

NIFQA BEEF TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE DURING NI BEEF WEEK

Next week will see the return of NI Beef Week, an annual weeklong initiative spearheaded in Northern Ireland by the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC).

During NI Beef Week, which runs from 23rd-30th April LMC will coordinate an exciting and varied programme of activity with the central aim of showcasing the world leading food safety, animal welfare and environmental standards of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured (NIFQA) beef. This year in addition to celebrating the great taste, quality and world leading farming credentials of local beef, a focus will be placed on the sustainable farming practices employed by farmers across NI.

LMC is again delighted to team up with the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) and ABP Linden Foods to share the positive farm to fork story of NIFQA beef. "NI Beef Week is a prime opportunity to reiterate the world leading quality and traceability of NIFQA beef and we are delighted that industry stakeholders have lent their support to this important initiative again this year," said LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson.

Image 1: L-R - Brian Cromie, NIFQA farmer, Pat McKay, UFU Beef and Sheep Chair, Ian Stevenson, LMC Chief Executive, Gerry Mellotte, ABP Lurgan Procurement Manager



"This year a focus is placed on sustainable farming practices and in Northern Ireland we can with confidence claim that NIFQA beef is among the most sustainable in the world. This is thanks to the continued dedication of NIFQA farmers to meet world leading standards for eco-conscious farming. Our farmers and the local agri-food industry are making excellent strides when it comes to sustainable beef farming with much work already underway to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve productivity and resource efficiency within supply chains.

"The climate in Northern Ireland also lends itself to sustainable beef production. With plenty of rainfall and land that is most suited to grazing animals it is no surprise that the production of beef is undertaken on more than twenty thousand family farms across the region. These climatic conditions also help to grow lush green grass, a product which as humans we cannot consume. Beef cattle convert grass into a nutrient dense red meat and while doing so help maintain the landscape which is enjoyed by all across NI."

Ian noted that LMC's promotion of NI Beef Week will take on a multi-platform approach.

"LMC has collaborated with Cool FM to showcase a selection of versatile, tasty and budget friendly NIFQA beef recipes to a host of consumers. The Commission has secured prominent placement on air throughout the week and we would encourage everyone to listen out for us on Monday 24th April, Cool Drive, Wednesday 26th April, Cool Breakfast and Friday 27th April, Cool Afternoons. If you're tuned in not only will you hear facts about NIFQA beef, but you will also have an opportunity to win some great prizes too.

"In addition to this, the Commission has taken an 'always online' approach meaning that a number of our favourite NIFQA recipes will be available for consumers to download and try at home from the Cool FM website at any point throughout the week. Furthermore, to encourage consumers of all ages to incorporate NIFQA beef into their weekly balanced diet several LMC recipes will be popping up on the Cool FM and Downtown Radio Facebook pages.

"This collaboration will suitably complement the ongoing organic promotion of NIFQA beef which is undertaken by LMC throughout the year. During NI Beef Week our social media pages will be a hive of activity as we champion the progressive and innovative work undertaken by the agri food industry to bring consumers beef of the highest quality.

"NI Beef Week will bring about the launch of a new short video series which highlights quick, family friendly NIFQA beef recipes. LMC will also share a host of informative and educational infographics, promote a range of NIFQA beef recipes and showcase NIFQA beef and the diligent work of farmers who produce it.

Image 2: NI Beef Week will promote a range of quick, family friendly NIFQA beef recipes



"Another important workstream for LMC is education, with a team of eight demonstrators delivering interactive cookery demonstrations in schools across the province throughout the academic year. During NI Beef Week LMC demonstrators will conduct cookery demonstrations for Key Stage two pupils in primary schools across Northern Ireland. From Castledegar to Coleraine and many towns and villages in between, our demonstrator team will be on the road educating the next generation of consumers on the nutritional and environmental benefits of beef and lamb and the importance of looking for the NIFQA logo. Pupils will also have an opportunity to sample a freshly cooked NIFQA dish and take home a recipe book packed full of family dinner inspiration."

In concluding Ian encouraged the public to get behind NI Beef Week and the ethos of the initiative which has been successful in bringing industry stakeholders and consumers together.

Ian said, "The NI beef and sheep meat sector is of great economic importance to the local economy with sales of over £1.5bn per year. As the industry's promotional body for beef and sheep meat LMC is proud to once again back NI Beef Week and showcase the positive attributes of NIFQA beef. It is expected that hundreds of thousands of consumers will be exposed to NIFQA beef promotion during LMC's weeklong planned activity and we hope that farm families and the wider public will join us as we celebrate our world leading NIFQA beef and the farmers who produce it."

LMC BURSARY AWARDED TO CAFRE STUDENT

THE Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) is among a group of organisations who have provided bursaries to support local agriculture students undertaking higher education courses at CAFRE Greenmount.

