

## ALWAYS CHECK FQ STATUS OF ANIMALS BEFORE MOVING, BUYING OR SELLING

### Moving animals to mart or factory

It is important when moving animals from a farm to either a livestock market or a factory that the producer checks the Farm Quality Assurance (FQ) status before moving. This can be done via the APHIS system. This will ensure that when the animals reach their destination the producer is aware of their FQ status. Participants of FQAS must ensure that they are FQ approved for the species they wish to sell or slaughter, for example - if the producer is approved for beef only and purchases store lambs for slaughter then the producer must ensure they get approved for sheep. To be approved for beef and sheep both species must be present on the farm at the time of inspection. Failure to check this can result in non-FQ status of animals presented for selling or slaughter.

If you are only approved for one species e.g. beef and would like to be assured for sheep you must contact NIFCC on (028 92633017) to organise an inspection for that species.

### Image 1: Farm Quality Assurance Logo



### Moving animals farm to farm

It is important when purchasing cattle from other farms that the buyer checks the Farm Quality Assurance status of the seller's herd. If a farmer purchases cattle from a suspended herd that animal will lose its 'FQ' status and will have to remain on an assured farm(s) for 90 consecutive days to regain its 'FQ' status.

### Movements to marts before becoming FQ approved

Issues will also occur when a bovine animal has moved off a farm in the 90 days prior to the herd becoming assured. If, for example, a herd becomes approved, the general rule is that all cattle residing on that farm for 90 days or more will have an animal status of 'FQ'. If however an animal is moved out of the herd prior to

becoming assured and subsequently returns that animal will have to spend 90 days on farm before it regains 'FQ' status

### Movements when a herd is suspended

Similarly, if a herd becomes suspended, an animal's FQ status is temporarily removed from APHIS/NIFAIS. Irrespective of their destination, if cattle are permitted out of the herd during this period of suspension and subsequently return, the full residency period must be completed in order to achieve FQ status.

For assistance, please call FQAS Helpline on  
(028) 92633024

# GLOBAL MEAT ALLIANCE MEETS TO LOOK BEYOND COP 26

The most recent meeting of the Global Meat Alliance (GMA) gave those taking part a first opportunity to reflect on the decisions taken at the COP 26 climate change conference in Glasgow by world leaders. But, perhaps more importantly, the event gave GMA representatives the chance to assess how the various international livestock sectors should prepare for the critically important debates that will take place 12 months from now at COP 27. The GMA, of which the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) is an associate member, brings together various meat industry organisations from around the world to share insights and to agree collaborative projects that have common purpose across the entire gamut of livestock-related interests. LMC chief executive attended the first, post COP 26 meeting of the GMA.

He commented: “There is now a strong expectation that livestock production systems will come under very close scrutiny in 12 months’ time at COP 27. “In this regard, there was total unanimity of purpose at the GMA that the meat sectors must put forward the strongest possible case regarding the robustness and sustainability of the production systems that underpin them. Ian continued: “Farming was not discussed in an upfront and direct manner at COP 26. But we already know that food production systems will be put centre stage next November in Egypt.”

According to the LMC representative, the beef and lamb industries here in Northern Ireland are in a very strong position, when it comes to communicating the key drivers of sustainability that are already apparent within both sectors. He said: “The sustainability argument, at a very fundamental level, centres on how best use can be made of the soils, crops and other natural resources that can be availed of in a particular region. “Here in north west Europe, grass is our greatest asset. It is the crop that is best suited to our soils and climate.

“In turn, this points to the obvious advantage of

developing beef, dairy and lamb-based food industries. “Only ruminant livestock are capable of converting the feeding value contained within grazed grass and grass-based forages into high quality, dietary protein.” Ian also points to the significant improvement in efficiency that can be secured by cattle and sheep farmers to further reduce the carbon foot prints of their businesses.

He added: “Finishing cattle as early as possible, calving down heifers at 24 months and making the best use of animal manures are just some of the steps that can be taken by livestock farmers to improve the efficiency of their production systems. “Other drivers in this regard include a commitment to regular soil testing, maintaining soils at their optimal pH level and using low emission slurry spreading equipment.” According to Ian Stevenson, food systems must be resilient, both in terms of their ability to improve the environment but also in the way that they deliver food security. He said; “Land use takes centre stage in this regard. And in many parts of the world we will see a commitment to arrest de-forestation. And in many regions re-forestation policies may well come to the fore. “Here in Northern Ireland grass is the crop that best suits our most productive land. Our soil types and climate are, for the most part, not suited to crop production. All of this must be reflected on carefully as we plan for a future that will see sustainability made a priority.”

The LMC chief executive also pointed to the use of new technologies that are capable of confirming the ability of local soils, grasslands, hedgerows and trees to sequester more than significant quantities of carbon an annual basis. “LIDAR is one of these technologies,” he further explained. “Its use will be critically important in measuring the capacity of our farm hedges, trees and other above ground biomass to sequester and store carbon. “Obviously, it is important for governments around the world to take fully on board the results of new perspectives on carbon that have been

identified courtesy of these new and emerging technologies. “Our response to climate change must be science and evidence driven. Only by taking this approach can the world hope to come up with solutions that are viable and will stand the test of time.”

