LMC BULLETIN

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 28 November 2015 Issue No. 2396

LMC ACTIVE IN FACILITATING THE GOING FOR GROWTH STRATEGIC PLAN

IN May 2013, the Agri-Food Strategy Board published its Strategic Plan for the Agri-Food Sector - Going for Growth. The AFSB's Vision is to grow a sustainable, profitable and integrated Agri-Food supply chain focused on the needs of the market. According to the Going for Growth Report the annual turnover of the NI beef and sheep meat industries totalled £968 million in 2010. This makes it the largest sector of the NI agri-food industry in terms of turnover.

The quality of livestock in Northern Ireland, the environment in which it is produced and robust traceability systems underpins the strong and growing reputation of the NI Red Meat Industry. The Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS), which is owned by LMC on behalf of industry, reinforces this reputation and supports market access to premium markets in the UK and the EU.

The Going for Growth report made several key recommendations to the NI beef and sheep meat industries to help increase opportunities and profitability of red meat production in NI. LMC has been playing an active role in the implementation of recommendations outlined in the report through its participation in the AFSB Red Meat sub group and the Livestock Genetics sub group.

Through the Livestock Genetics sub group LMC, along with other stakeholders, has been actively involved in funding and driving the Agri Food Strategy Board's research into genetic improvement of the NI livestock sector. Working with geneticists AbacusBio the genetics sub group have reviewed options for the delivery of genetic evaluation across livestock sectors and considered opportunities for maximising economic gain through improved genetics.

A key finding of the research was that whilst there was much value in existing genetic evaluation activities in Northern Ireland, efforts to date have been fragmented and outcomes under-utilised. The group identified that there were opportunities to improve on current production systems, particularly if data-collection was managed on a more integrated basis via a single Northern Ireland hub which could provide industry with comprehensive physical and financial performance evaluation reports.

The Livestock Genetics sub group identified key opportunities for the NI beef and sheep meat industries which should help improve the viability and productivity of the NI red meat sector moving forward. These included improved farm management decision-making, better management of animal health and disease, and increased economic gain via genetic improvement.

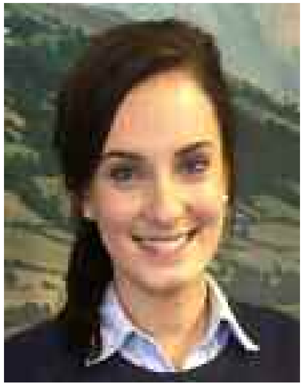
Image 1: LMC's new Chairman Gerard Mc Givern and Chief Executive Ian Stevenson with stakeholders (Sam Chesney, Elliott Bell and Crosby Cleland) at the pedigree calf fair and beef expo in Belfast last weekend

NEW APPOINTMENT AT LMC

LMC have recently appointed Avril White as Agricultural Market Liaison Executive. Avril is originally from Scotland and since graduating from the University of Glasgow has worked in several key roles in the agricultural sector. Her most recent role was with the Rural Payments and Inspections Division of the Scottish Government.

In her new role Avril will be working in LMC's Market Information Department. LMC's Market Information Services are designed to support, examine and inform the NI red meat industry and the Market Information Department is primarily responsible for providing impartial and objective market information services both to external and internal stakeholders.

The service aspires to support producers and processors with their decision making by making available accurate and timely information that creates a better understanding of the trade.



Avril White: Agricultural Market Liaison Executive

WHY JOIN A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP?

KNOWLEDGE transfer through Business Development Groups (BDG) is a new scheme which will be funded through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

The Business Development Group scheme allows farmers to join a discussion group where they will meet with other like-minded farmers to undertake a series of meetings over the next 3 years. Each BDG will comprise of 15 – 20 like-minded farmers who will meet up to 8 times a year to focus on the topics agreed by the group. The scheme aims to have 3,000 farmers participating in Busiiness Development groups by 2020.

There are several benefits to producers from becoming a member of a Business Development Group. Participation will provide producers with a clear development plan for their business, help improve profitability and allow them to keep up to date with the latest technologies available. Membership will also provide participants with access to a CAFRE Development Adviser, the option to gain a qualification and the opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals.

All group meetings will be facilitated by a CAFRE Development Adviser, and farmers will learn from visiting other farms, benchmarking, learning new skills and planning the development of their own farm.

If you would like to hear more about the Business Development Group scheme, please attend one of the information evenings for farmers and growers outlined below in Table 1.

