

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

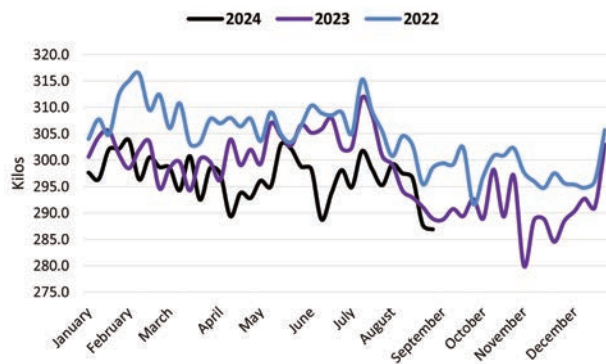
NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

| (P/KG DW) | This Week 02/09/24 | Next Week 09/09/24 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Prime | | |
| U-3 | 466 - 476p | 466 - 476p |
| R-3 | 460 - 470p | 460 - 470p |
| O+3 | 454 - 464p | 454 - 464p |
| P+3 | 398 - 408p | 398 - 408p |
| Cows | | |
| O+3 | 355 - 375p | 355 - 375p |

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.

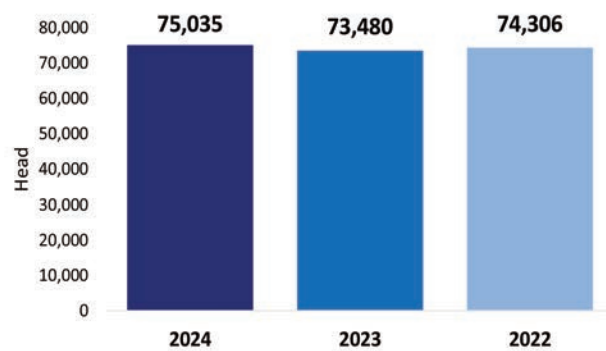
Cows Average Weekly Weight to date 2022-2024.

Source: DAERA.



Cow Throughput in NI to date 2022-2024

Source: DAERA.



REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

| W/E 31/08/24 | Steers | Heifers | Young Bulls |
|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|
| U3 | 491.3 | 496.0 | 483.3 |
| R3 | 486.6 | 489.7 | 479.7 |
| O+3 | 479.9 | 481.4 | 465.0 |

*Prices exclude AA, HER, WAG and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

| W/E 31/08/24 | Weight Bands | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | <220kg | 220-250kg | 250-280kg | >280kg |
| P1 | 245.5 | 266.5 | 281.2 | 301.9 |
| P2 | 272.4 | 298.8 | 311.4 | 336.2 |
| P3 | 305.2 | 323.1 | 339.1 | 345.3 |
| O3 | - | 321.1 | 347.1 | 363.6 |
| O4 | - | - | 350.3 | 364.0 |
| R3 | - | - | 387.0 | 379.7 |

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes for all cattle are expected to remain steady going into next week. Meanwhile, a total of 7,234 prime cattle were presented for slaughter in local plants last week, bringing the monthly total up to 33,846 head slaughter in August, up five per cent from the corresponding month last year. There were 2,378 cows processed in NI last week, bringing the number of cows slaughtered during the month of August to a total of 11,625 head, also up five per cent on the corresponding period in 2023.

Last week, there were 498 prime cattle imported for direct slaughter from ROI, an increase of 41 head. Last week also saw 287 cows imported from ROI for direct slaughter, the highest cow imports from ROI reported this year to date. As for exports to ROI for direct slaughter, three steers and nine cows were transported out of NI last week.

The NI deadweight cattle trade provided a mixed report, with steers and heifers recording average increases of 2.4p/kg and 3.1p/kg respectively, meanwhile young bulls and cows declined by 3.5p/kg and 4.3p/kg respectively last week.

In ROI, the deadweight cattle trade reported declines across the board in sterling terms, in euro terms however, the deadweight cattle trade strengthened for the most part with only a few declines reported for steers and cows. On a whole, the GB deadweight cattle trade strengthened across the board with steers reporting an average increase of 2.6p/kg, heifers and young bulls both reporting increases of 2.4p/kg and cow trade was up just over half a penny last week.

