

BALMORAL SHOW REMAINS A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT EVENT FOR LMC

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) will have an exhibition-focussed presence at this year's Balmoral Show. Recent weeks have seen Commission staff actively involved in the development of a bespoke presentation, which tells the story of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Beef and Lamb in a very visual way.

"We remain at our usual area, Stand B4 within the show grounds," LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson.

"On the back of guidance to exhibitors from the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society and our own assessment of Covid-19 risk we took the decision of not manning our stand at the show this year. "The risks associated with Covid-19 were just too great for hosting our normal indoor meeting space, visitor hospitality and cookery demonstrations. However, we have come up with a format for the four days of the show, which will provide visitors to our stand with a very clear update of the work LMC is engaged in on behalf of beef and lamb producers and processors across Northern Ireland."

He continued: "Balmoral Show will always be a key event for the LMC. It provides us with a unique opportunity to communicate with industry

stakeholders and consumers in equal measure. "These objectives have remained our priority in developing the exhibition that encapsulates our presence at Balmoral 2021."

Approximately 12,000 farmers are involved in the production of farm quality assured beef and lamb in Northern Ireland. Turnover generated by processors from both sectors combined was valued at £1.5 billion last year. Output from production agriculture underpins a total of 113,000 jobs across the local economy as a whole.

According to Ian Stevenson sustainability is a key driver of beef and sheep supply chains in Northern Ireland. "A lot of emphasis is now being placed on the environmental sustainability of farming systems. "The good news, in this regard, for livestock farmers in Northern Ireland is that they are able to produce beef and lamb from grazed grass and natural water supplies. "This is, possibly, the most sustainable food production model that is available to farmers anywhere in the world.

"Grass production totally complements our soils and climate. As a result, locally produced farm quality assured beef and lamb are two of the most naturally produced foods available to

consumers."

Ian also confirmed that beef and lamb are extremely nutrient dense foods. He explained: "The demand for high quality protein continues to grow around the world. As a result, our beef and lamb is well placed to meet this market requirement.

"And, of course, there is also the pleasure associated with eating high quality beef and lamb. For all these reasons, livestock farmers here in Northern Ireland are at the very heart of an industry that is sustainable in so many ways." LMC's Balmoral exhibition will tell the story of how all this is being achieved.

It will also relate the detail and results of the Commission's most recent advertising campaigns. Themed around the principles associated with 'good honest food', they have been particularly successful with consumers of all ages.

Ian Stevenson concluded: "The innovative use of social media is allowing us to communicate very effectively with younger consumers. And we want to build on this in a very meaningful way during the period ahead.

"All of this is further good news for our beef and

sheep farmers. Balmoral Show has always been a shop window for agriculture in Northern Ireland. Despite the very necessary Covid-19 restrictions the LMC will be doing its part in making this a reality again in 2021. "Visitors coming on to our stand will get a very real sense that cattle and sheep production in Northern Ireland can look forward to a very bright future."

Image 1: Dates for Balmoral show 2021



'LIFE BEYOND' PROGRAMME WILL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR FAMILIES COPING WITH BEREAVEMENT

Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) chief executive Ian Stevenson is highlighting the extremely important work that will be carried out by the 'Life Beyond' programme on behalf farming families across Northern Ireland during the period ahead.

Launched recently in partnership with Embrace Farm, the initiative will see Rural Support delivering a bespoke bereavement service to farming families across Northern Ireland.

Ian explained: "The new service has been designed to make a real and positive difference for farming families facing up to the challenge of a sudden death or unforeseen injury to the person who had previously been the main driver of the business.

"The service will have many facets. It will provide counselling support, technical advice and, when required, financial assistance to farm families in genuine need." He continued: "Life Beyond will make a genuine difference at farm level and I welcome the tremendous support that has already been pledged for the new programme from so many stakeholder organisations operating within the farming and food sectors. "

Ian has sat on the Rural Support board of trustees

for the past two years. He commented: "I am fully aware of the tremendous work that the organisation carries out. The 'Life Beyond' programme has been strongly championed by Ulster Farmers' Union president Victor Chestnutt. "And I would like to fully endorse the vision he has shown in bringing this vitally important initiative through to reality."

Image 2: Ian Stevenson, LMC Chief Executive



The goal of the 'Life Beyond' programme has been developed to provide a connected range of bereavement support services and activities for the farming community in NI with the aim of improving the mental, social and physical

wellbeing of farm families who have been bereaved.

This will include those bereaved through farm accident, suicide, sudden or expected death. The services will be provided at point of need and at no cost to the service user. The programme will include practical information and help to farm families who have been bereaved - in person, events and via online platforms.

