

CALF REGISTRATIONS REMAIN AT SIMILAR LEVELS DURING FIRST HALF OF 2021

The latest available data from APHIS has reported similar levels of calf registrations on Northern Irish farms during the first half of 2021 relative to the same period in 2020. From January to June of this year, calf

registrations on local farms have totalled 306,828 head which is a marginal increase of 1,490 head from the first half of 2020. However relative to the corresponding period in 2019, calf registrations in Northern Ireland

have increased by 9,102 head or just over three per cent.

Beef Calf Registrations

Beef sired calf registrations totalled 231,719 head in NI during the first half of 2021, accounting for 76 per cent of total registrations in this region. These registrations have increased by 1.3 per cent from 2020 levels and 5.7 per cent relative to the same period in 2019. While total beef sired calf registrations during the first half of 2021 in NI increased year on year, beef calves registered to suckler cows decreased slightly by 1.3 per cent relative to the first six months of 2020.

Registrations to suckler cows accounted for 66 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations with the remaining 34 per cent registered to dairy cows. Beef sired calf registered to dairy cows on local farms during January to June of 2021 increased by 6.5 per cent year on year, offsetting the decline in calf registrations to suckler cows.

The number of Aberdeen Angus calves registered has increased during the first half of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. The number of these calves registered on local farms during the first half of this year totalled 58,495 head, making Aberdeen Angus the most popular beef sire. These figures are up 3,854 head or seven per cent year on year. While there has been a proportional increase in Aberdeen Angus sired calves during the first half of 2021, the proportion of other breeds registered on local farms remains similar to the corresponding period in 2020.

Limousin is the second most popular beef sire accounting for 25 per cent of beef sired calf registrations in NI during the first six months of this year. The proportion of Limousin calves registered is similar to last year when 25.7 per cent of beef sired calves were registered to this breed.

Similarly, the proportion of Charolais sired calves are back marginally from

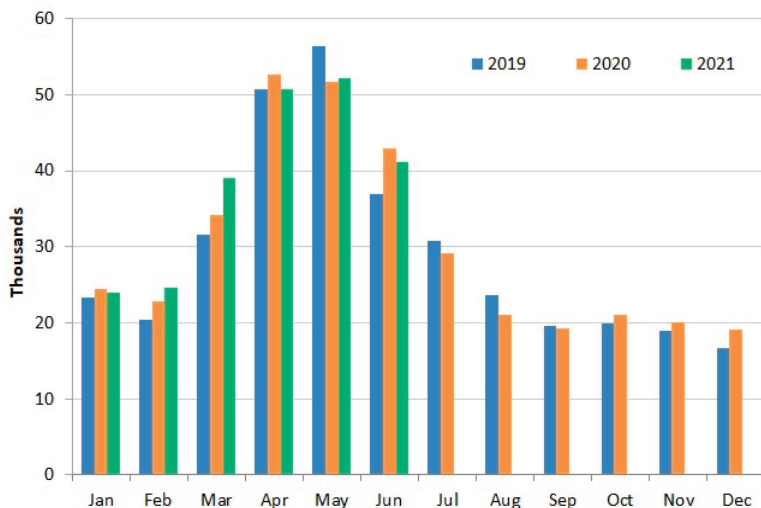
2020. The number of calves registered to a Charolais sire during the first half of this year totalled 51,389 head, accounting for 22.2 per cent of beef sired calf registrations.

Dairy Calf Registrations

Dairy sired calf registrations in NI totalled 75,109 head during the first half of 2021, back two per cent from 2020 levels when 76,624 calves were registered. This accounted for 24 per cent of total calf registrations during the first six months of 2021 on NI farms.

During the first half of 2021, dairy sired male calf registrations totalled 28,624 head. This accounted for 38 per cent of the total dairy sired calf registrations. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the proportion of dairy sired male calves have decreased during the first half of the year. This decline in proportion of male calves indicates greater results from sexed semen to breed replacement heifers.

Figure 1: Monthly beef sired calf registrations in NI during 2019, 2020 and 2021.
Source: APHIS



CONTINUED DOWNWARD MOVEMENT IN DEADWEIGHT LAMB TRADE

Base quotes from the three major lamb processing plants in Northern Ireland ranged from 480-510p/kg for R3 grading lambs up to 21kg this week. These base quotes have come back in the range of 80-120p/kg during the last six weeks however they improved during the last week and with Eid al-Adha taking place later this month demand for sheep meat will be boosted for the celebration of this important Islamic Festival.

