

## CALF BREED SELECTION REMAINS IN FAVOUR OF ABERDEEN ANGUS

The latest available data on calf registrations from APHIS reported there were 39,415 calves registered in Northern Ireland during the four weeks of February 2023, a slight decrease from the 39,525 calves registered during the corresponding four week period of 2022. This brings total calf registrations in NI during January and February 2023 to 82,998 head.

### Dam Type

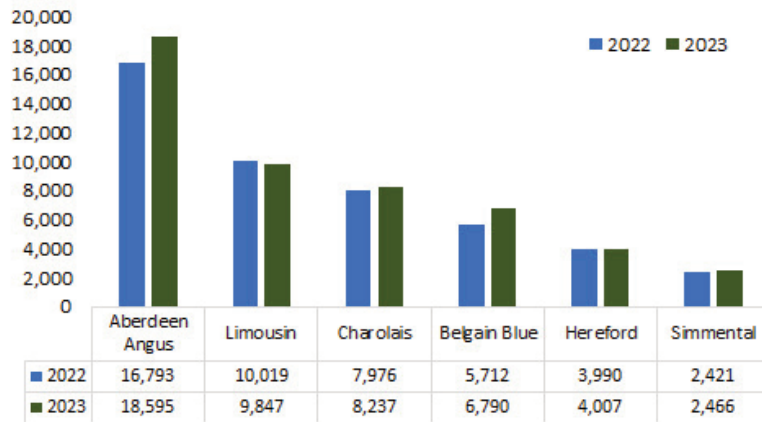
Dairy origin cows continue to account for the majority of calf registrations in NI as outlined in **Table 1**. During 2023 to date, 59 per cent of beef calves have originated from the dairy herd, an increase of 3,978 head from the same period in 2022. The remaining 41 per cent of beef sired calf registrations were to suckler dams and these decreased by 454 head during 2023 to date.

**Table 1: Beef calf birth registrations by dam type during January and February 2022 vs 2023. Source: APHIS.**

	Suckler Dam	Dairy Dam
2022	45%	55%
2023	41%	59%

During 2023 to date 53,666 head or 65 per cent of the calves registered in Northern Ireland were beef sired while the remaining 29,332 head or 35 per cent were dairy sired. This has changed slightly from beef and dairy sired calves accounting for 61 per cent and 39 per cent respectively during the same period last year. In real terms beef sired calves recorded an increase of 3,543 head year on year while dairy sired calves were back by 2,238 head.

**Figure 1: Beef calf birth registrations by breed during January and February 2022 and 2023. Source: APHIS.**



### Beef sired calf registrations by breed

**Figure 1** shows Aberdeen Angus and Limousin continue to be the most popular beef sires used in Northern Ireland. During the first two months of 2023 these two breeds combined accounted for 53 per cent of beef calf registrations. Aberdeen Angus birth registrations accounted for 34.6 per cent up slightly from 2022 levels when Aberdeen Angus accounted for 33.5 per cent of beef sired calf registrations. Limousin levels were back slightly to 18.3 per cent of beef sired calves, back from the same period in 2022 when 20 per cent of beef calves registered were Limousin.

Charolais remained the third most commonly registered breed of calf in NI during the first eight weeks of 2023 with 8,237 calves registered. These accounted for just over 15 per cent of overall beef sired calf registrations, back slightly from almost 16 per cent in

the same period in 2022. There have also been slight changes in the proportion of other breeds of beef sired calves registered. Belgian Blue accounted for 12.7 per cent of beef sired calf registrations to date in 2023 which is up from 11.4 per cent in corresponding period in 2022. Meanwhile the proportion of Hereford beef sired calves registered has dropped slightly to 4,007 head or 7.5 per cent during January and February 2023 from eight per cent in the same period in 2022.

### Dairy sired calf registrations

By the close of February 2023 there were 29,332 dairy sired calves registered in Northern Ireland since the start of the year, with approximately 74 per cent of these registered as female calves. In the corresponding period in 2022 there were 31,570 dairy sired calves registered with 70.4 per cent of these calves registered as female.

