

NI PRIME CATTLE CONFORMATION UPDATE

THE conformation scores achieved by the price reported prime cattle kill in Northern Ireland during the second quarter of 2016 were broadly similar to the corresponding period in 2015. There were however some slight differences for some classes of cattle year on year.

Steers

During the 2016 period under analysis 19.8 per cent of the price reported NI steer kill achieved a U grade, almost unchanged from the 19.7 per cent achieving a U grade in the corresponding period in 2015. The proportion of steers awarded an R grade increased slightly from 39 per cent in the 2015 period to 39.3 per cent in the 2016 period as outlined in Table 1.

Meanwhile the proportion of O grade steer carcasses in the NI price reported kill also recorded a marginal increase year on year. O grade carcasses accounted for 31.3 per cent of the NI steer kill in the 2016 period, up from 31.1 per cent in the corresponding period in 2015. P grade steer carcasses recorded a decrease year on year to account for 9.3 per cent of the price reported NI steer kill in the 2016 period. This was a 0.6 percentage point decrease from the previous year

when the proportion of P grade carcasses was 9.9 per cent.

An increase in the number of young bulls being presented for slaughter in NI has resulted in a slight increase in the proportion of young bulls in the NI slaughter mix during the second quarter of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015. As a result the proportion of steers has decreased from 51.5 per cent of the total prime cattle kill in the 2015 period to 50 per cent in the 2016 period. While there has been an overall decline in the proportion of steers in the NI prime cattle slaughter mix year on year there has also been a change to the proportion of steers sourced from the NI dairy and suckler herds year on year.

In the 2016 period 38.4 per cent of the price reported NI steer kill were sourced from the dairy herd, a 2.1 percentage point increase from the corresponding period in 2015 when 36.3 per cent of the steer kill were of dairy origin. Meanwhile the proportion of suckler origin steers accounted for 61.6 per cent of the price reported NI steer kill in the 2016 period compared to 63.7 per cent of the steer kill in the 2015 period.

Despite the increase in the proportion of steers sourced from the dairy herd in the NI kill the average steer carcass weight recorded an increase from 351kg in the 2015 period to 354kg in the 2016 period. The increased dairy influence on the NI steer kill has been counteracted by an increase in the dairy origin steer carcass weight from 324kg in the 2015 period to 328kg in the 2016 period. Meanwhile the average carcass weight of suckler origin steers also recorded an increase of 4kg year on year, up from 367kg in the 2015 to 371kg in the 2016 period.

Heifers

During the second quarter of 2016 U grading heifers accounted for 18.6 per cent of the NI heifer kill, a 0.5 percentage point decrease on the same period in 2015 as indicated in Table 2. The proportion of heifers awarded an R grade in quarter 2 2016 was back by 1.4 percentage points to 49.5 per cent in the 2016 period.

Meanwhile O grade heifers accounted for 26.2 per cent of the price reported heifer kill in the 2016 period, a 0.7 percentage point increase from the corresponding period in 2015. P grade heifer carcasses recorded an increase of 1.2 percentage points from 4.4 per cent in the 2015 period to account for

5.6 per cent of the NI heifer kill in the 2016 period.

In the second quarter of 2016 35.9 per cent of the total prime cattle kill were heifers, down 1.5 percentage points from the corresponding period in 2015. The proportion of the NI heifer kill sourced from the dairy herd increased by 4.8 percentage points from 26.1 per cent in the 2015 period to 30.9 per cent in the 2016 period and this may be one reason behind the increase in the proportion of O and P grade heifer carcasses in the NI slaughter mix.

The average price reported heifer carcass weight during April-June 2016 was 320kg, a 1kg increase from the corresponding period in 2015. The average carcass weight of heifers sourced from the dairy herd was 300kg in the 2016 period, an increase of 1kg from the same period in 2015. Meanwhile the average carcass weight of suckler origin heifers increased from 326kg in the 2015 period to 329kg in the 2016 period.

