

SHEEP MEAT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS UPDATE

THE latest HMRC data has indicated that imports of sheep meat into the UK totalled 7,357 tonnes during December 2016 bringing the total for 2016 to 89,470 tonnes. This is a four per cent reduction from 2015 when a total of 92,825 tonnes were imported.

Imports of sheep meat from the EU during 2016 totalled 9,387 tonnes, accounting for 10 per cent of total sheep meat imports. Imports of sheep meat from the EU recorded a four per cent increase from year earlier levels during 2016 with a rise in the volumes of sheep meat imported from Ireland and Spain. Meanwhile the volume of sheep meat imported from France decreased by 40 per cent to total 625 tonnes during 2016.

Sheep meat imports from non EU sources last year totalled 80,083 tonnes, a four percent reduction from the 83,795 tonnes imported during 2015 and a one per cent reduction from 2014 levels. Imports of sheep meat from non EU sources accounted for 90 per cent of total sheep meat imports during 2016.

Imports from New Zealand totalled 66,925 tonnes during 2016, a three per cent decrease from 2015 when 68,752 tonnes were imported. Sheep meat imports from New Zealand accounted for 84 per cent of total non EU imports. This is an increase from year earlier

levels when New Zealand sheep meat imports to the UK accounted for 82 per cent of total non EU imports.

With the volume of sheep meat imports from New Zealand decreasing during 2016 the volume imported from Australia also recorded a decline. Last year 11,387 tonnes of sheep meat were imported into the UK from Australia, an 18 per cent decrease from the 13,889 tonnes imported during 2015. A decline in the volume of sheep meat imports was similarly recorded in Argentina during 2016 although the volumes involved are very small. A total of 24 tonnes of sheep meat were imported from Argentina last year compared to 34 tonnes during 2015.

While the volume of sheep meat imports from New Zealand, Australia and Argentina decreased during 2016 there was an increase in the volume of sheep meat imported from Uruguay last year although the volumes involved also remain small. A total of 160 tonnes of sheep meat were imported from Uruguay during 2016 compared to 72 tonnes during 2015.

The most notable change in sheep meat imports during 2016 was the type of products being imported. During 2016 the volume of bone-in cuts imported by the UK totalled 52,469 tonnes and accounted for 59 per cent of total sheep meat imports. In 2015 the volume of bone-in cuts imported totalled 60,955

tonnes and accounted for 66 per cent of total sheep meat imports into the UK. This decrease accounts for a 14 per cent decline in bone-in cuts year on year.

Meanwhile the volume of boneless cuts being imported has recorded an increase year on year. During 2016 the volume of boneless cuts imported totalled 34,586 tonnes, a 17 per cent increase from 2015 levels when 29,518 tonnes of boneless cuts were imported.

Exports

While the volume of lamb imported by the UK has declined during 2016 the volume of sheep meat exported from the UK has also declined slightly. UK sheep meat exports totalled 78,596 tonnes during 2016, a one per cent decline from 2015 when 79,372 tonnes were exported.

Exports to the EU totalled 75,342 tonnes and accounted for 96 per cent of UK sheep meat exports during 2016. This was almost unchanged from 2015 levels when exports to the EU from the UK totalled 75,338 tonnes.

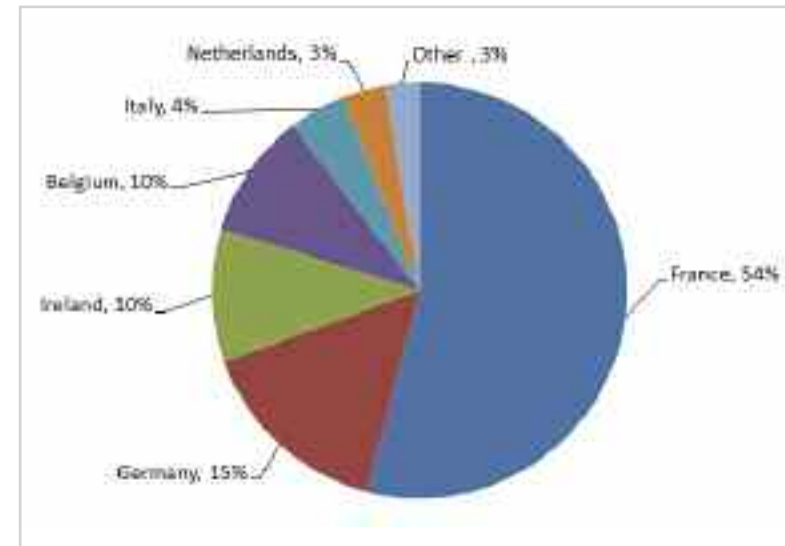
France remains the biggest export market for UK origin sheep meat with 40,599 tonnes exported during 2016. This accounted for 54 per cent of UK origin sheep meat exported to the EU. There was however a 5 per cent reduction from the volume exported to France during 2015.

