



Agricultural Productivity

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RESEARCH PAPER

Contents

1. Summary.....	3
2. Government Stance.....	4
3. Support for Farmers.....	5
Agricultural Development Scheme	5
Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme.....	5
Training and Education Programmes	5
Farming Technology.....	6
4. Cow's Milk.....	6
Summary of Industry	6
Isle of Man Creamery and Milk Marketing Association.....	6
Milk Prices	7
Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee 2021 Report on the Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk.....	8
5. The Isle of Man Meat Plant.....	9
Derogation Policy	9
Financial Support.....	9
Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee 2021 Report on the Meat Plant.....	11
Birnie Consultancy Audit Report	11

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Government Response	12
6. Wheat and Flour.....	13
Laxey Glen Mills and Ramsey Bakery	13
Future Plans for Flour Production	14
Financial Support.....	14
7. Other BIMR Jurisdictions	15
Alderney	15
Cyprus	15
Falkland Islands	15
Gibraltar.....	16
Guernsey	16
Jersey	16
Malta	16
Northern Ireland	17
St Helena	17
Scotland.....	17
Wales	18

1. Summary

Agriculture is an integral part of the Isle of Man's economy and cultural identity. As the Island faces evolving challenges in food security, such as [adverse global weather conditions affecting food imports](#) and the [Isle of Man's relatively low food self-sufficiency levels](#), improving agricultural productivity has become increasingly important.

The Isle of Man Government is committed to enhancing the productivity of its agriculture sector, as outlined in the [Isle of Man Agriculture Strategy 2019-29](#). The strategy emphasizes creating a vibrant and profitable food chain while preserving the Island's natural environment. An important upcoming initiative is the publication of an updated plan for agriculture and food security, which will address the evolving challenges faced by the sector. This plan has been delayed due to recent developments, such as changes in food security dynamics following the [sale of Shoprite](#) and the [opening of a new bakery facility by Robinson's](#).

Several initiatives have already been implemented to promote sustainable agricultural practices and productivity. The [Agricultural Development Scheme](#), introduced in 2015 and updated in 2019, provides funding to support farmers in maintaining land conditions, complying with environmental standards, and encouraging young farmers to enter the industry. Additionally, the [Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme](#), launched in April 2021 in collaboration with the [Manx Wildlife Trust](#), incentivizes biodiversity and sustainability by offering grants for wildlife-friendly practices, soil health, and other ecological enhancements.

In addition to the schemes discussed above, farmers can access [educational courses](#) from the Isle of Man College, with partial funding available from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. These courses are designed to enhance skills in areas such as [animal welfare, machine operation, and digital literacy](#).

The Isle of Man has one abattoir, one creamery, and one flour mill; these factories produce most of the food made on-Island.

The dairy industry is a cornerstone of the Isle of Man's agricultural economy, with an annual value of £13.6 million, supported by local and export markets for milk and cheese. The [Isle of Man Creamery](#), central to the industry, processes raw milk from local farmers into various dairy products. All dairy farmers are members of the [Milk Marketing Association](#) (MMA) by law. Most farmers sell milk to the MMA, though two operate as producer-retailers and sell their milk directly to consumers. The [Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee](#) published a [report on the Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk](#) in 2021 that recommended enhancing food safety and quality standards in the dairy sector, including a rating scheme and improved testing for producer-retailers. These recommendations were approved by Tynwald in [July 2021](#), and work has begun on a risk-based food hygiene inspection programme.

The Isle of Man Meat Plant, operated by the Government-owned [Isle of Man Meats](#), is the Island's only abattoir and is considered a critical strategic asset for food security, the agricultural economy, and animal welfare. Until 2010, the Island's meat industry was supported by a derogation policy that limited meat imports, and since then the plant has required substantial financial support from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. It currently receives annual subventions up to £2 million to cover operational losses. The Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee's [2021 report on the Meat Plant](#) criticised the Department's management of the plant, recommending a shift in ownership to the Treasury and reforms in governance and operations. Further to this, an [Audit Report by Bernie Consultancy in October 2022](#) identified issues like inefficiency and poor regulatory compliance, prompting a restructuring with a new Chairperson and Board. The Isle of Man Meat Company has since initiated a turnaround plan, focusing on strategic improvements in management, sales, and operational efficiency, alongside regular consultations with stakeholders. Following

manufacturing setbacks in early 2024, further measures, including a new management team and technical staff, aim to enhance productivity and ensure compliance.

[Laxey Glen Mills](#), the Isle of Man's sole flour mill, has faced significant challenges after Ramsey Bakery, which purchased about 90% of its flour, ceased operations in 2022. This closure led to decreased demand for flour, leaving farmers who previously grew milling wheat for the mill without contracts. In November 2023, the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK, announced plans for small contracts to harvest 500 tonnes of milling wheat,¹ but this is a major decrease in demand from the levels contracted prior to the closure of Ramsey Bakery. The Minister acknowledged that some growers might therefore seek export opportunities. The Government is considering multiple options for the future of flour production, including redeveloping Laxey Glen Mill or building a new mill. Financial support includes an annual grant of £41,000 from the Treasury to Laxey Glen Mills, and an additional one-time sum of £59,371 for upgrading their fire alarm system. The Treasury plans to continue supporting the mill financially until a comprehensive Food Security Strategy is developed, with hopes of a more sustainable future for Laxey Glen Mills.

This paper also highlights measures that are being taken to improve agricultural productivity in other British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) jurisdictions, including subsidy schemes, technological improvements, and enhanced infrastructure designed to support farmers while maintaining the environment.

2. Government Stance

The Isle of Man Government has committed to improving the productivity of the Island's agriculture sector. The [Isle of Man Agriculture Strategy 2019-29](#) states the Government's aim to 'sustain a vibrant Agriculture sector, enabled to deliver a reliable and profitable food chain, while maintaining and enhancing the Island's natural environment and capital'.² To this end, a stated action in the Island Plan Update 2024/25 is for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture to 'develop and publish an updated Plan for the future of Agriculture to better assist the sector in meeting the needs of the Island, our communities and the agricultural sector, as well as an updated Plan for Food Security'.³ At time of writing, these have not yet been published. The reason for this, as stated by the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK in November 2023, is that –

Over recent months and weeks, the landscape with regard to food security has shifted again, with the sale of Shoprite and the announcement of a new bakery facility under the auspices of Robinson's. My Department has and is working in response to these changes, and the food security plan itself must be flexible enough to be able to also respond to future changes. I and my Department look forward to continuing to engage with partners and stakeholders on this matter.⁴

The Isle of Man Government has implemented several initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity. Key among these is the [Agricultural Development Scheme](#) and the [Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme](#), which provide financial support to farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices. [The Food Matters Strategy](#), approved by Tynwald in November 2014,⁵ aims to grow the island's food and drink sector significantly by 2025. Additionally, the Isle of Man Government has previously placed a focus on

