LMC
Livestock & Meat Commission

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 26 May 2018 Issue No. 2521

CHANGING SLAUGHTER MIX IN LOCAL PRIME KILL

ANALYSIS of price reporting data has shown that there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of heifers and steers killed in NI that originate from the dairy herd. Growth in dairy cow numbers in NI in recent years combined with an increase in the use of beef bulls on dairy cows to maximise the value of the calf produced has increased the proportion of beef-cross cattle in the NI slaughter mix.

During the first four months of 2018 66 per cent of the price reported heifer kill in NI were sourced from the suckler herd while 29 per cent of the kill were beef crosses. In the corresponding period in 2015 75 per cent of the price reported heifer kill were sourced from the suckler herd while 20 per cent of heifers killed locally were beef crosses.

There have also been some key changes in the breed mix of heifers killed in NI. During the 2018 period Charolais and Limousin accounted for 39 per cent and 30 per cent respectively of the suckler origin heifer kill in NI. This was back from 41 per cent and 32 per cent respectively in the same period in 2015. Meanwhile the proportion of Aberdeen Angus heifers has increased from 11 per cent of the suckler origin heifer kill in the 2015 period to 13 per cent in the first four months of 2018.

There has also been a shift in the breed mix of beef cross heifers in the NI slaughter mix. During the 2018 period Limousin accounted for 20 per cent of beef cross heifers slaughtered, back from 23 per cent in the same period in 2015. The proportion of Belgian Blue heifers also recorded a decline, back from 15 per cent of the beef cross heifer kill in the 2015 period to 12 per cent in the first four months of 2018.

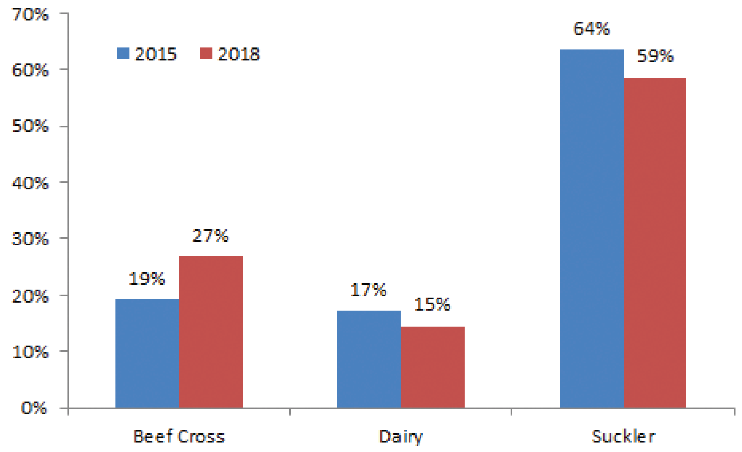
Meanwhile Aberdeen Angus heifers accounted for 41 per cent of the beef cross slaughter mix during the first four months of 2018, up from 38 per cent in 2015. The proportion of Hereford heifers also increased, up from 10 per cent of the beef cross kill in the 2015 period to 15 per cent in the 2018 period.

Similar trends can be observed if we consider the price reported steer kill in NI. During the first four months of 2018 59 per cent of the price reported steer kill originated from the suckler herd, back from 64 per cent in the same period in 2015. Over the same period the proportion of dairy sired steers in the slaughter mix decreased from 17 per cent of the kill to 15 per cent. The proportion of beef cross steers in the slaughter mix increased from 19 per cent of the steer kill in the 2015 period to 27 per cent in the 2018 period.

There have also been changes to the breed mix of suckler origin steers in the NI price reported kill between the 2015 and 2018 periods. The proportion of Charolais steers remained unchanged at 34 per cent however the proportion of Limousin steers declined from 33 per cent of the kill in the 2015 period to 30 per cent in the 2018 period. Aberdeen Angus steers from the suckler herd accounted for 14 per cent of the kill, up from 11 per cent in 2015.

The proportion of Aberdeen Angus steers sourced from the dairy herd also increased, up from 33 per cent of the kill in the 2015 period to 36 per cent in the 2018 period. Hereford steers from the dairy herd followed a similar trend, up from 11 per cent of the kill in the 2015 period to 16 per cent in the 2018 period. Meanwhile the proportion of Belgian Blue, Limousin and Charolais sired cattle originating from the dairy herd all recorded declines between the two periods under analysis.

