LMC BULLETIN
WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
Saturday 25 June 2016 Issue No. 2424

COW THROUGHPUT REMAINS STRONG

COW throughput in NI has remained strong in recent months with a total of 17,889 cows killed in NI plants during the twelve week period ending 11 June 2016. This is an increase of 3,079 head from the 14,810 cows slaughtered during the corresponding twelve week period in 2015. This accounts for a 21 per cent increase in cow throughput year on year.

While cow throughput has recorded increases in NI during 2016, there have also been increases in cow throughput recorded within ROI and GB. During the twelve week period ending 11 June 2016 cow throughput in ROI totalled 79,800 head, a twelve per cent increase from the 71,087 cows killed in ROI plants during the corresponding period in 2015. Meanwhile in GB, cow throughput during May 2016 (latest available data) totalled 38,846 head, a 23 per cent increase on May 2015 levels.

Imports of cows for direct slaughter in NI plants have remained fairly steady year on year however the breakdown of imports from ROI and GB have decreased and increased respectively. During the twelve weeks ending 11 June 2016 290 cows were imported from ROI for slaughter in NI compared to a total of 609 cows imported from ROI during the same twelve week period in 2015. Imports of cows from GB into NI for direct slaughter totalled 980 head during the twelve weeks ending 11 June 2016 compared to 252 cows imported from GB during the same period in 2015.

Combined imports of cows from ROI and GB accounted for seven per cent of the total cow throughput in NI during the twelve weeks ending 11 June 2016. During the 2015 period, total imports from ROI and GB together accounted for six per cent of the total NI cow throughput.

Meanwhile exports of cows out of NI for direct slaughter in ROI and GB have continued at similar levels year on year. During the twelve weeks ending 11 June 2016 3,271 cows were exported to ROI for direct slaughter while 121 cows were exported to GB. This was a marginal increase from year earlier levels when 2,913 cows were exported to ROI and 73 cows were exported to GB for direct slaughter.

The increase in cow throughput in NI plants has coincided with a marginal increase in the average carcase weight of cows slaughtered. During the twelve week period ending 11 June 2016 the average cow carcase weight in NI was 307kg compared to 304kg during the corresponding period in 2015.

Deadweight prices for cows during the twelve week period ending 11 June 2016 were generally below prices in the corresponding period in both 2015 and 2014. During the twelve weeks ending 11 June 2016 the average O3 cow price in NI was 233.1p/kg, a decline of 8.3p/kg from the same period in 2015 when the average O3 cow price was 241.4p/kg. Meanwhile the average O3 cow price in NI during the corresponding period in 2014 was 242.6p/kg.

NI LAMB PRICES AHEAD OF 2015

QUOTES from the major NI lamb processors came under some pressure early this week however showed a recovery in some plants as the week progressed. Quotes towards the end of this week were 365-385p/kg up to 21kg with similar quotes expected for early next week.

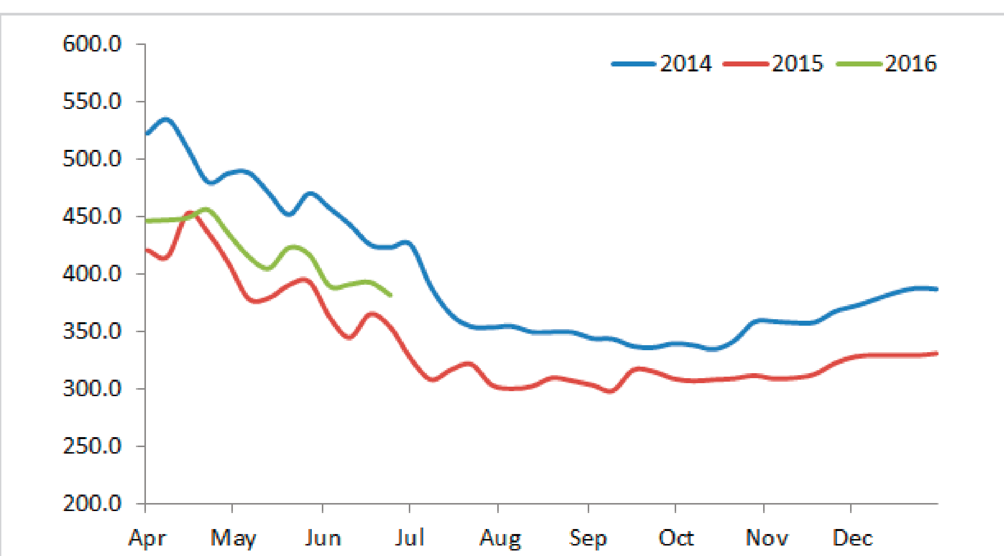
Figure 1 outlines the R3 lamb prices paid for the period April-June 2016 and for comparison purposes the R3 lamb prices for April-December 2014 and 2015. As indicated in the chart R3 lamb prices during 2016 to date have been above year earlier levels with an average R3 lamb price last week of 381.7p/kg. This was 29.7p/kg higher than the corresponding week in 2014 when the R3 lamb price was 353.8p/kg which is the equivalent of £5.85 on a 21kg lamb carcase. While the reported lamb prices in recent weeks have been above the prices paid in the corresponding weeks in 2015 the prices paid remain behind the record prices paid in Spring 2014.