¹ Tynwald, Oral Question 9 (21 November 2023), 213 T141

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf#page=38>

² GD 2019/0077: Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, 'Agricultural Strategy 2019-29 Isle of Man – High level principles', November 2019, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20182021/2019-GD-0077.pdf> p. 1

³ GD 2024/0019: Isle of Man Government, 'Our Island Plan: 2024/25 Update', March 2024, <https://islandplan.im/media/ta5gec3e/island-plan-2024-25-final-v1.pdf> p. 29

⁴ Tynwald, Oral Question 9 (21 November 2023), T13 T141

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf> p. 37

⁵ Tynwald, Item 4 (18 November 2014), 429 T132

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20002020/t141118.pdf#page=97>

diversification and innovation, such as by [supporting the cultivation of new crops like Manx-grown quinoa and promoting sustainable practices in dairy production](#).⁶

3. Support for Farmers

Agricultural Development Scheme

The Agricultural Development Scheme was [launched in April 2015](#) by the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture and then later replaced by the [2019 Scheme](#) after being approved by Tynwald in December 2019.⁷ The Scheme provides funding to farmers for various agricultural initiatives, including maintaining land in good agricultural condition and grants for compliance with environmental and agricultural standards. It also provides financial support specifically aimed at young farmers to encourage new entrants into the agricultural sector.⁸

Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme

The Government has collaborated with the [Manx Wildlife Trust](#) to [promote biodiversity on agricultural lands](#) through the [Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme](#) (AES), which provides grants to DEFA-registered Active Farmers.⁹ The Scheme was [launched in April 2021](#), with the Manx Wildlife Trust appointed as delivery partner in July 2021.¹⁰ This partnership encourages farmers to implement wildlife-friendly practices, which can lead to improved ecosystem services and long-term sustainability in agriculture. It also provides grants for soil health, poultry and pig farming, crop nutrient management plans, habitat repairs and improvements, and vermin control, among other initiatives to promote farming productivity. For the [2022-23 period](#), a total of £1,500,362 was awarded through the AES scheme, with £722,462 of this being spent on agricultural and horticultural initiatives.¹¹

Training and Education Programmes

As of 2023, [funding has been made available](#) from the Department of Environment, Food, and Agriculture for farmers to take short courses at University College Isle of Man.¹² There are currently five courses to choose from – Tractor Driving & Related Operations, Basic Stockmanship and Welfare, Safe Transport of Animals, Telehandler Award, and Computers for Farmers (which covers basic bookkeeping and use of social media). DEFA fund up to 40% of the cost of the Tractor Driving & Related Operations course and Basic Stockmanship & Welfare course for the first year, and the Manx National Farmers Union can also top up 10% for Members and Associates of the Union.¹³

⁶ Geoffrey Boot, 'Food Production Flourishes On the Isle of Man', *Farm Diversity Magazine*, 12 June 2019, <https://www.farmdiversity.co.uk/article/isle-of-man-food> (accessed 28 June 2024)

⁷ Tynwald, Item 11 (10 December 2019), 698 T137

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20002020/t191210.pdf#page=132>

⁸ SD 2019/0466 'Agricultural Development Scheme 2019',

https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2019/2019-0466/2019-0466_1.pdf

⁹ Isle of Man Government, 'Agri-Environment Initiatives Grant Scheme', gov.im, accessed 28 June 2024, <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/agri-environment-initiatives-grant-scheme/>

¹⁰ Isle of Man Government, 'Agri-Environment Scheme Annual Report', gov.im, accessed 28 June 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1378485/2021-2022-aes-annual-report.pdf>

¹¹ Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, 'AES Schedule Payments', gov.im, accessed 28 June 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1380672/2022-23-aes-payment-report-uploaded-10102023.pdf> p. 3

¹² University College Isle of Man, 'Funding Available for Agricultural Courses at UCM', ucm.ac.im, accessed 28 June 2024, <https://www.ucm.ac.im/about/news/2023/may/funding-available-for-agricultural-courses-at-ucm/>

¹³ Information confirmed in a phone conversation with a representative of the Manx National Farmers Union.

Farming Technology

'Smart Farming' was trialled in [2021](#) by the Manx Technology Group and the Rural Business Consultancy.¹⁴ The results of this don't appear to have been published, but the Manx Technology Group now advertises '[Internet of Things' products](#) for agriculture, such as sensors that can monitor soil temperature, soil moisture, solar radiation, ultraviolet radiation, and other environmental factors that affect agricultural productivity.¹⁵ However, neither the Agricultural Development Scheme nor the Agri-Environment Initiative Scheme explicitly include these technologies in their items of eligible expenditure.

4. Cow's Milk

Summary of Industry

The dairy industry is considered a cornerstone of the Isle of Man's agricultural economy. In November 2014, the Food Matters Strategy reported that:

- The dairy sector is worth £13.6 million;
- 12 million pints of milk are sold per year;
- 300 tonnes of cheese are sold locally;
- 1,500 tonnes of cheese are exported; and
- The domestic market accounts for around 60% of dairy sales.

The number of milking cows on-Island saw a decline from 2003 until 2012, from which point there was a gradual increase until 2020.

Number of milking cows on the Isle of Man since 2003¹⁶

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5,989	5,807	5,669	5,530	5,378	5,234	4,627	4,422	4,163	3,655
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
3,969	3,734	3,768	4,117	4,195	4,257	4,273	4,329	4,232	4,267
2023									
4,292									

Isle of Man Creamery and Milk Marketing Association

All dairy farmers on the Isle of Man must be members of the cooperative Milk Marketing Association (MMA). The MMA was established under the [Agricultural Marketing Act 1934](#) to regulate and protect the Isle of Man's milk sector.¹⁷ Since 2006, it has been a limited company, with the members of the MMA as its shareholders.¹⁸

¹⁴ Manx Technology Group, 'MTG and RCB commence 'Smart Farm' technology trials in the Isle of Man', [manxtechgroup.com](https://www.manxtechgroup.com/mtg-and-rcb-commence-smart-farm-technology-trials-in-the-isle-of-man/), accessed 28 June 2024, <https://www.manxtechgroup.com/mtg-and-rcb-commence-smart-farm-technology-trials-in-the-isle-of-man/>

¹⁵ Manx Technology Group, 'Integrated Technology and IoT Solutions', accessed 28 June 2024, <https://d2gfc6j4v8hvtl.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/MTG-IoT-Web.pdf>

¹⁶ Figures from Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, 'Agricultural and Horticultural Census 2003-2017', gov.im, accessed 23 July 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1354307/agricultural-and-horticultural-census-2003-2017-v2.pdf> p. 3; Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, 'Livestock Numbers 2012-2014', gov.im, accessed 23 July 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1350073/livestock-numbers-2012-2014.pdf>; Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, 'Agricultural Holding Census 2015-2023', gov.im, accessed 23 July 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1383469/agricultural-holding-census-2015-2023.pdf> p. 3.

