

## LMC PROVIDES MARKET INFORMATION SERVICES FOR 50 YEARS

OVER the past year the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC) has marked a total of three major milestones. Firstly, the 50th anniversary of the commission, the 25th anniversary of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS), which is managed by LMC and finally the 50th anniversary of LMC's weekly Market Information Bulletin.

The LMC Bulletin, which is currently on its 2,500 edition, was first published on Wednesday December 20, 1967 and has been published weekly ever since. The livestock industry in NI has changed markedly in NI since the

Bulletin was first published in 1967. There are now 60 per cent more dairy cows, 50 per cent more beef cows and 65 per cent more ewes on NI farms than there were 50 years ago.

The LMC Bulletin is a key component of LMC's Market Information Services and allows readers to keep up-to-date with the latest trends in the beef and lamb markets and provides information to support, examine and inform the Northern Ireland red meat industry. The publication continues to be a useful resource for all LMC's producer and processor levy payers as well as wider beef and lamb industry stakeholders in NI.

Speaking about the service, LMC Economist, Seamus McMenamin said: "The LMC Bulletin aspires to support producers and processors with their decision making by providing accurate and timely information that creates a better understanding of the trade. LMC is committed to creating an environment where our stakeholders are well informed, whether this is through the provision of basic statistics, further analysis/examination of data or the delivery of information through LMC supported conferences."

The LMC Bulletin was initially printed and posted to all stakeholders on a weekly basis and provided a summary or overview of the beef and sheep trade across NI. Over time the LMC Bulletin evolved and included articles and detailed data on issues that would be useful to LMC stakeholders.

Following some independent market

research with users of LMC's market information services the decision was made to cease posting out the publication and instead partner with the farming press to facilitate distribution and increase readership. The LMC Bulletin has been published weekly in partnership with the Farming Life since January 2012. The publication is also hosted on the LMC website and emailed out to over 2,000 email subscribers every week.

While the LMC Bulletin continues to play a key role in the delivery of market information to the beef and sheep meat industries the services which LMC's Market Information Department provide have adapted and changed over time in line with industry needs and developments in communications.

To complement the LMC Bulletin the LMC Quarterly is published four times annually and provides the opportunity for further in depth analysis into key market information issues. This is posted to over 12,000 subscribers, emailed out to over 2,000 email subscribers and hosted on the LMC website.

As well as providing a platform for LMC publications the LMC website also provides a valuable source of up to date information for the NI beef and sheep meat industry in the form of base quotes, prices and basic statistics. This is updated daily as new information becomes available.

LMC's Market Information Department also provides a range of other services to our stakeholders including a bespoke

Image 1: A copy of the LMC Market Information Bulletin from November 1983

**MARKET INTELLIGENCE** No 778

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**SAMPLE AUCTION PRICES for WEEK ENDED 5 NOVEMBER 1983 - WEEK 31**

CATTLE		No. of Steers	Av. Price per 100 kg	No. of Heifers	Av. price per 100 kg
Friday	Downpatrick	83	£104.22 - £0.04	-	-
28th	Portadown	27	£104.33 - £1.29	14	£96.67 + £0.50
	Strabane	249	£108.45 + £0.31	264	£96.58 - £2.12
	Clogher	-	-	33	£96.43 -
	Ballymoney	60	£101.40 + £2.57	48	£95.61 - £0.49
Monday	Armagh	46	£102.56 -	35	£96.09 -
31st	Banbridge	126	£101.20 - £0.40	28	£95.70 - £1.60
	Cookstown	16	£101.19 - £0.10	26	£98.07 + £0.25
Tuesday	Allams	114	£102.39 - £0.31	97	£99.38 + £0.45
1st	Dungannon	52	£101.61 + £0.63	58	£98.02 + £1.68
Wednesday	Lisahally	71	£106.20 + £2.01	54	£97.02 + £0.37
2nd	Magherafelt	43	£102.67 + £0.80	20	£98.22 + £2.29
	Rathfriland	12	£103.90 - £2.60	12	£94.00 - £4.00
	Ballymena	22	£101.12 + £4.72	6	£97.24 + £5.24
Thursday	Larne	65	£101.06 + £0.22	14	£95.40 - £2.20
3rd	Kilrea	15	£102.32 + £3.32	7	£99.87 + £0.47
Est. weighted average price:			£102.36 + £0.57		£97.67 + £0.17

  

