LMC
Livestock & Meat Commission
WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION
Saturday 14 May 2022 Issue No. 2718

# CALF REGISTRATIONS EASE BACK ON 2021 LEVELS TO DATE

From January to April 2022 there was a total of 191,823 calves registered on Northern Irish farms. This is a decline of 4,078 head or 2.1 per cent from 2021 levels when 195,901 calves were registered during the corresponding period.

**Beef sired calf registrations**

Beef sired calf registrations on Northern Irish farms during the first four months of 2022 have totalled 136,632 head, back 1,847 head or 1.3 per cent from 2021 levels.

Beef sired calf registrations accounted for 71.2 per cent of the total calves registered in Northern Ireland while the remaining 28.8 per cent were dairy sired. This is similar to figures from the corresponding period during 2021 when 70.7 per cent of calf registrations were beef sired and the remaining 29.3 per cent were dairy sired.

Beef sired calf registrations to suckler cows during the first four months of 2022 fell by 1,830 head or by 2.3 per cent from 2021 levels. Registrations to suckler cows accounted for 58 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations during this period.

Beef sired calf registrations to dairy cows in 2022 marginally increased by 0.3 per cent or 146 head from the first four months of the previous year. These calves accounted for the remaining 42 per cent of beef sired registrations.

**Beef sired calf registrations by breed**

During the four months January to April Aberdeen Angus was the most popular beef sire, accounting for 29 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations. This is up slightly from 2021 levels when 28.4 per cent of beef sired calf registrations were Aberdeen Angus.

The second most popular beef sire during 2022 to date is Limousin which accounted for 22.5 per cent of beef sired calf registrations. This is back slightly from the previous year when 23 per cent of beef calf registrations were Limousin.

During 2022 Charolais have continued to be the third most popular beef sire, accounting for 18.9 per cent of calves registered. This is slightly back from 2021 levels when Charolais sires accounted for 19.7 per cent of beef sired calf registrations.

There have also been slight changes in the proportion of other breeds of beef sired calves registered. Belgian Blue calves accounted for eight per cent of beef sired calf registrations in the first four months of 2022 which is up 6.7 per cent or 690 head from 2021 levels, when Belgian Blue sired calves accounted for 7.4 per cent of calf registrations. The proportion of Hereford beef sired calves registered has dropped from eight per cent in 2021 to 7.6 per cent in 2022, a decline of 750 head. Simmental sired calf registrations decreased marginally by 176 head, or 2.2 per cent from the corresponding period of 2021.

**Figure 1: Beef sired calf registrations in NI January 2020- April 2022. Source: APHIS**

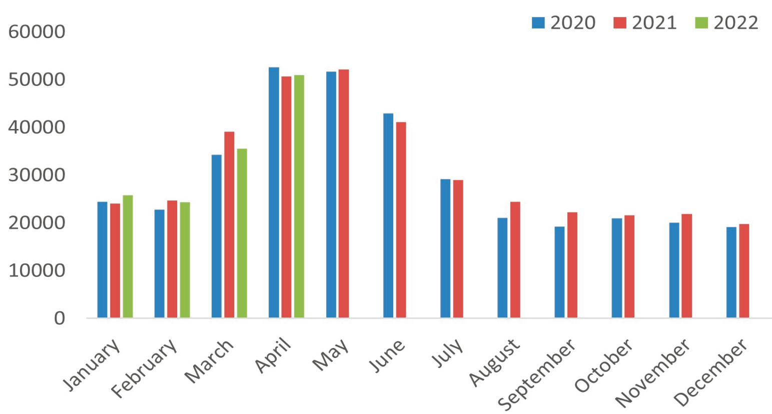


**Table 1: Proportion of calves sired by the top six beef breeds during January to April 2021 and 2022. Source: APHIS**

| | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen Angus | 28.4% | 29.0% |
| Belgian Blue | 7.4% | 8.0% |
| Charolais | 19.7% | 18.9% |
| Hereford | 8.0% | 7.6% |
| Limousin | 23.0% | 22.5% |
| Simmental | 5.9% | 5.8% |

**Image 1: Aberdeen Angus remains the most popular beef sire to date in 2022.**

**Dairy sired male calf registrations**

During January to April 2022, dairy sired male calf registrations totalled 17,394 head. This accounted for 31.5 per cent of the total dairy sired calf registrations, down 20.4 per cent or 4,452 head from the same period in 2021.

This indicates a continuation in the trend in which the number of dairy sired male calves is declining. This indicates greater success from sexed semen to breed replacement heifers.

