



FRESHVIEW
Foods Ltd

Crop report - June

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The latest updates on the marketplace to help plan menus, what to look forward to and what to avoid.

Potato

As we enter the final stages of this season, growers are still experiencing high levels of wastage and defects due to the high temperatures and dry conditions last season which has resulted in physiologically older crops and more latent defects than we would expect at this time of the year. Additional staff have been recruited in removing defective potatoes on the pack lines to assist with the defects.

Due to the wastage levels, poor growing conditions and chipping stocks being used for other sectors of the industry, suppliers have the lowest stocks available ever which is causing the prices to continually increase.

Root vegetables and Brassicas

Wet and chilly weather spells causing potential supply issues, says British Growers Association.



UK vegetable growers have warned of possible supply shortages over the coming months as dismal British weather delays production.

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Following last summer’s drought and a cold dry winter, it was the wettest March in England since 1981, according to government statistics.

Any vegetable that has to be drilled (planted outside in soil) was affected, meaning crops such as brassicas, new season carrots, lettuce and vining peas in some parts of the country are delayed by four weeks or more. Plantings should have started in February/March. But March was a complete write-off, and the wet, cold weather continued into April,

Parsnips

Coming to the end of the season and we will be relying on Spanish imports until mid July. Keep this more hand to mouth the shelf life tends to be shorter.

Carrots

We will be relying on imported carrots until Late June/ beginning of July when we will see the UK Season start again.

Leeks

Remain shorter in supply as we will rely on imported Leek. New season UK is expected start from the end of June/beginning of July onwards depending on the growing region.

Cabbage

UK Red and white cabbage will be mostly finishing and we will be using imported Dutch mainly until New season starts in July. The cabbage tends to be a larger grade than the UK supply.

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Fruit

Stone fruit

Spanish peach, Nectarine, plum, cherry and Apricot is now well underway and in good supply and quality. Prices are higher than last year with additional costs of labour and import charges.

Citrus fruit

Citrus fruit is moving to Southern Hemisphere so we will see a reduction in supply on oranges easy peelers and grapefruit. The quality is excellent and is good eating

Melons

Spanish Mercia Melons will be making an appearance and the volume of supply will be a lot better than the earlier Almeria fruit.

Apples

Apples will be a lot more reliant on Southern Hemisphere fruit as the French and European fruit are finishing. We can expect prices to rise until the first of the French start back in August.

Grapes

Grapes we will see the Greek and Egyptian fruit coming through and we will move over to the Italian and Spanish later in June that will take us through the summer.

Salad

There have been some delays on the UK salad season with the cooler weather conditions. We will slowly be moving away from Spanish imports and more reliant in the UK season.

Onion

We will be moving over to Egyptian red onions and moving away from the UK and Dutch.

Tomato

We have now started on the UK heirloom tomatoes. These will run right through the summer months and into the Autumn.

Dairy

The first quarter of 2023 has been stormy, with a toxic cocktail of weakening global demand and increasing global production. This has seen average milk prices dropping at the same time as input costs remaining high (albeit stepping back from the rampant levels of agriculture cost inflation seen at the back end of 2022). The addition of poor weather conditions has caused milk production levels to lag behind expectations.

It is estimated that there were 7,500 dairy producers in GB as of April this year. Compared to the April 2022 survey, this represents a reduction of 380 dairy producers (-4.8%), and a fall of 350 (-4.5%)

Compared to previous years, more producers have left the industry. Despite the fact that the latest Agricultural Price Index indicates input cost inflation has eased, input costs remain historically high. In combination with falling milk prices, this has squeezed profit margins for many dairy farmers.

The current high level of cull cow prices, as well as ongoing uncertainties about changes to agricultural subsidy schemes has led to some producers changing their future direction.

Despite the number of producers dropping over the last 12 months, good weather conditions last Autumn and the vestiges of higher prices at the end of last year, has meant that average milk production by farm remained high over the autumn and winter months.

Milk volumes per farm remain high with the latest figures suggesting that the average GB dairy farm produces 4,500 litres per day, equating to 1.65mn litres per year.



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Buyer choice - UK Asparagus



Asparagus is rich in folic acid (vitamin B9), which helps the body produce healthy cells, and vitamins A, C, K and B6. It is also a powerful diuretic. Asparagus plants are planted as crowns, over a ridge of soil. They must not be harvested for the first two years after planting.

1. Many Nutrients But Few Calories In fact, just half a cup (90 grams) of cooked asparagus contains (1): Calories: 20, Protein: 2.2 grams, Fat: 0.2 grams, Fibre: 1.8 grams, Vitamin C: 12% of the RDI, Vitamin A: 18% of the RDI, Vitamin K: 57% of the RDI, Folate: 34% of the RDI, Potassium: 6% of the RDI, Phosphorous: 5% of the RDI, Vitamin E: 7% of the RDI,
2. Good Source of Antioxidants - Antioxidants are compounds that help protect your cells from the harmful effects of free radicals and oxidative stress. Oxidative stress contributes to aging, chronic inflammation and many diseases, including cancer
3. Can Improve Digestive Health -Dietary fibre is essential for good digestive health. Just half a cup of asparagus contains 1.8 grams of fibre, which is 7% of your daily needs.
4. Helps Support a Healthy Pregnancy - Asparagus is an excellent source of folate, also known as vitamin B9. Just half a cup of asparagus provides adults with 34% of their daily folate needs and pregnant women with 22% of their daily needs (1)
5. Helps Lower Blood Pressure - Research suggests that increasing potassium intake while reducing salt intake is an effective way to lower high blood pressure Asparagus is a good source of potassium, providing 6% of your daily requirement in a half-cup serving.
6. China outdoes the world in asparagus production, by far. - Though productivity has slowed in recent years, at last count there were still 57,000 hectares of asparagus in China