

## BEEF MARKET PERFORMANCE INDICATORS APRIL 2014

**T**ABLE 1 outlines key performance indicators of the NI beef trade for April 2014 compared to the corresponding period in 2013.

The average prime cattle price in NI during April 2014 was 332.2p/kg compared to 366.5p/kg during April 2013. This decline by 34.3p/kg year on year accounts for a 9.4 per cent decline in average prices. Meanwhile the average R3 steer price in April 2014 was 343.5p/kg compared to 377.0p/kg the previous April. This decline in the average R3 steer price by 33.5p/kg accounts for an 8.9 per cent decline year on year. In monetary terms the value of an R3 grading 330kg steer carcass declined by £111 between April 2013 and April 2014.

In GB the average R3 steer price has also declined from 395.6p/kg in April 2013 to 360.5p/kg in April 2014. This decline by 35.1 p/kg represents an 8.9 per cent decline in the GB R3 price between the two periods. The differential between NI and GB narrowed slightly from 18.6p/kg in April 2013 to 17p/kg in April 2014.

Average R3 steer prices in ROI have shown the most marked decline. In April 2014 the average R3 steer price in ROI was the equivalent of 312.3p/kg compared to 361.5p/kg the previous April. This decline by 49.2p/kg represents a 13.6 per cent decline in R3 steer prices in ROI between April 2013 and April 2014. This has widened the differential in R3 steer prices between ROI and NI from 15.5p/kg in April 2013 to 31.2p/kg in April 2014.

Prime cattle throughput in the NI plants during April

2014 totalled 31,947 head compared to 34,526 head in April 2013. This accounts for a 7.5 per cent decline year on year. The improved fodder situation in 2013 has resulted in an increase in the average prime cattle carcass weight from 329.2kg in April 2013 to 332.4kg in April 2014. Cow throughput also declined from 7,752 head in April 2013 to 6,291 head in April 2014, a decline in throughput of 18.8 per cent year on year. There was however an increase in the average cow carcass weight from 293.7kg in April 2013 to 303.9kg in April 2014.

Imports from ROI and GB for direct slaughter in NI plants during April 2014 totalled 1,737 head. This was 30 per cent lower than the 2,468 head imported during April 2013. Exports for direct slaughter have also recorded a decline between the two periods tabulated. In April 2013 2,375 cattle were exported from NI to GB and ROI for direct slaughter and in April 2014 there were 1,412 head of cattle exported. This accounts for a forty per cent decline year on year.

The number of beef sired cattle on the ground aged 12-30 months in April 2014 totalled 388,882 head compared to 401,743 head in April 2013. This decline by 12,861 head accounts for a 3.2 per cent decline year on year. Declining calf births and lower levels of imports for further production from ROI in recent times will both have played key roles in this decline. The number of dairy sired male cattle in the same age bracket declined by 9.3 per cent from 44,959 head in April 2013 to 40,476 in April 2014. If these figures are combined there has been a 9.3 per cent decline between April 2013 and April 2014.

NI Beef Industry Key Performance Indicators (April Snapshot) From Week 01 to Week 05			
	Apr-13	Apr-14	% Change
<b>Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)</b>			
Average Prime Cattle Price	366.5	332.2	-9.4%
Average Cow Price	271.5	227.8	-16.1%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	377.0	343.5	-8.9%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	361.5	312.3	-13.6%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	395.6	360.5	-8.9%
<b>Slaughtering</b>			
Total Clean Slaughtering (Head)	34,526	31,947	-7.5%
Total Cow Slaughtering (Head)	7,752	6,291	-18.8%
Average Clean Carcass Weight (kg)	329.2	332.4	1.0%
Average Cow Carcass Weight (kg)	293.7	303.9	3.5%
<b>Trade (Head)</b>			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	2,468	1,737	-29.6%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	2,375	1,412	-40.5%
<b>Availability (Head)</b>			
No. Cattle on the Ground*	450,186	432,841	-3.9%
Beef Sired	401,743	388,882	-3.2%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	48,443	43,959	-9.3%
<b>Calf Births Registrations (Head)</b>			
Calf Births	52,369	47,508	-9.3%
Beef Sired	44,599	40,476	-9.2%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	7,770	7,032	-9.5%
<b>Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)</b>	85.08	82.52	-3.0%

\* Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy Male Only)

All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated

# BEEF SIRED CALF REGISTRATIONS DECLINE

**B**EEF sired calf registrations in NI during April 2014 totalled 40,476 head compared to 44,599 head registered in April 2013. This decline by 4,123 head when comparing the two months accounts for a 9.2 per cent decline. As indicated in Chart 1 this is the fourth consecutive month in which beef sired calf registrations have been lower than the corresponding month in 2013.

