

NI SLAUGHTERINGS NOVEMBER 2013

PRIME cattle slaughterings in NI during 2013 to date have totalled 314,137 head, more or less unchanged from the 314,962 head killed during the corresponding period in 2012. This accounts for a decline in throughput by 825 head when comparing the period January to November 2013 and the same period in 2012.

There have also been changes in the makeup of the prime cattle kill when comparing the two periods. In the 2012 period steers accounted for 47.5 percent of the prime kill and in the 2013 period they accounted for 42.7 per cent. This reduction in the proportion of steers has been offset by an increase in the proportion of young bulls in the prime kill which increased from 18.5 per cent in the 2012 period to 21.7 per cent in the 2013 period. Meanwhile heifers accounted for 33.9 percent of the prime kill in the 2012 period and this increased to 35.6 per cent in the 2013 period. This increase is a sign that fewer heifers are being retained for breeding.

Figure 1 shows prime cattle slaughterings in NI for the period January 2012 to November 2013. During the first quarter of 2013 throughput in the NI plants was similar to the previous year. However in the second quarter more prime cattle were killed in NI plants than during the corresponding period of 2012.

During this period producers had to finish cattle in the house without a second grazing period due to the lack of grass this spring. In addition to this prime cattle were lighter at housing in autumn 2012 due to production difficulties during summer 2012 and there were some reports of concentrate feeds being of poorer quality. The combination of these factors resulted in prime cattle slaughtered in the second quarter of 2013 being lighter and younger than recorded in previous years.

In recent weeks the NI plants throughput has been lower than the same period in 2012. One reason for this trend is the influence of the high number of prime cattle slaughtered from April to June this year which would have traditionally only have been killed during the autumn. During November 2013 a total of 29,977 prime cattle were slaughtered in NI plants compared to 28,186 head slaughtered during 2012. This accounts for a 4 per cent decline in prime cattle throughput when comparing the two months.

Average carcase weights of prime cattle during November 2013 were 324.5kg compared to an average carcase weight of 332.6kg in November 2012. This 8.1kg reduction in average carcase weights between the two periods accounts for a 2.4 per cent reduction in

average carcase weights year on year.

The average carcase weight reduction has been an ongoing trend over the course of 2013. The overall beef production from prime cattle for November 2012 was 9,200 thousand tons which compares to 8540 thousand tons produced in the same period of this year. This is a reduction of seven per cent in beef production from prime cattle when comparing the two months.

There has also been a reduction in the amount of beef produced from cow slaughterings year on year. In November 2012 a total of 3,028 thousand tonnes of cow beef where produced compared to 2,559 thousand tons in November 2013. This accounts for a 15.5 per cent reduction in cow beef production. This decline has been driven by a decline in cow slaughterings. A total of 8,677 cows were killed in November 2013 compared to 10,621 cows killed in November 2012.

There has however been an increase in average carcase weight from 285kg in November 2012 to 295kg in November 2013. The improvement in production conditions this summer and the increase in the number of suckler origin cows in the slaughter mix are key reasons for this 3.4 per cent increase in average carcase weights year on year.

NI CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS						
	November			Year to Date		
	(4 weeks ended 30/11/13)			(48 weeks ended 30/11/13)		
	Nov-12	Nov-13	% Change	2012	2013	Change
CATTLE - FOODCHAIN						
Steers	13,229	11,469	-13%	149,730	134,149	-10%
Heifers	10,198	9,546	-6%	106,898	111,879	5%
Young Bulls / Calves	4,759	5,962	+25%	58,334	68,109	17%
Total Prime Cattle	28,186	26,977	-4%	314,962	314,137	0
Cows	10,621	8,677	-18%	90,065	84,334	-6%
Mature Bulls	793	703	-11%	5,940	7,470	26%
Total Cattle	39,600	36,357	-8%	410,967	405,941	-1%

Figure 1: Prime cattle slaughterings January 2012 to November 2013



NI CALF REGISTRATIONS DECLINE IN NOVEMBER

Beef sired calf registrations during November 2013 totalled 14,305 head, the lowest number recorded during the month of November since 2008 when 14,089 beef sired calves were registered.

Beef sired calf registrations during November 2013 were back eleven per cent on the corresponding period in 2012 when 16,061 calves were

registered. This decline has resulted in calf registrations during eight of the first eleven months of 2013 being lower than the corresponding months in 2012 as indicated in Figure 2.

During 2013 to date a total of 296,705 beef sired calves were registered in NI compared to 318,694 calves registered during the same period in 2012. This accounts

for a seven per cent decline in beef sired calf registrations year on year with 21,989 fewer beef sired calves registered during 2013 to date.

