LMC BULLETIN

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COUNTING FARM RESIDENCES

MEETING factory specifications at point of slaughter has become increasingly important in recent times with penalties on out of spec cattle.

One aspect of the current specification in some major plants is that the animal being presented for slaughter must have had four or less different farm residences over its lifetime. It is worth noting that it is the number of DIFFERENT RESIDENCES an animal has in its lifetime that is counted and NOT the number of movements.

In recent weeks marts have started to provide information on the number of farm residences at point of sale. This is a welcome development as it will make cattle buyers aware of the number of farm residences prior to purchase.

Establishing the number of farm residences an animal has had over its lifetime is a straight forward process but it is important to know the rules. When calculating the number of residences you need to be looking for the number of distinct herd numbers in the animal movement history including the herd it was born into.

It is important to note that trading premises herds are included as a farm residency but shows, marts and meat plants are not. It should also be noted that if an animal is moved to a mart but does not sell and is taken home again there is no change to the number of farm residences.

Table 1 provides a good example of the Animal Movement History of an individual animal. If the animal in this example was moved directly to slaughter it would fulfil the criteria of four residences or less and would therefore be in spec in terms of the number of residences.

However if it was moved to another farm before being presented for slaughter it would be regarded as out of spec and may attract an out of spec penalty at point of slaughter.

This example illustrates some of the complexities of calculating the number of farm residences an animal has had in its lifetime and it is important that producers know what they are looking for when establishing the number of farm residences. It is worth noting that the number of cattle being affected by this specification is small with just four per cent of price reported prime cattle last week having more than four farm residences.

Producers can check the residency status of cattle in their herd by accessing their herd list using APHIS online. Any producer who does not have access to APHIS online can a get a herd list from their local DVO office which lists all the cattle in the keeper's herd for the day it is printed along with their full movement history so far. Anyone with queries should contact their local DVO office for further clarification.

Table 1: Example of the animal movement history of a suckler cow on APHIS Online

Animal Movement History				
From Herd	To Herd	Move date	Move Type	Buyer confirmed
Birth	370360	02/10/2008	BASE	NO
370360	S06237	12/09/2009	MC2	YES
S06237	370360	12/09/2009	MC2	YES
370360	210236	10/11/2010	MC2	YES
210236	M27J	20/11/2013	MC2	YES
M27J	984636	20/11/2013	MC2	YES
984636	M27J	19/02/2014	MC2	YES
M27J	173175	19/02/2014	MC2	YES

The animal outlined above was born into herd number 370360 (Residency 1) in October 2008 and permitted to a show (S06237) in September 2009. The animal was returned to the same herd number (370360) so there was no change to the number of different farm residences.

The animal was then sold directly from herd number 370360 to herd number 210236 in November 2010 (Residency 2). The animal was then moved again in November 2013 through a mart to herd number 984636 (Residency 3). It was then sold again through a mart in February 2014 to herd number 173175 (Residency 4).

Therefore this particular animal has been on four farms over the course of its lifetime which are highlighted in red in Table 1.

NI CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS UPDATE

PRIME cattle slaughterings in NI during 2014 to date have totalled 209,145 head. This was six per cent lower than the 221,534 head slaughtered in the corresponding period last year and four per cent lower than the corresponding period in 2012. Cow throughput in the NI plants during 2014 to date has totalled 51,029 head compared to 57,908 head in the corresponding period in 2013. This accounts for a 12 per cent decline year on year.

Prime cattle throughput in NI has increased in recent weeks with weekly throughput now similar to the levels recorded in 2013 as indicated in Figure 1. The plants have reported a steady supply of all types of cattle to meet customer demand.

While prime cattle throughput in NI has shown some recovery there have been key changes to the slaughter mix when compared to year earlier levels. During August 2014 13 per cent of the prime kill were young bulls compared to 27 per cent in the corresponding period in 2013. Meanwhile the proportion of the prime cattle kill made up of steers has increased from 39 per cent to 53 per cent while the proportion of heifers remains unchanged at 34 per cent.

