

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 26/06/23	Next Week 03/07/23
Prime		
U-3	460 - 466p	454 - 460p
R-3	454 - 460p	448 - 454p
O+3	448 - 454p	442 - 448p
P+3	392 - 398p	386 - 392p
Including bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3	364 - 374p	358 - 370p

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 MART CLINIC DATES JULY 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.

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

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

Mart	Day	Date
Kilrea	Wednesday (Day)	05/07/2023
Camlough	Wednesday (Day)	19/07/2023
Enniskillen	Thursday (Day)	20/07/2023

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 24/06/23	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	488.3	486.4	478.5
R3	481.3	480.9	473.4
O+3	472.3	473.8	457.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 24/06/23	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	272.4	283.2	299.0	312.1
P2	296.7	329.4	344.7	361.2
P3	335.0	356.9	360.9	367.8
O3	-	366.9	379.2	385.9
O4	280.8	370.0	388.0	390.7
R3	-	-	-	399.8

Deadweight Cattle Trade

The trade for beef across NI, GB and ROI has continued to fall for the fifth consecutive week, largely attributable to declining beef sales across the world market. In NI last week the average price paid for steers was 471.1p/kg back 2.4p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the average heifer price was one of only two NI grades reporting a slight increase, up 0.2p/kg from the previous week to 473.8p/kg. The cow trade in NI reported a 3.3p/kg decline in the average price bringing it to 354.4p/kg. Similar declines have been seen across GB and ROI.

A widening differential in deadweight cattle prices between NI and ROI to the equivalent of 47.6p/kg on a R3 grade steer saw strong levels of cattle imported for direct slaughter locally. Imports from ROI last week for direct slaughter consisted of 97 heifers, 265 steers and 193 cows. Meanwhile, last week cattle exports to ROI for direct slaughter consisted of four prime cattle and 41 cows. No cattle moved between NI and GB for slaughter last week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 6,581 head a decline of 372 head processed during the previous week, with cow throughput increasing by 208 head from the previous week to 2,128 head.

Continued pressure on the beef trade is expected in the coming weeks and preliminary base quotes received by LMC on Monday indicate prime cattle quotes will be in the region of 454-460p/kg.

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

W/E 24/06/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	489.1	446.8	496.6	494.7	492.1	492.2
	R3	483.2	435.6	495.5	488.6	486.1	484.6
	R4	483.1	437.3	496.2	494.0	486.3	481.4
	O3	470.1	424.0	482.0	474.3	469.4	463.2
	AVG	471.1	-	492.2	484.6	476.0	471.6
Heifers	U3	486.8	454.2	504.9	495.3	500.0	496.4
	R3	481.6	439.1	496.2	489.8	489.2	482.0
	R4	480.4	440.5	497.5	492.5	487.4	483.3
	O3	469.3	427.2	475.9	473.9	463.0	453.4
	AVG	473.8	-	494.6	484.8	477.0	467.5
Young Bulls	U3	477.0	437.6	488.5	488.1	487.5	487.1
	R3	473.0	426.4	483.7	478.8	486.2	472.9
	O3	454.9	405.8	463.1	441.1	459.0	449.0
	AVG	459.1	-	483.6	472.2	473.3	474.3
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,454	-	5,074	7,166	7,478	5,175
Cows	O3	385.0	351.6	402.9	406.4	405.6	401.8
	O4	389.0	351.1	406.1	408.5	406.6	403.4
	P2	348.2	322.0	364.6	367.5	366.6	366.7
	P3	366.3	338.7	374.8	386.3	383.9	378.0
	AVG	354.4	-	401.3	387.7	376.3	367.4

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.68p 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 24/06/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	270	320	290	220	269	242
Friesians	214	225	221	195	211	205
Heifers	265	328	280	220	264	235
Beef Cows	220	306	240	180	219	200
Dairy Cows	146	183	162	55	145	105
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	300	400	325	220	299	240
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	245	346	285	185	244	220
Bullocks over 500kg	253	298	270	196	250	241
Heifers up to 450kg	250	305	280	180	249	220
Heifers over 450kg	240	284	265	180	239	210
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	425	580	490	250	420	325
Continental Heifers	350	570	415	225	345	285
Friesian Bulls	120	225	145	10	115	65
Holstein Bulls	-	-	-	10	10	10

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 26/06/23	Next Week 03/07/23
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	620 - 625p	585 - 590p

