



CHAVEREYS

CHAVEREYS.CO.UK

MONTHLY FARMING UPDATE

June 2019



I Policy issues

- 1 Along with Ben Elliot, the Food and Waste Champion, the Government has held a symposium at which the attendees were challenged to agree to halve food waste by 2030 in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3; have half of the 250 UK's largest food businesses measuring, reporting and acting on food waste by 2019; to embrace a Food Conversation week of action in November; and to use their profile to encourage people to only buy what they need and to eat what they buy.
- 2 The Government has tabled legislation, known as 'Lucy's law', that will mean puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller and can only be sold by the breeder or an animal rehoming centre. The law is expected to come into effect in April next year.
- 3 The Government has tabled the Wild Animals in Circuses Bill which will ban the use of animals in travelling circuses.

II CAP/Brexit (etc.) support details/payments

- 1 In 2018 the total value of the Basic Payment Scheme was £2,750 millions, relatively stable, while agri-environment payments increased by £30 millions.

III Grants/regulations/legislation/environment

- 1 Following six years of trapping and surveillance by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Forestry Commission, the Asian Longhorn Beetle has been eradicated in the UK. The beetle poses a risk to broadleaved trees including species grown commercially for timber and fruit production.
- 2 A report by the Natural Capital Committee has suggested that any future environmental land management scheme should incentivise farmers to reverse soil degradation which is estimated to cost the UK £3.21 billions each year.
- 3 In 2018, there were 474,000 hectares farmed organically in the UK, a fall of 8.4 per cent on 2017, the decrease mainly being driven by a fall in the area of land with a low production value such as temporary pasture and woodland. The organically farmed area has fallen by 36 per cent since the peak in 2008 and now represents 2.7 per cent of the total UK farmed area. The main usage of organically farmed land is permanent pasture (70 per cent), temporary pasture (13 per cent) and cereals (8 per cent). Organically farmed poultry increased by 10 per cent but still only equates to 1.8 per cent of the poultry population. There were falls of 6.8 per cent in sheep and 4.2 per cent in pigs but a rise of 10 per cent in cattle. The number of registered organic producers fell by 6 per cent to 6,200.
- 4 The Rural Community Energy Fund has been launched. The programme has available £10 millions to support rural communities in England develop renewable energy projects. Stage 1 provides grants of up to £40,000 for a feasibility study while Stage 2 provides grants of up to £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes.
- 5 The Government is to make £10 millions available to facilitate the planting of 130,000 trees in urban areas over the next two years.
- 6 The Environment Agency has declared irrigation prospects 'moderate to poor' in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex.

- 7 Over £4 millions has been awarded under the Government's food waste programme to Fareshare, Company Shop Group, The Felix Project and Food Works Sheffield. The projects will enable food distribution businesses to take surplus food from manufacturers and retailers and stop it going to waste.
- 8 Under the Farming For a Better Climate programme, the Scottish Government has established a new group of farmers to trial and develop ideas on farms which could provide practical, innovative solutions to help climate change mitigation.
- 9 The Scottish Connect Local Regional Food Fund has awarded £104,500 to 23 projects to promote Scotland's regional food and drink industries.
- 10 Defra has requested that people in London and the South East of England report sightings of Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars.

