LMC BULLETIN

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CALF REGISTRATIONS STABILISE

BEEF sired calf registrations in NI have shown signs of stabilising in recent months with a total of 16,982 calves registered during October 2013. This is marginally more than the 16,958 calves registered during October 2012 and is the second consecutive month in which registrations have been higher than the corresponding months in 2012.

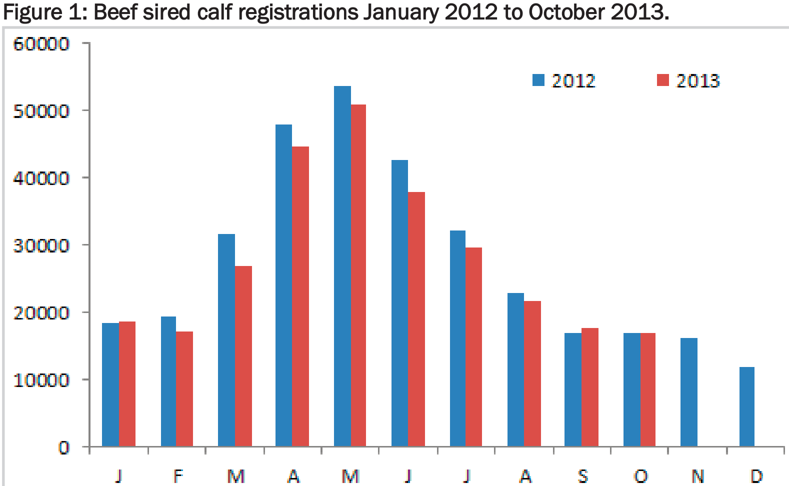
Figure 1 displays the number of beef sired calf registrations during 2012 and 2013. Calf registrations during the period February-August 2013 were behind the levels recorded in the corresponding period in 2012. This drop in the number of beef sired calves registered can be attributed back to fertility problems as a result of the difficult production conditions during 2012.

The problems experienced with poor cow fertility and production difficulties have resulted in a reduction in beef sired calf registrations by 20,233 head when comparing 2013 to date and the same period in 2012.

Beef sired calf registrations continue to be dominated by a small number of breeds, namely Limousin, Charolais, Aberdeen Angus, Simmental, Belgian Blue and Hereford. Limousin continues to be the most popular sire choice in NI, accounting for 32 per cent of beef sire calf registrations during 2013 to date with Charolais sired calves accounting for a further 27.2 per cent of calves registered during this period as indicated in Figure 2.

Analysis of calf registrations has also indicated that Aberdeen Angus and Hereford calves have accounted for a greater proportion of total beef sired calf registrations during 2013 to date when compared to the corresponding period in 2012.

Figure 1: Beef sired calf registrations January 2012 to October 2013.



During the first ten months of 2013 15.1 per cent of beef calves were Aberdeen Angus (+0.5 percentage points) despite a reduction in absolute numbers by 1,472 head. Meanwhile 4.3 per cent of beef calf registrations during the same period were Hereford (+0.8 percentage points) with the number of calves registered increasing by 1,506 head to 12,274 head.

Meanwhile total dairy sired calf registrations during October 2013 increased by 3.6 per cent on October 2012 levels to total 21,737 head. The number of dairy sired male calf registrations increased by five per cent to 10,056 head during October 2013 when compared to October 2012. During the first ten months of 2013 71,165 dairy sired male calves were registered in NI compared to 73,172 head during the same period in 2012 (-3.6 per cent).

The number of dairy calves exported out of NI for further breeding and production has shown an increase between 2012 and 2013 as indicated in Figure 3. The largest majority of the calves exported are dairy sired males with 19,648 calves less than 42 days old exported out of NI during 2013 to date.

This is an increase of 2,870 head on the corresponding period in 2012 with the largest majority of calves exported from NI destined for bull beef production in Spain. In the period January-October 2012 a total of 14,421 calves were exported to Spain, accounting for 86 per cent of all calf exports. During the same period in 2013 calf exports to Spain increased to 17,639 head accounting for 90 per cent of all calf exports.

Italy has been the second most common destination for NI born calves with 1,352 calves exported during 2013 to date, accounting for seven per cent of all calf exports. In the corresponding period in 2012 826 calves were exported to Italy, accounting for five per cent of all calf exports. Many of the calves exported from NI to Italy are likely to be destined for veal production.

