LMC Livestock & Meat Commission

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION

Saturday 02 November 2024 Issue No. 2845

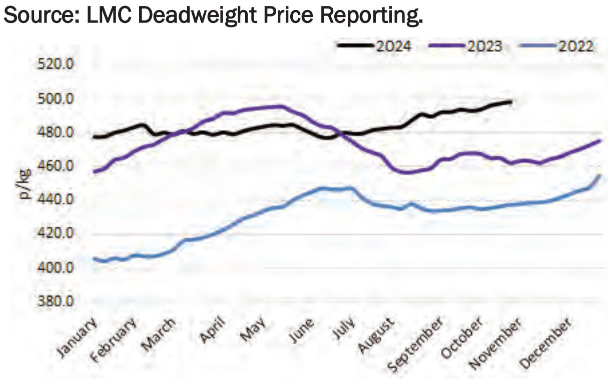
DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 28/10/24	Next Week 04/11/24
Prime		
U-3	480 - 482p	480 - 482p
R-3	474 - 476p	474 - 476p
0+3	468 - 470p	468 - 470p
P+3	412 - 414p	412 - 414p
Cows		
0+3	365 - 380p	365 - 380p

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.

Average R3 steer price in NI 2022 - 2024 YTD.
Source: LMC Deadweight Price Reporting.



REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 26/10/24	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	500.8	500.4	486.3
R3	494.8	495.4	480.6
0+3	486.0	486.6	476.3

*Prices exclude AA, HER, WAG and Organic cattle

REPORTED NI COW PRICES - P/KG

W/E 26/10/24	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	245.1	262.8	280.5	297.7
P2	260.2	293.1	319.2	338.1
P3	311.5	311.1	346.2	347.8
03	314.0	342.1	352.4	364.3
04	-	-	332.4	368.2
R3	-	-	400.0	387.3

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Prime cattle throughput in NI plants last week totalled 8,816 head bringing total throughput during the month of October 2024 to 34,862 head. This was an increase of 3,589 cattle or 11.5 per cent on October 2023 levels. Meanwhile cow throughput in NI plants last week remained strong with 2,766 head processed. Cow throughput in NI plants during October 2024 totalled 10,715 head, a decline of 274 head or 2.5 per cent from October 2023 levels. Direct slaughter imports from ROI last week totalled 833 head, and comprised of 565 prime cattle and 268 cows. During the month of October 2024 prime cattle imports from ROI to local plants totalled 2,302 head, an increase of 795 head or 52.8 per cent year on year.

In NI last week the deadweight trade for quality cattle continued to strengthen. The trade for steers remains strong with the average price paid for a steer last week reaching 490.7p/kg. The average price paid for U3 and R3 steers last week also surpassed previous price peaks at 500.7p/kg and 498.5p/kg respectively. The heifer category recorded an overall decline of 0.3p/kg to 491.1p/kg, driven by a softer trade for 02 and 04 heifers. Meanwhile, the price paid for U3 and R3 heifers last week increased by 1.2p/kg and 1.1p/kg to 500.5p/kg and 497.9p/kg respectively. The deadweight cow trade in NI reported an overall decline of 1.1p/kg last week to 320.6p/kg.

The trade for prime cattle in GB last week improved across the majority of grades compared to the previous week with heifers being the only category to report a softening. The cow trade softened 5.1p/kg week on week. In ROI the price paid last week increased for all types of cattle in both euro and sterling terms.

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

W/E 26/10/24		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	500.7	436.5	531.6	523.8	520.5	526.8	526.3
	R3	498.5	428.3	533.4	523.2	515.7	519.3	522.0
	R4	496.9	428.5	531.2	525.6	515.1	523.1	526.3
	03	491.2	415.8	517.6	512.5	498.6	504.7	506.0
	AVG	490.7	-	528.6	517.0	504.9	508.8	514.5
Heifers	U3	500.5	440.7	540.2	524.2	527.0	526.4	529.0
	R3	497.9	432.8	530.8	520.7	516.4	516.3	519.5
	R4	498.1	432.7	530.9	523.4	514.4	519.5	524.6
	03	488.4	428.1	508.7	499.4	494.4	497.5	497.3
	AVG	491.1	-	528.0	512.1	501.0	499.9	510.1
Young Bulls	U3	488.7	431.6	516.4	510.0	510.8	524.5	512.5
	R3	480.9	426.7	518.7	507.4	505.3	516.8	509.6
	03	472.8	413.3	497.3	485.3	479.2	497.9	486.9
	AVG	471.9	-	509.1	500.6	496.7	509.2	500.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		7,063	-	6,147	6,988	8,316	5,119	26,570
Cows	03	363.1	372.2	392.1	382.7	377.1	375.1	380.4
	04	366.5	372.4	396.8	386.8	374.6	378.7	381.6
	P2	327.2	342.2	348.6	338.9	337.4	343.7	339.9
	P3	345.8	358.1	370.0	350.5	352.1	356.6	353.9
	AVG	320.6	-	390.2	360.3	338.0	337.1	348.5