¹⁷ 'Agricultural Marketing Act 1934', AT 1 of 1934, https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1934/1934-0001/1934-0001_2.pdf

¹⁸ PP 2021/0100: Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', May 2021 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 6.

The Isle of Man Creamery processes raw milk from 30 local dairy farmers into packaged milk and other dairy products, acting as the 'commercial arm' of the MMA. The Creamery holds a dominant position in the local market and is the only entity exporting Manx dairy products.¹⁹ According to the [Isle of Man Food and Drink website](#), each year the Creamery processes 26 million litres of raw milk into 9 million litres of pasteurised milk, and make 1800 tonnes of cheese which is sold on-Island and internationally.²⁰

Most dairy farmers on the Island sell their milk to the MMA for processing by the Creamery.²¹ However, they have the option to apply for a producer-retailer licence from the MMA, allowing them to process and sell their own milk directly to the local market. Alternatively, they can apply for a semi-retail licence to sell to local cafes and restaurants. Under these licences, producer-retailers must pay an additional levy to cover the costs incurred by the MMA for permitting direct consumer sales.²² They can also sell any excess milk to the MMA for processing into Creamery products. In 2021, there were two licensed producer-retailers: Cooil Brothers and Aalin Dairy.²³ At time of writing this paper, Cooil brothers has started producing milk for the Isle of Man Creamery,²⁴ and Aalin Dairy appears to still be in operation as a producer-retailer.²⁵

Milk Prices

Milk prices are regulated by secondary legislation under the Agricultural Marketing (No. 2) Act 1948. The Milk Prices Order 2022, presented to Tynwald in March 2022,²⁶ outlines the current prices. These prices apply exclusively to milk sold by MMA-licensed producers, not to imported milk, thereby controlling the market for local producers but not imports. See the table below for the changes in Retail Milk Prices as set by The Milk Prices Orders for 2018,²⁷ 2020,²⁸ 2021,²⁹ and 2022.³⁰ There was no new Milk Price Order in 2019, and there has not been a new Milk Price Order since 2022.

For jurisdictional comparison, as of June 2024, the Retail Price Index average price for a pint of pasteurised milk in the UK is 65p per pint (or approximately 11.4p per 100ml).³¹

¹⁹ PP 2021/0100: Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', May 2021 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 12

²⁰ Isle of Man Creamery, 'Meet the Producers – Isle of Man Creamery', [iomfoodanddrink.com](https://www.iomfoodanddrink.com/isle-of-man-creamery/), accessed 23 July 2024, <https://www.iomfoodanddrink.com/isle-of-man-creamery/>

²¹ PP 2021/0100: Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', May 2021 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 12

²² PP 2021/0100: Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', May 2021 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 13

²³ PP 2021/0100: Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', May 2021 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 13

²⁴ Isle of Man Creamery, 'The Cooil Family: Ballacreggan Farm', [isleofmancreamery.com](https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/our-farmers/cooil-family), accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/our-farmers/cooil-family>

²⁵ Aalin Dairy, 'About Us', [aalindairy.co.uk](https://aalindairy.co.uk/about-us/), accessed 5 August 2024, <https://aalindairy.co.uk/about-us/>

²⁶ Tynwald, Subject to no procedure (15 March 2022), <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t220315.pdf> p. 11

²⁷ SD 2018/0230: 'Milk Prices Order 2018', https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2018/2018-0230/2018-0230_1.pdf p. 5

²⁸ SD 2020/0189: 'Milk Prices Order 2020', https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2020/2020-0189/2020-0189_1.pdf p. 3

²⁹ SD 2021/0266: 'Milk Prices Order 2021', https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2021/2021-0266/2021-0266_1.pdf p. 7

³⁰ SD 2022/0042: 'Milk Prices Order 2022', https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2022/2022-0042/2022-0042_1.pdf p. 7

³¹ Office for National Statistics, 'RPI: Ave price – Milk: Pasteurised, per pint', [ons.gov.uk](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/cznt/mm23), accessed 23 July 2024, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/cznt/mm23>

Delivered to the premises of the buyer or collected by the buyer in containers provided by the seller	Price for containers denominated in ml (year)	Price for containers denominated in pints (year)	Price per 100ml (year)
Imperial measures of any volume		60p per pint (2018) 65p per pint (2020) 65p per pint (2021) 70p per pint (2022)	10.6p (2018) 11.4p (2020) 11.4p (2021) 12.3p (2022)
Metric measures up to and including 250ml, excluding sales in schools	Minimum 35p per 200ml (2018) Minimum 35p per 200ml (2020) Minimum 35p per 200ml (2021) Minimum 35p per 200ml (2022)		Minimum 17.5p (2018) Minimum 17.5p (2020) Minimum 17.5p (2021) Minimum 17.5p (2022)
Metric measures over 250ml but less than 1000ml	55p per 500ml (2018) 60p per 500ml (2020) 60p per 500ml (2021) 65p per 500ml (2022)		11p (2018) 12p (2020) 12p (2021) 13p (2022)
Metric measures of 1000ml or over but less than 1,750ml	£1.00 per litre (2018) £1.05 per litre (2020) £1.05 per litre (2021) £1.15 per litre (2022)		10p (2018) 10.5p (2020) 10.5p (2021) 11.5p (2022)
Metric measures of 1,750ml and over	£1.00 per litre (2018) £1.05 per litre (2020) £1.03 per litre (2021) £1.09 per litre (2022)		10p (2018) 10.5p (2020) 10.3p (2021) 10.9p (2022)

The Isle of Man Creamery adds value to its surplus milk through the creation of other dairy products,³² particularly with its cheese, which has achieved international export success.³³ The Creamery also produces cream, dairy butter, and buttermilk, primarily for the local market.³⁴ These products are not subject to price control.³⁵

Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee 2021 Report on the Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk

In July 2021, a report from the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee was laid before Tynwald on [The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk](#) which made several recommendations. These recommendations included developing a rating scheme for food producers, an escalation framework for food safety and quality issues, and an improved testing regime for producer-retailers.³⁶ Tynwald approved the recommendations in the report with amendments.³⁷ Below are Department updates on the implementation of these recommendations, as stated in the [Tynwald Policy Decisions Report 2023](#):³⁸

- Preliminary work has commenced on developing and delivering an operational, risk based food hygiene inspection program. The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture is currently assessing the work to date, and reviewing the proposal for the scheme.
- The [Food Safety Enforcement Policy](#) was approved, published on the Department's website, and proactively shared with certain stakeholders, such as the Island's three milk producers and the Milk Marketing Association soon after.

