LMC BULLETIN

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SHEEPMEAT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS UPDATE

THE latest HMRC data has indicated that imports of sheepmeat into the UK totalled 13,077 tonnes during March 2016 bringing the total for the year to date to 29,494 tonnes. This is a 2.7 per cent reduction from the corresponding period in 2015 when 30,317 tonnes were imported.

Imports of sheepmeat from the EU during the first quarter of 2016 totalled 2,223 tonnes, accounting for 7.5 per cent of total sheep meat imports. Imports of sheep meat from the EU recorded a 5.2 per cent decline from year earlier levels during the first quarter of 2016 with notable declines in the volumes of sheepmeat imported from France and Spain. Meanwhile the volume of sheepmeat imported from ROI increased by 25.5 per cent to total 1,500 tonnes during the 2016 period.

Sheepmeat imports from non EU sources during the first quarter of 2016 totalled 27,271 tonnes, a 2.5 percent reduction from the corresponding period in 2015 but remaining notably higher than the 23,448 tonnes imported during the first quarter of 2014. Sheepmeat imports from non EU sources accounted for 92.5 per cent of total sheepmeat imports during the 2016 period.

Imports from New Zealand totalled 24,527 tonnes during the first quarter of 2016, a four per cent increase from the 2015 period when 23,623 tonnes were imported. Sheepmeat imports from New Zealand accounted for 90 per cent of total non EU imports. This is an increase from year earlier levels when New Zealand sheepmeat imports to the UK accounted for 84 per cent of total non EU imports.

While the volume of sheepmeat imports from New Zealand increased during the 2016 period the volume imported from Australia recorded a decline. During the first quarter of 2016 2,297 tonnes of sheepmeat were imported into the UK from Australia, a 45 per cent decline from the 4,173 tonnes imported during the first quarter of 2015.

There has also been an increase in the volume of sheepmeat imported from Uruguay during 2016 although the volumes involved remains very small. A total of 48 tonnes of sheepmeat were imported from Uruguay during the first quarter of 2016 compared to 13 tonnes during the same period in 2015.

The most notable change in sheepmeat imports during the first quarter of 2016 has been the type of products being imported. During the 2016 period the volume of bone in cuts imported by the UK totalled 19,473 tonnes and accounted for 66 per cent of total sheepmeat imports. In the corresponding period in 2015 the volume of bone in cuts imported totalled 22,285 tonnes and accounted for 74 per cent of total sheepmeat imports into the UK. This decline accounts for a 12.6 per cent decline year on year.

Meanwhile the volume of boneless cuts being imported has recorded a decline year on year. During the first quarter of 2016 the volume of boneless cuts imported totalled 9,672 tonnes, a 31 per cent increase from 2015 levels when 7,384 tonnes of boneless cuts were imported.

Exports

While the volume of lamb imported by the UK has declined during the first quarter of 2016 the volume of sheepmeat exported has also declined. UK sheepmeat exports totalled 17,564 tonnes during the first quarter of 2016, a ten per cent decline from the corresponding period in 2015.

Exports to the EU totalled 16,819 tonnes and accounted for 96 per cent of UK sheepmeat exports during the first quarter of 2016. This was an eight per cent reduction from 2015 levels when exports to the EU totalled 18,303 tonnes.

