

# LEADING ACADEMICS QUERY VERACITY OF 2019 GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY

Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) Chief Executive Ian Stevenson has welcomed the publication of a letter by 'The Lancet' journal, querying the veracity of the results and conclusions arrived at in the 2019 Global Burden of Disease, Injuries and Risk Factors (GBD) Study.

The letter was drawn up by six leading academics including: Professor Patrick Wall, from University College Dublin; Professor Chris Elliot, from Queen's University Belfast; Professor Alice Stanton from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Professor Frédéric Leroy, from Vrije University in Belgium. All have been extremely vocal over recent months regarding their concerns about the global 896,000 deaths directly attributed to diets high in red meat consumption in the GBD 2019 study.

This represents a 3,500% increase in comparable deaths relative to the 25,000-mortality figure contained within the 2017 version of the same study. Ian Stevenson commented: "A lot of eyebrows were raised within the

academic community when the 2019 GBD was initially published. "But more than that, many renowned experts in the field of medical research were deeply puzzled at the non-disclosure of the primary research sources, from which the collaborators behind the 2019 study had drawn their conclusions.

He added: "There was also a high degree of concern to the effect that the analytical procedures used to arrive at the conclusions published in 2019 had been changed, relative to the work carried out two years earlier and that agreed best practice guidelines had not been adhered to."

Professor Leroy spoke at the City Meat Lecture in London prior to Christmas last year. At that time, he expressed his deep unease at the findings contained within the 2019 GBD study.

Ian Stevenson again: "Professor Leroy was clearly expressing the concerns he and other colleagues had at that time. "The recent publication of the jointly written letter by The Lancet is a major step forward in bringing balance to an

issue that gets to the very heart of what constitutes good and balanced human nutrition. "The red meat sector is simply looking for fair and unbiased commentary from academics in a debate that continues to gather momentum across media outlets and in peoples' homes around the world."

The letter submitted to The Lancet by the six academics makes a number of fundamental points. However, its conclusion is of deep significance....."Unless, and until, all new or updated reviews and meta-analyses pertaining to all dietary risk factors are published, having undergone comprehensive independent peer review, we think it would be highly inappropriate and imprudent for the GBD 2019 dietary risk estimates to be used in any national or international policy documents, nor in any regulatory nor legislative decisions."

Ian Stevenson picked up on this point. "It is vitally important that national governments and those international bodies charged with the responsibility of developing human health and

nutrition policies for populations around the world receive clear and transparent advice from scientific advisors."It is now obvious that the GBD 2019 study fails to meet this threshold and should be recognised as such.

"The six academics who came together to submit the letter to The Lancet are to be commended for the step they have taken. It will be interesting to see how those who produced the GBD study for 2019 now respond."

The LMC's chief executive concluded: "Red meat has so much to offer people of all ages: from a nutritional perspective it supplies a host of essential nutrients; from a health perspective the bioactive compounds in red meat have actions in the body that promote good health. It is important that these undeniable facts are always referenced when the role of beef and lamb in the diet is discussed.

"Here in Northern Ireland LMC has a very strong track record in making sure that local consumers are made very

aware of the tremendous benefits that home produced beef and lamb can bring from a dietary point of view. "And this work will continue.

**Image 1: An example of one of many LMC Red Meat campaigns promoting the nutritional benefits of red meat.**



Livestock farmers should be reassured that the public response to the various promotional campaigns developed by the Commission is extremely positive. "One of the tremendous benefits of living in the digital age is the ease with which public acknowledgement of messages reaching them can be quantified.

# LMC - PROMOTING THE HIGHEST HEALTH & SAFETY STANDARDS ON NI FARMS

The Covid pandemic has highlighted, in a very stark way, the need for everyone to make the protection of their own health an absolute priority. But for those working on farms, maintaining their own safety and those of their loved ones is equally important.

This latter point was an issue addressed directly by Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) chief executive Ian Stevenson, following a recent meeting of Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) affiliate members. Enhancing farm safety-related practices has been a core LMC objective for many years.

Recent reviews of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBLFQAS) have served to put a number of key safety-related practises at the very heart of the management standards expected of local cattle and sheep farmers. In addition, the Commission has used its presence at recent Balmoral Shows to communicate a very clear health and safety message to farmers at all

times. This promotional activity has had a very strong focus on the need to keep young children living on farms safe at all times. But it was the detail of a recent study, discussed at the FSP affiliate members' meeting, that elicited a very clear response from Ian Stevenson.

“Research has confirmed that 60% of farmers in Northern Ireland are struggling with levels of stress that well exceed acceptable levels,” he said. “This work would have been carried before the impact of the current Ukraine crisis became apparent. “So, one is left to conclude that stress levels within the farming sectors will have been further heightened over recent months.”

