

Agriculture the Turkish way

Turkey prides itself on being one of the few countries in the world which is self-sufficient when it comes to providing food for its 76million people. **Chris McCullough** paid the country a visit to find out more

With a favourable climate and a prosperous agricul- ture sector, Turkey is try- ing to harmonise its farm- ing practices with European Union stan- dards in preparation for hoped-for entry to the EU. A quarter of the popula- tion of Turkey is employed in agriculture and the sec- tor, which is heavily sup- ported by the Turkish gov- ernment, exported more than £12billion worth of produce last year. In terms of agricultural land, Turkey is also one of the largest countries in the world. About 35.5% of

The dairy sector in Turkey also performs a vi- tal role in people's diets. Although consumption of fresh milk is very low, people more often drink Ayran, which is a liquid salted milk drink. They also consume large quan- tities of yoghurt and a feta-type white cheese. The annual per capita consumption of milk amounts to 37.3kg of milk equivalence, which is low compared with other de- veloped countries. With prolonged periods of heat in Turkey, a large percentage of their liquid milk production is ex- ported in UHT form to Europe, the Middle East and the USA. A massive farm restruc- turing programme has been going on in Turkey since the 1980s, but more recently in 2010 the Turk- ish Agricultural Bank of- fered long-term loans with zero percent interest rates for dairy and feeding cow breeders in order to sup- port that sector. With that incentive, a number of large-scale farms have emerged, as well as the number of dairy processing busi- nesses, especially in the Izmir region, in the west coast of the country facing the Aegean Sea. Among the bigger of the dairy farms in the region is Titar Dairy Farm run by

“A quarter of the population of Turkey is employed in agriculture”

the country is used for arable production and 15% is forest. Some 59million acres of land was cultivated in 2015, with 18% of it re- quiring irrigation. Last year's figures show Turkey is the world's biggest producer of hazel- nuts, figs, apricots and raisins, the fourth largest producer of fresh vegeta- bles and grapes, the sixth biggest tobacco grower, the eighth largest pro- ducer of wheat, and is tenth biggest for cotton.



Cows which are kept indoors on the Titar farm are fed a mixed ration from their own mixing plant



EXPANSION PLANS: Mehmet Dogan on his farm, which receives around 28p per litre for its milk

Mehmet Dogan, who has a range of other projects going on backed up by the Turkish government and other investors. This farm is milking 1,000 Holstein cows and has 2,000 more dry cows, heifer replace- ments and bulls for fat- tening. It's quite a large-scale operation with 48 cows being milked at a time through a Herringbone

parlour. Deep wells keep the place supplied with water and some of the manure is used in biogas plants to produce en- ergy. The cows are milked three times per day, re- sulting in an average yield of 30 litres per cow per day. Mehmet has 50 staff on the farm, with some of them involved in mixing the rations for the ani- mals. Milking cows are fed a mix of corn silage, alfalfa, soya, oil by-products, sun- flower and barley. In total, it takes 30 tonnes of feed per day to feed the entire herd on Titar farm. The milk runs at 3.4% protein and 4.2% butterfat commanding a price of 1.2 Turkish Lira per litre (30 pence per litre.) Mehmet's cost of pro- duction is around 0.95 Turkish Lira per litre (23.7 pence per litre), leaving him with a profit of 0.25 Turkish Lira per litre (6.2 pence per litre). The Turkish govern- ment is running a strategy plan for agriculture until 2023 and is reforming subsidies to boost the in- dustry. Each year the Turkish



A typical dairy farm in Turkey with cows grazing in temperatures up to 40C.

government pays more than seven billion Turkish Lira to its farmers in the form of subsidies, includ- ing dairy farmers who re-

“Government is reforming subsidies to boost the industry”

ceive around 0.09 Turkish Lira (£0.02p) per litre. They pay around 50 Turkish Lira (£12.50) per