As lamb availability for slaughter in NI increases in the summer months the number of lambs being exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants also tends to record an increase. There was a disruption to this trade during early summer 2015 with some issues regarding the dual origin labelling required for NI lambs killed in ROI plants. However this problem appeared to rectify itself as the year progressed with exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI returning to more typical levels as the year progressed. Last week a total of 5,605 lambs were exported from NI for direct slaughter, an increase of 456 head from the previous week and notably higher than the 4,701 lambs exported during the corresponding week in 2015.

ROI continues to act as a valuable outlet for the NI sheep industry and the increase in the value of euro against sterling in recent weeks has also helped make NI origin lambs more attractive to ROI processing plants. This will have been a contributing factor to the increased movement of NI origin sheep to ROI for direct slaughter alongside the increase in availability for export. A strengthening of euro against sterling also has the added benefit for our local processors by making NI origin lamb more competitive on the important EU market.

Currency movements are a key factor in driving patterns of trade in livestock and meat and the UK's decision to leave the EU will put currency monitoring to the top of the agenda in the short term for any business involved in trading outside the UK.

Figure 1: Average reported R3 lamb prices in NI April-December 2014-2016



VOLUME OF UK RETAIL BEEF SALES INCREASES

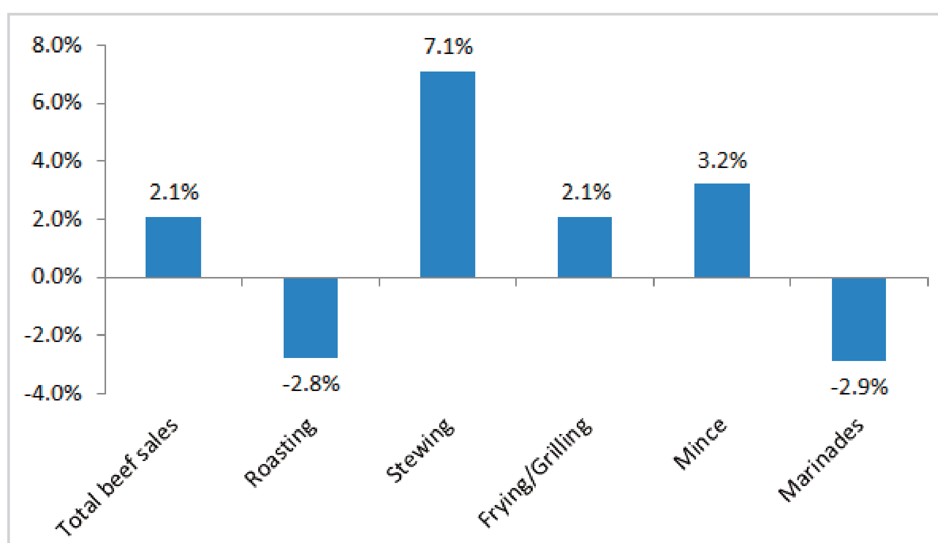
RETAIL expenditure on beef during the 12 weeks ending 22 May 2016 totalled £486.6 million in the UK according to the latest available data from Kantar Worldpanel. This is a marginal decrease from the corresponding period in 2015 when retail expenditure on beef in the UK totalled £490 million.

