LMC BULLETIN
WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
Saturday 07 November 2015
Issue No. 2393

UK BEEF IMPORTS INCREASE IN 2015

BEEF imports into the UK during the first eight months of 2015 totalled 176 thousand tonnes, a twelve per cent increase from the 158 thousand tonnes imported during the corresponding period in 2014 according to the latest available data from HMRC.

Imports from EU countries

Imports from the EU during the 2015 period totalled 159,153 tonnes and accounted for 90 per cent of all UK beef imports. This was a thirteen per cent increase in imports from the EU in the corresponding period in 2014 when 140,395 thousand tonnes of beef were imported.

The largest majority of EU origin beef imported into the UK is from ROI as illustrated in Figure 2. During the first eight months of 2015 120,188 tonnes of beef were imported into the UK from ROI, an eight per cent increase on the corresponding period in 2014 when 110,939 tonnes of beef were imported. During the first eight months of 2015 76 per cent of EU beef imports to the UK originated in ROI.

Between January and August 2015 13,183 tonnes of beef were imported into the UK from the Netherlands making it the second biggest source of EU beef imports to the UK. This was a 28 per cent increase on the 10,340 thousand tonnes of beef imported during the same period in 2014. During 2015 imports from the Netherlands accounted for eight per cent of UK beef imports from the EU.

UK imports of beef from Poland during the 2015 period totalled 8,866 tonnes of beef and accounted for six per cent of total UK beef imports from the EU. In the corresponding period in 2014 UK beef imports from Poland totalled 4,778 tonnes which accounts for an 86 per cent increase year on year.

UK beef imports from Germany during January-August 2015 totalled seven thousand tonnes and this accounted for four per cent of total UK beef imports from the EU. This level of import was 30 per cent higher than the corresponding period in 2014 when five thousand tonnes of beef were imported.

A small proportion of UK beef imports originated from Spain, Italy, France, Belgium and Denmark and cumulatively these accounted for five per cent of UK imports from the EU.

Imports from non-EU countries

UK beef imports from non-EU countries during the first eight months of 2015 totalled 16,963 tonnes and accounted for ten per cent of total beef imports. This was a two per cent decline in imports from the corresponding period in 2014 when 17,247 tonnes of beef were imported by the UK from non-EU countries.

The largest non-EU source of beef to the UK during the first eight months of 2015 was Australia with 4,240 tonnes imported. This was a 13 per cent decline from the same period in 2014 when 4,880 tonnes of Australian beef was imported by the UK.

A marked increase was recorded in the volume of beef imported by the UK from Botswana, although the volumes involved remain relatively small. In the 2015 period 3,374 tonnes of beef from Botswana was imported by the UK, a 101 per cent increase from the 1,677 tonnes imported in during the corresponding period in 2014.

During the first eight months of 2015 the UK imported 2,520 tonnes of beef from Uruguay, a twenty per cent increase on the 2,098 tonnes imported during the corresponding period in 2014. Meanwhile imports of beef from Brazil during the 2015 period totalled 2,067 tonnes, an eight per cent decline from the 2,236 tonnes imported during the same period in 2014.

Chilled/Frozen

Imports of fresh/chilled beef to the UK during January-August 2015 totalled 133,117 tonnes and accounted for 76 per cent of total beef imports. This was a 17 per cent increase on the 114,238 tonnes of fresh/chilled beef imported during the same period in 2014.

Meanwhile imports of frozen beef to the UK during January-August 2015 totalled 43,000 tonnes and accounted for 24 per cent of total beef imports during this period.

