

## PRIME CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND BACK FIVE PER CENT YEAR ON YEAR

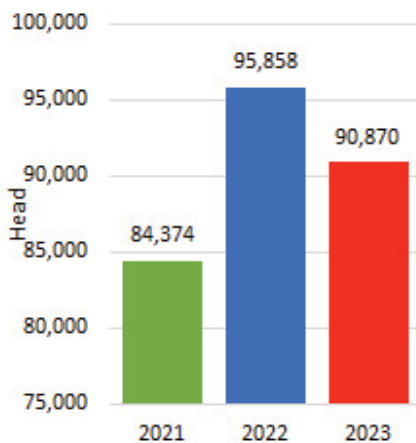
There has been a reduction in total cattle slaughterings in Northern Ireland during the first quarter of 2023 when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Cattle slaughterings during this period totalled 121,974 head which is a 5,443 head decrease from the first quarter of 2022. This equates to a four per cent reduction in cattle throughput year on year. In comparison to 2021 levels cattle slaughterings during the year to date are up by 11,232 head or by 10 per cent.

### Prime Cattle

The prime cattle kill totalled 90,870 head during the first three months of 2023, accounting for 75

**Figure 1: Numbers of prime cattle processed in NI meat plants during the first three months of 2023 compared to 2022 and 2021.**

Source: DAERA.



per cent of Northern Ireland cattle slaughterings. This is a reduction of 4,988 head from the same period in 2022 when 95,858 prime cattle were killed locally, and an increase of 6,496 head from 2021 levels as shown in **Figure 1**.

The prime cattle kill recorded a decline across the male categories during the first quarter of 2023 when compared to the same period last year, while heifer throughput recorded a slight increase as outlined in **Table 1**.

The number of steers killed in NI during the thirteen week period totalled 43,257 head which is back by 4,487 head or 9.4 per cent from the 47,744 head processed in NI plants during the corresponding period in 2022. Meanwhile, this year steer throughput is running ahead of 2021 levels by 951 head of 2.2 per cent.

The number of heifers processed in NI plants during the first three months of 2023 totalled 39,214 head which was 102 more than the relative period in 2022. This equates to a slight increase of 0.3 per cent year on year. Meanwhile, heifer processings have increased by almost 13 per cent or a significant 4,485 head when compared to 2021 figures.

Young bull processings in NI during January to the week ending 01 April totalled 8,399 which was a decline of 603 head or 6.7 per cent from 2022 figures. Meanwhile this was a 1,060 head or 14.4 per cent increase relative to the same period in 2021 when 7,339 young bulls were processed in local meat plants.

**Table 1: Numbers of cattle processed in NI meat plants by category during the first three months of 2023 compared to 2022 and 2021. Source: DAERA.**

NI Cattle Throughput (Head)					
(Three months ended 01/04/23 compared to three months ended 03/04/21 and 02/04/22)					
	2023	2022	2021	2023/22 % Change	2023/21 % Change
Steers	43,257	47,744	42,306	-9.4%	+2.2%
Heifers	39,214	39,112	34,729	+0.3%	+12.9%
Young Bulls	8,399	9,002	7,339	-6.7%	+14.4%
<b>Total Prime Cattle</b>	<b>90,870</b>	<b>95,858</b>	<b>84,374</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	<b>+7.7%</b>
Calves	1,528	1,723	1,414	-11.3%	+8.1%
Cows	28,298	28,647	23,790	-1.2%	+18.9%
Mature Bulls	1,278	1,189	1,164	+7.5%	+9.8%
<b>Total Cattle</b>	<b>121,974</b>	<b>127,417</b>	<b>110,742</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>+10.1%</b>

Calf slaughterings in NI during the first three months of 2023 decreased year on year to total 1,528 head. Compared to previous years this was up back 195 head or 11.3 per cent from 2022 and an increase of 114 head or around eight per cent from 2021 levels.