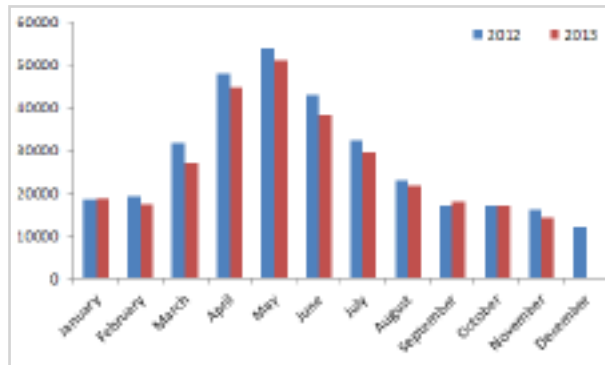
The preliminary results of the June Agricultural Census 2013 indicated a three per cent decline in suckler cow numbers on NI farms when compared to the previous year. This decline is perhaps unsurprising given the production difficulties faced by NI producers during 2012 and 2013 and the increase in cow throughput by the processors.

The number of dairy sired calves has also shown a decline year on year with calf registrations during the first 11 months of 2013 running 3.2 per cent lower than the same period in 2012. The number of dairy sired calves registered during November 2013 totalled 20,361 head

compared to 21,496 head during November 2012. This accounts for a reduction of 5.3 per cent year on year. The number of dairy sired male calves registered during November 2013 totalled 9,237 head, a reduction of 6.6 per cent on the 9,892 head on the number recorded in November 2012.

The combination of a poor summer in 2012, reduced fertility performance by the NI suckler and dairy herds and the fodder shortages experienced on many NI farms encouraged many producers to offload unproductive stock. The relatively strong cull cow price will also have encouraged producers to kill more cows. The combination of all of these factors has been a reduction in the number of both beef and dairy sired calves born on NI farms during 2013.

Figure 2: Beef sired calf registrations for the period January 2012 to November 2013



FQAS MART CLINICS DECEMBER

FQAS Liaison Officer Mart Clinics Timetable		
Markethill	Tuesday	03/12/2013
Saintfield	Wednesday	04/12/2013
Omagh	Wednesday	11/12/2013
Enniskillen	Thursday	12/12/2013
Kilrea	Wednesday	18/12/2013
Balymena	Friday	20/12/2013

MC'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.



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

Answerphone Service
Factory Quotes &
Mart Results
Updated 5pm Daily

Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service
Free Price Quotes sent to your mobile
phone weekly

Email - bulletin@lmcni.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 02/12/13	Next Week 09/12/13
Prime		
U-3	356-358p	350-352p
R-3	350-352p	344-346p
O+3	344-346p	338-342p
* Plus 8-14p/kg in spec bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3 & better	230-250p	230-250p
Steakers	150-220p	150-220p
Blues	110-170p	110-170p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 30/11/13	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U-3=	376.8	382.9	353.6
U=3=	375.0	383.3	356.3
U=4=	366.5	374.0	-
R=3=	373.8	375.6	349.3
R=4=	378.2	374.5	-
O+3=	374.0	371.5	337.9
O=3=	361.0	367.4	331.4
Average	365.5	369.0	339.8

REPORTED COW PRICES NI W/E 30/11/13

Grades	Price (p/kg)	Avg Wgt
O+3=	259.0	328.6
O-3+	241.2	308.5
P+2+	221.3	296.2
P+3+	234.4	317.1
P-1-	138.8	219.4

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 30/11/13	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	161.00	+0.63
Wheat	183.50*	-
Straw	17.00	-
Diesel	710-720	-

*Price based on data available for w/e/23/11/2013

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES for U-3 grade prime cattle this week ranged from 356-358p/kg with bonuses of 8-14p/kg available across the plants for steers and heifers that kill out in spec. Quotes for early next week are 350-352p/kg across the plants. Quotes for O+3 cows this week ranged from 230-250p/kg with similar quotes expected for early next week.

Throughput of prime cattle in the NI plants last week totalled 6,882 head, an increase of 559 head on the previous week which accounts for a nine per cent increase week on week. Throughput however was 641 head lower than the corresponding week in 2012 when 7,523 prime cattle were slaughtered. Meanwhile a total of 1,977 cows were slaughtered in NI last week, back five per cent from the previous week when 2,076 head were slaughtered. Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 682 head and consisted of 169 cows and 513 prime cattle. Meanwhile exports to GB for direct slaughter last week consisted of 275 prime cattle and 82 cows.

Average steer prices in NI last week were up by 1.3p/kg to 365.5p/kg while the R3 steer price was back in the region of a penny to 374.4p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week increased by 1.4p/kg to 369.0p/kg with the R3 heifer price back by a penny to 375.0p/kg. Meanwhile the average young bull price in NI last week was back by almost half a penny to 339.8p/kg. Average cow prices in NI last week increased by 7.9p/kg to 221p/kg.

Meanwhile prices in GB for steers remained fairly steady with the average steer prices in GB up by 0.6p/kg to 392.8p/kg last week. There was however some variation shown across the regions. While average prices increased in the Midlands and Southern England average prices in Scotland and Northern England were back in the region of 2p/kg to 416.3p/kg and 392.4p/kg respectively. The average heifer price in GB last week was 389.7p/kg, similar to the previous week. As with the steer prices there was some variation shown across the regions with average prices recording an increase in the Midlands and Southern England, remaining almost unchanged in Northern England and back by 2p/kg in Scotland to 410.9p/kg. The trade for prime cattle in ROI was fairly steady last week with R3 steer and heifer prices within a penny of the previous week at 324.2p/kg and 337.7p/kg respectively.