As the quotes ease back the paid prices have also declined in recent weeks with last week's NI deadweight lamb price at 482.7p/kg. This is back 48.7p/kg from the previous week. While there has been downward movement in the deadweight lamb trade in recent weeks the prices still continue to trend above previous years however the differential has narrowed.

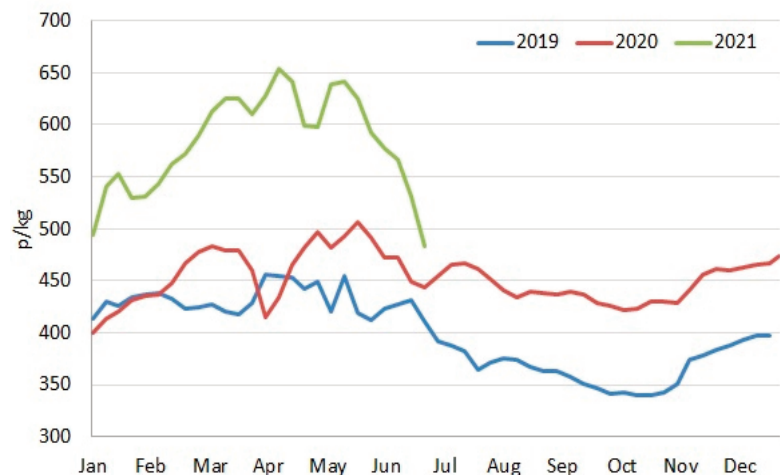
Last week's deadweight lamb price

was 27.5p/kg above the corresponding week in 2020 equating to a £6 differential on a 21kg lamb carcasse. Meanwhile last week's price is a more significant 91.5p/kg above the relative price in 2019 equating to an additional £19 on a 21kg lamb carcasse.

Producers are reminded to try and produce lambs that meet current market specifications. Processors prefer farm quality assured lambs that produce an 18-21kg carcasse with a fat cover of 2 or 3 as these lambs can be used to service the widest range of customers. Meeting specification for carcasse weight is of particular importance to producers as any extra carcasse weight beyond this does not provide any financial return to the producer.

Lamb throughput in local plants has continued to increase in recent weeks following the usual seasonal trends. Last week 11,040 lambs were processed in local plants taking the total throughput in the last six weeks to 55,561 head. Lambs accounted for 95 per cent of total sheep throughput in NI during the last six weeks, similar to sheep kill figures during the relative period last year.

Figure 2: Weekly deadweight lamb prices in NI during 2021, 2020 and 2019.
Source: DAERA

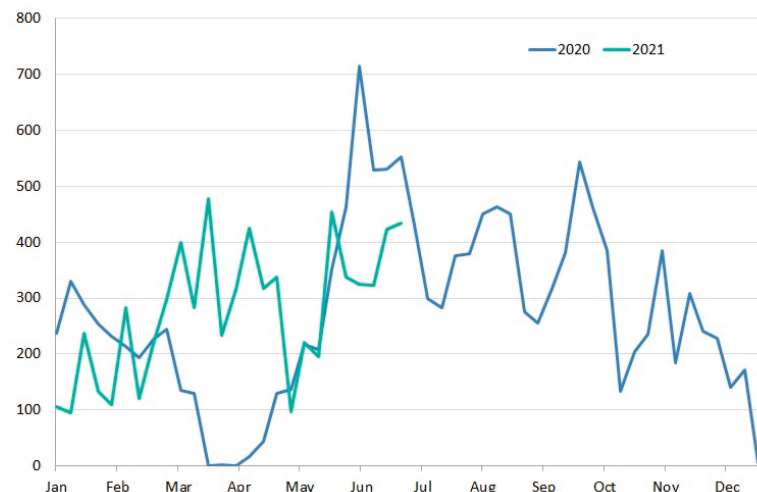


UPDATE ON PRIME CATTLE IMPORTS/EXPORTS

There has been a decline in prime cattle imports for direct slaughter during the last six weeks relative to the same period last year. Last week 434 prime cattle made the journey from ROI to NI for direct slaughter which is similar to levels from the previous week while no cattle were imported from GB. This takes the total prime cattle imports during the last six weeks to 2,297 head which is a 29 per cent or 923 head decline from 2020 figures.