This slight decline in expenditure on beef occurred despite an increase in the volume of retail beef sales. During the 12 week period ending 22 May 2016 retail beef sales totalled 64,074 tonnes, a two per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2015. A decrease in the average retail price of beef from £7.70/kg in the 2015 period to £7.59/kg in the 2016 period will have been a key driver behind the increase in the volume of beef UK retail beef sales.

Figure 2 outlines the performance of individual beef cuts during the twelve week period ending 22 May 2016 compared to the corresponding period in 2015. As indicated in the chart some cuts have recorded an increase in volume sales while other cuts have performed less strongly. Sales of stewing beef recorded the most notable increase, up by 7.1 per cent from year earlier levels. Meanwhile sales of mince and frying steaks increased by 3.2 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively during the 12 week period ending 22 May 2016. Volume sales of beef roasting joints were back 2.8 per cent from year earlier levels while sales of beef marinades recorded a 2.9 per cent decline when compared to 2015 period.

Retail sales of processed beef have also recorded a mixed performance during the 12 weeks ending 22 May 2016 when compared to year earlier levels. Volume sales of burgers and grills recorded a 2.4 per cent increase with sales of chilled ready meals increasing by a similar margin. Sales of fresh pre packed pasties recorded the most notable increase in volume sales, up by 10.6 per cent from year earlier levels. Meanwhile volume sales of frozen ready meals were back by 13 per cent year on year while volume sales of frozen pies were back by 15.6 per cent year on year.

Figure 2: Percentage change in the volume of retail beef sales during the twelve week period ending 22 May 2016 and the corresponding period in 2015



WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 20/06/16	Next Week 27/06/16
Prime		
U-3	322 - 326p	322 - 326p
R-3	316 - 320p	316 - 320p
O+3	310 - 314p	310 - 314p
P+3	222 - 260p	222 - 260p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	238 - 250p	238 - 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 COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 18/06/16	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	151.7	155.6	161.7	189.6
P2	175.5	189.1	197.7	216.9
P3	156.7	198.8	217.3	231.8
O3	-	217.4	238.2	248.8
O4	-	235.0	243.2	252.8
R3	-	258.0	-	265.3

LMC MARKET INFORMATION UPDATE

LMC PRICE REPORTING SERVICES ARE NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE FIRE AT LMC HEADQUARTERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT US ON 028 9263 3000 OR VIA EMAIL BULLETIN@LMCNI.COM

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processing plants for prime cattle have remained steady this week with 322-326p/kg available for U-3 in spec steers and heifers. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows were unchanged ranging from 238-250p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI has remained relatively steady with 5,847 prime cattle slaughtered in local plants last week. This was notably higher than the corresponding week in 2015 when 4,847 prime cattle were slaughtered in NI. Cow throughput in NI last week increased by 150 head from the previous week to 1,581 head, the highest weekly throughput since late April this year. In the corresponding week in 2015 cow throughput totalled 1,131 head which represents a 28 per cent increase year on year.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI last week totalled 113 head, accounting for two per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. In the corresponding week in 2015 449 prime cattle were imported from ROI accounting for nine per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill. The number of cows imported from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants totalled 66 head, a decrease of 54 head from the corresponding week in 2015 when 120 cows were imported from ROI. Imports from GB for direct slaughter in NI last week consisted of 12 prime cattle and 24 cows, similar to the corresponding week in 2015 when 7 prime cattle and 62 cows were imported from GB. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of 24 prime cattle and 200 cows.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle has continued to firm with the average steer price in NI last week up by 1.3p/kg to 318.5p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by 3.1 p/kg to 327.7p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week increased by 1.4p/kg to 319.4p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 2p/kg to 326.4p/kg. The trade for young bulls also improved last week with the R3 young bull price up by 1.2p/kg to 320.9p/kg while the trade for cows also firmed with the O3 cow price increasing by 2.5p/kg to 346.8p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price increased by 2.4p/kg to 323.2p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 1.8p/kg to 331.8p/kg. The strongest increase was recorded in Scotland where the R3 steer price increased by 4p/kg to 342.5p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week increased by half a penny to 325.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 1.8p/kg to 334.1p/kg. The R3 heifer price increased in all of the GB regions with the biggest increase noted in Scotland where it increased by 4p/kg to 345.5p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in ROI remained steady in euro terms last week but a firming in the value of euro against sterling resulted in the majority of reported prices increasing in sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week increased by 4p/kg to 319.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 3p/kg to 329p/kg.