³² PP 2021/0100, 'Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> p. 75

³³ Isle of Man Creamery, 'FAQ: Where do you export your cheese to?', [isleofmancreamery.com](https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/faq), accessed 24 July 2024, <https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/faq>

³⁴ Isle of Man Creamery, 'Products', [isleofmancreamery.com](https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/products/milk), accessed 24 July 2024, <https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/products/milk>

³⁵ 'Agricultural Marketing Act 1934', AT 1 of 1934, https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1934/1934-0001/1934-0001_2.pdf

³⁶ PP 2021/0100, 'Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee First Report for the Session 2020-21: The Regulation of the Safety and Quality of Cow's Milk', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0100.pdf> pp. 2-3

³⁷ Tynwald, Item 14 (21 July 2021) 2881 T138, <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t210721.pdf>

³⁸ GD 2024/0033, 'Council of Ministers Tynwald Policy Decisions Report 2023', May 2024 <https://tynwald.org.im/index.php/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2024-GD-0033.pdf#page=48> pp. 48-49

- A number of documents have been circulated by the Department to the Island's Milk producers and the Milk Marketing Association, including: the Department's approved [Food Safety Enforcement Policy](#), an [Independent Environmental Health Officer's \(EHO\) report](#), the [Milk and Cream Sampling Guide](#), and the [Department's Approved Food Sampling Policy](#). These were also shared with Tynwald members in February 2022.³⁹ In line with the EHO report, where possible, samples of milk from the Island's milk producers have been taken every three months by the Environmental Health Team.
- A project to separate industry regulation and industry promotion is to be commenced by the Cabinet Office, working with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture and the regulatory bodies therein.

5. The Isle of Man Meat Plant

The Meat Plant is the only abattoir on the Island, and exclusively processes beef, lamb, and pork. The Meat Plant was operated by the Fatstock Marketing Association (FMA) until 2018 when it transferred operations to the Isle of Man Meats,⁴⁰ which is majority-owned by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.⁴¹ In July 2021, Tynwald voted that the Meat Plant is a 'significant strategic asset' for the Isle of Man,⁴² and received the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee's Report on the Meat Plant which states that 'the ability to slaughter and process livestock on Island is important for our food security, the agricultural economy, and animal welfare'.⁴³

Derogation Policy

From 1982 to 2010, the Island's red meat industry benefitted from a policy known as derogation. This policy, agreed upon with the EU, allowed the Isle of Man to limit the importation of beef, veal, and lamb. Consequently, around 80% of the red meat produced on the Isle of Man stayed on-Island for local consumers.⁴⁴ In 2006, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs advised the Isle of Man that derogation conflicted with existing UK and EU policies on agriculture and the free market, stating it would not be extended again. Despite a delegation in 2010 seeking an extension of the derogation policy, the attempt was unsuccessful, and derogation ended on 31st December 2010.⁴⁵

Financial Support

In 2008, the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture started providing financial support to help sustain the Meat Plant in the form of an annual subvention. This subvention was planned to assist the Meat Plant through a transitional policy change in three phases, with phase two (post-derogation) expected to need the most support.⁴⁶ The annual subvention amounts ranged between £130,000 and £1,010,000 up until 2018. In 2019, Isle of Man Meats began receiving approximately £2 million per year in subventions, with the most recently published amount being granted to offset the plant's

³⁹ Tynwald Hansard Appendix, Item 3 (18 January 2022),

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t220118-HA-I3.pdf>

⁴⁰ 'Meat plant changes on the way', *Three.fm*, 20 February 2018, <https://www.three.fm/news/isle-of-man-news/meat-plant-changes-on-the-way/> (accessed 27 August 2024)

⁴¹ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 1

⁴² Tynwald, Item 16, (21 July 2021 and 22 July 2021), 2963 T138, <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t210722.pdf#page=6>

⁴³ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 9

⁴⁴ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 14

⁴⁵ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 14

⁴⁶ Tynwald, Item 15 (17 December 2008), 380 T126 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20002020/th17122008.pdf>

operating loss of £2,103,042 and interest charges of £9,432 in 2022.⁴⁷ Both the former Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Geoffrey Boot MHK, and the Chairman of Isle of Man Meats, Tim Baker MHK, had stated on multiple occasions that the Meat Plant would not survive without this financial support.⁴⁸

Table of subventions provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture to the Meat Plant –

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
£350,000 ⁴⁹	£350,000 ⁵⁰	£350,000 ⁵¹	£130,000 ⁵²	£706,381 ⁵³ / £680,754 ⁵⁴	£900,000 ⁵⁵
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
£610,000 ⁵⁶	£632,500 ⁵⁷	£765,000 ⁵⁸	£589,000 ⁵⁹	£1,010,000 ⁶⁰	£1,995,529 ⁶¹ / £2,135,611 ⁶²
2020	2021	2022			
£2,004,471 ⁶³ £2,030,758 ⁶⁴	£2,000,000 ⁶⁵	£2,109,780 ⁶⁶			

The Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee's 2021 report on The Meat Plant discussed the subventions provided to Isle of Man Meats and expressed concern that, as Isle of Man Meats only supplies the local marketplace with 20-30% of the meat it processes, the subvention appears to have primarily facilitated the off-Island meat market rather than improved the Isle of Man's food security.⁶⁷

⁴⁷ GD 2023/0006: Isle of Man Meat Company Limited, 'Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022', March 2023 <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2023-GD-0006.pdf> p. 14

⁴⁸ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 20

⁴⁹ House of Keys, Written Question 14 (30 April 2013), <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1887.pdf>

⁵⁰ House of Keys, Written Question 14 (30 April 2013), <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1887.pdf>

⁵¹ House of Keys, Written Question 14 (30 April 2013), <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1887.pdf>

⁵² House of Keys, Written Question 14 (30 April 2013), <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1887.pdf>

⁵³ House of Keys, Written Question 14 (30 April 2013), <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/OPHansardIndex1114/1887.pdf>

⁵⁴ FOI response dated 6th January 2017: https://www.gov.im/media/1354685/20170106-iomm-trading-figuresfoi-response_redacted-disclosure-log-v2.pdf

⁵⁵ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 39

⁵⁶ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 39

⁵⁷ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 39

⁵⁸ GD 2017/0024: 'Detailed Government Accounts 2016/17', July 2017, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/Tynwald%2020162018/2017-GD-0024.pdf> p. 88

⁵⁹ GD 2017/0024: 'Detailed Government Accounts 2016/17', July 2017, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/Tynwald%2020162018/2017-GD-0024.pdf> p. 88

⁶⁰ GD 2019/0037: 'Detailed Government Accounts 2018/19', July 2019, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20182021/2019-GD-0037.pdf> p. 100

⁶¹ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 39

⁶² House of Keys, Oral Question 13 (4 May 2021), 1901 K138 <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/k210504.pdf>