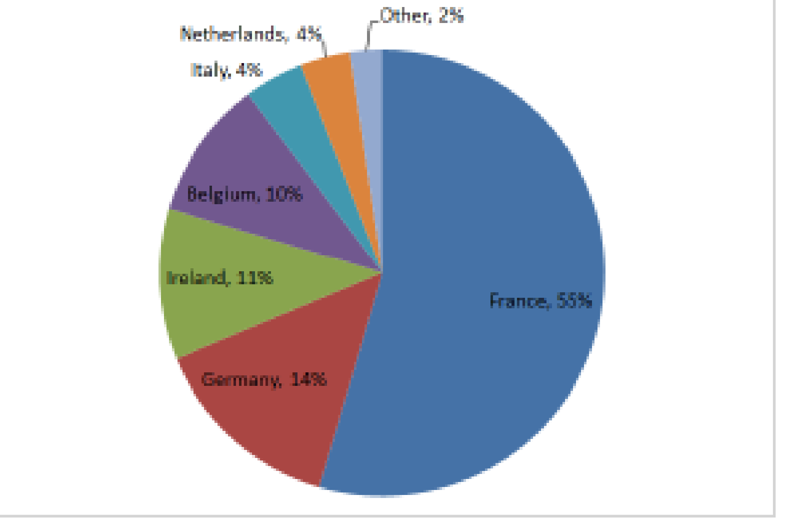
France remains the biggest export market for UK origin sheepmeat with 9,177 tonnes exported during the first quarter of 2016. This accounted for 55 per cent of UK origin sheepmeat exported to the EU. There was however a ten per cent reduction in the volume exported during the first quarter of 2015.

The volume of sheepmeat exported from the UK to ROI, Belgium and Italy all recorded declines year on year but the volumes involved remain relatively small. Meanwhile there has been growth in the volume of sheepmeat being exported to Germany and the Netherlands year on year.

Markets outside the EU for UK sheepmeat remain limited with just four per cent of UK sheepmeat exports destined for non-EU markets during the first quarter of 2016. This was a slight decline from six per cent in the 2015 period.

UK sheepmeat that was exported in carcase form totalled 11,549 tonnes during the first quarter of 2016 and these were almost entirely destined for the EU market. The volume exported in carcase form was back by seven per cent from year earlier levels. Meanwhile the volume of UK sheepmeat exported in cut form totalled 6,015 tonnes during the first quarter of 2016, a 15 per cent reduction from year earlier levels.

Figure 1: Export markets within the EU for UK sheepmeat January-March 2016



FQAS MART CLINICS JUNE 2016

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	06/06/2016
Saintfield	Wednesday	08/06/2016
Markethill	Tuesday	14/06/2016
Enniskillen	Thursday	23/06/2016
Ballymena	Friday	24/06/2016
Kilrea	Wednesday	29/06/2016

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 in the table. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.

DEADWEIGHT PRICES FOR PRIME CATTLE IMPROVE

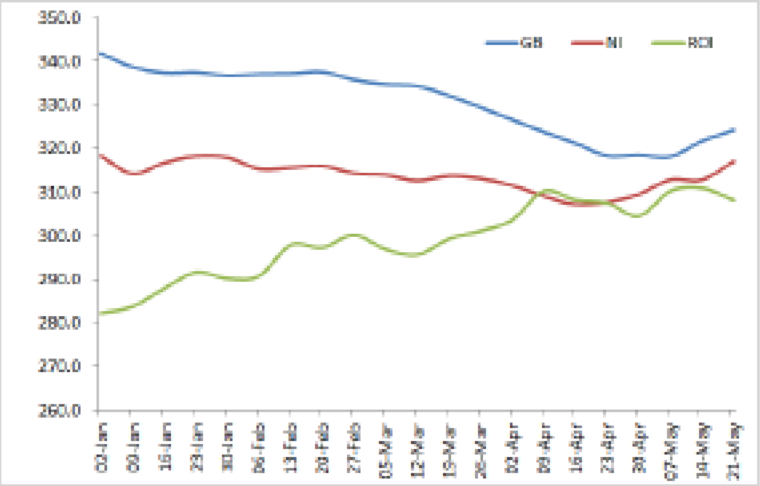
THE deadweight cattle trade in NI has improved in recent weeks with tightening prime cattle supplies a key driver behind the increases in reported prices. Quotes from the plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ranged from 310-314p/kg across the plants this week but reports have indicated that higher prices are available.

The R3 steer price in NI last week increased by 4.2p/kg to 317p/kg, taking it to the highest level since late January 2016. While the deadweight trade in NI has improved in recent weeks the R3 steer price paid last week was just behind the corresponding week in 2015 when the R3 steer price was 325.1p/kg.

