

NI CALF REGISTRATIONS INCREASE DURING QUARTER 1 2023

The June 2022 Agricultural Survey recently published by DAERA recorded declines in both suckler and dairy cow numbers on NI farms. The number of dairy cows recorded on NI farms in June 2022 reported a decrease of 1,597 head or by 0.5 per cent to 316,775 head. Meanwhile the number of suckler cows marginally decreased by 716 head or 0.3 per cent to total 246,240 head in June 2022. Overall cow numbers in June 2022 totalled 563,015 head which was 0.4 per cent less than the 565,328 head recorded in June 2021.

The decrease in total cow numbers on NI farms during 2022 has been counteracted by an increase in dairy heifers in NI during 2022 vs 2021. Year on year dairy females in the 1-2 year old age category increased by 7,570 head while dairy heifers aged 2 years old increased by 1,038 head during 2022 on 2021 levels as shown in **Table 1**.

These heifers will now have or be at the point of calving which has resulted in a rise in beef sired calf registrations. During quarter 1 of 2023 higher levels of calf registrations have been recorded than during the corresponding period of 2022.

Beef sired calf births in NI continue to dominate both beef and dairy production systems. During the period January to March 2023 a total of 92,218 beef sired calves were registered in NI compared 85,654 head during the corresponding period in 2022. This increase of 6,564 registrations accounts for a 7.7 per cent rise in beef sired calf registrations year on year.

The increase in the number of beef sired calf registrations in NI is good news for NI processors

who are currently faced with a tight availability in the number of prime beef sired cattle on NI farms coming ready for slaughter. At the 31 March 2023 there were 152,452 beef sired cattle on NI farms aged 0-6 months, a six per cent increase on the 143,268 beef sired cattle in this age category during March 2022. The number of beef sired cattle on NI farms aged 6-12 months at 31 March 2023 was 210,772 head, a 1.6 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Female cattle over one year old on NI farms by category during June 2022.

Source: DAERA Agricultural Census 2022, APHIS

	2020	2021	2022
Dairy Cows	313,283	318,372	316,775
Other Dairy Females			
Heifers 2 years old	41,530	40,353	41,391
1-2 years old	88,212	95,949	103,519
Total	129,742	136,302	144,910
Beef Cows	244,702	246,956	246,240
Other Beef Females			
Heifers 2 years old	62,569	67,166	66,978
1-2 years old	146,524	157,195	156,827
Total	209,093	224,361	233,805
Total Female Cattle	896,820	925,991	931,730

Beef sired breeds

While the total number of beef sired calf registrations has increased the type of beef sires used on NI farms has remained fairly consistent

year on year. During January to March 2023 the most popular beef sires used in NI continue to be Aberdeen Angus and Limousin. During the period 31,153 Aberdeen Angus calves were registered and 17,383 Limousin calves were registered. These accounted for almost 34 per cent and 19 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations respectively.

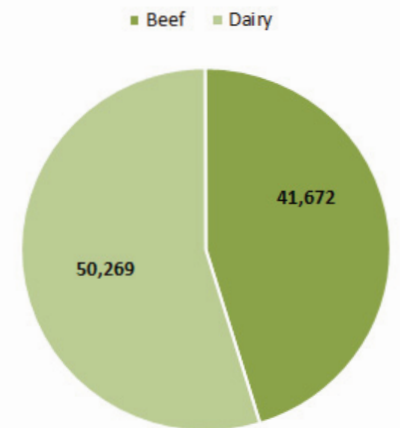
The third most popular beef sire used in NI continues to be Charolais with 14,614 calves registered accounting for 16 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations during 2023. Meanwhile Simmental calf registrations totalled 4,648 head during the first quarter of the year, Hereford registrations totalled 6,973 and Belgian Blue totalled 10,002. During January to March 2023 these six breeds accounted for 92 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations in NI.

Dairy origin beef calves

The dairy herd continues to act as a valuable source of raw material for NI beef production. From January to March this year 55 per cent of all beef sired calves registered in NI had dairy dams as indicated in **Figure 2**. This was an increase from the same period in 2022 when 50 per cent of beef sired calves were sourced from the dairy herd.

A total of 50,269 beef sired calves were registered to dairy cows in the first three months of 2023 this represents an 18 per cent increase from the 42,628 beef sired calves registered to dairy cows during the first quarter of 2022. The most popular beef sires used on dairy cows in NI during 2023 to date have been Aberdeen Angus (25,296 calves registered), Belguim Blue (9,048 calves registered) and Hereford (5,346 calves registered).

Figure 1: Beef sired NI calf registrations (head) January - March 2023 by dam type.
Source: APHIS.



Dairy sired male calves

Dairy sired male calves also provide the NI beef industry with animals to finish as beef. During January to March 2023 the number of dairy sired male calf registrations in NI totalled 11,674 head, a 14 per cent reduction from the corresponding period in 2022 when 13,620 dairy sired male calves were registered on NI farms.

At the end of March 2023 there were 17,488 dairy sired male calves (0-6 months old) on NI farms, a 20.5 per cent reduction from year earlier levels while the number aged 6-12 months totalled 12,807 head, a 16.3 per cent reduction from March 2022 levels.