⁶³ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 39

⁶⁴ House of Keys, Oral Question 13 (4 May 2021), 1901 K138 <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/k210504.pdf>

⁶⁵ GD 2022/0008: 'Isle of Man Meat Company Limited Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021', March 2022, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2022-GD-0008.pdf> p. 9

⁶⁶ GD 2023/0006: 'Isle of Man Meat Company Limited Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022', March 2023, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2023-GD-0006.pdf> p. 10

⁶⁷ PP 2021/0150, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 'Third Report for the Session 2020-21: The Meat Plant', <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/pp/Reports/2021-PP-0150.pdf> p. 10

Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee 2021 Report on the Meat Plant

Volume 1 of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee's 2021 Report on the Meat Plant was debated by Tynwald on the 21st and 22nd July 2021 and the following recommendations (which were made by way of an amendment to the motion for Tynwald to receive the report) were approved⁶⁸ –

That Tynwald is of the opinion that:

- (a) The Meat Plant is a significant strategic asset for the Isle of Man which has been severely affected by a number of changes in agricultural policies and external legislative pressures over the last 15 years;
- (b) putting any commercial enterprise into Government ownership is a major policy decision which should be scrutinised and voted on by Tynwald;
- (c) the Council of Ministers should develop a policy on government ownership for consideration in Tynwald in November 2021;
- (d) the equity in Isle of Man Meats Company held by Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture should be transferred to Treasury urgently; and
- (e) Meat Plant Governance, management, regulation, strategy and operations should be reviewed and reformed as soon as is practical.

These recommendations were reaffirmed by Tynwald on the 13th December 2022 following the debate of Volume 2 of ENVI's report on the Meat Plant.⁶⁹ The most recent work undertaken on these recommendations, according to the [Tynwald Policy Decisions Report 2023](#), is as follows⁷⁰ –

- **Recommendation (b):** This is still under consideration [by the Treasury] as part of the ongoing policy work on state owned enterprises.
- **Recommendations (c) and (e):** Actions have been undertaken, and are underway, with regards to improving the governance, management, regulation, strategy and operations at the Isle of Man Meat Company Ltd. The governance at the Meat Plant has been improved significantly, with Non-Executive Directors appointed to the Board of Directors, and the appointment of a new Chair, all of whom are able to provide a breadth of experience both specific to the industry and in the spheres of governance, finance, risk and compliance. In June 2023, the Managing Director took up post, and time and energy has been focused on three key priority areas: The reform of the workforce at Isle of Man Meats, improved operations at the meat plant and regulatory compliance. A financial plan to achieve a financially stable position is being developed by the MD, Chair, and Board with shareholder support.
- **Recommendation (d):** This matter is connected with a piece of work on state owned entities.

Birnie Consultancy Audit Report

In October 2022, an Audit Report on the Meat Plant was published by [Birnie Consultancy](#), a consultancy for the agri-food industry. There were a number of areas in which the Meat Plant was deemed to be underperforming, with most of the issues identified being due to a lack of staff expertise, efficiency, and reliability.⁷¹ Factory throughput and output per person was noted to be low, with the

⁶⁸ Tynwald Votes and Proceedings, Item 16 and 52 (20-23 July 2021), <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/vp/VP/2021-PP-0173.pdf> pp. 20-25

⁶⁹ Tynwald, Item 4 (13 December 2022), 376 T140

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t221213.pdf#page=60>

⁷⁰ GD 2024/0033, 'Council of Ministers Tynwald Policy Decisions Report 2023', May 2024, <https://tynwald.org.im/index.php/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2024-GD-0033.pdf> pp. 47-51

⁷¹ Birnie Consultancy, 'Isle of Man Meat Plant Audit September/October 2022', gov.im, accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1378260/isle-of-man-meats-final-report-birnie-consultancy-published.pdf> p. 6

slaughter of animals taking longer than would be achievable with appropriate staffing.⁷² Additionally, the report stated that 'the sales model is fundamentally flawed', highlighting the lack of oversight around pricing and lack of engagement with customers; that 'adherence to regulation is poor', and that there were a number of Health and Safety failings; and that 'there is an inadequate provision of information'.⁷³ However, factory facilities were described as 'strong and well maintained'.⁷⁴

Government Response

Following the publication of the Audit Report, the Isle of Man Meat Company appointed a new Chairperson and Board of Directors in November 2022. In the company's [Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022](#), the Board of Directors state –

The newly formed Board of Directors have noted the report and are taking it extremely seriously, with work on the turnaround plan already started. A significant amount of work has already taken place by the company in response to the report with further resources having been obtained to help the plant address some of the highlighted issues. A full 3 year strategic plan is being developed by the Board including transformation activity, sales strategy and operational efficiencies. The now Chair of the Board, the Minister for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, stated in Tynwald (13/12/22) that "the meat plant is indeed a significant strategic asset for the Isle of Man" and is "committed to working with the Board of Directors to address the issues raised within the Audit Report".⁷⁵

After a number of manufacturing issues at the Isle of Man Meat Plant led to the [recalling and disposal](#) of beef in February 2024, several measures have been undertaken to improve the Meat Plant's operations and productivity. These measures include the [recruitment of a new management team](#) with skills in regulatory compliance and agriculture sales,⁷⁶ and the [appointment of a new technical team](#) with overall responsibility for the facilities, engineering, compliance and hygiene requirements, to ensure a more procedural and stable approach to how the factory is managed.⁷⁷ Furthermore, the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK, stated in House of Keys on the 13th February 2024 that 'regularised meetings between the chair of the board, the managing director and the shareholders, DEFA and Fatstock Marketing Association (FMA), have significantly improved the flow of information and the understanding of the key issues that the company continues to address, as well as those opportunities presented'.⁷⁸ There is also an ongoing programme of work that includes undertaking a full review of equipment, policies, and processes.⁷⁹

⁷² Birnie Consultancy, 'Isle of Man Meat Plant Audit September/October 2022', gov.im, accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1378260/isle-of-man-meats-final-report-birnie-consultancy-published.pdf> p. 7

⁷³ Birnie Consultancy, 'Isle of Man Meat Plant Audit September/October 2022', gov.im, accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1378260/isle-of-man-meats-final-report-birnie-consultancy-published.pdf> p. 8

⁷⁴ Birnie Consultancy, 'Isle of Man Meat Plant Audit September/October 2022', gov.im, accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.gov.im/media/1378260/isle-of-man-meats-final-report-birnie-consultancy-published.pdf> p. 6

⁷⁵ GD 2023/0006: 'Isle of Man Meat Company Limited Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022', March 2023, <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/opqp/sittings/20212026/2023-GD-0006.pdf> p. 14

⁷⁶ Tynwald, Oral Question 3 (13 February 2024), 580 K141

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/k240213.pdf>; Isle of Man Meats, 'About Us', iommeats.com, accessed 5 August 2024, <https://www.iommeats.com/about/>

