

BE PREPARED FOR YOUR FQAS INSPECTION

Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS) participants will be aware that farm surveillance inspections take place every 18 months. On an annual basis 5% of participants will also have a spot check inspection. The better prepared you are for the FQAS inspection the greater the compliance with the standards. The NIBL FQAS was set up in 1991 and officially launched in 1992. NIBL FQAS was developed to give consumers assurances about the farm end of the production chain of their food e.g. the quality of the production methods used, the quality of care for animals, the quality of the farm environment, and above all the quality of concern for the customer in producing beef and lamb which is wholesome, safe and free of unnatural substances. The LMC ensure that the standards required by the NIBL FQAS reflect these pillars that are valued by customers/consumers.

- FQAS participants that comply with the standards can gain access to premium markets for beef and sheep meat products. NIBL FQAS ensures that processors can serve all blue-chip retail and food service customers who by their very nature and success are the most financially secure and users of high volume.
- FQAS also ensures access to the UK Red Tractor Assurance Brand, which is extensively used to market farm products to consumers in GB. This equivalence enables certified NIBL FQAS beef and lamb to be labelled with the Red Tractor logo.
- Achieving NIBL FQAS approved status allows producers to keep their options open when marketing their animals (cattle and sheep).
- FQAS provides best practice standards for husbandry, welfare, nutrition and environment. This helps to assist farmers with better record keeping and traceability of inputs. As a consequence of this, FQAS helps producers to prepare for cross-compliance visits.

If during an assessment the farm is found to be non-compliant against a standard, the participant has 28 days to address the issue and provide evidence to NIFCC (contracted certification body to undertake registration, inspection and certification functions of FQAS) to show that they have taken steps to be fully compliant. If they do so within the specified timeframe their certification will continue. If the participant does not send in suitable documentary evidence, then the participant will be suspended from the scheme. In order to remind participants of the key areas the inspector will look at during the FQAS inspection some prompts are noted in the table. Any page references refer to the NIBL FQAS Standard and Rules booklet (April 2018). The booklet can be found here <https://www.lmcni.com/farm-quality-assurance/documentation/>

During your farm inspection a full inspection of the FQAS Standard will take place, the points noted in the table are aids for preparation for your farm inspection. Full requirements/rules are in the FQAS Standard and Rules 2018. Better preparation ahead of the inspection will provide a better opportunity for compliance.

Many of the FQAS requirements are legislative however there are also requirements developed by industry to provide the assurances in our supply chain that customers and consumers require for quality assured and traceable beef and lamb. FQAS aims to protect the integrity of the beef and lamb produced by compliance with these standards. To join FQAS or obtain an application pack (consisting of an application form, Product Standard, Rules of Scheme and inspection checklist) call FQAS Helpline on (028) 92633024.

FQAS Standard	Records/Paperwork	Farm Walk
1 Husbandry: Stockmanship and Welfare	Access to 2012 Beef Cattle and/or Sheep Welfare Codes (paper copy or online https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/codes-practice-farmed-animals) Experience and training records (all stockmen) (page 59)	Livestock checked to ensure healthy and thriving
2 Animal Health	Veterinary Medicine Records (VMR) – purchase and usage section fully complete. Code of Practice in VMR signed. Withdrawal periods complete with number of days and date withdrawal ends. Records kept for five years. Vet review of Antibiotic Usage -Template available https://www.lmcni.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Antibiotic-Review-Template-for-website.pdf Animal Health Plan – fully complete and reviewed annually (page 62-74) Evidence of farm visit by vet in the last 12 months – can sign animal health plan or provide receipt/invoice/TB test card Evidence of attendance/ enrolment on an Approved 'Responsible Use of Antimicrobials' on Beef and Sheep Farm' training course	Medicines stored in a locked storage facility Medicines checked for expiry dates, sample(s) taken and cross referenced with Veterinary Medicines Record (VMR) Book Sharps Container for disposal of needles/ syringes/ old medicine bottles Biosecurity equipment – bucket/ brush/ DAERA approved disinfectant Isolation facilities
3 Animal Nutrition	3 years of records of purchased feedstuffs and receipts/invoices for purchased feed Farm Quality Assured Cereals Scheme registration number (applies to participants feeding home grown grain) Warranty declaration for feed purchased from non-assured farm (page 102) Grain passports for purchased cereals Confirmation of registration/approval from DAERA for home mixing (if applicable) (see page 32) Bait plan, environmental risk assessment, COSHH assessment (if applicable) (page 103-105)	Feed storage areas – feed identification, pest control
4 Animal Traceability	Herd/flock records and movement documents fully complete and up to date	Identification of animals – all animals must be tagged in accordance with legislation
5 Housing and Handling		Livestock housing Livestock handling facilities Sheep dipper
6 Transport	Valid Transporter Authorisation and Certificate of Competence for journeys over 65km Transport delivery note (up to date) if using a haulier required or written confirmation from haulier that they transport livestock for you (page 115)	Livestock trailer
7 Environmental Care	Certificate of Competence for safe use of sheep dip and confirmation from NIEA for land spreading of used sheep dip (if applicable). Certificate and receipt/invoice if completed by contractor Import/export of slurry records (page 117) Application of Plant Protection Products (PPP's) (page 118) Certificate of Competence for application of PPP's (own/contractor), up to date receipt/letter if completed by contractor NSTS test certificate for sprayer if over 5 years old (own/contractor) Soil sampling results (if phosphate used in previous 4 years)	General Housekeeping (page 116) Slurry/Farmyard manure storage Round bale/silage storage Diesel storage
8 Farm Procedures	Emergency plan complete and displayed (page 119) Complaints Record (page 120) Farm Safety Considerations (page 121)	

