LMC

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UK BEEF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BOTH INCREASE IN EARLY 2018

DURING the first two months of 2018 42,844 tonnes of beef were imported by the UK according to the latest available figures from HMRC. This was a 2.4 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017 when 41,830 tonnes of beef were imported. The UK continues to be a net importer of beef with the level of import operating more than double the level of export.

The largest majority of beef imported by the UK originated in the EU with imports from the trading bloc totalling 40,025 tonnes during the first two months of 2018. This accounted for 93 per cent of total beef imports. In the same period in 2017 39,890 tonnes of UK beef imports originated in the EU which accounted for 95 per cent of total beef imports.

Ireland continues to be the biggest source of beef imports for the UK market with 30,280 tonnes of beef imported from the region during the first two months of 2018. This was a 2.9 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017 and 11.5 per cent higher than the corresponding period in 2016.

While the level of beef imports from Ireland increased in the 2018 period the volume of beef imported from the majority of other EU countries recorded a decline. It should be noted that the volume of beef imported from other EU countries is extremely small in comparison to the trade with Ireland.

Imports of beef from the Netherlands recorded a 10.9 per cent decline to total 2,971 tonnes during the 2018 period while imports from Germany declined by 11.8 per cent to total 1,499 tonnes. There were also strong declines in the level of import from Spain, Italy and Poland although the volumes involved remained very small.

Beef imports from non-EU countries account for only a small proportion of overall UK beef imports however there has been some growth recorded in the level of import during the first two months of 2018. A total of 2,819 tonnes of beef were imported from non-EU countries during the 2018 period, a 45.3 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017.

In the first two months of 2018 beef imports from non-EU sources accounted for 6.6 per cent of total beef imports, an increase from the previous year when they accounted for 4.6 per cent. While the volumes involved remain small there has been volume growth in UK beef imports from Uruguay, Brazil, Namibia, New Zealand, Argentina and Botswana during the 2018 period when compared to year earlier levels while imports from Australia recorded a decline.

While beef imports recorded an increase during the first two months of 2018 the level of export followed a similar trend. During the first two months of 2018 18,626 tonnes of beef were exported out of the UK. This was a notable 9.6 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017 however it was just marginally higher than the same period in 2016 when 18,616 tonnes of beef were exported.

The largest majority of UK beef exports are destined for the EU with 17,154 tonnes exported during the 2018 period. These exports to the EU accounted for 92 per cent of total UK beef exports. In the same period in 2017 UK beef exports to the EU totalled 14,396 tonnes which accounted for 84.7 per cent of total UK beef exports. The notable increase in the volume of beef exported from the UK to the EU is most likely driven by a weaker sterling which has made UK origin beef much more competitive on key European markets.

Ireland continues to be the biggest market within the EU for UK origin beef with 6,667 tonnes exported during the first two months of 2018. This was a strong increase from 5,004 tonnes during the same period in 2017. Much of this beef will have been exported from the UK to ROI for further processing by plants that own processing facilities in both jurisdictions.

The Netherlands continues to be a valuable outlet for UK beef exports with 4,729 tonnes of beef exported to the region during the 2018 period, a 16.6 per cent increase from 2017 levels. There were also increases in the volume of UK beef exported to France, Belgium, Germany and Spain during the 2018 period while the volume exported to Italy and Denmark recorded a year on year decline.

While UK beef exports to the EU have recorded an increase during the 2018 period exports to non-EU countries have recorded a decline. A total of 1,471 tonnes of beef were exported from the UK to non-EU destinations during the 2018 period, a 43 per cent decline from the 2,592 tonnes exported during the same period in 2017. The level of export however was marginally higher than exports to non-EU regions during the corresponding period in 2016.

Figure 1: UK beef exports destined for EU and non-EU markets during January and February 2015-2017 (tonnes)

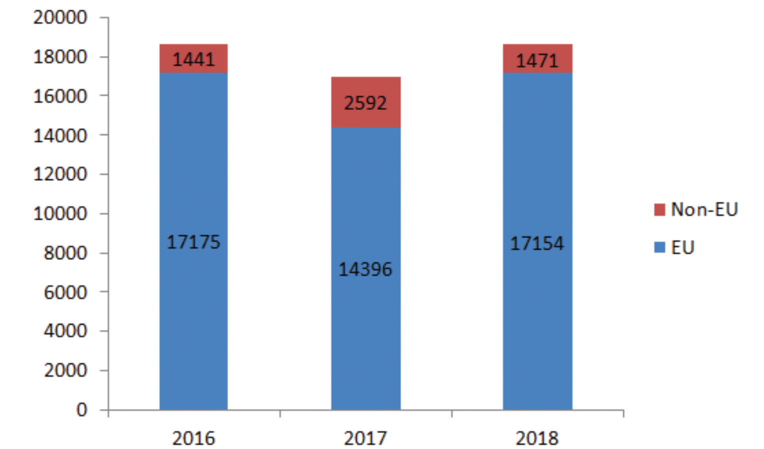
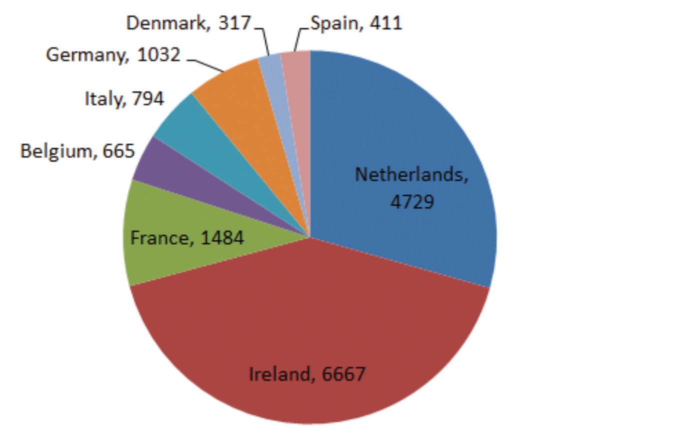