Beef sired calf registrations during the first third of 2014 totalled 98,220 head compared to 107,527 head in the same period in 2013. This decline by 9,307 head year on year accounts for an 8.7 per cent decline. Dairy sired male calf births for 2014 to date have totalled 31,214 head compared to 33,564 head during the same period in 2013. This accounts for a seven per cent decline year on year.

However with the late spring of 2013 and cows recovering from the effects of feed shortages and a difficult winter there were reports of poor fertility on many NI farms last summer. For this reason many cows may be calving later than normal this year so it is possible there will be an increase in beef sired calf registrations during May and June of 2014.

Beef sired calf registrations continue to be dominated by a six main breeds. Aberdeen Angus, Belgian Blue, Charolais, Hereford, Limousin and Simmental accounted for 92 per cent of beef sired calf registrations during 2014 to date.

Limousin remains the most popular beef sire and accounted for 28.6 per cent of beef calf registrations during 2014 to date while Charolais sired calves accounted for a further 23.6 per cent of registrations. This compares to 30.8 per cent and 24.9 per cent respectively of beef sired calf registrations during the corresponding period in 2013. During the first third of 2014 19 per cent of beef sired calf registrations were Aberdeen Angus compared to 16.9 per cent in the 2013 period. This is an increase by 2.1 percentage points year on year.

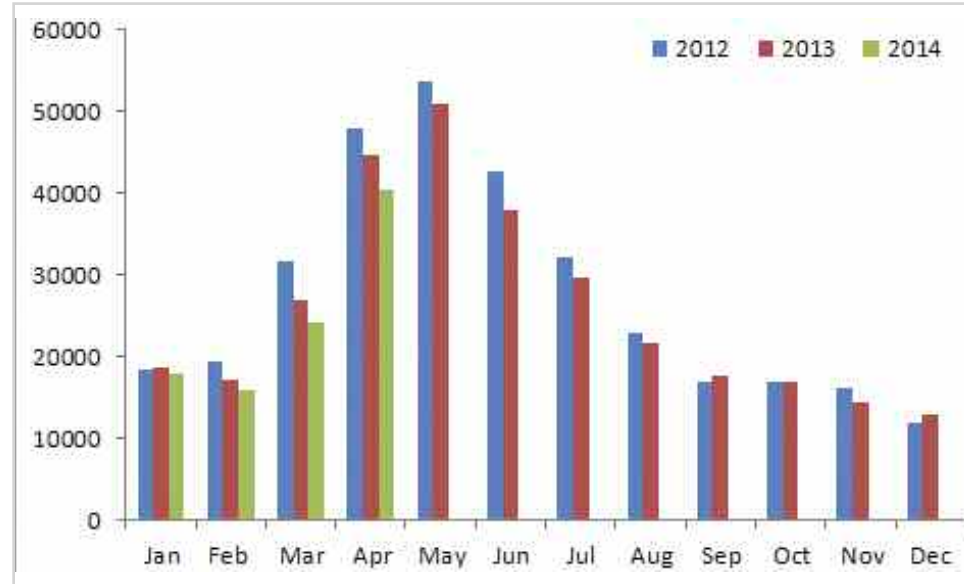
The number of Hereford calves registered during 2014 to date is approximately a third of the number of Aberdeen Angus calves. While numbers remain small there has been a 14.3 per cent increase in the number of Hereford calves registered year on year. This has resulted in Hereford calves accounting for 6.3 per cent of calf registrations during 2014 to date, up 1.4

percentage points from the 2013 period.

Meanwhile the number of Simmental sired calves registered remained fairly steady year on year

accounting for 8 per cent of beef sired calf registrations. The proportion of Belgian Blue calves has increased slightly to account for 6.8 per cent of beef sired calf registrations in 2014 to date.

