LMC BULLETIN

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UK IMPORTS OF SHEEPMEAT DECLINE

IMPORTS of lamb and mutton into the UK during the first half of 2014 totalled 58,453 tonnes compared to 63,062 tonnes in the corresponding period in 2013. This accounts for a 7 per cent decline year on year.

Imports from the EU accounted for 11 per cent of the total volume of lamb and mutton imported in to the UK in the first half of 2014 with 6,199 tonnes imported. This was a two per cent increase on the 6,088 tonnes imported from the EU in the corresponding period in 2013.

Imports of lamb and mutton from ROI during the first half of 2014 totalled 3,553 tonnes and accounted for 57 per cent of total imports from EU countries. This was similar to year earlier levels when 3,558 tonnes of lamb and mutton were imported into the UK from ROI and accounted for 58 per cent of total EU imports.

However imports from Spain during the 2014 period totalled 500 tonnes compared to 930 tonnes during the first half of 2013. This decline by 430 tonnes accounts for a 46 per cent decline in the volume imported from Spain year on year. The decline also reduces the proportion of UK imports of EU lamb and mutton sourced in Spain from 15 per cent in the 2013 period to 8 per cent in the 2014 period.

Meanwhile imports of lamb and mutton from non EU countries during the first half of 2014 totalled 52,253 tonnes compared to 56,974 tonnes in the corresponding period in 2013. This decline by 4,721 tonnes accounts for an 8 per cent decline year on year.

A growing demand for lamb on the world market has resulted in a larger proportion of New Zealand lamb and mutton to be destined for the Chinese market. This has resulted in a decline in the volumes entering the UK market year on year. During the 2014 period imports from New Zealand accounted for 82 per cent of total non EU imports of lamb and mutton into the UK compared to 89 per cent of imports in the 2013 period.

During the first six months of 2014 43,033 tonnes of lamb and mutton were imported into the UK from New Zealand. This was a 15 per cent decline from the 50,460 tonnes imported during the same period in 2013. The decline in the volumes of New Zealand lamb and mutton entering the UK market has resulted in an increase in the volumes of lamb imported from other non EU countries.

During the first half of 2014 8,055 tonnes of lamb and mutton were imported into the UK from Australia and accounted for 15 per cent of total non EU imports into the UK market. During the corresponding period in 2013 Australian imports of lamb and mutton into the UK totalled 5,714 tonnes and accounted for 9 per cent of total non EU imports.

There were also increases in the volume of lamb and mutton imported from Uruguay and Argentina into the UK during the 2014 period when compared to year earlier levels. However despite increases in the volumes imported from both countries they accounted for less than one per cent per cent of non EU imports of lamb and mutton into the UK during the first half of 2014.

Table 1: Imports of lamb and mutton into the UK by country January-June 2012-2014 (tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014
	Jan-Jun	Jan-Jun	Jan-Jun
Total imports	**48,373**	**63,062**	**58,453**
from EU	**4,899**	**6,088**	**6,199**
Ireland	2,400	3,558	3,553
Spain	986	930	500
France	769	733	599
from Non-EU	**43,474**	**56,974**	**52,253**
New Zealand	38,886	50,460	43,033
Australia	4,093	5,714	8,055
Uruguay	146	185	228
Argentina	66	19	219

FQAS MART CLINICS SEPTEMBER

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	01/09/2014
Saintfield	Wednesday	10/09/2014
Markethill	Tuesday	16/09/2014
Enniskillen	Thursday	18/09/2014
Kilrea	Wednesday	24/09/2014
Ballymena	Friday	26/09/2014

LMC's Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) mart clinics at a range of Livestock Marts across Northern Ireland. Terry is present to assist members of FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.

Any farmers who wish to join the scheme can also do so through their local FQAS mart clinic. Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed above. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.

EU CATTLE PRICES LEAGUE TABLE

THE EU cattle prices league table provides a good synopsis of developments in farmgate prices across key EU markets. The table provides R3 heifer prices across EU countries with the highest prices at the top and the lowest prices at the bottom. The average EU price is also provided at the bottom of this table.

Prices are provided for the week ending 17 August and the week ending 20 July. The table shows how prices have changed during that period and gives an indicator of where the highest farmgate prices are across the EU.

GB had the highest R3 heifer prices in the EU in the week ending 17 August. Prices in GB increased by 5p/kg between mid-July and mid-August. There was a substantial uplift in Swedish prices, some of which may be attributed to a strengthening of the Swedish Krona against the Euro. French prices were broadly stable, and remain about 5c/kg ahead of NI R3 heifer prices. NI prices are 24c/kg ahead of the EU average.

