

PRIME CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS UPDATE

PRIME cattle throughput in NI during the first quarter of 2017 totalled 85,430 head, a four per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when 81,961 prime cattle were processed in local plants. This increase by 3,469 head accounts for a four per cent increase in local throughput year on year.

Category

Within this however there have been changes in the type of prime cattle being presented for slaughter. The NI steer kill during the first quarter of 2017 totalled 43,731 head, a four per cent increase from the same period in 2016 and accounting for 51 per cent of the total prime cattle kill. This proportion is unchanged from year earlier levels.

The heifer kill in NI during the first quarter of 2017 totalled 33,941 head, a ten per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when 30,784 heifers were slaughtered locally. Heifers accounted for 40 per cent of prime cattle throughput in the 2017 period, up from 38 per cent of the prime cattle kill in the 2016 period,

Young bull throughput in NI during 2017 to date has totalled 7,758 head, a 16 per cent reduction from year earlier levels. Young bulls accounted for 9 per cent of the prime cattle kill in NI during 2017 to date, back from 11 per cent in the corresponding period in 2016.

Carcase weights

While throughput of prime cattle has increased in NI during the first quarter of 2017 the average carcase weight has recorded a notable decline. The average prime cattle carcase weight during 2017 to date was 343kg, a reduction of 10kg from the same period in 2016.

The average carcase weight of steers slaughtered during 2017 to date has been 349.4kg, back from 358.8kg during the same period in 2016. This reduction by 9.4kg accounts for a 2.6 per cent reduction in the average carcase weight year on year.

During 2017 to date the average heifer carcase weight in NI was 314.3kg, back from 323.4kg during the same period in 2016. This reduction by 9.1kg accounts for a 2.8 per cent decline year on year.

A similar trend has been recorded in the average carcase weight of young bulls killed in NI plants. During the 2017 period the average carcase weight was 320.1kg, back from 333kg in the same period in 2016. This accounts for a 3.9 per cent reduction year on year.

Beef production

This reduction in average carcase weights has almost completely offset the increase in prime cattle throughput in local plants during 2017 to date.

A total of 28,434 tonnes of beef from prime cattle was handled by local processors during 2017 to date, an increase of 352 tonnes from year earlier levels. This accounts for a one per cent increase year on year despite the four per cent increase in prime cattle throughput.

Cows

Cows continue to act as a valuable source of throughput for local processors and accounted for 22 per cent of throughput during 2017 to date. This was a slight increase from year earlier levels when cows accounted for 21 per cent of the local kill. During 2017 to date 24,760 cows were killed in local plants, an 11 per cent increase from the same period in 2016 and following on from strong cow throughput in the second half of last year.

As with the prime cattle however there has been a notable decline in the average carcase weight of cows killed in local plants. The average carcase weight during the first quarter of 2017 was 299.2kg, back by 8.8kg from an average of 308kg during the same period in 2016. However despite the decline in carcase weights there was still an increase in the volume of cow beef handled by local processors. During the 2017 period 7,413 tonnes of cow beef was processed, a 7 per cent increase from year earlier levels.

Figure 1: Quarterly prime cattle kill in NI 2015-2017

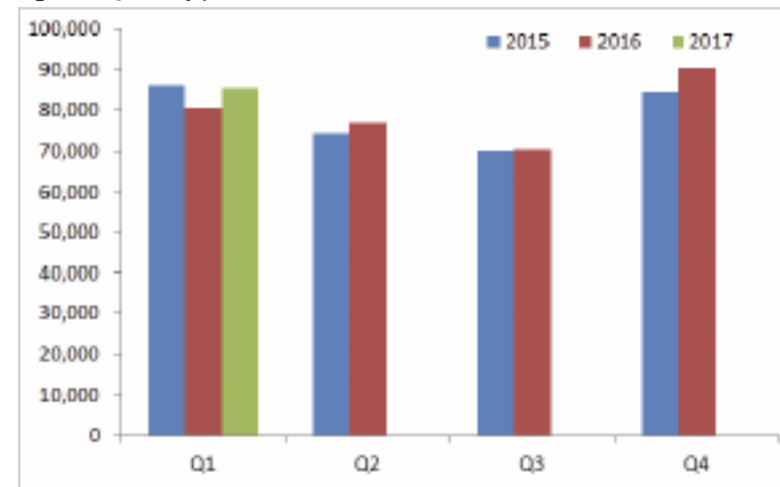
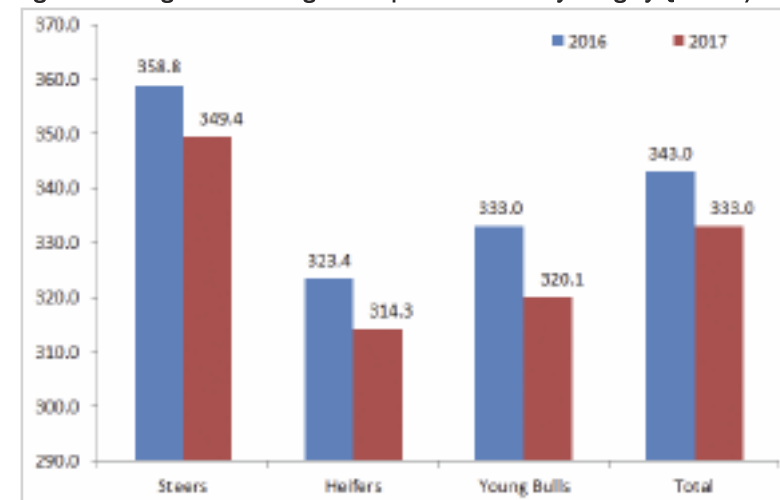