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=83.27p 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 26/10/24	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	280	313	293	235	279	250
Friesians	229	235	232	221	228	225
Heifers	270	308	287	210	269	230
Beef Cows	236	269	250	150	235	175
Dairy Cows	140	178	155	62	139	110
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers up to 400kg	310	407	335	210	309	250
Steers 400kg - 500kg	295	359	320	190	294	240
Steers over 500kg	271	317	286	200	270	235
Heifers up to 450kg	280	349	305	210	279	230
Heifers over 450kg	260	307	280	200	259	230
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	420	640	465	275	415	325
Continental Heifers	325	480	405	200	320	260
Friesian Bulls	120	165	132	55	80	73
Holstein Bulls	90	145	120	35	75	60

FQAS MART DATES NOVEMBER 2024

Saintfield - Wednesday 6th November
Enniskillen - Thursday 7th November
Kilrea - Wednesday 13th November

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will be present at the locations outlined to assist FQAS members with scheme queries and offer advice. Terry is contactable on the FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 28/10/24	Next Week 04/11/24
R3 Lambs up to 22kg	610 - 615p	620p

REPORTED NI SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 12/10/24	W/E 19/10/24	W/E 26/10/24
D/W R3 Lambs	586.3	591.9	606.2
D/W Lambs	587.0	595.3	610.6
L/W Lambs	557.8	577.1	584.8
REGIONAL SHEEP PRICES (GB / ROI)			
GB D/W Lambs	617.5	618.5	619.2
ROI D/W Lambs	605.9	610.1	621.3

Sheep Trade

Last week 10,233 lambs were processed locally, bringing lamb throughput during the month of October to 41,044 head, a decline of 3,984 head from October 2023 levels. Last week 4,855 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter, bringing the 4-week export total to 21,812 head. Total lamb exports were back 5,034 head or 18.8 per cent compared to October 2023.

Last week the average deadweight lamb price in NI strengthened 15.3p/kg from the previous week to 610.6p/kg. In ROI the deadweight trade for lambs also continued to strengthen with the reported average price paid up by the equivalent of 11.2p/kg to 621.3p/kg. The GB market reported a marginal 0.7p/kg increase week on week to 619.2p/kg.

The liveweight trade across local marts continued to strengthen last week, up by 7.7p/kg from the previous week to an average 584.8p/kg. This week in NI marts similar numbers of lambs were on offer with a stronger trade reported. There was increased competition between local plants and the ROI export market. In Ballymena on Wednesday 2,308 fat lambs sold to an average of 580p/kg compared to the previous week when 2,540 lambs sold to 565p/kg on average.

LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 26/10/24		Lambs			
To: 31/10/24		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	872	598	654	-
	Swatragh	900	593	669	-
Monday	Kilrea	1550	570	677	-
	Markethill	1690	570	618	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	925	565	700	-
	Rathfriland	700	580	692	-
Wednesday	Ballymena	2308	550	625	580
	Armoy	435	550	610	-

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LMC Livestock & Meat Commission

MONTHLY NEWS

Saturday 02 November 2024 Issue No. 0095

LMC AT SIAL 2024

The SIAL exhibition, held in Paris, alternates with Cologne's Anuga event on a biennial basis. Together they constitute the most important shop windows that are available for the international food sectors. Both events also provide unique insights into what is coming down the track where innovation, changing standards and amended food trading policies are concerned. SIAL and Anuga deliver a global outreach for those businesses and organisations taking part. Moreover, at a very practical level, they also serve to confirm the scope and influence of the world's leading food processing businesses.

Livestock and Meat Commission Chairman, Joe Stewart and the organisation's Chief Executive, Colin Smith, have recently returned from SIAL 2024. The take home messages, which they gleaned from the event, should encourage and provide significant food for thought within Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors in equal measure.

Joe Stewart explained, "The GB market currently accounts for 80% of Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sales outside of Northern Ireland. This adds up to annual sales with an overall value of over £1 billion per annum. This business must be protected and added to into the future. However, our beef and lamb processers also have Export Health Certificates that give an opportunity to trade with up to 96 destinations outside the UK and Europe. This business is vitally important as it helps to add value across every beef and lamb carcass that we process. The end result is a better price that can be paid to livestock farmers in Northern Ireland."

He added, "I found the visit to SIAL an eye opening experience. First off, it immediately brought home the fact that Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sector cannot compete on international markets at a commodity level. The likes of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina can consistently meet this requirement given the large numbers of finished animals they produce on a continuous basis. However, Northern Ireland does offer a number of unique selling points. These include our robust farm to fork traceability system, the proven track record of our Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and the fact that we can produce beef and lamb in the most natural way possible, courtesy of our grass based production systems. Adding to this is the fact that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs can fully verify the efficacy of all these systems. Having full government endorsement of specific food production and traceability systems is a vitally important element within the tool box of measures required to do business within the international food supply sector."

