LMC
Livestock & Meat Commission
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THE AVAILABILITY OF SLAUGHTER AGE CATTLE CONTINUES TO TIGHTEN

Last week prime cattle slaughterings in local plants totalled 8,135 head, which was a decrease of 269 head from the previous week. This corresponds with the latest figures available from APHIS indicating there were fewer slaughter age cattle on NI farms at 31 October 2022 when compared to the corresponding period last year.

Figure 1 outlines the number of cattle for beef production on NI farms categorised by age at the 31 October 2022. This includes beef sired male and female cattle and dairy sired male cattle. As the figure displays at the close of October 2022 there were 91,700 cattle intended for beef production on NI farms in the 24-30 month age category. While this was a five per cent reduction from October 2021 levels it was 10.2 per cent higher than the 83,231 cattle in this age range in October 2020.

A similar trend can be observed in the levels of cattle for beef production aged from 18-24 months. There were 170,229 head on NI farms at the 31 of October 2022, a 1.9 per cent reduction from October 2021 levels. This was also a decline of 10.8 per cent from October 2020 levels.

Cattle in these two age categories from 18-30 months will provide throughput for local processors over the next six month period. Combined there were 8,168 fewer cattle aged 18-30 months old in NI at the close of October 2022, accounting for a three per cent decline across these age categories at 31 October 2022 compared to 2021. The total number of cattle for beef production on farms within these two categories is 12,041 less or 4.4 per cent behind the numbers recorded in NI at the end of October 2020.

The last time supplies of cattle for slaughter in NI at the end of October recorded similar levels was during 2016 when 265,396 cattle aged 18-30 months old were on NI farms.

There has been a decline in the availability of all types of cattle aged 18-30 months. The number of beef sired male cattle on NI farms aged between 18-30 months totalled 100,527 head at 31 October 2022, compared to 103,253 cattle in October 2021, a difference of 2,726 head. The levels recorded in October 2022 were 8.8 per cent or 9,689 head behind the 110,216 cattle in this age range in October 2020.

Meanwhile the number of beef sired heifers on NI farms aged from 18-30 months totalled 141,219 head at the end of October 2022. This was a four per cent decline from October 2021 levels and was 3,825 head or 2.6 per cent less than the 145,044 beef sired heifers on NI farms in October 2020. However, at the end of October 2022 there were 20,183 dairy male cattle aged 18-30 months on NI farms, 349 head or 1.8 per cent more than year earlier levels.

The reduction in slaughter age cattle on NI farms can be attributed primarily to the high levels of cattle slaughtered in NI during 2022. Prime cattle throughput in NI has totalled 309,141 head during 2022 to the close of October, an 8.5 per cent increase from the corresponding period of 2021 when 285,052 prime cattle were slaughtered locally. Similarly, the cow kill increased by 12,113 head or 14.7 per cent year on year.

Figure 1: Cattle for beef production on NI farms at 31 October 2022 by age category and the percentage change from October 2021 levels. Source: APHIS.