LAMBS (p per kg)		No. of Lambs	Estimated Av. price
Friday	Larne	660	171.6 + 0.5
28th	Clogher	454	164.0 -
Monday	Allams	1034	170.3 - 4.8
31st	Ballymoney	614	164.1 + 1.0
	Camlough	288	173.4 + 0.7
Tuesday	Banbridge	380	168.7 - 1.9
1st	Limavady	570	167.0 + 1.9
	Saintfield	526	165.3 - 0.8
Wednesday	Coleraine	249	167.8 + 1.2
2nd	Markethill	940	169.0 - 1.7
	Ballyclare	703	164.8 - 3.5
Thursday	Downpatrick	504	174.9 + 1.0
3rd	Lisahally	1071	169.7 + 7.9
	Rathfriland	546	169.0 -
Est. weighted average price:			168.6 - 0.1

NOTE: Based on a 50% kill-out

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### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

LMC would like to wish all of our levy-payers and stakeholders a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

Holiday Arrangements  
LMC's offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year period (25 December - 01 January).  
We will reopen on Tuesday 02 January.

Answerphone & Text Service  
There will be no answerphone or text message service during Christmas Week

LMC Bulletin  
There will be no LMC Bulletin published on Saturday 30 December  
NIFCC  
Please note NIFCC offices will be closed for business on 25-26 December and on 01 January

## FQAS MART CLINICS JANUARY 2018

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	08/01/2018
Saintfield	Wednesday	10/01/2018
Markethill	Tuesday	16/01/2018
Enniskillen	Thursday	18/01/2018
Kilrea	Wednesday	24/01/2018
Ballymena	Friday	26/01/2018

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 18/12/17	Next Week 25/12/17
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	350 - 356p	350 - 356p
R-3	344 - 350p	344 - 350p
O+3	338 - 344p	338 - 344p
P+3	290 - 306p	290 - 306p
	Including bonus where applicable	
<b>Cows</b>		
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 16/12/17	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	361.6	364.1	350.2
R3	357.2	357.8	346.5
O+3	350.4	348.6	337.9

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 16/12/17	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	177.8	185.3	192.0	201.7
P2	184.2	215.3	230.7	241.3
P3	201.1	219.2	246.0	254.5
O3	280.0	269.9	272.5	276.7
O4	-	-	275.1	279.2
R3	-	-	-	299.3

## Deadweight Cattle Trade

**B**ASE quotes held steady at 350-356p/kg for U-3 grade in spec steers and heifers from the major processing plants this week. Quotes for cows have also remained steady, ranging from 260-280p/kg across the plants with the majority of plants quoting in the region of 270p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle next Wednesday when the plants re-open for business.

The plants have reported strong supplies of prime cattle coming forward to meet demand for beef. Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 6,956 head, up by 69 head from the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2016 prime cattle throughput in local plants totalled 6,678 head. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,306 head, back 247 head from the previous week. In the same week in 2016 cow throughput in local plants totalled 2,312 head.

Imports and exports of cattle for direct slaughter have continued but at relatively low levels. Last week 16 prime cattle and 29 cows were imported from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants with a further 2 prime cattle and 103 cows imported from GB. Meanwhile 40 prime cattle, 112 cows and 13 bulls were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week while exports to GB consisted of 99 prime cattle and 26 cows.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI last week came under slight pressure with the prices paid for majority of reported grades back marginally from the previous week. The average steer price was back by 1.3p/kg to 350.4p/kg in NI last week however the R3 steer price increased marginally to 361.4p/kg. In the corresponding week last year the R3 steer price in NI was 355p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by just under a penny to 351.9p/kg while the average heifer price was unchanged at 359.9p/kg. There was a strong increase in the average cow price in NI last week, up by 5.3p/kg to 257.9p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight trade for prime cattle continued to come under pressure. The average steer in GB price last week was back by half a penny to 363.3p/kg while the R3 steer price was back by 1.8p/kg to 373p/kg. There was however some variation across the regions with the R3 steer price in the Midlands holding steady while it was back by between 2-4p/kg in the other regions. The average heifer price in GB last week was back by 1.8p/kg to 364.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 2.5p/kg to 373.4p/kg. The R3 price was back in all the GB regions with the most notable decrease in Scotland where it was back by 4.2p/kg to 380.3p/kg.