Figure 1: UK beef imports during January to August 2015 by EU and non EU

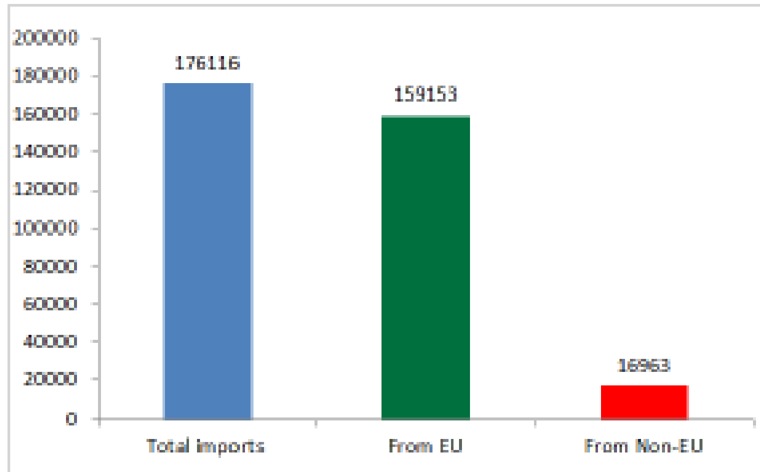
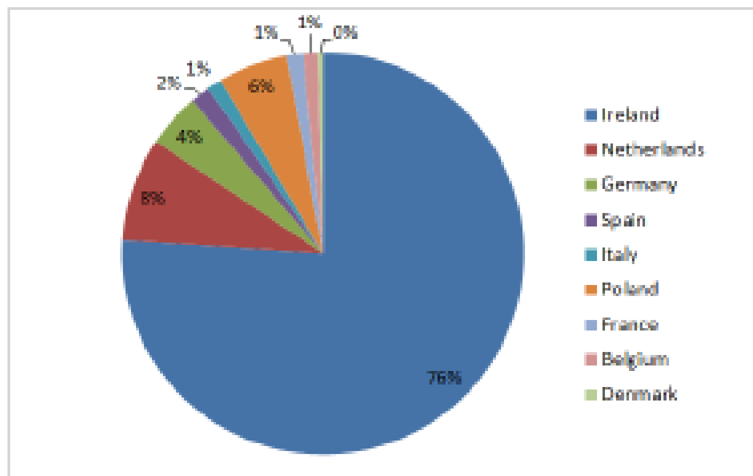


Figure 2: UK beef imports from the EU during January-August 2015 broken down by country or origin



TRANSFER OF HERD NUMBER AND FQAS STATUS

IN recent weeks the FQAS helpline has received several queries in relation to maintaining the FQAS status of cattle when there is a change to the herd number. FQAS members should take note of the following important points about the FQAS status of cattle on their farms when transferring herds

- Traditionally when a farmer died or passed the farm to a successor his/her herd number was also transferred over.
- However changes to legislation a number of years ago has meant that **this is no longer possible** and as a result the new herd keeper must be registered and thereby obtain their own herd number
- All cattle must then be transferred from the old herd number to the newly registered herd. However it should be noted that the **Farm Quality Assured status does not transfer with the cattle unless the new herd has been registered with the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme.**
- This can have financial implications for the producer when presenting cattle for sale at the markets or at the abbattoir. This has become even more important in recent times with the increase in penalties for non-assured cattle at point of slaughter.
- To avoid such problems it is **important that the producer informs the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme in writing of any changes to the herd number** on a Farm Quality Assured farm.
- This should be done **before** any cattle are moved to the new herd number **to ensure that the Farm Quality Assured status of animals in the herd is retained.**

If you have any further queries in relation to this please contact the FQAS helpline on 028 9263 3024 or NIFCC on 028 9263 3017.

Any changes you wish to make to herd numbers on FQAS farms should be forwarded to NIFCC in writing to the address below to ensure FQ status is not lost

By Post
Northern Ireland Food Chain Certification
Lissue House
31 Ballinderry Road
Lisburn
BT28 2SL

By Email: info@nifcc.com

FQAS ONLINE PAYMENTS

LMC would like to remind Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme members that they can now use the online payment system to pay annual renewal fees at www.lmcni.com. This service can also be used to pay initial registration fees but producers should note that completed application forms need to be forwarded via post.

