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Dry 2018 lifts Origin's results

Origin Enterprises has reported sharp increases in profitability and revenues from its latest full year of trading. But it expects the current financial year to return to more normal levels after last year's exceptional demand for feed ingredients and fertilisers.

The Dublin-based Group made an operating profit of €82.26 million on revenues of €1.8 billion in the year ended July 31st 2019, compared to €71.19m and €1.63bn in the previous year – respective increases of 15.6% and 10.5%. Including associate and joint ventures, operating profit was 13.4% higher at €88.88m.

The Ireland and UK division, which includes Agrii, Origin Fertilisers and the RH Hall feed ingredients business, returned an operating profit of €60m on sales of €1.16bn – up 9.5% and 11.7% on the €54.8m and €1.04bn from the previous year.

Agronomy service and crop input volumes grew by 6.8% year on year, driven by strong demand for crop inputs with “robust” arable crop activity in the spring, plus advance sales of crop protection products whose registrations expire this year for use in the 2020 season. The year also saw higher feed and fertiliser volumes as a result of the poor grass growing conditions in 2018. But the company reports a 10 basis point fall in operating margins to 5.2%, mainly due to the increased fertiliser volumes and prices, which partially offset margin growth across the rest of the agronomy services and inputs portfolio.

■ DRIVEN

The Group's Integrated Agronomy and On-Farm Services segment recorded higher volumes, revenues and margins, driven by the favourable weather and weakness of sterling lifting on-farm crop margins. The agronomy portfolio increased its share of high value and speciality crop business in the period.

Origin consolidated its digital agriculture activities under the Rhiza brand early in 2019. The service now covers over one

million hectares and is on target to reach 4m hectares by 2023.

Within the Business-to-Business Agri-Inputs segment, Origin Fertilisers saw volumes and profitability rise in the period, with good weather and stable prices lifting farm purchases. At the same time, the full integration of Bunn Fertiliser, acquired in 2018, enabled it to provide wider soil fertility and crop nutrition services.

The Feed Ingredients business benefitted from exceptional demand in 2018, as producers sought to supplement poor grazing and low conserved forage stocks after the dry conditions that year. Those volumes were also helped by higher livestock numbers and stable dairy returns. John Thompson & Sons, the Belfast feed manufacturer in which Origin has a 50% shareholding, delivered a “very satisfactory” performance in the period.

Origin's Amenity horticulture business saw lower revenues and profits in the full year, as the dry 2018 weather led to reduced product use, leading to higher customer inventories and fewer replacement sales. But this fall was partially offset by new customer business and the first contribution from the organic crop technology company, Symbio, acquired in November 2018.

The Group's Continental Division, which covers its agronomy services in Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, made an operating profit of €13.9m on sales of €440.01m in the latest year, compared to €16.2m and €431m in the previous year – a respective decrease of 14.5% and rise of 2.1%. ▶

EU body to promote a positive livestock picture

A group of European livestock production and processing bodies has established a new online platform to promote a more positive and balanced image of the sector and its contribution to society, against a background of increasing attack.

European Livestock Voice includes the EU farmer organisation **Copa Cogeca**, **FEFAC** the feed trade body, **FEFANA** for feed additives and **AnimalHealthEurope** among eleven farm animal and meat industry associations.

■ MYTHS

The group observes that the debate over meat and livestock has “become dominated by interest groups who only want to spread myths and radical views about livestock farming on social media and in the press. But these myths and opinions end up portraying a picture that is in stark contrast with the reality experienced and lived every day by thousands of European farmers and professionals working with them on the ground.”

“These debates have strong impacts on the views of European consumers on the role of animal products in their choice of lifestyle and they push the livestock sector into an extremely defensive corner.” ▶

9,000 visitors for UK Dairy Day

The **UK Dairy Day** held earlier this month – the sixth in the annual series of one-day events held at the Telford International Centre, attracted 9,000 visitors says organiser Holstein UK, up on 2018.