Figure 1: Breakdown of UK beef exports destined for EU markets during January and February 2015-2017 (tonnes)



FQAS MART CLINICS MAY 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 in the table. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Markethill	Tuesday	01/05/2018
Saintfield	Wednesday	02/05/2018
Enniskillen	Thursday	10/05/2018
Omagh	Monday	14/05/2018
Kilrea	Wednesday	23/05/2018
Ballymena	Friday	25/05/2018

BVD ERADICATION SCHEME UPDATE

IN addition to movement restrictions placed on BVD PI cattle earlier this year an agreement has been reached with the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA) to ban PI cattle from slaughter plants. The ban, which comes into effect at NIMEA abattoirs from the **01 May 2018,** has full support from other industry organisations and is a significant step towards eradicating BVD in Northern Ireland. Retaining PI cattle presents a significant disease risk and it is delaying the progress of the BVD Eradication Programme in NI.

Producers with PI cattle currently on farm are encouraged to remove them as soon as possible as they pose a significant disease risk to both the producers own herd and to neighbouring herds. Animals can either be humanely destroyed and disposed of through the fallen stock scheme or if they are at least 12 months of age then they can be presented for slaughter in NIMEA plants before **01 May 2018.**

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

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 23/04/18	Next Week 30/04/18
Prime		
U-3	356 - 360p	356 - 360p
R-3	350 - 354p	350 - 354p
O+3	344 - 348p	344 - 348p
P+3	298 - 310p	298 - 310p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	270 - 290p	270 - 290p
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 21/04/18	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	366.2	370.2	359.2
R3	361.4	362.8	352.0
O+3	353.0	352.8	341.5

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 21/04/18	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	191.5	202.8	216.0	222.0
P2	204.3	237.2	256.6	266.8
P3	231.2	258.9	270.3	276.4
O3	-	257.0	281.8	294.5
O4	-	242.0	285.7	297.3
R3	-	-	-	313.5

Deadweight Cattle Trade

BASE quotes for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady this week ranging from 356-360p/kg with the majority of processors continuing to quote in the region of 358p/kg. Base quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week ranged from 270-290p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

A total of 6,861 prime cattle were slaughtered in NI plants last week, a decrease of 279 head from the previous week. This brings the total prime cattle kill during 2018 to date to 106,290 head compared to 103,068 head during the corresponding period in 2017. Meanwhile cow throughput in NI last week increased by 193 head to a total of 2,306 head killed locally. The total cow kill to date to 33,026 head compared to 28,975 head during the same period in 2017.

Prime cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week totalled 54 head, an increase of 17 head from the previous week. Cow imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week were similar to the previous week at 26 head while 159 cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter, an increase of 68 head on the previous week. Exports of prime cattle to ROI for direct slaughter totalled 91 last week an increase of 52 head on the previous week. Meanwhile cow exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 106 head, a decrease of 37 head on the previous week.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle heald steady in NI last week with the average steer price back 0.4p/kg to 354.5p/kg while the R3 steer price was back half a penny to 363.9p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was up by 0.8p/kg to 356.8p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 1.3p/kg to 364.5p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week further increased by 3.3p/kg to 276.9p/kg while the O3 cow price was also up by 1.8p/kg to 293.4p/kg.

There was a mixed trade across GB last week for prime cattle with deadweight prices strengthening in Scotland and Northern England while they came under pressure in the Midlands and Southern England. The average steer price in GB was up by 0.7p/kg to 362.6p/kg while the R3 steer price was back by 0.9p/kg to 371.6p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and the GB average was 7.7p/kg or £27 on a 350kg carcase. The average heifer price in GB last week was up 1.2p/kg to 365.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price also increased by 1.2p/kg to 374.2p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and GB at 9.7p/kg or £31 on a 320kg carcase.