"Supporting the career aspirations of young people at all stages of their educational journeys has long been a key strategic aim for the Livestock and Meat Commission. LMC has been promoting its education programme in post primary schools for almost 25 years and has more recently began supporting primary schools and third level education with a host of resources," confirmed LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson.

He added, "Recently the Commission

offered a £1500 bursary to support students studying agriculture related degree courses at CAFRE. We were delighted with the keen level of interest shown by students, their knowledge of the agri food industry and their passion for progressing careers within this sphere. The beef and sheep meat industry is worth £1.5bn to the Northern Ireland economy and it is vital we continue to promote the varied and exciting career opportunities the industry offers."

The LMC bursary award was recently presented to BSc Hons Agricultural Technology student Rebekah Woodside by LMC board member Harry Sinclair during the Agriculture Bursary Awards held at CAFRE Greenmount campus.

Image 3: LMC bursary award presented to BSc Hons Agricultural Technology student Rebekah Woodside by LMC board member Harry Sinclair



Congratulating Rebekah on taking receipt of the LMC bursary Ian said, "Throughout her application Rebekah demonstrated a broad understanding of the career opportunities made available by the agri food industry. It was encouraging to see Rebekah aptly make reference to how her own personal experiences of farming and agriculture had influenced her career aspirations.

Her enthusiasm to learn more about many the main topics affecting agriculture is commendable. On behalf of LMC I would like to take this opportunity to wish Rebekah well as she continues her studies at CAFRE."

FQAS Helpline

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Answerphone Service

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

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 17/04/23	Next Week 24/04/23
Prime		
U-3	460 - 480p	460 - 480p
R-3	454 - 474p	454 - 474p
O+3	448 - 468p	448 - 468p
P+3	392 - 412p	392 - 412p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	370 - 380p	370 - 386p

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 prime cattle this week ranged from 460-480p/kg however with reports of higher deadweight prices available producers should use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows ranged from 370-380p/kg with improved quotes of 370-386p/kg received for early next week.

Throughput of prime cattle in NI plants last week totalled 6,070 head a decrease of 951 head when compared to the previous week when 7,021 prime cattle were processed locally. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,658 head back 314 head from the previous week when 1,972 cows were processed locally.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week totalled 220 head with 67 cows also imported. Meanwhile cattle exports from NI for slaughter in ROI plants consisted of four steers and 15 cows last week.

The deadweight prime cattle trade in NI generally improved last week when compared to the previous week. The average steer price increased by 1.6p/kg to 482p/kg while the R3 steer price reported a marginal decrease to 491.7p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was 483.5p/kg, up 1.2p/kg, while the R3 heifer price was slightly back from the previous week to 492p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was up just over a penny from the previous week to 463.7p/kg with the U3 young bull increasing by 5.8p/kg to 488.9p/kg. Meanwhile last week the NI cow trade strengthened with the average cow price up by 8p/kg from the previous week to 367.4p/kg and the O3 cow price up 2.2p/kg to 398.7p/kg.

The deadweight trade for steers and heifers held relatively steady in GB last week compared to the previous week with the average steer price up marginally to 490.8p/kg and the average R3 steer price up by just over a penny to 497.6p/kg. This brings the differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and GB to almost 6p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 0.4p/kg to 488.8p/kg while the average R3 heifer price held steady from the previous week at 496.7p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and GB at 4.7p/kg. Meanwhile last week the average cow price in GB was marginally back from the previous week to 383p/kg with the O3 cow price increasing half a penny from the previous week to 410.8p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle trade improved from the previous week primarily due to the strengthening euro against sterling. The R3 steer price last week increased by the equivalent of 1.9p/kg to 466.7p/kg, 25p/kg behind the R3 steer price in NI. Last week the R3 heifer price increased by 3.3p/kg to the equivalent of 471p/kg. This places the R3 heifer price at 21p/kg below the same price in NI. Meanwhile in ROI last week the O3 cow price was up by 1.3p/kg from the previous week to 401.9p/kg, 3.2p/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI.

