

LMC SCHOOL COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS LAUNCHED

THE Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) recently launched its 13th annual Schools' Cookery Demonstration Programme aimed at educating pupils on the merits of beef and lamb in a healthy, balanced diet.

To date some 84,000 students in over 2300 separate demonstrations from schools across Northern Ireland have benefited from the Programme.

Speaking at the launch at Foyle College, Londonderry, LMC's Chairman, Pat O'Rourke said "Year on year the programme continues to grow and we are delighted to be involved in providing educational support to secondary schools throughout Northern Ireland, informing students of the importance of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb and the nutritional benefits surrounding the consumption of red meat.

These demonstrations help

consumers at a young age to understand the products of our industry and by providing this shop window we assist our farmers and processors in relaying the message about the farm end of the production chain and the three pillars of Farm Quality Assurance – food safety, animal welfare and care for the environment.

We have also worked closely with the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment to ensure that the content on our Food4Life website is in synergy with the Home Economics Curriculum and that it is used as a valuable tool to reinforce classroom activities and learning."

At the event Mr O'Rourke said: "I am delighted to visit Foyle College to see firsthand the delivery of the programme. These cookery demonstrations play an important role in supporting the home economics syllabus. The LMC educational

services activities are very successful in promoting locally produced farm quality assured beef and lamb to our schools. The LMC engagement with pupils enables us to relay the message about the quality of our local meat produce, its role in a balanced diet and the opportunities in the hospitality and food industries that are available to school leavers."

Head of Home Economics, Fiona Feeney said "Working with LMC adds another dimension to our teaching programme and the demonstrations are a fun and interactive way for the students to learn about the nutritional value of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb. The students really enjoy the demonstrations as the recipes are quick, simple and cost effective dishes that can be made for all the family."

Commending the LMC for their promotion of local beef and lamb, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill said,

"The Schools' Cookery Demonstration programme is a great opportunity for school pupils to devise attractive and tasty dishes and incorporate farm quality assured beef and lamb into a balanced diet. What better way could there be for the LMC to promote quality and versatility of our locally produced farm quality assured beef

and lamb than to encourage our young chefs to use them in their wonderful recipes."

If you are interested in finding out more information please contact Cherrie Kenny at LMC on 02892 633000 or log on to www.food4life.org.uk

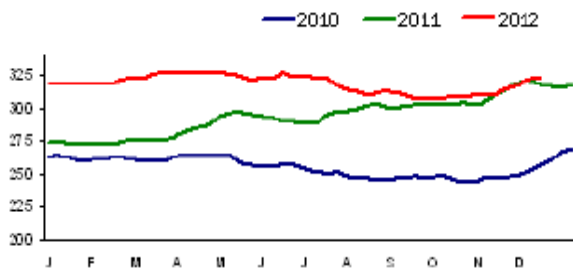
Image 1: Representatives from LMC, UFU and NIMEA at the recent launch of the LMC Cookery Demonstrations at Foyle College, Londonderry



NI BEEF KILL AND PRICES OVERVIEW 2012

FOR the past four weeks the average prices being paid for prime cattle have been within 1-2p/kg of the corresponding weeks in 2011 and are substantially ahead of the corresponding weeks in 2010 as indicated in Figure 1. The average weighted price paid for prime cattle peaked at 327.6p/kg in April and then gradually decreased as the year progressed to a low of 306.4p/kg in mid September. Average prices have gradually recovered between September and November with a weighted average steer, heifer and young bull price in NI last week of 323.4p/kg. This compared to 319.3p/kg in the same week in 2011. For the month of January 2012 the weighted average price for steers, heifers and young bulls was 318.5p/kg, an increase of 44.3p/kg on January 2011 when the average weighted price was 274.2p/kg. The markedly higher prices early in 2012 was due primarily to a scarcity of finished cattle and as more cattle have become available throughout the year prices gradually came back. The prices currently being paid are comparable with this time last year.

Figure 1: NI Average Clean Cattle Price (p/kg CW)



PRIME cattle slaughterings in NI for the year to date are 309,725 head. In the same period in 2011 323,353 prime cattle were slaughtered, a 4.2 per cent drop in the throughput of prime cattle between the two periods. Early in 2012 the prime cattle throughput was markedly below the levels seen in the corresponding period in 2010 and 2011 as indicated in Figure 2 but as the year has progressed cattle throughput has recovered. Prime cattle throughput during the month of November 2012 has been 26,763, a 3.8 per cent increase on the number killed in November 2011. Despite an overall 4.2 per cent drop in the number of prime cattle slaughtered in 2012 the amount of beef produced has only decreased by 2.9 per cent. This is due to an increase in the average prime carcase weights for the year to date to 340kg, up from 335kg in the same period last year. The breakdown of the prime kill has remained fairly consistent to previous years with 48.3 per cent of the kill made up of steers, 34.5 per cent made up of heifers and 17.2 per cent young bulls. The cow kill for the year to date is currently running 8.7 per cent ahead of the same period last year at 90,055 head.