Figure 1: Origin of price reported steers during the first four months of 2015 and 2018



LARGER PROPORTION OF UK BEEF EXPORTS DESTINED FOR EU MARKETS IN 2018

DURING the first quarter of 2018 the UK exported 29,355 tonnes of beef, a 12 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017 when 26,159 tonnes of beef were exported according to the latest available data from HMRC.

Exports to the EU totalled 26,552 tonnes during the first quarter of 2018, a 19 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2017. Exports to the EU accounted for 90 per cent of total UK beef exports during the first quarter of 2018, up from 85 per cent of exports during the same period in 2017.

Ireland continues to be the largest export destination for UK origin beef with 10,659 tonnes exported to the region during the 2018 period as outlined in Figure 2. This was a notable 34 per cent increase from the same period in 2017 while it was similar to the level of export recorded in the 2016 period.

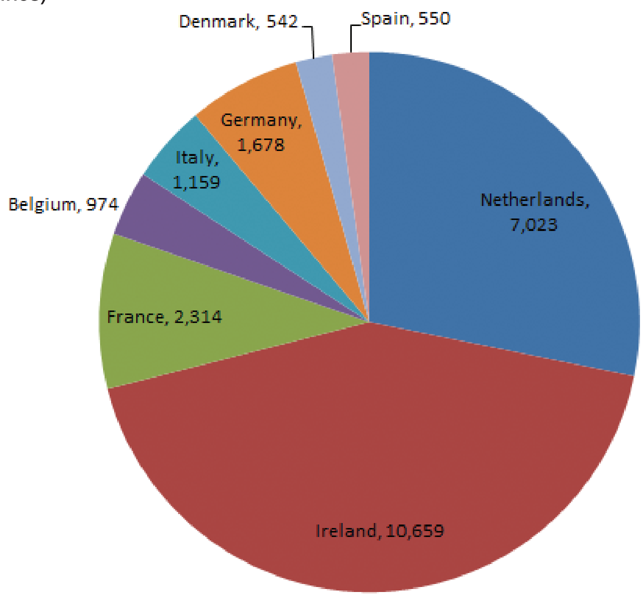
Netherlands is the second biggest export market for UK beef with 7,023 tonnes exported to the region during the first quarter of 2018. This was a 21 per cent increase from the same period in 2017 when 5,828 tonnes of beef were exported. The third biggest export market for UK beef continues to be France with 2,314 tonnes exported during the first three months of 2018. This was a 14 per cent increase from the 2,023 tonnes exported during the same period in 2017. However the level of export recorded in the 2018 period was below 2017 levels when the UK exported 2,786 tonnes of beef to France.

The UK exports beef to a number of other key markets within the EU however the volumes involved small in comparison to the trade between the UK and ROI, the Netherlands and France. During the first quarter of 2018 the volume of beef exports from the UK to Belgium, Germany and Spain all recorded an increase while exports to Italy and Denmark recorded volume declines.

UK beef exports to non-EU destinations totalled 2,803 tonnes during the first quarter of 2018, a 28 per cent decline from the same period in 2017 when the UK exported 3,913 tonnes of beef to non-EU destinations. These exports to non-EU destinations accounted for 10 per cent of total exports during the 2018 period, back from 15 per cent in the same period in 2017.

Exports of beef to non-EU markets during January and February 2018 were very low however there was a recovery during March 2018 with 1,332 tonnes of beef exported. This was the highest monthly level of beef export to non EU markets since May 2017.

Figure 2: UK beef exports to the EU by destination country during the first quarter of 2018 (tonnes)



FQAS REMINDER: FQAS STANDARDS & RULES 2018

LMC would like to remind all FQAS participants that the new Standard and Rules 2018 will come into effect from 1 June 2018.

A copy of the new Standard and Rules book was posted to all FQAS participants earlier this year. It is this book that must be presented at inspection from 1 June 2018 onwards as the previous edition will become obsolete. A copy of the new Standard and Rules is also available on the LMC website (www.lmcni.com) along with relevant templates.

If you have any queries or require any further information please call the FQAS helpline on 028 9263 3024.