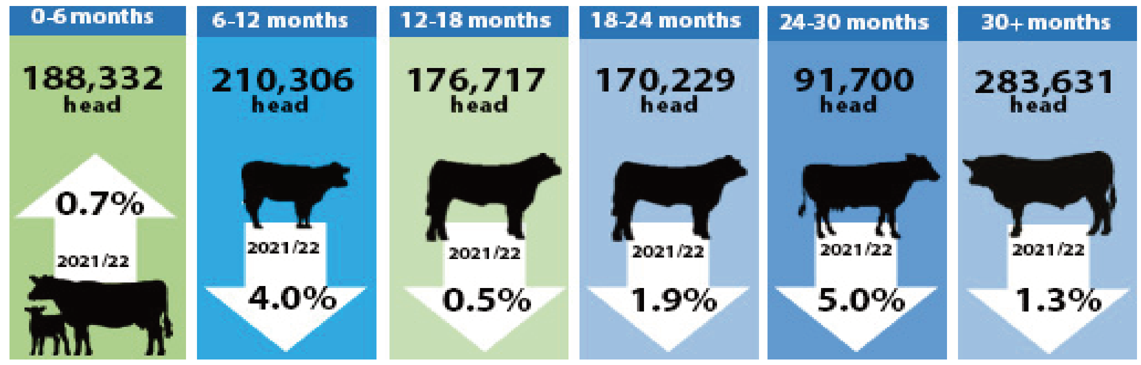

Figure 1 also shows the numbers of cattle aged 6-18 months old has declined, with 9,684 fewer animals in this age range than at this time last year. This will impact supplies of prime cattle going forward. However, despite the high levels of cows killed this year to date, the numbers of calves born on NI farms is not anticipated to decline significantly in the short term owing to the increased use of sexed semen on the dairy herd which is producing replacement heifers at a fast rate. In turn this will deliver offspring for the beef industry with recent trends seeing an increase in dairy producers choosing to use beef sires on dairy herds to maximise the value of their calves.

The latest data available from APHIS indicates by 31 October 2022, 371,583 calves in total were born on NI farms intended for beef production. This is back just 2,314 head from the 373,897 calf registrations registered during the first ten months of 2021. Meanwhile, an additional 6,217 female dairy calves were born onto local farms year on year.

With the number of cattle on the ground for beef production in NI tighter than previous years the availability of cattle for slaughter from local producers is expected to remain tight for the remainder of 2022 and into early 2023.

In recent months however there has been a notable increase in the number of prime cattle being imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants due to a competitive price differential between the two regions for NI processors.

During the month of October 2022, 1,771 prime cattle were imported from ROI for direct slaughter, a notable increase from year earlier levels when 1,123 prime cattle were imported during the same period. These imports of prime cattle for direct slaughter in NI plants is expected to offset some of the reduced availability from local producers.

Despite the declining cattle supplies in NI throughput levels may remain relatively firm in the months ahead if recent cattle import levels are maintained. Therefore it is important that NI producers continue to ensure they produce beef that meets market specifications and in doing so will maximise their returns.

FARMERS INVITED TO BUSINESS HEALTH AND INFORMATION EVENT

Rural Support would love you to join them for an evening of speakers, panel discussions and occupational health workshops to celebrate our farmers and raise awareness of health and the farm business.

ENROL NOW FOR AMR TRAINING

New dates have been added for the 'Responsible Use of Antimicrobials on Beef and Sheep Farms' Training. These training sessions have been organised by CAFRE in partnership with AI Services to be delivered throughout Northern Ireland over the coming months by qualified Veterinary Surgeons. From 03 February 2020 it became a requirement for FQAS that 'At least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials'.

Responsible Use of Antimicrobials courses are available as face-to-face courses in local venues or as online webinars. Attendees must pre-register in order to attend a session. Information on upcoming events are listed below.

These free workshops will be coming to an end in March 2023 so it is important to enrol now to complete the course if you have not done so.

Before you register for a webinar, it is recommended that you carry out a speed test on your broadband. You will need download and upload speeds of at least 2mb/second to ensure that you can participate fully and be able to view the video in the presentation. Attendance certificates to meet FQAS requirements will be issued on successful completion of the face-to-face workshops or webinars.
FQAS participants must retain their certificate to be shown at each inspection.

To successfully complete a webinar you will need to:
- Pre-register - Log in details are only provided if you are pre-registered
- Be logged in to the webinar for at least 90 per cent of the presentation
- Complete the poll during the webinar
- Complete the evaluation at the end of the webinar

Dates and Venues for AMR Training Courses

Day	Venue	Time
Monday 7th November	Online	7.30pm
Monday 14th November	Online	7.30pm
Tuesday 22nd November	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh	7.30pm
Thursday 24th November	Bannville Hotel, Banbridge	7.30pm
Monday 28th November	Online	7.30pm
Thursday 1st December	Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim	7.30pm
Tuesday 6th December	Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown	7.30pm
Monday 12th December	Online	7.30pm
Monday 12th December	Seagoe Hotel, Portadown	7.30pm