The programme will also provide business and financial mentoring for those families who need support in working through succession plans and/or challenging financial situations relating to the farm business.

Ian Stevenson again: "The service on offer is very comprehensive in terms of its scope. Bereavement and serious injury are difficult enough challenges for most families to deal with emotionally. But when events of this nature also impact on families' actual economic future, the difficulties faced are ramped up still further."

LMC is not officially represented on the board of Rural Support. However, the Commission has always fully supported the work of the organisation.

"And this will continue to be the case," Ian Stevenson stressed. "Rural Support provides a listening and signposting service for farmers and farming families across Northern Ireland through its helpline. It can also provide face to face support, help with sourcing information and advice about a wide range of issues."

Rural Support also runs a series of training workshops under the Princes' Countryside Fund Resilience Programme and delivers 'Coping with the Pressures of Farming' under the CAFRE Family Farm Key Skills Programme.

All services are provided free of charge at point of need. The Support Hub available on the Rural Support website www.ruralsupport.org.uk is designed to help farmers and their families access the resources they need to build a more resilient future.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the Life Beyond Programme or from speaking to a Rural Support team member, the confidential support line is available from 9:00a.m-9:00p.m, Monday to Friday (voicemail and options available at all other times). The freephone number is **0800-138-1678**.

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
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 13/09/21	Next Week 20/09/21
Prime		
U-3	384 - 394p	384 - 394p
R-3	378 - 388p	378 - 388p
O+3	372 - 382p	372 - 382p
P+3	318 - 332p	318 - 332p
Including bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3	280 - 300p	280 - 300p

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 from the plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle this week ranged from 384-394p/kg, with similar quotes expected for early next week. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows ranged from 280-300p/kg with the majority of plants quoting at the upper end of this scale. Producers should use these quotes as starting point for negotiation with higher prices available.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 6,567 head, an increase of 69 head on the 6,498 prime cattle processed the previous week. However, this is back 239 cattle from the same week in 2020 when prime cattle throughput totalled 6,806. In NI last week the number of cows increased by 284 head to 2,097 cows. This is up 119 head when compared to the corresponding week in 2020 when 1,978 cows were processed locally.

Imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week increased from the previous week to 426 prime cattle and 188 cows with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of four prime cattle and 54 cows, with a further 29 prime cattle and 12 cows exported out of NI for direct slaughter in GB.

Last week the NI deadweight prices for prime cattle continued to come under pressure with the majority of grades. The average steer price in NI last week decreased by 1.6p/kg to 390.9p/kg, while the R3 steer price decreased by 3.1p/kg to 399.3p/kg. In the same week in 2020 the R3 steer price in NI was 364.3p/kg, 35p/kg behind current levels. The average heifer price in NI last week decreased by 1.6p/kg to 394.9p/kg, with the R3 heifer price back 2.4p/kg to 401.0p/kg. The average young bull price was up 1.5p/kg to 381.1p/kg, with the R3 young bull price down 3.2p/kg to 388.3p/kg. The average cow price reported a decline of 4.6p/kg to 280.0p/kg, while the O3 cow price remained steady at 315.1p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight prime cattle trade continued to report a mixed performance. The average steer price in GB last week decreased by 1.3p/kg to 410.5p/kg, with the R3 steer price down 0.2p/kg to 417.6p/kg. This brings the differential in the R3 steer price between NI and GB to 18.3p/kg up almost 3p from the previous week. The average heifer price in GB was back 0.3p/kg to 410.1p/kg, with the R3 heifer price up 0.4p/kg to 418.2p/kg. In the same week in 2020 the R3 heifer price in GB was up 0.1p/kg to 362.5p/kg which takes the R3 heifer price differential between NI and ROI to 38.5p/kg. The O3 cow price reported a increase of 0.3p/kg to the equivalent of 303.0p/kg.

Last week in ROI the deadweight prices for prime cattle came under pressure with prices back on the majority of grades. However, the R3 steer price increased slightly by 0.2p/kg to 359.3p/kg. This puts the ROI R3 steer price 40p/kg behind the same price in NI. The R3 heifer price last week was up 0.1p/kg to 362.5p/kg which takes the R3 heifer price differential between NI and ROI to 38.5p/kg. The O3 cow price reported a increase of 0.3p/kg to the equivalent of 303.0p/kg.