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

| W/E 31/08/24 | Northern Ireland | Rep of Ireland | Scotland | Northern England | Midlands & Wales | Southern England | GB |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Steers | U3 | 491.2 | 436.8 | 510.1 | 506.0 | 504.8 | 512.6 |
| | R3 | 489.7 | 428.9 | 509.4 | 506.9 | 500.4 | 505.0 |
| | R4 | 487.0 | 430.3 | 509.1 | 507.7 | 499.4 | 502.6 |
| | O3 | 482.8 | 418.3 | 496.6 | 497.5 | 484.5 | 492.5 |
| | AVG | 481.1 | - | 505.4 | 502.9 | 490.4 | 496.4 |
| Heifers | U3 | 496.0 | 441.2 | 518.0 | 510.2 | 512.7 | 512.9 |
| | R3 | 492.2 | 432.7 | 509.5 | 506.9 | 500.8 | 502.9 |
| | R4 | 490.2 | 433.2 | 507.6 | 507.6 | 501.6 | 505.3 |
| | O3 | 483.0 | 424.6 | 489.1 | 491.3 | 485.0 | 486.1 |
| | AVG | 484.8 | - | 504.8 | 498.1 | 490.8 | 490.6 |
| Young Bulls | U3 | 483.1 | 431.2 | 503.5 | 503.0 | 505.4 | 505.6 |
| | R3 | 478.8 | 423.6 | 500.8 | 492.1 | 492.8 | 493.7 |
| | O3 | 462.3 | 412.3 | 481.1 | 457.9 | 462.7 | 461.1 |
| | AVG | 468.4 | - | 495.1 | 490.1 | 487.5 | 490.0 |
| | Prime Cattle Price Reported | 5,827 | - | 5,446 | 5,803 | 7,050 | 4,269 |
| Cows | O3 | 360.5 | 369.3 | 399.0 | 390.9 | 388.1 | 392.5 |
| | O4 | 362.9 | 369.5 | 401.9 | 393.3 | 387.3 | 395.6 |
| | P2 | 321.3 | 340.4 | 362.7 | 347.1 | 345.5 | 355.9 |
| | P3 | 342.7 | 357.9 | 372.0 | 366.7 | 362.7 | 375.2 |
| | AVG | 315.0 | - | 390.9 | 362.9 | 352.9 | 349.2 |

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.31p 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

LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

| W/E 31/08/24 | 1st QUALITY | | | 2nd QUALITY | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
| | From | To | Avg | From | To | Avg |
| Finished Cattle (p/kg) | | | | | | |
| Steers | 280 | 324 | 293 | 220 | 279 | 245 |
| Friesians | 214 | 226 | 219 | 155 | 213 | 192 |
| Heifers | 260 | 295 | 275 | 205 | 259 | 230 |
| Beef Cows | 222 | 284 | 245 | 125 | 221 | 170 |
| Dairy Cows | 133 | 177 | 155 | 50 | 132 | 100 |
| Store Cattle (p/kg) | | | | | | |
| Steers up to 400kg | 310 | 403 | 350 | 210 | 309 | 255 |
| Steers 400kg - 500kg | 280 | 365 | 320 | 200 | 279 | 235 |
| Steers over 500kg | 275 | 315 | 288 | 214 | 274 | 235 |
| Heifers up to 450kg | 290 | 383 | 325 | 220 | 289 | 245 |
| Heifers over 450kg | 280 | 313 | 293 | 220 | 279 | 243 |
| Dropped Calves (£/head) | | | | | | |
| Continental Bulls | 380 | 750 | 455 | 275 | 375 | 325 |
| Continental Heifers | 325 | 540 | 420 | 200 | 320 | 260 |
| Friesian Bulls | 130 | 245 | 205 | 14 | 115 | 80 |
| Holstein Bulls | - | - | - | 70 | 70 | 70 |

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

| (P/Kg DW) | This Week 02/09/24 | Next Week 09/09/24 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| R3 Lambs up to 22kg | 595 - 600p | 590 - 600p |

REPORTED NI SHEEP PRICES

| (P/KG) | W/E 17/08/24 | W/E 24/08/24 | W/E 31/08/24 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| D/W R3 Lambs | 621.7 | 611.1 | 607.4 |
| D/W Lambs | 622.0 | 613.5 | 607.2 |
| L/W Lambs | 548.5 | 555.0 | 534.4 |

REGIONAL SHEEP PRICES (GB / ROI)

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| GB D/W Lambs | 664.8 | 665.5 | 663.5 |
| ROI D/W Lambs | 615.5 | 610.6 | 604.2 |

Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 lambs are expected to be in the region of 590-600p/kg early next week. Last week, a total of 9,035 lambs were slaughtered in local plants, bringing the total kill for August to 48,909 head, almost six per cent behind the lamb slaughter levels recorded during the corresponding month of 2023. The average deadweight of lambs slaughtered locally for the month of August came to an average of 21.2kg.