# FARMERS WELCOMED TO UPCOMING ON FARM ADVISORY EVENTS TO DISCUSS MANAGEMENT OF RISING INPUT COSTS


With the impact of rising input costs being felt across the industry, CAFRE are hosting a number of on-farm events. These events are designed to consider what can be done on-farm to mitigate rising costs. The events will be hosted in four on-farm locations across Northern Ireland in mid-May and are open to the farming public.

| Date | Times | Farm and location |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 17th May 2022 | 2.00pm or 7.00pm | James Henderson<br>17 Nicholsons Road<br>**KILKEEL**, BT34 4JN |
| Wednesday 18th May 2022 | 2.00pm or 7.00pm | Stephen Maguire<br>74 Curryann Road<br>**MAGUIRESBRIDGE**, BT94 4PN |
| Thursday 19th May 2022 | 2.00pm or 7.00pm | Sam Chesney<br>49 Inishargy Road<br>**KIRCUBBIN**, BT22 2RQ |
| Friday 20th May 2022 | 2.00pm or 7.00pm | John McHenry<br>34 Knockmore Road<br>**STRANOCUM**, BT53 8QG |

The Livestock and Meat Commission is encouraging stakeholders to attend the forthcoming on-farm events aimed at managing the rising costs faced by beef and sheep farmers. Organised by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), the events will take place on four farms across the province.

The series of events will begin on James Henderson's farm in Kilkeel on **Tuesday 17 May.**

This is followed by an event on Stephen Maguire's farm in Maguiresbridge on **Wednesday 18 May.**

Sam Chesney's farm in Kircubbin will play host to the next event on **Thursday 19 May.**

On **Friday 20 May** the series of awareness raising events will conclude with an event at John McHenry's farm in Stranocum.

**Each host farm will run two events per day at 2pm and 7pm.**

Encouraging stakeholders to take up the invitation to attend, LMC Industry Development Manager, Colin Smith said, "Continued rising in input costs are being felt by beef and sheep farmers across Northern Ireland. As we navigate through this period of market uncertainty, at farm level it is important that we do all we can to control cashflow by so far as possible taking steps to mitigate against heightened bills."

"These timely events will examine what can be done on-farm to alleviate rising costs. This will include information on;

1. Creating a fodder budget for winter and actions to ensure adequate supplies of fodder.

2. Use of fertiliser and organic manures to maximise grass growth.

3. Rotational grazing and benefits of better grazing management.

4. Clover as a longer term strategy to reduce input costs.

5. Cashflow management and budgeting.

"LMC commends CAFRE for initiating this critical initiative which will provide a platform for industry knowledge transfer.

Farmers will gain a comprehensive overview of some strategies which could be employed to enhance farm productivity in a cost effective manner while strengthening their farm business's resilience to rising input costs."

As a member of the Rising Costs Industry Taskforce, LMC is encouraging stakeholders to **register for the free events online by visiting https://bit.ly/3leXC8R**

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC Livestock & Meat Commission

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

| (P/KG DW) | This Week 09/05/22 | Next Week 16/05/22 |
|---|---|---|
| Prime | | |
| U-3 | 392 - 426p | 392 - 426p |
| R-3 | 386 - 420p | 386 - 420p |
| O+3 | 380 - 408p | 380 - 408p |
| P+3 | 324 - 358p | 324 - 358p |
| | Including bonus where applicable | |
| Cows | | |
| O+3 | 280 - 356p | 280 - 356p |

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 07/05/22 | Steers | Heifers | Young Bulls |
|---|---|---|---|
| U3 | 438.7 | 440.4 | 427.9 |
| R3 | 431.9 | 434.3 | 419.6 |
| O+3 | 424.3 | 427.3 | 413.2 |

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

| W/E 07/05/22 | Weight Bands | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <220kg | 220-250kg | 250-280kg | >280kg |
| P1 | 251.9 | 274.6 | 284.1 | 298.5 |
| P2 | 268.5 | 293.4 | 316.1 | 331.0 |
| P3 | 265.8 | 315.5 | 333.6 | 341.2 |
| O3 | - | 330.0 | 357.9 | 358.6 |
| O4 | - | 340.7 | 343.8 | 360.4 |
| R3 | - | - | - | 380.6 |

## Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes for U-3 grade prime cattle ranged from 392-426p/kg across the major plants this week. The majority of plants are quoting 420-426p/kg for steers and heifers. The cow trade has also remained firm in NI with base quotes for good quality O+3 grading cows ranging from 280-356p/kg with the majority of plants quoting 320p/kg upwards. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Reports have indicated steady supplies of both prime cattle and cows available for slaughter. Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 7,029 head. This was back 1,023 head from the 8,052 prime cattle killed locally during the previous week. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,993 head, back 403 head from 2,396 cows killed during the previous week.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week totalled 244 head with 114 cows also imported, no cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter in local plants last week. Meanwhile a total of 83 cattle were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI last week consisting of 20 prime cattle, 54 cows, and nine bulls. No cattle made the journey to GB for direct slaughter.

