

BEEF WEBINAR SERIES 2021: SOLUTIONS TO DELIVER SUSTAINABLE BEEF PRODUCTION

LMC is delighted to be working in partnership once again with Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association (NIMEA), National Beef Association (NBA) and Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) to deliver a series of beef webinars with a focus on sustainable beef farming for the future.

The four webinars are specifically tailored for farmers and will focus on solutions that can be employed to further increase the sustainability of the beef industry in Northern Ireland. Speakers will include farmers, industry representatives, researchers and advisers, and the webinars will provide important messages for all involved in the local beef industry.

The cross-cutting themes that the webinars will address include production efficiency, environmental sustainability, resilience and sustainable beef supply chain initiatives.

The first webinar, on **20 May 2021**, will highlight how the results of recent scientific studies can be implemented at a farm level to deliver sustainable levels of beef production from grass. AFBI's soil, agronomy and sustainable livestock production scientists will indicate how nutrients can be best utilised within the farm gate to produce beef in a cost effective and environmentally friendly manner.

This year's webinar series unsurprisingly focuses on sustainable beef production. The challenge posed by political leaders on society, on industry and on government is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through behavioural change, investment in low carbon technologies and legislation.

A Private Member's Bill on climate change tabled in Stormont by leader of the Green Party Clare Bailey MLA passed its second stage in the Assembly this week and will now proceed to Committee stage for detailed consideration. Proposing a

net zero target for greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 in Northern Ireland this legislation could have a long lasting impact on the shape and size of the agricultural industry here.

A global focus on sustainability is expected when the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference takes place in the autumn. Also known as COP26, it is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference and is scheduled to be held in the city of Glasgow from 01 to 12 November 2021 under the presidency of the United Kingdom.

To meet the challenges that lie ahead LMC is working closely with key stakeholders to implement a three pronged strategy;

- 1) to evidence the sustainability credentials of the beef and sheep industry,
- 2) to influence the policy making process and
- 3) to promote the high quality sustainable beef and lamb we produce to consumers.

Image 1: LMC is delighted to be involved, as part of a working group, in delivering a series of webinars with a focus on sustainable beef production in NI.



This year's beef conference is designed to help farmers make decisions that will improve their sustainability and to demonstrate that despite all of the challenges coming down the track farming can be part of the solution to climate change whilst also feeding a growing population.

The three remaining webinars in the series will take place on 17 June,

September and October 2021 with more details published closer to the time.

The series of webinars will take place on Thursday evenings at 8pm online via Zoom. Pre-registration for the event is essential.

To attend please register via the UFU website: www.ufuni.org/events

NORTHERN IRELAND BEEF INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT APRIL 2021

The deadweight cattle trade in Northern Ireland has recorded higher prices and a greater number of cattle processed in local plants during April 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020. **Table 1** provides an overview and outlines the differences in key performance statistics for the beef industry in Northern Ireland during April 2021 and 2020.

Deadweight prices

The deadweight prices have improved across all types of cattle during April 2021 when compared to the corresponding period in 2020. The average cow price in Northern Ireland recorded a strong increase of 57.5p/kg to 271.6p/kg during April 2021. This equates to an increase of almost 27 per cent year on year.

Similarly, the R3 steer price in Northern Ireland during April 2021 increased by 63.3p/kg from the previous year to average 390.4p/kg. This is the equivalent of an additional £222 on a 350kg carcass.

Meanwhile the R3 steer price in Great Britain improved by a more significant 75.8p/kg to average 409.2p/kg during April 2021 relative to the previous year bringing the differential between

Northern Ireland and Great Britain to 18.8p/kg. This equates to a difference of £66 on a 350kg carcass.

The cattle trade in the Republic of Ireland continues to run behind both Northern Ireland and Great Britain. During April 2021 the average R3 steer price in ROI was 348.6p/kg which is up 44.5p/kg when compared to the corresponding period in 2020. This brings the differential between ROI and NI to 41.8p/kg during April 2021 which equates to a difference of £146 on a 350kg steer carcass.

Throughput

Total cattle throughput has increased 2.9 per cent during April 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020. While total cattle slaughterings have increased during this period, the number of prime cattle processed in local plants has decreased.

During April 2021 prime cattle throughput totalled 25,246 head, down 2.1 per cent from the corresponding period in 2020. Although prime cattle recorded a 3kg increase in average weight during April 2021, the decline in throughput counterbalanced this, leading to an overall 1.2 per cent decline in beef

production from this source.

Meanwhile cow throughput increased by 1,271 head or 23.8 per cent during the four week period in 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020. Average cow carcass weight was also up just over 7kg to 317kg which led to a 26.6 per cent increase in beef production.

Imports/Exports

Live cattle imports to Northern Ireland for direct slaughter from the Republic of Ireland consisted of 1,397 prime cattle and 345 cows during April 2021, up 1,511 head from April 2020. Meanwhile no cattle were imported in to Northern Ireland from Great Britain during this period. Prime cattle imports from the Republic of Ireland accounted for 5.5 per cent of Northern Ireland prime cattle kill during April 2021.