One of the most far-reaching decisions taken at COP 26 was that of committing the world to reduce global methane emissions by 30% over the next decade. Ian Stevenson commented: “Methane gas is produced in significant quantities in the production, distribution and use of coal, oil and natural gas. Decomposing biological materials in landfill also represent a significant source of the gas, as do ruminant livestock. “And all of these contributing factors must be taken in the round. But the good news for the farming industry is the fact that the attainment of improved production efficiency levels will help to drive down methane emission levels from cattle and sheep.”

The second issue discussed in depth at the GMA meeting was the seeming contradiction in the conclusions reached in the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Report, relative to that produced in 2017, where global deaths attributed to the consumption of red meat are concerned. Ian Stevenson again: “A number of leading academics have questioned the veracity of publishing the conclusions of the 2019 report without also making available the raw data from which they are drawn.

“Amongst those who have expressed great concern, regarding the conclusions contained within the 2019 report are leading global authorities on food and human health including Professor Frédéric Leroy, from Vrije University in Belgium and Professor Alice Stanton of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. According to the 2017 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report, 25,000 global human deaths had been attributed to the consumption of red meat. However, in the 2019 report the comparable figure rises to 896,000. “In simple terms, this equates to a 3,500% increase in comparable

deaths over a two-year period,” Ian Stevenson stressed. “Significantly, the data from which these conclusions were arrived at has not been published for peer review.

Image 2: LMC Chief Executive, Ian Stevenson



“Numerous academics and scientists have questioned why this should be. And rightly so! The academics who are asking for clarity and transparency of the data behind the 2019 GBD Report have compared global meta-analyses looking at the relationship between eating red meat and human ill health and deaths. The scientists have concluded they can “find no relationship” between the meta-analyses and the GBD data. “The biennial Global Burden of Disease Report is used by governments around the world to provide a framework for their national health and nutritional policies. He concluded; “Given the importance of all this for the red meat sectors around the world, it is only right and proper that the raw data used to derive the conclusions contained within the 2019 report should be made available for independent academic scrutiny. “And if it turns out that the conclusions are verifiable, then the global red meat industry will have to respond accordingly.”

## 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 06/12/21	Next Week 13/12/21
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	388 - 394p	388 - 394p
R-3	382 - 388p	382 - 388p
O+3	376 - 382p	376 - 382p
P+3	320 - 332p	320 - 332p
	Including bonus where applicable	
<b>Cows</b>		
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

Base quotes from the plants for U-3 grading prime cattle strengthened this week ranging from 388-394p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week, however with reports of higher prices available producers should use these base quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes for good quality O+3 grading cows this week continued to range from 260-290p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput last week decreased by 465 head from the previous week to total 6,928 head. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,677 head, up 37 head from the previous week.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants increased last week to 206 prime cattle and 121 cows. This brings prime cattle imports from ROI to NI to 14,066 head during 2021 to date, this is an increase of almost 400 head from the same period last year. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI consisted of 60 cows, with no cattle exported from NI to GB.

The average steer price in NI last week reported a decrease of 0.4p/kg to 392.9p/kg while the R3 steer price was back 0.6p/kg to 403.3p/kg. In the same week last year, the R3 steer price in NI was 376.8p/kg which is 26.5p/kg behind current levels. On a 350kg carcass this is the equivalent of £93. The average heifer price was up marginally to 396.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up 0.3p/kg to 404.2p/kg. In the corresponding week last year the R3 heifer price in NI was 376.2p/kg, 28p/kg behind current levels which equates to £92 on a 330kg carcass. Young bull prices strengthened in NI last week with the average price up 3.5p/kg to 379.3p/kg and the R3 young bull price up 4.4p/kg to 392.3p/kg. The NI cow trade also showed signs of improvement last week with prices up across the majority of grades reported. The average cow price increased by 3p/kg to 270.7p/kg while the O3 cow price increased by a penny to 297.6p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB came under pressure last week compared to the previous week. The average steer price was back by 2.1p/kg to 411.5p/kg while the R3 steer price decreased by 3.5p/kg to 418.8p/kg. The R3 steer price reported decreases across all GB regions last week with the strongest decline reported in Scotland of 5.4p/kg to 418.9p/kg. The average heifer price in GB was back 2.7p/kg to 408.2p/kg with the R3 heifer price back 2.9p/kg to 418.1p/kg. The R3 heifer price was also back across all GB regions last week. Meanwhile last week the GB cow trade remained under pressure with the average cow price back 4.8p/kg to 251.9p/kg, this is 18.8p/kg behind current NI levels. The O3 cow price in GB was back 1.4p/kg to 280.9p/kg.