IV Other matters of farm finance and tenure

- 1 Defra has published the first estimate of Total Income from Farming for 2018. Compared to 2017 it is estimated that TIFF fell by £929 millions, or 17 per cent, to £4,697 millions while TIFF per annual work unit of entrepreneurial labour fell by 19 per cent to £23,957. Agriculture contributed £9,586 millions to the national economy, a fall of £626 millions or 6 per cent. Gross output rose by 2 per cent to £26,651 millions with increases of 2 per cent in crop output to £9,388 millions and 3 per cent in livestock output to 14,800 millions. However, the value of intermediate consumption rose by 8 per cent to £17,065 millions with significant increases in fuel, feed and fertilizer costs.
- 2 Approximately 6,400 hectares of land has been released by Forestry and Land Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland, Scottish Water, Highland and Island Enterprise and East Lothian and Highland Councils to up to 24 new entrants to the farming industry.
- 3 The Welsh Government has released forecast figures for farm incomes in Wales for the year to March 2019. They show that average farm income is expected to fall by 15 per cent to £29,500.
- 4 The Agricultural Price Index for March for outputs shows a fall of 0.6 per cent compared to February but a rise of 1.3 per cent compared to a year earlier. There was no change in inputs compared to February but the index was up 6 per cent on a year earlier.
- 5 According to Plimsoll Publishing, growth rates at UK fresh produce companies have fallen to their lowest level in 7 years despite ongoing expansion in firms' average value. Based on the 2018-19 financial year, the average change in company value was 1.5 per cent, a 0.6 per cent decrease on the previous year.
- 6 Carter Jonas has indicated that, in the first quarter of the year, average arable land values were flat at £8,719 per acre but down 0.3 per cent on a year earlier while average pasture values fell by 0.9 per cent on the last quarter of 2018 to £6,803 per acre.
- 7 David Drew, Labour Shadow Farming Minister, has suggested councils should be banned from selling county farms.

V Product prices

A Market background

- 1 The near slapstick state of the UK's political position has impacted Sterling this month, demonstrated by an unrelenting slide against both Euro and US Dollar from early on in the month through to the end. Against the Euro, Sterling opening at 86.4p per €, peaked in the first few days at 84.9p but then fell for the remainder of the month to close at 88.6p per €. A near-identical trend was seen against the US Dollar which opened at 77.4p per \$, peaked at 75.9p in the first week but weakened thereafter to close at 79.2p per \$.

Brent Crude oil prices were volatile in the first half of the month but a reversal in fortune, after the strength of the last three months, saw a material drop. From an opening position of \$72.15, the average price dropped to \$69.05, peaked back at \$71.85 before falling to close at \$61.99 per barrel; a net drop of \$10.16 (14 per cent).

B Crops

- 1 Average wheat prices dropped back this month, although the latter stages saw a small recovery and signs are there of further improvement. Early suppression of the new crop price fed on the reports of ideal growing conditions in the US and Black Sea, combined with predictions of record Ukrainian yields. However, as the month progressed, persistent rain in the US, hampering maize planting, quickly turned market confidence around and boosted prices and futures alike. LIFFE feed wheat futures were highly volatile this month: falling back over the first half of the month but recovering meaningfully in the latter half, albeit with multiple peaks and troughs and a £14 swing. In late May, deliveries for November 2019 and 2020 stood at £155/tonne (+9) and £154/tonne (+4) respectively. Oilseed prices took on a level of volatility not seen for a number of months, dropping below £300/tonne but with a strong recovery in the final weeks, largely following the material shifts in oil prices.

Average spot prices in late May (per tonne ex-farm): feed wheat £150 (-11); milling wheat £170 (-9); feed barley £125 (-4); oilseed rape £311 (+8); feed peas £203 (-5); feed beans £246 (-).

- 2 The average potato price encountered more volatility this month, dropping back at first before peaking twice and eventually closing the month marginally improved. Most movement was through contracted supplies but the spot market remained buoyant. Water will be the key to the 2019 maincrop as soil moisture levels are running low for this point in the season. The average potato price, from a starting point of £208 per tonne, dropped to £204 before closing at its month high of £213 per tonne (£5 up and £38 above the late May 2018 close). The free-buy average followed a similar line; from an opening position of £222 per tonne it peaked at £229 and dropped as low as £211 before closing the month at a high of £232 per tonne (up £10, to sit £133 above the average in late May 2018).

2018 crop prices for grade 1 in late May (per tonne ex-farm): Salad varieties, now reappearing in larger numbers as summer approaches, were obtaining anywhere between £320 and £430; Maris Piper had dropped back to between £225 and £325; King Edwards had dropped back at the top end to between £200 and £240; Estima and other white varieties had spread wider to between £180 and £350, whilst red skin varieties (Mozart and Desiree), moving in small numbers, were obtaining £250.