Young Bulls

As mentioned earlier, the proportion of young bulls in the NI prime cattle kill during the second quarter of 2016 has increased when compared to the corresponding period in 2015. During the 2016 period 14.7 per cent of the total NI prime cattle kill were young bulls compared to 11 per cent in the corresponding period in 2015. Current market specifications require young bulls to be slaughtered at under 16 months and during the 2016 period 69 per cent of price reported young bulls met this requirement. This was an improvement from the 2015 period when 65 per cent of young bulls were slaughtered under 16 months of age.

In contrast with the overall increase in conformation scores of steers slaughtered, there has been a general downward shift in the conformation scores of young bulls during quarter two of 2016 as indicated in Table 3. In the 2016 period U grade young bulls accounted for 19.3 per cent of the price reported young bull kill compared to 20.8 per cent in the 2015 period. The proportion of young bulls achieving an R grade also recorded a decline, accounting for 20.6 per cent of carcasses in the 2016 period compared to 21.8 per cent in the 2015 period.

The proportion of O grade young bull carcasses however recorded a notable increase year on year to account for 41 per cent of the NI young bull kill in the 2016 period. This was an increase of 5.4 percentage points from the

Figure 1: Proportion of the NI prime cattle kill sourced from the dairy herd by type during April-June 2015 and 2016

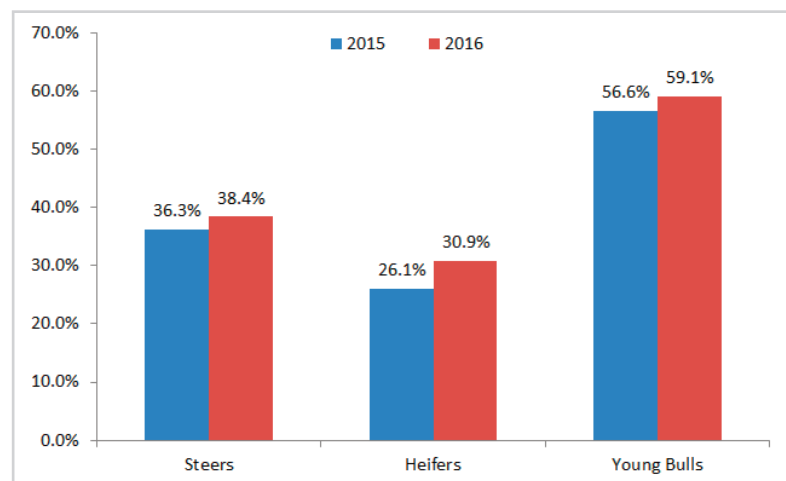


Table 1: Conformation of the NI price reported steer kill for the period April-June 2015 and 2016

Year	E	U	R	O	P
2015	0.3%	19.7%	39.0%	31.1%	9.9%
2016	0.4%	19.8%	39.3%	31.3%	9.3%

Table 2: Conformation of the NI price reported heifer kill for the period April-June 2015 and 2016

Year	E	U	R	O	P
2015	0.1%	19.1%	50.9%	25.5%	4.4%
2016	0.2%	18.6%	49.5%	26.2%	5.6%

Table 3: Conformation of the NI price reported young bull kill for the period April-June 2015 and 2016

Year	E	U	R	O	P
2015	1.8%	20.8%	21.8%	35.6%	19.9%
2016	1.6%	19.3%	20.6%	41.0%	17.5%

previous year when the proportion of O grade carcasses was 35.6 per cent. P grade carcasses accounted for 17.5 per cent of young bull carcasses in the 2016 period and this was a decline of 2.4 percentage points from 19.9 per cent in the 2015 period.

During the 2016 period there has also been a change to the source of young bulls killed when compared to year earlier levels which will again have been one factor behind the increase in the proportion of O grade carcasses in the slaughter mix. In the 2015 period 56.6 per cent of the young bull kill in NI was sourced from the dairy herd and 43.4 per cent were sourced from the suckler herd. However in the 2016 period the proportion of young bulls sourced from the dairy herd increased to account for 59.1 per cent of the

young bull kill with the proportion sourced from the suckler herd declining to 40.9 per cent.

