

NI CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS UPDATE

THE latest slaughter statistics from DARD have indicated that for the year to date 242,505 prime cattle have been killed in NI, a five per cent reduction on the 256,178 head killed in the same period last year. Meanwhile the cow kill has been 63,571, a five per cent increase on the same period last year as outlined in Table 1.

For the year to date the total heifer kill was 83,503 head, down nine per cent on the 92,011 killed in the same period in 2011. This marked decline has been the result of more heifers being retained for breeding and therefore removed from the slaughter mix. Over the same period the steer and young bull kill were down two per cent and six per cent respectively.

However cattle slaughterings have shown signs of recovery in recent weeks with increasing throughput in the plants. In the last twelve weeks prime cattle throughput has been eight per cent higher than the corresponding period in 2011. The early housing of cattle may have meant animals are finishing earlier in the year than anticipated and this may be one explanation for the increase in the number of animals coming through for slaughter. The average age of all prime cattle killed in September 2011 was 25 months and in September 2012 it was 24.4 months.

This decrease in the average age of slaughter by 0.6 months between September 2011 and September 2012 has been driven by an increase in the young bull kill year on year. The young bull kill has increased by 24 per cent when we compare the twelve week period leading up to the 22 September in 2011 and 2012 as outlined in Table 1. An analysis of the price reporting statistics have shown that there has been an increase in the proportion of the young bull kill sourced from the suckler herd, up from 54 per cent in September 2011 to 57 per cent in September 2012. This increase in the number of young bulls that have been sourced from the suckler herd may be another explanation for the increase in the cattle kill when comparing the two twelve week periods discussed in this article. Last year these young bulls may have been

killed as steers later in the year.

With a decline in prime cattle slaughterings there has also been a decline in the total amount of beef produced from prime cattle for the year to date, down three per cent from the same period in 2011 as shown in Table 2. However much of this decline in beef production occurred in the first quarter of the year when cattle numbers were tight. Table 3 shows that in the last twelve weeks beef production from the prime kill in NI was 25,682 tonnes, an 8 per cent increase on the 23,694 tonnes produced in the same twelve week period last year.

This increase has come on the back of an increase in the prime cattle kill by almost 5,342 head when comparing the two twelve week periods. However the 75,605 head of prime cattle killed in the last 12 weeks is still below slaughter levels during the same period in 2009 and 2010. The increase in beef production has also been driven by an increase in the average prime cattle carcass weight to 340.3kg. This is an increase of 3.5kg on the same twelve week period in 2011 and 10kg on the same period in 2009 and 2010. The majority of the increase in prime beef production has been from the increase in the young bull kill, up 30 per cent between the two twelve week periods. In the same period beef production from steers and heifers was up five per cent and three per cent respectively.

Beef production from the cow kill increased by fifteen per cent between the two twelve week periods outlined in Table 2. This increase in production is a result of a 19 per cent increase in the cow kill from 6,214 head in the 2011 period to 7,129 in 2012 head. However the average carcass weight for cull cows in the month of September 2012 was 282kg, 6kg less than the 288kg average in September 2012. The proportion of dairy bred cows in the kill was unchanged at 69 per cent between September 2011 and September 2012. This reduction in carcass weights is perhaps a consequence of the poor weather conditions this summer.

	September			Year to Date		
	(12 weeks ended 22/09/12)			(38 weeks ended 29/09/12)		
	Sep-11	Sep-12	% Change	2011	2012	Change
CATTLE - FOODCHAIN						
Steers	35,743	37,373	5%	114,928	112,484	-2%
Heifers	23,431	24,211	3%	92,011	83,503	-9%
Young Bulls / Calves	12,338	15,327	24%	49,400	46,518	-6%
Total Prime Cattle	71,512	76,911	8%	256,178	242,505	-5%
Cows	20,410	24,193	19%	60,805	63,571	5%
Mature Bulls	1,603	1,175	-27%	6,602	4,073	-38%
Total Cattle	93,525	102,279	9%	323,585	310,149	-4%