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

	W/E 11/09/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	403.3	367.9	422.3	421.4	423.1	424.8	422.7
	R3	399.3	359.3	419.6	419.2	415.9	416.1	417.6
	R4	398.7	359.4	421.2	423.6	414.6	421.8	421.0
	O3	391.7	344.7	403.8	404.7	391.9	395.6	398.3
	AVG	390.9	-	416.2	413.6	404.4	406.6	410.5
Heifers	U3	404.4	372.9	427.4	426.6	428.4	426.7	427.4
	R3	401.0	362.5	423.0	418.4	417.4	414.7	418.2
	R4	399.3	362.7	423.9	420.9	415.7	415.6	420.5
	O3	395.5	351.0	403.8	402.0	389.9	393.6	395.6
	AVG	394.9	-	420.5	412.8	402.8	401.5	410.1
Young Bulls	U3	394.3	354.2	413.5	415.4	409.5	416.5	413.6
	R3	388.3	345.1	411.0	410.9	407.3	411.2	410.0
	O3	370.8	334.5	384.8	384.4	385.2	385.1	384.9
	AVG	381.1	-	406.1	399.7	396.5	400.7	400.6
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5179	-	6221	6746	6238	4482	23687
Cows	O3	315.1	303.0	316.2	315.1	312.2	313.0	313.7
	O4	315.8	303.1	324.2	318.3	310.4	311.8	314.4
	P2	271.7	278.0	276.7	268.3	266.5	280.0	271.8
	P3	293.8	292.4	292.0	289.1	284.7	292.6	288.2
	AVG	280.0	-	306.5	294.5	282.1	279.4	286.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.70p 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 11/09/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	250	270	256	210	249	225
Friesians	190	204	198	184	187	186
Heifers	230	268	246	205	229	215
Beef Cows	188	246	196	145	187	162
Dairy Cows	130	155	137	108	129	116
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	251	304	272	210	250	228
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	231	285	250	200	230	212
Bullocks over 500kg	223	272	235	185	222	200
Heifers up to 450kg	225	284	242	200	224	210
Heifers over 450kg	220	250	230	175	219	200
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	530	440	260	395	325
Continental Heifers	325	465	360	200	320	260
Friesian Bulls	155	205	180	70	150	100
Holstein Bulls	120	170	145	5	115	60

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 11/09/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	404.1	406.3	394.0
R3	398.8	401.7	387.7
O+3	391.1	393.8	376.4

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 11/09/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	209.1	223.7	232.0	242.4
P2	225.6	249.6	271.5	284.3
P3	215.0	280.3	284.8	297.9
O3	251.0	318.4	310.1	315.7
O4	-	317.5	311.7	316.0
R3	-	-	-	338.3

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 13/09/21	Next Week 20/09/21
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	490p/kg	475-490p/kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 28/08/21	W/E 04/09/21	W/E 11/09/21
NI L/W Lambs	454.3	449.1	441.9
NI D/W Lambs	480.8	481.2	476.3
GB D/W Lambs	530.5	529.1	526.9
ROI D/W	522.9	528.1	520.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the major processors for R3 grading lambs ranged from 485-490p/kg up to 21kg. Quotes expected for Monday are to range from 475-490p/kg.. Throughput of lambs last week decreased to 9,643, back 196 when compared to the previous week when 9,839 lambs were processed locally. A further 7,016 lambs were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter, back 146 when compared to the previous week. In the same week last year 7,284 lambs were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter. The average NI deadweight lamb price was down 7.2p/kg from the previous week to 441.9p/kg. Meanwhile the deadweight lamb price in ROI was down 7.9p/kg to 520.2p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Many of the marts reported a decline in the number of lambs passing through the sale rings this week. In Swatragh last Saturday 1625 lambs sold from 412-490p/kg compared to 1850 lambs sold from 435-562p/kg the previous week. In Kilrea on Monday 650 lambs sold from 418-479p/kg compared to 900 lambs sold from 432-468p/kg the previous week. This week in Saintfield 555 lambs sold from 420-525p/kg compared to 722 lambs sold from 420-488p/kg last week. On Thursday in Armoy 384 lambs sold from 425-478p/kg compared to 564 lambs sold from 418-478p/kg the previous week. The trade for cull ewes remained firm this week ranging from £108-£174 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 11/09/21		Lambs			
To: 16/09/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	870	472	529	-
	Swatragh	1625	412	490	-
Monday	Kilrea	650	418	479	-
	Massereene	956	415	440	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	555	420	525	-
	Rathfriland	986	430	520	460
Wednesday	Ballymena	2075	400	473	432
	Enniskillen	529	409	470	-
	Armoy	384	425	478	-
	Markethill	1280	430	460	-

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Contact us

T: 028 9263 3000
E: bulletin@lmcni.com
W: www.lmcni.com