Figure 2: Average carcase weight of NI prime cattle kill by category Q1 2016/17



LMC HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS CONFERENCE 2017

OVER 100 Home Economics teachers from across Northern Ireland gathered at the recent Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) conference to discuss food and nutrition in schools and receive an update from leading professionals on the upcoming HE skills agenda for 2017/18.

The conference organised in conjunction with 'Meat and Education' provided teachers with topical, relevant and factual information on diet, health and nutrition and included speakers from LMC, the British Nutrition Foundation, ATHE and CCEA.

Exploring current and emerging issues and topics across the home economics curriculum, key note addresses included 'Traceability and food provenance', the role of IT within HE and new GCSE and A level developments for those in attendance.

Speaking at the event Cherrie Kenny, LMC, Education Services Manager said, "The conference offers a platform for teachers to continue their professional development. They gain additional information on topics relevant to

the curriculum and have the opportunity of networking with their peers and other professionals.

"LMC's Education Services Department currently provides a range of resources to Home Economics Teachers through cookery

Figure 2: Speakers at LMC's recent conference for Home Economics Teachers L - R - Colin Smith LMC, Rebecca Haresign BNF, Roy Ballam BNF, Glynis Henderson CCEA, Frances Meek BNF, Cherrie Kenny LMC, Sam

demonstrations and our educational website food4life.org.uk. The event is an excellent way of learning best practice from professionals across Northern Ireland and Great Britain and we welcome the opportunity to meet with the teachers on the ground at our annual conference"



LMC Quarterly

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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



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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 03/04/17	Next Week 10/04/17
Prime		
U-3	336 - 346p	342 - 348p
R-3	330 - 340p	336 - 342p
O+3	324 - 334p	330 - 336p
P+3	274 - 294p	280 - 296p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	250 - 254p	250 - 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 01/04/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	352.7	357.9	341.4
R3	348.9	349.8	338.9
O+3	339.7	340.2	331.5

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 01/04/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt > 280kg
P1	163.8	169.6	179.2	189.5
P2	174.5	208.4	219.6	235.7
P3	215.2	222.5	238.5	244.9
O3	-	265.5	249.4	260.7
O4	-	-	279.9	263.6
R3	-	-	-	279.8

Deadweight Cattle Trade

BASE quotes for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady this week with the majority of processors continuing to quote from 342-348p/kg with similar quotes expected for early next week. Reports have indicated tighter supplies of prime cattle coming forward for slaughter over the past few weeks and producers are encouraged to shop around to ensure they get the best possible deal. The cow trade has also remained steady in NI with quotes of 250-254p/kg across the plants for good quality O+3 grade cows.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 5,877 head, a notable reduction from the 6,576 prime cattle killed in local plants the previous week. This was the lowest weekly throughput of prime cattle in NI since the first week of January this year. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,478 head, back from 1,797 head the previous week. This was the lowest weekly throughput of cows in NI for the year to date.

Imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week consisted of 176 prime cattle and 36 cows while exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants consisted of 46 steers and 106 cows. Exports from NI to GB last week for direct slaughter consisted of 33 prime cattle and 8 cows while imports from GB for slaughter in NI plants consisted of 39 prime cattle and 97 cows.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle firmed slightly in NI last week with the average steer price increasing by 2p/kg to 342.6p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by half a penny to 353.1p/kg. This is the third consecutive week in which the R3 steer price in NI has increased. The average heifer price in NI last week was 345.5p/kg, up 1.4p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price increased by half a penny to 352.3p/kg. The cow trade in NI last week also firmed with the O3 cow price increasing by 3.4p/kg to 259.8p/kg.

