

PRACTICAL STEPS TO REDUCE ANTIMICROBIAL USAGE ON YOUR FARM

In 2016 the O'Neill report highlighted the global problem of antimicrobial resistance and the recommendations to address the issue. 'Antimicrobial' is the general term for all drugs which aim to kill harmful microbes. Antibiotics are the best known of these drugs, but there are others, such as antivirals, antimalarial drugs and antifungals.

Antimicrobial Resistance arises when some of the micro-organisms that cause infection adapt to survive exposure to a medicine that would normally kill them or stop their growth. This can lead to the development of micro-organisms which can no longer be treated successfully with the range of antimicrobials currently available.

Agriculture has a key role to play in reducing the amount of antimicrobials used to reduce resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance can be reduced by using antibiotics and anthelmintics correctly and only when necessary.

There are some simple ways to reduce antimicrobial use on farm such as:

- Prevent or reduce disease incidence on farm by developing an animal health plan in conjunction with your vet which includes routine preventative treatments (e.g. routine foot care, vaccination and worming). For FQAS an antibiotic usage review must be completed within 18 months in conjunction with your vet.
- Promote good biosecurity on your farm
- When buying in animals check the testing history and satisfy yourself about the disease status of the animals and the herd/flock from which they came
- At the first signs of illness, isolate

sick animals to prevent the spread of disease/bacteria/viruses from other stock

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all vehicles if they have had contact with livestock from other premises
- Clean and disinfect buildings and equipment after use by livestock
- Use a DAERA approved disinfectant on farm, FQAS requires that this disinfectant is approved for Foot and Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders.
- Ensure that suspected disease is accurately diagnosed, antibiotics will not be the answer for all conditions
- Comply with the requirements of the NI BVD Eradication Scheme and associated legislation, particularly timely removal of PI calves.
- Follow the advice given by your vet and use any antibiotics/anthelmintics in accordance with their labelling instructions

- Complete the full course prescribed even if the animal gets better after a few doses
- Ensure the appropriate withdrawal period prior to slaughter, or for the sale of milk is adhered to
- Keep medicine records detailing the purchase and usage of medicines administered
- Farmers must also consult with their vet before using HP CIA's (Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics). HP CIA's are also known as 'last resort antibiotics' e.g. Marbocyl, Cobactan, Baytril, Excenel.
- Attend formal training on the responsible use of antimicrobials. This is a requirement for NI Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and a link to book the training can be found at: <https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/responsible-use-of-antimicrobials-on-beef-and-sheep-farms/>

The suggestions outlined above are good farming practice and are requirements for compliance with FQAS and can make a difference to reducing the amount of antimicrobials used and therefore reducing the opportunity for resistance to develop. This in turn means that these antimicrobials including antibiotics are more effective in treating disease



LMC SCHOOL COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS REACH 4,500 PUPILS DURING DIFFICULT YEAR

Since 1999, the Livestock and Meat Commission for NI (LMC) has been helping to educate young people about NIFQA beef and lamb through the provision of school cookery demonstrations, however the 2020-2021 academic year has proven to be an unusual year in both sectors.

Despite the ongoing challenge of Covid-19, LMC's team of demonstrators tackled the challenges of the pandemic head on, to ensure that our young people in post primary schools in NI were not disadvantaged and continued to hear the health and environmental messaging surrounding NIFQA beef and lamb. With intermittent classroom attendance, learning from home and a host of difficulties facing teachers, practical cookery lessons were few and far between. On many occasions, LMC cookery demonstrations provided the closest thing to a normal 'practical' class and as a result were highly valued by teachers. In a space of 18 weeks, less than half of a normal academic year, LMC demonstrators completed 183 school cookery demonstrations reaching over 4,500 pupils across all of NI. Amongst this number were 21 Grammar, 45 Secondary and 2 Special Education Needs Schools.

Lauren Patterson, LMC Marketing and Communications Manager said; " At LMC we pride ourselves in being able to provide these highly sought after resources to post primary schools in NI. Our team of dedicated demonstrators went above and beyond this year to enter schools and support teachers in the education of young people about the industry, and the importance of NIFQA beef and lamb as part of a healthy balanced diet, regardless of the threat that Covid-19 imposed.

We will continue to work on behalf of the industry to educate, engage and inform consumers of the future about NIFQA beef and lamb. The industry is continually faced with consumer questioning about sustainability and health, and it is more important now than ever before that we lead this

conversation with facts and transparency. NIFQA beef and lamb boasts a wide range of sustainability credentials and plays an important role in in sustaining the diverse landscape and local communities of NI." LMC are pleased to be offering school cookery demonstrations again next year, with bookings opening from September 1st 2021. LMC's school cookery demonstration protocol will still be in place for the upcoming academic year, with the aim of keeping demonstrators, teachers, staff and pupils as safe as possible. For more information visit LMC's education [website: www.food4life.org.uk](http://www.food4life.org.uk).