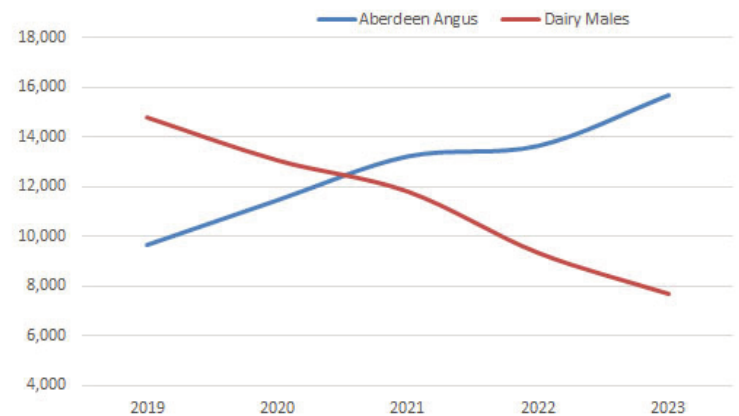
Meanwhile during 2023 to date there have been 7,704 dairy sired male calves registered in Northern Ireland back by 17.7 per cent or 1,656 head from the 9,360 dairy male calves registered in the same eight week period of 2022.

### Aberdeen Angus Calf Registrations

As mentioned Aberdeen Angus levels have increased during 2023 from last years levels. During 2023 to date there has been 18,595 Aberdeen Angus calves registered in Northern Ireland which represents an additional 1,802 Aberdeen Angus calf registrations from the previous year and a 2,309 head increase from 2021 levels during the first two months of the year.

The notable increase in Aberdeen Angus calf registrations over the past number of years has been well documented, with most of the increase in Aberdeen Angus calf registrations in

**Figure 2: Aberdeen Angus calf registrations to dairy cows and dairy male calf birth registrations in NI during January and February 2019-2023. Source: APHIS.**



Northern Ireland originating from the dairy herd. During 2023 to date 84.5 per cent of Aberdeen Angus calf registrations have been to dairy cows.

A number of factors have contributed to the increasing numbers including positive market signals from processors in the forms of bonuses at point of slaughter. Current bonus schemes at point of slaughter currently require only the sire to be a pedigree Aberdeen Angus animal and therefore provides a valuable opportunity for dairy producers to maximise the value of calf output from their dairy herds.

The smaller birth weights, shorter gestations and a higher value young calf are also attractive to dairy producers at the expense of dairy male calf births as shown in **Figure 2**.

## ANGUS CATTLE IN THE SLAUGHTER MIX UPDATE

Higher prices available for Aberdeen Angus and Hereford prime cattle at point of slaughter in several of the local major processing plants have created a strong demand for these types of cattle at all stages of beef production. The increased numbers of Aberdeen Angus calf birth registrations has been reflected in the local slaughter mix in recent years.

During 2023 to date AA cattle have accounted for over a quarter (25.6 per cent) of the price reported prime kill in Northern Ireland. This proportion has been steadily increasing in recent years. **Figure 3** displays the proportions of AA steers and heifers in the NI slaughter mix during the year to date and during 2022.

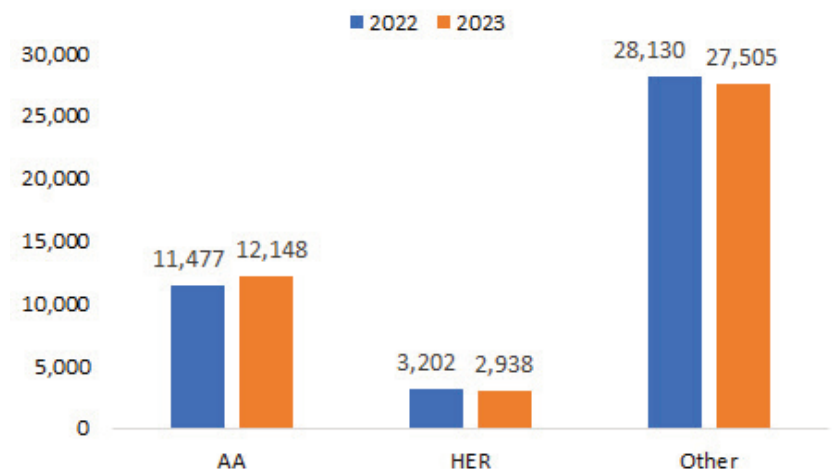
In the first two months of 2022, 11,477 head or almost a quarter (24.1 per cent) of the price reported prime cattle kill in NI were Aberdeen Angus steers and heifers. This has increased to reach 12,148 head or 25.6 per cent of the prime kill in the first two months of 2023.