The deadweight trade continued to improve in ROI last week with reported prices up for all types of cattle from the previous week. The R3 steer price increased by 6.1p/kg to the equivalent of 360.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 5p/kg to 364.5p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI last week recorded an increase of 5.4p/kg to the equivalent of 296.0p/kg, this is 1.6p/kg behind the O3 cow price in NI.

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

W/E 04/12/21		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	403.3	368.9	416.2	425.0	422.9	420.8	420.9
	R3	403.3	360.7	418.9	423.7	417.1	414.5	418.8
	R4	399.0	359.8	421.0	425.0	416.8	409.6	420.7
	O3	393.0	348.4	404.1	406.6	397.1	394.2	399.8
	AVG	392.9	-	416.4	417.4	407.0	401.8	411.5
Heifers	U3	407.9	374.3	424.3	429.8	428.6	424.5	427.1
	R3	404.2	364.5	420.5	421.0	417.3	413.5	418.1
	R4	402.1	366.7	420.3	423.4	418.1	412.3	419.9
	O3	394.2	357.9	406.3	403.7	392.5	393.4	397.3
AVG	396.3	-	416.5	413.3	403.0	396.3	408.2	
Young Bulls	U3	394.0	354.3	409.9	419.9	424.3	397.0	415.4
	R3	392.3	346.2	407.8	417.8	411.3	400.3	410.7
	O3	373.3	335.2	373.8	371.5	383.9	383.2	378.8
	AVG	379.3	-	398.3	391.9	392.4	379.6	392.4
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5494	-	6119	6672	6486	4188	23465
Cows	O3	297.6	296.0	276.3	283.3	281.0	280.3	280.9
	O4	298.4	295.7	280.4	287.3	281.5	280.9	283.1
	P2	259.5	263.7	230.7	242.7	236.7	240.4	238.2
	P3	277.9	281.6	245.4	259.4	257.2	259.7	257.5
	AVG	270.7	-	266.3	265.2	245.1	246.5	251.9

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.98p 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 04/12/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	247	263	254	210	246	225
Friesians	180	198	188	169	175	172
Heifers	223	263	235	185	222	205
Beef Cows	172	229	190	140	171	155
Dairy Cows	123	160	134	85	122	110
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	243	361	283	200	242	220
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	222	276	242	170	216	195
Bullocks over 500kg	217	232	223	170	214	190
Heifers up to 450kg	250	317	270	200	249	220
Heifers over 450kg	205	228	215	170	202	186
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	400	660	460	285	395	340
Continental Heifers	275	375	325	150	270	220
Friesian Bulls	140	200	170	50	135	95
Holstein Bulls	100	190	145	1	95	50

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 04/12/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	404.6	408.9	394.0
R3	401.4	402.6	390.4
O+3	393.2	395.3	379.3

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 04/12/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	197.2	211.5	221.4	230.5
P2	220.0	233.3	257.3	272.6
P3	215.3	259.1	271.9	281.2
O3	-	275.9	292.3	298.5
O4	-	296.7	289.7	298.7
R3	-	-	-	318.0

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 06/12/21	Next Week 13/12/21
R3 Lambs up to 22kg	555-565p/kg	570-575p/kg

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 20/11/21	W/E 27/11/21	W/E 04/12/21
NI L/W Lambs	534.9	520.7	531.3
NI D/W Lambs	565.2	553.4	559.1
GB D/W Lambs	600.1	600.6	618.6
ROI D/W	598.6	584.1	594.9

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 grading lambs strengthened as the week progressed and ended this week ranging from 570-575p/kg up to 22kg, with similar quotes expected next week. There were 9363 lambs processed in local plants last week, up 237 head from the week before. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 7,191 head, an increase of 1,117 head from the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was up 5.7p/kg from the previous week to 559.1p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2020 the NI deadweight lamb price was 459.6p/kg. The deadweight lamb price in ROI was the equivalent of 594.9p/kg, up 10.8p/kg from the previous week.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

Stronger numbers of lambs passed through the sale rings this week compared to last week. In Omagh on Saturday 822 lambs sold from 524-543p/kg compared to 576 lambs sold from 506-541p/kg last week. On Tuesday in Saintfield 505 lambs sold from 511-580p/kg compared to 555 lambs sold from 505-584p/kg the previous week. This week in Ballymena 2354 lambs sold from 510-587p/kg (avg 532p/kg) compared to 1665 lambs sold from 512-605p/kg (avg 530p/kg) last week. In Armoy on Thursday 642 lambs sold ranging from 510-625p/kg compared to 536 lambs sold from 520-585p/kg the previous week. A strong trade was reported for cull ewes across the marts this week with top reported prices ranging from £136-£236.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 04/12/21		Lambs			
To: 09/12/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	822	524	543	-
	Swatragh	1000	479	673	-
Monday	Kilrea	730	508	566	-
	Massereene	586	500	550	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	505	511	580	-
	Rathfriland	332	500	550	529
Wednesday	Ballymena	2354	510	587	532
	Enniskillen	620	450	522	-
	Armoy	642	510	625	-
	Markethill	1160	530	570	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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