LMC

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 08 July 2017

Issue No. 2477

MID YEAR UPDATE OF NI SLAUGHTERINGS

DURING the first six months of 2017 prime cattle throughput in local plants has totalled 166,905 head. This is an increase of 8,062 head from the corresponding period in 2016 and accounts for a five per cent increase in throughput year on year.

However some of this increase in throughput has been offset by a decline in the average carcase weight of prime cattle slaughtered in local plants. In the first half of 2017 the average carcase weight of prime cattle was 332.6kg, back 8.1kg from 2016 levels as indicated in Figure 1. All types of prime cattle recorded declines in average carcase weights with the average steer carcase weight back by 8.1kg, the average heifer carcase weight back by 7.3kg and the average young bull carcase weight back by 6.7kg.

The volume of beef handled by local processors during the first half of 2017 totalled 55,494 tonnes. This was an increase of 1,429 tonnes from the same period in 2016 and represents a three per cent increase in the volume of beef handled despite a five per cent increase in prime cattle throughput as outlined above.

There has also been a slight shift in the type of prime cattle being presented for slaughter year on year. Steers accounted for 50 per cent of prime cattle throughput during 2017 to date which was unchanged from year earlier levels. However the proportion of heifers in the kill increased from 37 per cent of the in the first half of 2016 to 39 per cent in the 2017 period. Meanwhile the proportion of young bulls declined by two percentage points to account for 11 per cent of the prime kill in the first half of 2017.

The source of prime cattle being slaughtered locally has remained similar between 2016 and 2017 with 61 per cent of the prime kill of suckler origin during both periods. Meanwhile there was a slight increase in the proportion of beef sired animals sourced from the dairy herd to account for 23 per cent of the kill in the 2017 period. The proportion of dairy sired prime cattle declined from 17 per cent of the kill in the 2016 period to 16 per cent in the 2017 period.

Imports for direct slaughter have continued to represent only a small proportion of prime cattle throughput in local plants with 4,848 head imported during 2017 to date, accounting for three per cent of the total prime cattle kill. In the same period in 2016 6,486 prime cattle were imported for direct slaughter in local plants and these accounted for four per cent of total prime cattle throughput.

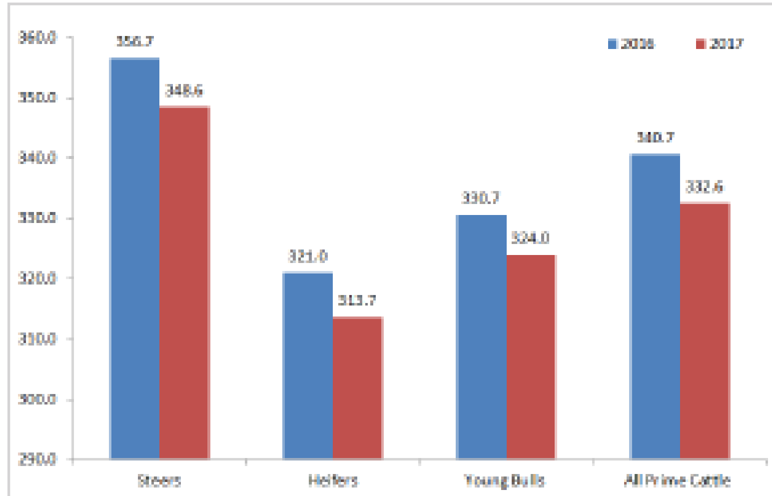
Cows

Cow throughput in local plants during the first half of 2017 totalled 46,467 head. This is an increase of 3,397 head from the same period in 2016 which accounts for an eight per cent increase in cow throughput year on year.

As with the prime cattle some of the increase in cow throughput has been offset by a decline in the average carcase weight from 308.2kg in the 2016 period to 300.3kg in the 2017 period. Due to lighter carcases the volume of cow beef handled by local processors increased by just five per cent to total 13,957 tonnes despite an eight per cent increase in cow throughput.

Analysis of price reporting data has indicated that there has been an increase in the proportion of suckler origin cows in the NI slaughter mix. During the 2017 period 40 per cent of cows were of suckler origin compared to 37 per cent in the 2016 period. Meanwhile the proportion of dairy origin cows decreased from 63 per cent in the 2016 period to 60 per cent in the 2017 period.

Figure 1: Carcaase weights of prime cattle killed in NI plants from January-June 2016 and 2017



Sheep

Lamb/hogget throughput in NI plants during 2017 to date totalled 172,887 head compared to 153,127 head during the same period in 2016. This increase by 19,760 head accounts for a 13 per cent increase in lamb throughput in local plants year on year.

The average carcase weight of lambs/hoggets processed in local plants has also recorded an increase year on year. During 2017 to date the average carcase weight was 22.2kg, an increase of 0.5kg from the corresponding period in 2016 when the average carcase weight was 21.7kg. This accounts for a 2.3 per cent increase in average carcase weights year on year.

With an increase in both the throughput and the average carcase weight the volume of lamb handled by local processors has recorded a 15 per cent increase year on year.

