



International Meat Trade Association (IMTA) *Manifesto 2024*



International Meat Trade Association



Our Mission Statement

IMTA is a UK trade association, representing predominantly UK companies importing and exporting meat. Our goal is the facilitation of the trade in meat, ensuring UK consumer choice, food security and carcass balance through import and export. IMTA provides leading expertise on UK trade policy including on customs, tariffs, quotas, rules of origin, WTO, free trade agreements, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) conditions and market access.

What IMTA Stands For

The Important Role of Imports

In 2023, imports accounted for 40.4% of total UK meat supplies for consumption (production + imports - exports). This provides the UK consumer with food security, year round supply and greater choice. The UK imported around 2.2 million tonnes of meat or meat products in 2023 from around 50 countries.

Need for Export Market Access

In 2023, the UK exported 14.8% of its total meat production. Exporting cuts that are not demanded by the UK consumer adds value to the overall carcass and means better returns to the producer, in turn making the industry more economically sustainable. The UK exported around 0.8 million tonnes to over 130 countries in 2023.

Quality Consultation Required

Thorough consultation of industry in parliamentary decision making is required to ensure that policy is fit for use and workable. Through their practical trading experience, members can contribute in an important way to policy making.

Recognition of the Role of Meat in the Diet

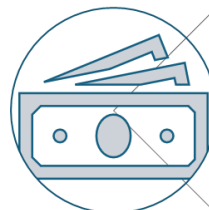
IMTA believes that policy must give due consideration to the important role meat plays in a healthy, balanced diet. It is crucial for the UK to develop informed policies that consider meat's importance in ensuring food security and addressing nutritional deficiencies. Nutrients such as protein, essential amino acids, vitamins B12, D, iron, and zinc are simply more bioavailable in meat.

IMTA in Numbers



67 Trading Members

Mainly UK importers, exporters, wholesalers and some end users



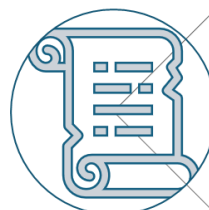
£3.5 billion turnover

Generated by member companies



21 Associate Members

Inc. shipping lines, freight forwarders, ports, levy boards and cold stores



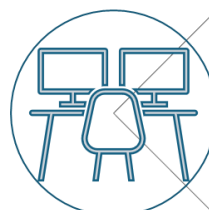
129 Year History

IMTA was founded in 1895



Over 15,000 employees

Working in member companies



6 Full Time Employees

What We Do For Members

Provide a voice for the meat trade sector in government relations

Assist members to navigate policy change

Answer technical queries on customs, tariffs and SPS issues

Create networking opportunities

What We Do For Government

Provide detailed views on policy development, to ensure policy proposals are workable in practice for the industry

Represent members' views as a voice for the meat trade sector, including in relation to Free Trade Agreements

Provide intel on trade barriers and suggest proposals to resolve them



IMTA's Key Asks on Import

1. The Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) must be implemented in a way that doesn't unnecessarily impede on or compromise the continued flow of meat to the UK consumer.
2. Government should sufficiently staff the Imports team in Defra so that importers can get quick responses to their questions and consistent advice. Like HMRC Defra needs to provide 24hr support to traders, to match the 24hr nature of trade with the EU.
3. Government must ensure adequate funding is allocated to Port Health Authorities (PHAs) to ensure they are resourced to implement the requirements of BTOM without trucks and containers being delayed while awaiting border checks. Additional resources would allow PHAs more scope to allow derogations on the unworkable requirement for one working day pre-notification of imports of meat from the EU.
4. For the UK to be seen as a good country to do business with, the government should adopt a trade facilitative approach. There are opportunities to develop a more proportionate and sensible import of trade samples regime and a more pragmatic approach towards Article 5 of the retained regulation 2019/628 which doesn't give UK Official Veterinarians adequate discretion to allow for correction letters or replacement certificates on import.
5. As a modern trading nation, the UK should prioritise development of a fully electronic system for both EU and Rest of World imports. The current reliance on paper, which can go missing or be damaged, is archaic.
6. We would encourage government to continue work on creating the Single Trade Window to avoid importers having to make multiple submissions to multiple bodies such as Port Health and Customs.

IMTA's Key Asks on Consultation

1. Government should recognise that consultation is vital when developing trade policy in order to ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to input.
2. Government should consult with the widest possible range of stakeholders when legislating and developing policy. The food sector is much broader than just supermarkets and large companies. Many IMTA members are SMEs and play a vital role in supplying food to the UK consumer and facilitating our exports.
3. Priority should be given to facilitating visits for officials to companies and ports, to build policymakers' understanding of how supply chains work in practice.
4. Meaningful co-design between industry and government is the best way to ensure policy works in practice and that all trading opportunities can be seized.