⁷⁷ Tynwald, Oral Question 17 (19 March 2024) 1044 T141

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t240319.pdf>

⁷⁸ House of Keys, Oral Question 3 (13 February 2024), 579 K141

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/k240213.pdf#page=12>

⁷⁹ Tynwald, Oral Question 17 (19 March 2024) 1047 T141

<https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t240319.pdf>

However, further issues with meat production have since been reported:

- In April 2024, Isle of Man Meats publicly apologised for stock availability issues, which the managing director attributed to breakdowns of 30 year-old equipment and higher demand during the Easter period.⁸⁰
- In June 2024, an Isle of Man butcher stated that Isle of Man Meats had been missing parts of his delivery order, highlighting specific incidents in June but reporting that there had been problems like these for several months. He stated that this was an issue affecting all Manx butchers, and that he would now be ordering meat from the UK as a result.⁸¹ The Meat Plant responded by stating that they had reached out to retailers in advance that some items would not be available during the TT period due to road access issues.⁸²

At time of writing, no comments on these issues have been made in Tynwald.

6. Wheat and Flour

Laxey Glen Mills and Ramsey Bakery

The Isle of Man has one flour mill, Laxey Glen Mills. The building has been under Government ownership since 1974,⁸³ however the operation of the mill is run at arms-length by a board of directors.⁸⁴ Laxey Glen Mills' largest customer Ramsey Bakery, which bought about 90% of its flour, **ceased trading in 2022**.⁸⁵ In July 2022, it was reported that Laxey Glen Mills had enough wheat stock for two years' supply at the present rate of consumption.⁸⁶ Prior to the closure of Ramsey Bakery, growers had been contracted to produce approximately 13,000 tonnes of milling wheat per year for Laxey Glen Mills.⁸⁷ As a result of the closure of Ramsey Bakery and the decreased on-Island demand for flour from Laxey Glen Mills, farmers who were previously growing milling wheat for Laxey Glen Mills became no longer contracted to do so.⁸⁸

The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK, confirmed in a Tynwald sitting on the 21st November 2023 that Laxey Glen Mill is looking to offer a small harvest contract to growers for approximately 500 tonnes of milling wheat for the coming years.⁸⁹ The Minister further stated that she is aware that there are some growers who may also look at exporting opportunities.

⁸⁰ 'Isle of Man Meats apologies for 'stock availability issues'', *Manx Radio*, 2 April 2024, <https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/isle-of-man-meats-apologises-for-stock-availability-issues/> (accessed 27 August 2024)

⁸¹ 'Isle of Man butcher now ordering meat from UK after being 'let down by plant 20 minutes up the road'', *Isle of Man Today*, 10 June 2024, <https://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-butcher-now-ordering-meat-from-uk-after-being-let-down-by-plant-20-minutes-up-the-road-695596> (accessed 27 August 2024)

⁸² 'Abattoir boss defends meat supply after TT', *BBC News Isle of Man*, 12 June 2024, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpvv25ldn3vo> (accessed 27 August 2024)

⁸³ Tynwald, Item 19 (9 July 1974), T1001, <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/19601980/TC-19740709-v0091.pdf#page=37>

⁸⁴ 'Mill's retrospective plans not backed by authority', *BBC News Isle of Man*, 9 February 2024, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3q3r2r5818o> (accessed 9 February 2024)

⁸⁵ 'Ramsey Bakery: Island's largest bakery to close at end of April', *BBC News Isle of Man*, 3 April 2022, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-60961748> (accessed 5 August 2024)

⁸⁶ Siobhan Fletcher, 'Future of Laxey Mill called into question' *Isle of Man Today*, 29 July 2022, <https://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/business/future-of-laxey-mill-called-into-question-556802> (accessed 5 August 2024)

⁸⁷ Tynwald, Oral Question 9 (21 November 2023), 213 T141 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf>

⁸⁸ 'We've been abandoned' say our wheat growers', *Isle of Man Today*, 20 January 2023 <https://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/weve-been-abandoned-say-our-wheat-growers-588887> (accessed 5 August 2024)

⁸⁹ Tynwald, Oral Question 9 (21 November 2023), 213 T141 <https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf>

Future Plans for Flour Production

Following the closure of Ramsey Bakery, in Tynwald on the 19th July 2022, Daphne Caine MHK asked the Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Clare Barber MHK what her Department's plan was to secure on-Island flour production. The Minister stated in her reply that –

Ramsey Bakery took 80% of the flour produced from Laxey Glen Mills, and its closure has naturally had a significant impact on the business model of the mill. Given the mill's role in food security, and as part of the Food Matters Strategy, my Department has recently provided support for Laxey Glen Mill to assess its future options through a paper. My Department has held discussions with the Manx National Farmers' Union to understand the concerns of their members, as well as a number of bakery businesses on Island to understand their long-term plans and also with milling wheat growers. However, the role for my Department is a tricky one in this situation. Our aim is to support the wheat producers, but we are not shareholders or involved with the strategic direction or operations of Laxey Glen Mill. Whilst we are listening and keen to understand how we can support the Island's wheat growers, we, like them, must await the outcome of the report and the agreed long-term plan for the mill. Regarding the security of on-Island flour production, I understand that for at least the next 24 months this has a stable footing, with 1,300 tonnes of wheat available on Island to be milled. The long-term plan for the mill will of course determine more clearly the longer-term future of flour production on Island.⁹⁰

The Minister also stated on the 20th June 2023 that there are multiple options being considered for the future of the development of a future mill, including the redevelopment of Laxey Glen Mill and building a new mill on an alternative site. Additionally, the Minister informed the Court that the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture had recently held a workshop with milling wheat growers and that –

There is no question that some of the farmers have been able to find alternate markets for their wheat, but equally I am aware that for some they were providing almost uniquely to the Laxey Glen Mill and there are significant challenges. Current estimates show there are 900 tonnes of wheat available to the Mill already at present, but ultimately it will be a decision for the shareholders and for the board of the Mill as to how they proceed with purchasing what they require.⁹¹

The Minister further stated in Tynwald on the 20th June 2023 that on-Island flour milling will likely feature within the (yet to be published) Food Security Strategy,⁹² and reaffirmed this in Tynwald on the 21st November 2023.⁹³

Financial Support

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Treasury committed to providing Laxey Glen Mills with an annual grant of £41,000. The Treasury granted a further one-time sum of £59,371 to the Mill to assist with the upgrading of their fire alarm system. The Minister for the Treasury, Dr Alex Allinson MHK, has stated that the annual £41,000 subsidy payment to Laxey Glen Mills in order to support its existence will continue for the time being to offset losses, but that '[he hopes] that once the [Food Security Strategy] is fully developed and the security of milling on the Isle of Man can be established, the organisation

