

## ONLINE SHEEP CONFERENCE 2022: BRINGING RESILIENCE AND PRODUCTIVITY TOGETHER

The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) is encouraging stakeholders to join the forthcoming Online Sheep Conference. The event is set to take place on the evenings of Wednesday 2nd and Wednesday 9th February 2022, beginning at 8.00pm.

**Image 1: Outlining the details of the Online Sheep Conference 2022**

This important and timely event will focus on how to build a more resilient pasture based sheep system. Leading industry experts and innovative farmers have been brought together by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), National Sheep Association (NSA), Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC), and Northern Ireland Meat Export Association (NIMEA) to provide the latest thinking and to share their experiences on how to make a sheep business work in these changing times.

With increasing fertiliser costs on everyone's mind the first installment of the conference on 2nd February at 8.00pm will examine how to grow and utilise more grass. The independent grassland consultant Charlie Morgan will begin proceedings by looking at how best to optimise grass production on a range of farm types.

Philip Creighton, Teagasc, will then examine the latest techniques to maximise grass utilisation as producers seek to maximise the return from this critical resource. The first evening will be drawn to a close by local farmer Clement Lynch explaining

how he has adopted the latest thinking and technologies when it comes to using grass to benefit his business.

LMC would encourage stakeholders to tune in again on Wednesday 9th February at 8.00pm to hear expert opinion on building resilience into the grazing platform. Retired AFBI Professor Jim McAdam will examine how to make your pasture base deliver more than just grass with the potential to develop another income stream for the business. Trevor Cook will then join the online conference direct from New Zealand to discuss his experiences on managing sheep nutrition and health to optimise lamb production from pasture.

Again, the second night will be brought to a close by a local farmer. Dale Orr will discuss his journey from taking the farm over from his father and how he has embraced change in an effort to maintain a viable business.

Speaking in advance of the event, LMC Industry Development Manager, Colin Smith said, "LMC is proud to support this year's Online Sheep Conference. This event will bring together industry leading experts and farmers to give a

comprehensive yet varied overview of some of the challenges facing sheep farmers in Northern Ireland with specific focus on pasture productivity and resilience through health and the environment.

"The importance of forward planning to reduce costs and maximise productivity is becoming increasingly clear as farmers continue to feel the effect of upward pressure on inputs such as feed and fertiliser costs. This online conference will provide valuable insights into how to optimise grass production and build resilience into the grazing platform."

**To attend the virtual event those interested must register in advance.**

This can be done through the CAFRE and UFU websites by visiting the link <https://bit.ly/3rG8uz1>



Wednesday 2nd February: Pasture productivity | Wednesday 9th February: Resilience through health and environment



# LMC EXTENDS COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) have spent an exciting two weeks visiting primary schools in Northern Ireland, telling the story of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Beef and Lamb (NIFQA).

“We have been blown over by the enthusiasm shown by the teachers and children who have recently taken part in a series of primary school cookery demonstrations” confirmed the commission’s Marketing and Communications Manager, Lauren Patterson.

Lauren continued, “It’s already evident that young children have a real grasp of what constitutes good nutrition and the role of beef and lamb in this regard. The reality is that young children are totally intrigued with the food they eat, where it comes from and how it helps them to grow. It is a natural, yet exciting progression for our education programme to expand to this age group.”

The commission’s education programme started almost 25 years ago in post primary schools, and has since grown from strength to strength offering 375 cookery demonstrations in post primary schools across Northern Ireland each year, amongst a host of other education resources.

“We aim to support teachers through our three

key pillars of activity. We are improving access to NIFQA beef and lamb in schools, providing skills and training courses to teachers and helping inform young people on the benefits of NIFQA beef and lamb for our health and environment.”

**Image 2: Pupils from Lisnadill Primary School, Co. Armagh, during the cookery demonstration.**



Lauren confirmed that health, wellbeing and care for the environment are key drivers within the primary school curriculum followed in all primary schools.

She commented: “The demonstrations allow the children to see NIFQA Beef and Lamb prepared and then cooked in the classroom. They also have

the opportunity of asking questions and sampling the finished dishes”

“Each demonstration lasts for about 45 minutes and demonstrators will talk to pupils about looking for the NIFQA logo, the importance of beef and sheep farming to the environment around us and how to achieve a healthy balanced diet for personal development,” she confirmed.” Given the positive response generated by this series of primary school demonstrations, Lauren foresees more demonstrations being rolled out to primary schools across Northern Ireland in the very near future.