FQAS MART CLINICS JULY 2017

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.

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	17/07/2017
Markethill	Tuesday	18/07/2017
Saintfield	Wednesday	19/07/2017
Enniskillen	Thursday	20/07/2017
Kilrea	Wednesday	26/07/2017
Ballymena	Friday	28/07/2017

BEEF CALF REGISTRATIONS REMAIN STEADY DURING 2017

BEEF sired calf registrations totalled 41,625 head during June 2017 and this takes registrations for the year to date to 239,633 head. This was very similar to the same period last year when 239,669 beef sired calves were registered on NI farms.

Limousin continues to be the most popular beef sire used in NI with a total of 66,804 Limousin calves registered during 2017 to date. This accounts for 28 per cent of all beef calf registrations, back slightly from the same period in 2016 when 69,656 Limousin calves accounted for 29 per cent of all beef sired calf registrations.

Charolais is the second most popular beef sire used on NI farms with 57,848 calves registered during the first half of 2017. These Charolais calves accounted for 24.1 per cent of all beef sired calf registrations. In the same period in 2016 61,108 Charolais calves were registered and they accounted for 25.5 per cent of beef calf registrations.

The number of Aberdeen Angus calves registered on NI farms recorded an increase during the first half of 2017 with 46,202 calves registered and accounting for 19.3 per cent of all beef calf registrations. This makes it the third most popular beef breed in NI during 2017 to date. In the same period in 2016 42,347 Aberdeen Angus calves were registered, accounting for 17.7 per cent of all beef calf registrations.

While the number of beef sired calves registered has remained fairly steady there has been an increase in the proportion of beef sired calves that have been registered to a dairy dam. During 2017 to date 31 per cent of beef sired calves registered were sourced from the dairy herd, a three percentage point increase from the same period in 2016 when 28 per cent of beef calves came from the dairy herd.

Beef sired calves accounted for 48 per cent of all calves registered to dairy cows during the first half of 2017, a notable increase from 43 per cent of registrations during the same period in 2016. While Aberdeen Angus is the third most popular beef sire used in NI overall it is the most popular beef sire used on dairy cows. During the first half of 2017 37 per cent of all beef calves registered to dairy cows were Aberdeen Angus. Meanwhile Limousin calves accounted for 18 per cent of beef cross calves registered during 2017 to date while Hereford calves accounted for a further 16 per cent of the beef cross calves registered.

Dairy sired calf registrations totalled 9,657 head during June 2017. This takes total registrations for 2017 to date to 79,926 head. This is a notable decline from the same period in 2016 when 91,692 dairy sired calves were registered on NI farms. This decline by 11,766 head accounts for a 13 per cent reduction in dairy sired calf registrations year on year.

Holiday Arrangements

LMC's offices will be closed on the 12 and 13 July and will reopen on Friday 14 July 2017

Answerphone & Text Service
There will be no answerphone or text message service during the July holidays.

LMC Bulletin
There will be no LMC Bulletin published on Saturday 15 July

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 03/07/17	Next Week 10/07/17
Prime		
U-3	362 - 366p	360 - 362p
R-3	356 - 360p	354 - 356p
O+3	350 - 354p	348 - 350p
P+3	298 - 314p	296 - 308p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	270 - 280p	270 - 280p
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 01/07/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	375.2	376.1	368.9
R3	369.8	367.5	364.4
O+3	361.7	359.2	352.2

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 01/07/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	189.3	201.0	212.6	230.0
P2	209.7	233.7	247.5	259.0
P3	203.0	243.6	267.5	269.3
O3	212.9	281.5	285.0	286.2
O4	251.1	255.7	292.8	288.3
R3	-	-	386.0	301.6

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major plants this week for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle held steady at 362-366p/kg however some plants have indicated that they expect the deadweight trade to be back early next week with quotes ranging from 360-362p/kg.

The plants have reported a steady demand for beef from major customers with current supplies of prime cattle meeting this demand. Throughput of prime cattle in local plants last week was similar to the previous week at 5,662 head while cow throughput was up by almost 300 head to 2,035 head last week. In the corresponding week last year 5,692 prime cattle and 1,889 cows were killed in local plants.

Imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week were similar to the previous week with 82 prime cattle and 5 cows making the journey north while a further 9 prime cattle and 90 cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter in NI plants. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of 24 prime cattle and 53 cows while a further 38 prime cattle and 3 cows were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI last week generally held steady with average steer and heifer prices within a penny of the previous week. The average steer price in NI last week was 361.3p/kg, back 0.9p/kg from the previous week however the R3 steer price was up by 3.3p/kg to 373.8p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by 0.3p/kg to 361.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by almost a penny to 369.7p/kg. The young bull trade in NI last week was also similar to the previous week with the average young bull price up marginally to 354.6p/kg while the R3 young bull price was back by half a penny to 364.5p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle held relatively steady across GB last week with the average steer price up by almost a penny to 365.8p/kg while the R3 steer price was up marginally to 376.3p/kg. This puts the R3 steer price in GB 2.5p/kg ahead of the R3 steer price in NI. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by half a penny to 369.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by a similar margin to 374.7p/kg. This puts it 5p/kg above the R3 heifer price in NI.

