LMC

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LITTLE CHANGE TO AVERAGE AGE AT SLAUGHTER OF PRIME CATTLE

THE average age at slaughter for steers in NI during the 12 week period ending 15 October 2017 was 25.3 months (785 days). This was a slight reduction from the corresponding period in 2016 when the average age of slaughter for price reported steers in NI was 25.4 months (789 days).

Suckler origin steers accounted for 57 per cent of price reported steers during the 12 week period ending 15 October 2017 with an average age of slaughter of 25.2 months (782 days). In the same period in 2016 suckler origin steers accounted for 61 per cent of the price reported steer kill with an average age of 25.2 months (784 days).

Beef sired steers from the dairy herd accounted for 25 per cent of price reported steer slaughterings in the 2017 period, an increase from 22 per cent in the same period in 2016. The average age at slaughter was 24.9 months (775 days) in the 2017 period. This was a reduction of 16 days from the same period in 2016 when the average age at slaughter was 25.5 months (791 days).

Dairy sired steers accounted for 17 per cent of price reported steers in the 2017 period, a slight increase from 16 per cent the previous year. The average age at slaughter was unchanged between the two periods at 26 months (805 days).

The average age at slaughter for price reported heifers in NI during the 12 week period ending the 15 October 2017 was 25.8 months (801 days). This was a slight increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when the average age at slaughter was 25.6 months (795 days).

Suckler origin heifers accounted for 65 per cent of total heifer throughput in NI during the 2017 period, back from 68 per cent in the same period in 2016. The average age at slaughter of these suckler origin heifers was 25.5 months (793 days) during the 2017 period, a slight increase from 25.3 months (786 days) in the 2016 period.

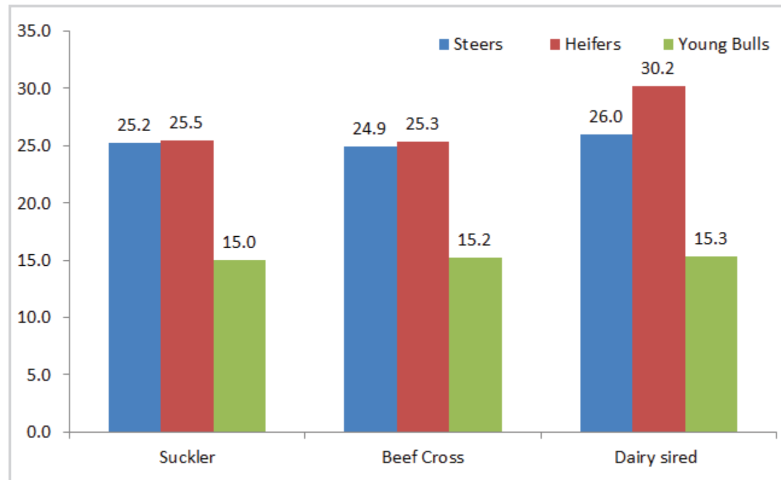
Beef sired heifers from the dairy herd accounted for 25 per cent of price reported heifers during the 2017 period, up from 22 per cent in the 2016 period. The average age at slaughter was 25.3 months (787days) in the 2017 period, up slightly from 25.2 months (783 days) in the 2016 period.

Dairy sired heifers accounted for 7 per cent of price reported heifer slaughterings in the 2017 period, up slightly from 6 per cent in the 2016 period. The average age at slaughter increased slightly between the two periods to 30.2 months (935 days) in the 2017 period.

The average age at slaughter for young bulls in NI during the 12 week period ending 15 October 2017 was 15.1 months (477 days), a slight increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when the average age at slaughter was 14.7 months (466 days).

Suckler origin young bulls accounted for 61 per cent of price reported young bulls during the 2017 period and had an average age at slaughter of 15 months (474 days). In the same period last year 52 per cent of the young bull kill were of suckler origin and had an average age at slaughter of 14.7 months (467 days).