The general downward shift in the conformation scores achieved by the NI young bull kill year on year has coincided with a decrease in the average young bull carcass weight from 315kg in the 2015 period to 310kg in the 2016 period. The average carcass weight of dairy origin young bulls declined by 3kg to 272kg in the 2016 period while the average carcass weight of suckler origin young bulls declined by 1kg to 366kg in the 2016 period.

FQAS NOTICE ONLINE PAYMENTS

LMC has launched an online payment system for the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme. This allows producers to pay annual membership renewal and initial registration fees through the LMC website.

www.lmcni.com



LMC QUARTERLY
SIGN UP NOW TO RECEIVE
IT FREE BY POST

CONTACT:
TEL: 028 9263 3000
EMAIL:
bulletin@lmcni.com



FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:
028 9263 3024

Answerphone Service
Factory Quotes &
Mart Results
Updated 5pm Daily

Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service
Free Price Quotes sent to your mobile
phone weekly

Email - bulletin@lmcni.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 01/08/16	Next Week 08/08/16
Prime		
U-3	326 - 332p	326 - 332p
R-3	320 - 326p	320 - 326p
O+3	314 - 320p	314 - 320p
P+3	260 - 276p	260 - 276p
	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 30/07/16	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	155.2	165.2	175.5	189.3
P2	165.0	193.5	208.9	225.0
P3	158.4	212.2	223.0	233.4
O3	230.0	234.0	241.4	251.3
O4	-	210.0	247.8	252.0
R3	-	252.7	-	269.4

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 30/07/16	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	334.8	336.3	330.6
R3	331.6	332.2	329.4
O+3	324.0	323.1	318.1

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 01/08/16	Next Week 08/08/16
Lambs	360-365 > 21kg	375-380 > 21kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 16/07/16	W/E 23/07/16	W/E 30/07/16
NI Lambs L/W	363.7	358.3	330.8
NI Lambs D/W	392.7	392.9	381.9
GB Lambs D/W	434.8	422.0	410.2
ROI D/W	398.5	401.3	384.5

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processing plants this week for prime cattle strengthened from 326-332p/kg with the majority of plants quoting in the region of 330p/kg. The plants have indicated tighter supplies of prime cattle combined with steady demand as the key factors behind the firming of the trade. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week ranged from 238-250p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

A total of 5,085 prime cattle were slaughtered in NI plants last week which is five per cent lower than the 5,348 prime cattle slaughtered in the corresponding week in 2015. Cow throughput in NI has remained strong with 1,977 cows killed in NI last week, very similar to the corresponding week in 2015 when 2,009 cows were killed lo.

Prime cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week totalled to 136 head. This was an increase from the 103 prime cattle imported during the previous week however below the corresponding week in 2015 when 298 prime cattle were imported for direct slaughter. A total of 91 cows were imported from ROI last week for direct slaughter compared to 112 head in the corresponding week last year. Meanwhile 67 cows were exported from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week, a decrease from the previous week when 183 cows were exported to ROI. Exports of prime cattle to GB for direct slaughter last week totalled 29 head, a decrease of 126 head from the corresponding week in 2015 when 155 prime cattle were exported to GB for slaughter.

The average steer price in NI last week was up by 2.6p/kg to 324.9p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by 0.5p/kg to 334.4p/kg. This was the fourth consecutive week in which it recorded an increase and was the highest weekly R3 steer price in NI since early August 2015. The average heifer price in NI last week increased by 2p/kg to 324.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 3.5p/kg to 333.2p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week was unchanged at 229.7p/kg while the O3 cow price was up by 1.6p/kg to 249.6p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price was unchanged at 336.2p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 0.7p/kg to 346.2p/kg. The differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and GB was 12.8p/kg, the widest differential since early April this year. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 2p/kg to 339.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up by 1.3p/kg to 346.7p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 heifer prices between NI and GB last week at 13.5p/kg which is the equivalent of £45 on a 330kg carcass.

