



# The Beet Brief

10 May 2019

## UK beet price tracker

£/adjusted tonne	Base price, £/t	Bonus, €/t (latest month)	ECB £/€ rate (monthly average)	Bonus, £/t (latest month)	Bonus, £/t (cumulative to date)
2018 one-year contract	£22.50	0	-	0	0
2017 three-year contract	£22	0	-	0	0
2018 three-year contract	£22.50	0	-	0	0

Prices before adjustments. Bonuses apply when EU price >€475/t, and are liable to exchange rate fluctuations.

### Highlights

- The average EU white sugar price in February 2019 remained virtually unchanged at €314/t
- NFU Sugar seeking expressions of interest in seed processing for the 2020 crop

**The average EU white sugar price in February 2019 remained virtually unchanged from the month before,** rising only €2/t to €314/t. Spot delivered prices reported by Platts for early May in Western Europe also remain stable at €450/t.

FO Licht released its first estimate of EU beet area in 2019, down 6% from 2018. They note that at this level, in common with other forecasters' expectations, production could still end up above 2018 output if yields rebound after last year's drought-affected performance. This contrast with a 5% decline estimated by LMC and 4% projected by the EU Commission. Our own conversations with beet growing colleagues through CIBE also point toward an area decline within the range above.

Crop development since planting is now in the front of minds in the market. Virtually all beet growing areas across Europe have suffered from continued dry weather since last summer, coupled with a colder spell in the first half of April in many areas that may have hindered emergence. Here in the UK, you have given us some reports of frost damage and occurrences of doubles among various other issues. Please contact NFU Sugar with any other feedback you can provide us with on emergence, drilling conditions and seed quality/performance.

**NFU Sugar are seeking expressions of interest in the seed processing contract for the 2020 crop.** The UK sugar beet seed model, jointly operated by NFU Sugar and British Sugar, orders UK beet growers' raw seed requirements, arranges priming, pelleting and treatment according to growers' orders and distributes finished seed onto farm according to growers' orders. As AB Sugar owns the seed processing company Germain's, NFU Sugar has sole responsibility for negotiating the supply of seed priming, pelleting and treatment.

More information on the information being sought is available online at: <https://www.nfuonline.com/sectors/nfu-sugar/nfu-sugar-news/seed-processing-contract-open-for-expressions-of-interest/>

**Next issue expected: Friday 7 June 2019**



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