The decline in the number of young bulls being presented for slaughter can be attributed to more stringent enforcement of penalties on young bulls slaughtered over 16 months. Producers have had to alter their production systems to avoid these penalties by finishing young bulls at lower ages or castrate the bulls and finish them as steers. As a result the average age of slaughter of price reported young bulls during August 2014 was 15.2 months compared to 16.5 months in August 2013.

While the average age at slaughter for young bulls has recorded a decline year on year the average age at slaughter of price reported steers increased from 25.7 months in August 2013 to 26.3 months in August 2014. This increase is likely to be a consequence of reduced animal performance due to production difficulties in 2012 and 2013. Meanwhile the average slaughter age for heifers was unchanged year on year at 26.1 months in August 2014.

Imports and exports

There has been an increase in the number of prime cattle imported for direct slaughter in NI plants in recent weeks in line with normal seasonal trends as indicated in Figure 2. The number being imported for direct slaughter each week during August 2014 was higher than the corresponding week in 2013.

During August 2014 3,161 prime cattle were imported for direct slaughter in NI plants and accounted for 14 per cent of the total prime cattle kill in NI plants. In the corresponding period last year 2,522 prime cattle were imported for direct slaughter in NI plants and accounted for 11 per cent of the total prime kill. It is worth noting that during August 2014 168 prime cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter compared to just two prime cattle in August 2013.

Meanwhile exports of prime cattle to GB for direct slaughter during August 2014 totalled 463 head compared to 922 head in the same period in 2013. Exports of prime cattle to GB have been relatively low during 2014 to date with the narrower price differential between NI and GB than previous years a strong contributory factor to this trend.

During 2014 to date exports of prime cattle to GB for direct slaughter are 50 per cent lower than year earlier levels. However with GB deadweight prices for prime cattle recovering in recent weeks, while NI prices have come under pressure, producers may be incentivised to increase exports of prime cattle for slaughter in GB plants.

Figure 1: Prime cattle throughput in NI plants January 2012-August 2014

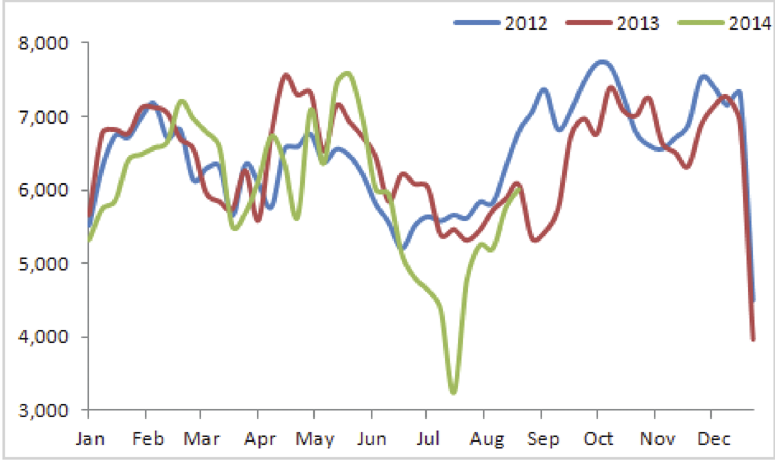
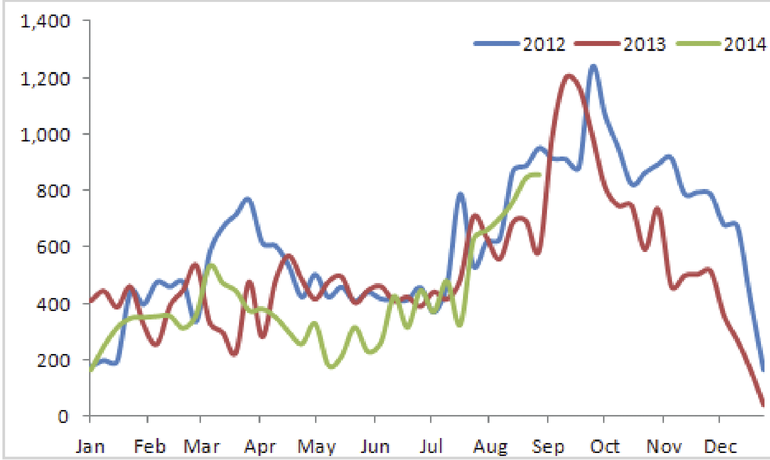