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 hoggets ended this week ranging from 595-620p/kg up to 22kg with similar quotes received by two of the three processors for next week. Base quotes for spring lambs ended the week ranging from 645-670p/kg up to 21kg with quotes from two plants indicating a relatively steady trade early next week. Total lamb/hogget throughput in NI last week totalled 4,443 head, back 4,482 head from the 8,925 head processed the previous week. In the same week last year 6,005 lambs/hoggets were killed locally. Prime sheep exports to ROI totalled 4,662 head last week a decline of 843 head from the previous week, while in ROI last week the combined deadweight lamb/hogget price increased by the equivalent of 20.9p/kg from the previous week to 620.6p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Good numbers of hoggets passed through the sale rings this week with the number of spring lambs on offer continuing to increase across many of the marts. In Markethill on Monday 800 hoggets sold from 530-600p/kg with 260 spring lambs selling from 600-650p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 400 hoggets sold from 543-560p/kg (avg 556p/kg) and 153 spring lambs sold from 614-621p/kg (avg 619p/kg). This compares to 250 hoggets last week selling from 510-550p/kg (avg 523p/kg) and 46 spring lambs selling from 550-602p/kg. In Enniskillen on Wednesday 492 hoggets sold from 538-604p/kg with 96 spring lambs selling from 600-660p/kg. The trade for well fleshed cull ewes remains firm this week with top reported prices ranging from £192-£285.

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

	W/E 15/04/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	494.5	475.8	509.8	502.6	507.5	504.9	506.3
	R3	491.7	466.7	504.0	495.1	497.1	495.9	497.6
	R4	491.2	469.0	504.3	498.1	493.3	495.0	499.3
	AVG	482.0	-	502.7	491.2	486.4	483.7	490.8
Heifers	U3	498.8	482.8	513.0	501.1	510.1	507.1	508.1
	R3	492.0	471.0	501.1	494.4	497.6	494.4	496.7
	R4	489.1	473.8	504.6	496.6	495.2	491.5	498.8
	AVG	483.5	-	502.3	487.9	485.2	478.8	488.8
Young Bulls	U3	488.9	464.0	499.9	494.5	494.3	504.9	498.3
	R3	476.6	453.4	495.3	487.8	490.0	495.5	490.9
	O3	462.6	441.2	477.5	455.7	463.0	485.0	466.0
	AVG	463.7	-	489.7	479.0	477.9	493.1	482.6
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,034	-	5,244	5,932	6,517	4,672	22,365	
Cows	O3	398.7	401.9	421.1	409.3	411.1	404.9	410.8
	O4	400.4	399.1	423.4	414.4	410.0	405.4	411.8
	P2	362.8	359.8	369.2	366.6	368.6	371.8	369.3
	P3	378.7	386.6	388.3	391.0	387.3	387.7	388.2
AVG	367.4	-	411.0	390.7	377.4	370.4	383.0	

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.07p 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 15/04/23	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	494.2	498.7	489.6
R3	490.4	491.0	475.8
O+3	483.0	485.5	471.5

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 15/04/23	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	286.8	305.4	317.9	337.6
P2	305.7	345.0	357.0	375.6
P3	321.1	352.5	370.1	383.7
O3	-	390.1	398.7	398.9
O4	-	-	396.4	400.5
R3	-	-	-	414.5

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 17/04/23	Next Week 24/04/23
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	600 - 620p	590 - 620p
R3 Spring Lambs up to 22kg	650 - 670p	640 - 670p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 01/04/23	W/E 08/04/23	W/E 15/04/23
NI L/W Spring Lambs	-	591.6	Not available at the time of publication
NI D/W Spring Lambs	-	573.7	Not available at the time of publication
NI L/W Hoggets	502.6	516.9	Not available at the time of publication
NI D/W Hoggets	562.8	578.2	Not available at the time of publication
GB D/W Hoggets	583.1	605.3	636.3
ROI D/W	594.4	599.7	620.6

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

	W/E 15/04/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)							
Steers		300	337	312	225	299	252
Friesians		215	235	223	184	214	200
Heifers		294	341	302	230	293	250
Beef Cows		244	300	260	200	243	217
Dairy Cows		160	197	175	75	159	118
Store Cattle (p/kg)							
Bullocks up to 400kg		300	387	335	220	299	260
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		290	373	305	200	289	245
Bullocks over 500kg		-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers up to 450kg		300	400	340	200	299	250
Heifers over 450kg		275	348	290	200	274	230
Dropped Calves (£/head)							
Continental Bulls		400	570	450	285	395	330
Continental Heifers		300	430	360	200	295	245
Friesian Bulls		150	290	175	75	145	105
Holstein Bulls		100	220	135	5	95	50

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 15/04/23		Hoggets				Spring Lambs			
To: 20/04/23		No	From	To	Avg	No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	640	505	610	-	80	590	660	-
	Omagh	459	531	589	-	-	-	-	-
Monday	Kilrea	350	550	598	-	150	630	778	-
	Markethill	800	530	600	-	260	600	650	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	330	525	600	-	65	590	650	-
	Rathfriland	400	543	560	556	153	614	621	619
Wednesday	Ballymena	906	520	575	540	252	590	678	615
	Enniskillen	492	538	604	-	96	600	660	-
	Armoy	250	520	540	-	50	580	620	-

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