Chart 1: NI Beef sired calf registrations January 2012- April 2014



## 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](mailto:bulletin@lmcni.com)  
Tel: 028 9263 3000

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



## CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE		
(P/KG DW)	This Week 12/05/14	Next Week 19/05/14
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	334-340p	330-334p
R-3	328-334p	324-328p
O+3	322-328p	318-322p
Including bonus		
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3 & better	240-250p	240-250p
Steakers	140-170p	140-170p
Blues	120-130p	120-130p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG			
W/E 10/05/14	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U-3=	339.5	346.4	328.0
U=3=	338.2	348.9	328.7
U=4=	322.6	337.5	-
R=3=	342.8	341.0	323.8
R=4=	334.7	336.0	-
O+3=	333.8	334.1	300.8
O=3=	328.6	316.1	293.0
Average	329.1	335.3	305.4

REPORTED NI COW PRICES P/KG				
W/E 10/05/14	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
O+3=	-	-	238.9	260.0
O-3+	-	-	237.8	236.1
P+2+	-	215.0	213.4	220.5
P+3+	-	200.0	230.0	226.8
P-1-	133.6	138.9	137.1	-

COMMODITY PRICE		
W/E 03/05/14	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	164.50	n/c
Wheat	185.50	+0.27
Straw	16.80	--
Red Diesel	680-690	-

## Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for U-3 grade prime cattle ranged from 334-340p/kg including the in spec bonus. Quotes for early next week range from 330-334p/kg and producers are encouraged to liaise with the procurement staff of the individual plants as there are some variations in the payment structure and specifications across the plants.

Throughput of prime cattle in the NI plants last week totalled 6,359 head compared to 7,089 head the previous week. Cow throughput was also back last week with 1,298 head slaughtered compared to 1,328 head the previous week. Total cattle throughput in the NI plants last week was 7,991 head, 8.7 per cent lower than the previous week. Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 161 head, the lowest weekly import of 2014 to date. Meanwhile 143 prime cattle and 16 cows were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter last week with 116 cows and 7 clean cattle exported to ROI for direct slaughter.

Average steer prices in NI last week were back by 3.6p/kg to 329.1p/kg while R3 steer prices were unchanged at 340.3p/kg. Average heifer prices were also back by 3.6p/kg to 335.3p/kg while the R3 steer price was back by 2.1p/kg to 340.8p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was back by 1.1p/kg to 305.4p/kg while the average cow price was back in the region of 2p/kg to 227.6p/kg.

In GB the trade has come under increased pressure with average steer and heifer prices recording a decline in all of the GB regions. Average steer prices in GB came back by 6.3p/kg to 346.5p/kg last week while the R3 steer price came back by 7p/kg to 348.7p/kg. R3 steer prices in NI last week were on par with the prices paid in the Midlands region and were 7p/kg higher than the 333.3p/kg paid for R3 grade steers in Southern England.

Average heifer prices in GB last week were back by 7.1p/kg to 345.0p/kg with average prices back in the region of 8-9p/kg in Northern England, the Midlands and Southern England. In Scotland the average heifer price was back by 3.2p/kg to 364.1p/kg. The R3 heifer price in GB last week was 346.7p/kg, 5.9p/kg higher than the R3 price in NI. R3 heifer prices in NI were also on par with prices in the Midlands and were almost 10p/kg higher than the 331.2p/kg paid in Southern England.

The trade for young bulls has also come under pressure in GB with average prices back by 6.7p/kg to 316.1p/kg last week, 10.7p/kg higher than the average price in NI. R3 young bull prices in GB were back by 8.2p/kg last week to 325.4p/kg compared to 320.1p/kg in NI.

The trade for finished cattle in ROI remained fairly steady last week. R3 steer prices in ROI increased by the equivalent of 2.1p/kg from the previous week to 313.9p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by a penny to 321.8p/kg.