Figure 2: Imports of prime cattle from GB and ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants January 2012-August 2014



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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
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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 03/09/14	Next Week 08/09/14
Prime		
U-3	314-320p	316-322p
R-3	308-314p	310-316p
O+3	302-308p	304-310p
	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 30/08/14	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	323.2	328.6	312.8
R3	320.4	321.7	312.1
O+3	312.2	311.3	291.4

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 30/08/14	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
O+3=	-	240.0	265.0	254.3
O-3+	-	-	244.0	243.5
P+2+	-	202.0	221.0	230.1
P+3+	-	-	222.5	231.0
P-1-	142.3	147.4	163.8	180.0

COMMODITY PRICE

W/E 30/08/14	Price (£) per tonne / 1000litre	% weekly change
Barley	129.50	n/c
Wheat	133.00	-1.5
Straw	13.70	-

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for U-3 grade steers and heifers ranged from 314-320p/kg with steady supplies of cattle reported. Quotes for Monday range from 316-322p/kg. Cow quotes were similar to previous weeks and ranged from 245-256p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput in the NI plants last week was similar to the previous week at 5,904 head and brings throughput for August 2014 to 22,876 head. This was very similar to the 23,025 prime cattle killed in NI plants during August 2013. Cow throughput in NI last week was also similar to previous weeks with 1,732 head slaughtered. Imports of prime cattle for direct slaughter in NI plants increased in recent weeks in line with normal seasonal trends with 840 head imported last week from ROI and a further 15 head from GB.

Meanwhile exports of prime cattle to GB for direct slaughter last week totalled 190 head, the highest level of weekly export since March this year. Provisional figures have indicated that during August 2014 exports of cattle to GB for further breeding and production totalled 634 head. While this was an increase on the previous month when 375 cattle were exported it is markedly lower than the 1,223 cattle exported during August 2013.

The average steer price in NI last week was up 2p/kg to 311.8p/kg while in GB the average steer price increased by 3.4p/kg to 342.3p/kg with an increase in the average steer price recorded in all the GB regions. The R3 steer price in NI last week was unchanged at 322.9p/kg while the average R3 steer price in GB increased by 2.6p/kg to 345.7p/kg. This has widened the price differential between NI and GB to 22.8p/kg or £75 on a 330kg carcase. This differential however is narrower than the equivalent week in 2013 when the differential was £86 on an R3 grade 330kg carcase.

The R3 heifer price in NI last week was 323.2p/kg, back 1p/kg from the previous week. While there was a similar decline recorded in Northern England (to 337.1p/kg) all the other GB regions recorded strong increases in their R3 heifer price. The average GB R3 heifer price increased by 4.3p/kg to 345.9p/kg. This puts the differential between NI and GB R3 heifer prices at 22.7p/kg which is also the equivalent of £75 on a 330kg carcase. Cow prices in NI last week recorded a 5.5p/kg increase to 227.8p/kg which puts it 2p/kg lower than the average GB price. During August 2014 43 per cent of the price reported cow kill were of suckler origin compared to 52 per cent of the cow kill during August 2013.

In ROI last week deadweight prices for all types of cattle were back from the previous week. The R3 steer price was back the equivalent of 3.4p/kg to 281.6p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 3.6p/kg to 285.5p/kg. This puts the differential between ROI and NI at 41.3p/kg for R3 steers and 37.7p/kg for R3 grade heifers. This is the equivalent of £136 on a R3 330kg steer carcase and £124 on a R3 330kg heifer carcase.

