LMC
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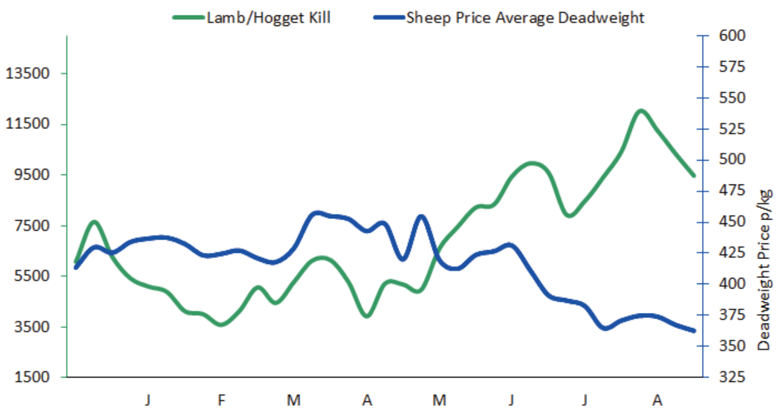
LAMB TRADE HOLDS STEADY DURING AUGUST AS THROUGHPUT INCREASES

LAMB throughput in NI plants during August 2019 totalled 43,057 head which was similar to August 2018 levels. However as indicated in Figure 1 lambs throughput in local plants increased sharply from previous months during August 2019 in line with normal seasonal trends.

While lamb throughput increased strongly during August deadweight prices have held relatively steady since late July 2019 as outlined in Figure 1. However while the trade has shown some stability in recent weeks the average deadweight price during August was 369.7p/kg, back 30p/kg from the August 2018 when the average price was 399.7p/kg. This accounts for a £6.30 decline in the value of a 21kg lamb carcase year on year.

The average carcase weight of lambs killed in local plants was 21.4kg during August 2019, up slightly from 21.1kg in August 2018. The importance of producing lambs with carcases as close to 21kg as possible was discussed at finishing lamb events organised by Agrisearch, AFBI, CAFRE and LMC last week. Lambs that produce heavier carcases have a higher cost of production for the producer but provide no financial return for this investment.

Figure 1: Deadweight lamb prices in NI have come under pressure as supplies have picked up (2019 YTD)



Ewe and ram throughput

During August 2019 2,529 ewes/rams were processed locally and had an average carcase weight of 28.4kg. In the corresponding period in 2018 1,849 ewes/rams were killed in NI with an average carcase weight of 27.8kg.

Exports to ROI

A further 42,337 sheep were exported from NI for direct slaughter in plants in ROI during August 2019. This was an increase of almost ten per cent from August 2018 levels when 38,621 sheep were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter.

This strong increase in the level of export during August 2019 when compared to August 2018 levels reflects the increased availability of finished lambs coming forward this year. It is also due to a stronger euro against sterling which has made NI lambs much more attractive for lamb processing plants in ROI.

Table 1: NI Sheep Industry Key Performance Indicators (August Snapshot)

	Aug-18	Aug-19	% Change
Sheep Prices (p/kg)			
Average Deadweight Price **NI**	399.7	369.7	-7.5%
Average Liveweight Price **NI**	354.7	337.8	-4.8%
Average Weekly Price **GB** (D/W)	427.3	393.4	-7.9%
Average Weekly Price **ROI** (D/W)	419.2	402.5	-4.0%
Slaughterings			
Total Hoggets & Lambs Slaughterings (Head)	43,012	43,057	+0.1%
Total Ewes & Rams Slaughterings (Head)	1,849	2,529	+36.8%
Average Hogget & Lambs Carcase Weight (kg)	21.1	21.4	+1.4%
Average Ewe & Rams Carcase Weight (kg)	27.8	28.4	+2.2%
Trade (Head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	0	0	-
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	38,621	42,337	+9.6%
Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)	89.7	91.6	+2.1%
All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated			

LMC CO-HOSTING NI SHEEP CONFERENCE 2019

The 'Future Proofing your Sheep Enterprise' conference is shaping up to be a must attend event for all in the sheep industry. This is a biennial event jointly organised by CAFRE, UFU, LMC, AFBI, NSA and NIMEA.

Following feedback from previous events the conference will now be an evening event and is scheduled to take place at two venues on the following dates:

Greenmount Campus CAFRE Wednesday, 2 October at 6pm

Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh. Thursday, 3 October at 6pm

This years' conference will focus on a range of topics including improving lamb production from grass, benefits of using good genetics, protecting your flock from Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) and maximising market returns.

Two key challenges for the lamb sector are maintaining the production of high-quality meat that fulfils current market specifications and the second is to ensure sheep farming is financially viable.

Making changes at farm level to ensure that producers are maximising both output and market returns has never been more important, with current deadweight prices running behind previous years and the ongoing uncertainty around potential market outlets for Northern Ireland lambs following Brexit.

When producing lambs the starting point, ironically, should be considering the end-point. Producers should ask themselves: What are my costs of production? Who will be buying the lambs? How will they be marketed? When do they need to be ready by? What type of lamb is required?