The volume of sheep meat exported from the UK to Italy also recorded a decline year on year but the volumes involved remain relatively small with 3,291 tonnes exported to Italy during 2016. Meanwhile there has been growth in the volume of sheep meat being exported to Germany, ROI Belgium and the Netherlands year on year. During 2016 the UK exported 11,051 tonnes of sheep meat to Germany compared to 9,662 tonnes in 2015 accounting for a 14 per cent increase, while 7,678 tonnes of sheep meat was exported to ROI last year compared to 7,311 tonnes during 2015.

Markets outside the EU for UK sheep meat remain limited with just four per cent of UK sheep meat exports destined for non-EU markets during 2016. This was a slight decline from five per cent in 2015.

UK sheep meat that was exported in carcase form totalled 51,957 tonnes during 2016 and this was almost entirely destined for the EU market. The volume exported in carcase form was back by one per cent from year earlier levels while the volume of UK sheep meat exported in cut form was similarly back by one per cent at a total of 26,639 tonnes during 2016.

Figure 1: Export markets within the EU for UK sheep meat during 2016



DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN NI AND GB REMAINS NARROW

THE average R3 steer price in NI last week remained unchanged from the previous week at 351.7p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2016 the R3 steer price in NI was 314.3p/kg which accounts for an increase of 37.4p/kg. This is the equivalent of an increase in the value of a 350kg R3 grade steer carcass by £131 year on year.

Deadweight prime cattle prices have gradually declined in GB since the start of this year with an average R3 steer price last week of 357.1p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2015 the average R3 steer price in GB was 335.7p/kg which accounts for a 21.4p/kg increase year on year. On a 350kg R3 steer carcass this accounts for a £75 increase year on year.

Following a narrowing of the price differential between NI and GB prices in the last quarter of 2016, due to a notable increase in NI prices, the differential has generally remained steady during 2017 to date as indicated in figure 2. Last week the price differential in R3 steer prices between NI and the GB average R3 steer price was 5.4p/kg or £19 on a 350kg carcass while in the corresponding week last year the differential was 21.4p/kg or £75 on a 350kg carcass.

It should however be noted that there is variation in the prices achieved for R3 steers across the GB regions with deadweight prices in Scotland traditionally higher than other UK regions due to the higher proportion of suckler origin cattle in the slaughter mix, the strong branding of Scotch Beef and a larger proportion of the prime cattle attracting a premium breed bonus at point of slaughter than other UK regions. In Scotland last week the average R3 steer price was 362.1p/kg, a marginal increase from

the previous week. The average R3 beef price in Scotland last week was 10.4p/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI and 5p/kg above the average GB price.

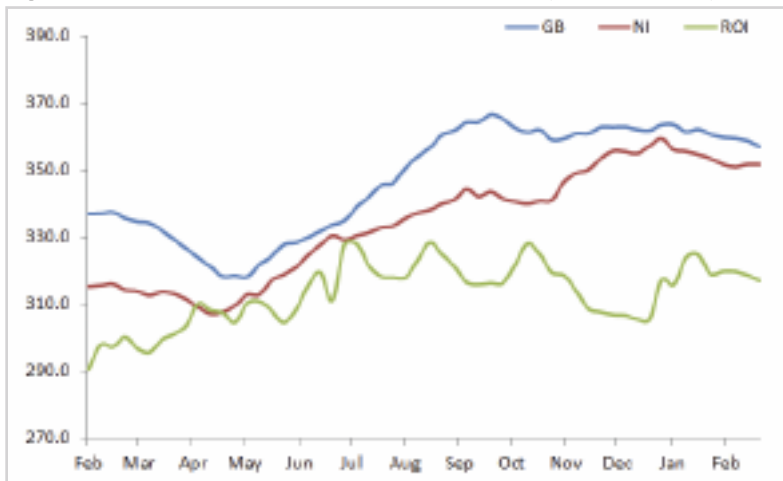
Northern England has a similar prime cattle slaughter mix as NI in terms of the proportion of cattle sourced from suckler and dairy herds and also has a similar proportion of prime cattle that attract premium bonuses at point of slaughter. It is therefore viewed as a good comparison for NI beef prices. In Northern England last week the average R3 steer price was 354.1p/kg, unchanged from the previous week and 20.3p/kg higher than the corresponding week in 2015 when the R3 steer price was 333.8p/kg. This accounts for a £71 increase in the value of a 350kg R3 grade steer in the region year on year. The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and Northern England last week was 2.4p/kg compared to 19.5p/kg in the corresponding week last year.