The deadweight trade improved in ROI last week with reported prices up for all types of cattle. The R3 steer price increased by the equivalent of 4.8p/kg to 342.6p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up by 4.4p/kg to 353.1p/kg. This puts the differential with NI at 18.8p/kg for R3 grade steers and 6.8p/kg for R3 grade heifers. The O3 cow price in ROI increased by 2.4p/kg to 285p/kg last week, putting it 8.7p/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 16/12/2017	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	361.7	352.1	385.4	379.3	376.5	379.5
	R3	361.4	342.6	382.0	370.5	371.7	373.0
	R4	359.0	342.9	380.6	379.8	371.7	376.0
	O3	349.3	327.9	358.9	343.0	339.4	346.6
AVG	350.4	-	377.6	362.3	356.3	354.2	363.3
Heifers	U3	364.9	365.0	388.2	382.2	383.5	384.0
	R3	359.9	353.1	380.3	369.9	373.1	373.4
	R4	356.8	353.1	380.0	374.5	373.7	374.2
	O3	350.1	340.1	368.8	342.4	337.8	349.1
AVG	351.9	-	379.1	364.1	357.7	352.8	364.3
Young Bulls	U3	350.3	348.3	373.2	359.7	360.5	362.7
	R3	346.3	339.9	365.7	352.7	356.8	356.5
	O3	332.8	327.8	325.7	315.0	321.5	319.8
	AVG	334.5	-	346.1	334.9	332.5	329.4
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6281	-	7030	7314	5931	4560	24835
Cows	O3	276.3	285.0	265.8	259.9	269.6	263.1
	O4	279.1	285.3	268.5	261.7	267.5	263.0
	P2	230.1	257.9	210.3	211.2	216.8	214.2
	P3	250.0	274.0	230.5	231.0	232.0	232.5
	AVG	257.9	-	255.9	232.6	225.6	217.5

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.13p 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 LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 16/12/17	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	198	223	212	170	193	183
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	180	200	190	116	179	140
Beef Cows	144	177	160	115	143	130
Dairy Cows	111	138	123	75	110	90
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	224	257	235	195	223	210
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	215	234	225	175	214	195
Bullocks over 500kg	200	212	205	160	198	180
Heifers up to 450kg	200	226	212	165	199	180
Heifers over 450kg	190	204	198	160	189	175
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	310	410	350	180	308	245
Continental Heifers	260	440	310	140	258	200
Friesian Bulls	100	175	120	40	98	70
Holstein Bulls	80	140	95	5	78	40

# SHEEP TRADE

## SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 18/12/17	Next Week 25/12/17
Lambs >22kg	385-390p	385-390p

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 02/12/17	W/E 09/12/17	W/E 16/12/17
NI Lambs L/W	346.1	352.4	358.1
NI Lambs D/W	390.9	385.6	384.7
GB Lambs D/W	397.7	398.5	399.5
ROI D/W	413.7	409.1	404.2

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

**B**ASE quotes for R3 grading lambs held steady this week at 385-390p/kg up to 22kg across the major processing plants with similar quotes expected for next week. The plants have reported good supplies to meet demand for lamb with throughput in NI last week totalling 8,179 head. This was back 892 head from the previous weeks which accounts for a ten per cent decline. Lamb exports to from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 8,530 head, also back ten per cent from the previous week. The average liveweight price in NI last week was 358.1p/kg, up 5.7p/kg from the previous week while the average deadweight price in NI was 384.7p/kg last week, back marginally from the previous week.

## This week's marts

**T**HE trade in the marts this week held steady with the number of lambs passing through the sale rings similar to the same time last year. A steady demand for good quality lambs has been reported across the marts. In Kilrea on Monday 380 lambs sold from 343-373p/kg compared to 200 lambs last week selling from 358-379p/kg. In Saintfield this week 703 lambs sold from 350-400p/kg. This was similar to last week when 505 lambs sold from 346-400p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 534 lambs sold to an average of 358p/kg compared to 540 lambs last week selling to an average of 356p/kg. There were small numbers of cull ewes passing through the marts this week with top reported prices generally ranging from £90-100.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 15/12/17		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 21/12/17		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	220	326	361	-
Saturday	Omagh	897	364	387	-
	Swatragh	796	327	396	-
Monday	Kilrea	380	343	373	-
	Massereene	1120	350	382	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	703	350	400	-
	Rathfriland	534	338	389	358
Wednesday	Ballymena	1308	355	400	367
	Markethill	700	340	371	-

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