



CHAVEREYS

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MONTHLY FARMING UPDATE

July 2022

Over recent years net zero and environmental issues have raced up political and commercial agendas with agriculture and the land sector often at the centre of this contested debate. There can be little doubt that managing environmental footprints and natural capital will be core considerations for all rural businesses.

Here at Chavereys we are involved in a range of projects on these topics and will start to communicate these over the summer.

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I Policy issues

- 1 The Government Food Strategy has been published. The objectives are stated as to deliver: a prosperous agri-food and seafood sector to ensure a secure food supply and contribute to the levelling up agenda; a sustainable nature-positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products that support healthier and home-grown diets; and trade that provides export opportunities and consumer choice through imports without compromising regulatory standards for food. To achieve these objectives the Government aims to: maintain the current level of food produced domestically while boosting horticultural and seafood production, ensuring that, by 2030, pay, employment, productivity and skills training will have risen in the agri-food industry; halve child obesity by 2030; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impacts of the food system; and contribute to the export strategy goal of reaching £1 trillion of exports annually by 2030.
- 2 The Government has issued a consultation document seeking views on possible changes to public sector food and catering policy. The proposed objectives include: to promote procurement of local, sustainable, healthier food and catering; to open up the supply chain to a wider range of companies to better support local economies; to increase the transparency of food supply chains; and to provide guidance and standards that reflect latest scientific evidence and align with broader Government policies such as waste hierarchy guidance and dietary recommendations. The consultation closes on 4 September.
- 3 The Government is to bring forward The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill to take certain precision breeding techniques out of the scope of restrictive genetically modified organism rules.
- 4 The UK and the Gulf Cooperation Council have launched trade negotiations. The GCC comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. British exports to the GCC totalled £597 millions in 2021 while exports of lamb increased by 319 per cent in 2019.
- 5 The Scottish Government has published Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, a consultation document setting out what the natural environment needs to look like in 2045 to reverse biodiversity decline and protect the environment.

II Reform

- 1 The Sustainable Farming Incentive has opened for applications following trials with more than 4,000 farmers to test the new scheme. Those with no other agri-environment agreements in place can apply online immediately while all others must notify the RPA of their wish to apply. The scheme will open with two soil standards and a moorland standard.
- 2 Defra has announced that £12.5 millions of funding from the Farming Innovation Programme will be set aside for research and development focused on 'sustainable farm-based proteins.' The funding will be available for farmers, growers, businesses and academics to collaborate on projects that seek to improve the efficiency and sustainability of farm-based protein production.
- 3 The Scottish Government has advanced the payment of the initial Basic Payment to September
- 4 The Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund has opened for applications. A fund of £7.8 millions is available to support local authorities with new staff and expertise needed to kickstart woodland creation and tree planting plans.

III Grants/regulations/legislation/environment

- 1 Between 2018 and 2019, the UK's carbon footprint fell by 2 per cent; greenhouse gas emissions have continued to fall from the peak in 2007 but are still 8 per cent higher than in 1996 with emissions associated with imports from China being 67 per cent higher than in 1996; emissions relating to the consumption of goods and services produced in the UK were 35 per cent lower than in 1996; and overall carbon dioxide footprint is estimated to have fallen 3 per cent since 2019. In England, the carbon footprint is estimated to have fallen 1 per cent since 2018 and the carbon dioxide footprint by 3 per cent.
- 2 Research published in Nature Food, which saw scientists analysing 74 countries and regions and 37 different types of food, found that fruit and vegetables had the highest food miles emissions due to the frequent need for refrigeration and out of season demand.
- 3 Defra has released £30 millions from the Farming Investment Fund to provide grants of up to £300,000 to enable farmers to purchase equipment to process, diversify and add value to their produce after harvest or rearing.
- 4 Defra has announced that the Slurry Infrastructure Grant will open for applications in the Autumn.
- 5 The Scottish Government has committed £200 millions over the next 5 years to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Strategic Research Programme.
- 6 The Scottish Government has reported that agricultural greenhouse gas emissions fell by 2.9 per cent between 2019 and 2020.
- 7 Tree pathogen *Phytophthora pluvialis*, which affects western hemlock, Douglas Fir, tanoak and several pine species, has been found in Shropshire to add to cases in Cumbria, Devon, Cornwall, Wales and Surrey.
- 8 Glaia, a spin-out company from Bristol University, has secured funding of £1 million to commercialise the use of 'sugar-dot' nano-particles to enhance yields in a range of crops, initially hydroponic tomatoes and strawberries.
- 9 Dairy Crest has been fined £1.52 millions for pollution incidents at its plant at Davidstow in Cornwall.
- 10 The Scottish Government has released £6.5 millions from the Edinburgh Process Fund to support habitat and species restoration, freshwater restoration, coastal and marine protection and eradication of non-native species.
- 11 Growing Kent & Medway has awarded £500,000 to a project led by Thanet Earth to raise levels of ascorbic acid and iron in tomatoes which will make crops more resilient to heat stress and improve people's diets.
- 12 The Scottish Government has committed £100,000 per year for 3 years to support the Women in Agriculture Business Skills Training project.