Calf Registrations

The number of calves registered on Northern Ireland farms during April 2021 totalled 54,756 head, a decline of 2,552 head or 4.5 per cent year on year. Beef sired calf registrations decreased by 3.6 per cent to total 50,705 head while dairy sired male registrations declined by 13.6 per cent from April 2020 to total 4,051 head.

Table 1: NI beef industry key performance indicators for April 2020 and 2021.
Source: LMC/DAERA/DAFM/AHDB

Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)	April 2020	April 2021	% Change
Average Prime Cattle Price	318.0	380.6	+19.7%
Average Cow Price	214.1	271.6	+26.9%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	327.1	390.4	+19.4%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	304.1	348.6	+14.6%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	333.4	409.2	+22.7%
NI Throughput			
Total Clean Slaughterings (Head)	25,783	25,246	-2.1%
Total Cow Slaughterings (Head)	5,344	6,615	+23.8%
Average Clean Carcass Weight (kg)	342.3	345.3	+0.9%
Average Cow Carcass Weight (kg)	309.9	317.0	+2.3%
Trade (Head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	231	1,742	+654.1%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	154	298	+93.5%
Calf Births Registrations (Head)			
Calf Births	57,308	54,756	-4.5%
Beef Sired	52,617	50,705	-3.6%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	4,691	4,051	-13.6%
Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)	87.6	86.5	-1.2%
All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated			

FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:
Tel: 028 9263 3024

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 10/05/21	Next Week 17/05/21
Prime		
U-3	366 - 378p	362 - 376p
R-3	360 - 372p	356 - 370p
O+3	354 - 366p	350 - 364p
P+3	300 - 316p	296 - 314p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	265 - 290p	265 - 290p

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.

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes from the plants this week for U-3 grading prime cattle ranged from 366-378p/kg with quotes for early next week expected to range from 362-376p/kg. Producers should use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation with higher prices available, particularly for cattle that meet current market specifications. Quotes for good quality O+3 grading cows this week continued to range from 265-290p/kg with similar quotes expected for next week.

Prime cattle throughput last week decreased by 364 head from the previous week to total 6,328 head. However this is an increase of 30.6 per cent when compared to the same week in 2020 when 4,847 prime cattle were processed locally. Cow throughput has also declined from the previous week with 1,551 cows processed in local plants last week. In the same week last year 1,196 cows were processed locally.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants declined last week to 96 prime cattle and 23 cows with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter also decreased with two prime cattle and 49 cows exported last week and 40 prime cattle and four cows making the journey from NI to GB for processing.

The NI deadweight prices for prime cattle reported a mixed trade last week when compared to the previous week. The average steer price in NI marginally increased to 382.1p/kg with the R3 steer price up just over a penny to 391.1p/kg. The average heifer price decreased by just over a penny last week to 383.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 0.4p/kg to 392.2p/kg. The average young bull price in NI held steady last week at 366.6p/kg however the U3 young bull price decreased by almost 3p/kg to 383p/kg. Meanwhile the average NI cow price decreased by 2.5p/kg from the previous week to 272.9p/kg with the O3 cow price up 0.4p/kg to 297.3p/kg last week.

In GB last week the deadweight prime cattle prices reported came under pressure from the previous week. The average steer price in GB was back just over a penny to 407.1p/kg while the average R3 steer price decreased by 1.4p/kg to 411.6p/kg. This places the R3 steer price at 20.5p/kg above the equivalent price in NI. The average heifer price in GB last week was back 1.4p/kg to 405.9p/kg with the R3 heifer price back 1.7p/kg to 410.9p/kg. This puts the GB R3 heifer price at 18.7p/kg higher than the same price in NI. The average cow price in GB decreased by almost a penny to 279.4p/kg last week with the O3 cow price up by 1.3p/kg to 301.7p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle trade has continued to firm with the R3 steer price up by almost a penny to the equivalent of 358.7p/kg. The R3 heifer price in ROI increased by 1.7p/kg to the equivalent of 362.4p/kg. This puts the differential between ROI and NI for R3 grade steers and heifers at 32.4p/kg and 29.8p/kg respectively. The cow trade also strengthened in ROI last week with the O3 cow price up by almost 2p/kg to the equivalent of 295p/kg. This was 2.3p/kg lower than the O3 cow price in NI.

