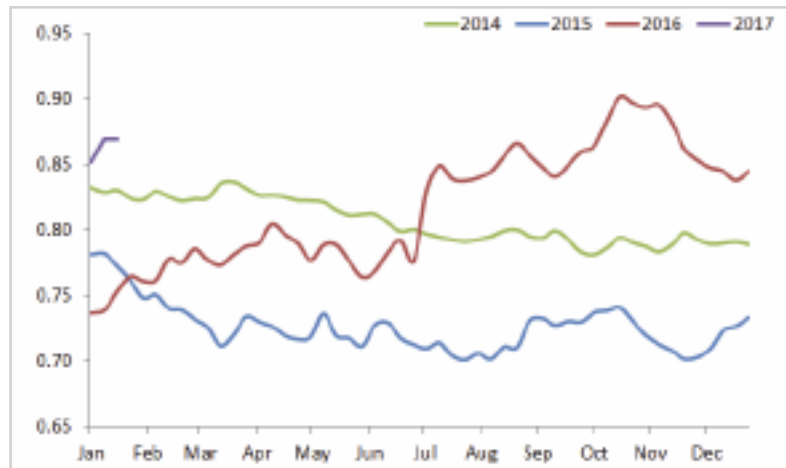


EU LEAGUE TABLE HEIFER PRICES UPDATE

THE EU league table provides a useful comparison of deadweight prices received by beef finishers across the EU by ranking EU countries in terms of the farmgate prices paid for R3 grade heifers as outlined in Table 1.

During the week ending 15 January 2017 the average R3 heifer price in the EU was 380.5c/kg, an increase of 0.6c/kg from the week ending 18 December 2016 when the average R3 heifer price in the EU was 379.9c/kg. During the week ending 15 January 2017 €1=86.9p, an increase from the week ending 18 December 2016 when €1=83.8p.

Figure 1: Euro/Sterling exchange rate during 2014-2017 to date (Source ECB)



With the Swedish Krona continuing to trade strongly against the euro Sweden retained first position in the league table with an equivalent R3 heifer price of 483.7c/kg as indicated in Table 1. This was an increase of 28.9c/kg from the week ending 18 December 2016 when the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 454.8c/kg. Deadweight cattle prices have also strengthened in Italy and Luxembourg in recent weeks putting them in third and fourth place respectively in the league table. During the week ending 15 January 2017 the average R3 heifer price in Italy was 410.5c/kg and the average R3 heifer price in Luxembourg was 407.2c/kg.

In NI during the week ending 15 January 2017 the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 405.2c/kg, a decrease of 15.8c/kg from the week ending 18 December 2016 when the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 421c/kg. This decrease in the R3 heifer price in euro terms moved NI down two positions into fifth on the EU league table. The differential in R3 heifer prices between NI and the EU average narrowed from 41.1c/kg during the week ending 18 December 2016 to 24.7c/kg during the week ending 15 January 2017.

Meanwhile in GB the R3 heifer price retained second position in the league table with an equivalent R3 heifer price of 412.7c/kg during the week ending 15 January 2017, a decline of 16.8c/kg from the week ending 18 December 2016. The differential in R3 heifer price between GB and the EU average narrowed from 49.6c/kg in week ending 18 December 2016 to 32.2c/kg in the week ending 15 January 2017. The R3 heifer price in ROI was 383.1c/kg during the week ending 15 January 2017, an increase of 6.5c/kg from the week ending 18 December 2016 when it was 376.6c/kg meaning ROI retained eighth position on the league table. The ROI R3 heifer price was 2.6c/kg above the EU average price and 22.1c/kg below the equivalent price in NI.