IV Other matters of farm finance and tenure

- 1 Provisional estimates show that Total Income from Farming in England in 2021 was £4,223 millions, up 17.7 per cent on 2020 and the second highest since 2000. Agriculture's contribution to the economy was £8,410 millions, up 10.8 per cent on 2020. Crop output rose by 22.1 per cent to £9,363 millions, livestock output rose by 6.3 per cent to £10,535 millions while input costs rose by 13.4 per cent to £13,686 millions.

- 2 In 2020, Gross Added Value from Predominantly Rural areas contributed 15 per cent of England's GVA at an estimated £253 billions. Predominantly Urban areas contributed 44.6 per cent, London 27.9 per cent and Urban with Significant Rural areas 12.5 per cent. All areas fell by comparison with 2019. The GVA per workforce job in Predominantly Rural areas was £45,000 while in Predominantly Urban areas it was £51,700. The productivity of Predominantly Rural areas was 81 per cent of England's as a whole.
- 3 Defra has published the results for 2019/20 of the analysis of the profitability and resilience of farms in England. The average level of debt was £248,000, slightly up on a year earlier; 17 per cent had debts of at least £400,000 while 26 per cent had debts of less than £10,000; the average level of debt was highest for pig and poultry farms, at £563,200, dairy farms, at £458,800, and general cropping farms, at £345,400; lowest debt levels were found in lowland grazing livestock farms, at £103,700; and the greatest level of debt was to be found in farms in the East of England, at £338,400, while the lowest was in farms in the South West, at £185,300. The average net worth across all farms was £1.87 millions with 39 per cent having a net worth of at least £1.5 millions; mixed farms had the highest net worth, at £2.78 millions, while wholly tenanted farms had an average net worth of £302,000; cereal farms had the highest net worth at £2.82 millions closely followed by general cropping farms at £2.81 millions with horticulture farms bringing up the rear at £810,000; and average net worth per hectare was highest on spare and part-time farms, at £19,300, and lowest on very large farms at £11,600. Average gearing was 12 per cent with 52 per cent having gearing of less than 5 per cent while 8 per cent had gearing of over 40 per cent; and pig and poultry farms had the highest average gearing at 32 per cent. The average liquidity ratio was 239 per cent, up from 222 per cent in 2018/19; of all farms, 69 per cent had liquidity of at least 200 per cent while 16 per cent had liquidity below 100 per cent; lowland grazing farms had the highest liquidity at 331 per cent while pig and poultry farms had the lowest at 132 per cent; spare and part-time farms had the highest liquidity at 332 per cent, very large farms had the lowest at 187 per cent. The average Return on Capital was a negative 0.4 per cent with 54 per cent of all farms showing a negative return.
- 4 The Seasonal Worker visa pilot has now been designated the Seasonal Worker visa route as the scheme has been extended to the end of 2024. 38,000 temporary migrants will be allowed to work in the UK in the edible and ornamental horticulture sectors while 2,000 visas will be granted to those working in the poultry sector.
- 5 The Bank of England base rate has increased to 1.25 per cent.
- 6 The Agricultural Price Index for April shows increases in outputs of 15.7 per cent, compared to a year earlier, and 4.4 per cent compared to March. There were increases in inputs of 28.4 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively.
- 7 While farmland values across the UK rose by 6.2 per cent in 2021, the increase in Scotland averaged 31 per cent with 60.8 per cent recorded for poor livestock land, according to SRUC. Over the past 5 years, over 40 per cent land purchases have been by investors or amenity buyers.
- 8 The Scottish Parliament has passed the Good Food Nation Bill. The bill will include the creation of a Food Commission to scrutinise and make recommendations in relation to the good food nation plans and to conduct research.