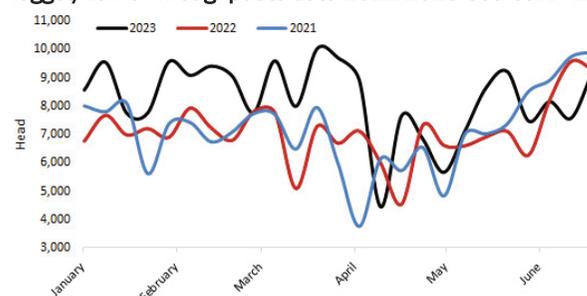
REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 10/06/23	W/E 17/06/23	W/E 24/06/23
NI L/W Lambs	611.4	599.5	580.5
NI D/W Lambs	631.0	634.0	626.5
GB D/W Lambs	673.6	655.7	635.2
ROI D/W	634.1	647.6	652.5

Sheep Trade

Last week the local lamb kill totalled 9,172 head which is an increase of 1,600 head from the previous week. With increasing numbers available for slaughter the lamb trade has come under pressure with base quotes ending this week at 620p/kg. Early next week the processors expect base quotes to be in the region of 585-590p/kg. Last week the average price reported for lambs in NI was 626.5p/kg back 7.5p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile, last week in ROI the average price paid for lambs was 652.5p/kg. Lamb exports for direct slaughter in ROI increased last week to total 6,333 head, almost double the 3,248 lambs exported to ROI during the previous week.

Hogget/Lamb Throughput to date 2021-2023 Source: DAERA



LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 24/06/23		Lambs			
To: 29/06/23		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	286	542	588	-
	Swatragh	900	507	627	-
Monday	Kilrea	550	578	609	-
	Markethill	840	560	603	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	555	555	595	-
	Rathfriland	530	550	595	568
Wednesday	Ballymena	1585	540	605	553
	Enniskillen	605	560	600	-
	Armoyle	214	540	595	-

ARCZERO HAS MADE A DEFINING DIFFERENCE IN UNDERSTANDING NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURE'S TRANSITION TO LOWER CARBON FARMING

Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) Chief Executive, Ian Stevenson, has highlighted the role played by the ARCZero project in path-finding a low carbon future for agriculture in Northern Ireland. He commented: "I attended the recent close-out conference, hosted by the project's chair Professor John Gilliland of Brook Hall Estate. The event provided an opportunity to review the progress made by the seven participating ARCZero farmers over the past two years in their respective journeys towards carbon neutrality. "And the evidence that has been amassed, in this context, is over whelming."

Ian continued: "The figures clearly show that it is possible to secure a lower carbon future for farming without making wholesale changes to production-based agriculture. "ARCZero has shown conclusively that it is possible to secure lower carbon footprint values per unit of output by committing to improved levels of efficiency across a farm business. "This initiative has proven to be one of the most significant undertaken within our farming sector for many years."

Ian Stevenson is quick to point to the conclusive data that has been amassed over the past two years across the seven ARCZero farms. This includes full carbon assessments across all seven farms, both at the beginning and end of the project. He continued: "We now have real information on the amounts of carbon that are actually stored in the soils, hedgerows, grasslands, woodland and crops on these farms. "More importantly, we also have clear insights regarding the practical steps that can be taken by farmers to manage carbon more effectively. "For example, maintaining soils at a pH value of around 6.5 is crucially important in this regard. "The inclusion of clover in our grass swards is another significant step that can be taken on many farms to improve production efficiency levels."

Ian went on to cite the more effective use of animal slurries and the potential of multi species swards, adding: "The bottom line is that all these mitigations can be implemented in very straightforward ways. The associated investment costs can be recouped through increased efficiencies and improved margins. "ARCZero has shown categorically that the attainment of improved farm-efficiency levels will deliver a lower carbon footprint across all farming businesses. "All of this adds up to a win:win scenario for farmers."

ARCZero is a European Innovation Partnership project, comprising a co-operative of seven farms that are located right across Northern Ireland. The project set out to measure and manage carbon flows at the individual farm level, so as to empower farmers to make positive change towards carbon zero farming.

The project has been independently led by John Gilliland, alongside seven commercial farms and industry partners. These bodies include AgriSearch, Devenish, Queens University Belfast

and Birnie Consultancy. ARCZero has focussed on producing accurate, individual, whole farm carbon balance sheets for the seven participating businesses. Precise measurements of on-farm carbon stocks (soils, trees and hedges) have been taken over the past two years. These have been combined with the results of a whole-farm lifecycle analysis calculator.



