

Uses, Users and Methodology of Animal feed statistics

Introduction

Animal feed statistics is a monthly publication showing the latest statistics on the production of animal feed and the raw materials used in the process. The published data refers to the latest month available and also on a crop year basis (July to June). The statistics include animal feed produced for retail sale and poultry feed produced for Integrated Poultry Units (IPU). The data is at GB level.

User Statement

The information in this notice is used by the UK government and the EU as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy including regular market management activities e.g. import tariffs. A key use is for the construction of the UK forecast cereals balance sheet which is published on the [Home Grown Cereal Authority website](#). This is updated regularly during the year and includes more detailed contextual commentary.

Other users include the food, feed and farming industry, academia and the general public.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on the data from all users including how and why the data are used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users, and identifies any unmet needs.

Enquiries and Feedback to: Tom Johnson, Defra, 201 Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX Email: crops-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk or tom.johnson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Revisions policy

Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics notice, and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:

- a) if we have not received survey data from respondents we make an estimate based on their previous returns applying any particular trend in the data, as appropriate. These estimates will be replaced with actual survey data when it is received.
- b) when survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
- c) revising previous estimated data for smaller companies with actual survey data on an annual basis.

Methodology

Retail production of animal feed

The data quoted in this release are from the survey returns of all of the major GB animal feed companies. Data on raw material use, stocks and production of the various categories of compound animal feed are recorded. The major producers typically cover 90% of total animal feed production surveyed each month. The remaining smaller companies are sampled annually in December for their figures in the preceding 12 months. The survey data is published each month. Weighting is used for the monthly results to include a suitable estimate for the smaller companies that have not been sampled to provide more robust and realistic monthly estimates. This reduces the chance of a large increase in the crop-year to date totals when the actual annual returns are incorporated into the data. This usually occurs in May when estimates for the previous year are replaced with the actual data; seasonality is also factored in where this is relevant i.e. sheep and cattle and calf feed. Totals for the current crop year to date are shown (July onwards) as well as the most recent month.

Poultry Feed Production by Integrated Poultry Units

The data quoted in this release are from the voluntary survey returns of all of the major GB poultry feed manufacturers of integrated poultry units. Data on raw material use, stocks and production of the various categories of poultry feed are recorded.

Accuracy and Reliability of the Results

The accuracy of the survey results is very high because a census is carried out of all companies and the typical response rate is 100% per year. Occasionally data is not published when it fails strict disclosure and dominance checks. This ensures that statistics cannot be traced back to a particular company.