There were over 300 exhibitors across the internal and external exhibition areas, representing all sectors of the dairy industry. **Norbrook Animal Health** was judged to be the best large trade stand; **LLM Farm Vets** and its Lucky Cow bar the best medium sized stand and family ice-cream maker Antonelli came first in the small stand category. Hoofcount won the best external trade stand award for the second year running.



There were 12 entries for the UK Dairy Day new product competition, sponsored and judged by animal health company IDEXX. The winner was DeLaval for its innovative Eanza Milk Cluster, with Allflex's Youngstock Application product highly commended. There was a judge's special mention for Alltech's Navigate system and

the Buitelaar High Health Unit.

"The excellent support from our sponsors, trade exhibitors and cattle exhibitors makes UK Dairy Day one of the best dairy industry events," says event director Sue Cope. "We are now attracting a huge UK and international following. While we still have the uncertainty of Brexit, we hope UK Dairy Day helped visitors seek advice and view products to

help them grow their businesses, whilst also networking and socialising. We must remember to stay positive and be proud of the industry and what we are providing consumers."

UK Dairy Day 2020 is scheduled for Wednesday September 16th 2020 at Telford International Centre. ■

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AgriTrade News is published a minimum of 43 times per year.

It is available to subscribers by post and by email.

Annual subscription is £360.

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Editorial copy deadline is Midday Wednesday for Friday publication.

CONTACT: editor@agritradenews.co.uk

Design and Production by:

Portsdown Graphic Design

portsdowngraphicdesign.co.uk

AgriTradeNews

(ATN) is published by
AgriTrade News Ltd.

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ISSN 1756-8943

Continued from page 1 DRY 2018 LIFTS ORIGIN'S RESULTS

▶ A combination of low liquidity and high inventories led to a very competitive market in Ukraine, which offset good performances from the other country markets in the segment. The Group has taken a €7m exceptional charge, principally due to the challenging market conditions in Ukraine during the period.

Origin's Latin American division, established through acquisition a year ago, made its first contribution with a full-year operating profit of €8.1m on sales of €33.6m.

■ GROWTH

"Our business has performed well in the period with the Group benefiting from favourable organic and acquisition growth," notes Origin chief executive Tom O'Mahony.

"The FY19 result reflects our commitment to maintaining a diversified business portfolio with an excellent first-time

contribution from Latin America together with the benefit of good demand levels in Ireland and the UK more than offsetting the impact of a more challenging operating environment in Continental Europe, where highly competitive trading conditions within the Ukrainian market impacted profitability.

"Demand for agronomy services and crop inputs for Ireland and the UK is expected to normalise in FY20 and to be lower than the above-average market demand levels experienced in FY19. Fertiliser and feed demand is not expected to match the demand created by the fodder crisis in the first half of FY19. Our Continental European and Latin American segments are expected to grow in FY20 in line with our long-term guidance. Against the backdrop of the uncertain nature of Brexit and its timing, we continue to prioritise a prudent approach to risk management and capital allocation." ■

ForFarmers opens remodelled Exeter mill

ForFarmers officially opened its Exeter feed mill last week after a £10 million redevelopment project that involved a complete rebuild of the plant.



Pictured: Gathering for the opening of the ForFarmers remodelled Exeter mill.

Over 200 farmers and guests saw ForFarmers chief operating officer Steven Read perform the opening ceremony. He outlined the three major themes that drive the business – investment, data and training.

“Investment in manufacturing and logistics, of which the Exeter mill’s rebuild and restructuring has been a major part, has been key to the development of the business,” he noted. “The significant rebuild and restructuring process over the last two years has increased the mill’s output capacity from 140,000 to 300,000 tonnes of animal feed a year.

“The use of data to help drive future farm development and productivity and the continued investment in high quality people through the ForFarmers training academies are also key themes as we take the business forward.”

Exeter site manager Simon Short showed guests around the new facility which includes a state-of-the-art mill control room, an energy-efficient vertical feed conveyor transport system, and a new outloading facility using pre-loaded feed bins that has cut the discharge time for feed into delivery vehicles from 90 minutes to 90 seconds.