Meanwhile exports of prime cattle from NI have been running ahead of last year's figures during the last six weeks however remain at low levels. Last week only two prime cattle were exported out of NI to ROI for direct slaughter while no cattle were exported to GB. This takes the total prime cattle exports from NI to 153 head during the last six weeks. These levels have increased by 141 head relative to the corresponding period in 2020.

Figure 3: Weekly NI prime cattle imports for direct slaughter during 2021 and 2020.
Source: DAERA



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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 05/07/21	Next Week 12/07/21
Prime		
U-3	380 - 394p	380 - 394p
R-3	374 - 388p	374 - 388p
O+3	368 - 382p	368 - 382p
P+3	314 - 332p	314 - 332p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	275 - 302p	275 - 302p

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 U-3 grading prime cattle have continued to strengthen this week ranging from 380-394p/kg with the majority of plants quoting at the upper end of this scale. With such a range in base quotes producers are encouraged to shop around to get the best possible deal for their cattle. The cow trade slightly firmed with base quotes of 275-302p/kg for good quality O+3 grading cows.

Prime cattle throughput last week totalled 6,525 head, an increase of 342 head on the previous week when 6,183 head were processed locally. This brings the 2021 year to date prime cattle throughput to 168,927 head, similar to the same period in 2020 when 168,790 prime cattle were processed locally. Meanwhile a total of 1,977 cows were processed in NI last week, this brings the total cow throughput to date to 46,134 head, a similar throughput when compared to the same period last year when 45,869 cows were processed in NI.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week increased marginally to 434 head with 149 cows also imported. This brings prime cattle imports from ROI to NI to 7,199 head during 2021 to date, a 15 per cent increase from the same period last year. Exports of cattle for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of two steers and 63 cows. This brings cattle exports for direct slaughter from NI to ROI to 1,353 head during 2021 to date. This is a similar level from the same period in 2020 when 1,369 cattle were exported out of NI for direct slaughter in ROI.

The deadweight cattle trade in NI has continued to strengthen across the majority of grades last week with some of the highest prices ever reported locally. The R3 steer and R3 heifer price in NI both followed a similar trend last week with prices increasing for the fifth consecutive week to 398.3p/kg and 399.7p/kg respectively. Both prices also recorded the highest ever reported prices in NI to date. The deadweight cow trade in NI has also continued to improve with the highest reported O3 cow price of 310.3p/kg, an increase of 2.4p/kg from the previous week. This placed the O3 cow price in NI 9.2p/kg ahead of the equivalent price in ROI and 2p/kg below the average GB price for O3 cows.

In GB last week the deadweight prime cattle trade also firmed with the average steer price in GB up by 3.7p/kg to 399.4p/kg while the average R3 steer price increased by 4.3p/kg to 405.3p/kg. The R3 steer price in GB was 7p/kg above the R3 steer price in NI last week. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by almost 3p/kg to 398.3p/kg with the average R3 heifer price increasing by 2.7p/kg to 404.3p/kg, 4.6p/kg ahead of the reported R3 heifer price in NI last week.

The deadweight cattle trade in ROI has continued to improve last week with all of the reported prices increasing from the previous week. The R3 steer price in ROI last week increased by almost 3p/kg to equivalent of 366.5p/kg, 31.8p/kg behind NI. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in ROI increased by the equivalent of 4p/kg to 369.3p/kg, this placed it at 30.4p/kg behind the same price in NI.

