

DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN NI AND GB NARROWS

THE major processors in NI have reported steady supplies of prime cattle coming forward for slaughter to meet demand for beef with 6,370 prime cattle killed in NI plants last week. However this was well below the same week last year when 7,322 prime cattle were killed locally.

With reports indicating that throughput in the major NI plants is currently meeting demand for beef reported deadweight prices in NI have remained relatively steady. The R3 steer price in NI last week was 318.2p/kg, up 1.5p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the trade in GB has come under pressure in recent weeks with reports of steady cattle supplies and weaker demand for beef.

Figure 1 provides a useful representation of the deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI, GB and ROI throughout 2015 and during 2016 to date. For the purposes of analysis we use the R3 steer price as an indicator of the trade in NI as it is the most popular price reported grade and therefore provides the most robust sample for analysis. Using the prices paid for R3 grade steers also allows a like for like comparison to be made with the trade in GB and ROI.

While reported deadweight prices for R3

steers have been fairly steady in NI in recent weeks, the deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB has steadily declined. This has resulted in a gradual narrowing of the differential in deadweight prices between NI and GB.

At its widest the differential in R3 steer prices was 33.4p/kg during the week ending 3 October 2015, the equivalent of £110 on a 330kg carcass. However last week (w/e 23 January 2016) the differential in R3 steer prices had narrowed to 19.2p/kg which is the equivalent of £63 on a 330kg carcass. This is a decrease of £47/head from the week ending 3 October 2015.

With a widening in the differential between NI and GB exports of prime cattle from NI to GB gradually increased from September through to December 2015 with a peak of 374 head in the week ending 12 December 2015. Since then exports of prime cattle from NI to GB for direct slaughter have generally decreased with 129 head exported last week. This was fairly similar to the same week in 2015 when 105 prime cattle were exported to GB.

The narrowing in the price differential in deadweight prices for prime cattle between NI and GB will have been a key factor in the reduction in the level of export for direct slaughter.

While there is a notable differential in deadweight cattle prices between NI and the GB average there is significant variation within the separate GB regions. Figure 2 outlines R3 steer prices in NI, ROI and the individual GB regions for the week ending 23 January 2016.

As indicated in Figure 2 the Scottish beef price was the highest in the UK last week with an R3 steer price of 344.1p/kg. The strong brand identity of Scotch beef, PGI certification and higher levies at point of slaughter providing more funds for promotion have contributed to Scotch beef commanding higher beef prices than the rest of the UK. The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and Scotland last week was 25.9p/kg while the differential in R3 steer prices between NI and Southern England was 16.4p/kg.

In ROI the R3 steer price has been consistently below the equivalent price in NI as indicated in Figure 1 however the differential has narrowed in recent weeks as the euro has gained in strength. Last week the differential in R3 steer prices between NI and ROI was 26.6p/kg, the equivalent of £88 on a 330kg carcass. In the corresponding week in 2015 the differential was 64.9p/kg or £214 on a 330kg carcass.

Figure 1: R3 steer prices in NI, ROI and GB from January 2015 to date

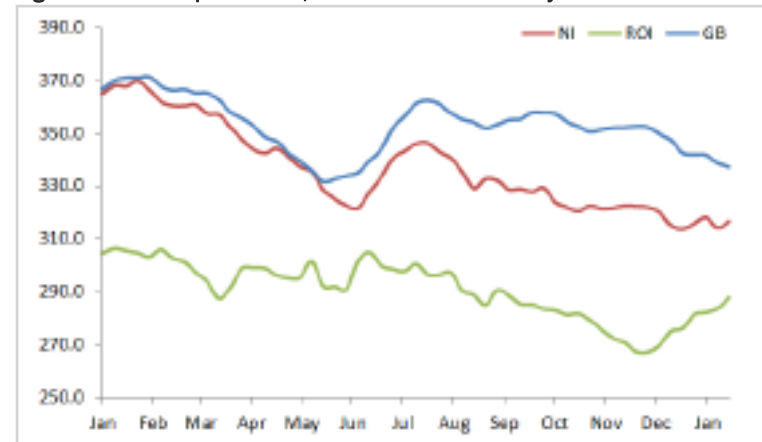
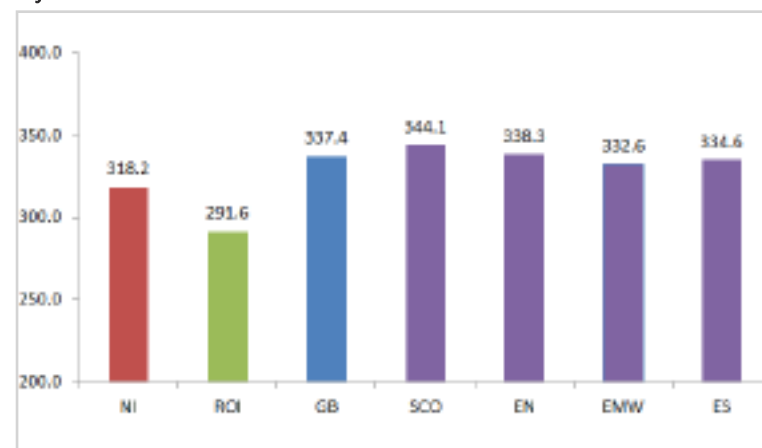