	September			Year to Date		
	(12 weeks ended 22/09/12)			(38 weeks ended 22/09/12)		
	Sep-11	Sep-12	% Change	2011	2012	Change
BEEF						
Steers	12,654	13,251	5%	40,323	40,204	-0%
Heifers	7,321	7,545	3%	28,728	26,165	-9%
Young Bulls / Calves	3,966	5,140	30%	15,992	15,729	-2%
Total Prime Cattle	23,943	25,937	8%	85,045	82,099	-3%
Cows	6,214	7,129	15%	19,243	18,973	-1%
Mature Bulls	643	151	-77%	2,530	1,721	-32%
Total Beef	30,801	33,218	8%	106,819	102,794	-4%

	Prime kill	Average carcass weight (kg)	Beef Production (tonnes)
2009	77,496	330.4kg	25,323t
2010	78,951	330.2kg	26,066t
2011	70,263	336.8kg	23,694t
2012	75,605	340.3kg	25,682t



FQAS Corner: Updated Animal Welfare Codes Cattle and Sheep

As part of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS), animals must be reared and managed in accordance with the DARD Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock (Cattle and Sheep). It is a requirement of FQAS that these codes are signed and dated to indicate that they have been read and understood. These Welfare Codes have recently been reviewed and updated by DARD, due to the introduction of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011.

DARD has informed the FQAS that these revised codes for 2012 will not be re-printed for each farmer. FQAS has been advised that the new codes can be obtained online from the DARD website or can be requested from local DVO's for those who do not have internet access. The FQAS consider these Welfare Codes to be a fundamental part of the FQAS Standard; however we understand that not everyone has access to the internet in order to

obtain these revised codes. To assist our members with this change the FQAS will permit the use of the current Welfare codes for Cattle and Sheep (published in 2005) for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime all members of the scheme are encouraged to view the updated versions on the DARD website where possible, either at: http://www.dardni.gov.uk/beef_cattle_code_of_practice.pdf
http://www.dardni.gov.uk/sheep_code_of_practice.pdf

or the LMC website
<http://www.lmcni.com/fqas/documentation>

For the purpose of FQAS inspections, either version 2005 or 2012 will be acceptable and this will be reviewed in a few months time, if you have any queries please contact our Farm Liaison Officer on (028) 92 633024 or visit www.lmcni.com

Single farm Payment Exchange rate set

THE Single Farm Payment is the main agricultural subsidy scheme in the EU and came into force on 1st January 2005. It replaced most of the direct subsidy payments previously made to farmers. The Single Farm Payment is a valuable contribution to the NI farming industry and for many producers it accounts for a large proportion of their income from farming enterprises.

When calculating Single Farm Payments in currencies other than the Euro the member state in question will calculate the value of the direct payment on the basis of the most recent exchange rate set by the European Central Bank prior to the October 1. For 2012 this date is Friday 28th September (Yesterday) and the exchange rate was €1 = £0.79805.

In 2011 payments of the Single Farm Payment were made using the exchange rate of €1 = £0.86665. With yesterday's rate at £0.79805 NI farmers can expect a 7.91 per cent reduction in their Single Farm Payment year on year. This reduction in the direct payments from the EU has come on the back of one of the most difficult and costly summers for beef and sheep producers on record due to high input costs and the unpredictable weather.

NI Suckler Beef Programme Farm Walk rescheduled for 03/10/2012

Location:
John Dobsons Farm
44 Annaghannon Road,
Warringstown, Craigavon,
Co Armagh
BT66 7RZ

The scheduled walk on the Dobson farm will focus on improving farm efficiency and reducing labour inputs while increasing productivity, output and the gross margin of the farm



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 24/09/12	Next Week 01/10/12
Prime		
U-3	310-312p	310-312p
R-3	304-306p	304-306p
O+3	298-300p	298-300p
* Plus 8p/kg in spec bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3 & better	260-275p	260-275p
Steakers	180-245p	180-245p
Blues	160-180p	160-180p