The programme for the evenings will include an explanation of how the groups will work, outline of the benefits of being a member, including any payments and an outline of the application process and evidence required to support an application.

How to apply?

Applications open on Monday 9th November 2015 until 4pm on Monday 14 December 2015 For further information about Business Development Groups please visit the CAFRE website at **www.cafre.ac.uk** or email CAFRE at **developmentservice.admin@dardni.gov.uk**

Day	Date	Start Time	Venue
Mon	30-Nov	8.00 pm	Newry - Mourne Country Hotel
Tue	1-Dec	8.00 pm	Loughry Campus, Cookstown
Tue	1-Dec	8.00 pm	Ballymoney - Rugby Club
Tue	1-Dec	8.00 pm	Enniskillen Campus, Enniskillen
Wed	2-Dec	8.00 pm	Greenmount Campus, Antrim
Wed	2-Dec	8.00 pm	Strabane - Fir Trees
Thu	3-Dec	8.00 pm	Ballynahinch - Millbrook Lodge Hotel
Mon	7-Dec	8.00 pm	Limavady - Radisson Roe Valley

FQAS NOTICE ONLINE PAYMENTS

LMC has launched an online payment system for the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme. This allows producers to pay annual membership renewal and initial registration fees through the LMC website.

www.lmcni.com

LMC

FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:
028 9263 3024

Answerphone Service
Factory Quotes & Mart Results
Updated 5pm Daily

Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service
Free Price Quotes sent to your mobile phone weekly

Email - bulletin@lmcni.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 23/11/15	Next Week 30/11/15
Prime		
U-3	316 - 320p	316 - 320p
R-3	310 - 314p	310 - 314p
O+3	304 - 308p	304 - 308p
P+3	264 - 290p	264 - 290p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	220 - 240p	220 - 240p
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 NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 21/11/15	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	321.3	327.0	313.9
R3	319.2	320.5	314.2
O+3	308.9	312.8	305.1

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 21/11/15	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	136.0	144.9	150.1	171.5
P2	147.0	170.4	187.5	208.3
P3	165.7	195.2	209.8	220.2
O3	174.2	199.0	228.1	238.5
O4	-	-	223.0	237.5
R3	-	-	248.5	256.5

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processors this week remained steady at 316-320p/kg for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle with similar quotes expected for Monday. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week ranged from 220-240p/kg across the plants with similar quotes expected for early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week was similar to previous weeks with 6,777 head slaughtered. In the corresponding week in 2014 prime cattle throughput totalled 7,146, accounting for a five per cent reduction year on year. Cow throughput in NI has remained strong with 2,350 cows killed in NI last week taking throughput for the last six weeks to 13,665 head. This is an eleven per cent increase on the 12,268 cows killed in NI plants during the same period in 2014.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants totalled 433 head last week, a notable reduction from the 578 head imported the previous week and also lower than the 558 prime cattle imported during the corresponding week in 2014. The number of cows imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants totalled 67 head compared to 134 cows the previous week. Meanwhile 322 cows were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants, an increase from 259 cows the previous week. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in GB last week consisted of 243 prime cattle and 47 cows, similar to the previous week when 289 prime cattle and 52 cows were exported.

The average steer price in NI last week was up by 0.6p/kg to 313.5p/kg while the R3 steer price remained steady at 322.4p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by half a penny to 316.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 1p/kg to 322.6p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2014 the R3 heifer price in NI was 349.8p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week recorded a notable decline of 5.7p/kg to 209.0p/kg however the O3 cow price remained steady at 236.1p/kg.

Deadweight cattle trade in GB has remained fairly steady with an average steer price of 346.1p/kg and an R3 steer price at 352.6p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and the GB average remained similar to the previous week at 30.2p/kg which is the equivalent of £100 on a 330kg carcase. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 0.8p/kg to 346.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up by 1.1p/kg to 353.4p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and the GB average at 30.8p/kg which is the equivalent of £102 on a 330kg carcase.

