

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 28/08/23	Next Week 04/09/23
Prime		
U-3	432 - 446p	434 - 446p
R-3	426 - 440p	428 - 440p
O+3	420 - 434p	422 - 434p
P+3	364 - 378p	366 - 378p
Including bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3	324 - 340p	330 - 345p

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.

FQAS SUPPORT SESSIONS SEPTEMBER 2023

LMC Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, attends a range of marts across the province to assist members of the NI FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.

Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed in the table below during September 2023.

Mart	Day	Date
Saintfield	Wednesday (Day)	06/09/2023
Swatragh	Monday (Day)	11/09/2023
Enniskillen	Thursday (Day)	14/09/2023

For further information or to speak with Terry directly call the NI Farm Quality Assurance Helpline on (028) 9263 3024.

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 26/08/23	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	461.5	463.2	452.8
R3	455.2	457.3	446.6
O+3	447.6	448.3	423.5

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 26/08/23	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	224.8	243.3	255.4	264.6
P2	258.5	280.6	299.5	310.7
P3	263.0	300.3	309.2	321.5
O3	269.6	300.0	331.8	336.1
O4	310.0	318.7	330.1	338.4
R3	-	-	-	355.2

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes from the major NI plants this week for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle improved mid-week to range from 434-446p/kg. Quotes for O+3 grading cows ranged from 324-340p/kg this week with improved quotes of 330-345p/kg expected early next week.

Last week the local cattle kill continued at similar levels to recent weeks with prime cattle throughput totalling 6,460 head, while cow throughput in local plants last week totalled 2,094 head. Last week in NI an improved trade was reported for all types of cattle. The average price paid for prime cattle reported increases across all categories from the previous week. The average steer price was up 0.6p/kg to 444.8p/kg, and the average heifer price increased by 1.8p/kg bringing it to 447.9p/kg. Meanwhile the average young bull price in NI last week increased by 2.7p/kg, to 436.2p/kg. The trade for cows also strengthened week on week with P2 being the only base grade in the category recording an overall decline.

Deadweight cattle prices across GB continued to trend upward last week with the average price paid for steers and heifers increasing by 2.6p/kg and 2.2p/kg respectively. As was the case in NI the trade for good quality cows strengthened across the GB regions last week, with prices paid for O3 grading cows reporting increases of 6.7p/kg and 6.1p/kg in Southern and Northern England. In ROI the deadweight trade for all types of cattle continued to report declines last week in both euro and sterling terms.

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

W/E 26/08/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	463.0	405.0	478.2	473.9	475.1	474.5
	R3	458.2	395.8	474.9	469.8	465.4	465.4
	R4	461.7	396.7	476.4	468.2	459.9	464.0
	O3	445.8	382.3	459.4	451.9	443.0	446.2
AVG	444.8	-	472.3	460.6	451.9	451.2	459.3
Heifers	U3	463.1	410.1	482.5	471.0	479.3	472.4
	R3	461.4	399.2	475.1	468.1	466.1	465.1
	R4	461.2	399.7	474.4	468.8	464.6	461.7
	O3	443.2	389.3	456.3	448.2	435.7	444.8
AVG	447.9	-	471.9	459.4	449.4	447.8	457.2
Young Bulls	U3	452.0	396.0	463.7	464.2	468.5	455.2
	R3	445.3	387.0	459.3	453.4	459.4	452.7
	O3	430.1	369.0	433.9	425.7	414.9	418.7
	AVG	436.2	-	456.2	449.0	446.9	441.6
Prime Cattle Price Reported	4,843	-	5,591	5,514	6,289	4,339	21,733
Cows	O3	334.8	328.9	346.2	342.6	348.8	345.3
	O4	337.6	329.5	353.2	347.4	345.6	344.3
	P2	300.5	294.0	323.5	310.2	309.0	305.8
	P3	318.0	317.4	330.7	323.6	322.1	320.4
AVG	297.9	-	338.8	320.8	311.9	298.0	

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.54p 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

LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 26/08/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	260	306	280	210	259	235
Friesians	215	253	225	140	214	180
Heifers	240	282	262	190	239	215
Beef Cows	214	256	225	160	213	180
Dairy Cows	140	180	152	24	139	100
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	285	377	310	215	284	240
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	260	354	290	200	259	225
Bullocks over 500kg	244	312	263	204	243	220
Heifers up to 450kg	245	311	270	200	244	215
Heifers over 450kg	240	296	260	195	235	210
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	390	570	470	240	380	300
Continental Heifers	290	450	375	170	275	225
Friesian Bulls	105	140	125	20	95	55
Holstein Bulls	65	135	100	10	60	35