Table 1: EU Deadweight Cattle Prices - Heifers R3 Equivalent (€ Cents)

Position last Mth	Position this Mth	Country	Price last Mth (w/e 18.12.16)	Price this Mth (w/e 15.01.17)	Change on Mth (cents)
1	1	Sweden	454.8	483.7	+28.9
2	2	Great Britain	429.5	412.7	-16.8
4	3	Italy	397.1	410.5	+13.5
5	4	Luxembourg	395.2	407.2	+12.0
3	5	Northern Ireland	421.0	405.2	-15.8
7	6	France	384.0	388.0	+4.0
6	7	Spain	392.1	385.4	-6.6
8	8	Ireland	376.6	383.1	+6.5
11	9	Denmark	347.6	364.8	+17.1
9	10	Germany	360.3	361.2	+0.9
10	11	Austria	355.6	353.8	-1.7
12	12	Slovenia	334.1	331.3	-2.8
13	13	Belgium	308.0	307.0	-1.0
14	14	Poland	297.5	306.8	+9.4
16	15	Lithuania	241.7	280.8	+39.1
15	16	Czech Republic	255.4	257.0	+1.6
EU Average			379.9	380.5	+0.6
Euro (€1=)			83.8	86.9	+3.1

FQAS MART CLINICS

FEBRUARY 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
Omagh	Monday	06/02/2017
Markethill	Tuesday	07/02/2017
Saintfield	Wednesday	15/02/2017
Enniskillen	Thursday	16/02/2017
Kilrea	Wednesday	22/02/2017
Ballymena	Friday	24/02/2017

FIRM DEADWEIGHT TRADE FOR COWS

COW throughput in the local plants remained relatively strong during 2016 with a total of 99,943 cows killed locally. This was a 15 per cent increase from 2015 when a total of 87,110 cows passed through local plants. The strong throughput of cows has continued into 2017 with 5,896 cows slaughtered locally in the three weeks ending 21 January 2017 compared to 4,627 cows during the corresponding period in 2016.

An increase in cow numbers on NI suckler and dairy farms recorded at the last DAERA Agricultural Census and a reduction in the number of cows being exported to ROI for direct slaughter will have contributed to this increase in cow throughput in NI. Reports from industry have indicated a firm demand for cows across the local marts, especially for well fleshed cows that can be finished within a short period of time.

The deadweight trade for cows in NI has also remained firm in recent months with base quotes for O+3 grade cows ranging from 240-250p/kg across the plants. Reports have indicated a good demand from the local processors. A weaker sterling has made NI cow beef much

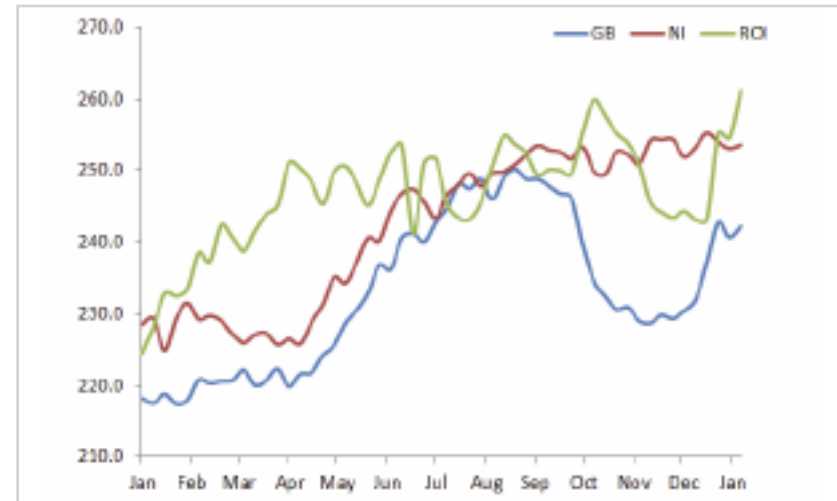
more competitive in price terms on the key EU market and this has helped firm deadweight prices as well as contribute to the lower levels of export to ROI for direct slaughter.

Figure 2 outlines the O3 cow price in NI, GB and ROI for the period January 2016 - January 2017. As indicated in the chart the prices paid for O3 grade cows in NI have steadily improved during the period displayed with an O3 cow price during the

week ending 21 January 2017 of 254p/kg, a notable increase from the 224.9p/kg paid in the corresponding week in 2016.

