

farmers &
mercantile
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Rural Information Summary January 2020



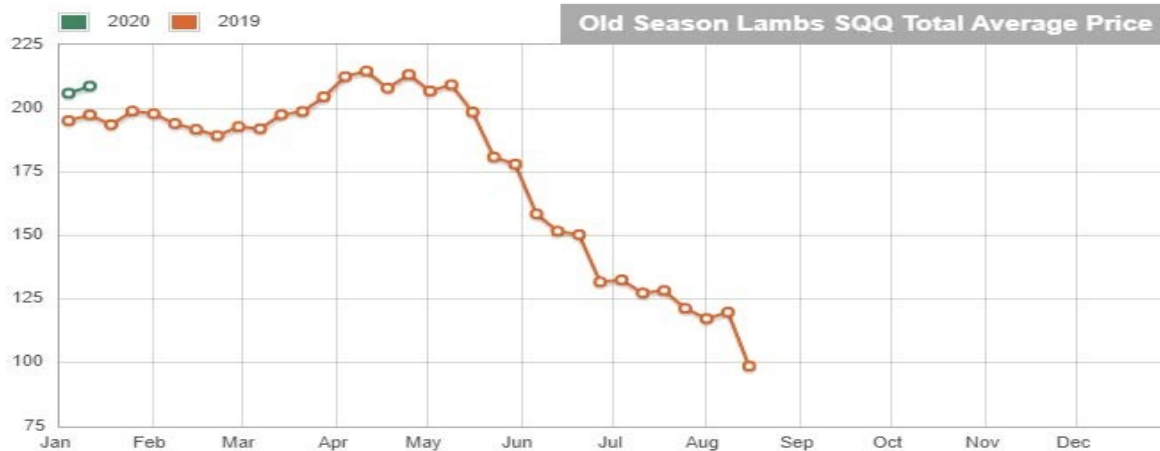
ARABLE | LIVESTOCK | MOTOR | ENVIRONMENTAL | DIVERSIFICATION | SMALLHOLDERS

Lamb

Lamb prices have continued to be positive throughout January, with a 0.20p increase in the week ending the 11th January. This is 43p above the five year average. Prices will pick up the closer we get to Easter.

(Source – AHDB Beef & Lamb)

Prime Old Season Lambs



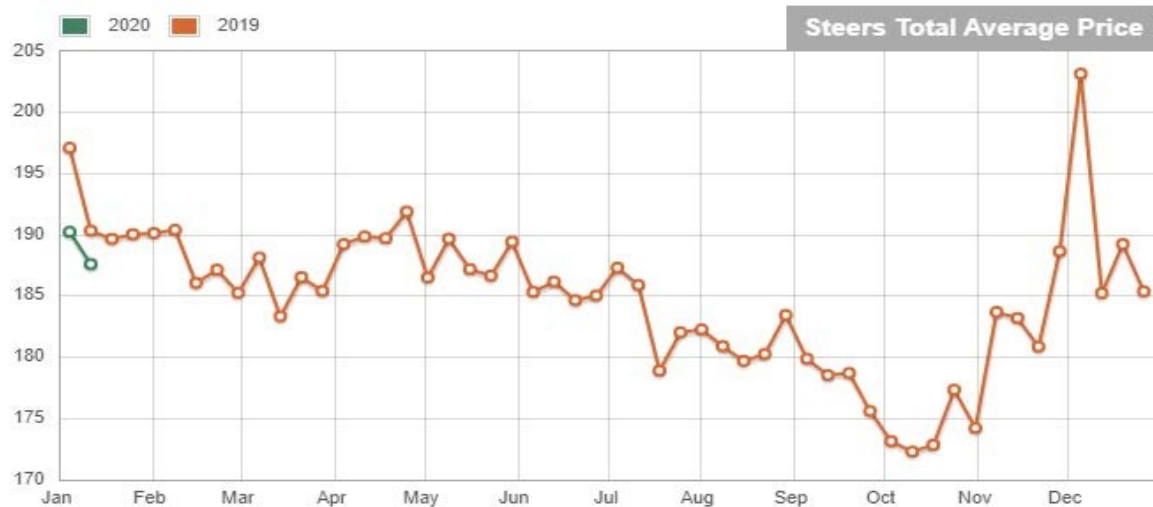
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Cattle

Cattle prices throughout 2019 were under pressure, although the prices increased leading up to the Christmas period. At the beginning of 2020, the prices are well below the average for this time of year.

