

Cattle Pricing Factsheet

In March 2011 seven Northern Ireland factories introduced Video Imaging Analysis to grade cattle. Under this system cattle are graded on a 15-point scale with each class for fat and conformation (e.g. E, U, R, 1,2,3) divided into three sub-classes (+, -, =). There are now 225 potential grades. A new payment grid has been developed by the industry based on this 15-point

scale, with prices specified for each grade. This is illustrated overleaf and provides a guide for producers on what to expect. Factory quotes for prime cattle are now based on the U-3 grade and the guide price for all other grades can be derived from this base quote. Other criteria, such as age, weight and FQAS also determine price. Further details are provided below.

Specification for 8p/kg Bonus on Steers and Heifers

Bonus Specification	General Criteria
Grades	E, U, R, 3, 4-, 4= and 0+3 Inside Gold Box Overleaf
Weight	280-380kg
Age	Under 30mth
FQAS	Yes
Country of Origin	UK Only
Cattle must meet all criteria to attract bonus and further criteria may apply at some plants.	

*Please note Young Bulls do not currently qualify for the 8p/kg bonus

Specification Where Deductions May Apply

Category	Criteria	Deduction from quoted price
Steers, Heifers	Over 30 Months	10p/kg
Steers, Heifers	Over 36 Months	20p/kg
Young Bulls	Over 16 Months	10-20p/kg
Young Bulls	Over 24 Months	20p/kg
Steers, Heifers, Young Bulls	Under 260kg	£12/head
Steers, Heifers, Young Bulls	Under 240kg	£24/head
Steers, Heifers, Young Bulls	Over 420kg	10p/kg
All Cattle	Non-FQAS	Up to £150 per head

Most of these specifications have been in place for some time. This is an indicative guide. There may be variations from these general criteria at different factories and some may apply additional criteria. The application of deductions and bonuses varies and depending on factory requirements some deductions are applied more rigidly than others.

Factsheet produced by the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland based on information supplied by industry in June 2013. For further details contact 028 9263 3000.

Current Pricing Grid for Prime Cattle in Northern Ireland

In spec grades inside gold box

Conformation	Fat	1			2			3			4			5		
		1-	1=	1+	2-	2=	2+	3-	3=	3+	4-	4=	4+	5-	5=	5+
E	+	-16	-14	-12	BASE	+2	+4	+6	+6	+6	+4	BASE	-4	-8	-12	-16
	=	-16	-14	-12	BASE	+2	+4	+6	+6	+6	+4	BASE	-4	-8	-12	-16
	-	-16	-14	-12	BASE	+2	+4	+6	+6	+6	+4	BASE	-4	-8	-12	-16
U	+	-18	-16	-14	-2	BASE	+2	+4	+4	+4	+2	-2	-6	-10	-14	-18
	=	-20	-18	-16	-4	-2	BASE	+2	+2	+2	BASE	-4	-8	-12	-16	-20
	-	-22	-20	-18	-6	-4	-2	BASE	BASE	BASE	-2	-6	-10	-14	-18	-22
R	+	-24	-22	-20	-8	-6	-4	-2	-2	-2	-4	-8	-12	-16	-20	-24
	=	-26	-24	-22	-10	-8	-6	-4	-4	-4	-6	-10	-14	-18	-22	-26
	-	-28	-26	-24	-12	-10	-8	-6	-6	-6	-8	-12	-16	-20	-24	-28
O	+	-34	-32	-30	-18	-16	-14	-12	-12	-12	-14	-18	-22	-26	-30	-34
	=	-40	-38	-36	-24	-22	-20	-18	-18	-18	-20	-24	-28	-32	-36	-40
	-	-46	-44	-42	-30	-28	-26	-24	-24	-24	-26	-30	-34	-38	-42	-46
P	+	-52	-50	-48	-36	-34	-32	-30	-30	-30	-32	-36	-40	-44	-48	-52
	=	-58	-56	-54	-42	-40	-38	-36	-36	-36	-38	-42	-46	-50	-54	-58
	-	-64	-62	-60	-48	-46	-44	-42	-42	-42	-44	-48	-52	-56	-60	-64

Effective from 28th March 2011 in Seven Northern Ireland Red Meat Processing Factories