Image 1. Despite disruptions due to COVID-19, LMC cookery demonstrations continued to educate, engage and inform pupils of the benefits of NIFQA beef and lamb.



TARGETED ASSISTANCE FOR VETERINARY PRACTICES REPORTING ANTIMICROBIAL USAGE ON FARMS

Veterinary practices can benefit from funding to install a new software that makes it simpler to report antibiotic usage on farms across NI. Thanks to a research initiative in NI entitled 'Strategic AntiMicrobial use in Dairy, Beef and Lamb Production' (STAMP), a software application to benchmark antibiotic use is now widely available. LMC will fund the installation cost of the 'STAMP AMU Benchmarking Tool' in practices across NI until 31st March 2022. The tool can also be used to report antibiotic usage for the purposes of the NI Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS), thereby replacing the need for vets to fill out the existing paper form.

Demonstrating the responsible use of antibiotics is a critical component of food production. The beef, sheep and dairy industry must respond to the needs of its customers. However, a key challenge faced by vets and producers is gathering accurate information on the purchase and use of medicines on farms. The benchmarking tool developed in partnership with the STAMP project partners and Farmvet Systems is a user-friendly web-based platform that captures and monitors antibiotic prescription use at farm level. With the appropriate permissions in place, the tool

aggregates and standardises existing data sets from vet practices, APHIS or vet entered records in VetIMPRESS to produce Antimicrobial Usage (AMU) reports in a few simple steps; with significant savings made on the time it takes to produce reports manually. The tool also provides producers with key information that supports decisions to improve animal health and enables vets to have effective discussions with their clients on how best to optimise the use of antibiotics.

Initiatives similar to the STAMP tool have been launched in both England and Wales as the need for accurate data on medicine usage in agriculture increases. LMC continues to work closely with counterparts across the UK to ensure there is a uniform approach to benchmarking and reporting of medicines usage that also avoids duplication of effort from beef and lamb producers.

Funding for the tool will be available to veterinary practices in NI until 31st March 2022 and will cover the cost of the software installation. Vets who wish to use the tool should contact Farmvet Systems Ltd directly to organise installation on **028 8674 7378** or visit www.vetimpress.com/stampni.

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 23/08/21	Next Week 30/08/21
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 - 302p	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.

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 21/08/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	403.9	403.8	398.7
R3	399.6	400.1	393.0
O+3	391.6	390.3	378.3

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 21/08/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	209.3	222.4	234.0	246.5
P2	228.6	248.4	278.0	290.5
P3	250.7	272.4	288.0	299.3
O3	-	346.6	314.0	315.7
O4	-	310.0	315.6	318.9
R3	-	-	-	334.2

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes for the major NI processing plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady this week ranging from 384-394p/kg, with similar quotes expected next week. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows ranged from 280-302p/kg this week with the majority of the plants quoting in the region of 290-302p/kg. However this is expected to decrease next week to 280-300p/kg. Producers should use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation with higher prices available.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 7,099 head, an increase of 223 on the 6,876 cattle processed the previous week. This is also an increase from the same week last year when 6,372 cattle were processed locally. In NI last week the number of cows processed decreased slightly by 10 head to 2,334. However, this is up 334 cows from the same week in 2020 when cow throughput totalled 2,000 head.

Imports for ROI for direct slaughter in local plants last week increased to 514 prime cattle and 153 cows with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter locally. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI consisted of 6 prime cattle and 89 cows while a further 32 prime cattle and 7 cows made the journey to GB for direct slaughter.

The deadweight cattle trade in NI continued to report a mixed performance last week. The average NI steer price increased by 0.7p/kg to 391.3p/kg with the R3 steer price up 1.4p/kg to 401.1p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was 392.9p/kg, back 2.1p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price was back 0.1p/kg to 401.8p/kg. The average young bull price in NI was back 0.7p/kg to 383.1p/kg while the R3 young bull price was up 0.6p/kg to 393.0p/kg. The average cow price in NI fell slightly this week to 290.0p/kg, back 0.3p/kg from the previous week, while the O3 cow price was up 0.6p/kg to 315.8p/kg.