V Product prices

A Market background

- 1 The Russia / Ukraine war, the resulting (significant) energy price rises and general UK inflation have further fuelled foreign exchange volatility. Investors continue to seek cover in gold (still sitting near to £1,500 per troy ounce) and, to a lesser extent, in the US Dollar. Sterling closed weaker against the Euro and the US Dollar. From a starting position of 85.0p per €, Sterling dropped to a mid-month low of 87.1p and, after continued volatility, recovered partially to close the month at 86.1p per € (1.1p weaker). Against the US Dollar, Sterling opened at 79.1p and dropped heavily to a mid-month low of 83.4p; the latter half of the month saw a partial recovery followed by further weakening and a closing position of 82.2p per \$ (3.1p weaker).
- 2 Crude oil prices remained comparatively high throughout June, dropping back marginally in the middle of the month. Brent Crude closed \$5 lower, having opened the month at \$119 per barrel and starting the month by rising to \$123 per barrel, the average price dropped back to a low of \$110 and peaked again at \$118 before closing at \$114 per barrel.

B Crops

- 1 Volatility levels in cereals markets stayed high but with significant downward price pressure as the month progressed. Whilst the war in Ukraine shows no sign of resolution, some grain exports (albeit limited) from the region commenced this month. Traders are seeing the impact of the tight supply of 2021 crop being abated by the proximity to harvest in EU, UK and the USA, hence prices fell sharply. Milling premiums have fallen too, dropping below £30/tonne. Feed wheat futures fell back this month, across the board but most materially in the shorter term, with the approach of harvest. By late June, deliveries for November 2022 and 2023 were £277/tonne (-41) and £248/tonne (-19) respectively; meanwhile March 2024 deliveries fell back to £250 (-20). The oilseed rape price also fell significantly, dropping throughout the month but most markedly in the latter weeks. Despite this, a closing average price of £570 per tonne in any other year would be remarkable. External support from the still-buoyant oil price and weaker Sterling softened the impact marginally but the approaching EU harvest and expectations from Canada are leading traders to sit on their hands for the time being. Average spot prices in late June (per tonne ex-farm): feed wheat £262 (-44); milling wheat £290 (-63); feed barley £234 (-64); oilseed rape £570 (-204); feed peas £280 (-31); feed beans £300 (-38).

C Livestock

- 1 The average live-weight cattle prices for steers and heifers closed marginally up overall, having been higher earlier in the month. The average finished steer price rose steadily for much of the month, from its opening average of 240p/kg lw to a peak of 252p/kg, before falling back in the final stages to close at 248p/kg lw (up 8p, to sit 25p/kg above the average a year earlier). The average finished heifer price rose more steadily from 250p/kg lw to 257p/kg, and fell back by a smaller fraction in the final week, closing at 256p/kg (up 6p, to sit 25p above the average a year earlier). Dairy cow prices hit new highs this month, jumping from the opening position of £1,331 per head to a mid-month peak of £1,719, before falling back to close at £1,490 (up £159 and sitting £322 above the average at the end of June 2021).