Figure 2: Beef sired calves January-October 2013 by breed

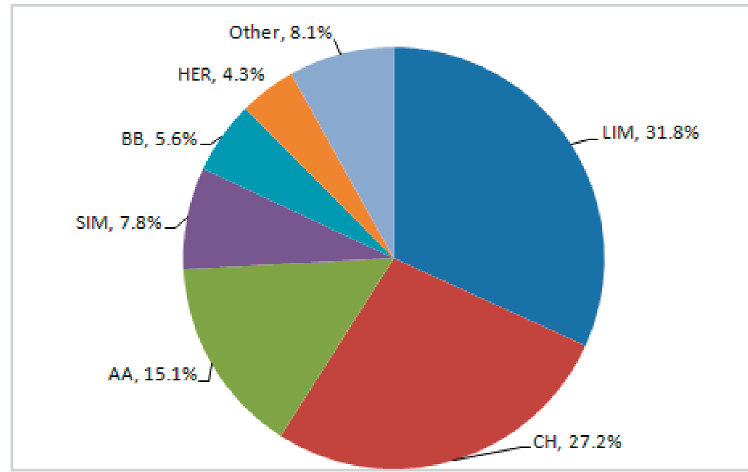
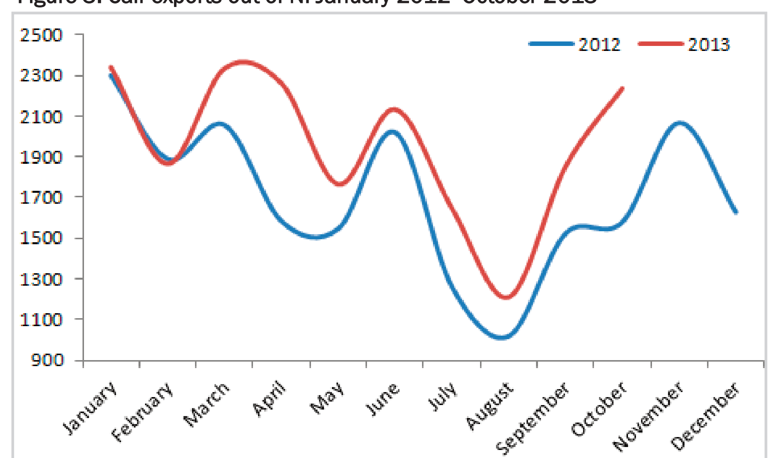


Figure 3: Calf exports out of NI January 2012- October 2013



IMPORTS FROM ROI SHOW A DECLINE YEAR ON YEAR
........WHILE EXPORTS TO GB INCREASE

IMPORTS from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants during 2013 to date have totalled 28,471 head, a 14 per cent reduction on the 33,089 head imported during the same period last year.

Imports of cattle from ROI for further breeding and production have also shown a decrease year on year with imports during 2013 to date (excluding calves) totalling 15,466 head compared to 21,339 head imported during the corresponding period in 2013. This accounts for a 28 per cent decline year on year.

Imports of cattle from ROI for further production on NI farms have generally shown two distinct peaks in previous years. There was a small peak in the spring with cattle being purchased to go to grass and another more pronounced peak in imports in the autumn for cattle going into the house. The majority of suckler herds in ROI are spring calving so there is a peak in weanling availability for export to NI in the autumn. However during 2013 the peak of cattle imported in the spring failed to materialise. There are several potential reasons for this including the forage shortage on many NI farms, the late spring and the poor grass growth recorded on many farms across NI. In addition to this there have been indications from the processors that they did not want ROI born and NI finished cattle. ROI born cattle finished on NI farms do not currently qualify for the 8-14p/kg in spec bonus available across the plants and several plants have indicated that they are unwilling to accept these ROI origin cattle for slaughter.

While these nomadic animals can qualify to carry the Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Logo, provided that they have completed the required 90 day residency, they do not qualify for the Red Tractor Logo, nor can they be labelled as British, which is a requirement of trade with many of the major British retailers. Markets for the beef from these animals are therefore much more limited when compared to NI born and NI finished cattle, which can be marketed as Red Tractor and British.

Imports of cattle from ROI for further breeding and production during Autumn 2013 have followed a similar trend to previous years with 3,267 head imported in September 2013 and a further 3,679 imported during October 2013. While imports have followed a similar trend the numbers imported were lower than previous years with imports during September 2013 back eight per cent on the previous year and imports during October 2013 back 23 per cent.

Of course however this is a price driven trade and if these ROI cattle can be purchased at a lower price then importing and finishing these cattle may be feasible. Producers however should consult their processors before going down this route.

Meanwhile exports from NI to GB for further breeding and production (excluding calves) during 2013 to date have totalled 11,788 head, a 61 per cent increase on the 7,298 exported during the corresponding period last year. Exports to GB for direct slaughter have also increased year on year with 13,093 exported during 2013 to date compared to 6,805 exported in the same period in 2012.