“The feedback received from the both the teachers and children has been extremely encouraging. It is an opportunity that primary schools have not been offered before, and is another step in bringing the farm to fork dimension into the classroom. The need to build on this is obvious: it really is a very exciting prospect.”

“LMC’s input at school level is also helping students to develop invaluable life skills. Seeing pupils engage in topics of conversation with our demonstrators around farming practices, a need for good food for growth and early cookery skills is a hugely encouraging prospect for our industry.”

She concluded: “Pupils are being exposed to messages from a very early age. So it is important that they are given the opportunity to hear scientifically based information which allows them to make properly informed decisions, when it comes to the foods they eat. We take pride in the work we do in schools on behalf of our industry, and will continue to maximise the reach of our world class produce where we can.”

**Image 3: Pupils and teachers from St. Joseph’s Primary School, Galbally, Co. Tyrone with representatives from LMC and UFU.**



## 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

## 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 24/01/22	Next Week 31/01/22
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	388 - 394p	388 - 396p
R-3	382 - 388p	382 - 390p
O+3	376 - 382p	376 - 384p
P+3	320 - 332p	322 - 334p
Including bonus where applicable		
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	260 - 290p	260 - 294p

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 for U-3 grading steers and heifers ended this week ranging from 388-394p/kg, with quotes of 388-396p/kg expected for early next week. Producers are encouraged to shop around for the best deal and to use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes for O+3 grade cows are ranging from 260-290p/kg with quotes of 260-294p/kg expected early next week.

Prime cattle throughput last week increased by 192 head from the previous week to total 7,240 head. This is also up 628 head when compared to the same week last year when 6,612 prime cattle were processed locally. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,409 head, up 108 cows from the previous week. This is also up 262 head when compared to the 2,147 cows processed in the same week last year.

Imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week increased from the previous week to consist of 154 prime cattle and 66 cows. There were no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter in local plants last week. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of 16 prime cattle and 84 cows while no cattle made the journey to GB for direct slaughter.

Deadweight prime cattle prices in NI last week showed signs of improvement from the previous week. The average steer price increased by a penny to 397p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 1.9p/kg to 405.8p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week reported an increase of 1.2p/kg to 399.1p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased marginally to 405.8p/kg. The average young bull price was up 2p/kg from the previous week to 376p/kg while the R3 young bull price was back 3.3p/kg to 388.3p/kg. Meanwhile the cow trade in NI last week reported a mixed performance with the average cow back 1.2p/kg to 275.3p/kg and the O3 cow price up 2.2p/kg to 304p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight prime cattle prices reported came under pressure from the previous week. The average steer price in GB decreased by 0.4p/kg to 408p/kg with the R3 steer price back 2.5p/kg to 414.2p/kg. This brings the differential between the GB and NI R3 steer price to 8.4p/kg, or £29 on a 350kg carcass. The average heifer price in GB last week was back by a penny to 406.5p/kg with the R3 heifer price back 1.2p/kg to 414.4p/kg. Meanwhile the average young bull price in GB last week was back 1.6p/kg to 387.8p/kg with the R3 young bull price back by a penny to 404.4p/kg. The cow trade in GB last week continued to remain firm with the average cow price up 6.3p/kg to 273.6p/kg. The O3 cow price reported an increase of 2.7p/kg to 292.9p/kg, 11.1p/kg behind the NI levels.

Last week in ROI the deadweight cattle trade for prime cattle reported increases with most grades. The R3 steer price increased by 0.7p/kg to the equivalent of 362.4p/kg with the R3 heifer price increasing by a penny to 366p/kg. Meanwhile the O3 cow price in ROI last week was up 2.5p/kg to 301.1p/kg, this brings the differential between the ROI and NI O3 cow price to 2.9p/kg.