- 2 The average finished lamb price (new season SQQ live weight) closed 7 per cent down overall, although from the opening position of 325.7p/kg lw it first improved to 339.3p/kg before dropping back thereafter to close the month at 302.7p/kg (23p down but 33.7p/kg above the average a year earlier).
- 3 The average UK all pig price (APP) rose further this month; although this should be considered in the context of the recent AHDB report estimating the UK pork 'full economic cost of production' to have exceeded 240p/kg in June. Opening at 180.4p/kg dw, the average price made steady gains throughout the month to close at 191.6p/kg dw (up 11.2p to sit 32.0p above the closing average a year earlier).
- 4 The UK average 'all milk' price for April was 38.46ppl, as a result of increases of 1.55ppl in March and 1.03ppl in April, placing it significantly above the rolling 5-year average of 30.06ppl. The initial estimates for the May average suggest a further improvement of 1.94ppl to 40.39ppl. The EU (ex UK) average for April was 1.13ppl above the UK at 39.59ppl; 2.15ppl up from the EU average for March.

VI Other crop news

- 1 A Refinitiv survey has increased the June estimate of US maize plantings from 89.86 million acres to 89.92 million acres while the soya bean acreage has been reduced by 2.63 million acres to 88.33 million acres.
- 2 The Agricultural Price Index for April shows increases of 30.3 per cent for wheat, compared to a year earlier, 67.3 per cent for barley, 65.1 per cent for oats, 4.8 per cent for potatoes, 70.2 per cent for oilseed rape and 13.1 per cent for fresh fruit but there were falls of 52.5 per cent for forage plants and 2.1 per cent for fresh vegetables. Compared to March, there were increases of 12 per cent for wheat, 11.8 per cent for barley, 21 per cent for oats, 10.2 per cent for oilseed rape, 1 per cent for forage plants, 10.4 per cent for fresh vegetables and 13.4 per cent for fresh fruit.
- 3 US maize stocks are currently estimated to be 6 per cent up on a year ago at 110.39 million tonnes while soya stocks are up 12 per cent at 26.44 million tonnes.
- 4 Scientists at Coventry University, having studied 28 different types of fruit and vegetables, have found that most contain fewer nutrients than those grown 80 years ago with average sodium levels down 52 per cent, iron down 51 per cent, copper down 49 per cent, magnesium down 10 per cent, potassium down 5 per cent and calcium down 2.5 per cent.
- 5 NFU and British Sugar have agreed a beet price of £40 per tonnes for 2023/24, a 48 per cent increase on 2022/23.
- 6 A new outbreak of tomato brown rugose fruit virus has been confirmed at a site in the West Midlands, the first since 2020 and following the disease having been declared eradicated in 2021.
- 7 FruitSecurity Holland has introduced a black hailnet with a high UV resistance and a lifespan of 25 years.

VII Other livestock news

- 1 On 1 April, there were 7.8 million cattle and calves on British holdings, up 0.6 per cent on a year ago. The number of heifers, steers and young bulls was up 4 per cent at 1.6 million head.