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

W/E 10/05/2014		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	337.8	322.9	371.6	359.0	354.7	349.4	360.2
	R3	340.3	313.9	364.1	350.0	340.4	333.3	348.7
	R4	337.0	314.0	365.7	366.8	345.2	331.9	357.3
	O3	324.8	298.6	338.8	328.1	309.6	308.0	321.7
	AVG	329.1	-	364.8	355.4	333.2	320.5	346.5
Heifers	U3	347.1	335.5	373.5	357.8	354.2	342.3	360.1
	R3	340.8	321.8	363.2	343.3	341.0	331.2	346.7
	R4	338.5	321.5	363.8	350.0	342.1	329.9	348.9
	O3	326.3	303.8	352.2	326.0	316.6	308.2	327.5
AVG	335.3	-	364.1	348.0	336.0	320.3	345.0	
Young Bulls	U3	325.7	303.1	369.7	330.0	339.7	343.5	341.5
	R3	320.1	296.1	355.8	318.6	325.3	318.8	325.4
	O3	296.4	271.9	315.1	280.0	299.7	298.8	294.7
	AVG	305.4	-	341.0	308.0	317.0	310.8	316.1
Prime Cattle Price Reported		4538	-	6366	5639	5316	3882	21203
Cows	O3	241.9	242.8	253.5	246.7	253.6	239.6	247.6
	O4	245.8	244.8	257.4	248.4	252.3	245.5	250.8
	P2	200.7	211.5	199.6	202.8	209.1	186.0	195.9
	P3	221.0	233.4	216.1	223.8	209.3	207.5	215.5
	AVG	227.6	-	244.8	231.5	249.0	210.4	231.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=82.11p 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 10/05/14	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Average	From	To	Average
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	190	210	195	172	189	180
Friesians	135	145	140	114	134	124
Heifers	190	208	197	170	189	180
Beef Cows	140	173	156	110	139	125
Dairy Cows	101	144	107	60	100	80
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	220	258	230	170	219	190
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	210	234	217	160	209	184
Bullocks over 500kg	200	217	208	165	199	182
Heifers up to 450kg	200	236	218	170	199	185
Heifers over 450kg	200	234	217	160	199	180
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	265	365	300	165	262	215
Continental Heifers	208	325	270	100	205	160
Friesian Bulls	140	265	180	40	138	90
Holstein Bulls	75	158	115	7	72	40

# SHEEP TRADE

## HOGGET/LAMB QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 12/05/14	Next Week 19/05/14
Hoggets	420p>22kg	400-420p>22kg
Spring Lambs	460>21kg	460>21kg

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for R3 grade lambs were in the region of 460p/kg to 21kg while quotes for hoggets ended the week at 400-420p/kg. Similar quotes are expected from the plants for early next week. The number of spring lambs coming forward for slaughter remains tight and only small numbers have passed through the marts in the last few weeks. Spring lambs accounted for 57 per cent of the price reported kill last week compared to 70 per cent in the corresponding week in 2013. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was 472.3p/kg, back 16.5p/kg from the previous week while prices in GB came back by 12.4p/kg to 520.1p/kg.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 10/05/14		Spring Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 16/05/14		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	59	399	432	-
	Swatragh	100	433	445	-
Monday	Massereene	365	420	442	-
	Kilrea	150	411	428	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	176	400	450	-
	Rathfriland	201	400	478	434
Wednesday	Ballymena	156	395	527	425
	Enniskillen	285	426	452	-

## REPORTED HOGGET PRICES - P/KG

(P/KG DW)	W/E 26/04/14	W/E 03/05/14	W/E 10/05/14
NI Liveweight	397.0	381.5	337.4
NI Deadweight	451.6	459.0	445.3
ROI Deadweight	457.5	457.0	434.4
GB Deadweight	475.8	473.0	463.3

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 10/05/14		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 16/05/14		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	177	373	421	-
	Swatragh	250	375	432	-
Monday	Massereene	181	350	396	-
Wednesday	Ballymena	145	270	356	305
	Enniskillen	101	392	410	-

## REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG

(P/KG DW)	W/E 26/04/14	W/E 03/05/14	W/E 10/05/14
NI Liveweight	487.5	454.0	427.5
NI Deadweight	490.7	488.8	472.3
GB Deadweight	531.9	532.5	520.1

Contact us:

FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024

Website: [www.lmcni.com](http://www.lmcni.com)

Answerphone: 028 9263 3011

Telephone: 028 9263 3000

Comments: [bulletin@lmcni.com](mailto:bulletin@lmcni.com)

Fax: 028 9263 3001

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.

Not for further publication or distribution without prior permission from LMC

