LMC BULLETIN

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UK BEEF EXPORTS DECLINE IN 2015

BEEF exports from the UK up to the end of May 2015 totalled 39,696 tonnes, an eleven per cent reduction on the corresponding period in 2014 when 44,776 tonnes were exported.

The EU continues to be the biggest single market for the UK beef industry beyond the domestic UK market. In the first five months of 2015 beef exports to the EU totalled 36,733 tonnes and accounted for 92.5 per cent of total UK beef exports. In the corresponding period in 2014 exports to the EU totalled 42,820 tonnes and accounted for 96 per cent of UK beef exports.

Tighter domestic supplies of cattle will have been one driver behind the reduction in UK beef exports but with sterling trading very strongly against the euro UK beef exports are relatively more expensive than beef from other European countries. This makes it more difficult for UK processors to trade in markets within the Eurozone.

The Russian ban on EU produce has also resulted in an increase in the availability of manufacturing beef on the EU market which has increased competition for the UK in accessing outlets for the cheaper cuts traditionally destined for the European market.

Ireland continues to be the primary destination for UK beef with 15,620 tonnes of beef exported during the period January-May 2015 and this accounted for 43 per cent of total UK beef exports to EU destinations. Much of the beef exported from the UK to ROI will have been from animals imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants and returning to ROI in carcase or primal cut form for further processing and marketing. This is a 17 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2014 when 13,319 tonnes of beef were exported from the UK to ROI.

While the volume of beef exported from the UK to Ireland has increased there have been notable declines in the level of exports to some other EU destinations. In the first five months of 2015 a total of 8,479 tonnes of beef were exported from the UK to the Netherlands. This is a 45 per cent reduction from the 15,331 tonnes exported in the corresponding period in 2014.

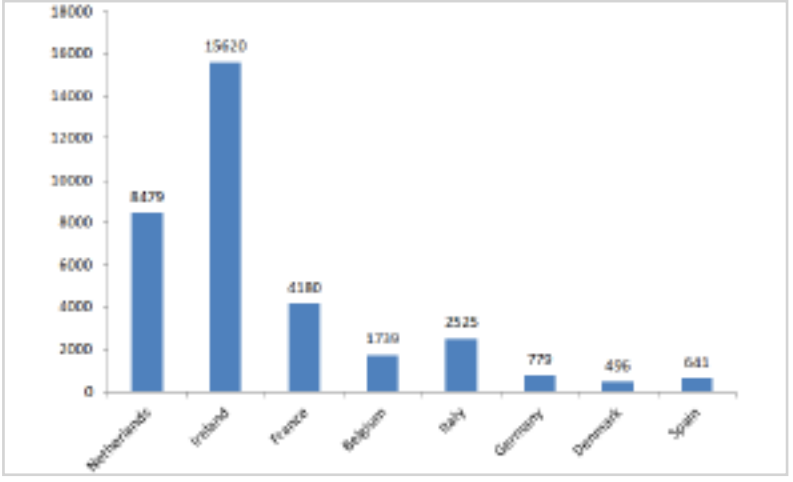
Exports from the UK to Germany during the 2015 period totalled 779 tonnes, a 50 per cent reduction on the 1,552 tonnes exported in the corresponding period in 2014. Meanwhile exports from the UK to Spain totalled 641 tonnes in the 2015 period, a 24 per cent reduction on the same period in 2014.

While the level of export to some EU countries has come under pressure the trade with France during the first five months of 2015 remained similar to year earlier levels at 4,180 tonnes. Recent unrest by farmers in France however may have an impact on UK exports in the second half of 2015. Meanwhile the volume of exports to Denmark during the 2015 period have increased by 23 per cent to 496 tonnes.

There has also been an increase in the level of export to non-EU countries although this market remains small in comparison to the level of export to the EU. In the 2015 period exports from the UK to non EU destinations totalled 2,963 tonnes, a 52 per cent increase on the 1,955 tonnes exported in the corresponding period in 2014.

During the first five months of 2015

Figure 1: Beef exports from the UK to the EU by country for the period January to May 2015



32,109 tonnes of fresh and chilled beef were exported out of the UK and this accounted for 81 per cent of total volume exports. In the corresponding period in 2014 36,981 tonnes of fresh and chilled beef were exported from the UK and this accounted for 83 per cent of total volume exports. There was a 13 per cent reduction in the volume of fresh and chilled beef exports year on year.

Meanwhile the total volume of frozen beef exported from the UK was similar to 2014 levels at 7,587 tonnes during the 2015 period. There was however a reduction in the volume of frozen beef exports from the UK to EU countries while exports of frozen beef to non EU countries increased year on year.

FQAS MART CLINICS AUGUST 2015

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	03/08/2015
Markethill	Tuesday	04/08/2015
Enniskillen	Thursday	13/08/2015
Kilrea	Wednesday	19/08/2015
Ballymena	Friday	28/08/2015
Saintfield	Wednesday	26/08/2015

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.