There was a mixed deadweight cattle trade across GB last week with prices generally holding steady in Northern England and Scotland for prime cattle while prices in the Midlands and Southern England generally firmed. The average steer price in GB last week increased by a penny to 345.1p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 2.1p/kg to 355.9p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was 347.3p/kg, up marginally from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was up by 1.7p/kg to 356.1p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput in ROI last week totalled 23,216 head, back by 1,399 head from the previous week when 24,615 prime cattle were slaughtered. In ROI last week the R3 steer price was the equivalent of 333.5p/kg, up 2.9p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in ROI was the equivalent of 343.2p/kg, up 2.2p/kg from the previous week. This puts the differential between ROI and NI at 19.6p/kg for R3 grade steers and 9.1p/kg for R3 grade heifers. The cow trade in ROI has also remained firm with the O3 cow price the equivalent of 273.4p/kg. This was 13.6p/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 01/04/2017	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	354.1	341.1	360.6	355.9	355.6	357.5
	R3	353.1	333.5	362.2	350.0	355.2	355.9
	R4	351.5	335.2	363.1	359.3	355.9	352.2
	O3	338.0	318.8	337.7	320.1	317.6	321.8
	AVG	342.6	-	358.4	343.5	337.9	339.2
Heifers	U3	358.2	354.4	367.5	359.7	365.9	364.3
	R3	352.3	343.2	360.2	349.8	355.9	355.6
	R4	348.4	343.7	360.2	353.1	355.1	351.4
	O3	340.9	327.9	336.5	317.5	323.5	329.1
	AVG	345.5	-	358.4	345.9	343.4	339.1
Young Bulls	U3	341.9	333.0	355.8	335.9	343.1	346.2
	R3	339.6	324.8	348.2	328.7	335.8	340.4
	O3	322.7	310.0	310.8	296.4	304.0	301.7
	AVG	326.8	-	321.2	313.6	310.9	318.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5166	-	6397	7251	7291	4435	25374
Cows	O3	259.8	273.4	260.0	256.2	255.8	256.7
	O4	264.4	275.0	258.5	259.8	259.2	255.4
	P2	222.4	247.6	208.5	221.8	207.0	202.6
	P3	242.1	267.0	227.1	237.3	221.0	231.6
	AVG	242.4	-	246.8	236.8	223.3	222.1

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.20p 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 01/04/17	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	204	217	209	175	203	188
Friesians	145	172	155	115	139	130
Heifers	207	218	213	170	200	185
Beef Cows	137	174	150	110	136	125
Dairy Cows	103	131	115	70	102	85
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	225	274	250	200	224	212
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	227	215	175	199	190
Bullocks over 500kg	205	226	215	175	204	190
Heifers up to 450kg	220	273	230	175	219	195
Heifers over 450kg	200	224	210	165	199	185
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	260	380	310	150	258	205
Continental Heifers	200	285	245	100	198	155
Friesian Bulls	85	135	110	50	82	65
Holstein Bulls	60	130	100	5	58	30

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 03/04/17	Next Week 10/04/17
Hoggets	405-410p	405-410p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 18/03/17	W/E 25/03/17	W/E 01/04/17
NI Hoggets L/W	357.0	362.7	363.2
NI Hoggets D/W	387.5	397.9	400.8
GB Hoggets D/W	394.0	399.1	414.0
ROI D/W	414.6	406.5	418.5

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processors for R3 grade hoggets ranged from 405-415p/kg up to 22kg this week with similar quotes expected early next week. Some of the plants are killing small numbers of spring lambs with quotes ranging from 480-490p/kg up to 21kg. A total of 4,856 hoggets/lambs were killed in local plants last week taking throughput for the year to date to 85,103 head. In the same period last year 71,534 hoggets/lambs were killed locally which accounts for a 19 per cent increase year on year. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 6,155 head, a reduction of 1,146 head from the previous week. The deadweight hogget price in NI last week was 400.8p/kg, a 2.9p/kg increase from the previous week.

This week's marts

REPORTS from the marts this week have indicated a mixed quality of hoggets passing through the sale rings. A small number of spring lambs have also started to pass through some of the marts this week. In Massereene on Monday 1,025 hoggets sold from 360-395p/kg compared to 767 hoggets last week selling from 360-385p/kg. In Saintfield this week 562 hoggets sold from 340-400p/kg, a similar trade to the previous week. In Ballymena this week 1,196 hoggets sold from 335-400p/kg (avg 350p/kg) compared to 1,348 hoggets last week selling from 340-408p/kg (avg 360p/kg). The cull ewe trade has remained firm across the marts with top prices in excess of £100 reported in several of the marts. The top reported price was £143 in Ballymena this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 31/03/17		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 06/04/17		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	575	362	417	-
	Swatragh	600	330	421	-
Monday	Kilrea	380	366	383	-
	Massereene	1025	360	395	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	562	340	400	-
	Rathfriland	300	320	376	359
Wednesday	Ballymena	1196	335	400	350
	Enniskillen	512	348	384	-
	Markethill	1080	340	385	-
	Arroy	270	355	402	-

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