It is well documented that farmer stress and anxiety may lead to a range of negative consequences. These include mental and physical health issues, a decline in job satisfaction, a reduction in performance, fatigue and the most serious consequence of all: a greater predisposition to farm-related accidents. Ian Stevenson

again: “Farming continues to rank as one of the most dangerous professions that any person can aspire to undertake. “Recorded farm deaths are important headline figures, which should give everyone food for thought.”

**Image 2: A poster used by LMC as part of its Farm Safety campaign.**



In 2020, a total of four fatalities were recorded on local farms. The ages of those who tragically lost their lives in these incidents ranged from 44 to 66 years old. The following year the number of recorded deaths rose to

seven, with accidents involving people from 21 to 92 years of age. But the actual fatality rate only represents the tip of the iceberg, where the total number of farm accidents taking place in Northern Ireland is concerned.

“Those involved in many of these incidents have suffered life changing injuries. And this has impacted severely on entire farming families,” Ian Stevenson commented. “Every stakeholder organisation within agriculture must double down and do everything possible to communicate and demonstrate effective health and safety best practice to farmers and all the members of their families.”

The good weather of the past week will have seen farm machinery of every shape and size utilised as farmers push to get slurry out, fertiliser sown, fields ploughed and all other seasonal jobs carried out in a timely fashion.

“And no doubt, children of all ages will want to be part of it,” the LMC’s chief executive stressed. “But common sense must be brought to bear on this matter. There is an acceptance on

many farms that children will be safe enough driving machinery if they are off-road and on their own farms.”

Ian Stevenson concluded: “This is a myth. Allowing children to drive and operate machines that they are neither licensed nor insured to be in control of is simply asking for trouble. “In a very real way, it is putting young people in harm’s way. I am very aware of the fact that farming families can be under real pressure at this time of the year. “But taking undue risks should never be part of the decision making process entered into within any farming business.”

For the record the FSP has devised 7 'Farm Safe Essential' messages, aimed to reduce the number of serious and fatal incidents relating to frequently recurring causes. These are: **check your brakes; plan safe spaces; give slurry space; stay off roofs; quads need caution; calve with care and stack bales safely.** The need to committing each of these simple messages to memory is very clear and obvious.

## 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 base quotes & mart results  
Updated 5pm Daily  
Tel: 028 9263 3011

## Text Service

Free weekly base quotes sent to your mobile phone  
Email: [bulletin@lmcni.com](mailto:bulletin@lmcni.com)  
Tel: 028 9263 3000

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 21/03/22	Next Week 28/03/22
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	392 - 406p	392 - 406p
R-3	386 - 400p	386 - 400p
O+3	380 - 394p	380 - 394p
P+3	324 - 344p	324 - 344p
	Including bonus where applicable	
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	280 - 326p	280 - 326p

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 19/03/22	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	420.0	420.5	402.0
R3	413.9	415.1	399.2
O+3	405.7	404.9	390.6

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 19/03/22	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	227.5	240.8	257.1	268.5
P2	244.8	266.4	291.9	303.1
P3	262.4	283.7	297.5	312.0
O3	-	305.8	319.0	329.3
O4	-	322.5	328.4	326.1
R3	-	-	-	348.6

## Deadweight Cattle Trade

**B**ASE quotes from the major NI processors for U-3 grade steers and heifers this week strengthened to range from 392-406p/kg with the majority of plants quoting at the upper end of this range. The trade for cows has also continued to strengthen with quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows in the region of 280-326p/kg across the plants.

Supplies of prime cattle for slaughter last week totalled 6,832 head across the local plants, up 934 head when compared to the same week in 2021 when prime cattle throughput was 5,898 head. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,046 head, back 122 head from the week before, and 377 head more than during the same week in 2021.

Cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of 185 prime cattle and 68 cows, compared to 253 prime cattle and 137 cows the previous week, and 282 prime cattle and 90 cows recorded in the corresponding week in 2021. No cattle were imported into NI from GB last week for direct slaughter, but three prime cattle and 31 cows made the journey from NI to GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI last week included five prime cattle and 21 cows, similar to the corresponding week last year when eight prime cattle and 26 cows were exported to ROI for direct slaughter.

The NI deadweight trade for prime cattle last week continued to strengthen with prices for all but one grade up from the previous week. The average steer price was up 0.8p/kg to 407.9p/kg, while the R3 steer price was up by 0.7p/kg to 416.9p/kg when compared to the previous week. The average heifer price in NI last week saw a slight increase of 0.1p/kg to 407.7p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by 1.5p/kg to 417p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week saw the largest increase, up by 7.8p/kg to 392.8p/kg with the R3 young bull price up 2.4p/kg to 401.7p/kg. The cow trade in NI also continued to strengthen last week with a rise in prices across the grades when compared to the previous week. The NI average cow price was up by 1.9p/kg to 301p/kg while the O3 cow price strengthened 6p/kg to 328p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight prime cattle trade also continued to strengthen across the majority of grades. The average steer price in GB was up 5.4p/kg to 417.4p/kg while the average R3 steer price increased by 4.9p/kg to 423p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was up 5.8p/kg to 416.8p/kg while the average R3 heifer price was up 3.3p/kg to 422.8p/kg. The average GB cow price last week saw an increase of 10.3p/kg to 327p/kg, with the O3 cow price up 10.1p/kg to 349.4p/kg.