In ROI last week deadweight prices for prime cattle decreased in euro terms however remained relatively steady in sterling terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back marginally to 318p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 0.6p/kg to 328.1p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI last week was also back marginally to 243.2p/kg which places it 6.4p/kg below the O3 cow price in NI and 4.3p/kg below the O3 cow price in GB.

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processors for R3 grade lambs started this week at 360-365p/kg however quotes firmed towards the end of the week to 375-380p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Strong supplies of lambs have continued to come forward for slaughter with throughput last week totalling 11,073 head. Exports of sheep to ROI for direct slaughter last week also remained strong and with a total of 7,000 head exported compared to 7, 149 the previous week. The average deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by 11p/kg to 381.9p/kg while the average deadweight lamb price in ROI last week was back by 16.8p/kg to 384.5p/kg.

This week's marts

REPORTS from marts this week have indicated steady numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings with the trade back slightly from previous weeks. In Omagh last Saturday 707 lambs sold from 329-379p/kg compared to 740 lambs the previous week selling from 356-411p/kg. In Massereene this week 947 lambs sold from 325-355p/kg compared to 967 lambs the previous week selling from 345-370p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 685 lambs sold from 330-388p/kg compared to 1,136 lambs the previous week selling from 315-405p/kg. In Ballymena this week 1,122 lambs sold to an average of 345p/kg compared to 1,740 lambs the previous week selling an average of 321p/kg. The ewe trade remained steady with a top reported price of £128 in Rathfriland on Tuesday.

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

W/E 30/07/2016	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	335.2	325.9	355.9	344.4	349.3	349.9
	R3	333.4	318.0	357.4	343.6	340.0	346.2
	R4	331.9	317.7	360.3	350.0	338.8	343.8
	O3	322.0	303.6	334.5	322.4	309.2	313.7
AVG	324.9	-	352.7	338.0	323.6	327.0	336.2
Heifers	U3	336.4	338.9	364.7	354.0	358.6	358.4
	R3	333.2	328.1	358.4	342.2	341.9	343.0
	R4	329.8	327.1	357.2	342.8	340.7	338.6
	O3	324.1	314.0	325.5	318.1	315.2	318.3
AVG	324.2	-	355.6	337.9	331.5	328.7	339.5
Young Bulls	U3	330.3	321.9	353.7	336.8	342.3	345.5
	R3	328.8	315.6	346.4	327.3	334.2	342.4
	O3	307.1	295.9	297.9	287.7	298.0	309.0
	AVG	312.7	-	338.3	317.2	319.4	332.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	4514	-	6505	6721	6324	4275	23825
Cows	O3	249.6	243.2	257.3	245.5	247.4	245.0
	O4	251.6	244.7	258.5	245.1	246.5	234.5
	P2	212.1	223.3	215.1	198.1	203.3	200.3
	P3	229.7	236.4	231.5	209.2	215.0	221.6
	AVG	229.7	-	245.4	220.8	212.2	206.3

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=83.98 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

W/E 30/07/16	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	190	209	197	170	189	180
Friesians	121	134	130	102	120	115
Heifers	181	202	191	160	175	170
Beef Cows	137	192	150	110	136	120
Dairy Cows	103	130	109	65	102	80
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	200	228	214	170	199	185
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	195	220	208	165	194	180
Bullocks over 500kg	185	205	193	170	184	177
Heifers up to 450kg	200	219	210	170	199	185
Heifers over 450kg	180	196	190	160	179	170
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	240	345	300	120	238	180
Continental Heifers	200	320	250	100	198	150
Friesian Bulls	80	135	110	50	78	65
Holstein Bulls	75	120	90	50	72	55

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 29/07/16		Lambs (P/KG LW)			
To: 04/08/16		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	508	310	330	-
Saturday	Swatragh	1075	321	347	-
	Omagh	707	329	379	-
Monday	Kilrea	396	318	327	-
	Massereene	947	325	355	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	544	325	368	-
	Rathfriland	685	330	388	348
Wednesday	Ballymena	1122	325	375	345
	Markethill	1280	340	375	355
	Armoys	336	325	365	350

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 does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.