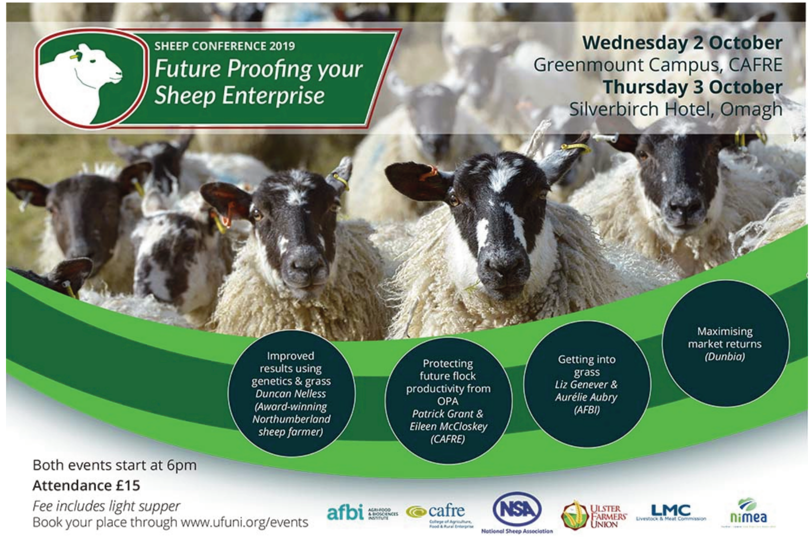
These important questions will be topics for discussion on the night with our panel of expert speakers. The speakers at the conference are outlined in Table 1 below. With an interesting line up of speakers in place producers are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Table 1: Speakers at NI Sheep Conference 2019

Speaker	Topics
Duncan Nelless	Improved results using genetics and grass
Patrick Grant and Eileen McCloskey	Protecting future flock productivity from OPA
Liz Genever and Aurélie Aubrey	Getting into grass
George Williamson (Greenmount) and Michaela Tener (Silverbirch)	Maximising market returns

How to Book your Place? Interest in this event is anticipated to be very high so if you want to be guaranteed a place then you need to book early. Conference cost is £15 per person and includes a light supper.

Booking is via the UFU website www.ufuni.org/events
If you have difficulty booking online, please contact Angela Scott at UFU HQ on 028 9037 0222. Note: Places cannot be reserved and payment in full is required at the time of booking by credit or debit card.



WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 09/09/19	Next Week 16/09/19
Prime		
U-3	312 - 320p	312 - 320p
R-3	306 - 314p	306 - 314p
O+3	300 - 308p	300 - 308p
P+3	252 - 262p	252 - 262p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	235 - 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 07/09/19	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	322.0	328.3	314.0
R3	320.2	324.7	315.6
O+3	313.3	316.8	306.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 07/09/19	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220-250kg	Wgt 250-280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	151.0	163.7	173.0	180.9
P2	173.7	195.1	210.9	224.6
P3	220.0	212.3	227.3	235.2
O3	180.0	225.9	249.6	253.8
O4	-	222.1	257.1	255.7
R3	-	-	-	272.7

Deadweight Cattle Trade

THE deadweight trade for prime cattle came under pressure this week with quotes ranging from 312-320p/kg for U-3 grade prime cattle. The majority of plants are quoting 320p/kg for steers and heifers. Quotes for O+3 grading cows held steady at 235-250p/kg this week. Similar quotes for all types of cattle are expected early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI plants totalled 6,604 head last week, an increase of 516 head from the previous week. In the same week last year prime cattle throughput totalled 5,926 head which represents an increase of 678 head. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,122 head. This is a similar throughput from the previous week and 113 cows below the 2,235 cows killed in the corresponding week in 2018.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants last week increased to 181 prime cattle and 61 cows compared to the previous week when 41 prime cattle and 31 cows were imported. A further one steer and 68 cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of five steers and 160 cows with 15 prime cattle and 3 cows exported for direct slaughter in GB plants.

Deadweight prices for prime cattle in NI came under pressure last week with the average steer price back by 5.9p/kg to 314.6p/kg while the R3 steer price was back 4.5p/kg to 324.2p/kg compared to the previous week. The average heifer price last week was back 4p/kg to 320.6p/kg, while the R3 heifer price in NI last week decreased by 3.8p/kg to 327p/kg. The average young bull price decreased by 0.8p/kg to 305.7p/kg this week while the R3 young bull price increased by 5.5p/kg to 322.4/kg. Meanwhile the cow trade came under pressure last week with the average cow price back by 6.9p/kg to 228.8p/kg and the O3 NI cow price decreasing by 1.2p/kg to 253.2p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB generally held steady last week. The average GB steer price was back by 1.4p/kg to 325.3p/kg while the R3 steer price was back 0.4p/kg to 332.6p/kg. R3 steer prices recorded increases in Northern England (+1.5p/kg) and Southern England (+0.8p/kg) with declines in Scotland (-3.8p/kg) and the Midlands and Wales (-0.2p/kg). The average heifer price in GB last week held steady at 328.3p/kg with the R3 heifer price also holding steady at 333.8p/kg. The R3 heifer price increased in Northern England (+3.5p/kg) and the Midlands and Wales (+0.4p/kg) with decreases reported in Scotland (-3p/kg) and Southern England (-0.5p/kg). The GB average deadweight cow price decreased by 1.5p/kg to 224.2p/kg with the O3 cow price back by a similar margin to 250.2p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight steer and heifer trade held steady in euro terms. However a weakening in the euro resulted in the deadweight prices decreasing in sterling terms. The R3 steer and heifer price in ROI were both back last week by the equivalent of 1.5p/kg to 311.3p/kg and 320.2p/kg respectively.