“The redevelopment is an exciting step forward and after years of hard work and significant financial investment, it is great to see the Exeter Mill running to its full potential,” concluded Mr Read. “The redevelopment will have a really positive impact on our UK business as a whole, but especially our South West based customers.” ■

Major Online Auction

On the instructions of the Directors of Dodson & Horrell Limited following assorted project works, the surplus equipment will become available as from October 2019
Piecemeal (subject to conditions of sale and unless sold previously)

Modern Cereal Processing (Flaking & Drying), Grain Cleaning Milling, Weighing & Packing Plant and Materials Handling Equipment

Main equipment available immediately by Private Treaty

Online bidding and photographs via sw.co.uk/auctions



- 2016 **ER & F Turner** 600V x 1250mm Roller Flaking Mill (unused)
- 2016 Two **Cimbria** Dantoaster DTF 30/9000 Rotary Drum Dryers (unused)
- 2017 **Concetti** IMP 2153 & IGF 1200 Hi-speed Twin Weighing, Filling and Bag Closing Line (not installed and unused)
- 2017 Large Quantity of Galvanised & Stainless Steel Conveyors Hopper Dischargers and Belt & Bucket Elevators by **Guttridge, Perry** and **Cimbria** (not installed and unused)
- 2016 Approx. 350 linear metres x 600mm wide **Interroll** Belt Conveyors (not installed and unused)
- Three x 2017/2016 **Cimbria** Heid TS 360 S & TS180 RA Destoners (not installed and unused)
- **Revtex** Vibratory Herb Pasteurization Plant, c/w steam generator and fluid bed dryer
- Two **Ferrell-Ross** Flo-more Stainless Steel High Efficiency Steam Chest Conditioners
- Three **Geelen** VD28X28KM & VK28x28KL Stainless Steel Counterflow Dryers/ Coolers
- **Clayton** SEG-254-2 3914kg/h Gas-fired Vertical Steam Generation Plant
- Two **PTN** Boa 700x1500 VRo & 500x1500 Compactors (2015 (unused) & 1995)
- **Sprout Matador & Wenger** Stainless Steel Conditioners
- **Sprout Matador** Combi-Zone CZD 2x8W LPG Fired Two Deck Extruded Pellet Dryer
- **APV Mitchell Dryers** Stainless Steel Drum Dryer
- **Spiroflow** T6 Bulk Bag Discharger
- Mixers, Weighing & Packing, Screens, Cyclones, Bins Silos, SS Tanks and Vessels etc

Bidding: Closes from 10am Wednesday 9 October 2019

View: From 10am to 4pm Tuesday 8 October 2019 or by appointment

At: Kettering Road, Islip, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 3JW and a local storage facility

SW Sanderson Weatherall

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New chapters for Nix at 50

The 50th edition of the John Nix Farm Management Pocketbook is published this month, with the update including new chapters on whole farm costings, emissions and the carbon cycle in farming.

The whole-farm costings chapter shows that profitability will vary considerably in 2020 between sectors and between farmers. A summary of the four main farm systems reveals a wide variation in projected profitability from dairy at the highest to lowland beef and sheep at the lowest.

Author Graham Redman of the Andersons Centre says the innovation is a big step forward in helping users to bring all costs together with the typical outputs in certain farm systems. "This will assist those who do not undertake full farm costings regularly and those observing farming who want to see farm accounts through to profit and loss. It is also useful to encourage all farmers to consider their own farming accounts."

The new edition includes a chapter on environmental emissions and waste for the first time. "There is a raft of new outputs that farmers will be expected to deliver alongside traditional crops and livestock", advises Mr Redman. "Alongside diversification and renewable energy projects, climate change has risen up the political agenda again. Society will soon be asking and paying farmers to provide carbon storage and sequestration services." ■

The Farm Management Pocketbook costs £29.00 +P&P. More information and sales via www.thepocketbook.co.uk

New mycotoxin binder from UFAC

Feed additive supplier Ufac-UK has launched Mycotrap, a new in-feed mycotoxin adsorbant, which it says is effective against the eleven most commonly occurring mycotoxins in animal feeds.