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

W/E 30/08/2014		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	324.1	288.8	367.3	355.1	350.0	348.1	356.5
	R3	322.9	281.6	360.1	340.4	340.7	337.6	345.7
	R4	320.5	279.6	362.0	352.7	342.5	334.8	350.6
	O3	310.2	265.2	347.1	325.7	314.0	317.2	327.4
	AVG	311.8	-	358.1	344.7	331.0	326.5	342.3
Heifers	U3	328.7	295.4	365.2	349.6	348.0	352.0	354.2
	R3	323.2	285.5	362.0	337.1	340.2	338.8	345.9
	R4	322.6	284.1	360.2	343.3	340.2	333.8	345.9
	O3	312.7	270.9	340.5	328.1	318.7	323.5	328.9
	AVG	317.7	-	357.4	341.2	336.8	330.1	342.9
Young Bulls	U3	312.8	283.8	363.3	323.9	343.7	347.3	339.6
	R3	311.1	276.0	353.8	317.3	329.4	330.4	327.8
	O3	287.7	254.6	311.3	280.8	303.7	304.2	296.7
	AVG	295.4	-	341.1	307.6	326.9	316.9	321.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		4611	-	6786	5763	5511	3842	21902
Cows	O3	243.6	233.6	254.9	248.9	248.8	243.5	249.6
	O4	245.6	234.6	261.0	251.1	254.4	242.6	252.2
	P2	206.4	202.7	185.3	200.6	224.3	189.6	192.5
	P3	224.3	225.2	208.8	224.3	221.1	211.7	215.5
	AVG	227.8	-	248.2	231.8	243.8	204.4	229.6

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=79.51p 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 30/08/14	1st QUALITY From	1st QUALITY To	1st QUALITY Average	2nd QUALITY From	2nd QUALITY To	2nd QUALITY Average
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	191	206	198	145	190	168
Friesians	133	155	141	104	129	114
Heifers	180	196	185	133	179	160
Beef Cows	130	177	137	97	129	113
Dairy Cows	90	125	100	65	89	80
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	190	203	197	150	189	170
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	194	213	200	155	193	175
Bullocks over 500kg	182	196	187	145	181	165
Heifers up to 450kg	180	202	190	140	179	160
Heifers over 450kg	175	197	185	144	174	160
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	295	425	355	190	290	240
Continental Heifers	200	325	270	100	198	150
Friesian Bulls	80	165	110	20	78	50
Holstein Bulls	60	165	90	20	58	35

SHEEP TRADE

LAMB QUOTES		
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 03/09/14	Next Week 08/09/14
Lambs	345p>21kg	345p>21kg

REPORTED LAMB PRICES - P/KG			
(P/KG DW)	W/E 16/08/14	W/E 23/08/14	W/E 30/08/14
NI Liveweight	322.6	320.4	309.7
NI Deadweight	349.4	348.5	343.5
ROI Deadweight	344.0	343.5	340.3
GB Deadweight	380.3	376.4	374.7

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week ended at 345p/kg up to 21 kg with reports of strong numbers of lambs coming forward for slaughter. Throughput in the NI plants last week totalled 11,978 bringing total throughput for August to 46,958 head. This is 17 per cent increase on the 40,275 lambs slaughtered in local plants during August 2013. Exports of sheep to ROI for direct slaughter during August 2014 totalled 29,415 head, a 19 per cent reduction on the 36,427 head exported during August 2013. The reported deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back 5p/kg to 343.5p/kg while prices in ROI were back by the equivalent of 3p/kg to 340.3p/kg. Deadweight prices in GB were back by 2p/kg to 374.7p/kg last week.

This Week's Marts

THE marts have reported good supplies of good quality lambs passing through the sale rings this week. In Massereene on Monday 1,320 lambs sold from 300-331p/kg compared to 1,126 lambs last week selling from 305-339p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 707 lambs sold from 290-353p/kg compared to 804 lambs last week selling from 306-355p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 1,055 lambs sold to an average of 314p/kg compared to 1,257 lambs last week selling to an average of 317p/kg. An entry of 850 lambs sold to an average of 315p/kg in Markethill on Wednesday compared to 1,150 lambs last week selling to an average of 310p/kg. Top reported prices for good quality cull ewes generally ranged from £85-£95 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS					
From: 30/08/14		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 05/09/14		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	1200	299	349	-
	Omagh	1601	297	367	-
Monday	Massereene	1320	300	331	-
	Kilrea	570	300	332	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	707	290	353	-
	Rathfriland	1055	290	350	314
Wednesday	Ballymena	1505	290	321	300
	Enniskillen	524	302	338	-
	Markethill	850	300	345	315
	Armoy	548	300	338	305

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