In the week ending 21 January 2017 the O3 cow price in ROI was 262.4p/kg, 8.4p/kg above the equivalent price in NI while in GB the O3 cow price was 243.8p/kg which is 10.2p/kg below the NI cow price.

Figure 2: O3 cow prices in GB, NI and ROI during 2016 and 2017 to date



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 23/01/17	Next Week 30/01/17
Prime		
U-3	342 - 346p	340 - 346p
R-3	336 - 340p	334 - 340p
O+3	330 - 334p	328 - 334p
P+3	276 - 294p	274 - 294p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	240 - 250p	235 - 250p
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 21/01/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	356.5	358.6	347.3
R3	351.3	351.1	344.9
O+3	342.7	343.3	335.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 21/01/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt>280kg
P1	160.5	169.0	182.8	194.8
P2	174.8	197.3	219.4	231.4
P3	190.2	214.3	232.6	239.0
O3	150.0	223.4	245.5	255.9
O4	-	230.9	251.8	258.9
R3	-	-	-	273.3

Deadweight Cattle Trade

THE deadweight cattle trade weakened slightly this week with base quotes from the major NI processors for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ranging from 342-346p/kg. Base quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week ranged from 240-250p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week in the majority of plants.

Reports from the local plants have indicated an increase in prime cattle supplies coming forward for slaughter with a total of 7,366 prime cattle killed in NI plants last week, an increase of 424 head from the 6,942 prime cattle killed the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2016 a total of 6,370 prime cattle were killed in NI plants accounting for a 16 per cent increase year on year. Meanwhile a total of 1,993 cows were slaughtered last week, a slight decrease compared to 2,218 cows the previous week and almost unchanged from the same week last year when 1,997 cows were killed locally.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants totalled 153 head last week, almost unchanged from the previous week and markedly lower than the 602 prime cattle imported during the corresponding week in 2016. A small total of 33 cows were also imported from ROI for direct slaughter last week compared to 155 cows during the same week in 2016. Meanwhile 112 cows were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI last week, a decrease from the 180 cows exported during the corresponding week last year. Exports from NI to GB for direct slaughter last week were minimal with only 3 prime cattle and 16 cows compared to 205 prime cattle and 27 cows the same time last year.

The average steer price in NI last week was unchanged at 346.8p/kg while the R3 steer price decreased by 0.9p/kg to 354.7p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week also decreased by 0.9p/kg to 348.1p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 1.1p/kg to 352.9p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week recorded an increase of 1.9p/kg to 239.5p/kg while the O3 cow price was up almost half a penny to 254p/kg.

The average steer price in GB last week was back by 1.6p/kg to 350.8p/kg while the average R3 steer price increased by 0.8p/kg to 362.2p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and GB was 7.5p/kg or £26 on a 350kg carcass. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 0.7p/kg to 355.8p/kg while the average R3 heifer price increased by 1.9p/kg to 363.1p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and the GB average at 10.2p/kg or £33 on a 320kg carcass.