C Livestock

- 1 Cattle prices, despite some volatility, fell back this month. The average finished steer price fell from its opening position of 188p/kg lw to 182p early on, rose again to 186p but then fell back to 181p/kg lw where it closed (7p down in the month and 19p/kg below the closing average a year earlier). The average finished heifer price movement was also negative but to a smaller extent; holding steady for the first half of the month at its opening position of 197p/kg lw before falling back over the remaining weeks to close at 194p/kg lw (3p down in the month and 10p below the price a year earlier). The average dairy cow price remained volatile, falling sharply from its opening position of £1,316 per head to £970 in the first week and, after bouncing back above £1,200, it spent most of the month at just above £1,100, closing at £1,108 per head (£208 down and £52 above the average a year earlier).

- 2 Lamb prices (old season) tailed off in May, before the switch to new season animals in the final week saw prices jump. The average old season finished lamb price (SQQ live weight) fell from an opening position of 212p/kg lw to 208p/kg in the first half of the month, then dropped to 189p/kg just before the shift to new season. New season SQQ lamb opened and closed the month at 234p/kg lw (21p/kg below the average a year earlier).
- 3 The average UK all pig price (APP) switched to a trend of improvement this month, as is generally expected at this point in the season. Opening at 143.3p/kg dw, the average improved steadily over the month to close at 146.6p/kg (up 3.3p to sit 3.5p/kg below the closing average a year earlier).
- 4 The UK average 'all milk' price for March, published in late May, reported a fall of a further 0.42p giving an average of 28.94ppl (0.45ppl above the average in March 2018 and 1.49ppl above the rolling 5 year average of 27.45ppl). In the rankings against the 'EU28' farmgate milk price for March, the UK gained one place to 17th against a weaker EU28 weighted average of 30.39ppl (down 1.01ppl in the month).

VI Other crop news

- 1 The first estimate of TIFF for 2018 has revealed that the overall output of crops rose by £159 millions, or 1.7 per cent, to £9,388 millions. The value of wheat rose by £95 millions to £2,084 millions despite a fall in volumes of 4 per cent; an increase in barley prices of 10 per cent generated an increase of £85 millions to £957 millions despite falls in both yields and planted area; the value of oilseed rape fell by £122 millions to £643 millions with prices down 12 per cent and yields down 4.7 per cent; the value of sugar beet rose by £17 millions to £246 millions with falls of 20 per cent in yields and 15 per cent in volumes compensated by a 26 per cent increase in prices; the value of potatoes fell by £220 millions to £641 millions with falls of 2 per cent in the planted area, 15 per cent in yields and 8 per cent in prices; the value of vegetables fell by £38 millions to £1,417 millions with an 8 per cent increase in prices failing to offset a 9.8 per cent fall in production; the value of fruit rose by £17 millions to £769 millions with prices up 0.8 per cent and production up 1.4 per cent; and the value of other crop products, including seeds and straw, increased by £337 millions to £776 millions particularly influenced by demand for straw from the livestock industry.
- 2 Defra has undertaken a review of crop areas following the discovery of differences between the June 2018 Survey of Agriculture and Basic Payment Scheme areas. As a result the June 2018 areas have been revised and show the following compared to June 2017:-

Wheat	- 2	per cent
Winter Barley	- 7	per cent
Spring Barley	- 2.2	per cent
Oats	+ 9.4	per cent
Potatoes	- 2.3	per cent
Sugar Beet	+ 2.6	per cent
Field Beans	- 19.4	per cent
Peas	- 3.2	per cent
Oilseed Rape	+ 4.2	per cent
Maize	+ 12.6	per cent
Fruit and vegetables	- 0.4	per cent

There was an increase of 12.7 per cent in land left fallow.