In ROI last week the majority of deadweight cattle prices increased in both euro and sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 345.8p/kg, an increase of 1.9p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 356.4p/kg, up by 1.1p/kg from the previous week. The O3 cow price in ROI last week was up slightly to 291.9p/kg

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

W/E 21/04/2018		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	366.8	356.4	381.9	376.5	373.5	377.7	377.0
	R3	363.9	345.8	380.0	369.0	368.0	369.7	371.6
	R4	362.8	347.3	381.9	374.7	366.5	369.5	373.4
	O3	354.0	329.6	360.7	342.9	339.3	342.9	346.4
	AVG	354.5	-	378.1	360.8	354.6	356.9	362.6
Heifers	U3	370.5	369.2	388.0	377.9	383.3	378.5	382.5
	R3	364.5	356.4	382.4	369.8	373.4	369.3	374.2
	R4	361.5	356.3	382.1	372.7	371.2	366.9	373.6
	O3	353.5	340.8	368.4	351.0	345.8	350.5	354.1
	AVG	356.8	-	379.8	364.3	360.4	355.0	365.3
Young Bulls	U3	359.2	349.3	378.6	362.8	367.2	374.8	369.9
	R3	352.2	340.6	371.1	357.5	358.5	366.8	362.0
	O3	335.8	325.9	329.5	316.9	325.2	329.9	322.9
	AVG	340.1	-	359.6	333.6	340.2	353.8	343.9
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6250	-	6615	7069	7540	5075	26299
Cows	O3	293.4	291.9	303.7	283.1	285.4	286.3	287.1
	O4	296.5	293.3	302.3	287.2	282.6	283.6	286.2
	P2	253.9	256.4	255.6	240.5	237.8	242.6	241.5
	P3	273.5	282.0	261.6	260.4	251.4	269.1	258.0
	AVG	276.9	-	294.9	263.0	253.6	254.3	260.3

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.89p 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 21/04/18	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	210	219	214	180	209	195
Friesians	153	175	164	136	141	139
Heifers	208	220	213	176	207	190
Beef Cows	145	190	165	112	144	130
Dairy Cows	115	140	128	60	114	92
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	230	274	250	190	229	212
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	215	251	225	180	214	195
Bullocks over 500kg	210	230	218	175	209	190
Heifers up to 450kg	210	231	220	170	209	195
Heifers over 450kg	200	221	210	160	198	180
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	425	350	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	250	380	300	140	248	190
Friesian Bulls	130	210	170	75	128	100
Holstein Bulls	100	170	130	20	98	60

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 23/04/18	Next Week 30/04/18
Hoggets >22kg	530p	530-550p
Spring Lambs >21kg	570-580p	560-580p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 07/04/18	W/E 14/04/18	W/E 21/04/18
NI L/W Hoggets	452.3	477.9	452.4
NI D/W Hoggets	506.0	546.5	559.6
GB D/W Hoggets	547.2	601.9	578.8
ROI D/W	496.1	515.7	526.4
NI L/W Spr Lambs	547.9	561.3	546.0
NI D/W Spr Lambs	569.4	580.6	578.3
GB D/W Spr Lambs	569.0	615.5	600.4

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the NI plants this week for R3 grade hoggets were in the region of 530p/kg up to 22kg while quotes for spring lambs remained steady at 570-580p/kg up to 21kg. The processors have reported an increase in the number of hoggets/lambs coming forward for slaughter with throughput last week totalling 5,315 head. This was up by 520 head from the 4,795 hoggets/lambs killed in NI plants the previous week. Exports of lambs/hoggets from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 4,596 head compared to 5,412 head the previous week. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week was up by 13.2p/kg to 559.6p/kg while the average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by 2.3p/kg to 578.3p/kg.

This week's marts

SMALLER numbers of hoggets passed throughthe sale rings this week with the hogget season starting to come to an end. Meanwhile the number of spring lambs on offer has remained subdued across the marts. In Massereene on Monday 831 hoggets sold from 450-528p/kg while 72 spring lambs sold from 550-598p/kg. Last week 1,012 hoggets sold from 460-532p/kg and 46 spring lambs sold from 550-596p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 236 hoggets sold to an average of 466p/kg while 199 spring lambs sold to an average of 562p/kg. Last week 316 hoggets sold to an average of 475p/kg and 179 spring lambs sold to an average of 570p/kg. In Ballymena on Wednesday 402 hoggets sold to an average of 430p/kg compared to 1,004 hoggets last week selling to an average of 450p/kg while 163 spring lambs sold to an average of 551p/kg compared to 213 spring lambs last week selling to an average of 530p/kg.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 20/04/18		Hoggets (P/KG LW)				Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 26/04/18		No	From	To	Avg	No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	335	461	537	-	29	542	595	-
	Swatragh	430	424	511	-	-	-	-	-
Monday	Massereene	831	450	528	-	72	550	598	-
	Kilrea	280	480	519	-	-	-	-	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	190	420	468	-	50	530	580	-
	Rathfriland	236	400	475	466	199	538	588	562
Wednesday	Ballymena	402	400	533	430	163	530	600	551
	Enniskillen	489	460	496	-	205	500	524	-
	Markethill	230	420	465	-	150	520	591	-
	Armoy	-	-	-	-	64	500	550	-

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