MORE DAIRY ORIGIN COWS IN NI COW KILL

THERE was a strong increase in the NI cow kill last week with a total of 1,887 head slaughtered. This was the second highest weekly cow kill for the year to date. It was also notably higher than the corresponding week in 2014 when the NI cow kill totalled 1,290 head as outlined in Figure 2.

The processors have reported strong supplies of cows coming available for slaughter with a notable increase in the number of dairy origin cows in the kill when compared to year earlier levels.

In the week ending 25 July 2015 61 per cent of the price reported cow kill were of dairy origin compared to 48 per cent of the cow kill in the corresponding week in 2014. During the period April-July 2015 59 per cent of the NI cow kill were of dairy origin compared to 52 per cent in the corresponding period in 2014.

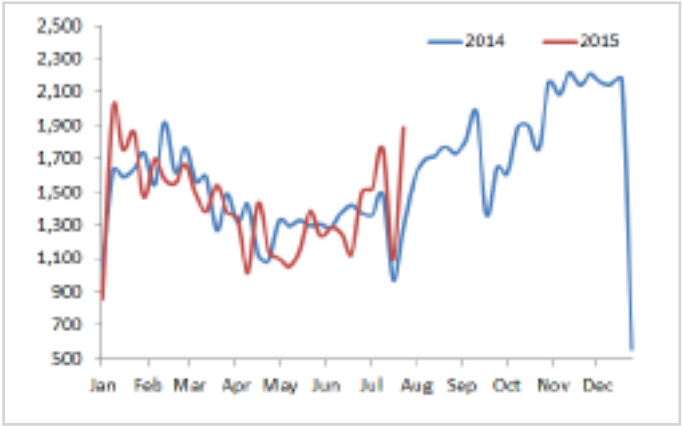
The increased availability of dairy cows coming forward for slaughter can be linked to the strong increase in the NI dairy herd recorded in the December 2014 Agricultural Survey which will have a higher cull output as a result. The recent fall in milk prices will also have encouraged dairy producers to offload underperforming stock.

The increase in the dairy influence on the NI cow kill will have been one factor in the drop in average carcase weight to 306kg for 2015 to date. In the corresponding period in 2014 the average carcase weight was 309kg.

There has also been an increase in the number of cows being exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI. During 2015 to date a total of 6,372 cows have been exported compared to 4,046 head in the corresponding period in 2014. This accounts for a 57 per cent increase year on year.

However there has also been an increase in the number of cows being imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants which has offset the increase in exports. During 2015 to date a total of 2,200 cows have been imported for direct slaughter compared to 419 head in the same period in 2014.

Figure 2: Weekly NI cow kill January 2014- July 2015



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

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 27/07/15	Next Week 03/08/15
Prime		
U-3	330 - 336p	328 - 330p
R-3	324 - 330p	322 - 324p
O+3	318 - 324p	316 - 318p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	240 - 260p	240 - 250p
Steakers	140 - 170p	140 - 170p
Blues	120 - 130p	120 - 130p

Cow quotes vary depending on weight and grade.
Pricing policies vary from plant to plant. Producers are advised to check pricing policies before presenting cattle for slaughter.

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 25/07/15	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	346.0	350.5	338.9
R3	342.2	343.8	336.6
O+3	333.2	335.2	325.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 25/07/15	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	150.7	161.3	163.2	183.3
P2	186.7	192.6	217.9	233.3
P3	202.2	213.4	236.2	244.6
O3	-	254.8	256.0	263.0
O4	-	238.2	256.5	266.4
R3	-	-	280.5	283.5

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES for U-3 grade prime cattle this week were in the region of 336p/kg in the majority of plants with one plant quoting 330p/kg towards the end of the week. However plants have indicated that supplies are now higher than demand and have quoted 328-330p/kg for early next week. The cow trade has come under some pressure in recent weeks with quotes for good quality O+3 cows this week ranging from 240-250p/kg with similar quotes expected next week.

The plants are reporting good supplies of prime cattle available for slaughter with throughput in NI last week totalling 5,290 head. This brings throughput for the four week period ending 25 July 2015 to 21,160 head, an increase of 4,133 head from the 17,027 head killed in the corresponding four week period in 2014. Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week totalled 373 head, a decrease of 54 head from the previous week. Meanwhile imports of cows from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants totalled 151 head with a further 65 cows imported from GB. Exports from NI to GB for direct slaughter last week consisted of 98 prime cattle and 21 cows.

While deadweight prices for prime cattle came back last week in response to the drop in base quotes from the major processors the prices paid remain higher than quotes would suggest. The highest quote from the NI processors for R3 steers last week was 334p/kg but the average price paid was 343p/kg. This is a differential of 9p/kg between prices quoted and prices paid.

The average steer price in NI last week was back by 3p/kg to 333.6p/kg while the R3 steer price was back by a similar margin to 343p/kg. This decline in the R3 steer price last week follows on from seven consecutive weeks where the R3 steer price improved. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by 3.8p/kg to 336.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 2p/kg to 344.6p/kg. The trade for young bulls in NI has shown a similar trend to the steers and heifers with the R3 young bull price back by 3p/kg to 336.6p/kg last week.