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 22/09/12	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U-3=	319.4	322.5	313.2
U=3=	323.0	330.2	313.7
U=4=	315.4	318.3	-
R=3=	318.9	320.1	308.5
R=4=	315.3	322.6	-
O=3=	301.1	305.5	292.3
O+3=	310.2	314.9	299.9
Average	307.6	312.1	297.9

REPORTED COW PRICES NI W/E 22/09/12

Grades	Price (p/kg)	Avg Wgt
O+3=	275.7	336.5
O-3+	259.7	314.2
P+2+	238.4	282.7
P+3+	253.5	300.0
P-1-	172.1	221.7

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 29/09/12	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	199.00	-1.73
Wheat	216.00	-1.37
Soya	476.00	-2.36
Straw	15.17	-
Red Diesel	715-760	-

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for U-3 grade prime cattle were 310-312p/kg. The majority of plants are quoting 310p/kg for steers and 312p/kg for heifers. One plant is quoting 312p/kg for both steers and heifers. Quotes for first quality cows remain in the range of 260-275p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for Monday

Throughput of prime cattle last week totalled 7,082 head, a decrease of just under 700 head on the same week last year when throughput was 7,759. The factories have been reporting good supplies of prime cattle due to the poor weather conditions with reports from some plants that animals are dying leaner than previous years. Imports of 875 prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter account for 12.4 per cent of the prime kill. The cow kill increased by 210 head on the previous week to 2,512, with 313 of these imported from ROI for direct slaughter. Exports of cattle to GB for direct slaughter last week totalled 246 head

Average steer prices in NI last week increased by 1p/kg to 307.6p/kg with the R3 steer price increasing by 1.3p/kg to 318.5p/kg. Meanwhile heifer prices increased by 2p/kg to 312.1p/kg with the R3 heifer price up 1.6p/kg to 322.2p/kg.

A similar trend can be observed across the UK with average steer and heifer prices showing increases across all the regions. The biggest increase in average prices was in the Midlands where steer and heifer prices increased in the region of 5p/kg. In Scotland the R3 steer and heifer prices were both up just over 1p/kg to 360.7p/kg and 357.9p/kg respectively. R3 steer prices in Northern England increased 6p/kg to 354.2p/kg while R3 heifer prices in the region were up 5.8p/kg to 349.1p/kg.

Deadweight prices in ROI last week showed slight improvements in sterling terms for the majority of reported grades. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was 301.0p/kg while the heifer price 313.4p/kg. The U3 young bull price increased by 2p/kg to 312.7p/kg

This week's marts

THE trade for good quality finished cattle in the marts this week strengthened slightly with first quality steers selling to an average of 196p/kg compared to 191p/kg last week. Good quality finished heifers sold to an average of 189p/kg compared to 183p/kg last week. There was a similar trade for plainer type heifers, selling to an average of 165p/kg. Well fleshed beef cows sold to an average of 165p/kg with plainer animals selling to an average of 135p/kg.

Meanwhile good quality store heifers up to 450kg sold in the range of 190-213p/kg this week compared to 180-208p/kg last week. First quality bullocks in the 400-500kg range sold to an average of 200p/kg compared to 192p/kg last week. Second quality bullocks in the same weight range sold to an average of 181p/kg compared to 170p/kg last week.

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

W/E 22/09/2012	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	321.3	310.2	365.2	355.9	356.9	354.3
	R3	318.5	301.0	360.7	354.2	346.7	345.9
	R4	314.9	300.7	363.5	360.2	345.5	343.9
	O3	304.5	287.2	348.5	343.1	328.0	318.7
AVG	307.6	-	360.5	351.6	341.7	321.1	345.5
Heifers	U3	326.4	323.8	366.9	353.8	356.9	354.1
	R3	322.2	313.4	357.9	349.1	346.8	341.6
	R4	320.8	312.2	360.4	350.3	346.2	343.4
	O3	307.5	298.8	345.2	343.2	331.0	323.2
AVG	312.1	-	357.4	346.3	345.1	332.0	347.0
Young Bulls	U3	314.0	312.7	355.0	345.5	352.1	346.4
	R3	308.4	303.9	348.0	333.5	338.5	331.9
	O3	291.4	288.0	327.7	316.3	319.8	315.8
	AVG	297.9	-	340.4	328.9	335.3	318.1
Prime Cattle Price Reported	4960	-	6752	6171	5004	4125	22052
Cows	O3	264.0	253.1	279.7	272.8	276.9	266.5
	O4	265.7	254.9	286.7	275.9	274.6	266.4
	P2	230.4	228.6	231.5	225.5	243.1	222.2
	P3	248.8	247.8	250.2	253.5	239.1	244.2
AVG	232.7	-	270.9	248.0	258.5	229.9	251.6