FQAS Liaison Officer Mart Clinics Timetable

Markethill	Tuesday	12/11/2013
Saintfield	Wednesday	13/11/2013
Kilrea	Wednesday	20/11/2013
Enniskillen	Thursday	21/11/2013
Ballymena	Friday	29/11/2013

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 04/11/13	Next Week 11/11/13
Prime		
U-3	360-364p	360-364p
R-3	354-358p	354-358p
O+3	348-352p	348-352p
* Plus 8p/kg in spec bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3 & better	245-260p	245-260p
Steakers	150-220p	150-220p
Blues	125-170p	125-170p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 02/11/13	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U-3=	377.6	384.8	358.4
U=3=	378.1	380.0	356.9
U=4=	366.5	384.3	-
R=3=	371.5	378.5	349.1
R=4=	373.2	372.8	-
O+3=	369.0	367.0	339.1
O=3=	359.0	356.8	335.3
Average	365.2	368.2	342.7

REPORTED COW PRICES NI W/E 02/11/13

Grades	Price (p/kg)	Avg Wgt
O+3=	275.4	325.7
O-3+	255.7	307.4
P+2+	232.9	287.3
P+3+	241.5	287.7
P-1-	159.9	226.4

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 02/11/13	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	162.50	-0.6
Wheat	183.00	-0.3
Straw	17.08	-
Diesel	710-715	-

SHEEP TRADE

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES for U-3 grade prime cattle from the plants this week generally ranged from 360-364p/kg with bonuses of 8-14pkg for steers and heifers that kill out in spec. Young bulls do not qualify for the bonus payments and are paid at base quote. Quotes for O+3 cows range from 245-260p/kg across the plants.

Prime cattle throughputs in the NI plants last week totalled 7,250 head compared to 7,013 slaughtered the previous week. Throughput of prime cattle last week was 10 per cent higher than recorded in the corresponding week in 2012 when 6,609 prime cattle were slaughtered. The cow kill in the NI plants last week totalled 2,243 head, a reduction of 201 head on the previous week and 21 per cent lower than the same week in 2012 when 2,851 cows were slaughtered.

Average steer prices in NI last week were unchanged at 365.2p/kg with R3 steer prices back by 2.6p/kg to 375.6p/kg. Steer throughput in the NI plants for 2013 to date has been 122,680 head, ten per cent behind throughput in the same period in 2012. Average heifer prices in NI last week were back 2p/kg to 368.2p/kg with R3 heifer prices back by 2.3p/kg to 376.6p/kg. Heifer throughput for 2013 to date is running six per cent ahead of the same period in 2012. Average young bull prices were unchanged last week at 342.7p/kg while the R3 price was back by 2.2p/kg to 351.8p/kg. Young bull throughput during 2013 to date is 56,917 head, 16 per cent ahead of the same period in 2012 (+7,752 head).

Heifer prices in GB last week were back 1.2p/kg to 388.9p/kg while R3 heifer prices were back by almost a penny to 392.5p/kg. R3 heifer prices in Scotland were up by 3.8p/kg to 413.7p/kg while they showed a decline in all other GB regions by 2-3p/kg. Meanwhile average steer prices in GB were within half a penny of the previous week at 391.6p/kg with R3 steer prices up by 2.1p/kg to 396.3p/kg. R3 steer prices in Scotland increased by 6.6p/kg 416.9p/kg last week while prices in Northern England were up by 2.1p/kg to 392.9p/kg. R3 steer prices in the Midlands and Southern England were within a penny of the previous week at 387.0p/kg and 384.4p/kg respectively.

Deadweight cattle prices in ROI last week were similar to the previous week with R3 steer and heifer prices up the equivalent of 1p/kg to 334.6p/kg and 345.6p/kg respectively, 41p/kg and 31p/kg behind equivalent prices in NI.

This weeks marts

FINISHED first quality steers sold from 200-226 p/kg liveweight this week (avg 209p/kg) with second quality selling from 175-199p/kg (avg 190p/kg). Finished heifers sold to an average of 217p/kg for first quality and 191p/kg for second quality. Good quality beef cows sold to an average of 170p/kg with plainer animals selling to an average of 130p/kg. Dairy type cows sold to a top of 135p/kg with first quality selling to an average of 117p/kg. Store bullocks in the 400-500kg weight range sold to an average of 226p/kg for first quality with second quality selling to an average of 180p/kg. Heifers up to 450kg sold to a top price of 218p/kg (avg 206p/kg).