Meanwhile in GB deadweight prices for prime cattle have stagnated after recording steady improvement since mid-May this year. Reports have indicated that an improvement in cattle supplies in the past few weeks have helped to steady the trade although supplies are expected to remain tight for the remainder of the year. The average steer price in GB last week was back marginally to 356.6p/kg while the R3 steer price was back in the region of a penny to 361.1p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price in GB last week was unchanged at 356.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 1.8p/kg to 361.3p/kg.

The deadweight cattle trade in ROI last week remained steady in sterling terms with an equivalent R3 steer price of 296.5p/kg and an R3 heifer price of 304.6p/kg. Last week's prime cattle throughput totalled 22,191 head taking throughput for the year to date to 679,365 head, a one per cent reduction on year earlier levels. Steer throughput in ROI in 2015 has been 12.3 per cent higher than year earlier levels while the young bull kill has been down 30 percent for the year to date when compared to 2014.

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

W/E 25/07/2015		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	346.2	304.9	378.1	366.7	365.4	363.2	369.2
	R3	343.0	296.5	374.3	358.1	355.5	353.0	361.1
	R4	340.1	296.7	378.4	365.8	355.4	352.1	365.6
	O3	328.7	283.4	357.2	344.6	333.4	329.8	341.5
	AVG	333.6	-	374.0	358.7	345.8	340.7	356.6
Heifers	U3	350.6	313.0	383.4	371.2	366.6	363.1	372.8
	R3	344.6	304.6	373.9	356.6	358.8	351.5	361.3
	R4	340.6	303.7	376.1	360.8	356.8	350.6	363.0
	O3	331.9	289.6	355.9	338.5	329.5	334.7	341.5
	AVG	336.5	-	374.5	354.8	346.8	339.4	356.4
Young Bulls	U3	339.4	297.4	376.2	346.3	358.2	357.1	357.7
	R3	336.6	290.8	366.6	329.9	344.6	342.6	343.1
	O3	318.7	276.6	322.3	303.9	313.8	330.7	315.0
	AVG	327.1	-	361.6	329.0	344.0	340.6	342.1
Prime Cattle Price Reported		4446	-	6489	6550	5843	4434	23316
Cows	O3	262.3	255.3	267.3	254.6	249.5	240.9	255.5
	O4	265.3	256.2	271.5	259.1	254.2	246.7	259.5
	P2	222.9	224.8	214.7	215.7	203.5	196.6	208.2
	P3	241.5	249.9	223.7	240.2	222.1	213.8	225.5
	AVG	244.3	-	256.1	237.8	218.9	210.1	233.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=70.11p 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

	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
W/E 25/07/15	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	190	220	202	160	189	175
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	190	214	198	160	189	175
Beef Cows	141	163	148	110	140	125
Dairy Cows	100	122	111	60	99	75
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	220	246	226	180	219	200
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	202	233	216	175	200	187
Bullocks over 500kg	200	225	209	151	199	175
Heifers up to 450kg	193	224	204	170	186	179
Heifers over 450kg	193	212	204	160	189	174
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	415	350	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	250	370	300	150	248	200
Friesian Bulls	90	155	120	30	88	60
Holstein Bulls	60	120	85	6	58	35

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 27/07/15	Next Week 03/08/15
Lambs	300-305>21kg	300-305>21kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 11/07/15	W/E 18/07/15	W/E 25/07/15
NI Lambs L/W	297.1	285.4	272.3
NI Lambs D/W	320.4	321.9	303.6
GB Lambs D/W	346.5	345.0	339.6
ROI D/W	323.6	317.0	312.5

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for R3 grade lambs have steadied at 300-305p/kg with the plants reporting good supplies of lambs coming forward for slaughter. Throughput in the NI plants last weeks totalled 13,205 head compared to 12,887 lambs in the corresponding week in 2014. Exports of lambs from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week increased to 5,544 head. This similar to the corresponding week in 2014 when 5,822 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by 18.3p/kg to 303.6p/kg with the average deadweight price in ROI back by the equivalent of 4.5p/kg to 312.5p/kg.

This week's marts

A steadier trade was reported across the marts this week with good numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings. In Kilrea on Monday 641 lambs sold from 266-298p/kg compared to 644 lambs last week selling from 264-288p/kg. In Massereene this week an improved trade saw 828 lambs sold from 270-298p/kg compared to 1,308 lambs last week selling from 265-290p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday a sharper trade saw 804 lambs sold from 260-320p/kg compared to 755 lambs last week selling from 255-300p/kg. In Ballymena this week a strong entry of 1,340 lambs sold to an average of 272p/kg compared to 1,188 lambs last week selling to an average of 266p/kg. Top reported cull ewe prices generally ranged from £70-90 across the marts this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 25/07/15		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 31/07/15		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1024	295	345	-
	Swatragh	780	260	295	-
Monday	Kilrea	641	266	298	-
	Massereene	828	270	298	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	804	260	320	-
	Rathfriland	1233	255	328	276
Wednesday	Ballymena	1340	260	304	272
	Enniskillen	685	268	298	-

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