⁹⁰ Tynwald, Oral Question 12 (19 July 2023), 1150 T139

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t220719.pdf>

⁹¹ Tynwald, Oral Question 5 (20 June 2023), 1233 T140

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t230620.pdf>

⁹² Tynwald, Oral Question 5 (20 June 2023), 1233 T140

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t230620.pdf>

⁹³ Tynwald, Oral Question 9 (21 November 2023), 213 T141

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf>

can go forward with a much better long-term financial basis'.⁹⁴ Additionally, the Minister for Treasury said in Tynwald on the 13th December 2022 that the 'Treasury has provided *ad hoc* accounting support through staff resource' and that 'a Treasury officer has also been appointed to the board of directors of the company in a non-executive capacity'.⁹⁵

7. Other BIMR Jurisdictions

Alderney

In Alderney, recent efforts to improve agricultural productivity focus on promoting sustainable practices and local food production. Alderney's [Strategy for Nature and Agriculture](#) states the following objectives:

- Identify existing expenditure/resource demand on agriculture and establish future financial/resource needs;⁹⁶
- Increase the quality of States owned land currently managed in part for the purpose of agricultural productivity;⁹⁷ and
- Support innovative agricultural practices to maximise food security.⁹⁸

The strategy also states that future action to accomplish these objectives will take place through the development of future initiatives, not legislation.⁹⁹

Cyprus

Cyprus has been implementing a range of measures to boost agricultural productivity. Key initiatives include the promotion of precision agriculture technologies, such as [drone monitoring](#), to enhance crop monitoring and management.¹⁰⁰ Additionally, Cyprus has invested in [modern irrigation systems](#)¹⁰¹ and offered [subsidies to farmers](#) adopting innovative farm technologies and sustainable practices.¹⁰²

Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands have focused on improving livestock productivity through the Farm Improvement Programme,¹⁰³ particularly in sheep farming, which is a major economic activity.¹⁰⁴ The government has provided funding for [genetic improvement programs](#) to enhance wool and meat quality.¹⁰⁵ Efforts

⁹⁴ Tynwald, Oral Question 20 (21 November 2023), 243 T141

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t231121.pdf>

⁹⁵ Tynwald, Oral Question 3 (13 December 2022), 329 T140

<https://tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/hansard/20202040/t221213.pdf>

⁹⁶ States of Alderney, '2024 Strategy for Nature & Agriculture', Alderney.gov.gg, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://alderney.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=177536&p=0> p 18

⁹⁷ States of Alderney, '2024 Strategy for Nature & Agriculture', Alderney.gov.gg, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://alderney.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=177536&p=0> p 20

⁹⁸ States of Alderney, '2024 Strategy for Nature & Agriculture', Alderney.gov.gg, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://alderney.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=177536&p=0> p 22

⁹⁹ States of Alderney, '2024 Strategy for Nature & Agriculture', Alderney.gov.gg, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://alderney.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=177536&p=0> p 24

¹⁰⁰ GAO RFID Inc., 'RFID, BLE, IoT & Drones & Cyprus', gaorfid.com, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://gaorfid.com/rfid-ble-iot-drones-cyprus/>

¹⁰¹ Green Air Cyprus, 'What you should know about the water irrigation system in Cyprus', greenair-cy.com, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.greenair-cy.com/>

¹⁰² Kyriacos Nicolaou, 'Ministry launches agricultural fuel subsidy programme', *Cyprus Mail*, 1 April 2024, <https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/04/01/ministry-launches-agricultural-fuel-subsidy-programme/> (accessed 18 July 2024)

¹⁰³ Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture, 'Farm Improvement Programme', falklands.gov.fk, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/doa/saladero/20-farm-improvement-programme>

¹⁰⁴ Falklands South Atlantic, 'The Falkland Islands and South Atlantic', falklands-southatlantic.com, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.falklands-southatlantic.com/farming.html>

¹⁰⁵ Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture, 'Genetic Improvement Programme', falklands.gov.fk, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/doa/saladero/10-agricultural-services>

also include pasture management training and the introduction of rotational grazing systems to maintain soil fertility and reduce overgrazing.¹⁰⁶

Gibraltar

According to the most recent information available, there is no cultivated land in Gibraltar,¹⁰⁷ and Gibraltar has little to no agriculture industry.¹⁰⁸

Guernsey

With the exception of [emergency financial supports given to dairy farmers in 2023](#),¹⁰⁹ there appears to be very little public information on government initiatives to support agriculture in Guernsey. The Environment and Infrastructure Committee is currently [reviewing the Island's dairy sector to investigate its future viability](#), while a wider agricultural review has been paused.¹¹⁰

Jersey

Following a vote by States Members, funding of [£3.44 million has been provided for agriculture and fisheries](#) through the rural and marine support schemes.¹¹¹ Additionally, a transfer of [£10 million is due to be made to the Agricultural Loans Fund](#).¹¹²

Jersey's government previously ran a [Rural Initiative Scheme](#) to maintain Jersey's rural infrastructure, including agriculture.¹¹³ This funding appears to have been primarily aimed at supporting rural businesses following the COVID-19 pandemic. The live government [webpage for the Rural Initiative Scheme](#) states that 'the Scheme is currently being redesigned for 2022 and more information will be available soon'.¹¹⁴ No further information on this appears to have been published.

Malta

In Malta, small-scale family-run farms face challenges in achieving economies of scale and competitiveness. [The Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) Strategic Plan \(2023-2027\)](#) is intended to address these issues with a €166 million budget, focusing on goals like environmental conservation, fair farmer income, and improved rural infrastructure.¹¹⁵ Funded by the EAGF and EAFRD, the plan

¹⁰⁶ Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture, 'Farm Improvement Programme', falklands.gov.fk, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/doa/saladero/20-farm-improvement-programme>

¹⁰⁷ CIA: The World Factbook, 'Gibraltar', cia.gov, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/gibraltar/#geography>

¹⁰⁸ European Commission, 'Agri-food Trade Statistical Factsheet: European Union – Gibraltar', agriculture.ec.europa.eu, accessed 18 July 2024, https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/agrifood-gibraltar_en_0.pdf

¹⁰⁹ States of Guernsey, 'States of Guernsey provides dairy farmers with further emergency financial support', *States of Guernsey Media Releases*, 20 February 2023, <https://www.gov.gg/emergency-support-for-dairy-farmers> (accessed 18 July 2024)

¹¹⁰ Kit Hannah, 'Focus on dairy industry as wider agricultural review halted', *Guernsey News*, 14 March 2023, <https://gsy.bailiwickexpress.com/gsy/news/focus-dairy-industry-wider-agricultural-review-halted/> (accessed 18 July 2024)

¹¹¹ Government of Jersey, 'Government Plan 2024-2027', gov.je, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Government%20Plan%202024%20to%202027.pdf> p 52