- 3 Final agricultural statistics as at June 2018 have been published. These show that, compared to June 2017, UK wheat production fell by 8.6 per cent to 13.6 million tonnes; winter barley fell by 11 per cent to 2.6 million tonnes; spring barley fell by 7.9 per cent to 3.9 million tonnes; oats fell by 2.8 per cent to 900,000 tonnes; and oilseed rape fell by 7.1 per cent to 2 million tonnes.
- 4 The Agricultural Price Index for March shows falls of 1.8 per cent for wheat, 15.8 per cent for barley, 1.8 per cent for oats, 1.2 per cent for oilseed rape and 0.6 per cent for potatoes, all compared to February. However, compared to a year earlier, there were rises of 22.1 per cent for wheat, 11.3 per cent for barley, 53.2 per cent for oats, 7.9 per cent for oilseed rape and 30 per cent for potatoes. Compared to a year earlier there were increases of 20.7 per cent for fresh vegetables and 3.7 per cent for fresh fruit but a fall of 45.9 per cent for forage plants.
- 5 The US Department of Agriculture has advised that US corn plantings are 30 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 66 per cent, while soyabean plantings are 9 per cent complete compared to the average of 29 per cent.
- 6 A study conducted by Harper Adams University has suggested that the use of robotics could reduce the cost of wheat production by 20 per cent.
- 7 A survey conducted by the Association of Independent Crop Consultants has revealed that 61 per cent of growers are considering dropping oilseed rape from crop rotation due to the damage caused by cabbage stem flea beetle. It suggested that 82 per cent of agronomists have reported higher larvae numbers this year compared to spring 2018.
- 8 Research undertaken by the John Innes Centre has suggested that oilseed rape growers are losing up to a quarter of their crop because of temperature rises during any early winter weather window.
- 9 New sugar beet varieties have been added to the 2020 Recommended List – Advena KWS and Smart Tanninka KWS from KWS; BTS 4100 from Limagrain; and Vixen, Conger, Puffin and Lightning from SESVanderHave.
- 10 AHDB is to invest £294,000 in a three-year research programme to improve understanding and control of downy mildew and late blight in horticultural crops and potatoes. The research will focus on developing methods to detect disease in seeds, tests to understand fungicide resistance and tools for real-time disease monitoring.
- 11 The British Tomato Growers Association has confirmed an outbreak of Southern Tomato Virus, the first such incidence in the UK. The disease results in smaller, discoloured fruit.

VII Other livestock news

- 1 The first estimate of TIFF for 2018 has revealed that livestock output grew by 2.7 per cent to £14,800 millions; milk increased by £136 millions to £4,487 millions driven by an average price increase of 1.9 per cent; the value of eggs increased by £17 millions to £641 millions as a result of a 5.2 per cent increase in throughput despite a fall in prices of 2.3 per cent; sales of cattle meat rose by £43 millions to £3,031 millions mainly as a result of a 1 per cent increase in prices; sales of pig meat fell by £76 millions to £1,250 millions with a volume rise of 1.3 per cent outweighed by a price reduction of 6.9 per cent; the value of sheep meat rose by £57 millions to £1,258 millions with a volume fall of 3.4 per cent compensated by high prices; and the value of poultry meat rose by £208 millions to £2,626 millions, the highest recorded value as a result of a 5.7 per cent volume increase and a 2.8 per cent price increase.

- 2 Following a review by Defra of the June 2018 Survey of Agriculture, livestock areas, compared to June 2017, have been revised as follows:

Permanent grass	- 0.2	per cent
Temporary grass	+ 2.5	per cent
- 3 Final agricultural statistics as at June 2018 have been published. These show that, compared to June 2017, the number of cattle and calves in the UK fell by 1.1 per cent to 9.9 millions; pigs fell by 0.9 per cent to 5 millions with a fall of 1.7 per cent in the female breeding herd but a rise of 1.2 per cent in fattening pigs; sheep and lambs fell by 3 per cent to 33.8 millions including a 4.1 per cent fall in the number of lambs; and poultry increased by 3.6 per cent to 188 millions including a 5.4 per cent increase in broiler numbers.
- 4 The Agricultural Price Index for March shows falls of 0.3 per cent for cattle, 3.1 per cent for pigs and 0.9 per cent for poultry, all compared to February, but an increase of 2.8 per cent for sheep. Compared to a year earlier, there were falls of 8 per cent for cattle, 9.2 per cent for pigs, 23.8 per cent for sheep and 9.4 per cent for poultry. There was a rise of 1.9 per cent for milk but a fall of 3.4 per cent for eggs. The cost of veterinary services rose by 14.2 per cent and there was an increase of 10.9 per cent in the cost of animal feeding stuffs.
- 5 The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has awarded official designation to the UK International Reference Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance.
- 6 The Animal and Environmental Antimicrobial Resistance Delivery Group for Wales is to produce a 5-year Implementation Plan which will aim to prevent and control infectious diseases in animals and ensure antibiotics are used responsibly.
- 7 In the year to February, compared to the previous year, there was a 5 per cent fall in new herd bovine TB incidents in England with a fall of 9 per cent in the High risk area but increases of 9 per cent and 22 per cent in the Edge and Low risk areas respectively. There were falls of 26 per cent in Scotland and 7 per cent in Wales. The number of herds not officially TB free fell by 7 per cent in England with a fall of 12 per cent in the High risk area but increases of 14 per cent and 31 per cent in the Edge and Low risk areas respectively. There was a fall of 31 per cent in Scotland but a rise of 5 per cent in Wales.
- 8 Askham Bryan College is to commit £1.7 millions to create a new beef centre to showcase precision livestock farming.
- 9 In the three months to December 2018, pre-movement bovine TB testing in England identified 157 reactors out of 114,781 completed tests. Pre-movement testing in Wales identified 46 reactors out of 31,987 completed tests.
- 10 During April slaughterings of UK prime cattle fell by 0.9 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 162,000; beef and veal production fell by 2.1 per cent to 73,000 tonnes; sheep slaughterings rose by 33 per cent to 1,064,000; mutton and lamb production rose by 39 per cent to 26,000 tonnes; pig slaughterings rose by 1.2 per cent to 889,000; and pigmeat production rose by 2.1 per cent to 78,000 tonnes.
- 11 Noticeable results from the UK Farm Animal Genetic Resources Breed Inventory of pedigree animals in 2018 include an increase in the number of breeding females in 3 of the 5 rarest native cattle breeds with the largest increase being 34 per cent in the Dairy Shorthorn; an increase in 2 of the 5 rarest native sheep breeds with the largest increase being 5 per cent in the Boreray but the Lincoln Longwool has now fallen by 47 per cent since 2010; while in pigs there have been decreases in 4 of the 5 rarest native breeds with the largest decrease being 30 per cent in the Tamworth.

- 12 Milk production in April rose by 4.4 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 1,341 million litres. Average butterfat content fell by 1.7 per cent compared to March and by 2 per cent compared to a year earlier to 4.05 per cent. Average protein content rose to 3.35 per cent compared to 3.34 per cent in March and 3.26 per cent a year earlier.
- 13 First Milk has reduced its liquid standard litre price by 0.3ppl to 27.45ppl and the manufacturing standard litre to 28.37ppl.
- 14 In March UK dairies processed 1,249 million litre of milk, up 0.4 per cent on the rolling 12 month period to February and 8.9 per cent on February itself. Cheese production rose by 17 per cent, butter production by 20 per cent and milk powder production by 16 per cent.
- 15 France has reported an outbreak of Aujeszky's disease in pigs in the south of the country.
- 16 In the course of the last month, further outbreaks of African swine fever in domestic pigs have been reported in China and Cambodia. The first outbreak has occurred in Hong Kong albeit in an imported pig.
- 17 In April UK commercial layer chick placings rose by 15 per cent, compared to a year earlier, to 4 million chicks; broiler chick placings fell by 0.7 per cent to 103.3 million chicks; turkey chick placings fell by 9.7 per cent to 1.1 million chicks; turkey slaughterings rose by 4.4 per cent to 1 million birds; broiler slaughterings fell by 4.5 per cent to 100.5 million birds; and total poultry meat production fell by 5 per cent to 177,870 tonnes.
- 18 In the first 3 months of 2019, 7.9 million cases of eggs were packed in the UK, a 3 per cent increase on a year earlier but a 0.2 per cent decrease on the last quarter of 2018; the average farm-gate egg price was 69.7p per dozen, a 2.2 per cent decrease on a year earlier and a 0.3 per cent decrease on the last quarter of 2018; and the production of egg products totalled 20,800 tonnes, down 8.7 per cent on a year earlier and 12 per cent on the last quarter of 2018.
- 19 The Migration Advisory Committee has recommended that vets should be reinstated on the Shortage Occupation List.
- 20 Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture has confirmed an outbreak of European Foulbrood in a colony of honeybees in West Lothian. While notifiable, the disease can be treated.
- 21 The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed a case of Equine Viral Arteritis in a non-thoroughbred stallion in Devon.