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

	W/E 08/05/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	393.3	368.8	427.6	415.6	412.3	413.8	417.5
	R3	391.1	358.7	429.2	410.6	408.0	403.7	411.6
	R4	387.9	360.4	430.1	412.8	408.2	403.8	416.7
	O3	378.0	346.7	413.5	391.1	386.2	383.8	390.5
	AVG	382.1	-	425.4	405.1	400.5	396.6	407.1
Heifers	U3	393.7	373.5	436.6	419.5	418.6	413.2	422.6
	R3	392.2	362.4	427.8	412.0	408.6	401.5	410.9
	R4	388.4	363.2	428.4	411.8	410.0	400.6	415.3
	O3	379.8	350.7	411.7	394.4	379.5	375.5	386.4
	AVG	383.4	-	425.5	406.0	398.9	390.6	405.9
Young Bulls	U3	383.0	356.5	422.5	412.2	411.0	408.7	415.5
	R3	379.0	344.3	418.5	400.7	404.6	398.0	407.3
	O3	365.1	328.9	384.3	361.2	376.0	372.4	375.5
	AVG	366.6	-	411.6	398.0	393.9	393.3	399.8
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5364	-	6040	6513	7247	4421	24221	
Cows	O3	297.3	295.0	314.3	305.0	299.2	295.4	301.7
	O4	298.8	294.7	310.1	307.9	298.6	293.5	301.8
	P2	259.7	266.3	267.9	255.7	254.1	256.4	255.8
	P3	279.3	285.6	282.7	272.6	275.9	273.2	275.2
	AVG	272.9	-	304.8	290.9	270.6	270.5	279.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.68p 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 08/05/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)							
Steers		243	254	247	210	242	225
Friesians		171	190	180	140	170	155
Heifers		226	248	234	210	225	218
Beef Cows		181	215	193	140	180	158
Dairy Cows		127	156	136	108	126	118
Store Cattle (p/kg)							
Bullocks up to 400kg		260	292	275	225	259	242
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		230	274	250	210	229	225
Bullocks over 500kg		210	243	225	185	209	200
Heifers up to 450kg		260	303	275	220	259	238
Heifers over 450kg		220	234	228	200	219	210
Dropped Calves (£/head)							
Continental Bulls up to 2 months		450	585	490	340	445	385
Continental Heifers up to 2 months		345	530	415	250	340	295
Friesian Bulls up to 2 months		170	245	210	100	165	135
Holstein Bulls up to 3 months		130	210	165	10	125	65

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 08/05/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	393.7	394.4	384.8
R3	389.4	390.1	381.0
O+3	381.3	382.2	371.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 08/05/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	183.6	199.3	206.4	205.9
P2	198.8	239.9	260.4	272.2
P3	-	259.2	281.9	279.5
O3	230.0	292.8	289.2	298.5
O4	-	-	290.1	299.2
R3	-	-	-	314.6

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 10/05/21	Next Week 17/05/21
R3 Spring Lambs up to 21kg	620 - 640p	620 - 640p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 24/04/21	W/E 01/05/21	W/E 08/05/21
NI L/W Hoggets	546.6	513.5	495.0
NI L/W Spring Lambs	635.9	603.1	610.5
NI D/W Hoggets	641.2	599.9	597.6
NI D/W Spring Lambs	663.3	612.7	618.5
GB D/W Hoggets	674.2	644.3	652.9
GB D/W Spring Lambs	686.6	685.8	690.1
ROI D/W	663.6	635.2	646.4

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes for spring lambs strengthened this week to 630-640p/kg up to 21kg across the major NI plants. Quotes for lambs are expected to range from 620-640p/kg early next week. Lamb/hogget throughput in NI plants last week totalled 4,826 head, back 26 per cent from the previous week. However this is a similar throughput when compared to the 4,728 lambs/hoggets processed locally in the same week last year. Exports of lambs/hoggets to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 3,357 head, an increase of 854 head from the previous week. The deadweight hogget price in NI decreased by 2.3p/kg from the previous week to 597.6p/kg with the spring lamb price increasing by 5.8p/kg to 618.5p/kg. Meanwhile last week in ROI the combined lamb/hogget deadweight price was up 11.2p/kg to the equivalent of 646.4p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

This week increasing numbers of spring lambs passed through the marts with prices improving compared to last week. In Swatragh last Saturday 150 spring lambs sold from 634-724p/kg compared to 150 spring lambs the previous week selling from 647-777p/kg. On Tuesday in Rathfriland 425 spring lambs sold from 620-680p/kg (avg 648p/kg) compared to 300 spring lambs last week selling from 590-650p/kg (avg 628p/kg). In Markethill this week 560 spring lambs sold from 610-662p/kg compared to 460 spring lambs last week selling from 620-684p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes ranged from £150-£204 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 08/05/21		Spring Lambs			
To: 13/05/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	63	628	664	-
	Swatragh	150	634	724	-
Monday	Kilrea	200	610	649	-
	Massereene	249	610	652	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	404	600	645	-
	Rathfriland	425	620	680	648
Wednesday	Ballymena	612	615	686	625
	Enniskillen	302	615	664	-
	Armoyle	212	640	741	-
	Markethill	560	610	662	-

Strict Covid - 19 restrictions are in place
across all of the livestock marts

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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