LIVESTOCK

THAINSTONE – Aberdeen and Northern Marts sold 1,511 Ewes with Lambs at foot, store lambs and feeding sheep. Ewes with lambs at foot (470) to £71 for Suffolk Gimmers with twins from Auchtygall, Peterhead. Store lambs (483) to £80.50 for Cheviots from Auchronie, Tarfside. Feeding ewes and rams (578) to £145.50 for Texels from 11 Raemoir Road, Banchory. Leading prices Ewes with Lambs at Foot: Singles: Mule 2 yrs – Blackpool £64 Mule wm – Nether Kirkton £68 Mule bm – Craigroy, Dallas, Upper Cotburn, Turriff £57 Tex – The Bothy Cairnorchies £56 Suf gmr – Auchtygall £56 Chv bm – Bogiebrae, Rhynie £53 Lamb and Half: Cont wm – Nether Kirkton £68 Mule wm – Nether Kirkton £66 Mule 3 crop – Pollowick, Cromdale £64 Tex 2/3 crop – Pollowick £59 Cont bm – Little Cantlay, Grange £59 Twins: Mule bm – Craigroy £67 Tex 3 crop – Bogiebrae £60 Store lambs: Cha – North Eddieston, Skene £78.50; Cont – Woodside Road, Banchory £75.50; ContX – Little Millbrea, Fyvie £74.50; BF – Auchronie £73.50; Tex – Greystone, Peterhead £73.50; TexX – Culbirnie, Banff £72.50; Chv – Auchronie £69.50; ChvX – Rovie, Rogart £69; Zwa – Woodend, Birkenhills £67; Suf – Abbotswells Crescent, Kincorth £65.50; Black – Greystone £61.50; SufX – Mains of Allanbuie, Keith £60.50; Down – The Bothy £60.50. Feeding ewes: Suf – Miltown of Birness, Ellon £131.50; Tex – Burnside, Newmachar £129.50; TexX – Mains of Orchardstown, Udrny £128.50; Bel – Oakfield, Thainstone £121.50; SufX – Adzile, Strichen £109.50; Cont – Skilmalfilly, Auchnagatt £109.50; BelX – Oakfield £108.50; Down – Woodhead, Cairness £107.50; DownX – Miltown of Birness £107.50; Cha – North Eddieston, Skene £99.50; ContX – Netherton, Tarland £102.50; HB – Tillyboy, Echt £95.50; Chv – North Eddieston £90.50; BFL – West Mains, Nether £85.50; Mule – Weydale Mains, Thurso £85.50; Lei – Meikle Kirkhill, Maud £84.50; GF – Riach, Forgue £81.50; ChvX – North Eddieston £79.50; BF – Gerriesford, Cuminstown £78.50. Feeding rams: Cha – Clyne, Newmachar £113.50; Tex – Skilmalfilly, Auchnagatt £96.50; TexX – Wood Cottages, Newmachar £95.50; Bel – Oakfield £91.50. **THAINSTONE** – Aberdeen and Northern Marts sold 1,437 store cattle and young calves. Bullocks (731) averaged 222.5p (-1.6p) to 289.7p per kg for a 302kg Limousin crosses from Shenval, Ballindalloch and £1,250 gross for a pair of 652kg Limousin crosses from Hawken, Gamrie. Heifers (719) averaged 215.5p (-2.2p) to 256.9p per kg for a 289kg Limousin cross from Appieteen, Sandwick and £1,320 gross for a pair of 558kg British Blue crosses from 48 John Morrison Crescent, Maud. Bulls (7) sold to 179.9p per kg for a 328kg Charolais cross from Kierfold, Sandwick and £930 gross for a 540kg Aberdeen Angus from Ballindalloch Estate, Ballindalloch. Young and weaned calves (two) sold to £240 gross. Leading prices per head and kg Bullocks up to 250kg – The Orchard £545, 271.1p; 251-300kg – Inverugie Mains, Peterhead £760.

PRIMESTOCK

Prices and throughputs at auctions on Thursday

SCOTLAND	This week	Previous Week	Change	Trend
Cattle	Average 181.90p a kg	Average 180.74p a kg	+1.16p	▲
OS Lambs	Average 186.73p a kg	Average 183.66p a kg	+3.07p	▲

Information from AHDB Meat Services

GRAIN MARKETS

Gleadell's managing director David Sheppard comments on the wheat market:

As the markets were moving down to retest the contract lows, spill-over short-covering from the neighbouring soy and corn markets has pulled US wheat higher.