Figure 2: Average R3 steer prices in British Isles during week ending 23 January 2016



FQAS MART CLINICS

FEBRUARY 2016

APHIS ONLINE HERD REGISTER AND FQAS INSPECTIONS

LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	01/02/2016
Enniskillen	Thursday	04/02/2016
Markethill	Tuesday	09/02/2016
Saintfield	Wednesday	17/02/2016
Kilrea	Wednesday	24/02/2016
Ballymena	Friday	26/02/2016

LMC's Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) mart clinics at a range of Livestock Marts across Northern Ireland. Terry is present to assist members of FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.

Any farmers who wish to join the scheme can also do so through their local FQAS mart clinic. Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed above. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.



FQAS participants may be aware that from 1 January 2016 it is now possible under Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 on Cattle Traceability, that herdkeepers have the option to avail of a derogation which permits the use of APHIS Online to maintain herd records.

If herdkeepers choose to maintain an online herd register via APHIS Online they should ensure that they have read and understood the DARD Guidance on "Online Herd Registers for Cattle". The information below outlines how the new option to keep an online herd register will be catered for as part of FQAS and how inspectors will monitor compliance with DARD's legislative requirements for online registers.

1. Before the FQAS inspection begins, the inspector will ask you which type of herd register you are keeping, for example, an online herd register (APHIS Online) or an on-farm herd register e.g. written herd book, DARD approved software package, electronic spreadsheet etc.

2. If you are keeping an on-farm herd register the inspection will continue as normal. If you are keeping an online herd register you will need to give the inspector access to your current herd list in either electronic format (by viewing on a screen) or printed format. If you are aware that you will not be able to

access APHIS Online during the inspection, for example if an agent maintains the online herd register on your behalf, you should print a copy the day before the inspection.

3. If you cannot produce a current herd list from APHIS Online for inspection, then a Non-Conformance will be raised (this is consistent with the current procedure for on-farm herd registers if no herd records can be produced on the day of inspection).

4. As stated in the DARD Guidance on "Online Herd Registers for Cattle" if FQAS participants choose to use APHIS Online as their herd register all Births, Deaths and Movements must be recorded electronically and be up to date. The inspector will ask to see evidence of the last movement. If an online herd register is used (APHIS online), the inspector will ask to see evidence of the latest electronic movement. If you have only recently started keeping an online register and the last movement is recorded in an on-farm herd register the inspector will ask to see MC2 documents and an up to date on farm register as per normal inspection procedure.

For further information regarding FQAS inspections call FQAS Helpline (028) 9263 3024. DARD Guidance on "Online Herd Registers for Cattle" can be obtained via <https://www.dardni.gov.uk/>



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 25/01/16	Next Week 01/02/16
Prime		
U-3	310 - 314p	310 - 314p
R-3	304 - 308p	304 - 308p
O+3	298 - 302p	298 - 302p
P+3	222 - 260p	222 - 260p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	214 - 240p	214 - 240p
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 23/01/16	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	317.8	319.3	313.2
R3	315.6	314.3	305.4
O+3	306.2	305.9	303.4

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

w/e 23/01/16	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	127.3	134.3	147.1	156.3
P2	138.6	159.8	180.0	201.5
P3	129.9	185.0	197.7	209.7
O3	190.8	189.1	214.9	227.2
O4	-	-	216.9	228.1
R3	-	-	-	253.3

Deadweight Cattle Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processors this week for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ranged from 310-314p/kg and similar quotes are expected for early next week. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows this week have remained steady at 214-240p/kg across the plants.

A total of 6,370 prime cattle were slaughtered in NI plants last week. This was similar to the 6,283 head slaughtered during the previous week but was a decrease of 952 head from the 7,322 prime cattle killed in NI during the corresponding period in 2015. Cow throughput in NI has remained steady with 1,997 cows slaughtered in NI last week, also similar to the previous week when 1,893 cows were slaughtered.

Cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week were fairly similar to the previous week with 602 prime cattle and 155 cows imported. In the corresponding week in 2015 418 prime cattle and 110 cows were imported from ROI for direct slaughter. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of 11 prime cattle and 180 cows. This was a decrease from the 51 prime cattle and 245 cows exported during the previous week. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in GB last week consisted of 129 prime cattle and 26 cows, compared to 136 prime cattle and 11 cows the previous week.

The average steer price in NI last week increased by 3.0p/kg from the previous week to 309.4p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 1.5p/kg to 318.2p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week remained steady at 310.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up by half a penny to 317.3p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week was back by 4.1p/kg to 203.9p/kg while the O3 cow price was back by a similar margin to 224.9p/kg.