The R3 steer price in NI last week was up 2.5p/kg from the previous week to 433.7p/kg. The overall average steer price was up by 1.8p/kg to 424p/kg. The R3 heifer price in NI last week increased by 2.7p/kg to 435p/kg. The overall average heifer price was up by 2.1p/kg to 426.6p/kg. The young bull trade has also continued to improve overall in NI with an average price of 409.4p/kg last week, up 3.3p/kg from the previous week, yet the R3 young bull price recorded a slight decrease to 419.5p/kg. The NI O3 cow price increased last week by 2.1p/kg to 358.4p/kg, while the overall average cow price was up by 1.5p/kg to 330.5p/kg compared to the previous week.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle has also continued to strengthen in GB with the average R3 steer price up by 0.8p/kg to 444.9p/kg. The R3 steer price improved in all the GB regions with the strongest increase reported in Southern England where it was up by 1.8p/kg to 443.4p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and the GB average narrowed from the previous week to 11.2p/kg last week. The average R3 heifer price in GB last week was 445.8p/kg, up a marginal 0.2p/kg from the previous week. This increase was driven by a 1.3p/kg increase in Northern England, with all other regions reporting a decrease or prices remaining steady. The differential in R3 heifer prices between NI and GB last week also narrowed to 10.8p/kg from the previous week.

In ROI deadweight prices continued to strengthen in both sterling and euro terms. Last week the R3 steer price was the equivalent of 422.8p/kg, up 8.1p/kg from the previous week. This puts the ROI price 10.9p/kg below the NI R3 steer price. The R3 heifer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 422.9p/kg, up 5.6p/kg from the previous week. This puts the ROI price 12.1p/kg lower than the NI R3 heifer price.

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

| W/E 07/05/22 | | Northern Ireland | Rep of Ireland | Scotland | Northern England | Midlands & Wales | Southern England | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steers | U3 | 438.7 | 430.1 | 447.1 | 450.7 | 448.9 | 452.1 | 449.5 |
| | R3 | 433.7 | 422.8 | 446.3 | 445.7 | 444.7 | 443.4 | 444.9 |
| | R4 | 436.7 | 424.2 | 446.1 | 450.5 | 444.1 | 444.6 | 447.2 |
| | O3 | 420.8 | 413.0 | 431.1 | 429.8 | 425.5 | 426.2 | 427.5 |
| | AVG | 424.0 | - | 442.2 | 443.3 | 436.4 | 435.7 | 439.8 |
| Heifers | U3 | 440.4 | 433.2 | 455.2 | 455.8 | 456.2 | 454.3 | 455.5 |
| | R3 | 435.0 | 422.9 | 447.7 | 448.0 | 445.3 | 442.8 | 445.8 |
| | R4 | 432.9 | 425.5 | 448.2 | 450.5 | 445.9 | 443.6 | 447.9 |
| | O3 | 423.3 | 418.7 | 430.0 | 429.1 | 417.2 | 420.0 | 422.6 |
| | AVG | 426.6 | - | 445.6 | 444.5 | 432.0 | 433.1 | 439.3 |
| Young Bulls | U3 | 427.0 | 415.7 | 445.3 | 449.1 | 445.4 | 442.6 | 446.0 |
| | R3 | 419.5 | 409.1 | 439.2 | 439.8 | 438.6 | 434.1 | 438.8 |
| | O3 | 405.6 | 393.5 | 420.2 | 428.1 | 414.9 | 418.7 | 419.4 |
| | AVG | 409.4 | - | 438.4 | 435.3 | 422.1 | 427.8 | 429.9 |
| Prime Cattle Price Reported | | 5,864 | - | 6,124 | 6,888 | 6,788 | 4,332 | 24,132 |
| Cows | O3 | 358.4 | 363.5 | 384.3 | 380.7 | 380.8 | 379.0 | 380.9 |
| | O4 | 359.7 | 361.7 | 387.4 | 382.0 | 380.0 | 378.1 | 381.3 |
| | P2 | 313.2 | 335.1 | 343.8 | 329.9 | 337.8 | 333.6 | 336.3 |
| | P3 | 336.5 | 353.1 | 355.9 | 354.6 | 355.0 | 356.1 | 355.3 |
| | AVG | 330.5 | - | 377.3 | 366.4 | 354.7 | 348.4 | 358.5 |