IMTA's Key Asks on Export

1. The UK should seek to make trade with the EU easier through a bespoke agreement on veterinary issues which removes some of the current SPS barriers to export. A bespoke agreement could include reducing or eliminating the need for veterinary checks and certification on trade with the EU, while maintaining UK ability to legislate independently in the area of food regulation.
2. As an exporter to the EU, government must continue to engage in Brussels to influence legislative changes (based on UK consultation with UK stakeholders) and policy.
3. The next government should continue investments in increasing UK food and drink exports. Recent activities such as setting up the Food and Drink Export Council and appointing additional agri-food and drink attachés have been key to evidence commitment in this area.
4. Improving and maintaining our veterinary market access around the world is key, this work could be bolstered by increasing staff numbers in market access teams in Defra and additional ministerial and Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) visits to key markets. Where the range of products we can export can be increased, there is benefit to our producers, and the economy. In 2023 we saw expansion of our poultrymeat access to Japan to include cooked product, and scope of pigmeat export to Mexico increased to include offal.
5. The UK should consult thoroughly with stakeholders on mandates for negotiations of new UK FTAs. Traders can provide useful intel on potential markets that can assist negotiators.

IMTA's Key Asks on Northern Ireland

1. To ensure imports of meat into NI from the Rest of the World can start benefiting as soon as possible from the new UK-EU joint decision agreed and announced on 30th January for the use of UK Tariff Rate Quotas.
2. To ensure monitoring, clear communication and timely consultation with industry in relation to EU and UK regulatory divergence that may arise and impact meat and meat products imported into the UK, movements from GB to NI, and UK exports to the EU.
3. To review the timeline or reconsider the implementation of the "Not for EU" labelling requirements for products remaining in the GB market.
4. To ensure meat will continue to be able to move as freely as possible within the UK Internal Market of GB and NI, and that UK negotiations with the EU help to further facilitate this trade.



IMTA's Key Asks on Sustainability

IMTA strongly supports the transition to more sustainable supply chains, but policies should be implemented in a way that:

- Collaborates with supply chains to make delivery as clear and feasible as possible, with adequate preparation time and clear information in order for businesses to successfully implement.
- Works closely with supply chains to understand how proportionate and evidence-based policy mechanisms can be implemented strategically in order to best meet the policy objectives whilst also mitigating additional costs to consumers.
- Considers WTO principles and, where relevant, international cooperation.
- Considers unintended consequences for UK trade and domestic production which could actually be counterproductive to sustainability given that two-way trade facilitates carcass balance*.
- Avoids a fragmented regulatory environment which would create obstacles to trade.
- Ensures ongoing consultation to ensure that measures implemented are as effective as possible by taking into consideration the realities of how supply chains operate. Collaboration with industry will be crucial to ensuring the most effective policy outcomes.

*Carcass balance relies on both imports and exports to ensure that all parts of the carcass have a market, which minimises waste and supports consumer demand in the most efficient way possible.

Imports, Exports and Carcass Balance

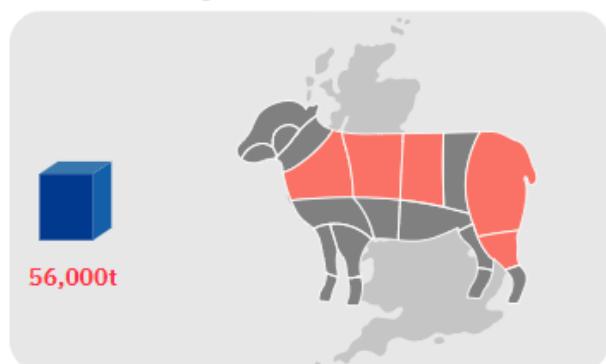
- Imports and exports of meat work hand in hand to deliver choice and value to consumers. When imports complement domestic production, UK food security and consumer choice are ensured and our global trade relationships, which foster UK exports, flourish.
- The UK has a huge potential to supply high quality meat and offal to markets around the world. Being able to export the cuts less favoured by UK consumers increases returns to producers and keeps prices down for the UK consumer. Export market access is crucial to the economic sustainability of the British livestock sector.
- We do not produce the most popular cuts in sufficient quantities. Supply of imports is indispensable for the retail, foodservice and manufacturing sectors. The UK consumer must have available a wide range of product, in sufficient quantities and at an acceptable price.