In NI last week, the average deadweight lamb trade decreased by 6.3p/kg, meanwhile the average price paid for an R3 grade lambs was back 3.7p/kg to an average paid price of 607.4p/kg. The deadweight sheep trade reported further declines of 2p/kg in GB to an average paid price of 663.5p/kg and in ROI, lambs were also back 6.4p/kg to an average paid price of 604.2p/kg last week.

The liveweight lamb trade in NI also reported a major decline of 20.6p/kg to an average paid price of 534.4p/kg last week. Despite this drop, the NI liveweight lamb trade remains well ahead of the 467.2p/kg recorded during the same week last year,

LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

| From: 31/08/24 | | Lambs | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| To: 05/09/24 | | No | From | To | Avg |
| Saturday | Omagh | 644 | 533 | 616 | - |
| | Swatragh | 1460 | 540 | 590 | - |
| Monday | Kilrea | 1100 | 546 | 586 | - |
| | Markethill | 1670 | 520 | 571 | - |
| Tuesday | Saintfield | 890 | 525 | 590 | - |
| | Rathfriland | 1070 | 522 | 617 | 533 |
| Wednesday | Ballymena | 1905 | 500 | 557 | 530 |
| | Enniskillen | 1022 | 528 | 583 | - |
| | Armoy | 523 | 515 | 553 | - |

LOVE LAMB WEEK

Love Lamb Week 2024, which is just concluding, represents another success for the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) in communicating the myriad of benefits associated with the inclusion of sheep meat in a healthy diet.

It is a campaign that works on numerous levels, delivering key nutritional and lifestyle messages to consumers of all ages across Northern Ireland. The coming weeks will allow for independent analysis of the impact made by all of the activities that characterise Love Lamb Week. And, no doubt, these will be very positive. But the true significance of the campaign must also be considered in the context of all the work undertaken by LMC to promote the nutritional, environmental and versatility values that are so associated with lamb.

A new academic year has just kicked off. Over the coming months hundreds of schools – primary and secondary – will host LMC cookery demonstrations. Each of these events will provide an opportunity for our ‘consumers of tomorrow’ to hear about farm quality assured lamb and taste a number of related dishes that have been prepared for them.

LMC Head of Marketing & Communications Lauren Patterson

commented, “In a significant number of cases, our cookery demonstrations will be the first opportunity for school children to taste lamb. This year we are aiming to reach 15,000 pupils across Northern Ireland, which would be a record-breaking number for the programme. We also feature the benefits of lamb prominently in our annual Meat4Schools competition, which is supported by ABP.” Lauren continued, “All of our promotional campaigns are structured to allow a detailed analysis of the impact they generate. This aspect of our work is critically important as it clearly quantifies the impact of the levy monies paid by both beef and sheep farmers across Northern Ireland.”

Love Lamb Week is a multi-faceted marketing campaign with an equal focus placed on traditional media outlets and social media activity. By taking this approach LMC is able to generate a narrative which addresses all aspects of farm quality assured lamb production and the meat’s total versatility as a high quality food that everyone can enjoy.

At a very fundamental level, the campaign has succeeded in getting people to talk about lamb: its taste, how it can be cooked, unveiling new recipes while, at the same time, stressing the fun associated with both preparing and eating lamb dishes. It just

takes two people to start up a conversation, which allows others to join in.

Love Lamb Week 2024 sees local chef, James Devine, and the Belfast Food Blogger, a.k.a. Conor Hogan, undertaking these roles with absolute aplomb. And, yes, they have a lot to say about Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Lamb. But, in reality, they are acting as catalysts, giving everyone else an opportunity to join in a vibrant discussion. And this is the real driver behind Love Lamb Week 2024.



UK FARM QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

The ongoing review of the various UK farm quality assurance measures will provide LMC with a clear opportunity to confirm the critically important role played by Northern Ireland’s Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBLFQAS) at the very heart of the local livestock sectors.

The Commission’s Head of Quality Assurance, Gillian Davis commented, “The current quality assurance measures provide our red meat supply chain with full equivalence when it comes to the recognition and acceptance by retailers and caterers throughout the UK of beef and lamb that is produced here in Northern Ireland, but with the autonomy to reflect the production systems that uniquely characterise Northern Ireland’s beef and sheep sectors. And we want to build on all of this for the future.”