VIII Inputs/Supply businesses

- 1 The first estimate of TIFF for 2018 has indicated an increase in the cost of intermediate consumption of £1,209 millions to £17,065 millions; animal feed costs rose by £509 millions to £5,615 millions as a result of increases in both volumes and price; energy costs rose by £113 millions to £1,346 millions; despite a fall in usage fertilizer costs rose by £116 millions to £1,345 millions as a result of higher oil prices; and the cost of other goods and service rose by £358 millions to £3,603 millions heavily influenced by the demand for straw. Despite a fall in volume, labour costs increased by £112 millions to £2,739 millions as a consequence of the increase in the minimum wage.
- 2 France has announced plans to ban the use of glyphosate weed killers with effect from January 2021. Exceptions may be granted for agricultural production where no alternate product is available but there will be strict controls. It aims to cut all pesticide, insecticide and fungicide use by 50 per cent by 2025 but FNSEA, the main farming union has warned that the proposal could reduce production by up to 40 per cent.

- 3 The Agricultural Price Index for March shows increases of 2.7 per cent in the cost of seeds, 2 per cent for energy and lubricants, 0.7 per cent for vehicle maintenance and 0.7 per cent for building maintenance, all compared to February, but there was a fall of 2.5 per cent in the cost of fertilizer. Compared to a year earlier, there were increases of 2.2 per cent in the cost of seeds, 9.1 per cent for energy and lubricants, 8.3 per cent for fertilizers, 2.7 per cent for vehicle maintenance and 4.8 per cent for building maintenance.
- 4 Bayer is to appeal a US court decision to award £1.5 billions in damages to a couple who claimed Monsanto's Roundup caused their cancer.
- 5 The European Commission has announced that authorisations for the sale and distribution of the fungicide chlorothalonil must be withdrawn by 20 November while the period for disposal, storage and use-up of existing stocks will end on 20 May 2020.
- 6 Bayer has been granted authorisation for the use of herbicide Emerger on potatoes and an extension of authorisation for minor use on carrots, parsnips, onions and a range of herbs.
- 7 The EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed has voted not to renew approval for sugar beet herbicide desmedipham.
- 8 Associated British Ports and COFCO International UK have opened a new fertilizer blending and bagging plant at Ipswich.
- 9 British Sugar and NFU have obtained 120-day emergency authorisation for use of insecticide Biscaya for the control of peach potato aphids to prevent virus yellows infection in sugar beet.
- 10 New regulations will come into force on 1 September 2019 which means that a phytosanitary certificate will be required for the import of certain fruits from countries outside the EU including Strawberries and Rubus fruits. In addition the exporting country's National Plant Protection Organisation will have to issue a certificate in respect of any used agricultural or forestry machinery to the effect that the machinery complies with EU import requirements.