In the Midlands and Wales last week

the average R3 steer price was 355.5p/kg, back 1.9p/kg from the previous week and 20.8p/kg higher than the corresponding week last year. The differential between NI and the Midlands last week was 3.8p/kg or £13 on a 350kg carcass. Meanwhile in Southern England last week the average R3 steer price was 356.4p/kg, back 4.5p/kg from the previous week. This puts the R3 steer price in the region 4.7p/kg higher than the average R3 steer price in NI.

Meanwhile in ROI last week the average R3 steer price was the equivalent of 317.1p/kg, 34.6p/kg below the R3 steer price in NI and 40p/kg below the average R3 steer price in GB. Notable fluctuations in the sterling/euro exchange rate in recent months has resulted in sharp changes in the differential between ROI and NI prices however overall this has gradually widened as sterling has steadily gained ground against the euro.

Figure 2: R3 steer prices in GB, NI and ROI from February 2016 - February 2017



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



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 27/02/17	Next Week 06/03/17
Prime		
U-3	336 - 346p	336 - 346p
R-3	330 - 340p	330 - 340p
O+3	324 - 334p	324 - 334p
P+3	274 - 294p	274 - 294p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	240 - 254p	240 - 254p
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 25/02/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	352.9	354.0	343.6
R3	347.8	346.3	342.0
O+3	338.3	336.5	335.7

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 25/02/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	162.0	178.5	191.3	208.3
P2	172.5	199.6	223.0	233.1
P3	156.0	216.6	234.7	242.1
O3	204.1	223.3	247.3	259.1
O4	-	228.0	253.5	259.7
R3	-	-	-	274.8

Deadweight Cattle Trade

BASE quotes from the major NI processors this week for in spec U-3 grade steers and heifers ranged from 336-346p/kg. The trade for good quality O+3 grade cows remained steady this week ranging from 240-254p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI plants last week totalled 6,841 head, an increase of 232 head from the previous week. This is four per cent higher than the 6,567 prime cattle slaughtered in the corresponding week in 2016. Meanwhile a total of 1,885 cows were slaughtered in NI plants last week, a decrease of 184 head from the previous week however this is 11 per cent higher than the 1,697 cows killed in NI plants during the same week last year.

Prime cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week totalled 237 head, accounting for three per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. In the corresponding week in 2016 a total of 360 prime cattle were imported from ROI which accounted for five per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. The number of cows imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week totalled 81 head compared to 47 cows in the same week last year. Meanwhile 122 cows were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI last week, lower than the 161 cows exported during the corresponding week in 2016. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in GB last week consisted of 35 prime cattle and only 5 cows compared to 113 prime cattle and 17 cows during the same week last year.

The average steer price in NI last week was back marginally to 341.8p/kg while the R3 steer price was unchanged from the previous week at 351.7p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by 2.3p/kg to 342.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price decreased by 1.8p/kg to 349.6p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week was almost unchanged at 240p/kg while the O3 cow price was up by 1.9p/kg to 257.1p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price was back by 1.9p/kg to 347.2p/kg while the average R3 steer price similarly decreased by 1.7p/kg to 357.1p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and GB was 5.4p/kg or £19 on a 350kg carcass. The average heifer price in GB last week was back marginally to 352.2p/kg while the average R3 heifer price decreased by 2.8p/kg to 357.6p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and the GB average at 8p/kg or £26 on a 320kg carcass.