- 2 In the year to March, the number of new herd bovine TB incidents in England fell by 9 per cent, compared to a year earlier, with falls of 5 per cent in the High Risk area and 22 per cent in the Edge area. There was a fall of 31 per cent in Scotland. The number of herds not officially TB free fell by 7 per cent in England with falls of 4 per cent in the High Risk area and 20 per cent in the Edge area but an increase of 1 per cent in the Low Risk area. There were falls of 35 per cent in Scotland and 4 per cent in Wales.
- 3 During May, UK prime cattle slaughterings rose by 8.5 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 180,000 head; beef and veal production rose by 7.3 per cent to 79,000 tonnes; sheep slaughterings rose by 11 per cent to 924,000 head; mutton and lamb production rose by 12 per cent to 21,000 tonnes; pig slaughterings rose by 4.9 per cent to 957,000 head; and pigmeat production rose by 8 per cent to 89,000 tonnes.
- 4 The Agricultural Price Index for April shows increases of 11.9 per cent for cattle and calves, compared to a year earlier, 14 per cent for pigs, 2.8 per cent for poultry and 29.3 per cent for milk but there were falls of 6.3 per cent for sheep and lambs and 6.8 per cent for eggs. Compared to March, there were increases of 4.2 per cent for cattle and calves, 14.3 per cent for pigs, 5.5 per cent for sheep and lambs, 2.8 per cent for poultry and 1.7 per cent for milk.
- 5 Figures from BCMS show that the British milking herd in April fell by 1.6 per cent, compared to a year ago, to 1.64 million head. However, youngstock numbers increased by 4.4 per cent to 941,000 head.
- 6 Arla has increased the price of standard manufacturing litre by 1.66ppl for conventional milk, taking the price to 49.45ppl, and 0.74ppl for organic milk taking the price to 55.11ppl.
- 7 During May, UK dairies processed 1,329 million litres of milk, down 0.1 per cent on the rolling 12-month average compared to April. Liquid milk production rose by 6.9 per cent, compared to April, to 493 million litres; cheese production rose by 3.7 per cent to 48,100 tonnes; butter production rose by 1.1 per cent to 21,200 tonnes; but milk powder production fell by 4.3 per cent to 12,000 tonnes.
- 8 Freshways has 'guaranteed' a price of 50ppl by September for its producers.
- 9 During May, average butterfat fell by 2.1 per cent, compared to April, to 4.09 per cent and by 0.1 per cent compared to a year earlier. Average protein fell by 0.1 per cent to 3.35 per cent but rose by 0.1 per cent compared to a year earlier.
- 10 Following reports that Tesco and Sainsbury's had set standard litre prices ranging from 41.7ppl to 43ppl, both have agreed to 46ppl in line with many other producers.
- 11 The latest AHDB forecast for milk production shows a fall of 1 per cent on last year to 12.23 billion litres.
- 12 First Milk has announced an increase of 1.4ppl for July and 3.05ppl for August which will increase the standard manufacturing litre to 43.45ppl and 46.50ppl respectively.
- 13 An NFU Milk Production Survey, completed by 700 members, has revealed that 15 per cent are considering ceasing milk production while 7 per cent are planning to cease production by 2024.
- 14 In the period 1 April to 11 June, organic milk deliveries were reported to be down 7.8 per cent compared to a year ago.
- 15 EU beef production in the first quarter fell by 0.8 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 1.64 million tonnes.

- 16 EU sheep meat production in the first quarter fell by 3.7 per cent, compared to a year ago, to 97,000 tonnes.
- 17 The full economic cost of production of pork has risen further to 244p/kg deadweight.
- 18 The National Pig Association has reported a 23 per cent fall in weaner numbers, year-on-year to April. Sow numbers saw a 13 per cent fall with services down 21 per cent. Overall, the number of herds fell from 263 to 221.
- 19 Anti-biotic use in pigs fell by 17 per cent in 2021 making a reduction of 69 per cent since 2015.
- 20 Pigmear production in the EU fell by 7 per cent in March, compared to a year ago, to 2 million tonnes, leading to a fall of 5 per cent in the first quarter's production at 5.85 million tonnes. There were falls of 9 per cent in Belgium, 4 per cent in Denmark, 12 per cent in Germany, 8 per cent in Italy and 12 per cent in Poland but an increase of 4 per cent in Spain. Exports in the period fell by 28 per cent.
- 21 A new research consortium has been awarded £1.5 millions by the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council and Defra to develop new strategies to tackle bird flu outbreaks. The consortium, led by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, will aim to understand what it is about current virus strains that enables them to form larger and longer outbreaks; the reason for transmission and infection in different bird populations; mapping and modelling the spread of infection; why some birds, such as ducks, are more resistant to bird flu strains; and provide risk mitigation measures in birds to reduce disease burden thereby protecting against zoonotic transmission occurring from animals to humans, to prevent future spillovers of influenza with pandemic potential into humans.
- 22 HPAI H5N1 avian flu has been confirmed in a commercial free-range layer premises in the Shetland Islands and a commercial turkey fattening premises in Shropshire.
- 23 During May, UK commercial layer chick placings fell by 21 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 2.6 million chicks; broiler chick placings fell by 2 per cent to 92.8 million chicks; turkey chick placings fell by 5.6 per cent to 900,000 chicks; turkey slaughterings fell 11 per cent to 700,000 birds; broiler slaughterings rose by 0.9 per cent to 88.2 million birds; and total poultry meat production fell 0.4 per cent to 157,600 tonnes.
- 24 Tesco has agreed five-year contracts for egg supplies with Anglia Free Range Eggs, Glenrath Farms, Griffiths Family Farms, Noble Foods and Skea Eggs.