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle trade held relatively steady in both euro and sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI was the equivalent of 324.8p/kg, up by a penny from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 335.7p/kg, up by 0.6p/kg from the previous week. The O3 cow price in ROI last week recorded an increase of 1.3p/kg to the equivalent of 262.4p/kg, putting it 8.4p/kg above the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 21/01/2017	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	358.0	334.3	368.5	360.3	366.1	368.7	365.5
	R3	354.7	324.8	368.1	356.1	361.3	362.3	362.2
	R4	355.2	325.9	368.2	367.6	356.9	360.6	364.7
	O3	343.5	311.2	339.9	330.1	326.1	332.3	332.2
	AVG	346.8	-	364.1	350.6	343.0	343.2	350.8
Heifers	U3	359.5	347.4	373.4	366.8	375.7	372.1	373.0
	R3	352.9	335.7	371.7	354.1	362.0	360.1	363.1
	R4	353.7	335.5	367.9	360.3	360.4	359.4	362.2
	O3	345.0	322.5	339.3	342.5	338.5	338.5	339.6
	AVG	348.1	-	367.0	354.0	351.7	348.0	355.8
Young Bulls	U3	347.3	325.9	356.5	335.7	352.2	353.6	348.1
	R3	343.7	316.7	352.6	331.5	345.6	329.2	341.1
	O3	326.6	305.3	321.1	299.7	305.1	311.3	307.7
	AVG	327.2	-	332.7	308.2	318.5	312.4	317.5
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6697	-	6806	7415	6765	4421	25407	
Cows	O3	254.0	262.4	246.7	242.5	246.7	237.3	243.8
	O4	258.3	263.7	247.3	247.3	248.8	236.4	246.1
	P2	218.5	240.2	199.3	204.2	193.6	187.9	194.7
	P3	235.9	253.7	212.3	220.2	213.9	214.0	215.0
	AVG	239.5	-	237.1	221.9	216.6	203.6	217.7

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.92p 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 21/01/17	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	190	210	200	165	189	180
Friesians	150	164	157	135	143	139
Heifers	203	222	212	170	202	186
Beef Cows	140	200	152	110	139	124
Dairy Cows	107	124	113	68	106	87
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	220	268	235	175	215	195
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	230	212	175	198	188
Bullocks over 500kg	200	219	206	160	199	180
Heifers up to 450kg	200	259	225	175	199	185
Heifers over 450kg	190	213	200	155	185	170
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	400	340	185	295	240
Continental Heifers	235	335	275	135	232	175
Friesian Bulls	115	195	145	40	112	75
Holstein Bulls	60	130	80	1	58	30

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/01/17	Next Week 30/01/17
Hoggets	365-375 > 22kg	370 > 22kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 07/01/17	W/E 14/01/17	W/E 21/01/17
NI Hoggets L/W	339.3	345.9	343.0
NI Hoggets D/W	370.5	363.8	364.1
GB Hoggets D/W	386.6	382.3	378.9
ROI D/W	375.2	382.0	380.3

Deadweight Sheep Trade

THE deadweight sheep trade remained relatively steady in NI this week with quotes for R3 grade hoggets at 365-375p/kg with plants paying up to 22kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to be in the region of 370p/kg. The processors have reported a reduction in the number of hoggets coming forward for slaughter with throughput last week totalling 6,996 head, a decline of 943 head from the 7,939 hoggets killed in NI plants the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2016 a total of 6,912 hoggets were killed locally. Exports of sheep to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 8,124 head, a decrease of 1,113 head from the previous week and less than the 9,262 sheep exported to ROI during the same week last year. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week was up slightly to 364.1p/kg while in ROI the deadweight hogget price decreased by 1.7p/kg to 380.3p/kg.

This week's marts

A good trade was reported across the marts this week with larger numbers of hoggets passing through many of the sale rings compared to the previous week. In Swatragh last Saturday 1,000 hoggets sold from 319-364p/kg compared to 430 hoggets the previous week selling from 329-376p/kg. In Massereene on Monday 926 hoggets sold from 350-375p/kg compared to 928 hoggets the previous week selling from 335-368p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 500 hoggets sold to an average of 344p/kg compared to 222 hoggets the previous week selling to an average of 338p/kg. The ewe trade remained steady this week with top prices generally ranging from £80-90 and a top reported price of £104 in Massereene on Monday.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 20/01/17		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 26/01/17		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	306	322	373	-
Saturday	Omagh	989	348	383	-
	Swatragh	1000	319	364	-
Monday	Kilrea	420	335	344	-
	Massereene	926	350	375	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	433	330	380	-
	Rathfriland	500	323	387	344
Wednesday	Ballymena	1675	310	353	328
	Enniskillen	402	340	382	-
	Markethill	800	330	381	-
	Armoy	412	325	370	333

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