To register for an AMR course please log on to:

https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/responsible-use-of-antimicrobials-on-beef-and-sheep-farms

or contact AI Services: (028) 9083 3123

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC Livestock & Meat Commission

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 31/10/22	Next Week 07/11/22
Prime		
U-3	414 - 428p	414 - 428p
R-3	408 - 422p	408 - 422p
O+3	402 - 416p	402 - 416p
P+3	346 - 360p	346 - 360p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	304 - 340p	294 - 340p

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 29/10/22	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	439.8	442.9	428.6
R3	434.7	437.8	429.2
O+3	426.3	432.1	415.7

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 29/10/22	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	247.0	259.8	269.8	284.4
P2	262.5	289.9	311.0	326.4
P3	271.7	305.8	332.0	337.2
O3	-	332.1	344.5	353.4
O4	243.8	325.0	339.3	355.1
R3	-	-	-	370.6

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes this week continued to range from 414-428p/kg for in-spec U-3 grade steers and heifers. The deadweight trade for O+3 grade cows came under pressure early this week with quotes back to 304-340p/kg. Next week similar quotes are expected for prime cattle while the major processors have indicated base quotes for cows will range from 294-340p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput totalled 8,135 head last week bringing total throughput during the month of October to 32,582 head which is 2,333 cattle more than during October last year. Meanwhile cow throughput in NI plants last week increased by 98 head from the previous week bringing the number of cows processed during October to 11,166 head, which is 1,683 cattle more than during October 2021.

Cattle imports from ROI last week for direct slaughter consisted of 458 prime cattle and 102 cull cattle. Last week four prime cattle and five cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter in local plants. This is the first time cattle have been imported from GB for direct slaughter in NI since December 2020. Meanwhile exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI consisted of four prime cattle and 70 cows and for a third consecutive week no cattle made the journey to GB for direct slaughter.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI improved last week, with the average steer price recording the only decrease of a penny bringing it to 426p/kg. The R3 steer price was up by a penny to 437.6p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price in NI last week was up by a penny 430.2p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by a similar margin to 438.8p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was 413.7p/kg recording an increase of 0.8p/kg from the previous week, with the R3 young bull price up by a marginal 0.1p/kg from the previous week to 427.7p/kg. Meanwhile, the deadweight cow trade came under pressure in NI last week with the average cow price back by 6p/kg to 320.9p/kg.

In GB price reported figures show a mixed picture in the deadweight trade across the regions last week. The average steer price reported an increase of 0.9p/kg to 444.6p/kg last week while the R3 steer price was up 1.1p/kg to 451.3p/kg. The average R3 steer price remained steady in Northern England, a marginal increase was recorded in Southern England (+0.1p/kg) with the Midlands and Wales up by 0.8p/kg, the largest increase was recorded in Scotland (+2.5p/kg). The average heifer price in GB last week was up by a slight 0.1p/kg to 440.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price indicated a similar increase of 0.2p/kg to 448.8p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price reported a marginal increase in Northern England (+0.1p/kg), while an increase of a penny was recorded in the Midlands and Wales with a greater increase recorded in Scotland of 4.4p/kg. However in Southern England the R3 heifer price reported a 2.1p/kg decrease from the previous week to 443.6p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight trade for all types of cattle came under further pressure from the previous week. The R3 steer price in ROI was the equivalent of 394.5p/kg, back 4.7 p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price declined by 5.7p/kg to 397.9p/kg. The O3 cow price recorded a decline of 9.5p/kg bringing it to 342.7p/kg in ROI last week, widening the differential with the equivalent price in NI to 9.6p/kg.

