

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

13th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday, 27 April

The Crisis in Ukraine

Background

1. At its meeting on 23 March 2022, the Committee agreed to hold an evidence session on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the food supply chain in Scotland.
2. Ukraine and Russia are leading producers and exporters of agricultural goods such as wheat, maize, vegetable oils, and fertilizers. With many countries dependent upon Ukrainian and Russian food exports, global supply chains are highly vulnerable to volatility in the region.
3. The conflict is expected to curtail the harvesting of crops in Ukraine while uncertainty also surrounds the export of agricultural products from Russia due to economic sanctions. Instability in the region is further contributing to higher energy and commodity prices that place increased pressure on domestic business operations and supply chains.
4. On 17 March 2021 the Scottish Government established the short-life Food Security and Supply Taskforce jointly with industry with a remit “to monitor, identify and respond to any potential disruption to food security and supply resulting from the impact of the war in Ukraine”.
5. The purpose of today’s session is to explore how the continuing conflict will impact food supply chains in Scotland and what measures might be adopted to mitigate these effects.
6. At today’s meeting, the Committee will take evidence from:
 - Elspeth Macdonald, Chief Executive, Scottish Fishermen’s Federation;
 - [Professor Alan Matthews](#), Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics, Trinity University, Dublin;
 - [Steven Thomson](#), Agricultural Economist, Scottish Rural College;
 - [Dr Mike Rivington](#), Land Use System Modeller, The James Hutton Institute;
 - and
 - Scott Walker, Chief Executive Officer, NFU Scotland.

7. A SPICe briefing covering key issues is provided in **Annexe A**.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks
April 2022**