Deadweight prices for prime cattle have also shown an improvement in GB in recent weeks with the average R3 steer price last week increasing by 2.5p/kg to 324.2p/kg. This places it 7.2p/kg above the NI R3 steer price, a differential between the two regions of £25 on a 350kg steer carcase.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle has also steadied in ROI in recent weeks with prices increasing in euro terms for the majority of reported cattle. However with a slight weakening in the value of euro against sterling reported prices last week were generally back when converted to sterling. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back by the equivalent of 2.7p/kg to 308.2p/kg which is 8.8p/kg below the R3 steer price in NI. This puts the differential between the two regions at £31 on a 350kg steer carcase.

Figure 2: R3 steer prices in NI, GB and ROI during 2016 to date



LMC

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

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 23/05/16	Next Week 30/05/16
Prime		
U-3	310 - 314p	310 - 314p
R-3	304 - 308p	304 - 308p
O+3	298 - 302p	298 - 302p
P+3	222 - 260p	222 - 260p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	230 - 245p	230 - 245p
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 21/05/16	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	317.6	320.0	314.1
R3	314.8	315.1	308.1
O+3	305.5	307.5	297.0

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 21/05/16	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	147.1	153.6	158.9	160.7
P2	160.1	174.2	195.3	207.2
P3	174.3	205.0	208.2	220.5
O3	206.0	204.0	227.9	238.6
O4	-	210.0	236.3	237.6
R3	-	-	302.0	259.4

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processing plants for prime cattle have firmed this week with 310-314p/kg available for U-3 in spec steers and heifers. However reports have indicated that higher prices are available so producers are encouraged to shop around to get the best possible deal. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week ranged from 230-245p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 5,793 head, very similar to the previous week when 5,744 cattle were killed in NI plants and a decrease of 864 head from the corresponding week in 2015 when a total of 6,657 prime cattle were killed locally. Meanwhile cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,339 head, a decrease of 73 head from the previous week and 51 head behind the corresponding week in 2015.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week totalled 152 head, accounting for three per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. In the corresponding week in 2015 337 prime cattle were imported from ROI accounting for five per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter consisted of 58 prime cattle and 230 cows compared to 8 prime cattle and 265 cows in the corresponding week in 2015. A total of 124 cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter in NI last week while 40 prime cattle and two cows were exported to GB for direct slaughter.

There has been an improvement in the deadweight trade for prime cattle in recent weeks with the average steer price in NI last week up by 5.9p/kg to 309.1p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by 4.2p/kg to 317p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week increased by 3.2p/kg to 309.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 2.7p/kg to 316.5p/kg. The trade for young bulls remained fairly steady with the R3 young bull price unchanged from the previous week at 307.8p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight trade for prime cattle also continued to improve with the average R3 steer price up by 2.5p/kg to 324.2p/kg. While the R3 steer price increased in all the GB regions the strongest increase was recorded in Northern England where it increased by 4.7p/kg to 321p/kg. The R3 heifer price in GB last week increased by 4.3p/kg to 326.7p/kg with prices increasing in all the GB regions. The young bull trade in GB recorded a notable improvement last week with the average R3 young bull price up by 6.2p/kg to 317.3p/kg with strong increases in Southern England and Northern England in particular.

In ROI last week deadweight prices improved in euro terms but a drop in the strength of euro against sterling meant prices were back in sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back by 2.7p/kg to 308.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 3.6p/kg to 317.7p/kg. The O3 cow price was back by 2.4p/kg to 248.2p/kg last week but remained 11p/kg above the equivalent price in NI and 17.7p/kg above the average O3 cow price in GB.