Figure 1: Age at slaughter of price reported prime cattle by type and source during the 12 week period ending 15 October 2017 (months)



Beef sired young bulls from the dairy herd accounted for 16 per cent of young bull slaughterings in the 2017 period at an average age of 15.2 months (480 days). In the corresponding period in 2016 13 per cent of the young bull kill were beef crosses and they had an average age at slaughter of 14.9 months (473 days).

Dairy sired young bulls accounted for 22 per cent of the price reported young bull kill in the 2017 period, a notable decline from 33 per cent in the same period in 2016. Meanwhile the average age at slaughter of these dairy origin young bulls increased from 14.9 months (462 days) in the 2016 period to 15.3 months (483 days) in the 2017 period.

UK BEEF IMPORTS INCREASE AS EXPORTS DECREASE

ACCORDING to the latest available data from HMRC the UK imported 172,878 tonnes of beef between January and August 2017. This is a 2.2 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when 169,111 tonnes of beef were imported.

Imports of beef from the EU totalled 164,522 tonnes during the 2017 period and accounted for 95 per cent of all UK beef imports. This is an increase from 154,151 tonnes in the same period in 2016 when imports from the EU accounted for 91 per cent of all UK beef imports.

As indicated in Figure 2 the largest majority of beef imported by the UK comes from ROI. During the period January to August 2017 121,221 tonnes of beef were imported from ROI, accounting for 74 per cent of total imports from the EU. This was a five per cent increase from the same period in 2016 when 115,493 tonnes of beef were imported from ROI.
There were increases in the volume of beef imported by the UK from the Netherlands, Spain, Poland, France and Belgium during the first eight months of 2017; however the volumes involved remain small as indicated in Figure 2. During the same period there were decreases in the volume of beef imported from Germany, Italy and Denmark.

Imports of beef from non-EU regions totalled 8,356 tonnes during the first eight months of 2017 compared to 14,960 tonnes during the same period in 2016. This accounts for a 44 per cent decline year on year.

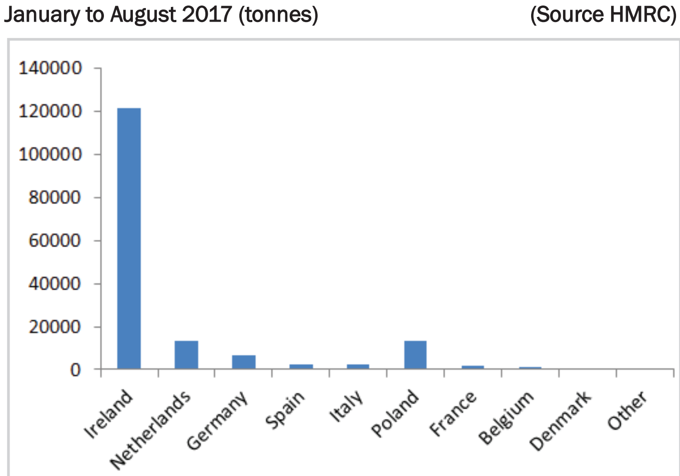
Beef exports from the UK during the first eight months of 2017 totalled 66,540 tonnes, back seven per cent from the same period in 2016 when 71,531 tonnes of beef were exported.

The EU continues to be the major market outlet for UK beef with 56,264 tonnes exported to the region during the 2017 period. This accounted for 85 per cent of all UK beef exports. In the same period in 2016 64,088 tonnes of beef were exported to the EU, accounting for 90 per cent of total UK beef exports.

However despite the EU remaining the primary export market for the UK there has been some growth recorded during 2017 in the level of beef exports to countries outside the trading bloc. Between January and August 2017 10,277 tonnes of beef were exported from the UK to non-EU destinations, accounting for 15 per cent of total beef exports. This is an increase from 7,443 tonnes in the same period in 2016 which accounted for 10 per cent of total beef exports.

Having access to the widest possible range of export markets plays an important role in realising the best value for all carcase components and much essential work continues to be done to open up further market opportunities for NI.

Figure 2: UK beef imports from the EU broken down by source country January to August 2017 (tonnes) (Source HMRC)



FQAS MART CLINICS NOVEMBER 2017

LMC's Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) mart clinics at a range of Livestock Marts across Northern Ireland. Terry is present to assist members of FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.