¹¹² Government of Jersey, 'Government Plan 2024-2027', gov.je, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Government%20Plan%202024%20to%202027.pdf> p 97

¹¹³ Government of Jersey, 'Rural Initiative Scheme: Recapitalisation', gov.je, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.je/Government/PlanningPerformance/Pages/MinisterialDecisions.aspx?docid=746D9B63-1A69-4F15-A535-D2BD9C2AD58A&showreport=yes>

¹¹⁴ Government of Jersey, 'Rural Initiative Scheme: Available grants', gov.je, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.je/Benefits/Grants/IndustryGrants/Pages/RuralInitiativeScheme.aspx>

¹¹⁵ Government of Malta, 'Malta's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan', apra.gov.mt, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://arpa.gov.mt/en/malta-common-agricultural-policy-strategic-plan/>

aims to foster a resilient agricultural sector, ensure long-term food security, and allow farmers to adopt new technologies.¹¹⁶

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland's 2022 Agricultural Policy](#) focuses on increasing productivity, environmental sustainability, and resilience. Key measures include the Farm Sustainability Payment,¹¹⁷ Beef Sustainability Package,¹¹⁸ and Farming with Nature Package,¹¹⁹ all aimed at increasing productivity and making efficient use of resources while reducing carbon emissions. The policy document, shaped by public consultation, also emphasizes innovation, knowledge transfer, and a simplified system of Farm Sustainability Standards to enhance the sector's overall performance.

St Helena

In an [Agriculture Needs Analysis Report conducted in 2018](#), it was found that St Helena has further need of appropriate farming technologies, agriculture research and development, and training and upskilling for farmers, among a number of other things in order to ensure food security.¹²⁰

The most recently published [Agriculture Policy and Strategy](#) covered the 2014-2020 period and emphasized improving agricultural productivity through infrastructure development, access to land, and efficient use of agricultural inputs.¹²¹ Key areas included enhancing infrastructure for production and storage, optimizing land use, and improving access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation. Initiatives also targeted pest and disease management, technology adoption, and human resource development. Proposed strategies include public-private partnerships, training programs, and incentivizing innovation to boost fruit, livestock, and specialty crop production while addressing challenges like pests and labour shortages.¹²²

Scotland

The Scottish Government aims to lead in sustainable and regenerative agriculture by supporting high-quality food production, climate action, and nature restoration. The [vision document](#) emphasizes collaboration with farmers, crofters, and land managers to enhance local food production sustainably and prioritize rural community resilience.¹²³ Initiatives include promoting organic farming, reducing emissions, enhancing biodiversity, and fostering new entrants into farming. The government plans

¹¹⁶ Government of Malta, 'Malta's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan', [arpa.gov.mt](https://arpa.gov.mt/en/malta-common-agricultural-policy-strategic-plan/), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://arpa.gov.mt/en/malta-common-agricultural-policy-strategic-plan/>

¹¹⁷ Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs, 'Future Agricultural Policy Decisions for Northern Ireland', [daera-ni.gov.uk](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Future%20Agricultural%20Policy%20Decisions%20for%20Northern%20Ireland%20%28Final%29%20%28002%29.pdf> p 1

¹¹⁸ Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs, 'Future Agricultural Policy Decisions for Northern Ireland', [daera-ni.gov.uk](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Future%20Agricultural%20Policy%20Decisions%20for%20Northern%20Ireland%20%28Final%29%20%28002%29.pdf> p 3

¹¹⁹ Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs, 'Future Agricultural Policy Decisions for Northern Ireland', [daera-ni.gov.uk](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Future%20Agricultural%20Policy%20Decisions%20for%20Northern%20Ireland%20%28Final%29%20%28002%29.pdf> p 6

¹²⁰ St Helena Agriculture & Nature Resources Division, 'St Helena Agriculture: Development and Training Needs', [sainthelena.gov.sh](https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Agriculture-Training-Needs-Analysis-Report-Oct-2018.pdf>

¹²¹ St Helena Government, 'Growing Forward: Our National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020', [sainthelena.gov.sh](https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/National-Agric-Policy-Implement-Strategy-Final.pdf>

¹²² St Helena Government, 'Growing Forward: Our National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020', [sainthelena.gov.sh](https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/National-Agric-Policy-Implement-Strategy-Final.pdf>

¹²³ Scottish Government, 'Sustainable and regenerative farming – next steps: statement', [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot), accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/next-step-delivering-vision-scotland-leader-sustainable-regenerative-farming/pages/1/>

gradual changes to agriculture support frameworks, ensuring a smooth transition while prioritizing engagement with stakeholders for informed decision-making.¹²⁴

Scotland provides a [number of services and schemes to farmers](#), including an advisory service, an Agri-Environment Climate Scheme, a Small Farms Grant Scheme, and schemes for the raising of sheep and beef.¹²⁵

Wales

The Welsh Government supports organic farming, precision agriculture, and diversification initiatives. Key programs include [grants for improving the efficiency and environmental impact of farms](#),¹²⁶ [payments to support fully-certified organic farmers](#),¹²⁷ issuing [risk management advice](#) (e.g., flood risk management),¹²⁸ and [subsidised training for farmers](#).¹²⁹ Details of a [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#) have been recently published, which will be introduced in 2026.¹³⁰

An [Agri-Tech Action Plan](#) has been endorsed by Ministers and aims to harness digital innovations to enhance agricultural productivity sustainably.¹³¹ Proposed initiatives include supporting farm adoption of technology, promoting environmental monitoring, and enhancing educational networks. Metrics and dependencies will guide the plan's implementation, with a focus on increasing productivity, market responsiveness, and environmental sustainability.¹³²

¹²⁴ Scottish Government, 'Sustainable and regenerative farming – next steps: statement', gov.scot, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/next-step-delivering-vision-scotland-leader-sustainable-regenerative-farming/pages/1/>

¹²⁵ Scottish Government, 'Rural Payments and Services: All schemes', ruralpayments.org, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/>

¹²⁶ Welsh Government, 'Agriculture Spring Update 2024', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-03/agriculture-spring-update-2024.pdf> p 8

¹²⁷ Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, 'Written Statement: Announcement of Organic Support Payment 2024', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-announcement-organic-support-payment-2024>

¹²⁸ Welsh Government, 'Agriculture Spring Update 2024', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-03/agriculture-spring-update-2024.pdf> p 16

¹²⁹ Welsh Government, 'Farming Connect, 'Training Courses'', businesswales.gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/skills-and-training/training-courses>

¹³⁰ Welsh Government, 'Sustainable Farming Scheme', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-guide>

¹³¹ Welsh Government, 'An Agri-Tech Action Plan for Wales', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11/agri-tech-action-plan.pdf>

¹³² Welsh Government, 'An Agri-Tech Action Plan for Wales', gov.wales, accessed 18 July 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11/agri-tech-action-plan.pdf>