During the first quarter of 2023 mature bull throughput increased by 89 head or 7.5 per cent from 2022 levels while numbers slaughtered increased by almost 10 per cent (114 head) relative to 2021. It should be noted that both calf (bovine animals under 12 months old) and mature bull processings are very low in comparison to the number of prime cattle and cows processed locally.

### Cull Cattle

Cow throughput in NI during the quarter one period to week ending 01 April 2023 declined by 349 head from the corresponding period of 2022 to total 28,298 cows. Meanwhile, this was a significant increase of 4,508 head from 2021 levels, which equates to an increase of almost 19 per cent.

## LOWER NI BEEF PRODUCTION DURING QUARTER 1 2023

The decrease in cattle throughput in Northern Irish processing plants during the first quarter of 2023 has been further exacerbated by a decrease in average carcass weights recorded across all cattle categories. This has resulted in a decline in beef production locally when compared to the same period during 2022 and 2021 as outlined in **Table 2**.

During the quarter one period to week ending 01 April 2023, the average carcass weight of prime cattle slaughtered in NI was 341.1kg, a decrease of 8.3kg relative to 2022 when the average carcass weight was 349.4kg. Meanwhile this was also a decline of almost 5kg compared to the same period in 2021 when the average clean carcass weight was 346kg.

The average cow carcass weight has decreased by more than 8.5kg during quarter 1 this year when compared to 2022 and just over 12kg when compared to the same period of 2021. The decrease in prime carcass weights alongside the decrease in throughput across all categories has attributed to an overall decrease in the volumes of beef produced in NI.

Overall beef production during the three months ending 01 April 2023 totalled 40,354 tonnes a decline of 2,893 tonnes or 6.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2022. However 2023 beef output is running 2,906 tonnes or 7.7 per cent ahead of 2021 levels.

Prime cattle account for the majority of beef production in Northern Ireland. During the first three months of 2023 31,007 tonnes of beef came from this source accounting for approximately 77 per cent of total beef output.

**Table 2: Quarter 1 average cattle carcass weights and total volumes of beef processed in NI during 2021-2023.**

Source: DAERA.

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Average carcass weight (Kg)	Steers	362.6	367.0	359.8
	Heifers	326.4	330.0	320.7
	Young Bulls	345.1	343.4	340.7
	Average clean carcass weight	346.0	349.4	341.1
	Cows	312.2	308.7	300.2
Total beef production (tonnes)	All categories	37,448	43,247	40,354

## FQAS MART CLINICS APRIL 2023

LMC Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) mart clinics at a range of Livestock Marts across Northern Ireland. Terry is present to assist members of FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.



Any farmers who wish to join the scheme can also do so through their local FQAS mart clinic. Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed in the table below.

For further information call (028) 9263 3024.

Mart	Day	Date
Omagh	Monday (Day)	17/04/2023
Ballymena	Friday (Day)	21/04/2023
Markethill	Tuesday (Day)	25/04/2023

### 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@lmnci.com Tel: 028 9263 3000

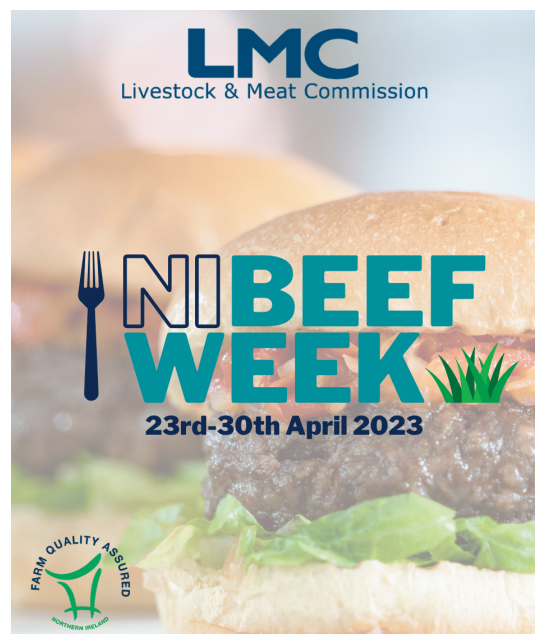
# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 10/04/23	Next Week 17/04/23
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	450 - 478p	450 - 480p
R-3	444 - 472p	444 - 474p
O+3	438 - 466p	438 - 468p
P+3	382 - 410p	382 - 412p
Including bonus where applicable		
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	360 - 378p	360 - 380p