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

W/E 18/06/2016		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	330.6	326.1	344.5	333.9	334.3	334.5	336.9
	R3	327.7	319.5	342.5	326.3	328.2	329.0	331.8
	R4	324.6	318.4	345.2	335.5	327.3	328.7	335.1
	O3	314.0	306.0	321.6	297.1	300.9	298.5	304.9
	AVG	318.5	-	340.3	320.6	315.9	313.2	323.2
Heifers	U3	332.4	341.7	355.9	340.8	340.6	338.0	344.6
	R3	326.4	329.0	345.5	326.2	331.3	330.4	334.1
	R4	323.0	329.1	346.3	329.7	329.2	328.5	333.9
	O3	315.0	317.1	317.1	294.5	296.6	313.9	305.7
	AVG	319.4	-	343.0	322.8	317.4	315.2	325.7
Young Bulls	U3	323.4	323.2	341.1	326.2	332.5	333.2	332.4
	R3	320.9	315.3	335.5	312.7	322.8	327.2	323.6
	O3	305.1	299.8	292.5	273.3	290.5	299.6	288.3
	AVG	310.7	-	329.0	303.9	305.9	314.8	310.9
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5227	-	7268	7089	7033	4440	25830
Cows	O3	246.8	253.6	249.6	237.0	244.1	236.1	240.6
	O4	251.9	254.2	255.5	237.5	243.1	235.7	241.7
	P2	203.6	229.7	207.2	196.2	193.5	198.1	196.9
	P3	227.4	246.2	208.4	204.7	208.9	220.0	210.9
	AVG	228.2	-	239.4	212.7	207.0	208.5	212.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro 79.19 =p 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 18/06/16	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	182	196	186	160	181	170
Friesians	134	148	139	120	132	125
Heifers	180	198	187	160	179	172
Beef Cows	140	180	151	105	139	122
Dairy Cows	102	129	109	60	101	82
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	210	240	220	170	208	188
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	237	210	160	199	180
Bullocks over 500kg	180	211	195	155	179	170
Heifers up to 450kg	200	229	215	155	199	177
Heifers over 450kg	190	209	200	160	189	172
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	230	350	285	130	228	185
Continental Heifers	200	325	250	100	198	150
Friesian Bulls	125	245	160	60	122	90
Holstein Bulls	100	200	125	30	98	50

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 20/06/16	Next Week 27/06/16
Lambs	360 > 21kg	365-385 > 21kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 04/06/16	W/E 11/06/16	W/E 18/06/16
NI Lambs L/W	383.9	369.7	341.5
NI Lambs D/W	388.8	392.7	382.2
GB Lambs D/W	432.8	432.8	412.5
ROI D/W	400.3	396.9	380.8

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES for R3 grade lambs firmed towards the end of the week with quotes ranging from 365-385p/kg across the major lamb processing plants. The processors have reported good supplies of lambs coming forward to meet demands with lamb throughput starting to increase as more lambs become available for slaughter. Throughput last week totalling 8,613 head, the highest weekly throughput for the year to date. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 5,605 head, an increase of 456 head from the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by 10.5p/kg to 382.5p/kg with reported prices in ROI back by 16p/kg to 380.8p/kg.

This week's marts

GOOD numbers of lambs were presented for sale in many of the marts this week with the trade generally improving as the week progressed. In Massereene on Monday 556 lambs sold from 340-365p/kg compared to 716 lambs last week selling from 350-386p/kg. In Saintfield this week 464 lambs sold from 331-375p/kg compared to 466 lambs last week selling from 348-383p/kg. In Markethill on Wednesday a sharper trade saw 580 lambs sold to an average of 360p/kg compared to 680 lambs last week selling to an average of 340p/kg. Top reported prices for well fleshed cull ewes generally ranged from £80-100.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 17/06/16		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 23/06/16		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	402	326	378	-
Saturday	Omagh	296	347	391	-
	Swatragh	486	341	350	-
Monday	Massereene	556	340	365	-
	Kilrea	413	336	345	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	464	331	375	-
	Rathfriland	600	342	370	353
Wednesday	Ballymena	605	330	385	352
	Enniskillen	345	322	361	-
	Markethill	580	350	388	360
	Armoy	160	370	386	-

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

Information supplied by LMC / DARD/ AHDB/ DAFM

LMC