In ROI, R3 heifer prices continue to lag the average EU price. Prices in ROI have come under pressure since mid-July and in the week ending 17 August, prices stood at 364c/kg.

The average EU price also came under pressure with a decline of 4.5c/kg reported. The average EU price stood at 382.9c/kg in the week ending 17 August.

EU Deadweight Cattle Prices - Heifers R3 Equivalent (€ Cents)

Position last Mth	Position this Mth	Country	Price last Mth (w/e 20.07.14)	Price this Mth (w/e 17.08.14)	Change on Mth (cents)
2	**1**	**Great Britain**	**415.8**	**421.1**	**+5.3**
7	2	Sweden	377.2	414.4	+37.2
3	3	France	412.0	412.0	+0.0
1	4	Italy	417.5	407.2	-10.4
4	**5**	**Northern Ireland**	**404.2**	**407.0**	**+2.8**
5	6	Luxembourg	392.5	397.7	+5.2
8	7	Germany	373.5	370.7	-2.8
6	8	Spain	387.6	365.4	-22.1
9	**9**	**Ireland**	**370.0**	**364.4**	**-5.6**
10	10	Denmark	368.5	361.1	-7.5
11	11	Austria	358.3	358.0	-0.3
12	12	Belgium	343.0	341.0	-2.0
13	13	Slovenia	323.6	334.9	+11.3
14	14	Poland	302.9	302.1	-0.9
16	15	Czech Republic	270.0	270.2	+0.2
15	16	Lithuania	273.9	244.4	-29.5
		EU Average	387.4	382.9	-4.5
		Euro (€1=)	79.25	79.93	+0.7

Official prices reported to the EC Dressing Specification

FQAS Helpline
If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:
028 9263 3024

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 27/08/14	Next Week 01/09/14
Prime		
U-3	314-320p	314-320p
R-3	308-314p	308-314p
O+3	302-308p	302-308p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	245-256p	245-256p
Steakers	140-170p	140-170p
Blues	120-130p	120-130p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 23/08/14	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	324.5	329.0	316.2
R3	320.9	323.2	315.2
O+3	311.9	309.5	304.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 23/08/14	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
O+3=	-	-	-	256.4
O-3+	-	-	231.4	239.3
P+2+	185.6	221.0	217.6	226.7
P+3+	165.0	-	222.3	231.0
P-1-	138.8	142.9	158.6	210.0

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 16/08/14	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	129.50	-3.0
Wheat	135.00	-2.5
Straw	13.70	-

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady at 314-320p/kg. The quotes were generally 316p/kg for steers with higher prices available for heifers. Quotes for good quality O+3 cows this week ranged from 245-256p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for early next week.

Throughput of prime cattle in the plants last week totalled 6,010 head, the highest weekly throughput since early June 2014. In the corresponding week last year 6,072 prime cattle were slaughtered. While the throughput was similar year on year there have been some key changes to the slaughter mix. Last week 53 per cent of the NI prime kill were steers and 13 per cent were young bulls while in the corresponding week last year 39 per cent of the kill were steers and 28 per cent of the prime kill were young bulls. Meanwhile the proportion of heifers in the slaughter mix was unchanged at 34 per cent. The cow kill in NI last week was similar tothe previous week at 1,774 head, its highest level since March 2014.

The deadweight prices paid for all classes of cattle declined in NI last week. The average steer price in NI last week was 309.7p/kg, back 3.2p/kg from the previous week while the R3 steer price was back 1.5p/kg to 323p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price was back by 2.1p/kg to 318.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back 3p/kg to 324.3p/kg. The average young bull price was back by 1.7p/kg to 298.4p/kg in NI last week.

Last week GB prime cattle prices showed an increase compared to the previous week. Steer prices in GB increased by 4.5p/kg to an average of 338.9p/kg. This was driven by strong increases across all of the GB regions. R3 steer prices in Scotland were up by 3p/kg, while prices in the Midlands and Wales were up by 5p/kg. R3 steer prices in Southern England increased by 4p/kg. Heifer prices across GB were up by 3.5p/kg and again this reflected increases across most of the regions. Young bull prices in GB were also up by about 3p/kg, with a strong trade reported in Northern England and the Midlands.

In NI last week the average cow price was back by 9.6p/kg to 222.3p/kg, with O3 and O4 grading cows down by 7p/kg and 5p/kg respectively. In Scotland, average cow prices also fell (-5.5p/kg). Further south the trade improved with average prices in Southern England up by 9p/kg, driven by a sharp increase in P2 and P3 grading cows.

In ROI prices continued to come under pressure last week. R3 and R4 steer prices were back by about 5c/kg. Heifer prices were back to a similar degree. Young bull prices also came under pressure in ROI.