She added, “This means adding to what we have in the most versatile ways, meeting the needs of our stakeholders. Livestock production systems in Northern Ireland are different to those practised in many other parts of the UK. Our farms are smaller with grass-based systems predominating but these are our fundamental strengths, and they must continue to be recognised within the farm assurance schemes that operate throughout the UK.”

The independent farm assurance review has been jointly commissioned by the National Farmers’ Union (NFU), NFU Scotland, NFU Cymru, Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) and AHDB. The programme of work is focused on repurposing assurance in a post-Brexit world. The review will examine how farm assurance can deliver value back to scheme members. It will also assess the setting of standards which are required to meet the evolving needs

of farmers and processor members and the markets they serve. Priority will also be given to the ways in which assurance scheme members are engaged and the roles for new technologies in a farm quality assurance context. The interfacing of assurance schemes with regulations and government schemes will also be considered. The group established to oversee the review of the farm quality assurance schemes has appointed four commissioners who will be responsible for setting the terms of reference and a timeline to ensure the process provides clear outcomes for the farming and food sectors.

They recently visited Northern Ireland, where they met with representatives of LMC. Gillian Davis again, “The potential to further develop NIBLFQAS is significant. The further adoption of new technologies is a case in point. Delivering optimal value for money to all quality assurance scheme members at all times remains the number one objective. And this must be achieved while always recognising the basic principles upon which the current measures are based.”



In Northern Ireland, NIBLFQAS is unique in our ability to move initiatives forward quickly in response to industry requests. As FQAS is funded by producers and processors in a joint funding model we can respond collaboratively on initiatives, which we have done successfully over the years at industry request e.g. Food Fortress, FQ status removal where BVD positive status of a herd has not been resolved.

The FQAS Industry Board and Standard Setting Committee both constitute a wide range of industry representation of producers and processors and have full say in the strategic direction of all matters FQAS related. LMC will continue to foster these relationships in the future.

Gillian added, “Earned recognition with organisations such as the Food Standards Agency (FSA), can really benefit scheme members. This is where, in this particular example, membership of NIBLFQAS results in less frequent inspections from DAERA (on behalf of FSA) to assess compliance with food and feed hygiene regulations.”

Looking ahead, there is every prospect of the current farm quality assurance scheme being used to help deliver data collection efficiencies for the carbon footprinting project and local agriculture’s direct response to the targets contained within Northern Ireland climate change legislation. And, again, the principle of earned recognition is at the very heart of this process. NIBLFQAS provides a conduit, not just encompassing the beef and lamb sectors but one which delivers a point of contact with large numbers of primary producers operating across the entire spectrum of production agriculture in Northern Ireland.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS’ WEEK

Know your Numbers’ Week 2024 is encouraging farmers to consciously take time out of their busy work commitments for a very important reason: to have their blood pressure checked while also securing advice on how to improve their lifestyles. LMC is fully supporting what is a vitally important initiative.

This year’s campaign officially ends on September 8th. But this is a notional date and in fact, having one’s blood pressure checked on a regular basis should be a priority for us all. The reality is that farmers spend a lot of time looking after the health and welfare of their animals while, in many cases, overlooking the absolute importance of making their health and welfare a priority. Blood pressure can be quickly measured by GPs, health nurses, pharmacists and many other health professionals. In addition, the

Farm Families’ Health Check van visits livestock marts in Northern Ireland on a regular basis. Alternatively, the purchase of a blood pressure testing kit can allow farmers and members of their family to check this all-important health parameter in the privacy of their own homes on a more than regular basis.

High blood pressure is not associated with physical symptoms. Yet it directly contributes to 50% of the heart attacks and strokes recorded in the UK. High blood cholesterol is another factor directly associated with heart disease and stroke. And, just like high blood pressure, there are no physical symptoms associated with the condition. The good news is that cholesterol levels can be very quickly and accurately assessed. All that’s required is a donor blood sample.

LMC’s chief executive, Colin Smith, relates his own experience of receiving the results of a blood cholesterol test after a visit to the Farm Families Health Check van at an event in AFBI. “I was pretty shocked to learn that the figure had come in higher than expected and higher than my GP would like. There is a history of heart disease in my family however, the result of the test has allowed me to make dietary changes which should act to reduce my blood cholesterol levels over time. Had I not undertaken the test, I would have remained in total ignorance of what could be a very serious threat to my own health.”

For more information on the Farm Health Check van and a schedule of visits email: farm.families6@northerntrust.hscni.net



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