Mycotrap combines activated clay minerals with glycerine to give enhanced mycotoxin control and improved liver function, claims the company. Mycotoxins, produced by moulds and fungi, colonise feed ingredients and can reduce performance in cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry – even at low levels.

Independent tests at Ghent University in Belgium found that Mycotrap has exceptional binding capacity for a broad range of damaging, commonly occurring mycotoxins including Aflatoxins, Fumonisin, DON and ZEN, says UFAC. The trials found it to be effective at all the pH ranges found throughout the gastrointestinal tract in both ruminant and monogastric livestock.

"Mycotrap contains a specialised mineral complex that effectively adsorbs the majority of mycotoxins known to cause reduced productivity and increased disease risks in all classes of farm animals," explains Mike Chown of UFAC-UK. "As well as minimising the risk of mycotoxin poisoning, Mycotrap has uniquely been developed to help the animal cope with the consequences with the inclusion of glycerine."

The addition of glycerine as a precursor to glucose helps boost an animal's energy supply and helps fight infections by supporting the recovery of the immune system, he continues. Glycerine also helps minimise the deterioration of feeds caused by the moulds that produce mycotoxins by inhibiting mould growth in both feeds and finished rations.

"Mycotrap gives producers a two-pronged approach to preventing mycotoxins from reducing livestock performance and productivity," Mr Chown concludes. "By minimising the initial risks and then helping the animal resist the challenge, Mycotrap is a new weapon in the battle against the most commonly occurring mycotoxins."

The typical feed rate for ruminants is 25 grams/head/day or included at 3-5kg/tonne in finished feed. It costs around 6p per cow per day. ■

Further information

For more information on Mycotrap, call Mike Chown on 07827 249157.

Molasses blend for robotic milkers

Feed molasses products supplier ED&F Man has worked with automated milking systems specialist Lely to develop a new, super-filtered molasses blend designed to encourage cows to increase their daily visits to robot milkers and boost milk production.

Robo-Mol is a 55% dry matter molasses-based liquid feed that has been specially filtered to achieve optimum flowability through a robot system. It is a 12.7MJ ME, 6.5% protein feed containing 64% sugar, and is formulated to be fed at an initial rate of 65-70g per visit.

■ PERFORMANCE

"Optimising voluntary visits per day is vital to drive maximum performance from robotic milking systems," Dr Phil Holder from ED&F Man explains. "Robo-Mol has been developed to help increase the animals' desire to enter the robot and so increase milking visits.

"Its principal role is to act as an inducement for animals to enter the robot, rather than being a feed per se. That said, it has been formulated to replace dairy compounds if required, with an IBC being sited above the robot to allow a higher feed rate."

Robo-Mol received positive user feedback in trials run on several robotic milked herds in conjunction with the Lely Centre Yeovil. Visits per cow increased, and milk yields grew by around 1.5 litres per day with feed rates of around 200g/day. Users reported that heifers were easier to train when they made Robo-Mol available. ■

Further information

Robo-Mol is available in 1000 litre IBCs delivered to farm. For more information, contact Phil Holder at ED&F Man on 07767 873750.

Glencore joins global grain trade project

Glencore Agriculture has joined the initiative to digitalise global grain trading that was launched last year.

Last November, four major global grain trading businesses – **ADM, Bunge, Cargill** and **Louis Dreyfus** – announced a joint collaborative project to explore how emerging digital technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence could reduce the resources and time needed to move agricultural commodities around the world while increasing transparency and efficiency for customers. **COFCO International** has since joined the group.

PILOT

The initiative is focusing on the post-trade execution processes for grains and oilseeds initially. A pilot project is covering the international bulk shipments of soybeans from Brazil to China but will grow to cover more commodities over time. The group hopes to have the new platform in place for the second half of 2020, subject to regulatory approvals.