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

W/E 02/11/13		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	377.1	343.7	422.2	394.0	396.9	397.6	403.8
	R3	375.6	334.6	416.9	392.9	387.0	384.4	396.3
	R4	373.6	333.3	416.9	398.3	388.0	385.8	399.2
	O3	362.0	317.2	399.2	388.1	367.0	359.2	380.6
	AVG	365.2	-	413.7	391.2	381.6	373.3	391.6
Heifers	U3	381.3	358.5	423.0	396.4	398.6	396.1	405.0
	R3	376.6	345.6	413.7	385.1	383.4	380.9	392.5
	R4	373.4	344.3	414.6	386.6	386.3	383.5	394.6
	O3	361.5	327.5	385.0	370.9	365.5	354.5	370.0
	AVG	368.2	-	410.2	384.6	380.5	372.0	388.9
Young Bulls	U3	357.3	339.7	410.7	371.0	388.4	393.7	384.8
	R3	351.8	330.7	399.1	364.8	373.4	371.8	372.9
	O3	337.3	310.9	365.9	344.7	348.8	368.1	355.3
	AVG	342.7	-	388.3	354.7	364.2	362.8	363.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5584	-	6243	5788	5055	3872	20958
Cows	O3	263.0	271.4	248.2	249.7	242.5	229.3	242.5
	O4	266.2	274.2	255.5	252.1	249.2	233.5	247.1
	P2	214.0	234.0	198.6	208.5	194.0	177.3	192.3
	P3	238.5	259.3	207.4	227.2	209.6	201.3	209.5
	AVG	236.0	-	238.2	226.9	226.1	189.9	216.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.25p 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 LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 02/11/13	1st QUALITY From	1st QUALITY To	1st QUALITY Average	2nd QUALITY From	2nd QUALITY To	2nd QUALITY Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	200	226	209	175	199	190
Friesians	155	164	159	126	154	145
Heifers	212	238	217	172	211	191
Beef Cows	155	198	170	105	154	130
Dairy Cows	100	135	117	65	99	80
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	201	234	216	140	200	175
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	215	254	226	140	214	180
Bullocks over 500kg	200	234	210	137	199	178
Heifers up to 450kg	195	218	206	146	194	176
Heifers over 450kg	198	223	208	146	197	180
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	265	365	300	150	262	210
Continental Heifers	200	370	265	115	198	155
Friesian Bulls	110	210	130	50	108	80
Holstein Bulls	60	120	70	2	58	25

218p/kg (avg 206p/kg).

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES		
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 04/11/13	Next Week 11/11/13
NI Factories	360p >22kg	360p >22kg
	370p>21.5kg	370p>21.5kg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG			
(P/KG DW)	W/E 19/10/13	W/E 26/10/13	W/E 02/11/13
NI Liveweight	324.0p	331.1p	327.6p
NI Deadweight	356.9p	361.1p	364.8p
ROI Deadweight	352.1p	355.2p	357.9p
GB Deadweight	395.5p	394.7p	399.8p

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants for R3 grade lambs were unchanged this week with 360p/kg available up to 22kg and 370p/kg available up to 21.5kg. The plants are reporting good supplies of lambs to meet demand with 10,446 lambs killed locally last week. However this was 1,355 head less than the previous week when 11,801 lambs were slaughtered. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 9,425 head, a reduction of 2,600 head on the previous week and may be an indication of a tightening in lamb availability. Deadweight lamb prices in NI last week were up 3.7p/kg to 364.8p/kg while deadweight prices in GB increased by 5.1p/kg to 399.8p/kg. This puts the differential between NI and GB at 35p/kg. The average deadweight price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 357.9p/kg, up 2.7p/kg on the previous week.

This week's marts

THERE was a similar trade reported across the marts this week with average prices ranging from 320-338p/kg compared to 320-341p/kg last week. In Kilrea on Monday 380 lambs sold from 322-332p/kg (avg 328p/kg) compared to 520 lambs last week selling from 315-333p/kg (avg 324p/kg). In Rathfriland this week 1,414 lambs sold to an average price of 338p/kg compared to 1,480 lambs last week selling to an average of 335p/kg. A firm trade in Markethill this week saw 1,350 lambs sell from 320-353p/kg (avg 326p/kg) compared to 1,450 lambs last week selling from 315-353p/kg (avg 325p/kg).

LATEST SHEEP MARTS					
From: 02/11/13 To: 07/11/13		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
		No.	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1683	340	369	-
	Newtownstewart	240	305	327	320
	Hilltown	1400	320	350	335
Monday	Massereene	1216	330	370	-
	Kilrea	380	322	332	328
Tuesday	Saintfield	648	355	367	-
	Rathfriland	1414	310	376	338
Wednesday	Ballymena	2155	310	342	326
	Enniskillen	487	322	346	332
	Markethill	1350	320	353	326

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