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

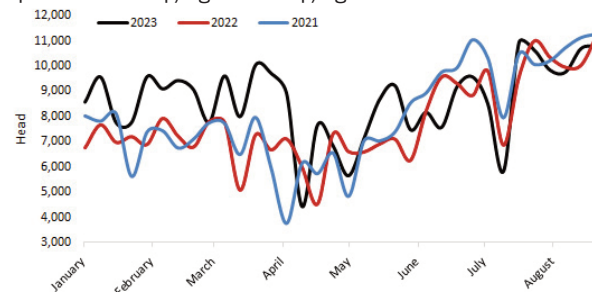
(P/Kg DW)	This Week 28/08/23	Next Week 04/09/23
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	520p	510 - 520p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 12/08/23	W/E 19/08/23	W/E 26/08/23
NI L/W Lambs	471.6	473.5	468.9
NI D/W Lambs	510.9	524.8	524.8
GB D/W Lambs	574.3	580.7	567.9
ROI D/W	529.4	530.9	533.3

Sheep Trade

Last week the NI lamb kill totalled 10,779 head with strong numbers continuing to pass through the marts. Base quotes from the three major processors for R3 grading lambs ended this week in the region of 520p/kg. Preliminary base quotes of 510-520p/kg have been received by LMC for Monday. The deadweight lamb price in NI remained steady last week at 524.8p/kg, while the average liveweight lamb price reported a decline of 4.6p/kg from the previous week. In GB last week the average deadweight lamb price declined by 12.8p/kg to 567.9p/kg. In ROI last week the average lamb price was up by 4.3c/kg in euro terms, which in sterling terms was up by the equivalent of 2.4p/kg to 533.3p/kg.



LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 26/08/23		Lambs			
To: 31/08/23		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	783	468	518	-
	Swatragh	1350	439	467	-
Monday	Markethill	1300	450	480	-
	Saintfield	680	460	500	-
Tuesday	Rathfriland	1087	450	514	471
	Ballymena	2353	442	495	472
Wednesday	Enniskillen	648	450	500	-
	Armooy	623	465	500	-

TAKING ONE'S HEALTH AND WELL BEING FOR GRANTED IS AN ABSOLUTE NO:NO!!

A personal perspective from Richard Halleron "I had just celebrated my 60th birthday and was feeling great. All the stories about 60 being the new 50 were so true....or at least that's what I was trying to tell myself.

The first sign of the wheels coming off the wagon became apparent a few months later: on March 16th 2018 to be precise. I was driving back to Belfast from Coleraine and started taking a cold sweat in the car. Initially, I thought it was just the flu and so headed for bed as soon as I got home.

But it was all down hill from there. Two days later I was still suffering from a recurring fever. I had never felt as bad in my life.

But then it started, an agonising pain in my abdomen that would not go away. I couldn't sleep, even sitting down was the most uncomfortable feeling I could ever have imagined. But being the man I am, no words were ever spoken to other family members. But they all knew that something was wrong: they could see it.

Eventually, I broke down in front of my daughter-in-law and blurted out the whole story. I was seated in front of my own doctor 24 hours later. Blood samples were taken: I didn't have long to wait for the results. The next morning my doctor was on the phone telling me that every blood marker they could test for was off the chart. I was seriously ill.

There followed a six-month period of scans further blood tests and visits to the City Hospital in Belfast for meetings with various consultants. It didn't take that long to find out the cause of all my problems: I had a badly infected aneurysm located in the section of my aorta that takes blood into my legs. The only cure was a three-month stay in hospital, which included me undergoing nine hours of surgery. I am now the happy recipient of an aortic graft: 12 inches

in length.

By the time I got home, I had lost four stones in weight and a residual weakness in my right leg. An intensive commitment to walk 12km per day got me back on my feet and, at this stage, I can look back on it all with a degree of cool perspective.

But here comes the kicker. A few weeks after me getting out of hospital, I decided to go through old post that had been building up for a year and more. As I was flicking through the piles of old envelopes, out jumped one that had not been opened. It turned out to be a proposed appointment date for an aortic scan, sent to me months before I actually took ill. Had I turned up on the allotted day, could the madness that impacted on me have been avoided? We will never know. At least, I am here today to write this story.