Reports from ROI last week indicated steady deadweight cattle prices in euro terms however a weakening in euro against sterling meant the deadweight trade was back slightly in sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI was the equivalent of 317.1p/kg, a decrease of 1.6p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 327.9p/kg, back by a penny from the previous week. The O3 cow price in ROI last week recorded a decrease of 1.7p/kg to the equivalent of 257.1p/kg, making it the same as the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 25/02/2017	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	353.5	325.5	360.1	358.3	361.7	360.9
	R3	351.7	317.1	362.1	354.1	355.5	357.1
	R4	351.2	318.6	362.1	360.7	355.8	359.4
	O3	338.6	302.8	334.6	324.6	321.5	327.3
	AVG	341.8	-	356.4	345.8	342.3	347.2
Heifers	U3	355.1	339.6	366.3	365.8	373.3	369.2
	R3	349.6	327.9	358.6	354.9	358.0	357.6
	R4	348.1	327.4	361.1	360.7	358.0	359.3
	O3	338.7	312.5	339.2	337.6	328.5	334.9
	AVG	342.2	-	359.4	353.8	348.4	352.2
Young Bulls	U3	344.1	318.4	336.3	341.2	343.5	341.4
	R3	342.3	308.8	340.6	329.8	336.9	337.1
	O3	324.1	295.7	308.1	301.2	305.1	305.2
	AVG	322.0	-	320.1	307.1	315.8	315.3
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	5995	-	7031	7343	6247	4911
Cows	O3	257.1	257.1	251.0	252.6	252.2	250.7
	O4	259.5	258.4	254.8	256.3	252.7	252.5
	P2	220.1	231.2	197.7	208.4	205.4	204.5
	P3	238.8	248.7	217.1	228.9	221.2	222.4
	AVG	240.0	-	236.5	231.0	222.7	224.0

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.72p 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 25/02/17	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	200	212	205	170	198	184
Friesians	150	180	165	120	144	136
Heifers	202	214	206	166	199	183
Beef Cows	132	207	155	108	131	121
Dairy Cows	104	132	109	65	103	83
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	225	265	240	192	224	210
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	205	239	220	170	204	188
Bullocks over 500kg	200	223	212	165	199	185
Heifers up to 450kg	220	263	235	185	219	202
Heifers over 450kg	200	215	208	160	199	183
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	285	385	325	165	282	225
Continental Heifers	245	345	275	130	242	185
Friesian Bulls	100	180	140	40	98	65
Holstein Bulls	50	100	75	30	48	40

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 27/02/17	Next Week 06/03/17
Hoggets	390 > 22kg	395-400 > 22kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 11/02/17	W/E 18/02/17	W/E 25/02/17
NI Hoggets L/W	344.4	347.9	359.8
NI Hoggets D/W	368.9	369.3	389.2
GB Hoggets D/W	381.9	382.3	384.2
ROI D/W	374.5	381.9	390.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES for R3 grade hoggets started this week at 390p/kg however quotes strengthened towards the end of the week with 395-400p/kg expected for Monday. The processors have reported a reduction in the number of hoggets coming forward for slaughter with throughput last week totalling 6,818 head, a decline of 989 head from the 7,807 hoggets killed in NI plants the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2016 a total of 4,762 hoggets were killed locally. Exports of sheep to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 7,974 head compared to 6,745 head during the same week last year. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week recorded a notable increase of 19.9p/kg to 389.2p/kg while the average deadweight hogget price in ROI last week increased by the equivalent of 8.3p/kg to 390.2p/kg.

This week's marts

REPORTS from the marts this week indicated relatively steady numbers of hoggets passing through the sale rings with the liveweight trade continuing to strengthen. In Swatragh on Saturday 550 hoggets sold from 337-409p/kg compared to 740 hoggets the previous week selling from 320-396p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 520 hoggets sold from 357-376p/kg compared to 360 hoggets the previous week selling from 356-372p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 482 hoggets sold to an average of 367p/kg compared to 504 hoggets the previous week selling to an average of 355p/kg. In Ballymena on Wednesday 1,662 hoggets sold to an average of 356p/kg compared to 1,738 hoggets the previous week selling to an average of 350p/kg. Top reported prices for well fleshed cull ewes generally ranged from £90-100.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 24/02/17		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 02/03/17		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	346	328	376	-
Saturday	Omagh	971	363	408	-
	Swatragh	550	337	409	-
Monday	Kilrea	520	357	376	-
	Massereene	904	350	390	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	478	345	385	-
	Rathfriland	482	342	390	367
Wednesday	Ballymena	1662	340	421	356
	Enniskillen	484	342	384	-
	Markethill	1150	340	385	-
	Armoy	350	360	406	-