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

	W/E 03/07/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	402.8	375.7	414.4	409.5	407.9	410.0	410.9
	R3	398.3	366.5	413.9	405.2	401.7	401.8	405.3
	R4	397.4	367.2	413.7	409.6	401.1	402.4	408.9
	O3	386.6	353.1	396.5	390.6	380.7	379.3	385.4
	AVG	390.3	-	410.8	399.4	393.1	392.3	399.4
Heifers	U3	404.4	379.4	419.4	412.7	412.9	410.1	413.6
	R3	399.7	369.3	411.5	402.7	403.7	401.3	404.3
	R4	396.8	370.1	414.7	405.9	402.9	402.4	407.7
	O3	389.0	360.1	398.3	383.5	377.9	378.7	381.9
	AVG	391.7	-	411.2	398.9	392.4	390.4	398.3
Young Bulls	U3	394.6	367.1	409.6	403.6	408.2	402.0	407.8
	R3	389.2	356.3	404.4	398.2	399.2	393.8	400.5
	O3	372.2	337.0	378.8	360.7	369.1	375.1	369.8
	AVG	381.4	-	402.9	391.2	394.1	388.5	396.0
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5063	-	6717	6691	7459	4741	25608	
Cows	O3	310.3	301.1	309.2	312.3	313.0	312.9	312.3
	O4	315.1	300.2	313.7	316.0	313.2	314.1	314.3
	P2	271.6	277.3	273.1	272.6	272.7	271.6	272.4
	P3	294.5	293.3	285.6	287.6	289.2	287.1	288.1
	AVG	286.8	-	302.5	300.3	285.7	285.9	290.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.90p 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 03/07/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)							
Steers		248	267	255	212	247	230
Friesians		185	205	195	164	183	176
Heifers		230	254	238	210	229	218
Beef Cows		190	241	207	145	189	170
Dairy Cows		135	155	144	112	134	123
Store Cattle (p/kg)							
Bullocks up to 400kg		260	324	285	225	255	235
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		230	283	255	200	225	215
Bullocks over 500kg		222	252	232	190	221	205
Heifers up to 450kg		244	284	260	210	243	222
Heifers over 450kg		227	249	234	208	226	218
Dropped Calves (£/head)							
Continental Bulls up to 2 months		400	605	455	300	395	355
Continental Heifers up to 2 months		350	620	410	225	345	280
Friesian Bulls up to 1 months		185	265	205	110	180	140
Holstein Bulls up to 3 months		150	245	175	10	145	80

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 03/07/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	402.7	403.6	394.6
R3	396.3	398.5	389.2
O+3	388.3	391.1	377.5

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 03/07/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	206.1	216.9	233.0	231.9
P2	223.2	242.8	268.9	282.8
P3	238.3	277.8	290.7	296.6
O3	-	289.0	303.3	311.2
O4	292.0	275.1	318.8	315.4
R3	-	-	-	332.2

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 05/07/21	Next Week 12/07/21
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	470 - 480p	500 - 530p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 19/06/21	W/E 26/06/21	W/E 03/07/21
NI L/W Lambs	528.6	480.4	442.3
NI D/W Lambs	567.1	531.4	482.7
GB D/W Lambs	634.5	587.2	518.8
ROI D/W	604.0	569.8	530.1

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 grading lambs strengthened as the week progressed and ended this week ranging from 480-510p/kg up to 21kg. Quotes for Monday are expected to be in the region of 500-530p/kg up to 21kg. Throughput of lambs last week increased to 11,040 head. This brings total lamb/hogget throughput in 2021 to 190,705 head, a 9.4 per cent increase on the same period last year. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter last week increased to 4,059 head. This brings the year to date exports of lambs/hoggets to ROI to 94,305 head, a 30.8 per cent decrease when compared to the same period in 2020. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was 482.7p/kg, back 48.7p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile last week the deadweight lamb price in ROI was back 39.7p/kg to the equivalent of 530.1p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

The marts have reported good numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings this week with a stronger liveweight trade reported compared to last week. In Swatragh last Saturday 805 lambs sold from 480-553p/kg compared to 1,110 lambs the previous week selling from 421-472p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 630 lambs sold from 456-553p/kg compared to 410 lambs last week selling from 427-470p/kg. On Tuesday in Rathfriland 925 lambs sold from 470-517p/kg (avg 489p/kg) compared to 425 lambs last week selling from 410-490p/kg (avg 430p/kg). In Markethill this week a larger entry of 960 lambs sold from 480-520p/kg. The trade for cull ewes remained firm this week ranging from £132-£198 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 03/07/21		Lambs			
To: 08/07/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	515	464	501	-
	Swatragh	805	480	553	-
Monday	Kilrea	630	456	553	-
	Massereene	726	460	522	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	675	477	545	-
	Rathfriland	925	470	517	489
Wednesday	Ballymena	1922	470	557	498
	Enniskillen	502	472	538	-
	Armoy	802	480	575	-
	Markethill	960	480	520	-

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