IX Marketing

- 1 In the 12 weeks to 19 May, none of the "big four" supermarkets achieved growth in sales, the first time in 3 years all have failed to do so. Tesco's sales remained flat but sales at Sainsbury's fell by 1.7 per cent, Morrisons by 0.4 per cent and Asda by 0.2 per cent. In contrast Aldi and Lidl increased their combined market share to 13.8 per cent with Aldi having increased its customer base by 1 million over the past year and Lidl by 630,000. In the 12 week period Aldi sales grew by 11.1 per cent while Lidl increased sales by 8.5 per cent.
- 2 A report by Ecovia Intelligence has revealed that worldwide sales of organic produce rose by 6 per cent in 2018 to £105 billions with North America and Europe accounting for 90 per cent of the market.
- 3 AHDB is to invest £1.4 millions in a marketing campaign to encourage shoppers to buy lamb.
- 4 The Scottish Government has granted Quality Meat Scotland £200,000 to support its promotion of Scotch Lamb PGI.
- 5 Greenyard Frozen UK has entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Tesco for the supply of Tesco's full range of frozen fruit, vegetables and herbs.
- 6 Research conducted by Waitrose has revealed that 54 per cent of UK shoppers cook from scratch at least 4 times per week.

- 7 Sainsbury's is to end the use of dark coloured plastics in all fresh food lines by the end of 2019 and from all products by March 2020. It aims for all plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.
- 8 Waitrose has planted a new truffle orchard at its farm in Hampshire.

X Miscellaneous

- I Statistics have been published which show that, in 2018, of the 27.1 million people in work in England, 3.9 millions were home workers, defined as those who spend at least half of their work time using their home. The highest rate was in rural hamlets and dispersed areas at 33 per cent compared to 13 per cent in urban areas. On average home workers are more likely to be working in higher skilled roles and earn a higher hourly wage.

Postscripts

Tommy Cooperisms

1. Phone answering machine – "... If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key ..."
2. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
3. I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."
4. My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.
5. A man came round in hospital after a serious incident. He shouted, "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The doctor replied, "I know you can't, I've cut your arms off".
6. I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a mussel.
7. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
8. Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.
9. Man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. Doc says "I'll give you some cream to put on it".
10. "Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home." "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" "It's not unusual."

Monthly Farming Update

We welcome feedback on the MFU.

Does this issue raise any questions in your mind?

Would you like more information on a particular item?

Please ring one of our agricultural specialists:

Karen Blackiston

Nick Holmes

Iain Morris

Henry Mullens

Ben Wilkinson

South

2 Jubilee Way
Faversham
Kent
ME13 8GD

Tel: 01795 594495

Fax: 01795 594499

East

1 Penn Farm Studios
Harston Road
Haslingfield
Cambridge
CB23 1JZ

Tel: 01223 874693

Fax: 01223 874451

E-mail: mfu@chavereys.co.uk
www.chavereys.co.uk

If you would like to add a friend or colleague's name to the mailing list please contact Lindsay Gleed

The MFU was edited from 1991 to 2006 by John Nix, Emeritus Professor of Farm Business Management at Imperial College London



CHAVEREYS

The Scottish example!

With no let up in the political uncertainty which is ravaging the country and the ever-increasingly possibility of a change of government, it continues to be interesting to note what changes are taking place north of the border.

The issue of business rates has always been of concern to the farming industry given the widespread exemptions, such exemptions have also applied to education. However, the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill proposes to add land 'wholly or mainly used for the purposes of carrying on an independent school' to the statutory list of properties ineligible for reduction or remission of rates. The cost to private schools is estimated to reach £7.7 millions.

This change has emanated from the recommendations of the Barclay report. Other recommendations include:

- Self-catering holiday homes must be available for letting for 140 days each year and actually let for 70 days.
- Relief for listed buildings should be restricted to 2 years.
- Sports club relief should only apply to those which offer affordable community-based facilities.
- Large scale commercial processing on agricultural land should pay the same level as a similar activity elsewhere.
- A review of plant and machinery valuations with particular focus on the renewable energy sector.

Given the campaigning for reduced rates by many businesses, particularly town centre retail outlets, and the demands on finances, local authorities will need to find new ways of generating cash.

It is therefore not unreasonable to expect that a review of the rating system south of the border will put pressure on existing exemptions and reliefs.