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

W/E 07/09/19		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	323.5	320.6	344.0	333.9	333.9	331.6	335.8
	R3	324.2	311.3	342.0	334.9	328.3	326.9	332.6
	R4	323.4	309.8	346.1	340.2	328.4	326.3	337.1
	O3	319.3	294.0	325.6	319.0	304.0	307.2	313.9
	AVG	314.6	-	340.7	328.8	316.4	314.5	325.3
Heifers	U3	328.8	332.8	348.6	338.6	338.1	336.3	340.6
	R3	327.0	320.2	340.5	336.0	332.1	327.6	333.8
	R4	325.9	318.9	346.2	335.8	331.0	329.4	336.1
	O3	320.5	306.7	327.5	323.3	302.0	313.1	316.1
	AVG	320.6	-	342.9	329.9	320.1	318.5	328.3
Young Bulls	U3	314.3	304.1	331.0	320.0	323.2	321.9	323.5
	R3	322.4	300.0	326.0	318.9	319.1	316.8	320.2
	O3	300.4	281.8	299.7	288.3	282.2	-	287.4
	AVG	305.7	-	320.8	303.6	308.5	309.3	309.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported		5,616	-	6,805	6,739	7,405	4,652	25,601
Cows	O3	253.2	256.7	252.2	251.4	250.3	247.1	250.2
	O4	255.3	256.7	255.3	254.5	252.9	243.8	252.1
	P2	214.8	231.2	217.7	198.6	205.9	215.7	209.0
	P3	233.6	246.8	227.7	215.9	225.4	224.4	224.5
	AVG	228.8	-	242.3	231.9	219.5	215.7	224.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=90.24p 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 07/09/19	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	195	203	197	170	194	182
Friesians	131	136	134	117	130	127
Heifers	194	208	200	172	193	183
Beef Cows	154	198	166	120	153	135
Dairy Cows	106	121	112	65	105	85
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	200	237	215	160	199	180
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	221	210	165	199	182
Bullocks over 500kg	185	204	195	165	184	175
Heifers up to 450kg	190	206	198	160	189	175
Heifers over 450kg	190	213	200	160	189	175
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	305	375	335	200	300	250
Continental Heifers	250	305	280	150	245	200
Friesian Bulls	125	200	145	50	120	85
Holstein Bulls	80	125	100	15	75	45

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 09/09/19	Next Week 16/09/19
Lambs up to 21kg	360-365p	350-360p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 24/08/19	W/E 31/08/19	W/E 07/09/19
NI L/W Lambs	330.2	326.6	321.5
NI D/W Lambs	367.3	362.7	362.4
GB D/W Lambs	392.0	391.9	386.6
ROI D/W	391.7	390.8	391.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants for R3 grading lambs held steady this week at 360-365p/kg up to 21kg with quotes expected to range from 350-360p/kg early next week. Throughput of lambs in NI has remained firm with 10,307 lambs slaughtered last week. This is an increase of 837 head from the previous week however it remains lower than the corresponding week last year when 11,127 lambs were killed locally. A further 8,421 lambs were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week which accounted for 45 per cent of total NI lamb output. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was marginally back to 362.4p/kg from the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in ROI last week increased by 0.4p/kg to the equivalent of 391.2p/kg.

This week's marts

GOOD numbers of lambs continue to pass through the local marts with a steady trade reported for good quality lambs. In Swatragh last Saturday 1,220 lambs sold from 312-352p/kg compared to 1,200 lambs the previous week selling within a similar price range of 312-351p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 520 lambs sold from 310-318p/kg compared to 700 lambs last week selling from 316-333p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 850 lambs sold from 300-350p/kg (avg 320p/kg) compared to 1,023 lambs last week selling from 300-360p/kg (avg 328p/kg). In Armoy this week 463 lambs sold from 300-342p/kg compared to 364 lambs last week selling from 308-339p/kg. Top prices for ewes generally ranged from £80-120 across the marts with a top reported price of £126 in Swatragh on Saturday.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 06/09/19		Lambs			
To: 12/09/19		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	320	297	336	-
Saturday	Swatragh	1220	312	352	-
	Omagh	1807	373	438	-
Monday	Massereene	1002	310	339	-
	Kilrea	520	310	318	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	834	300	373	-
	Rathfriland	850	300	350	320
Wednesday	Ballymena	1704	295	328	308
	Enniskillen	485	322	345	-
	Armoy	463	300	342	-
	Markethill	1150	310	335	-

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