This week's marts

FIRST quality finished heifers this week sold from 200-220p/kg (avg 206p/kg) with second quality selling from 175-199p/kg (avg 190p/kg). Finished first quality steers from 200-233p/kg (avg 210p/kg) with second quality selling to an average of 190p/kg. Finished beef cows sold at an average of 169p/kg for first quality animals and second quality at 124p/kg. First quality dairy origin cows sold from 95p/kg to 156p/kg (avg 108p/kg) and second quality made an average of 77p/kg. Store cattle were a firm trade with first quality store bullocks over 500kg selling to an average of 214p/kg and first quality store heifers over 450kg making 190-199p/kg (avg 194p/kg).

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

W/E 30/11/13	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	376.4	330.9	425.6	396.2	395.5	404.5
	R3	374.4	324.2	416.2	392.6	383.9	394.9
	R4	373.7	323.4	418.5	404.4	385.7	400.4
	O3	363.1	308.8	401.4	380.6	368.0	380.2
	AVG	365.5	-	416.3	392.4	382.0	392.8
Heifers	U3	381.1	348.6	424.5	397.2	398.8	405.6
	R3	375.0	337.7	415.4	382.9	385.5	393.5
	R4	376.2	337.2	416.0	390.9	385.8	395.2
	O3	364.3	324.2	378.7	373.4	371.1	369.9
	AVG	369.0	-	410.9	386.5	382.4	389.7
Young Bulls	U3	354.8	326.0	416.8	365.3	380.7	380.7
	R3	347.9	319.5	403.6	355.1	370.5	370.1
	O3	332.5	301.3	364.3	336.3	352.5	347.1
	AVG	339.8	-	385.7	343.6	362.9	355.2
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5203	-	6229	5828	5381	3845	21283
Cows	O3	248.3	246.2	240.4	244.1	222.6	234.1
	O4	254.4	248.3	250.0	242.0	238.5	238.6
	P2	200.1	210.1	184.7	198.1	180.3	182.9
	P3	227.1	234.1	206.3	215.7	198.1	203.6
	AVG	221.0	-	229.5	216.8	199.2	207.9

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=83.44p 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 30/11/13	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Average	From	To	Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	200	233	210	180	199	190
Friesians	160	189	167	144	158	151
Heifers	200	220	206	175	199	190
Beef Cows	140	204	169	105	139	124
Dairy Cows	95	156	108	60	94	77
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	180	196	188	150	179	170
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	227	213	165	199	182
Bullocks over 500kg	195	224	214	160	194	177
Heifers up to 450kg	195	218	206	149	194	172
Heifers over 450kg	190	199	194	163	189	176
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	280	385	340	180	278	230
Continental Heifers	210	370	270	120	208	170
Friesian Bulls	98	165	124	40	96	68
Holstein Bulls	40	100	70	2	38	20

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 02/12/13	Next Week 09/12/13
NI Factories	380p > 22kg	380p > 22kg
ROI Factories	380p > 22kg	380p > 22kg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG

(P/KG DW)	W/E 16/11/13	W/E 23/11/13	W/E 30/11/13
NI Liveweight	328.4p	333.2p	340.2p
NI Deadweight	367.2p	366.7p	368.4p
ROI Deadweight	353.7p	358.4p	357.2p
GB Deadweight	399.2p	399.1p	399.0p

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for R3 grade lambs increased to 380p/kg with plants continuing to pay up to 22kg. The plants have reported a steady supply of lambs to meet demand with slaughterings in the NI plants last week fairly similar to the previous week at 10,432 head. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week continued at similar levels to previous weeks with 10,238 lambs exported. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was 368.4p/kg, up 1.7p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile in GB the deadweight lamb price has remained fairly steady at 399p/kg.

This week's marts

IN Omagh last Saturday lambs sold from 342-371p/kg compared to 341-370p/kg last week. Donemana had prices between 332p/kg and 359p/kg with an average price of 347p/kg, relatively unchanged from last week's average of 348p/kg. A smaller show in Newtownstewart this week saw lambs making 324-374p/kg with an average of 343p/kg compared with last week's prices of 320-345p/kg and an average of 330p/kg. Massereene last week had 1,165 lambs selling for 330-359p/kg compared to 1,206 lambs selling this week from 335-370p/kg. Prices for lambs this week at Ballymena were 330-371p/kg (avg 346p/kg) compared to last week's prices of 320-359p/kg (avg 335p/kg). The trade for cull ewes has remained fairly steady with a top price of £86 reported in Hilltown and top prices generally ranging from £60-70.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 30/11/13 To: 05/12/13		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
		No.	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1011	342	371	-
	Donemana	910	332	359	347
	Hilltown	400	330	363	345
	Newtownstewart	50	324	374	343
Monday	Massereene	1206	335	370	-
	Kilrea	520	335	369	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	684	340	385	-
	Rathfriland	1059	334	416	355
Wednesday	Ballymena	1860	330	371	346
	Enniskillen	742	340	362	348
	Markethill	1100	340	371	348
	Armoy	274	340	376	-

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