The average steer price in GB last week held steady at 330.4p/kg while the R3 steer price remained at 337.4p/kg. This puts the differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and the GB average at 19.2p/kg which is the equivalent of £63 on a 330kg carcass. Scotland saw a decline in R3 steer price last week of 3.4p/kg, while there was a decrease of 3.3p/kg in Southern England, 1.2p/kg in the Midlands and Wales and 0.6p/kg in Northern England. Meanwhile the average heifer price in GB last week was back by 1.5p/kg to 331.6p/kg while the R3 heifer price held steady at 338.8p/kg. The differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and the GB average was 21.5p/kg which is the equivalent of £71 on a 330kg carcass.

Reports from ROI have indicated steady supplies of prime cattle with throughput totalling 26,433 head last week. With the euro remaining firm against the sterling, deadweight prices in ROI have recorded increases in sterling terms with prices relatively steady in euro terms. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 291.6p/kg, up by 3.7p/kg from the previous week while the R3 heifer price was up 4.8p/kg to 307p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI last week recorded an increase of 4.6p/kg to 232.8p/kg which puts it 7.9p/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 23/01/2016	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	319.7	297.5	349.0	345.2	343.3	345.3
	R3	318.2	291.6	344.1	338.3	332.6	337.4
	R4	318.3	291.5	345.7	349.3	331.1	342.1
	O3	303.0	280.0	315.8	312.0	304.0	309.4
Heifers	AVG	309.4	-	341.6	338.0	317.9	330.4
	U3	319.5	317.0	356.3	347.7	348.2	349.9
	R3	317.3	307.0	346.7	338.3	336.9	338.8
	R4	315.0	305.8	345.6	342.1	335.5	339.1
Young Bulls	O3	307.1	294.1	322.8	307.5	299.2	310.4
	AVG	310.7	-	344.5	335.5	321.1	331.6
	U3	313.2	286.6	344.9	328.0	339.9	335.3
	R3	305.4	281.4	338.8	317.2	320.6	323.0
Cows	O3	290.7	270.0	301.5	286.5	285.9	292.6
	AVG	289.4	-	312.8	297.5	296.3	298.7
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	4283	-	6902	7013	5863	23922
	O3	224.9	232.8	221.7	219.0	221.1	218.8
Cows	O4	227.7	235.0	225.5	220.9	223.8	221.7
	P2	183.0	210.2	160.6	172.0	179.8	171.5
	P3	204.5	224.5	174.2	188.8	197.5	190.2
	AVG	203.9	-	206.4	193.1	195.7	193.7

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=76.48p 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 23/01/16	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	176	191	180	168	175	172
Friesians	132	147	140	90	110	100
Heifers	176	191	179	160	173	167
Beef Cows	130	182	149	100	129	115
Dairy Cows	95	114	102	60	94	77
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	200	220	208	170	199	185
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	200	222	210	170	199	185
Bullocks over 500kg	190	213	198	160	189	175
Heifers up to 450kg	190	195	193	160	189	175
Heifers over 450kg	190	195	193	160	189	175
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	400	330	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	230	310	270	130	228	180
Friesian Bulls	70	120	90	20	68	45
Holstein Bulls	50	110	70	2	48	25

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 25/01/16	Next Week 01/02/16
Hoggets	390-400p > 22kg	395-400p > 22kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 09/01/16	W/E 16/01/16	W/E 23/01/16
NI Lambs L/W	312.2	327.8	348.3
NI Lambs D/W	341.4	359.5	385.2
GB Lambs D/W	380.5	388.9	394.1
ROI D/W	360.8	372.9	382.6

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major NI processors for R3 grade hoggets ended this week at 390-400p/kg with plants paying up to 22kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. The plants have reported steady supplies of hoggets coming forward for slaughter to meet demand with throughput last week totalling 6,912 head. This was an increase of 133 head from the 6,779 hoggets killed in NI plants during the previous week. Exports of sheep from NI to ROI last week totalled 8,903 head compared to 9,539 sheep the previous week. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week recorded a notable increase of 25.7p/kg to 385.2p/kg while the deadweight hogget price in ROI last week increased by an equivalent of 9.7p/kg to 382.6p/kg.

This week's marts

A firm trade was reported across the marts this week with steady supplies of hoggets passing through the sale rings. In Omagh on Saturday 1,119 hoggets sold from 349-391p/kg compared to 1,055 hoggets the previous week selling from 331p/kg to 364p/kg. In Massereene on Monday 925 hoggets sold from 365-393p/kg compared to 702 hoggets last Monday selling from 330-366p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 442 hoggets sold from 351-402p/kg compared to 763 hoggets last week selling from 323-375p/kg. In Ballymena on Wednesday 2,205 hoggets sold from 340-425p/kg compared to 1,463 hoggets the previous week selling from 342-426p/kg. Prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £80-100 with a top reported price of £117 in Rathfriland on Tuesday.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 22/01/16		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 28/01/16		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	280	332	400	-
Saturday	Omagh	1119	349	391	-
	Swatragh	825	329	419	-
Monday	Kilrea	580	350	378	-
	Massereene	925	365	393	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	442	351	402	-
	Rathfriland	745	330	442	361
Wednesday	Ballymena	2205	340	425	356
	Enniskillen	828	348	378	363
	Markethill	1450	340	382	355
	Armoys	446	350	394	365

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