“We’ve been interested in the initiative from the very early days and we’re excited now to join as a full partner,” states

Glencore Agriculture chief executive David Mattiske. “The digital platform this group intends to develop will leverage the newest technologies and has the potential to revolutionise our industry, making contract execution processes more efficient, more accurate and more transparent. These advances are necessary for our industry to continue serving our critical global role efficiently and effectively, and the benefits will be felt by companies of all sizes along the post-trade value chain.”

Discussions have been held with interested parties such as shippers, charterers, buyers, service providers, financial institutions, trade associations and industry standards and regulatory authorities. These have identified the critical issues over security and data privacy, technology choices, business models and functionalities and capabilities, together with the adoption strategy, to ensure the new platform meets the needs of the entire industry and help select technology providers. ■

Agrifirm rebrands NuScience functional feed ingredient range

Royal Agrifirm Group, the Dutch agribusiness co-operative, has rebranded its Nuscience Health4U portfolio of functional feed ingredients as Agrimprove.

Agrimprove will be a single, global functional feed ingredients brand under the Agrifirm umbrella. The Group says the move will help develop new ideas in animal health and nutrition that lead to tangible and sustainable improvements throughout the agri-food chain.

The Nuscience division was created in 2012 through the integration of a number of legacy brands in the pre-mix, feed additive and functional ingredients sector, including Vitamex, Pre-Mervo, Preconex and Cehave Korm. Nuscience had two business units – Health4U covering additives and functional feed ingredients for all livestock, and Nutrition4U focusing on products for young animal nutrition.

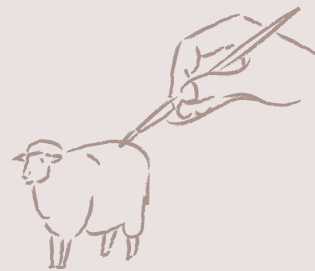
Agrifirm believes functional feed ingredients will play an increasingly important role in safeguarding the sustainable availability of responsibly produced food for future generations.

“We are constantly working on innovative functional feed ingredient concepts in the field of animal health and nutrition that add sustainable value throughout the agri-food chain to support farmers and industry all over the world,” says Johan De Schepper, managing director of Agrifirm International. “We deploy the power of science and active listening to the market to continuously improve the production and quality of food protein for our growing global population.”

The new Agrimprove brand is being rolled out in Europe first, followed by Latin American markets from early 2020 and then China. ■

Continued from page 1

EU BODY TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE LIVESTOCK PICTURE



▶ European Livestock Voice intends to act jointly to restore balance and factual information on both the impact and the contribution of the European livestock sector, through an information hub and online portal to review the accuracy of the most frequently made statements about livestock production, consumption and its benefits.

BACKBONE

The platform emphasises that EU livestock farming is based on diversified, local and family farm businesses and forms the backbone of the EU’s rural areas. The sector supports a great number of jobs and industries and contributes to the circular EU bioeconomy, while also ensuring a steady and affordable supply of safe and nutritious food and other products needed for Europe’s cultural and creative industries.

Without livestock farming, Europe would lose its pastures, organic fertilizers, green energy and many other essential raw materials while experiencing a rural exodus. At the same time, there would be more reliance on imported animal products, with less control over production standards and more harm to the environment. ■

The #MeattheFacts platform is now online at <https://meatthefacts.eu>

Global Institute for data on feed sustainability

The worldwide initiative to create an open source of credible data on the environmental footprint of feed ingredients has resulted in the establishment of an Institute to expand this work.

Three years ago, a group of regional feed trade associations started work as the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) to establish global standards for the calculation of life-cycle analysis (LCA) measures of animal feed ingredients. The move recognised and anticipated that feed is a critical component in measuring the total environmental footprint of animal agriculture.