By assessing future management practices and identifying the most impactful behaviours, ARCZero is now able to inform farmers across Northern Ireland on how they can accelerate their transition towards a lower carbon footprint.

Ian Stevenson again: "Some of the results emanating from ARCZero are truly staggering. For example, we know that the carbon stocks in the soils of the seven farms involved amount to over half a million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. "The project is also opening up new opportunities on how we best manage soil fertility while addressing the challenge of run-off from our soils. "The use of new technologies, including LIDAR, is making all this possible. This all comes down to sourcing the hard data, upon which real decisions can be taken.

"By virtue of the fact that the seven participating farms have been monitored constantly over a two-year period, it has been possible to work out precisely how specific mitigations have impacted on the carbon status of these businesses. "As a result, we can say with total certainty that specific management decisions taken by farmers will impact positively on their journeys towards lower carbon footprints."

The coming weeks will see the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) fleshing out the climate change-related carbon budgets that will impact on all the farming sectors over the coming years. "These targets in these budgets will be very challenging," Ian Stevenson commented. "But courtesy of ARCZero, we know that meaningful change can be secured at farm level, when it comes to reducing the carbon footprint of agriculture as a whole. "Moreover, many of these changes can be secured in a relatively short period of time."

He concluded: "The carbon footprint of Northern Ireland's ruminant farming sectors already sits at a level that would be the envy of comparable industries in many other countries. "Whilst we can't rest on our laurels, we are setting-off on our journey towards carbon neutrality from a decent position. "The work carried out through ARCZero has confirmed that we can quickly build on this position."

LMC welcomes proposed roll-out timetable for new farm support measures.

The Livestock and Meat Commission has welcomed the recent confirmation by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), regarding the timeline for the new Farm Support and Development programme. This envisages measures to support farming and enhance environmental sustainability in Northern Ireland. The schemes referenced by DAERA are as follows:

Ruminant Genetics

Initiation of the Ruminant Genetics Programme in June 2023 with the launch of the tendering process for a supplier.

Livestock Dietary Emissions Challenge Fund

First tranche of a Livestock Dietary Emissions Challenge Fund to launch in Autumn 2023.

Farming for Carbon Benchmarking

A carbon benchmarking programme for Northern Ireland to commence in Autumn 2023.

Farming for the Generations

A Farming for the Generations Pilot Programme to launch in Autumn 2023.

Knowledge and Innovation

A new suite of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation programmes to commence in Spring 2024.

Farming with Nature Pilots

Farming with Nature Test and Learn Pilots to launch in late 2023 and throughout 2024.

Beef Sustainability Package – Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme

A Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme will open in early 2024.

Horticulture

The Horticulture Sector Growth Support Schemes will aim to commence in spring 2024.

Farm Sustainability Measure

The current Basic Payment Scheme will continue to operate in 2024 with existing land eligibility and cross compliance conditions.

A Farm Sustainability Transition Payment with some new conditionalities will be introduced in 2025. The full Farm Sustainability Payment will go live in 2026.

Capital Investment Measure

It is planned that the Capital Investment Measure will be available from late 2024.

Beef Sustainability Package – Suckler Cow Measure

The Suckler Cow Scheme will open in early 2025.

Supply Chain Measure

Supply Chain Support Scheme will be provided from mid-2025.

LMC Chief Executive, Ian Stevenson, commented: "While final budgets and implementation details for these measures have yet to be confirmed, it is encouraging to note DAERA's intentions to push ahead with the support schemes that will allow the ruminant sectors to look to the future with a strong degree of confidence."

Stevenson went on to point out that a number of the new measures now endorsed by DAERA have their origins in work originally carried out jointly by all the main stakeholder groups operating within Northern Ireland's ruminant livestock sectors.

The LMC representative also highlighted the key role that improved genetics within the beef and sheep sectors will play in delivering a sustainable future for Northern Ireland's ruminant livestock industry.

This week's launch of Sustainable Ruminant Genetics is, therefore, worthy of note. It is envisaged that genetic improvement will contribute significantly to achieving the target reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The first phase of the new programme will provide farmers with the data and evidence to make better informed breeding decisions to advance genetic gain in dairy and beef animals.

Ian Stevenson commented: "Work carried out in the Republic of Ireland by Teagasc has already confirmed the wide variation in methane emission levels generated by different ruminant animals. "In addition, there is a strong possibility that it will be possible to select for both improved animal performance and reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. "In other words, both traits may well be complimentary to each other. If this is the case, it represents a win: win scenario for farmers."



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