about 30% of normal revenues, whereas 1m would mean about 60-75%.

## Grocery growth accelerates as lockdown eases

- UK take-home grocery sales rose by 14.3% during the 12 weeks to 17 May, the fastest rate since comparable records began in 1994, according to the latest figures released by [Kantar](#).
- Kantar said "The greatest rise in spending has been among families with children over the age of 16 living at home, reaching £618 on average this May compared with £545 last May, as they continue to cater for more people living under one roof and compensate for meals not eaten at work, school or college, or while socialising with friends".
- Nearly one in five British households ordered groceries online in the most recent four weeks, 1.6 million more than this time last year. Thursday 7 May, the day before the Friday Bank Holiday to mark 75 years since VE Day, was the biggest shopping day of the month and £488 million was spent on take-home groceries.
- All ten major supermarkets and the combined group of independent retailers increased sales in the 12 weeks to 17 May. However, some of these gains will have been offset by a decline in 'on-the-go' purchasing, including breakfasts, lunches and snacks as well as any sales to businesses or schools.

## More than one in four UK workers now furloughed

- Some 8.9 million workers are now covered by the government's furlough scheme, data up to the 7 June shows. The Treasury has said. More than a quarter of the UK workforce is now being supported by it and the cost so far has reached £19.6bn.
- The scheme, brought in to mitigate the effects of coronavirus, allows employees to receive 80% of their monthly salary up to £2,500. A similar programme for self-employed workers has seen 2.6 million claims made worth £7.5bn.
- The furlough scheme, officially called the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, was originally intended to last until the end of July, but has now been extended until the end of October.
- From July, businesses using the scheme will be able to bring furloughed employees back part-time. Even if they do not, the government will continue to pay 80% of staff salaries.
- From August to October, workers on furlough will continue to receive 80% of their salary, but the amount paid by the state will be reduced each month. Employers will be expected to make up the rest.