Concerns over the scale of Brazilian corn losses and delays to the Argentine soy and corn harvests have spooked market shorts following the release of the bearish US 2016 planting report.

The fact that the USDA projected the highest level of US wheat stocks since 1987, as well as increased global stocks, sank into insignificance as wheat grabbed on to the tails of both the soy and corn markets, which spiked higher.

February's UK wheat exports were reported just shy of 300,000tonnes, slightly lower than expected, bringing the season to date (July-Feb) to a total of 1.6million tonnes.

With good export trade for both March and April, we should see circa 2.3-2.5million tonnes exported by the end of April.

However, as new crop EU harvests near, and demand wanes, it remains difficult to attract new business.

262.1p; 351-400kg – Whitehouse, Lumphanan £1,050, Whinnynagh, Garmouth 272.3p; 401-450kg – Tapiken, Tyrie £1,105, Bankhead, Clatt 259.9p; 451-500kg – Aldie, Ross-shire £1,150, Brownhill, Methlick 239p; 501-550kg – East Bogheadly, Rickarton £1,130, Newton, Keithall 223.1p; 551-600kg – South Crichtie, St Katherine's £1,185, Broomhill, Duneacht 212p; 601-650kg – Quarryhill, Aberchirder £1,210, 197p; 651-700kg – Easdale, Markethill, South Crichtie £1,230, Hawken 191.7p. Heifers up to 250kg – The Orchard, Fintray £535, 250p; 251-300kg – 2 Bogie St, Huntly £650, 219.6p; 301-350kg – Shenval, Ballindalloch £825, 238.4p 351-400kg – Rorandale, Monymusk £985, Oldtown, Lower Cabrach 248.7p; 401-450kg – Overton, Fetternear £1,090, 2 Bogie St 253.7p; 451-500kg – 48 John Morrison Crescent £1,100, Auchronie, Midmar 228.2p; 501-550kg – Mains of Towie, Auchterless £1,180, Burn of Aultmore, Newmill 223.2p; 551-600kg – North Newton, Meikle Wartle £1,225, 48 John Morrison Crescent 236.6p; 601-650kg – North Newton £1,225, 48 John Morrison Crescent 198.7p. Bulls up to 350kg – Kierfold £590; 451-500kg – Ballindalloch £830, 179.7p; 501-550kg – Ballindalloch £910, 174.9p. Orkney and Shetland Cattle

Bullocks to a top of 259p per kg for a pair of 382 kg Char's from Howe Stromness and £1100 gross for a 532kg Shorthorn from Banks, Stronsay. Heifers to a top of 257p per kg for 288kg Limousin from Appieteen, Sandwick and £1030 for a 456kg Charolais from Lenahowe, Sandwick. Fodder Overall Aberdeen and Northern Marts sold 690 bales of fodder. Barley straw sold to £5.60 per bale to average £5.10. Hay sold at £10 per bale. Silage sold to £9.50 per bale to average £7.20. Turnips sold to £20 per tonne to average £15.20. **CALEDONIAN MARTS** – The Early Spring Machinery Sale had more than 320 lots on offer. Again, a great turnout of buyers from across Scotland and Ireland ensured that all sellers went away with a smile on their faces. Top price of the day went to Euan Snowie, Boguhan Estates for a four-year old McHale 5500 Baler at £16,000. Leading Prices:- Vederstraad Rapid 300s £7,500 McHale Wrapper £4,600 John Deere Mower £4,600 3m Siaba Express £3,600 Amazon L1000 Fert Spreader £3,300 Teagle Wuffler £2,750 Krone Hay Tedder £2,350 Ifor Williams Trailer 12' £1,900 Bale Trailer £1,600 Edlington Cambridge Rollers £1,400 Spearhead Topper £1,300 GX 106 Plant Trailer £1,200 New Holland 940 Baler £1,200 Old Quad Bike £1,050 Ztr Mower £850 Catching Box £840