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

W/E 29/10/22		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	440.4	403.2	463.5	453.5	451.4	455.1	456.9
	R3	437.6	394.5	461.0	452.4	447.4	445.4	451.3
	R4	433.8	394.0	462.9	453.9	446.4	443.2	456.5
	O3	426.9	380.3	450.0	440.7	427.0	426.0	433.3
	AVG	426.0	-	459.3	447.1	435.8	432.8	444.6
Heifers	U3	442.9	410.2	466.0	455.8	458.6	453.0	459.6
	R3	438.8	397.9	458.5	449.7	448.2	443.6	448.8
	R4	435.9	397.5	460.8	450.2	448.7	442.7	453.2
	O3	429.7	390.4	436.3	432.4	422.9	419.7	425.6
	AVG	430.2	-	457.6	443.9	433.4	425.1	440.2
Young Bulls	U3	428.7	394.3	457.5	444.6	449.8	434.0	451.0
	R3	427.7	384.5	447.3	436.1	439.7	418.6	439.6
	O3	411.1	366.6	411.9	405.0	413.7	416.3	410.2
	AVG	413.7	-	442.8	418.5	425.8	403.6	425.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6,601	-	6,254	6,704	7,470	4,743	25,171
Cows	O3	352.3	342.7	371.4	366.6	368.6	358.9	366.4
	O4	353.1	342.3	376.4	367.8	366.5	356.3	367.0
	P2	313.7	301.6	330.5	322.5	329.8	323.2	326.9
	P3	333.5	330.4	343.4	338.7	346.2	341.6	343.4
	AVG	320.9	-	368.6	342.3	329.8	325.5	337.0

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.74p 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 29/10/22	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	255	287	267	200	254	225
Friesians	186	214	200	180	186	183
Heifers	237	274	249	200	236	218
Beef Cows	205	259	227	170	204	188
Dairy Cows	140	166	154	80	139	110
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	270	350	290	210	269	235
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	240	281	255	180	239	208
Bullocks over 500kg	230	255	243	170	229	200
Heifers up to 450kg	250	400	273	200	249	225
Heifers over 450kg	225	367	250	175	224	205
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	370	535	420	250	365	320
Continental Heifers	300	380	340	200	295	250
Friesian Bulls	150	165	157	50	105	75
Holstein Bulls	85	135	110	4	80	40

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 31/10/22	Next Week 07/11/22
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	515 - 520p	515 - 520p
R3 Lambs up to 22kg	495p	500p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 15/10/22	W/E 22/10/22	W/E 29/10/22
NI L/W Lambs	461.8	460.5	463.5
NI D/W Lambs	497.5	499.0	502.5
GB D/W Lambs	524.1	523.3	519.5
ROI D/W	533.5	533.7	532.0

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 grading lambs ended this week with one plant quoting 495p/kg paying up to 22kg with this expected to increase to 500p/kg early next week. The other two major plants have provided base quotes of 515-520p/kg for Monday and expect to continue to pay up to 21kg. Lamb throughput in NI last week totalled 10,310 head, while a further 6,609 lambs were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was up by 3.5p/kg to 502.5p/kg which is 5.5p/kg ahead of the 497p/kg paid during the same week last year. The ROI deadwight lamb price was back last week to 532p/kg, this is however behind the 537p/kg paid during the same week last year.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Good numbers of lambs continue to pass through the marts this week with a slightly firmer liveweight trade reported from last week. In Omagh last Saturday 1,007 lambs sold from 469-509p/kg compared to 1,243 lambs the previous week selling from 466-506p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 800 lambs sold from 452-506p/kg compared to 1,080 lambs last week selling from 452-478p/kg. In Saintfield this week 715 lambs sold from 450-525p/kg compared to 735 lambs last week selling from 445-525p/kg. On Wednesday in Markethill a good entry of 1,100 fat lambs sold from 460-525p/kg an improvement on last week when 1,530 lambs sold from 440-495p/kg. Top prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £120-£178 across the marts with a top reported price of £310 in Ballymena.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 29/10/22		Lambs			
To: 03/11/22		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1007	469	509	-
	Swatragh	1580	462	505	-
Monday	Kilrea	800	452	506	-
	Massereene	816	455	494	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	715	450	525	-
	Rathfriland	713	450	525	470
Wednesday	Ballymena	2345	440	494	455
	Enniskillen	802	425	489	-
	Armoy	685	445	495	-
	Markethill	1100	460	525	-