Figure 2: NI Clean Cattle Slaughterings ('000 head per week)



LMC APPOINT OXFORD ECONOMICS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH

LMC has appointed Oxford Economics to undertake independent statistical research into the causes of differences in deadweight cattle prices between NI and GB.

LMC has also appointed a six person steering group to advise and direct the project. The steering group includes representatives from both the producer and processing sectors as well as independent economic advisors.

Oxford Economics have been commissioned to undertake both quantitative and qualitative research into this price issue and will be in touch with key industry stakeholders from across the British Isles over the coming months to discuss various aspects of this differential.

LMC expects that the research will be complete with findings published by the spring.

FQAS LIAISON OFFICER MART CLINICS TIMETABLE

Omagh	Monday	10/12/2012
Enniskillen	Thursday	10/01/2013
Omagh	Monday	14/01/2013
Saintfield	Wednesday	16/01/2013
Markethill	Tuesday	22/01/2013

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 03/12/12	Next Week 10/12/12
Prime		
U-3	326-328p	328-330p
R-3	320-322p	322-324p
O+3	314-316p	316-318p
* Plus 8p/kg in spec bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3 & better	260-275p	260-275p
Steakers	180-245p	180-245p
Blues	160-180p	160-180p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 01/12/12	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U-3=	333.6	343.2	326.5
U=3=	335.8	342.9	329.3
U=4=	330.9	336.2	324.0
R=3=	333.6	338.3	324.3
R=4=	329.8	332.2	314.0
O=3=	319.1	317.4	308.8
O+3=	328.3	326.8	313.6
Average	323.7	326.9	315.9

REPORTED COW PRICES NI W/E 01/12/12

Grades	Price (p/kg)	Avg Wgt
O+3=	273.2	326.5
O-3+	254.3	309.8
P+2+	241.4	287.3
P+3+	247.5	297.5
P-1-	167.7	216.2

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 08/12/12	Price (£ per tonne / 1000litre)	% weekly change
Barley	212.50	-0.70
Wheat	228.00	-0.87
Soya	480.00	+1.91
Straw	16.05	-
Red Diesel	715-750	-

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for U-3 grade prime cattle were 328-330p/kg. The majority of plants are quoting 328p/kg for steers and 330p/kg for heifers with plants reporting a steady supply of prime cattle. The prime kill last week was 7,523 head, 639 head more than the previous week but 250 head less than the corresponding week last year. The cow kill last week totalled 2,295 head with quotes for cows remaining in the range of 260-275p/kg.

Last week 298 cattle were exported to GB for direct slaughter. This brings the total number of cattle exported to GB for direct slaughter for the year to date to just over 8,000, with 4,000 of these exported in the last twelve weeks. Meanwhile imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week were similar to the previous week at 785 head. There were however 41 prime cattle exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter, the highest weekly figure since early June 2012.

The average steer and heifer price in NI showed slight increases last week and were 323.7p/kg and 326.9p/kg respectively. The U-3 steer price last week increased by 2.4p/kg to 335.5p/kg while the U-3 heifer price increased by 4.2p/kg to 342.5p/kg. In GB last week average steer and heifer prices were almost unchanged at 360.7p/kg and 357.9p/kg respectively. There were however some changes at regional level. In Southern England the average steer price was back 5.1p/kg to 345.1p/kg while the heifer price was almost unchanged at 346.2p/kg. In the Midlands the steer price was up 2p/kg to 359.4p/kg while the average heifer price was unchanged at 357.8p/kg. In Scotland average steer and heifer prices increased slightly to 367.7p/kg and 364.7p/kg respectively. Meanwhile the young bull price in the region decreased by 1p/kg to 340.9p/kg while it increased in the other GB regions by 3-5p/kg. The average GB price increased by 2.6p/kg to 339.8p/kg.

In ROI last week average prices showed an increase for all reported grades. The R3 steer price increased by the equivalent 3p/kg to 310.1p/kg which means the differential with NI last week was 24.2p/kg. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price increased by 3.5p/kg to 324.6p/kg, 13p/kg below the NI price.

This week's marts

THE trade in the marts for finished cattle this week has been similar to previous weeks. Finished first quality steers sold from 187-205p/kg (av 194p/kg) with second quality selling from 165-186p/kg (av 175p/kg). First quality finished heifers sold to an average of 195p/kg with plainer type animals selling to an average of 176p/kg. The strong trade for cull cows has continued with beef cows selling to a top price of 203p/kg. Dairy cows sold from 80-140p/kg.

The trade for store cattle has also remained fairly similar to previous weeks with bullocks up to 400kg selling to an average of 190p/kg and second quality bullocks in the same weight range selling to 165p/kg. First quality bullocks over 500kg sold to an average of 185p/kg compared to 187p/kg last week. Trade for heifers up to 450kg was similar to last week, selling to a top of 189p/kg.