The average GB steer price was up by 0.5p/kg to 409.7p/kg. The average R3 steer price increased to 415.2p/kg, up 0.3p/kg from the previous week. This places the R3 steer price at 14.1p/kg above the equivalent price in NI. The average heifer price in GB last week increased slightly to 409.0p/kg, up 0.8p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price decreased to 415.3p/kg, down 0.3p/kg. This puts the R3 heifer price in GB 13.5p/kg above NI levels. Meanwhile the average cow price in GB decreased by 1.4p/kg to 293.3p/kg while the O3 cow price was back 1.9p/kg to 318.8p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle prices remained under pressure. The R3 steer price was back 2.2p/kg to the equivalent of 358.1p/kg, putting the differential between ROI and NI to 43.0p/kg. This equates to an additional £151 on a 350kg steer carcass. The R3 heifer price also decreased to 361.0p/kg, down 1.6p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the O3 cow price in ROI increased 1.1p/kg to the equivalent of 298.1p/kg, 17.7p/kg below the O3 cow price in NI.

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

W/E 21/08/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	402.6	367.2	424.2	418.0	421.2	420.1
	R3	401.1	358.1	424.0	414.3	413.5	411.2
	R4	397.4	358.7	424.2	417.1	412.5	412.9
	O3	391.0	344.5	410.0	405.1	392.4	392.1
	AVG	391.3	-	420.9	410.2	404.3	403.0
Heifers	U3	403.3	373.1	429.0	420.3	422.7	424.3
	R3	401.8	361.0	425.6	413.6	413.7	410.4
	R4	398.5	361.6	423.0	413.9	414.1	412.0
	O3	393.5	351.7	406.1	407.7	390.1	391.4
	AVG	392.9	-	420.9	407.9	403.7	401.0
Young Bulls	U3	399.2	355.6	417.7	413.8	414.8	403.6
	R3	393.0	343.0	411.6	405.5	409.6	404.8
	O3	374.1	330.6	375.8	373.9	382.4	375.6
	AVG	383.1	-	404.8	397.3	402.0	391.9
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5788	-	5868	6317	6748	4131	23064
Cows	O3	315.8	298.1	326.8	317.7	318.0	317.1
	O4	318.8	298.1	329.0	321.4	319.2	315.8
	P2	278.6	270.6	286.6	274.8	273.8	277.6
	P3	296.6	288.5	295.3	294.1	292.8	291.4
	AVG	290.0	-	320.5	300.2	286.5	285.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.33p 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 21/08/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	243	257	250	205	242	223
Friesians	177	194	184	150	176	164
Heifers	230	253	239	200	229	212
Beef Cows	182	214	195	135	181	155
Dairy Cows	131	156	137	110	130	120
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	250	300	270	220	249	230
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	230	274	248	200	229	215
Bullocks over 500kg	219	246	233	180	218	200
Heifers up to 450kg	225	252	240	185	224	205
Heifers over 450kg	200	233	220	165	199	185
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	395	535	450	290	390	340
Continental Heifers	345	500	395	220	340	280
Friesian Bulls	140	210	180	35	135	85
Holstein Bulls	100	190	125	45	95	70

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/08/21	Next Week 30/08/21
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	485-490p/kg	490p/kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 07/08/21	W/E 14/08/21	W/E 21/08/21
NI L/W Lambs	437.4	441.7	450.3
NI D/W Lambs	475.9	471.5	474.7
GB D/W Lambs	528.8	515.8	530.6
ROI D/W	515.3	503.1	512.4

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the plants for R3 grade lambs strengthened this week to 490p/kg up to 21kg with similar quotes expected for next week. Lamb throughput in NI plants has continued to strengthen with 11,127 lambs processed last week up 400 from the previous weeks. However this is back 690 when compared to the 11,817 lambs processed in the same week last year. Export of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 5,900 back slightly from the previous week. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was 474.7p/kg up 3.2p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile in ROI the deadweight average lamb price was the equivalent of 512.4p/kg up 9.3p/kg from the previous week

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Good numbers of lambs continued to pass through the sale rings this week. In Swatragh last Saturday a strong entry of 2200 lambs sold from 496-519p/kg compared to 1415 lambs sold the previous week selling from 413-515p/kg. In Masereene on Monday 823 lambs sold from 440-483p/kg compared to 1026 lambs sold from 435-474p/kg last week. In Saintfield on Tuesday 615 lambs sold from 447-511p/kg compared to 790 sold last week from 430-485p/kg. In Enniskillen on Wednesday 850 lambs sold from 396-505p/kg compared to 725 sold from 442-490p/kg the previous week. The ewe trade remained firm this week with the marts reporting top prices ranging from £140-£193.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 21/08/21		Lambs			
To: 26/08/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	-	-	-	-
	Swatragh	2200	496	519	-
Monday	Kilrea	550	448	448	-
	Massereene	823	440	483	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	615	447	511	-
	Rathfriland	842	435	519	465
Wednesday	Ballymena	2204	435	500	454
	Enniskillen	850	396	505	-
	Armoy	723	437	501	-
	Markethill	1180	440	477	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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Contact us

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