When I asked the doctors why I took ill in the first place, they come back with four main reasons: my age, genetic factors, a possible infection and stress. And of the four, stress was probably the factor that took me over the edge. I have worked in the farming industry all of my life. I know how lonely

and self absorbing the profession that is farming in the 21st century can be. But this should not be a reason for farmers failing to make their own health and wellbeing a priority. Prevention is always so much better than cure.

The range of health services available to farmers today continues to grow. Collaborations such as the NI Agri-Rural Health Forum play a vitally important role in this regard throughout all our farming communities.

This is one of the good news stories that should be given much more prominence within the media at large and within the social circles that farming families frequent.

Preventative medicine is now at the heart of the services made available by all the health and social care trusts – and rightly so. Testing and scanning-related services are available to detect cancers and other serious illnesses at an early stage. If the screening appointment comes in the post, it should be acted upon – in an affirmative manner- immediately. Likewise, if it's a case of sending a poo sample off in the post, a similar course of action should be followed.

Prior to my own operation I was, as the saying goes 'a dead man walking.' But thanks to the commitment, professionalism and tremendous skill of medical staff in two hospitals, I am alive today.

Before the curtain almost fell down on my life, I took my health and wellbeing for granted. That was such a mistake. I would therefore urge every farmer in Northern Ireland to get off the tractor every now and then and commit to a full health check up. Take my word for it: these are live saving decisions!"

Did you know that reducing your blood pressure (BP) by 10mmHg can reduce your chances of having a heart attack or stroke by 25%?

The NI Agri-Rural Health Forum are hoping that every farmer can take an opportunity to get their blood pressure checked this winter and they have teamed up with the British Heart Foundation to promote this. Christina Faulkner from the Farm Family Health Checks team says 'Getting your blood pressure checked is easy and takes 2 minutes or less. This year we want to encourage as many farmers as possible to come along to our van at an event; go to their local pharmacy; GP or even check their own BP at home. 'Know your

numbers' week is 4th-10th September also, so we will be joining forces with the rest of the forum members including British Heart Foundation to get the message out to 'Make the time and ease the pressure'.

Dr Rebecca Orr, chair of the NI Agri-Rural Health forum and GP Registrar says 'Farmers hearts are precious and getting a BP check could literally save your life. Exercising a little; keeping stress levels to a minimum; stopping smoking and most importantly, eating a health balanced diet is all part of the picture too. Trying out nutritious, balanced recipes such as those designed by the Livestock and Meat Commission can make healthy eating easy. Making batches and freezing will also mean you have a balanced diet throughout the busier times such as housing and autumn calving periods when making a trip to the chip shop is more tempting.'

Did you know that around 50% of heart attacks and strokes in Northern Ireland are associated with high blood pressure?

FINAL DEADLINE SET FOR FREE ANTIMICROBIAL TRAINING

Free training courses on the responsible use of antimicrobials on beef and sheep farms are nearing conclusion, with the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) encouraging farmers who have yet to complete this course to register for an upcoming event.

These workshops which are currently free of charge under the Farm Family Key Skills Programme will be coming to an end on 31ST OCTOBER 2023.

This is the final deadline extension after which the training will no longer be available for free.

From 2020 it became a requirement for NIBL FQAS that 'at least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials'.

These training sessions are organised by CAFRE in partnership with AI Services. A mix of online and in person events are scheduled over the next couple of months. LMC is encouraging NIBL FQAS participants who have not had a chance to partake in training to date to register for a free upcoming training session before the 31 October 2023 deadline.

Details on upcoming training dates can be found on the CAFRE website at: www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/responsible-use-of-antimicrobials-on-beef-and-sheep-farms or by contacting AI Services on (028) 9083 3123.

Attendees must pre-register in order to attend a session. Attendance certificates to meet NIBL FQAS requirements will be issued on successful completion of the training. NIBL FQAS participants must retain their certificate to be shown at each inspection.



James Booth
Co. Down
Dairy, Beef, Arable Farmer
and FQAS Member



Do you know yours?
The most important number to know on farm.

Around 50% of heart attacks and strokes in Northern Ireland are associated with high blood pressure.

In partnership with
HSC Public Health Agency

NI Agri-Rural Health Forum

Find out more at bhf.org.uk



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