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=80.24p Stg
(ii) Shading indicates a lower price than the previous week.

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 22/09/12	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Average	From	To	Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	190	209	196	175	189	182
Friesians	139	166	149	107	138	129
Heifers	181	200	189	150	180	165
Beef Cows	157	191	165	120	156	135
Dairy Cows	114	144	122	90	113	101
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	189	240	195	170	188	179
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	193	240	200	170	192	181
Bullocks over 500kg	188	196	191	165	187	176
Heifers up to 450kg	190	213	196	160	189	175
Heifers over 450kg	180	233	186	150	179	167
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	245	340	280	150	240	190
Continental Heifers	250	350	280	120	245	175
Friesian Bulls	100	165	135	50	98	75
Holstein Bulls	50	115	75	6	48	25

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 24/09/12	Next Week 01/10/12
NI Factories	340p	340p
ROI Factories	360p	360p

Notes: (i) Lambs up to 21kg
(ii) ROI prices converted at 1 euro=80.24p Stg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG

(P/KG DW)	W/E 08/09/12	W/E 15/09/12	W/E 22/09/12
NI Liveweight	306.6p	307.9p	300.9p
NI Deadweight	347.6p	345.6p	340.1p
ROI Deadweight	355.1p	351.9p	
GB Deadweight	413.7p	403.3p	386.2p

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the factories this week for R3 grading lambs came back 10p/kg from last week to 340p/kg. The plants are not quoting for next week until Monday. Strong supplies of lambs have been reported with 10,606 lambs slaughtered last week, an increase of 230 head on the previous week. Lamb slaughterings in NI are currently running 43 per cent ahead of last year with almost 75,000 additional lambs slaughtered. Lambs going to ROI last week for direct slaughter increased by just 1800 head on the previous week and totalled 12,849 head. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter for the year to date are currently 14 per cent behind the same time last year. The NI Deadweight price last week was back 5.5p/kg to 340.1p/kg. Meanwhile in GB the deadweight lamb price came back 17.1p/kg to 386.2p/kg

This week's marts

TRADER for finished lambs has generally been quieter in the marts this week with average prices back in the region of 10p/kg in many of the marts. In Kilrea on Monday 580 lambs sold to an average of 298p/kg compared to 450 lambs last week selling to an average of 310p/kg. In Newtownstewart on Thursday a smaller entry of 320 lambs sold from 275-300p/kg (av 286p/kg) compared to 702 lambs last week selling from 292-310p/kg (av 296p/kg). In Ballymena however there was similar trade to the previous week with 1227 lambs selling to an average of 295p/kg compared to 1710 lambs last week selling to an average of 293p/kg. A good trade for well fleshed cull ewes remains firm with a top price of £92 in Kilrea on Monday.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 22/09/2012 To: 27/09/2012		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
		No.	From	To	Average
Saturday	Omagh	1458	294	345	-
	Hilltown	950	309	341	322
Monday	Kilrea	580	288	308	298
	Massereene	1276	295	321	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	505	285	310	295
	Armoyn	387	290	315	301
Wednesday	Rathfriland	886	281	305	290
	Ballymena	1227	282	334	295
	Enniskillen	693	303	326	315
Thursday	Markethill	680	297	321	307
	Newtownstewart	320	275	300	286
	Downpatrick	250	275	295	288

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

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