Now, the founding partners of the GFLI (the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA); the European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC); the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC); the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF); and the Norwegian Seafood Federation (NSF)) are to create a legal, non-profit institute under the same name in order to expand this work and make the data more widely available to stakeholders throughout the global food value chain.

The GFLI Board launched the new institute on September 19th at the American Feed Industry Association's (AFIA) offices in Virginia. The new legal entity will be incorporated in the US District of Columbia, with day-to-day operations managed by Agribusiness Service BV, an independent third party based in Europe. The institute is expected to be operational by early 2020.



Pictured, GFLI Board from left to right: Andy Timmins (treasurer), Constance Cullman, Nick Major (vice-chair); Greg Downing (chair); Sebastian Csaki; and Henrik Stenwig. Not pictured: Melissa Dumont and Lina Sofie von Fricken.

The inaugural GFLI Board of Directors includes Greg Downing of the AFIA as chair; Nick Major of FEFAC as vice-chair; Andy Timmins (treasurer) and Constance Cullman (AFIA); Sebastian Csaki (IFIF); Henrik Stenwig (NSF); Melissa Dumont (ANAC) and Lina Sofie von Fricken (FEFAC).

The GFLI will make an expanded regional and sectorial animal nutrition LCA database readily available. This will consolidate the existing LCA datasets already developed for the EU, US and Canada which were based on the

Food and Agriculture Organisation's environmental standards set by its Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership. In addition, GLFI will develop tools to assist stakeholders to assess the environmental footprint of animal nutrition products and encourage continuous improvement throughout the global animal nutrition and food industry.

"Having access to reliable and scientific environmental data on feed ingredients is important for companies, academia and others working on sustainable animal protein production for not only improving the accuracy of their environmental reporting, but also for benchmarking and setting future sustainability goals," says Mr Downing.

"The consortium is a great example of several international feed partners taking responsibility voluntarily and creating something that will serve a greater good to the animal agricultural community," he continues. "Now, as a formal non-profit association, we will be able to expand our work of developing LCA datasets for feed ingredients for other regions and broaden our reach with stakeholders making sustainability decisions." ■

PEOPLE

Commercial manager for ED&F Man

Feed molasses blends specialist ED&F Man has appointed **Angela Sutherby** as its commercial manager. Ms Sutherby, with 35 years' experience of the food and feed trades, will cover the north of England region as well as working across the supply chain with feed compounders, blenders and on-farm direct sales.

Ms Sutherby began her career at Cargill in Hull, joining the company as customer services and refinery planning manager and working



her way over 19 years to become a key account manager at the UK headquarters in Swinderby. She moved to become general manager of the BOCM Pauls straights trading business, and then to former food processor SugaRich as national sales and marketing manager. For the last three years she has worked for Thomas Mawer in Hull as a senior trader.

ED&F Man managing director, Dr Phil Holder says

the appointment strengthens the company's commercial offering: "There are considerable opportunities to improve ruminant performance by the more effective use of sugars and molasses-based liquid blends and we are committed to exploiting them.

■ EXPERIENCE

"There are very few people in the industry with Angela's breadth and depth of experience and we are sure she will play a central role in helping us to grow and develop the market to the benefit of both feed suppliers and their farmer customers." ■

Fram Farmers CEO departs

Richard Anscombe, chief executive of Fram Farmers since 2010, has left the co-operative suddenly.

A statement from the company simply records: "After nine years as chief executive at Fram Farmers, Richard Anscombe has left the organisation. Fram Farmers continues in an extremely solid financial position and the Board thanks him for his contribution."

The Group's financial year ends on June 30th, and results are usually released to

coincide with its annual general meeting in November.

Mr Anscombe's tenure started shortly after the 2008 merger with Atlas Agriculture to form Atlas Fram and he oversaw its reversion to the Fram Farmers brand in 2014. He also managed the move to new purpose-built headquarters offices in the town of Framlingham in the same year. ■

New pea and plant proteins VP for Roquette

The recent director-general of the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) **Jean-Philippe Azoulay** is to become the new vice-president of Roquette's pea and new proteins business unit. He succeeds Pascal Leroy who has moved to a new leadership role in the company.