*Page 128 of the FQAS Standard is to be signed and dated confirming various codes of practice and guidance have been read and understood.

FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:

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 15/11/21	Next Week 22/11/21
Prime		
U-3	386 - 394p	386 - 394p
R-3	380 - 388p	380 - 388p
O+3	374 - 382p	374 - 382p
P+3	320 - 332p	320 - 332p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	260 - 290p	260 - 290p

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

Quotes for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ended this week ranging from 386-394p/kg with similar quotes expected for early next week. The cow trade remained under pressure this week with base quotes for O+3 grade cows ranging from 260-290p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput last week totalled 7,324, a decrease of 610 head from the previous week when 7,934 head were processed locally. However, this is a similar throughput when compared to the 7,267 cattle that were processed in the corresponding week in 2020. Meanwhile a total of 2,835 cows were processed in NI last week, up 289 head from the previous week.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week decreased to 139 head with 112 cows also imported. This brings prime cattle imports from ROI to NI to 13,346 head during 2021 to date. Meanwhile there were no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter locally last week. Exports from NI to ROI last week consisted of two prime cattle and 43 cows with no cattle exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

The NI deadweight trade for prime cattle continued to firm last week from the previous week. The average steer price last week was up a penny to 392.6p/kg while the R3 steer price increased 2.4p/kg to 403.2p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price was up 0.5p/kg to 395.1p/kg with the R3 heifer price up 1.7p/kg to 403.7p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2020, the R3 heifer price was 373.3p/kg, 30.4p/kg behind current levels. The average young bull price in NI last week was up 3.7p/kg to 379.4p/kg with the R3 young bull price increasing by a penny to 389.5p/kg. Meanwhile the NI cow trade came under pressure with the average cow price back 5p/kg to 268.8p/kg. The O3 cow price in NI last week was back 3.1p/kg to 301.6p/kg, however despite this decline the NI O3 cow price is still the strongest in the UK.

The average steer price in GB last week increased by 1.6p/kg to 412.9p/kg while the R3 steer price decreased by 0.4p/kg to 419.4p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price in GB last week was up 2.9p/kg to 410.9p/kg with the R3 heifer price up 1.9p/kg to 420.1p/kg. This brings the differential between the GB and NI R3 heifer price to 16.4p/kg. The GB deadweight cow trade remained under pressure last week with the average cow price back 1.3p/kg to 257.7p/kg and the O3 cow price back 1.5p/kg to 284.5p/kg.

In ROI last week deadweight prime cattle prices reported notable increases across all grades. The R3 steer price in ROI was the equivalent of 357.1p/kg, up 2.3p/kg from the previous week. This puts the differential between NI and ROI at 46.1p/kg or £161 on a 350kg carcass. The R3 heifer price in ROI last week increased by 3.5p/kg to 362.8p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI was the equivalent of 294.7p/kg, up 0.4p/kg from the previous week.