LAST WEEK'S DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (UK / ROI)

W/E 01/12/2012	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	335.5	319.0	372.4	371.0	373.2	369.0	371.9
	R3	334.3	310.1	368.9	365.2	365.2	358.0	365.2
	R4	329.8	309.4	370.9	370.0	363.0	359.0	367.0
	O3	321.8	296.6	356.6	360.2	347.1	335.4	352.8
AVG	323.7	-	367.7	364.6	359.4	345.1	360.7	
Heifers	U3	342.5	336.1	371.6	370.6	371.4	369.2	371.1
	R3	337.6	324.6	366.2	361.3	362.2	355.4	362.0
	R4	332.1	324.2	368.6	362.3	362.9	355.7	363.2
	O3	319.7	309.1	350.0	351.7	348.7	332.2	346.8
AVG	326.9	-	364.7	358.6	357.8	346.2	357.9	
Young Bulls	U3	328.6	316.8	359.8	353.4	365.0	355.0	359.5
	R3	324.0	312.2	352.2	343.3	351.2	346.5	348.2
	O3	309.8	300.4	330.6	330.1	332.6	339.8	332.6
	AVG	315.9	-	340.9	336.8	345.9	339.8	340.8
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5422	-	6720	6529	5584	4238	23071	
Cows	O3	265.0	258.5	259.0	261.0	254.7	244.6	254.4
	O4	265.0	260.9	265.1	262.4	262.7	246.3	258.3
	P2	226.5	230.9	203.5	207.6	222.2	201.9	205.9
	P3	243.8	249.5	220.8	230.7	232.6	225.5	226.2
AVG	234.6	-	249.5	236.2	241.3	208.1	231.2	

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=80.93p Stg
(ii) Shading indicates a lower price than the previous week.
(iii) AVG is the average of all grades in the category, not just those listed

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 01/12/12	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Average	From	To	Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	187	205	194	165	186	175
Friesians	140	172	152	125	139	132
Heifers	189	213	195	165	188	176
Beef Cows	160	203	173	120	159	145
Dairy Cows	115	140	123	80	114	100
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	180	213	190	155	179	165
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	180	206	193	150	179	165
Bullocks over 500kg	175	193	185	140	174	160
Heifers up to 450kg	170	189	180	140	169	155
Heifers over 450kg	170	188	180	140	169	155
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	225	325	260	120	220	170
Continental Heifers	180	360	225	100	178	140
Friesian Bulls	100	195	150	30	98	65
Holstein Bulls	50	90	70	2	48	25

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 03/12/12	Next Week 10/12/12
NI Factories to 22kg	330p	330p
ROI Factories	335p	335p

Notes: (i) Lambs up to 22kg
(ii) ROI prices converted at 1 euro=80.93p Stg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG

(P/KG DW)	W/E 17/11/12	W/E 24/11/12	W/E 01/12/12
NI Liveweight	300.1p	299.7p	295.0p
NI Deadweight	330.0p	325.5p	329.8p
ROI Deadweight	329.9p	332.9p	333.3p
GB Deadweight	362.1p	350.8p	353.8p

Reporting Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for R3 grading lambs are similar to last week at 330p/kg up to 22kgs with similar quotes expected for Monday. The plants have been reporting good supplies of lambs with throughput last week totalling 9,416 head. This is back 1500 head on the previous week. Meanwhile exports to ROI for direct slaughter increased by 1,600 to 14,500 head, the highest level since November 2010. This brings the total number of lambs exported to ROI for direct slaughter during 2012 to date to 415,000. The NI deadweight price increased by 4.3p/kg last week to 329.8p/kg while the GB price increased by 3p/kg to 353.3p/kg.

This week's marts

In general there has been a similar trade to previous weeks across the sheep marts this week. In Kilrea on Monday 600 lambs sold from 288-310p/kg (av 296p/kg) compared to 440 lambs last week selling from 288-310p/kg (av 297p/kg). In Armoy on Tuesday 346 lambs sold to an average of 297p/kg compared to an average of 296p/kg last week. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 713 lambs sold to an average of 298p/kg compared to 638 lambs last week selling to an average of 295p/kg. In Markethill on Wednesday 660 lambs sold to an average of 297p/kg compared to 750 lambs last week selling to 295p/kg. Well fleshed cull ewes sold to over £70 in many of the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 01/12/2012 To: 06/12/2012		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
		No.	From	To	Average
Saturday	Omagh	802	294	317	-
	Donemana	398	288	307	297
Monday	Hilltown	360	280	302	287
	Kilrea	600	288	310	296
Tuesday	Massereene	1203	290	320	-
	Saintfield	795	280	305	296
Wednesday	Rathfriland	713	288	318	298
	Armoy	346	280	315	297
Wednesday	Ballymena	1207	275	311	291
	Enniskillen	326	289	318	300
	Markethill	660	290	316	297

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