VIII Inputs/Supply businesses

- 1 CF Fertilisers has announced the closure of its plant at Ince, Cheshire.
- 2 Syngenta, Frontier, G's Fresh, Elveden Estate, Pearce Seeds, Inov3PT and Blackthorn Arable are to collaborate on the Enigma 1 project to understand wireworm and its changing patterns of damage.
- 3 The Agricultural Price Index for April shows increases of 6.5 per cent for seeds, compared to a year earlier, 59.5 per cent for energy and lubricants, 150.1 per cent for fertilizer, 9.5 per cent for chemicals, 1.7 per cent for veterinary services, 18.3 per cent for animal feedingstuffs, 6.5 per cent for equipment maintenance and 25.2 per cent for buildings maintenance. Compared to March, there were increases of 15.6 per cent for energy and lubricants, 11.8 per cent for fertilizer, 0.4 per cent for veterinary services, 1.5 per cent for animal feedingstuffs and 2.3 per cent for buildings maintenance but there were falls of 0.7 per cent for chemicals and 0.1 per cent for equipment maintenance.

IX Marketing

- 1 The FAO Food Price Index fell by 0.6 per cent in May, the second consecutive monthly decline, but was still up 22.8 per cent on May 2021. The Meat Price Index was up 0.5 per cent, with steep increases in world poultry meat prices offsetting declines in pig and sheep meat prices. The Dairy Price Index fell 3.5 per cent, the first fall for 9 months, but remains 16.9 per cent above the May 2021 level.
- 2 Latest figures from Kantar show that take-home dairy grocery sales fell by 1.9 per cent in the 12 weeks to June compared to the same period a year ago although prices rose by 8.3 per cent. Cheese declined by 5.7 per cent, mainly Cheddar and, despite price increases of 2.7 per cent, values sales fell by 3.1 per cent; volume sales of milk fell by 6.6 per cent but price increases limited the value decline to 0.6 per cent; yellow fats volume declined by 9.5 per cent compensated somewhat by price increases of 7.9 per cent; volume sales of yoghurt fell by 7.1 per cent while value sales were down 1.5 per cent; and volume sales of cream fell by 8.6 per cent.
- 3 Exports of beef grew by 53 per cent year-on-year in April to 10,700 tonnes but this was a fall of 17 per cent on March. In the first 4 months of the year, exports are up 57 per cent at 42,500 tonnes. Imports in April totalled 20,000 tonnes, up 10 per cent on a year earlier. Imports in the first 4 months of the year totalled 78,000 tonnes, an increase of 24 per cent on a year ago.
- 4 A report from Savills has suggested that 69 per cent of food imports of fruit, vegetables, meat, cereals, dairy products and eggs in 2021 were subject to lower production standards than home-produced food.
- 5 Exports of sheep meat in April rose by 2.5 per cent, compared to March, and by 33 per cent compared to a year ago, to 6,987 tonnes. Imports in April fell by 11 per cent, compared to March, but were up 43 per cent on a year ago, to 6,232 tonnes.
- 6 Welsh food exports reached a record £641 millions in 2021 despite a 29 per cent fall in the volume of exports of meat and meat products.
- 7 Exports of pigmeat to the Philippines increased by 46 per cent in the first 4 months of the year to 13,812 tonnes with the value increasing by 14 per cent to £17 millions.
- 8 The latest Global Dairy Trade auction on 21 June saw a fall of 1.3 per cent in the overall price index. Only butter, at 2.4 per cent, and skimmed milk powder, at 1 per cent, saw price increases. The volume of product sold also fell by 3.5 per cent compared to a year ago.
- 9 Exports of pigmeat, excluding offal, in April fell to 18,400 tonnes taking the year to date to 81,000 tonnes, up 8 per cent on 2021 but with the overall value down 6 per cent. Exports of offal increased by 24 per cent to 13,000 tonnes, taking the year to date to 47,000 tonnes. Imports fell sharply to 61,000 tonnes but the year to date is up 34 per cent at 285,000 tonnes.
- 10 The Advertising Standards Authority has banned Tesco adverts for its Plant Chef range claiming they are 'potentially misleading customers'.
- 11 Sussex wine has been granted Protected Designation of Origin status.