French multinational crop processor Roquette says plant proteins are at the heart of the Group's global growth strategy, and this

appointment reinforces its leading position in this booming sector.

Mr Azoulay has extensive international experience in plant health and food ingredients. Before joining ECPA in September 2016, he was global director of DuPont's nutrition division after a spell as regional director of the company's European crop protection business.

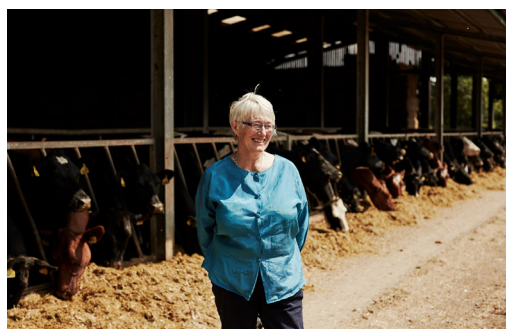
"I am passionate about the future of food production and about the role

companies can play in providing innovative plant-based solutions," he says.

"The sector is at a turning point, facing explosive demand, and it is such an extraordinary time to join Roquette, a visionary pioneer of this exciting space."

The new ECPA director-general is **Géraldine Kutas**, who joins the trade association this month after a career in consultancy and international affairs in Brussels and Brazil. ■

Mary Quicke: Dairy Industry Woman of the Year



Last week's Women in Dairy conference at Coventry saw the managing director of Quicke's Cheese, **Mary Quicke MBE**, announced as the 2019 Dairy Industry Woman of the Year.

Gemma Smale-Rowland, a fourth-generation dairy farmer from Cornwall, was runner-up in the award which is sponsored by HSBC.

"All of the entries were a great example of the vital roles played by women in our sector," stated Women in Dairy patron Di Wastnage. "Whilst this year's finalists all had very varied backgrounds, they were equally inspiring which led to the winner being chosen based on the original Women in Dairy values of: connect, share and inspire."

■ BUSINESS

Mary Quicke runs the £3.5 million annual turnover Quicke's integrated cheesemaking and farming business and holds a number of non-executive directorships including board membership of the Food Standards Agency and the Academy of Cheese.

Ms Smale-Rowland was recognised for the way she has connected with consumers through a number of platforms. ■

Chairman change at the Addington Fund

The Addington Fund, the rural housing and disaster relief charitable body, has appointed **Peter Jinman** to chair its board of trustees. He succeeds **Sheila Cole** who has relinquished the role after nine years.

Mr Jinman is a veterinary surgeon and smallholder based in Herefordshire, where he is an elected county councillor on Herefordshire Council. He is a former president of both the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; current independent chairman of DEFRA's Farm Animal Welfare Committee and is the immediate past Chairman of the Farmers Club. Peter lives on his smallholding with his wife Gill. The family also owns and manages its own pub and restaurant, the Temple Bar Inn, used for successful annual fundraising Addington Fund breakfasts.

■ SCHEME

He intends to increase the charity's remit in disaster relief and in rural housing in order to keep the countryside both vibrant and sustainable. He adds "The charity already offers retirement homes to farmers and farm workers who want or are forced to retire through difficult personal circumstances; and affordable homes to youngsters and families involved in the agriculture industry.

"It is also our aspiration to create a young entrant's scheme through legacy farmers to help establish first generation farmers on the Farming Ladder." ■

(Compiled September 26th 2019)

UK Cereal Prices

Cereals	£/tonne ex-farm September				
	Region	Feed Wheat	Milling Wheat	Feed Barley	Oilseed Rape
South East	-	-	-	-	-
South West	127.00	140.00	114.00	325.00	-
Midlands	128.00	143.00	115.00	330.00	-
East Anglia	130.00	140.00	115.00	330.00	-
North East	128.00	148.00	115.00	330.00	-
Scotland	-	-	-	-	-