Delivering on the challenge of sustainability was one of the key themes agreed for SIAL 2024. Joe Stewart again, "All of the world's top food-producing nations were in Paris, claiming they can and will meet the future sustainability criteria that have been identified for both production agriculture and food processing. Two issues arise from this. One relates to the absolute importance of being able to confirm the claims specific countries make with regard to the sustainability of their farming and food practices. The other relates to the fact that Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors must never be complacent with regard to our own sustainability standards and how they are perceived in other countries around the world."

A key aspect of Sial is the key networking opportunities it provides for agri food industry representatives at an international level. "This dimension to the event cannot be underestimated," Joe Stewart confirmed. "While in Paris I met up with representatives of levy bodies and processing companies from the rest of the UK and Ireland. LMC has consistently attended both Sial and Anuga over many years. The contacts built up with food industry representatives from a wide range of countries over this time have proven to be extremely valuable. And we need to build on this for the future."

Northern Ireland exports 80% plus of the beef and lamb it produces. We will always be a red meat exporting region. Joe Stewart again, "So, it is important that we build meaningful relationships and friendships with decision makers within governments and food industries in as many countries around the world as possible."

EUDR

Meanwhile, policy and trading standard changes within the world's main trading blocs will continue to impact on the local beef and sheep sectors. In addition, as time progresses, the rate at which these changes take place will, invariably, increase.

LMC's Chief Executive made specific reference to the potential impact of the much discussed EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors. This aims to ensure that a set of key commodities placed on the EU market will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world.

Colin Smith commented, "Beef exporting countries at Sial were advertising full compliance with EUDR at SIAL 2024. The full implementation of the proposed measure has been pushed back by 12 months. However, the European Commission has confirmed that all the technical details have been agreed which would see the implementation of EUDR for large businesses on December 30th 2025 and June 30th 2026 for small to medium sized enterprises. In real terms, this is just around the corner. Yet, up to this point, there is a lack of clarity on the potential impact of EUDR on Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors from the competent authority. The need for an immediate assessment of EUDR on Northern Ireland's entire food sector is obvious."

Specifically, the EUDR will act to ensure that products made available on the EU market are not grown on deforested land. At a base level, it covers coffee, cocoa, cattle, palm oil, soy, wood and rubber.

Colin Smith continued, "EUDR will impact on the operation of our beef and lamb sectors. At SIAL 2024, it is clear that key beef exporting countries worldwide are claiming compliance with EUDR. It is important that stakeholders at home are given the clarity required to allow them to fully prepare for the impact of EUDR."

Chief Executive, Colin Smith and Chairman, Joe Stewart Attending the SIAL Exhibition in Paris.

THE ROLE PLAYED BY LMC AT FARM LEVEL CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED

In my opinion, by Richard Halleron:

The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) continues to provide a range of uniquely valuable services to Northern Ireland's beef and sheep sectors. The organisation has, for many years, delivered a range of services that underpin every aspect of livestock production. These activities comprise marketing, education, price reporting and market information services, the co-ordination of the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and the pump priming of key debates centred on the future provision of farm support policies across the red meat sector.

Looking ahead, this work will be expanded to include the provision of key services that underpin local agriculture's response to the carbon agenda: specifically the establishment of the all-important 'carbon base line', a key data set against which all future management decisions will be taken within individual farm businesses.

Making all of this happen will be assisted by the unique scope of the NIBL FQAS across all of our farming sectors. So, it's very much a case of building on what is already there and not re-inventing the wheel. The importance of having this fundamentally important information network already in place cannot be underestimated. Other parts of the world will have to invest exceptionally large sums of money to secure a data collection service of such credibility. And this leads into another fundamental point, where LMC is concerned: the tremendous esteem within which the organisation is held right across the entire spectrum of business, education and local society as a whole. And this goes well beyond the term 'honest broker'. Specifically, where red meat is concerned, the expertise of Commission staff is actively sought out by numerous government, health and educational bodies. And it's hard to put a value on the level of credibility this active endorsement for LMC brings to bear on behalf of every beef and sheep farmer here in Northern Ireland. Let's just say that it is extremely significant.

Looking to the future, the Commission will shortly publish its next, three-year plan. The recommendations within it are already widely anticipated. But whatever these turn out to be, one can be assured of their direct relevance to both beef and sheep production during the period ahead. The farm support policies now in train for the cattle sector reflect the various changes that will impact at farm level over the coming years. It is reassuring to know, however, that LMC will have a key role to play in helping to deliver this transformation in a way that ensures a sustainable future for red meat production at farm level.

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