Any farmers who wish to join the scheme can also do so through their local FQAS mart clinic. Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed above. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Saintfield	Wednesday	01/11/2017
Omagh	Monday	06/11/2017
Markethill	Tuesday	07/11/2017
Kilrea	Wednesday	15/11/2017
Enniskillen	Thursday	16/11/2017
Ballymena	Friday	17/11/2017

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 23/10/17	Next Week 30/10/17
Prime		
U-3	348 - 354p	350 - 354p
R-3	342 - 348p	344 - 348p
O+3	336 - 342p	338 - 342p
P+3	288 - 306p	290 - 306p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	260 - 280p	260 - 280p
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 21/10/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	358.3	360.9	348.5
R3	353.6	356.0	344.1
O+3	345.4	344.5	333.0

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 21/10/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	172.2	184.9	197.7	210.9
P2	191.0	218.0	232.1	245.0
P3	210.0	234.0	248.1	258.0
O3	213.0	265.3	269.8	275.6
O4	230.0	243.5	271.4	279.3
R3	-	-	-	296.4

Deadweight Cattle Trade

THE deadweight trade for prime cattle has held steady in NI with base quotes from the major processing plants for U-3 grade steers and heifers ranging from 350-354p/kg. The cow trade has also held steady with quotes for O+3 grading cows ranging from 260-280p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle for early next week.

The plants have reported steady supplies of prime cattle coming forward for slaughter. Last week prime cattle throughput in NI plants totalled 6,980 head. This was an increase of 119 head from the previous week and was 162 head higher than the corresponding week in 2016. Cow throughput in local plants has remained strong with 2,511 head killed last week. In the same week last year 2,637 cows were killed in local plants.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for slaughter in local plants last week totalled 149 head with a further 5 prime cattle imported from GB. These imported prime cattle accounted for two per cent of total prime cattle throughput. Meanwhile 41 cows were imported from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants with a further 169 cows imported from GB. These imported cows accounted for eight per cent of total cow throughput in NI last week.

The average steer price in NI last week was 346.3p/kg, back 1.4p/kg from the previous week. The R3 steer price in NI last week was back by almost 2p/kg to 356.5p/kg, its lowest recorded level since mid-April 2017. However the current deadweight trade remains above the same week last year when the R3 steer price was 340.8p/kg. This increase by 15.7p/kg accounts for a £55 increase in the value of a 350kg R3 grading carcase. The average heifer price in NI last week was up half a penny to 350.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up by 2.3p/kg to 359.3p/kg last week. The average young bull price in NI last week was back 1.5p/kg to 334p/kg while the R3 young bull price was back by 3.6p/kg to 343.6p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB has continued to come under pressure with the average steer price back by 4.4p/kg to 360.6p/kg and the R3 steer price back by the same margin to 371.3p/kg. This has narrowed the differential in R3 steer prices between NI and the GB average R3 steer to 14.8p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was 363.4p/kg, back 1.2p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in GB was back by 3.5p/kg to 371.1p/kg last week. The young bull trade in GB last week came under notable pressure with the average price back 11.6p/kg to 334.2p/kg and the R3 young bull price back by 5.6p/kg to 357p/kg.

In ROI last week the R3 steer price was back by 2p/kg to 329p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by the same margin to 339.2p/kg. This puts the differential between ROI and NI at 27.5p/kg for R3 grading steers and 20.1p/kg for R3 grading heifers. Prime cattle throughput in ROI last week totalled 28,310 head, the lowest weekly throughput since late August 2017.