(Source – AHDB Beef & Lamb)

Prime Cattle



Dairy

2020 will bring many challenges and opportunities for the dairy industry. Extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent and this will impact production, while environmental concerns will drive consumer decisions around food choices. Shoppers are buying less dairy per shopping trip, with declines in fresh milk sales, while indulgent dairy products such as cheese, continue to see growth.

(Source - AHDB Dairy)

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Arable

Arable Crops (£ per tonne)	A year ago	January 2020	Change
Feed Peas	217	180	↓
Oilseed Rape	319	329	↑
Feed Barley	158	122	↓
Milling Wheat	178	162	↓
Feed Wheat	168	147	↓
Hay & Straw	60	60	↔
Potatoes	£160£/t	190£/t	↑
Milk Prices (per litre)	29.00ppl	30.24ppl	↑

(Source – AHDB, DEFRA, Farmers Weekly)

£2 Million fund opens for flood affected farmers

Farmers who suffered large amounts of damage in the November 2019 floods have been offered the opportunity to apply for funds to help cover their repair costs.

Applications opened on the 6th January, with the government extending the Farming Recovery Fund to farmers in South Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and the Midlands.

The grants are designed to help with repairs, removing debris, re-cultivation and replacing damaged field gates. The minimum grant available is £500 with the maximum grant being £25,000. This announcement followed significant failures of flood defences and breaches in rivers that occurred following the large amount of rain fall in November 2019. The application window closes on the 31st July 2020, with farmers being encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

(Source -DEFRA, Countryside Alliance)

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Fight against Rural Crime

Many farmers around the UK find it difficult to report a crime on their farm and when they do the action is often insufficient.

A farmer on average suffers from £3,000 worth of costs per incident of rural crime. A recent survey of 200 farmers suggested that the total cost of rural crimes was approximately £247,000. The four most common offences that farmers reported were fly-tipping, trespass, poaching and theft.

Fly-tipping continues to be one of the biggest problems for UK Farmers, with statistics from 2018/2019 stating that local authorities in England dealt with just over one million incidents. This shows an increase of 8% from the 998,000 incidents reported in 2017/2018.

These latest figures show a growing issue of farmers facing illegally dumped rubbish that is very costly to remove, extremely time consuming and which can be dangerous to humans and livestock. In some cases fly-tipped waste can pollute watercourses and contaminate land.

(Source -Farmers Guardian)

Increase in avoidable farm accidents

Many accidents on farms lead to long term injuries or fatalities. In 2018, a worker on a farm in Kent was killed after being crushed by a concrete beam while fixing a building. Each beam weighed more than 300kg and needed to be lifted by a mechanical telehandler, rather than be lifted manually.

An investigation by the Health & Safety found that the operation to move the beams was carried out at short notice and had not been properly planned. The workers were left to decide how to do this themselves, leading to an unsafe system of work, with none having been trained in lifting and sling operations.

This tragic accident could have been avoided if a full risk assessment and working plan had been carried out. This incident highlights the importance of planning and employees being given proper instruction. A fine of over £20,000 was levied on the farmer.

(Source - HSE & Farmers Weekly)

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Working together to improve Farm Safety

Agriculture is one of the UK's deadliest industries to work in, with many individuals killed and injured every year. Despite attempts to improve safety on farms, and increased awareness, the industry statistics continue to decline.

The main causes of injury or fatality are impact with livestock, contact with machinery and falling from a height.

Many farmers work alone which increases the risk of injury as people don't know where you are or even if an accident has occurred.

Employers have a duty to assess the risks for their employees when working alone and need to put in place suitable measures to deal with them. Some activities are high risk and require an appropriate level of supervision, for example working in confined spaces and working near electricity conductors.

Employers should make sure that employees who are working alone have had adequate training to perform the task.

(Source - Farmers Guardian)

Exchange Rates

Currency		This Morning	One Week ago	Fortnight ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months ago	One Year ago
€:£	£1 =	€1.177	€1.175	€1.175	€1.123	€1.112	€1.120
	€1=	0.855p	0.856p	0.852p	0.898p	0.850p	0.884p
\$:£	£1=	\$1.202	\$1.311	\$1.307	\$1.285	\$1.252	\$1.298
	\$1=	0.767p	0.761p	0.769p	0.778p	0.804p	0.786p

Exchange rate alterations over the last 6 years:

Year	€1=	£1=
2014	0.776p	€1.347
2015	0.757p	€1.327
2016	0.850p	€1.171
2017	0.888p	€1.133
2018	0.895p	€1.116
2019	0.857p	€1.117

(Source - OFX.com)

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Phone: **01604 782782**

Email: **info@fandmgroup.co.uk**

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