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.59p 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 07/05/22 | 1st QUALITY | | | 2nd QUALITY | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | From | To | Avg | From | To | Avg |
| **Finished Cattle (p/kg)** | | | | | | |
| Steers | 260 | 286 | 270 | 215 | 259 | 230 |
| Friesians | 187 | 223 | 200 | 159 | 186 | 172 |
| Heifers | 250 | 287 | 260 | 210 | 249 | 230 |
| Beef Cows | 220 | 283 | 235 | 170 | 219 | 190 |
| Dairy Cows | 150 | 184 | 168 | 110 | 149 | 135 |
| **Store Cattle (p/kg)** | | | | | | |
| Bullocks up to 400kg | 260 | 342 | 288 | 215 | 259 | 235 |
| Bullocks 400kg - 500kg | 250 | 305 | 265 | 200 | 249 | 225 |
| Bullocks over 500kg | 240 | 278 | 250 | 190 | 239 | 215 |
| Heifers up to 450kg | 250 | 342 | 280 | 205 | 249 | 225 |
| Heifers over 450kg | 220 | 255 | 235 | 170 | 219 | 200 |
| **Dropped Calves (£/head)** | | | | | | |
| Continental Bulls up to 2 months | 325 | 480 | 390 | 220 | 320 | 270 |
| Continental Heifers up to 2 months | 280 | 380 | 320 | 150 | 275 | 210 |
| Friesian Bulls up to 3 months | 120 | 200 | 155 | 45 | 115 | 80 |
| Holstein Bulls up to 3 months | 100 | 190 | 140 | 1 | 95 | 55 |

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

| (P/Kg DW) | This Week 09/05/22 | Next Week 16/05/22 |
|---|---|---|
| R3 Hoggets up to 22kg | 570-575p | 570-575p |
| R3 Spring Lambs up to 21kg | 610-620p | 610-620p |

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

| (P/KG) | W/E 23/04/22 | W/E 30/04/22 | W/E 07/05/22 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NI L/W Hoggets | 497.8 | 496.4 | 477.3 |
| NI L/W Spring Lambs | 566.5 | 582.8 | 571.9 |
| NI D/W Hoggets | 563.6 | 559.2 | 557.2 |
| NI D/W Spring Lambs | 591.8 | 587.8 | 589.2 |
| GB D/W Hoggets | 597.9 | 605.9 | 603.3 |
| GB D/W Spring Lambs | 648.2 | 655.0 | 659.4 |
| ROI D/W | 611.2 | 620.3 | 625.4 |

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the plants for spring lambs this week were in the region of 610-620p/kg with plants paying up to 21kg. The number of spring lambs coming forward for slaughter has increased in recent weeks in line with normal seasonal trends with spring lambs accounting for 52.4 per cent of the price reported kill last week. The total lamb/hogget throughput in NI plants last week was 6,617 head back by 705 head on the previous week and well ahead of the same week last year when 4,826 lambs/hoggets were killed in local plants. The deadweight spring lamb price in NI last week was 589.2p/kg, up by 1.4p/kg while the NI hogget price decreased by 2p/kg to 557.2p/kg.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

This week trade across the marts was generally back from previous weeks with the number of lambs passing through starting to increase. In Massereene on Monday 140 spring lambs sold from 578-605p/kg compared to 135 spring lambs last week selling from 560-602p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 216 spring lambs sold from 556-606p/kg (avg 588p/kg) compared to 348 spring lambs last week selling from 547-600p/kg (avg 577p/kg). In Ballymena on Wednesday 502 spring lambs sold from 570-619p/kg (avg 590p/kg) compared to 331 spring lambs last week selling from 550-642p/kg (avg 575p/kg). This week the top reported prices for cull ewes ranged from £164-232 across the marts.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

| From: 07/05/22 | | Hoggets | | | | Spring Lambs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To: 11/05/22 | | No | From | To | Avg | No | From | To | Avg |
| Saturday | Swatragh | - | - | - | - | 370 | 467 | 605 | - |
| | Omagh | 173 | 511 | 569 | - | 124 | 519 | 600 | - |
| Monday | Kilrea | - | - | - | - | 320 | 582 | 591 | - |
| | Massereene | 218 | 457 | 496 | - | 140 | 578 | 605 | - |
| Tuesday | Saintfield | - | - | - | - | 245 | 580 | 620 | - |
| | Rathfriland | - | - | - | - | 216 | 556 | 606 | 588 |
| Wednesday | Ballymena | 102 | 420 | 483 | 435 | 502 | 570 | 619 | 590 |
| | Enniskillen | 197 | 510 | 550 | - | 278 | 590 | 610 | - |
| | Armoy | 212 | 530 | 570 | - | 36 | 590 | 605 | - |
| | Markethill | 280 | 470 | 532 | - | 300 | 580 | 627 | - |



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