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Livestock & Meat Commission

MONTHLY NEWS

Saturday 05 November 2022 Issue No. 0071

EXPORTS FIRMLY ON THE AGENDA FOR NI BEEF AND LAMB AT SIAL PARIS 2022

French beef output from domestic slaughter has declined by around 11% over the last decade. This has been brought about by two main drivers: a decline in sucker cow numbers, which for the five-year period 2016-2021 contracted by over 9%, and a corresponding fall-off in dairy cow numbers in the region of 7% during the same period.

Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) Chief Executive Ian Stevenson commented: "It looks as if this contraction in overall cattle numbers has continued into 2022. "These changes have been brought about by a combination of factors. These include a reduction in the overall profitability of French livestock production and an aging farmer population."

Ian added: "France has always been a strong market for both beef and lamb, produced here in Northern Ireland. "And given the changes now taking place within that country's red meat sector, the opportunity for locally produced red meat to build on its existing presence in France seems very positive. "While overall cow numbers in France have declined, the good news is that French consumers' continue to enjoy high quality beef and lamb in their diets."

Ian recently returned from the SIAL Food Fair, held in Paris. The event rotates on an annual basis with Cologne's ANUGA event in providing a key focus for the global food and drink sectors. SIAL 2020 did not happen because of the Covid-19 pandemic. So, the return of the event to Paris, following a four-year interlude, created a tremendously positive atmosphere in the French capital over a five-day period in October.

With over 60 acres of covered indoor space SIAL 2022 attracted 7,200 food exhibitors from around the world with over 310,000 food and drink industry professionals taking in this unmissable event. It is a truly global gathering, which showcases the food and drink industry and its products to customers and potential customers from every part of the world. Food fairs like this are a key part of developing new and cementing exiting business relationships.

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) hosted a major 'Quality Meat from Britain' showcase at SIAL in Paris. At its heart was the involvement of 11 UK beef, lamb and pork exporting businesses, some of which have major processing facilities in Northern Ireland including Foyle Food Group. "Companies using this dedicated space had the opportunity to meet international buyers while also enabling them to sample excellent quality UK beef, lamb and pork, which was being prepared and served on the stand," Ian Stevenson explained. "LMC works in partnership with AHDB and other UK levy bodies to open new market access opportunities for UK exporters."Prior to SIAL getting underway, the first UK lamb exports to the United States in over 20 years were secured by Dunbia UK. The USA is one of the biggest consumer markets for meat in the world. He continued: "While in Paris, I also had the opportunity of attending AHDB's British Meat Dinner. "The function was attended by 300 guests, representing an important cross section of exporters and business leaders within the international food sector. "Specifically, the event allowed guests to sample a selection of dishes featuring the quality red meat the UK has to offer."

SIAL provided international food industry leaders with an opportunity to discuss the key issues that confront their sector. Chief among these was the need to secure future supply chain sustainability from primary producer to processor and through to retail level. Making this happen in the current climate of rocketing energy bills and other rising input costs was universally recognised as a fundamental challenge for the coming years. The importance of sustainable food production has been highlighted in a new report from the World Economic Forum. The report notes that sustainable food production is necessary to meet the needs of a growing global population, and that the industry at large must navigate issues such as deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, as well as consumer nutrition.

The LMC representative also confirmed that Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors were well represented at SIAL, across the board, adding: The ABP and Dawn Meats Groups each had a strong presence in the meat hall at the event with very distinctive and professional company stands to welcome and host visitors. "SIAL provides LMC with an opportunity to liaise closely with other levy funded bodies from across the UK, Ireland and farther afield on key issues and developments relating to the global meat and wider food industry sectors.

The role of meat in delivering health and nutrition for consumers was also highlighted at SIAL 2022, as was the need to deliver better animal health and welfare outcomes on-farm. In an international survey, carried out by Kantar Food 360, 71% of consumers have made changes to their diet to improve their health. The results of the work were published directly prior to SIAL 2022. The research also found that 67% now eat a healthier diet, while 37% of consumers pay more attention to ingredients because they want to safeguard their health.