The deadweight cattle trade in ROI also strengthened last week, with the R3 steer price up 6.4p/kg to the equivalent of 397.2p/kg, compared to the previous week. The R3 heifer price was up 5.2p/kg to the equivalent of 400p/kg last week. The cow trade was up in ROI last week, with the O3 cow price up by the equivalent of 6.6p/kg to 335.7p/kg.

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

	W/E 19/03/22	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	420.3	405.6	420.4	424.1	429.9	432.0	425.5
	R3	416.9	397.2	422.5	424.6	422.7	422.4	423.0
	R4	414.4	401.1	424.6	425.9	421.5	422.9	424.4
	AVG	407.9	-	420.5	418.5	415.3	414.1	417.4
Heifers	U3	422.4	409.9	428.9	427.2	433.5	434.8	431.1
	R3	417.0	400.0	424.4	422.4	423.1	421.8	422.8
	R4	413.2	403.0	427.1	424.2	422.1	420.0	424.3
	AVG	407.7	-	424.9	418.8	411.9	410.8	416.8
Young Bulls	U3	406.6	389.8	418.1	422.0	416.2	423.8	419.7
	R3	401.7	380.8	413.0	420.4	416.0	413.1	416.3
	O3	389.3	365.4	390.4	390.5	389.2	397.0	391.0
	AVG	392.8	-	401.6	403.9	390.9	400.5	398.2
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,553	-	6,662	7,142	6,468	5,323	25,595	
Cows	O3	328.0	335.7	349.0	349.6	350.9	345.8	349.4
	O4	326.2	333.6	352.9	352.1	350.2	344.7	350.2
	P2	290.6	302.4	303.2	306.0	311.5	301.7	307.9
	AVG	301.0	-	346.5	333.5	325.0	316.2	327.0

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.04p 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 19/03/22	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Steers		246	274	256	205	245	225
Friesians		177	202	187	146	176	161
Heifers		240	269	250	200	239	220
Beef Cows		195	251	208	140	194	170
Dairy Cows		140	161	148	100	139	120
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Bullocks up to 400kg		250	307	265	210	249	225
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		230	286	250	200	229	218
Bullocks over 500kg		219	249	234	180	218	198
Heifers up to 450kg		230	290	250	190	229	215
Heifers over 450kg		209	231	218	170	208	190
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>							
Continental Bulls up to 2 months		340	435	385	250	335	300
Continental Heifers up to 3 months		250	375	300	145	245	190
Friesian Bulls up to 4 months		100	150	125	40	95	70
Holstein Bulls up to 3 months		50	100	75	1	45	25

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 21/03/22	Next Week 28/03/22
Hoggets up to 22kgs	550-560p	560-570p

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 05/03/22	W/E 12/03/22	W/E 19/03/22
NI L/W Hoggets	507.8	514.9	518.3
NI D/W Hoggets	537.4	541.0	547.6
GB D/W Hoggets	574.4	565.1	566.9
ROI D/W	559.5	575.3	589.6

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the main NI processors remained steady this week for R3 grade hoggets with quotes this week ranging from 550-560p/kg up to 22kg, with 560-570p/kg quoted for early next week. The public holiday last week impacted hogget supplies, with a total of 5,092 hoggets processed in NI last week compared to 7,783 head the week before. Similarly, NI hogget exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 4,443 head compared to 6,276 head the week before. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week increased by 6.6p/kg to 547.6p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile last week the average ROI hogget price was up by the equivalent of 14.3p/kg to 589.6p/kg.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

Numbers of hoggets passing through most of the sale rings last week tightened. In Kilrea on Monday 350 hoggets sold from 526-584p/kg compared to last week when 450 hoggets sold from 500-524p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 280 hoggets sold from 500-581p/kg (avg 536p/kg) compared to last week when 519 hoggets sold from 491-600p/kg (avg 526p/kg). In Enniskillen this week 502 hoggets sold from 500-542p/kg compared to 738 hoggets selling from 502-562p/kg last week. The strong trade for culled ewes continued this week with top reported prices ranging from £232-285 across the marts.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 19/03/22		Hoggets			
To: 24/03/22		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	845	432	549	-
	Omagh	505	458	535	-
Monday	Kilrea	350	526	584	-
	Massereene	346	500	557	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	355	508	557	-
	Rathfriland	280	500	581	536
Wednesday	Ballymena	1950	490	579	515
	Enniskillen	502	500	542	-
	Arroy	475	500	548	-
	Markethill	970	520	577	-

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