Contact us:

Website: www.lmci.com

Telephone: 028 9263 3000

Fax: 028 9263 3001

FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024

Answerphone: 028 9263 3011

Comments: bulletin@lmci.com

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.

Not for further publication or distribution without prior permission from LMC



LMC SUPPORTING EID INNOVATION WITHIN THE SHEEP SECTOR

THIS year marks the 25th anniversary of the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) in Northern Ireland. Managed by the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC), it is universally recognised as a measure that has brought great benefit to the beef and sheep sectors in Northern Ireland. But the Commission is also combining its commitment to FQAS with an investment in new technology that can help secure greater levels of efficiency at farm level, where both cattle and sheep are concerned. A case in point is the evolving use of electronic identification (EID) within the sheep industry.

It is now evident that EID tagging and the development of associated electronic readers have the potential to make real time information available to farmers in ways that can help to significantly improve performance levels within that industry. "And this is already happening," confirmed LMC's Farm Quality Assurance Manager Daryl McLaughlin. "A case in point is the recent installation of an electronic reader on the sheep kill line at Linden Foods. This is an investment which the Commission has helped put in place through supporting a research trial of the technology in partnership with AgriSearch and Linden Foods. It is providing the opportunity for flock owners to secure kill weights and carcase classification information on individually identified animals. And this can add significantly to the information farmers have already amassed on the sheep they send for slaughter."

According to Co. Down sheep producer John Martin, the information that he is now receiving back from Linden Foods on his finished lambs is completing the chain with regard to the performance figures he can access - from birth to slaughter - regarding every single lamb

born on the farm. "I invested in a combined EID reader, weigh bridge and software system a number of years ago," he said. "The system now in place allows me to weigh 200 lambs in three-quarters of an hour. We EID tag all of our lambs shortly after birth. So the combined electronic reader and weigh bridge is providing real time information on individual lambs. All of this data is stored automatically on the farm computer on a weekly basis. As a result I can monitor daily liveweight gain to a high degree of accuracy. This, in turn, allows me to tweak the worming policy implemented with the flock. It also allows me to identify those periods of the year when grass growth is not optimal, as is always the case at some stage during the July/August period."

John also confirmed that he can now quickly access the lifetime performance of individual lambs and their mothers - in terms of their rearing specific abilities. "This has obvious implications for the breeding policies put in place for the flock. All of this work follows-on from the research carried out at AFBI." John believes that the commitment made by LMC to support the investment in an EID reader at Linden Foods complements the aims and objectives established for FQAS. "As a family we have been involved with FQAS for many years. The scheme has ensured that I can sell lambs wherever I want. It has been particularly valuable in allowing me to meet specific supermarket specifications. And, of course, the use of the EID technology makes all of this work so much easier." He continued: "The EID systems that I have on the farm are grant aided under the Farm Business Improvement Scheme. And I would encourage other flock owners to assess the potential impact of this technology within their own businesses."

Daryl McLaughlin was a recent visitor to the Martin farm. "EID has a significant role to play within the sheep sector," he said. "The advantages it brings, in terms of traceability alone, are significant. The general feedback regarding the installation of the EID reader at Linden Foods has been extremely positive. There is little doubt that the greater use of this technology within the sheep sector will help improve efficiency levels across the industry as whole. But underpinning all of this is the impact of FQAS. And I would encourage all sheep producers to commit to the scheme, if they haven't done so already."

Image 1: LMC FQAS Manager Daryl McLaughlin with Greyabbey sheep farmer John Martin



BREXIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEEF ‘MUST BE BALANCED’

LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson believes that a future Brexit deal will provide greater opportunities for local beef processors to put more product onto the GB market. “But this is only part of the story,” he added. “The market in Britain is primarily for products into the retail and food service sectors: the challenge then becomes of one optimising the value from the rest of the animal.