Manifesto 2024



These 'carcass balance' graphics demonstrate how imports and exports work together to maximise returns and consumer choice. We also have graphics for beef, pork and poultrymeat on our [website](#).

Lamb Imports



■ CHILLED & FROZEN

Popular cuts for import (red):

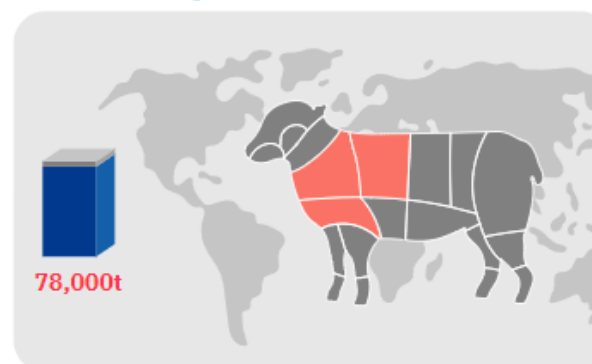
Boneless Lamb, Legs, Shoulders, Middles, Mutton, Trimmings

Import benefits:

FOOD SECURITY

CONSUMER CHOICE

Lamb Exports



■ CHILLED & FROZEN ■ OFFAL

Popular cuts for export (red):

Carcases, Short Forequarters, Lamb Rack, Bones

Export benefits:

ACCESS TO MARKET

SUSTAINABLE UTILISATION

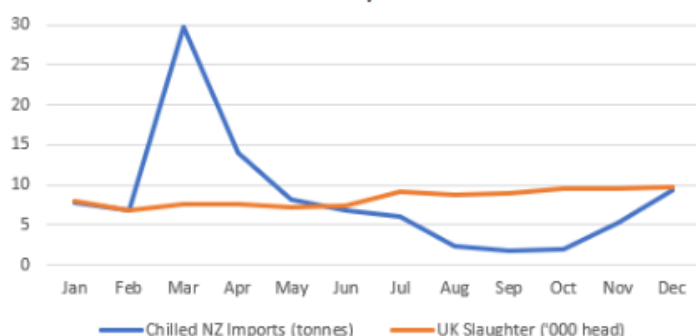
Lamb: Reality Check

Northern & southern hemisphere supply chains balance seasonal demand.

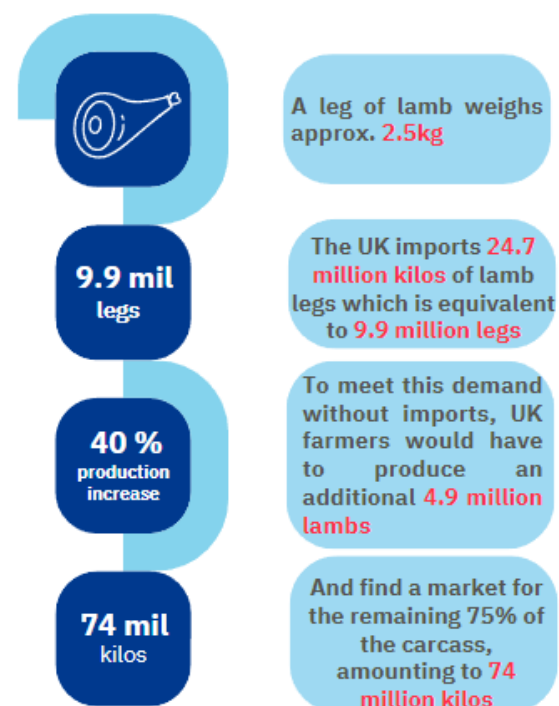


Imports meet retailer requirements for delivering large volumes of consistent product over a short timeframe such as Easter when UK production is seasonally low.

Percentage Distribution of UK Lamb and Chilled NZ Imports 2020/22



Why we import lamb legs and why it matters



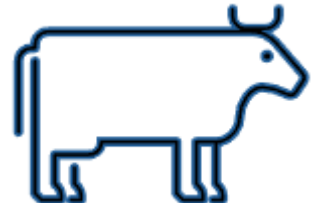
Additional IMTA Publications



[Poultry - Why we need both Imports & Exports](#)



[Lamb - Why we need both Imports & Exports](#)



[Beef - Why we need both Imports & Exports](#)



[Pork - Why we need both Imports & Exports](#)



[IMTA - The Self-Sufficiency Myth 2023](#)



[Role of the International Meat Trader](#)



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