FARM QUALITY ASSURED
NORTHERN IRELAND

LMC HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT LMC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 28 MAY 2018 FOR THE BANK HOLIDAY. LMC OFFICES WILL REOPEN AS NORMAL ON TUESDAY 29 MAY 2018.

LMC
Livestock & Meat Commission

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 21/05/18	Next Week 28/05/18
Prime		
U-3	358 - 364p	358 - 366p
R-3	352 - 358p	352 - 360p
O+3	346 - 352p	346 - 354p
P+3	300 - 314p	300 - 316p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	270 - 292p	270 - 292p
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 19/05/18	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	370.8	373.6	359.4
R3	365.0	365.8	359.0
O+3	356.1	355.1	348.7

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 19/05/18	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	197.7	206.5	226.6	225.7
P2	221.7	236.6	255.0	270.4
P3	208.0	259.2	273.8	279.5
O3	211.7	259.4	288.1	298.6
O4	260.0	288.0	288.0	299.9
R3	-	-	-	314.7

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processing plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle this week ranged from 358-364p/kg. The majority of plants are quoting from 360-364p/kg. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows have increased slightly with quotes ranging from 270-292p/kg across the plants this week.

Throughput of prime cattle in the local plants has remained firm with 6,709 head killed last week, an increase of 508 head compared to the previous week when 6,201 head were slaughtered. However this was 123 head less than the 6,832 prime cattle killed in local plants during the same week last year. The average carcase weight of prime cattle killed in local plants last week was 333kg compared to 336kg in the same week last year. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 1,717 head, up from the previous week when 1,650 cows were killed, though reporting similar levels compared to the same week last year when 1,755 cows were killed locally. The average carcase weight of cows killed in local plants last week was 309kg, up 5kg compared to 304kg in the same week last year.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of 23 prime cattle and 5 cows with a further 3 prime cattle and 134 cows imported from GB. There were no cattle exported from NI to GB last week for direct slaughter while 83 prime cattle and 96 cows were exported from NI to ROI.

Deadweight prices for prime cattle continued to improve in NI last week with the average steer price up by a penny to 360p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by 0.7p/kg to 368.5p/kg. The average heifer price in NI increased by 1.9p/kg to 361.7p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by 0.9p/kg to 367.9p/kg. The average young bull price recorded an increase of 2.1p/kg to 345.2p/kg, while the R3 young bull price was up 2.3p/kg to 358.4p/kg. The cow trade also improved last week with the average cow price up by a notable 5.2p/kg to 284.2p/kg, while the O3 cow price increased by a penny to 296.8p/kg.

In GB last week the average R3 steer price was 374.5p/kg, back a penny from the previous week while the average steer price was back by 1.1p/kg to 365.9p/kg. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in GB was up marginally to 374.4p/kg while the overall heifer price was 367.9p/kg, an increase of 1.5p/kg on the previous week. The O3 cow price in GB was up 1.4p/kg to 288.9p/kg however it was 7.9p/kg lower than the 296.8p/kg paid for O3 grade cows in NI.

In ROI last week deadweight prices for prime cattle continued to improve with the R3 steer price up by 2.3p/kg to 359.3p/kg. This puts the differential with NI at 9.2p/kg or £32 on a 350kg carcase. The R3 heifer price increased by 1.9p/kg to 369.2p/kg this puts the ROI R3 heifer price higher than NI R3 heifer price by 1.3p/kg. Prime cattle throughput in ROI last week totalled 23,369 head, an increase of 1200 head from the previous week. Cow throughput also reported an increase to 6,881 head.