The cow trade in NI last week held relatively steady with the O3 cow price back by half a penny to 285.7p/kg. This was higher than the equivalent price in all of the GB regions last week and 4p/kg higher than the GB average cow price.

In ROI last week the deadweight trade for prime cattle has come under some pressure with prime cattle throughput totalling 25,425 head. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back the equivalent of 2.1p/kg to 353p/kg, 20.8p/kg below the R3 steer price in NI. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in ROI was back by 2.9p/kg to 362.7p/kg last week which is 7p/kg lower than the equivalent NI price.

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

W/E 01/07/2017		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	375.5	361.9	387.4	375.5	374.9	380.6	379.2
	R3	373.8	353.0	389.5	368.2	373.8	371.6	376.3
	R4	371.1	354.3	389.0	379.7	371.0	376.0	379.7
	O3	358.5	339.3	354.1	339.5	342.8	346.4	345.7
	AVG	361.3	-	383.2	361.7	358.3	359.0	365.8
Heifers	U3	377.9	375.1	392.0	379.0	384.4	382.4	384.6
	R3	369.7	362.7	383.8	365.6	374.7	371.8	374.7
	R4	368.5	362.8	387.0	371.5	373.8	373.3	376.6
	O3	360.1	349.4	366.1	340.4	347.5	357.1	353.3
	AVG	361.5	-	384.8	364.5	364.2	361.6	369.3
Young Bulls	U3	369.3	360.7	377.8	358.6	368.5	373.0	368.0
	R3	364.5	350.7	372.7	349.6	359.4	364.1	359.4
	O3	344.3	330.0	331.4	323.0	328.7	338.5	330.0
	AVG	354.6	-	368.6	346.2	350.6	352.5	353.1
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5070	-	5760	7065	6536	4691	24052
Cows	O3	285.7	282.0	288.2	276.1	282.9	283.5	281.7
	O4	287.9	283.6	289.8	279.0	284.0	283.1	283.4
	P2	250.1	254.3	243.1	239.9	234.0	241.9	238.1
	P3	267.6	274.3	255.3	257.1	245.7	262.2	252.1
	AVG	271.6	-	278.6	258.1	250.7	252.2	255.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.12p 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 01/07/17	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	210	229	219	180	209	195
Friesians	160	178	165	130	159	148
Heifers	215	245	225	180	214	200
Beef Cows	170	210	178	125	160	138
Dairy Cows	120	143	132	80	110	100
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	220	272	240	190	210	200
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	210	265	229	178	206	190
Bullocks over 500kg	210	234	221	170	209	195
Heifers up to 450kg	200	259	226	170	200	188
Heifers over 450kg	200	220	208	160	190	175
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	350	570	400	210	300	250
Continental Heifers	320	480	355	150	250	195
Friesian Bulls	120	210	155	70	100	98
Holstein Bulls	100	170	122	28	88	58

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 03/07/17	Next Week 10/07/17
Lambs >21kg	430-440p	430p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 17/06/17	W/E 24/06/17	W/E 01/07/17
NI Lambs L/W	456.6	410.8	398.7
NI Lambs D/W	476.4	457.2	440.3
GB Lambs D/W	509.4	509.4	477.9
ROI D/W	489.1	480.6	457.8

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major processors for R3 grade lambs came back this week to 430p/kg up to 21kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Throughput in local plants has continued to increase with 10,208 lambs killed last week, the highest weekly throughput for the year to date. In the same week last year throughput in local plants was 10,597 head. Sheep exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 5,985 head, back 803 head from the previous week. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week continued to decline to 440.3p/kg. This was back 16.9p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile in ROI the deadweight trade for lambs has also come under pressure as supplies increase with an average lamb price of 457.8p/kg last week, back 22.8p/kg from the previous week.

This week's marts

MANY of the marts reported good numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings this week with the trade generally back from the previous week. Some reports have also indicated an increase in the number of heavier lambs passing through the marts. In Massereene this week 904 lambs sold from 400-438p/kg compared to 618 lambs last week selling from 400-467p/kg. In Ballymena this week 1,390 lambs sold from 380-436p/kg (avg 400p/kg) compared to 1,309 lambs last week selling from 390-446p/kg (avg 404p/kg). In Armoy this week 444 lambs sold from 395-440 compared to 312 lambs last week selling from 410-455p/kg. Top reported prices for good quality ewes generally ranged from £80-100 across the marts this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 30/06/17		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 06/07/17		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	320	378	438	-
Saturday	Swatragh	600	390	437	-
Monday	Kilrea	500	384	396	-
	Massereene	904	400	438	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	811	390	425	-
	Rathfriland	800	385	437	412
Wednesday	Ballymena	1390	380	436	400
	Enniskillen	484	390	428	-
	Armoy	444	395	440	-

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