Previously all FQAS members had to pay their annual renewal/initial registration by cheque however members can now pay online with a valid credit/debit card. Paying your membership fee online is quick and easy and facilitates a more streamline payment service. The online payment system is available 24 hours a day and is completely secure through the LMC website. It should be noted that cheques are still accepted as a valid means of payment.

In order to pay using credit/debit card, FQAS members must pay through the website and it is important to remember that card details cannot be taken over the phone for security reasons. At this time we are unable to process Maestro debit cards but can facilitate the majority of major debit/credit cards.

If you have any queries regarding online payments please contact the FQAS team in LMC on 028 9263 3024.

FARM QUALITY ASSURED
NORTHERN IRELAND

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 02/11/15	Next Week 09/11/15
Prime		
U-3	318 - 320p	318-320p
R-3	312 - 314p	312-314p
O+3	306 - 308p	306-308p
P+3	264 - 290p	264-290p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	234 - 245p	234-245p
Steakers	140 - 170p	140 - 170p
Blues	120 - 130p	120 - 130p

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 COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 31/10/15	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	134.3	145.8	156.5	173.6
P2	147.5	171.0	191.6	208.9
P3	172.3	193.2	213.0	221.7
O3	-	211.7	225.4	238.0
O4	200.0	190.5	229.0	242.1
R3	-	-	-	260.0

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major processors this week for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ranged from 318-320p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows have remained fairly steady at 234-245p/kg with a similar trade expected for Monday.

The processors have reported steady supplies of prime cattle to meet demand for beef with 6,563 prime cattle slaughtered in NI last week. This is five per cent lower than the 6,940 prime cattle slaughtered in the corresponding week in 2014. Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week totalled 644 head and accounted for ten per cent of the NI prime cattle kill. In the corresponding week last year prime cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter totalled 519 head and accounted for seven per cent of the total prime kill in NI. A total of 307 prime cattle were exported from NI to GB last week for direct slaughter. This is the highest weekly number of prime cattle exported to GB for slaughter in 2015.

Cow throughput in the NI plants has remained strong with 2,390 cows killed in NI last week compared to 2,157 in the same week last year. A total of 312 cows were also exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week, a decrease from the 358 cows exported during the previous week.

The average steer price in NI last week was similar to the previous week at 310.6p/kg while the R3 steer price decreased by 1.1p/kg to 321.4p/kg. Meanwhile in GB the average steer price was back by 0.8p/kg to 344.4p/kg with the R3 steer price up by 0.8p/kg to 351.4p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 steer prices between NI and GB at 30p/kg or £105 on a 350kg carcase. R3 steer prices increased by 1.1p/kg in Southern England and 1.9p/kg in Northern England and Scotland. The Midlands and Wales R3 steer price was back 1.2p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was 317.6p/kg, up 1.5p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price was also up by 1.4p/kg to 324.1p/kg. Meanwhile in GB the average heifer price was up by 0.8p/kg to 346p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up marginally by 0.4p/kg to 353.2p/kg.

The average young bull price in NI last week was down by 2.8p/kg to 299.6p/kg with the O3 steer price down marginally by 0.6p/kg to 308.2p/kg.

Reports from ROI have indicated a slight tightening in the supplies of prime cattle with throughput last week totalling 23,353 head, a two per cent decrease from the 23,779 prime cattle killed in ROI plants during the previous week. Deadweight prices for the majority of R and U grade prime cattle in ROI increased in euro terms last week however a decrease in the value of the euro against sterling meant a decrease of 2-4p/kg in sterling terms for most grades. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 275.8p/kg while the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 285.8p/kg.