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

	W/E 21/05/2016	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	318.0	316.0	333.5	329.4	330.8	331.9	331.3
	R3	317.0	308.2	331.9	321.0	322.7	320.0	324.2
	R4	313.5	309.3	336.5	331.5	321.4	318.1	328.5
	O3	303.1	295.9	312.1	293.1	294.7	295.3	299.0
	AVG	309.1	-	330.5	318.7	311.6	306.9	317.8
Heifers	U3	321.3	329.0	342.0	336.0	337.2	331.7	337.4
	R3	316.5	317.7	335.4	321.7	324.0	324.0	326.7
	R4	313.7	317.6	335.8	325.2	323.2	320.2	326.7
	O3	304.2	305.8	310.6	298.6	291.6	299.0	300.5
	AVG	309.3	-	333.0	318.7	313.1	309.0	319.4
Young Bulls	U3	314.2	310.4	331.0	319.8	324.1	327.4	325.2
	R3	307.8	302.0	326.1	312.0	316.6	319.0	317.3
	O3	290.6	286.6	286.1	272.2	285.7	288.2	283.4
	AVG	294.5	-	314.2	301.2	303.1	304.6	304.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5003	-	7362	6824	6802	4270	25258
Cows	O3	237.2	248.2	241.7	228.8	230.3	225.8	230.5
	O4	237.3	249.3	247.4	232.8	234.1	223.9	233.4
	P2	192.9	223.3	188.1	187.1	186.1	169.0	182.5
	P3	216.1	242.1	226.3	208.2	197.7	206.8	205.2
	AVG	218.5	-	236.8	207.3	198.1	195.2	204.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=77.61p 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 21/05/16	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	180	190	183	160	179	170
Friesians	122	137	129	104	117	113
Heifers	180	194	186	160	179	170
Beef Cows	140	181	152	105	139	122
Dairy Cows	105	116	109	60	104	85
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	200	231	214	165	199	182
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	190	213	200	160	189	175
Bullocks over 500kg	180	213	193	155	179	170
Heifers up to 450kg	200	226	213	160	199	180
Heifers over 450kg	180	201	190	150	179	165
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	250	375	280	160	248	195
Continental Heifers	160	335	240	100	158	130
Friesian Bulls	100	205	130	50	98	70
Holstein Bulls	80	150	100	15	78	45

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES		
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/05/16	Next Week 30/05/16
Lambs	395 - 420 > 21kg	385 - 390>21kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES			
(P/KG)	W/E 07/05/16	W/E 14/05/16	W/E 21/05/16
NI Lambs L/W	391.7	409.8	385.7
NI Lambs D/W	403.8	423.6	415.3
GB Lambs D/W	451.3	462.5	443.4
ROI D/W	401.3	410.5	400.7

Deadweight Sheep Trade

THE deadweight trade for lambs in NI has come under some pressure this week with quotes ranging from 385-390p/kg up to 21kg towards the end of the week. Supplies of lambs have started to increase in line with normal seasonal trends with 5,736 lambs killed in NI plants last week, an increase from the 4,582 head killed during the previous week. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter totalled 4,384 head last week, an increase from the 3,423 head exported during the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by 8.3p/kg to 415.3p/kg while the deadweight price in ROI (lambs and hoggets combined) was back by 9.8p/kg to 400.7p/kg.

This week's marts

THE trade in the marts this week was generally back from previous weeks while the number of lambs passing through the sale rings has remained lower than this time last year. Reports have indicated that the delayed spring has slowed lamb performance on some farms and the recent settled weather has resulted in producers prioritising fieldwork over marketing lambs. In Kilrea on Monday 215 lambs sold from 364-377p/kg compared to 370 lambs last week selling from 395-415p/kg. In Rathfriland this week a similar trade to last week saw 450 lambs selling to an average of 388p/kg compared to 750 lambs last week selling to an average of 383p/kg. In Ballymena this week 365 lambs sold to an average of 360p/kg compared to 701 lambs last week selling to an average of 383p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £80-100 with a top reported price of £113 in Ballymena this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS					
From: 20/05/16		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 26/05/16		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	154	350	365	-
Saturday	Omagh	140	372	398	-
	Swatragh	465	353	392	-
Monday	Massereene	426	370	398	-
	Kilrea	215	364	377	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	301	370	400	-
	Rathfriland	450	371	404	388
Wednesday	Ballymena	365	350	390	360
	Markethill	500	360	380	372

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