“Processors must find a way of maximising the value of the entire carcass. Only in this way can they deliver the prices that the supply chain needs to remain viable. And, as a consequence, there is a need to secure new export outlets for locally produced beef.” Stevenson confirmed that a campaign to secure new export markets for our beef is already well underway. “This activity is coordinated at a UK level through DEFRA. We already know the key markets we want to target. These include Japan, the Philippines, the United States and China.

“Securing these markets will be a long process. But the work put in to date is already paying off. Last autumn saw an official delegation from the Philippines visit Great Britain and Northern Ireland. LMC part funded this initiative. And, obviously, we can build on this for the future. Of all the potentially lucrative markets in South East Asia, China stands out as the one with the greatest potential. And the good news here is that a road map to market access has already

been put in place. This has confirmed the steps that must be taken by the Chinese and UK Government and by beef processors in the UK when it comes to supplying into that market.”

Stevenson confirmed that LMC is playing a strategic role at a number of levels in helping to secure new export opportunities for Northern Ireland’s beef and sheep industry. “A case in point is our membership of the UK Export Certification Partnership. This is a Government /Industry grouping that is dedicated to securing and maintaining market access for UK meat and livestock producers. Established in 2008, this body provides a forum to coordinate and prioritise efforts to negotiate export health certificates with third countries on behalf of the UK. It also assists in the drafting of export health certificates which are generally required before exports can take place. All of these requirements are critically important when it comes to securing new export markets.”

Significantly, Stevenson believes that the certification partnership has worked to take full account of the export priorities set for the beef and sheep industry in Northern Ireland. “And, no doubt, this will continue. Government has been made fully aware of the opportunities which local industry can avail of in a host of new markets. We are an export focussed region and this message must continue to be taken fully on board, properly resourced and prioritised.”

LMC WELCOMES PENDING RATIFICATION OF ‘NEGLIGIBLE RISK’ BSE STATUS

LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson has welcomed the recommendation from the World Organisation for Animal Health’s (OIE) Scientific Commission that Northern Ireland be recognised as an area having negligible risk for BSE. “The final decision should be ratified at an OIE World Assembly meeting, which will be held in Paris during May of this year,” he added.

“This is great news for the local beef industry. Not alone will it reduce the quantities of carcass material that must be classified as Specified Risk Material but it will also increase the quantities of carcass products that are available for sale from Northern Ireland.”

According to Stevenson, the savings in disposal costs incurred by the local beef sector in light of securing the negligible risk BSE status will amount to an estimated £1.2m annually. “Once ratified, Northern Ireland will also have an opportunity to profile its enhanced BSE status as part of a beef export drive,” he added.

“From the outset, LMC has been actively involved in the process leading to the submission of the final application requesting negligible risk status for Northern Ireland. This included the preparation of documents to support the case for applying. The Commission has also committed to paying the required application fee. This amounts to €4,500 for Northern Ireland.”

Stevenson said that Northern Ireland will enjoy a superior BSE status classification, than is currently the case in the Republic of Ireland, once the negligible risk submission has been fully adopted. “The beef industry in the Republic reverted to controlled risk BSE status, following a BSE case in a five year old cow in Co Louth back in 2015. And it will take at least until 2021, assuming no further cases of the disease are reported in animals born since 2010, before the Irish meat industry can regain a negligible risk BSE status.”

Stevenson said that Scotland has also applied to secure negligible risk status. “The OIE’s Scientific Commission has also recommended that Scotland is recognised as a region of negligible BSE risk and there is a strong likelihood that both regions of the UK will secure an enhanced BSE status in May of this year.”

“Northern Ireland cannot generally negotiate trade deals with other regions of the world in its own right. This has traditionally been done at a UK level. However, the fact that there is now strong evidence to the effect that BSE has been successfully tackled in many parts of its prime beef producing regions means that the job of putting an export case for the UK as a whole must become that little bit easier.”

Stevenson stressed the co-operative role played by all the relevant stakeholder groups within the local red meat sector in getting the BSE case over the line. “This approach was particularly important. And it also bodes well for the future.”



Contact us:

Website: www.lmcni.com

Telephone: 028 9263 3000

Fax: 028 9263 3001

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.

Not for further publication or distribution without prior permission from LMC