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.



The Livestock and Meat Commission looks forward to partnering with industry stakeholders during NI Beef Week to showcase Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef. Keep a look out for upcoming industry activity during NI Beef Week taking place from 23rd - 30th April 2023.

## SHEEP TRADE

### NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 10/04/23	Next Week 17/04/23
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	585-590p	585-600p
R3 Spring Lambs up to 21kg	635-640p	640-650p

### REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 25/03/23	W/E 01/04/23	W/E 08/04/23
NI L/W Hoggets	507.1	502.6	516.9
NI D/W Hoggets	551.4	562.8	578.2
GB D/W Hoggets	548.2	583.1	605.3
ROI D/W	576.0	594.4	599.7
NI L/W Spring Lambs	-	-	591.6
NI D/W Spring Lambs	-	-	573.7

### Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes from the major processing plants for in-spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady this week ranging from 450-478p/kg, with preliminary base quotes of 450-480p/kg received by LMC for early next week. The bottom quote of 450p/kg is not reflective of the trade and there is only one processor which is quoting below the range of 466-478p/kg for steers and heifers. With firm demand for prime cattle producers are encouraged to shop around to get the best possible deal. Base quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows early next week are expected to strengthen to 360-380p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 7,021 head, back 252 head from the previous week when 7,273 prime cattle were killed locally. This is also a reduction of 1,008 head when compared to the 8,029 prime cattle killed in NI plants during the corresponding week last year. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,972 head, an decrease of 44 cows from the previous week when 1,928 cows were slaughtered in NI plants. Meanwhile, this is a decline of 312 cows compared to the 2,284 cows killed locally during the same week during 2022.

Imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week consisted of 217 prime cattle and 105 cows. Meanwhile 28 cows were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week. No cattle travelled between NI and GB for direct slaughter last week.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle has continued to firm in NI and remains at record high levels. Last week the average steer price in NI was up by 2.4p/kg from the previous week to 480.4p/kg. The R3 steer price last week was 491.9p/kg, up 3.3p/kg from the previous week. The average heifer price in NI last week was up 2.7p/kg to 482.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up also up by 2.2p/kg to 492.2p/kg. The cow trade came under further pressure in NI last week with the average cow price back by half a penny to 359.4p/kg while the O3 cow price was up by 1.4p/kg to 396.5p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB reported a mixed trade last week with the average steer price up by 1.1p/kg to 490.5p/kg while the average R3 steer price was up marginally to 496.5p/kg. Scotland was the only GB region recording a decline in the average R3 steer price last week back by a penny from the previous week to 502.9p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 0.7p/kg to 488.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price reported an increase of 1.6p/kg to 496.6p/kg. Last week in GB the cow trade was relatively steady with the average O3 cow price increasing by a marginal 0.1p/kg while the average cow price was reported a decline of 0.3p/kg to 383.2p/kg.

The deadweight trade has also continued to firm in ROI last week in euro terms however was back in sterling terms. The average R3 steer price reported a decrease the equivalent of 0.9p/kg to 464.8p/kg while the average ROI R3 heifer price declined by 0.7p/kg to the equivalent of 467.7p/kg. The cow trade firmed in ROI last week with the O3 cow price up 1.2p/kg to 400.6p/kg.

### Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the major NI plants for R3 grading hoggets this week were ranging from 585-590p/kg up to 22kg, with quotes of 635-640p/kg for R3 spring lambs up to 21kg. Next week improved hogget quotes of 585-600p/kg and spring lamb quotes of 640-650p/kg are expected. Lamb/hogget throughput in NI plants last week totalled 8,925 head, 786 head less than during the previous week. Exports of lambs/hoggets to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 5,505 head, a decrease of 1,291 head from the previous week. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week was 578.2p/kg while the average deadweight spring lamb price was 573.7p/kg. In ROI the combined lamb/hogget deadweight price last week was 599.7p/kg, up 5.3p/kg from the previous week.

### Liveweight Sheep Trade

This week across the marts the number of spring lambs increased along with a firm trade reported. On Saturday in Swatragh 480 hoggets sold from 520-570p/kg compared to the previous Saturday when 940 hoggets sold from 520-605p/kg. In Kilrea sale held on Tuesday this week 760 hoggets sold to a top of 585p/kg while in Saintfield on Tuesday 430 hoggets sold from 510-560p/kg compared to 555 hoggets last week selling from 500-540p/kg. On Wednesday in Ballymena a good entry of 644 hoggets sold from 500-591p/kg (avg 530p/kg) with an entry of 122 spring lambs this week selling from 600-642p/kg (avg 625p/kg). The strong trade for cull ewes continues with top reported prices ranging from £160 - £242 across the marts.

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

W/E 08/04/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	497.2	472.3	506.0	501.9	506.0	504.0
	R3	491.9	464.8	502.9	494.9	496.3	496.5
	R4	487.9	468.7	504.7	498.8	493.4	499.4
	AVG	480.4	-	501.2	489.1	486.9	490.5
Heifers	U3	498.8	478.1	510.2	504.8	509.4	507.7
	R3	492.2	467.7	502.3	495.0	498.0	496.6
	R4	487.4	470.7	504.9	498.0	494.8	499.2
	AVG	482.3	-	501.9	490.0	480.7	488.4
Young Bulls	U3	483.1	461.1	495.2	493.3	492.2	492.2
	R3	476.9	449.4	493.0	479.7	486.3	485.1
	O3	463.7	437.5	475.3	449.7	458.5	459.3
	AVG	462.6	-	487.5	467.9	477.5	476.6
Prime Cattle Price Reported	4,313	-	5,268	5,849	6,662	4,692	22,471
Cows	O3	396.5	400.6	416.6	410.1	409.5	410.3
	O4	399.0	398.4	420.7	412.2	409.2	411.0
	P2	351.1	359.9	378.3	371.6	364.1	367.9
	AVG	359.4	-	406.9	390.9	376.3	383.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=87.58p 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 LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 08/04/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	295	331	305	225	294	248
Friesians	230	240	233	216	224	221
Heifers	285	319	295	220	284	240
Beef Cows	246	297	275	200	245	225
Dairy Cows	170	215	180	75	169	125
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	300	385	340	220	299	260
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	280	363	305	210	279	245
Bullocks over 500kg	250	310	280	200	249	225
Heifers up to 450kg	300	366	330	200	299	250
Heifers over 450kg	275	355	300	200	274	225
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	400	565	450	275	395	335
Continental Heifers	360	560	400	225	355	290
Friesian Bulls	135	200	160	50	130	85
Holstein Bulls	75	135	100	2	70	35

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

From: 08/04/23		Hoggets				Spring Lambs			
To: 13/04/23		No	From	To	Avg	No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	480	520	570	-	40	481	610	-
Monday	Kilrea	760	510	585	-	-	-	-	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	430	510	560	-	65	580	625	-
	Rathfriland	250	510	550	523	46	550	602	-
Wednes- day	Ballymena	644	500	591	530	122	600	642	625
	Enniskillen	392	500	565	-	-	-	-	-
	Armooy	349	530	587	-	-	-	-	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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