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

W/E 23/08/2014		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	324.6	293.7	363.0	348.2	345.0	344.4	351.1
	R3	323.0	285.0	355.8	340.5	338.3	332.1	343.1
	R4	320.2	283.7	359.3	357.1	338.0	331.4	349.9
	O3	305.3	268.1	339.6	319.6	311.5	310.2	321.4
	AVG	309.7	-	355.0	341.9	327.2	323.4	338.9
Heifers	U3	328.9	300.1	367.4	347.9	347.5	344.0	353.3
	R3	324.3	289.1	355.9	337.9	334.9	331.9	341.6
	R4	322.2	287.9	356.4	345.8	336.3	330.9	344.2
	O3	307.8	275.6	340.9	326.8	309.7	314.6	325.9
	AVG	318.4	-	356.0	341.4	331.9	323.8	340.6
Young Bulls	U3	316.6	286.2	355.9	322.5	337.1	345.1	335.7
	R3	315.3	280.1	346.4	310.1	320.7	325.7	320.2
	O3	293.4	253.8	305.0	282.8	292.1	309.4	292.8
	AVG	298.4	-	334.3	303.3	318.4	312.2	314.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		4600	-	6849	5896	5475	3925	22145
Cows	O3	242.9	234.9	252.1	247.9	251.8	240.5	247.9
	O4	248.6	236.2	256.1	249.3	256.7	243.3	250.8
	P2	205.3	205.4	185.0	203.0	201.7	192.1	194.5
	P3	224.1	226.7	212.2	224.0	228.6	218.3	218.9
	AVG	222.3	-	247.3	226.1	245.3	211.7	230.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=79.93p 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 LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
W/E 23/08/14	From	To	Average	From	To	Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	180	192	185	150	176	165
Friesians	128	139	133	120	128	125
Heifers	180	202	190	145	179	162
Beef Cows	133	200	142	100	132	116
Dairy Cows	100	130	106	70	99	84
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	201	234	216	150	200	175
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	204	222	212	150	203	178
Bullocks over 500kg	181	211	196	140	180	160
Heifers up to 450kg	191	217	203	145	190	168
Heifers over 450kg	188	208	196	130	187	160
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	305	405	342	200	300	250
Continental Heifers	255	410	292	150	250	200
Friesian Bulls	65	140	90	20	60	40
Holstein Bulls	40	80	60	5	38	22

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES		
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 25/08/14	Next Week 01/09/14
Lambs	350p>21kg	345-350p>21kg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG			
(P/KG DW)	W/E 09/08/14	W/E 16/08/14	W/E 23/08/14
NI Liveweight	318.6	322.6	320.4
NI Deadweight	349.0	349.4	348.5
ROI Deadweight	338.1	344.0	343.5
GB Deadweight	383.3	380.3	376.4

Deadweight Sheep Trade

TOP quotes from the NI plants for R3 grade lambs have remained steady this week at 350p/kg up to 21kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. There have been reports of steady supplies of good quality lambs coming forward for slaughter with lamb throughput in the NI plants last week totalling 11,167 head. This brings throughput for the last twelve weeks to 139,194 head compared to 106,322 head in the same period in 2013. This accounts for a 31 per cent increase in throughput year on year.

This Week's Marts

THIS week at the marts, prices eased back in some cases compared to last week. In Ballymena on Wednesday, the sale was slightly smaller than the previous week with 1,600 lambs through the ring. The price range was 290-326p/kg, with an average price of 304p/kg. This was 4p/kg lower than the week before when over 1700 lambs sold to an average of 308p/kg. Similarly in Markethill on Wednesday, 1150 lambs sold at a price range of 300-325p/kg. with an average price of 310p/kg. Prices were on average 5p/kg down compared to the previous week. A sale of almost 500 lambs in Armoy sold to a top of 333p/kg, with an average of 310p/kg. Again this was about 5p/kg lower than the previous week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS					
From: 23/08/14		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 29/08/14		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Donemana				
	Swatragh	1000	288	337	
	Omagh	1143	309	345	
Monday	Massereene	1126	305	339	
	Kilrea	780	306	342	
Tuesday	Saintfield	804	306	355	
	Rathfriland	1257	290	370	317
Wednesday	Ballymena	1600	290	326	304
	Enniskillen	459	314	341	
	Markethill	1150	300	325	310
	Armoy	496	300	333	310
Thursday	Hilltown	1468	300	429	

Contact us:

Website: www.lmcni.com

Telephone: 028 9263 3000

Fax: 028 9263 3001

FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024

Answerphone: 028 9263 3011

Comments: bulletin@lmcni.com