Wheat Futures

£/tonne				
November 2019	January 2020	March 2020	May 2020	July 2020
136.50	137.20	139.45	142.50	149.80
November 2020	January 2021	March 2021	May 2021	November 2021
146.00	147.80	149.60	149.50	149.40

UK Feed Ingredient Prices

UK Feed Ingredients		£/tonne ex-store September		
		East Coast	Liverpool Docks	Humberside
Hi Pro	49% Brazil	308.00 (October)	300.00	308.00 (October)
Hi Pro	49% any origin	291.00	304.00	291.00
Soya Hulls		-	145.00	142.00
Sunflower seed 32%		-	178.00	-
Sunflower Hipro 37%/38%		-	-	-
Rapeseed Meal		-	188.00	184.00
Palm Kernel		-	142.00	-
Maize – Non GM		-	173.00	176.00
Maize Germ and Bran		-	141.00	-
US Corn DDGS		-	203.00	-
Wheat feed		-	-	-
Sugar beet pellets (10mm)		-	181.00	176.00
Fishmeal	-English	-	-	-
	-Peruvian	-	-	-
	-Icelandic	-	-	-

June survey confirms 9.2% fall in OSR area

Defra's June Survey for England has confirmed falls in the area of spring barley and oilseed rape planted for the 2018 harvest and a further fall in the dairy herd. But winter wheat and pig herd numbers have risen.

The survey was sent to 35,000 commercial holdings across the country, with almost 22,000 responses received. Defra warns the estimates could change ahead of the release of final UK figures due in mid-December.

The total farmed area in England – what Defra terms the utilised agricultural area (UAA) – was 9.06 million hectares in 2019 and little changed from the previous year. The cropped area increased by 0.8% to just over 4.9m hectares, with permanent grassland unchanged at 3.7m hectares. The total arable crop area rose by 1% year-on-year to stand at 3.9m hectares. Cereals and oilseeds crops accounted for 82% of this, with cereal cropping up by 3.7% to almost 2.7m hectares and oilseeds down by 10.8% in 2019.

By crop, winter wheat rose by 3.6% to 1.68m hectares and winter barley by 15.6% to 388,000 hectares. There was a 5.8% drop in the spring barley area which fell

to 444,000 hectares in 2019. Oats were up 8% to 143,000 ha and rye, triticale and mixed crops by 6.7% to 43,000ha.

The total oilseed area fell from 571,000 hectares in 2018 to 509,000ha in 2019, primarily due to the 9.2% decrease in the winter oilseed rape crop to 492,000ha and the spring crop by almost half to 4,000ha. Linseed dropped by 38% to 15,000ha.

The field bean area fell 11.4% to 135,000ha but the combinable pea crop was 7.6% higher at 40,000ha. The area of horticultural crops fell by 0.9% to 137,000 hectares.

On the livestock side, the total number of cattle and calves in England was 5.28 million head in June 2019, 1.7% lower than in June 2018. The total cattle breeding herd fell by 1.4% to 1.83m head, with a 1.1% fall in the dairy herd to 1.13m head and 1.8% in the beef breeding herd to 699,000 head. Dairy replacements over

two years dropped by 12.8% to 167,000 animals, 1-2-year olds by 1.5% to 309,000 and up-to-a-year old by 2.1% to 316,000.

The June 2019 total pig number increased by 0.5% to just under 4.1 million animals. The breeding herd was 0.4% higher at 410,000 sows with a 2.6% increase in gilts for breeding to 73,000 head. Finishing pigs were 0.5% higher at 3.65m head in June 2019.

The national sheep flock decreased by 1.7% to 15.4m sheep and lambs from 15.7m a year earlier. The female breeding flock was down 2.0% to 7.2m head with a 1.5% drop in the number of lambs to 7.8m head.

Figures for poultry, horses, goats, farmed deer and camelids will be published on October 24th. ■

See the full England June Survey 2019 tables: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833998/structure-june19-eng-26sep19.pdf