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

	W/E 13/11/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	403.6	365.5	421.9	424.9	427.6	422.2	424.5
	R3	403.2	357.1	419.5	422.0	419.8	415.9	419.4
	R4	402.4	357.2	420.9	424.5	419.5	415.1	421.1
	O3	391.9	344.3	402.2	410.5	399.0	397.3	402.4
	AVG	392.6	-	417.3	415.8	411.6	405.4	412.9
Heifers	U3	407.5	372.3	426.7	428.2	428.9	425.7	427.5
	R3	403.7	362.8	422.0	423.5	420.8	414.8	420.1
	R4	402.9	363.5	422.1	423.0	420.6	416.8	421.5
	O3	393.7	354.1	389.0	403.1	395.1	392.4	396.2
	AVG	395.1	-	418.4	414.4	406.2	402.1	410.9
Young Bulls	U3	396.7	350.2	405.2	411.4	419.3	420.0	411.8
	R3	389.5	344.0	405.1	407.6	415.6	416.0	411.7
	O3	375.4	333.3	376.3	381.7	383.3	380.4	380.8
	AVG	379.4	-	393.4	397.1	398.8	385.9	395.9
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5922	-	5780	6463	6790	4570	23603	
Cows	O3	301.6	294.7	283.8	286.7	284.6	281.9	284.5
	O4	303.7	294.6	287.1	288.9	285.1	280.1	285.5
	P2	259.7	258.1	246.0	243.8	248.6	248.4	247.7
	P3	281.4	282.2	251.2	258.7	265.5	256.5	261.0
	AVG	268.8	-	280.5	263.3	256.0	247.9	257.7

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.48p 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 13/11/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	236	257	244	200	235	215
Friesians	172	188	179	135	168	157
Heifers	215	258	225	175	214	195
Beef Cows	174	218	184	135	173	153
Dairy Cows	118	145	125	85	117	105
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	240	311	258	190	239	215
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	227	291	240	185	226	205
Bullocks over 500kg	208	236	217	170	207	190
Heifers up to 450kg	234	279	250	190	233	210
Heifers over 450kg	200	223	210	170	199	185
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	650	450	275	395	325
Continental Heifers	300	440	375	175	295	235
Friesian Bulls	160	250	215	50	150	115
Holstein Bulls	100	200	140	4	95	50

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 13/11/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	404.7	408.7	396.6
R3	399.3	402.5	390.0
O+3	390.9	393.1	378.9

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 13/11/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	196.6	207.4	214.3	227.1
P2	216.5	240.7	255.4	271.5
P3	242.8	252.2	276.0	284.7
O3	-	274.4	296.7	303.0
O4	260.0	250.0	298.8	304.4
R3	-	-	-	320.5

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 15/11/21	Next Week 22/11/21
R3 Lambs up to 22kg	540-550p/kg	570p/kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 30/10/21	W/E 06/11/21	W/E 13/11/21
NI L/W Lambs	484.2	499.2	527.7
NI D/W Lambs	497.0	517.4	549.6
GB D/W Lambs	533.2	556.5	597.4
ROI D/W	537.0	556.6	585.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the plants for R3 grade lambs continued to strengthen and ended the week ranging from 565-570p/kg up to 22kg with quotes in the region of 570p/kg expected for early next week. Lamb throughput in NI plants last week totalled 8,573 head, back 697 head from the previous week. A further 7,389 lambs were exported to ROI last week for direct slaughter, back 748 from the previous week. Last week the average NI deadweight lamb price increased by 32.2p/kg to 549.6p/kg. In the corresponding week last year, the deadweight lamb price was 441.3p/kg. In ROI last week the average lamb price was the equivalent of 585.2p/kg, up 28.6p/kg from the previous week.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Good numbers of lambs passed through the sale rings this week. In Swatragh last Saturday 1175 lambs sold from 509-608p/kg compared to 1175 lambs sold from 464-629p/kg the previous week. On Tuesday in Saintfield 545 lambs sold from 520-600p/kg compared to 525 lambs sold from 500-600p/kg last week. In Enniskillen on Wednesday 836 lambs sold from 525-590p/kg compared to 828 lambs sold from 525-618p/kg the previous week. In Arroy this week 674 lambs sold from 520-575p/kg compared to 535-590p/kg with an average of 538p/kg. The strong trade for cull ewes continues with top reported prices ranging from £120-£247 across the marts this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 13/11/21		Lambs			
To: 18/11/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1112	539	569	-
	Swatragh	1175	509	608	-
Monday	Kilrea	650	510	590	-
	Massereene	802	500	555	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	545	520	600	-
	Rathfriland	415	530	662	542
Wednesday	Ballymena	2120	520	573	528
	Enniskillen	836	525	590	-
	Arroy	674	520	575	-
	Markethill	860	530	570	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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