The deadweight cattle trade in ROI has held relatively steady in euro terms but a weakening in euro against sterling has meant deadweight prices were back in sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 267.5p/kg, back by 3.3p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 279p/kg, back by 3.0p/kg. Cow prices in ROI recorded declines last week with the O3 cow price back by 7.3p/kg to 220.3 which is 15.8p/kg lower than the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 21/11/2015		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	322.1	275.1	374.2	357.5	354.6	355.4	361.3
	R3	322.4	267.5	368.5	349.3	343.5	345.6	352.6
	R4	320.4	266.8	369.7	360.2	344.9	345.3	358.1
	O3	309.7	254.8	347.6	327.6	316.8	320.9	329.0
	AVG	313.5	-	365.7	348.0	331.9	330.6	346.1
Heifers	U3	328.0	287.5	379.7	360.7	354.1	356.9	364.4
	R3	322.6	279.0	369.4	349.3	344.5	345.5	353.4
	R4	321.5	278.3	369.0	353.4	344.4	343.3	354.6
	O3	314.5	268.4	345.9	321.8	318.5	315.9	327.0
	AVG	316.4	-	366.6	346.7	328.8	329.2	346.2
Young Bulls	U3	313.1	270.8	365.3	344.7	341.8	349.9	346.6
	R3	314.7	265.6	363.7	324.8	333.8	339.8	335.7
	O3	303.0	255.2	315.8	292.7	303.7	325.2	308.3
	AVG	302.7	-	341.1	316.0	316.4	320.9	320.2
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5818	-	6972	7301	5720	4693	24686
Cows	O3	236.1	220.3	236.9	224.8	229.8	217.6	228.6
	O4	236.9	222.4	242.8	225.5	228.2	216.3	229.7
	P2	192.3	194.4	182.3	195.5	181.2	170.5	182.7
	P3	215.5	212.9	194.5	201.6	198.1	189.7	196.6
	AVG	209.0	-	222.6	201.5	192.0	184.4	201.9

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=70.18p 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 21/11/15	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	180	194	187	159	175	168
Friesians	130	150	138	120	130	124
Heifers	180	190	184	160	179	170
Beef Cows	122	160	137	100	120	110
Dairy Cows	95	114	103	60	94	80
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	216	226	222	140	184	165
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	198	215	205	150	196	175
Bullocks over 500kg	186	203	192	145	185	170
Heifers up to 450kg	182	198	189	142	181	165
Heifers over 450kg	176	191	182	140	175	160
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	420	350	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	245	340	285	120	242	180
Friesian Bulls	150	230	185	60	148	100
Holstein Bulls	50	100	75	1	48	25

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/11/15	Next Week 30/11/15
Lambs	320-325p > 22kg	325-330p > 22kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 07/11/15	W/E 14/11/15	W/E 21/11/15
NI Lambs L/W	284.3	289.8	299.6
NI Lambs D/W	308.1	312.2	321.3
GB Lambs D/W	333.4	342.8	351.1
ROI D/W	308.3	310.6	313.9

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the NI plants this week for R3 grade lambs strengthened to 325-330p/kg with plants paying up to up to 22kg. The plants have reported a tightening in lamb availability with lamb throughput last week totalling 10,096 head, a six per cent reduction from the 10,742 lambs killed in NI during the previous week. Exports of lambs from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 8,963 head compared to 6,833 lambs the previous week. This is the highest weekly export of lambs to ROI since mid-October. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week increased by 9.1p/kg to 321.3p/kg while in ROI the deadweight lamb price increased by the equivalent of 3.3p/kg to 313.9p/kg.

This week's marts

A relatively steady trade was reported across the marts this week with good numbers passing through many of the sale rings. In Massereene on Monday 864 lambs sold from 295-315p/kg compared to 1,103 lambs last Monday selling 290-316p/kg. In Saintfield this week 904 lambs sold from 275-342 compared to 555 lambs last week selling from 282-340p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 1,135 lambs sold to an average of 296p/kg compared to 1,036 lambs last week sold to an average of 300p/kg. In Ballymena this week a good entry of 1,999 lambs sold from 268-318p/kg compared to 1,848 lambs last week selling from 270-314p/kg. In Armoy an entry of 324 fat lambs sold from 285-324p/kg compared to 290 fat lambs last week selling from 290-325p/kg.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 20/11/15		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 26/11/15		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	447	270	308	-
Saturday	Omagh	1658	297	353	-
Monday	Massereene	864	295	315	-
	Kilrea	490	290	331	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	904	275	342	-
	Rathfriland	1135	275	375	296
Wednesday	Ballymena	1999	268	318	286
	Enniskillen	602	285	321	298
	Markethill	1600	280	314	287
	Armoy	324	285	324	296

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