Steers and heifers are eligible for bonus schemes providing they meet specification. While it is not possible to identify how many of these cattle received bonuses it illustrates there are more cattle available for the Aberdeen Angus bonus schemes year on year. Smaller birth weights, shorter gestations, demand from finishers and bonuses at point of slaughter have all contributed to the growing number of AA calves being registered.

In January and February 2023 Hereford steers and heifers accounted for six per cent of the price reported prime kill and this has declined from the seven per cent reported during the first two months of the year in 2022. This equates to 264 fewer Hereford steers and heifers in the price reported slaughter mix to date this year.

The shifting trends in the slaughter mix reflect how NI beef producers are shaping the production base to supply cattle that are in high demand, and perhaps those cattle which generate a greater return.

**Figure 3: The proportions of Aberdeen Angus and Hereford steers and heifers in the price reported prime cattle kill in NI during January and February 2022 and 2023. Source: LMC Deadweight Price Reporting.**



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

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

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 13/03/23	Next Week 20/03/23
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	450 - 470p	450 - 470p
R-3	444 - 464p	444 - 464p
O+3	438 - 458p	438 - 458p
P+3	382 - 402p	382 - 402p
	Including bonus where applicable	
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	360 - 374p	360 - 374p

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 in spec U-3 grade steers and heifers improved this week to range from 450-470p/kg with the majority of plants quoting 454-470p/kg for steers and heifers. Quotes from the plants for good quality O+3 grading cows this week held steady ranging from 360-374p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants totalled 7,006 head last week which was 440 cattle less than the previous week. This brings total throughput of prime cattle for 2023 to date to 70,561 head which is 2,837 head or 3.9 per cent lower than the 73,398 prime cattle slaughtered in local plants during the first ten weeks of 2022. Cow throughput in local plants totalled 1,936 head last week, a decrease of 190 head from the previous week. Cow throughput during the year to date is running 133 head or 0.6 per cent higher than the 22,180 cows slaughtered in the corresponding period of 2022.

Cattle imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week consisted of 153 prime cattle and 95 cows with no cattle imported from GB. Meanwhile exports out of NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 52 cows, with no cattle exported to plants in GB.

The average steer price in NI last week increased by 3.8p/kg from the previous week to 471.1p/kg while the average R3 steer price was up by 1.1p/kg to 480.7p/kg. The average heifer price reported an increase of 3.6p/kg last week to 473.8p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by 3.2p/kg to 482.6p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was 455.6p/kg, up 3.3p/kg while the R3 young bull price recorded an increase of a penny taking it to 467p/kg. Meanwhile the average cow price in NI last week decreased by 1.8p/kg from the previous week to 357.3p/kg with the O3 cow price back by 2.1p/kg to 385.6p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price increased by 2.2p/kg when compared to the previous week to 484.7p/kg with the R3 steer price up by 2.1p/kg to 491.5p/kg. Across the regions improvements in R3 steer prices were reported in Scotland (+4.6p/kg), Southern England (+3.9p/kg) and Northern England (+1.2p/kg) while the R3 steer price remained steady in the Midlands and Wales at 492.2p/kg. The overall average heifer price in GB increased by just over a penny to 483.1p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by 1.8p/kg to 491.3p/kg. The R3 heifer price strengthened in all GB regions last week compared to the previous week. Last week the average O3 cow price in GB was back marginally to 407.4p/kg however this remains 21.8p/kg ahead of the O3 cow price in NI.

In ROI last week the R3 steer price was up from the previous week by 2p/kg to the equivalent of 468.4p/kg, this puts the ROI price at 12.3p/kg below the R3 steer price in NI. The average R3 heifer price recorded an increase of 2.3p/kg bringing it to 471.6p/kg, placing the ROI price at 11p/kg below the same price in NI. The O3 cow price in ROI increased by 3.2p/kg last week to the equivalent of 400.9p/kg, 15.3p/kg ahead of the average cow price in NI last week.

