

Sector Summary: Poultry

Trade and supply chains:

- Stricter checks and a greater amount of paperwork will be required for cross-border checks on poultry meat and egg exports after Brexit. Currently up to two thirds of third country consignments to the EU are rejected, so pay particular attention to changes in paperwork requirements, or consider employing a customs expert if you export directly.
- The BFREPA (British Free Range Egg Producers Association) provides more detailed guidance on export requirements for egg exporters.
- High standards of food safety have been a unique selling point for British eggs for many years and the industry is keen to protect this after Brexit. The main risk of cheaper imported egg products is those going into food processing supply chains where there is lower transparency of the provenance of ingredients.
- The following gives guidance on getting your business ready to export after Brexit:

<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-export-from-uk-after-brexit>

Inputs:

- 90% of livestock medicines come from the EU and delays to imports at borders are predicted. It is advisable to discuss your medicine needs with your vet to identify where it might be appropriate to increase your stock carried, and where this could be counterproductive.
- Prices of cereal for feed are not predicted to increase significantly given that the UK has not placed tariffs on imported grain, although a drop in the pound in the case of No Deal may have some impact.
- Currently much egg packaging and machinery parts are imported from specialised companies in the EU. Consider buying ahead if possible, and assess alternative sources or additional costs for continuing with current supplier.

Workforce:

- With both layer and broiler producers employing large numbers of migrant labourers on a permanent basis (BEIC, BPC), many of which are from the EU, the question of whether or not EU labour will be permitted to stay after 31st October is hugely important from day one for the poultry sector.
- Poultry meat processing is also highly dependent on EU labour, and agriculture has not been designated a priority sector for shortage occupations after Brexit.
- Farmers should begin looking into alternatives for migrant labour, and be prepared to budget more for staff costs in the coming months as businesses will be competing for a smaller pool of staff.
- Businesses should also look into supporting EU staff in securing residency if at all possible, given the year-round calendar for production and processing unlike other agriculture sectors. Advice on how to apply for settlement status after 31st October can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>.

No issues expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply of grain or feed, or significant changes in price
Known issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to paperwork for exporting to the EU and increased number of customs checks and sampling Shortage of labour particularly in processing, but also on farm Sourcing equipment parts and egg packaging could become much more expensive
Unknown issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible and unknown length of delays to medicine from the EU, and impact on animal health, welfare and food standards Possible trade deals that may try to force lower production standards for global competitiveness In a predicted recession, consumers may care less about higher quality domestic products compared to cheaper exports The impact on ability and cost of sourcing breeding stock/genetics is unsure, but is expected to be small considering the international spread of breeding companies – any increase in cost is expected to be small

Opportunities:

- Higher welfare production and food safety standards are a USP for eggs in particular, for exports and to protect domestic market
- Increasing provenance of products used in processing

	Eggs	Poultry meat
Subsidy reliance	Low	Low
EU market access	Medium	Medium
Trade vulnerability to non EU imports	High	High
Reliance on other at risk sectors	Medium	Medium
Labour - farm	Medium	Medium
Labour - processing	Medium	High
Logistics	Medium	Low
Processing	Low	Medium