BEEF

Abattoirs week ending 9/4/16					
Beef prices p/kg	Scotland	Change	England, Wales	Change	
Steers dwt	325.6	-2.2	313.9	-2.2	
Heifers dwt	327.7	-0.8	315.5	-0.4	
Young bulls dwt	289.7	-16.6	291.6	+0.6	
Numbers					
Steers	3,966	+459	10,554	+985	
Heifers	2,463	-3	5,226	+339	
Young bulls	435	+193	1,133	+224	

Auctions week ending 13/4/16						
Beef prices p/kg	North Scotland	Change	Scotland	Change	England, Wales	Change
Steers lwt	182.19	-3.66	178.49	-7.83	168.25	-1.75
Heifers lwt	192.02	+1.55	190.37	-5.60	180.53	-3.75
Young bulls lwt	152.58	+25.61	141.13	-7.00	159.24	-0.78
Cull cows	119.55	+1.07	108.66	+2.79	92.28	+0.48
Numbers						
Steers	112	+19	158	+17	1,221	+150
Heifers	133	+15	261	+49	1,681	+35
Young bulls	12	+1	17	-9	1,210	+62
Cull cows	373	+122	647	+113	2,624	-278

Deadweight cattle

week ending 9/4/16

R4L p/kg	Steers	Heifers	Young bulls
Scotland	329.5	331.7	315.3
England/Wales	326.8	326.0	313.0
Ireland	307.9	320.1	–

Deadweight cull cows

week ending 10/4/16

	03 p/kg dwt
GB	218.7
Ireland	249.7
France	247.9

UK DELIVERED PRICES

Rapeseed

£ per tonne – prices as at Friday April 15 2016

	May 16	change	Hvst	change	Sep 16	change
UK	288.50	nc	278.50	-1.50	282.50	-1.50
Scottish Ports	280.00	nc	270.50	-1.00	274.50	-1.00

UK export grains

All prices as at: Tuesday April 12 2016

Grain	Month(s) of loading	Price*	Change on previous	Basis
Feed wheat	Apr	111.00	nc	E.Coast – 2,500t
	May	111.00	-0.50	E.Coast – 2,500t
	Hvst	113.50	-2.00	E.Coast – 2,500t
	Nov	119.00	-1.50	E.Coast – 2,500t
	-	-	-	E.Coast – 2,500t
Feed barley				E.Coast – 2,500t
English	Hvst	107.00	+0.50	E.Coast – 2,500t
	Nov	113.00	+0.50	E.Coast – 2,500t

NOTE: *Representative values

POTATOES

■ The AHDB Weekly Average (free-buy and contract) price and free-buy average price increased again this week. Free-buy was a larger proportion of the sample than last week, following Easter, which shortened the previous week. The European quotes shown have all been stable on the week in euro terms but the weakening sterling has increased prices when converted to £/t. This means that, although there have been reports of buyers

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looking to source competitively-priced supplies (especially chipping samples) from France and Belgium, the price of these in sterling may still have risen.

SHEEP

Auction marts week ending 13/4/16						
Sheep prices p/kg	North Scotland	Change	Scotland	Change	England, Wales	Change
Hoggs	182.12	-9.14	180.49	-10.00	182.02	-11.14
Ewes lwt/head	£74.20	+2.64	£75.35	+1.65	£71.79	-5.45
Sheep numbers						
Hoggs	6,352	-3,302	10,675	-4,371	38,238	-10,860
Ewes	1,622	-863	3,068	-875	28,136	+526

GB abattoir prices

week ending 9/4/16

	12-16kg	Change	16.5-21.5kg	Change
R3L p/kg	422.2	+0.3	430.4	-0.3

PIGS

GB abattoirs week ending 9/4/16	All pigs SPP	112.86/kg	112.55/kg	132.19/kg
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GB deadweight pigs

week ending 9/4/16

	Method 1 and 2 p/kg dwt	Change p/kg dwt
up to 59.9k	97.45	+0.81
60.0 – 69.9	113.01	+1.47
70.0 – 79.9	113.98	+0.97
80.0 – 89.9	113.47	+0.10
90kg and over	110.54	-0.11

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Crop Weekly

	Week to April 8, 2016	Change	Trend
GB Weekly Average	£197.69/t	+9.37p	▲
The Free-buy Average	£212.66/t	+10.48p	▲



Where next for Scotland's red meat industry?

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