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

W/E 21/10/2017		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	359.0	339.7	385.6	376.2	371.1	372.2	376.2
	R3	356.5	329.0	383.7	370.5	365.9	365.2	371.3
	R4	355.7	328.6	384.8	380.7	365.9	364.0	376.8
	O3	345.9	310.4	361.1	343.4	335.9	339.9	345.3
	AVG	346.3	-	378.7	361.2	349.5	349.6	360.6
Heifers	U3	361.1	351.0	392.2	379.0	378.5	377.7	382.1
	R3	359.3	339.2	383.2	367.7	367.2	365.0	371.1
	R4	355.8	338.4	383.4	373.8	370.2	364.8	373.9
	O3	348.2	325.8	361.0	337.0	345.9	344.4	347.9
	AVG	350.3	-	380.8	362.3	358.1	347.8	363.4
Young Bulls	U3	348.3	337.5	380.5	365.3	362.8	369.1	367.6
	R3	343.6	328.2	368.2	357.7	351.9	346.5	357.0
	O3	330.6	313.3	334.3	308.6	320.0	305.3	318.2
	AVG	334.0	-	358.5	332.4	324.7	333.8	334.2
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6279	-	6797	7428	6649	4744	25618
Cows	O3	274.5	280.4	276.1	259.5	268.1	265.4	266.3
	O4	278.3	281.4	277.8	259.6	271.3	265.2	268.2
	P2	232.8	255.9	234.5	213.3	225.8	229.3	225.2
	P3	254.6	272.1	247.4	235.7	237.8	244.1	239.9
	AVG	248.7	-	261.9	229.5	232.1	229.1	234.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=89.32p 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 21/10/17	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	188	211	200	170	186	180
Friesians	148	158	153	130	139	135
Heifers	196	218	205	161	193	180
Beef Cows	150	191	162	120	149	135
Dairy Cows	106	126	116	65	105	85
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	225	262	235	190	224	207
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	205	225	215	170	204	188
Bullocks over 500kg	200	217	205	170	199	182
Heifers up to 450kg	200	213	206	165	199	185
Heifers over 450kg	190	211	200	165	189	182
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	260	280	300	150	258	205
Continental Heifers	180	295	230	90	178	135
Friesian Bulls	100	130	115	55	98	75
Holstein Bulls	50	100	75	10	48	25

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/10/17	Next Week 30/10/17
Lambs >21kg	370p	375-380p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 07/10/17	W/E 14/10/17	W/E 21/10/17
NI Lambs L/W	313.5	325.2	336.4
NI Lambs D/W	359.5	356.4	356.6
GB Lambs D/W	382.5	389.7	386.4
ROI D/W	390.1	387.7	-

Deadweight Sheep Trade

THE deadweight sheep trade firmed this week with quotes towards the end of the week of 375-380p/kg for R3 grading lambs across the plants. Reports from the plants have indicated that the lambs being presented for slaughter are generally of very good quality with 9,415 lambs killed locally last week. This was a notable decline from 12,161 lambs killed during the previous week however it was similar to the 9,580 lambs killed in the corresponding week last year. Exports of lambs to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 7,019 head with 1,155 ewes/rams also exported. This compares to 7,724 lambs and 1,126 ewes/rams exported to ROI for direct slaughter during the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was up marginally to 356.6p/kg while the liveweight lamb price was up by 11.2p/kg to 336.4p/kg.

This week's marts

A sharper trade was reported across the marts this week with good demand for good quality lambs. In Massereene on Monday 960 lambs sold from 330-373p/kg compared to 612 lambs last week selling from 320-342p/kg. In Saintfield this week 677 lambs sold from 321-380p/kg compared to 441 lambs last week selling from 322-414p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 942 lambs sold to an average of 342p/kg compared to 694 lambs last week selling to an average of 335p/kg. In Ballymena this week 2,004 lambs sold from 310-369p/kg (avg 333p/kg) compared to 2,005 lambs last week selling from 310-355p/kg (avg 324p/kg). Cull ewe prices also recorded an improvement with top reported prices of £100 in several of the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 20/10/17		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 26/10/17		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	530	310	345	-
Saturday	Omagh	1102	339	383	-
	Swatragh	820	330	366	-
Monday	Kilrea	450	339	373	-
	Massereene	960	330	373	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	677	321	380	-
	Rathfriland	942	324	402	342
Wednesday	Ballymena	2004	310	369	333
	Enniskillen	315	330	355	-
	Markethill	1100	320	360	-
	Armoy	394	315	360	-

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