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

	W/E 11/03/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	484.7	477.0	490.5	494.6	502.0	501.4	496.4
	R3	480.7	468.4	492.4	490.6	492.2	491.0	491.5
	R4	478.8	472.0	492.4	494.1	490.2	492.7	492.6
	O3	469.1	457.3	470.4	470.1	472.8	469.5	470.8
	AVG	471.1	-	488.6	484.4	484.2	481.3	484.7
Heifers	U3	485.4	483.8	497.4	500.9	505.8	501.3	501.6
	R3	482.6	471.6	493.1	489.3	492.2	490.3	491.3
	R4	477.8	474.4	492.8	491.0	490.1	490.0	491.4
	O3	471.3	463.5	473.2	468.3	467.2	462.6	466.3
	AVG	473.8	-	491.5	483.1	481.3	475.1	483.1
Young Bulls	U3	474.5	464.8	477.1	479.9	492.0	478.3	483.0
	R3	467.0	453.3	478.8	481.4	478.0	442.8	477.2
	O3	451.7	437.7	457.2	441.9	461.3	459.0	456.9
	AVG	455.6	-	469.7	467.2	466.1	451.2	465.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,169	-	6,321	6,998	6,952	5,200	25,471	
Cows	O3	385.6	400.9	412.8	407.1	407.9	404.7	407.4
	O4	389.7	399.7	412.5	408.7	408.5	406.3	408.6
	P2	351.6	366.1	365.4	366.2	365.9	366.8	366.2
	P3	366.3	384.9	385.4	385.8	387.5	386.6	386.8
	AVG	357.3	-	408.5	390.2	380.4	373.0	384.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.75p 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

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 11/03/23	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	484.2	485.3	474.0
R3	479.3	481.9	466.0
O+3	471.6	474.2	457.5

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 11/03/23	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	273.8	291.2	301.5	321.6
P2	300.4	328.8	347.7	363.6
P3	341.5	345.5	358.5	368.6
O3	-	347.0	375.1	386.9
O4	-	365.0	395.5	389.9
R3	-	-	-	408.5

## SHEEP TRADE

### NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 13/03/23	Next Week 20/03/23
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	535 - 545p	540 - 550p

### REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 25/02/23	W/E 04/03/23	W/E 11/03/23
NI L/W Hoggets	477.3	482.9	504.2
NI D/W Hoggets	521.1	518.9	534.4
GB D/W Hoggets	510.6	504.6	506.4
ROI D/W	530.3	539.2	555.8

### Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the major processors for R3 grading hoggets ended this week ranging from 540-550p/kg up to 22kg with similar quotes expected early next week. There were 9,608 hoggets killed in local plants last week, up 1,833 head from the previous week. A further 5,859 hoggets were exported last week to ROI for direct slaughter up 503 head from the previous week. This brings the total number of hoggets exported to ROI for direct slaughter in 2023 to 54,216 head. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week was 534.4p/kg, up 15.5p/kg from the previous week. In the same week last year the NI deadweight hogget price was 541p/kg. The deadweight hogget trade in ROI last week was up 16.6p/kg to the equivalent of 555.8p/kg. In the same week in 2022 the ROI deadweight hogget price reported was 575.3p/kg.

### Liveweight Sheep Trade

Steady numbers of hoggets along with a steady trade have been reported across the local marts this week. In Omagh last Saturday 632 hoggets sold from 498-547p/kg while in Swatragh 1,540 hoggets sold from 480-545p/kg. The fat sheep sale in Kilrea on Monday saw an improved trade from last week with 700 hoggets selling from 494-524p/kg. In Saintfield this week a similar trade to last week was reported with 645 hoggets selling from 500-540p/kg. On Wednesday in Ballymena 1,809 hoggets sold from 485-561p/kg (avg 510p/kg) compared to 1,875 hoggets last week selling from 480-561p/kg (avg 500p/kg). Good numbers of ewes also passed through the marts this week with top reported prices ranging from £175-250.

### LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

	W/E 11/03/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Steers		280	325	295	200	279	240
Friesians		215	221	217	204	213	209
Heifers		270	298	280	205	269	230
Beef Cows		227	297	243	170	226	200
Dairy Cows		154	200	174	75	150	115
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Bullocks up to 400kg		320	397	340	250	319	280
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		290	344	310	215	285	250
Bullocks over 500kg		270	321	288	200	269	235
Heifers up to 450kg		280	322	300	200	279	240
Heifers over 450kg		235	302	260	190	234	215
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>							
Continental Bulls		325	420	355	215	315	265
Continental Heifers		265	350	300	180	260	225
Friesian Bulls		100	250	125	-	-	-
Holstein Bulls		-	-	-	-	-	-

### LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 11/03/23		Hoggets			
To: 16/03/23		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	1540	480	545	-
	Omagh	632	498	547	-
Monday	Kilrea	700	494	524	-
	Markethill	700	500	538	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	645	500	540	-
	Rathfriland	420	488	520	502
Wednesday	Ballymena	1809	485	561	510
	Enniskillen	700	480	531	-
	Armoy	356	490	575	-

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