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

W/E 19/05/2018		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	370.7	368.6	384.8	376.4	374.9	377.0	378.0
	R3	368.5	359.3	384.4	373.1	370.3	370.8	374.5
	R4	366.3	360.7	388.3	383.5	370.3	372.2	379.9
	O3	358.9	344.8	364.4	344.5	341.8	345.6	348.9
	AVG	360.0	-	381.8	365.8	357.6	356.9	365.9
Heifers	U3	374.4	382.3	391.5	378.3	384.4	382.2	384.4
	R3	367.9	369.2	384.1	369.4	372.8	368.8	374.4
	R4	366.8	369.9	386.1	376.6	372.2	370.8	376.8
	O3	358.7	354.0	362.7	349.9	346.8	350.3	352.5
	AVG	361.7	-	381.3	367.5	362.0	358.9	367.9
Young Bulls	U3	359.7	363.7	381.6	364.6	368.6	371.3	370.6
	R3	358.4	354.7	371.8	353.1	359.6	364.5	360.7
	O3	339.7	338.2	335.7	319.2	332.5	330.0	329.1
	AVG	345.2	-	371.2	339.9	347.4	351.9	350.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6052	-	6905	7317	7633	4968	26823
Cows	O3	296.8	304.4	302.6	284.6	288.3	287.9	288.9
	O4	299.3	305.1	304.0	288.0	289.2	284.1	289.5
	P2	256.5	275.6	265.3	246.4	234.4	248.9	243.9
	P3	276.9	296.0	270.4	263.7	253.9	269.7	261.2
	AVG	284.2	-	291.5	264.7	256.1	257.4	262.3

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=87.65p 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 19/05/18	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	211	224	215	180	209	195
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	200	208	204	170	199	185
Beef Cows	141	189	164	115	139	130
Dairy Cows	125	139	132	75	116	95
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	230	274	250	200	229	215
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	215	243	230	180	214	200
Bullocks over 500kg	215	230	223	175	214	195
Heifers up to 450kg	212	247	230	170	210	195
Heifers over 450kg	210	223	218	175	209	195
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	310	450	355	200	295	240
Continental Heifers	210	245	225	100	205	150
Friesian Bulls	95	110	100	15	95	55
Holstein Bulls	32	40	36	15	30	22

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES		
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 21/05/18	Next Week 28/05/18
Lambs >21kg	570-580p	545-550p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES			
(P/KG)	W/E 05/05/18	W/E 12/05/18	W/E 19/05/18
NI L/W Hoggets	436.6	436.6	445.8
NI D/W Hoggets	541.7	528.4	526.4
GB D/W Hoggets	569.5	578.5	576.5
ROI D/W	542.7	543.5	553.4
NI L/W Lambs	544.8	555.3	537.3
NI D/W Lambs	569.4	571.8	575.5
GB D/W Lambs	600.9	610.5	619.5

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major processors early this week for R3 grade lambs were 570-580p/kg. Quotes expected for early next week are back to 545-550p/kg. Throughput in the local plants last week increased 1,411 head from the previous week to 5,156 lambs/hoggets. In the same week last year 5,496 lambs were killed in local plants. Exports of sheep to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 6,670 head compared to 4,496 head the previous week. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was 575.5p/kg, up 3.7p/kg from the previous week. In the same week last year the average lamb price in NI was 448.8p/kg. The sheep trade in ROI has also continued to firm with a combined hogget/lamb price last week the equivalent of 553.4p/kg.

This week's marts

THE number of lambs passing through local sale rings has remained small with prices back compared to last week. In Omagh last Saturday 121 lambs sold from 533-585p/kg compared to 108 lambs the previous Saturday selling from 544-617p/kg. In Massereene on Monday 368 lambs sold from 530-560p/kg compared to 285 lambs last week selling from 540-614p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 334 lambs sold from 500-523p/kg (avg 513p/kg) compared to 498 lambs last week selling from 505-583p/kg (avg 541p/kg). In Ballymena this week 480 lambs sold from 495-561p/kg (avg 510p/kg) compared to 318 lambs last week selling from 530-566p/kg (avg 548p/kg). In Enniskillen this week 322 lambs sold from 530-571p/kg. Top reported prices for well fleshed ewes generally ranged from £100-£120 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS					
From: 18/05/18		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 24/05/18		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	121	533	585	-
	Swatragh	230	534	613	-
Monday	Massereene	368	530	560	-
	Kilrea	150	511	537	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	372	500	525	-
	Rathfriland	334	500	523	513
Wednesday	Ballymena	480	495	561	510
	Enniskillen	322	530	571	-
	Armoy	135	490	550	-

Contact us:

Website: www.lmcni.com

Telephone: 028 9263 3000

Fax: 028 9263 3001

FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024

Answerphone: 028 9263 3011

Comments: bulletin@lmcni.com

LMC