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

	W/E 22/01/22	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	408.5	369.2	409.7	420.6	423.0	418.5	417.4
	R3	405.8	362.4	412.9	414.8	415.0	413.6	414.2
	R4	404.8	363.7	414.8	422.1	412.3	413.4	416.6
	O3	393.7	352.7	400.2	402.0	391.9	393.2	396.0
	AVG	397.0	-	408.9	412.8	405.0	404.3	408.0
Heifers	U3	411.4	376.1	417.6	428.9	427.7	424.4	424.6
	R3	405.8	366.0	413.5	415.7	415.3	412.7	414.4
	R4	403.9	367.3	414.9	421.8	413.2	411.5	415.8
	O3	394.4	358.3	403.5	396.2	387.5	383.7	390.8
	AVG	399.1	-	411.9	411.6	403.5	396.2	406.5
Young Bulls	U3	390.2	351.4	396.5	407.7	402.1	379.8	399.8
	R3	388.3	345.2	398.1	402.5	409.4	396.4	404.4
	O3	376.0	335.5	371.1	364.8	384.5	370.7	376.0
	AVG	376.0	-	384.7	384.4	391.9	378.6	387.8
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,050	-	6,370	6,281	6,988	4,542	24,181	
Cows	O3	304.0	301.1	292.8	292.9	294.4	289.1	292.9
	O4	305.4	299.6	295.8	295.6	295.9	290.0	294.7
	P2	262.4	274.2	253.8	248.5	254.6	251.9	253.2
	P3	281.8	288.3	266.7	267.5	271.4	269.1	269.8
	AVG	275.3	-	289.3	277.0	272.7	261.9	273.6

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=83.46p 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 22/01/22	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Steers		246	263	249	210	245	224
Friesians		186	204	192	154	185	175
Heifers		234	262	241	190	233	210
Beef Cows		180	205	185	140	179	160
Dairy Cows		125	157	131	95	124	110
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Bullocks up to 400kg		270	341	290	225	269	240
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		255	307	265	220	254	230
Bullocks over 500kg		225	255	230	190	224	205
Heifers up to 450kg		240	279	255	190	239	215
Heifers over 450kg		230	256	240	185	229	202
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>							
Continental Bulls up to 2mth		400	555	435	275	395	335
Continental Heifers up to 1mth		345	445	380	220	340	270
Friesian Bulls up to 2mth		130	190	142	50	125	85
Holstein Bulls		70	125	100	10	65	35

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 22/01/22	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	408.3	411.7	391.7
R3	402.5	404.6	388.8
O+3	394.2	396.5	380.6

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 22/01/22	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	195.3	211.8	223.7	233.4
P2	216.5	240.8	263.6	273.0
P3	216.9	257.2	278.9	285.4
O3	-	300.0	297.1	304.4
O4	-	291.5	286.1	306.0
R3	-	-	-	319.4

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 24/01/22	Next Week 31/01/22
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	535 - 540p/kg	535 - 540p/kg

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 08/01/22	W/E 15/01/22	W/E 22/01/22
NI L/W Hoggets	514.5	503.0	496.5
NI D/W Hoggets	557.3	550.0	535.2
GB D/W Hoggets	614.2	601.1	585.5
ROI D/W	588.0	578.7	559.9

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes for R3 grade hoggets came under pressure this week with the major NI plants quoting 535-540p/kg up to 22kg with similar quotes expected early next week. Hogget throughput in local plants last week totalled 6,984 head, down 694 head from the previous week. This is also back 1,129 head from the 8,113 hoggets that were processed in local plants in the same week last year. Exports of hoggets to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 4,724, back 1,049 head from the previous week. The deadweight hogget price in NI decreased by 14.9p/kg last week to 535.2p/kg. In the same week in 2021 the NI deadweight hogget price was 552.6p/kg.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

Small numbers of hoggets continued to pass through the sale rings this week. In Swatragh on Saturday 780 hoggets sold from 446-513p/kg compared to 660 hoggets sold from 435-517p/kg last week. In Masereene on Monday 430 hoggets sold from 490-519p/kg compared to 642 hoggets sold from 490-522p/kg last week. On Tuesday in Saintfield 455 hoggets sold from 480-550p/kg compared to 505 hoggets sold from 475-554p/kg the previous week. In Enniskillen this week 389 hoggets sold from 480-535p/kg compared to 302 hoggets sold from 470-495p/kg. Top reported price for culled ewes ranged from £135-£236, with a top reported price of £236 in Saintfield on Tuesday.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 22/01/22		Hoggets			
To: 27/01/22		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	386	465	522	-
	Swatragh	780	446	513	-
Monday	Kilrea	380	502	528	-
	Massereene	430	490	519	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	455	480	550	-
	Rathfriland	245	490	540	510
Wednesday	Ballymena	1275	465	561	503
	Enniskillen	389	480	535	-
	Arroy	265	495	545	-
	Markethill	600	510	539	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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