Meanwhile, meat consumption in many established markets such as the UK and Western Europe is either stable or declining so having a quality offering in these markets is essential, and there are good opportunities which continue to exist. "In contrast meat consumption continues to grow in developing markets such as Asia and these are key target markets for the world's biggest meat exporters, and are important markets for our exporters for optimising carcase balance," commented the LMC representative "Events like SIAL are important in allowing the red meat sectors to connect with key customers and to partner with them in building sustainable value chains. "Underpinning all of this is the invaluable work carried out by local livestock farmers in producing beef and lamb of the highest quality."

SIAL 2022 was also marked by the presence of companies that have developed plant-based

Image 1: Quality Meat from GB & NI showcase in the Meat Hall at the SIAL Paris 2022 Global Food Fair

protein sources as an alternative to meat and dairy products. Ian Stevenson again: "The ingress made by these businesses within the meat sector has been very small up to this point, less than 0.5% of the global meat protein market. "The work done by meat promotion bodies around the world in promoting the sustainability of animal-based farming systems has been immense. "Much of this has centred on the key nutritional benefits delivered by animal protein within a balanced diet. However, this momentum must be built upon for the future. "The main reason people choose to eat plant-based meat alternatives is to feel healthier so it is clear that health remains a key driver of consumer behaviour, but sustainability, ethics and satisfaction are important considerations."

Events like SIAL may seem very disconnected with the day-to-day challenges that face livestock farmers here in Northern Ireland. But this is not the case. Over 85 % of the beef and lamb that we produce in Northern Ireland is destined for external and export markets. Yes, Great Britain is a very important market – the opportunities of which must be maximised. However, securing export outlets with other countries around the world means that beef and lamb processors here can secure better prices across all the cuts of beef and lamb that they have to offer. A better carcase balance generates one fundamentally important result: better returns across the value chain.

SIAL 2022 got underway with the news that the global food and beverages market is expected to reach a value of US$10,406.81 billion in 2031. If achieved, this will represent a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.4%. The trends are contained within a report on Food and Beverages Global Market Opportunities and Strategies to 2031, published by Research and Markets. The market is currently worth nearly $5,818.25 billion in 2021, having grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.5% since 2016. Factors that could hinder the growth will include climate change and global warming, a shift towards vegan eating and the Russian-Ukrainian war.

According to the report, Asia Pacific was the largest region in the food and beverages market, accounting for 41.9% of the total in 2021. It was followed by Western Europe, and then the other regions. Going forward, the report indicates that the fastest-growing regions in the food and beverages market will be Africa, and the Middle East where growth will be at CAGRs of 13.7% and 10.6% respectively. The top opportunities in the food and beverages market segmented by type will arise in the meat, poultry and seafood market segment which will gain $500 billion of global annual sales by 2026.

Ian Stevenson concluded: "SIAL and ANUGA (which will be held in Cologne in 2023), represent invaluable gateways to world markets for Northern Ireland's beef and lamb processors. So, having a strong, local presence at these events is not an option: it's a necessity.

FQAS MART CLINICS RETURN THIS MONTH

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.

The Liaison Service is in place to assist farmers and to ensure that as many producers as possible can continue to benefit from being a member of the scheme. Producers can use the service for any general enquiries in relation to FQAS membership, to help prepare for an inspection and also to help resolve any non-conformances identified during a farm 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 below. **For further information call (028) 9263 3024.**

FQAS Clinics November-December 2022

Mart	Day	Date
Saintfield	Wednesday (Day)	09/11/2022
Omagh	Monday (Day)	21/11/2022
Kilrea	Wednesday (Day)	23/11/2022
Enniskillen	Thursday (Day)	01/12/2022
Markethill	Tuesday (Day)	06/12/2022
Ballymena	Friday (Day)	09/12/2022