X Miscellaneous

- 1 In the quarter to December 2021, average house prices in rural areas in England rose by 1.2 per cent, compared to the previous quarter, to £388,000 and by 0.7 per cent in urban areas to £342,900. In the quarter to March, the percentage of the population over 16 and unemployed fell by 0.4 per cent, in rural areas, to 2.5 per cent and by 0.4 per cent to 4.1 per cent in urban areas. The percentage claiming Jobseeker's Allowance remained unchanged for both rural and urban areas at 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. In rural areas, the number of redundancies per 1,000 workers fell from 3.6 to 2.7 but rose from 2.2 to 2.4 in urban areas.
- 2 In 2021, the police recorded rate of violence against the person was 2,472 per 100,000 in Predominantly Rural areas compared to 3,727 in Predominantly Urban areas. There were 292 vehicles offences per 100,000 in Predominantly Rural areas compared to 738 in Predominantly Urban areas. Rural crime rose by 2 per cent on 2020 and by 8 per cent in urban areas.
- 3 Queen's Birthday Honours included an MBE to Michael Sly, chair of English Mustard Growers and on the board of NFU Sugar; an OBE for Dr Jenna Ross, a Nuffield Farming Scholar, Oxford Farming Conference Director and Lantra Scotland Champion; an MBE to Dr Margaret Hardy for services to the poultry industry in Northern Ireland; and a CBE to Professor Robert Hewinson of the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Postscripts

Churchillisms

- Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.
- You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks.
- Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision.
- A nation that forgets its past has no future.
- If you're not a liberal at twenty you have no heart, if you're not a conservative at forty you have no brain.
- Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
- A good speech should be like a woman's skirt: long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest.
- A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.
- One man with conviction will overwhelm a hundred who have only opinions.
- However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.
- Life can either be accepted or changed. If it is not accepted, it must be changed. If it cannot be changed, then it must be accepted.
- We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.
- I'd rather argue against a hundred idiots than have one agree with me.
- In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.
- Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.
- An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.

Monthly Farming Update

Those were the days!!

It is time for some nostalgia following the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!
What has happened since 1952?

- In 1952, the state pension had only existed for 4 years, with men retiring at 65 and women at 60. The life expectancy for a retired man was 12 years, now it is 20.
- 1 in 50 boys were expected to live to 100, 1 in 25 girls. Now it is 1 in 7 and 1 in 5 respectively.
- Bank base rate was 4 per cent and inflation 9 per cent. Well, give it another couple of months and the memories will come flooding back!
- House prices averaged £1,800, at 6-times earnings. Now the average price is £278,000, 9-times average earnings. Don't you just envy your forebears!
- UK equities have returned an average of 11.7 per cent a year compared to 6 per cent for cash; but in 18 years equities have fallen and in 26 years they have underperformed cash. 2022 could be a catastrophic example!
- In the mid-1960's, 3 per cent of the population invested in equities, today 80 per cent will have such an investment via one vehicle or another. Fools!!

It is strange how memory fades over time, perhaps short-term memory loss may be a good thing as far as 2022 is concerned!

We welcome feedback on the MFU.

Does this issue raise any questions in your mind?

Would you like more information on a particular item?

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