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

W/E 31/10/2015		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	322.2	284.4	369.3	355.2	355.8	355.9	359.6
	R3	321.4	275.8	365.0	350.3	343.1	344.8	351.4
	R4	318.9	274.8	367.6	355.7	345.0	342.6	355.3
	O3	308.2	261.2	342.5	331.5	317.0	320.7	327.7
	AVG	310.6	-	362.2	347.6	331.2	331.2	344.4
Heifers	U3	330.4	295.4	374.8	362.7	359.5	354.2	364.8
	R3	324.1	285.8	366.8	351.2	346.3	344.8	353.2
	R4	318.9	284.8	366.6	352.9	346.3	342.9	354.3
	O3	312.0	274.6	342.6	326.0	308.4	321.0	326.5
	AVG	317.6	-	363.9	345.7	333.5	330.2	346.0
Young Bulls	U3	315.8	282.4	364.6	337.8	348.9	330.1	346.6
	R3	311.0	275.9	354.7	326.9	330.7	336.2	332.8
	O3	294.0	263.5	317.5	294.6	310.2	315.6	308.3
	AVG	299.6	-	334.3	314.3	320.6	308.9	318.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5406	-	6765	6519	5963	4692	23939
Cows	O3	236.1	238.2	239.7	228.7	229.0	217.0	230.2
	O4	240.4	239.9	245.6	231.5	233.9	221.0	234.6
	P2	197.3	216.7	188.9	196.1	182.5	175.9	186.1
	P3	218.3	232.1	199.5	209.7	196.6	192.4	200.9
	AVG	212.8	-	229.1	206.2	191.5	185.9	205.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=71.99p 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

	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
W/E 31/10/15	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	190	208	198	165	189	177
Friesians	130	148	137	108	128	117
Heifers	184	208	194	160	183	172
Beef Cows	127	170	134	100	126	113
Dairy Cows	100	116	106	60	99	80
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	200	230	209	170	199	185
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	221	197	160	189	185
Bullocks over 500kg	194	211	202	160	193	178
Heifers up to 450kg	200	221	207	170	199	185
Heifers over 450kg	190	208	197	160	189	175
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	430	350	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	250	380	300	150	248	200
Friesian Bulls	100	200	150	40	98	70
Holstein Bulls	70	170	110	10	68	45

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 02/11/15	Next Week 09/11/15
Lambs	310-315>21kg	310-315>21kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 17/10/15	W/E 24/10/15	W/E 31/10/15
NI Lambs L/W	279.0	281.9	279.5
NI Lambs D/W	307.4	309.9	307.7
GB Lambs D/W	338.9	333.4	333.2
ROI D/W	318.4	317.9	309.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

THE deadweight sheep trade has firmed with quotes of 310-315p/kg up to 21kg towards the end of this week. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. The major NI processors have reported a steady supply of lambs coming forward for slaughter with throughput last week totalling 12,083 head. A further 7,570 lambs were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week decreased by 2.2p/kg to 307.7p/kg while the deadweight price in ROI was back by 8.7p/kg to 309.2p/kg.

This week's marts

A steadier trade was reported across the marts this week. Fewer numbers of lambs passed through the sale rings with all marts reporting a decrease in numbers compared with the previous week. In Omagh last Saturday there was a slight improvement in trade to the previous week with 950 lambs selling from 279-372p/kg. In Massereene on Monday 864 lambs sold from 265-304p/kg compared to 965 lambs last Monday selling from 265-292p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 570 lambs sold from 250-315p/kg compared to 744 lambs last week selling from 260-316p/kg. There were 1,525 lambs in Ballymena on Wednesday sold to an average of 276p/kg compared to 1,604 lambs last Wednesday selling to an average of 268p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £67- 88 with a top reported price of £91 in Omagh last Saturday.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 30/10/15		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 05/11/15		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	546	268	298	-
Saturday	Omagh	950	279	372	-
	Swatragh	845	249	330	-
Monday	Massereene	864	265	304	-
	Kilrea	360	273	292	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	570	250	315	-
	Rathfriland	780	258	318	284
Wednesday	Ballymena	1525	260	316	276
	Enniskillen	428	272	308	278
Thursday	Markethill	920	280	320	286
	Armoy	364	270	300	277

Contact us:
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