BEEF SNAPSHOT MARCH 2023

Table 2: NI Beef Industry Key Performance Indicators (March Snapshot).
Source: LMC Deadweight Price Reporting, APHIS/DAERA, DAFM & AHDB.

	March 2022	March 2023	Percentage Change
Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)			
Average Prime Cattle Price	405.6	472.5	+16.5%
Average Cow Price	302.3	358.9	+18.7%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	416.4	483.8	+16.2%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	394.2	466.0	+18.2%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	423.4	492.8	+16.4%
NI Throughput			
Total Clean Slaughterings (head)	37,559	34,761	-7.4%
Total Cow Slaughterings (head)	10,925	10,047	-8.0%
Average Clean Carcase Weight (kg)	346.8	340.4	-1.9%
Average Cow Carcase Weight (kg)	306.2	298.5	-2.5%
NI Import/Export (head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	1,615	1,509	-6.6%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	549	282	-48.6%
All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated			

The deadweight cattle trade in Northern Ireland has recorded higher prices during March 2023 when compared to the same period in 2022. **Table 2** provides an overview and outlines the differences in key performance statistics for the beef industry in Northern Ireland during March 2023 and 2022.

The deadweight prices have improved across all types of cattle during March 2023 when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The average prime cattle price in NI was 472.5p/kg during March 2023 up just under 67p/kg or 16.5 per cent year on year. The average cow price also recorded a strong increase of 56.6p/kg or 16.2 per cent to 358.9p/kg during March 2023.

Prime cattle throughput has decreased 7.4 per cent during March 2023 when compared to the same period in 2022. The number of cows processed in local plants has also decreased by eight per cent during March year on year.



Livestock & Meat Commission



NOW RECRUITING

- SENIOR MARKET ANALYST
- MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

9 MONTH FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER

Job descriptions and applications forms can be accessed from www.lmcni.com/careers

Applications close 13th April at 12noon



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 base quotes & mart results
Updated 5pm Daily
Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service

Free weekly base quotes sent to your mobile phone
Email: bulletin@lmcni.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 03/04/23	Next Week 10/04/23
Prime		
U-3	450 - 478p	450 - 478p
R-3	444 - 472p	444 - 472p
O+3	438 - 466p	438 - 466p
P+3	382 - 410p	382 - 410p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	360 - 378p	360 - 378p

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.

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes from the major NI processing plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle strengthened this week with plants quoting 450-478p/kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week however with reports of higher prices available producers should use these base quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes from the plants for good quality O+3 cows also strengthened this week to range from 360-378p/kg with a similar trade expected early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 7,273 head, an increase of 355 head from the previous week. This brings total prime cattle throughput during the first quarter of 2023 to 90,870 head, back five per cent from the 95,858 head processed during the same period in 2022. Cow throughput last week totalled 1,928 head, a decrease of 337 head from the previous week bringing throughput during the quarter one period to 28,298 head, back one per cent from the same period last year.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter last week included 242 prime cattle and 109 cows, similar levels to the previous week. There were no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter last week. Meanwhile exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI last week consisted of four steers and 63 cows with no cattle exported from NI for slaughter in GB.

The NI deadweight trade for prime cattle last week firmed with the average steer price up 0.8p/kg to 478p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 1.7p/kg from the previous week to 488.6p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week increased by 2.8p/kg from the previous week to 479.6p/kg, while the R3 heifer price also recorded an increase of 3.8p/kg to 490p/kg. Last week the average young bull price strengthened by 3.6p/kg to 463.9p/kg with the R3 young bull price increasing by 5.1p/kg to 477.1p/kg. The deadweight cow trade in NI came under some pressure last week with the average cow price reporting a decline of 1.1p/kg to 359.9p/kg. However the O3 cow price reported an increase of 3.5p/kg from the previous week to 395.1p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight trade for prime cattle remained relatively steady with the average steer price up by 1.4p/kg to 489.4p/kg while the R3 steer price was up 1.7p/kg from the previous week to 496.4p/kg. Last week the average heifer price in GB was up by a penny to 487.7p/kg, while the R3 heifer price reported a marginal 0.4p/kg increase taking it to 495p/kg. The cow trade came under pressure across the GB regions last week with the average cow price back by 0.7p/kg to 383.5p/kg, while the O3 cow price increased by 0.4p/kg to 410.2p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle trade came under some pressure when compared to the previous week with the R3 steer price back 0.3p/kg to the equivalent of 465.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price came back by the equivalent of 0.7p/kg to 468.4p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI last week was back 1.7p/kg from the previous week to the equivalent of 399.4p/kg.

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the major NI processors this week for R3 grade hoggets were in the region of 565p/kg with plants paying up to 22kg. Improved quotes of 575p/kg are expected next week. A total of 9,711 hoggets/lambs were killed in NI plants last week, a decrease of 325 head from 10,036 head killed locally the previous week. Exports of lambs/hoggets to ROI for direct slaughter totalled 6,796 head back 14.5 per cent when compared to the previous week. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week was 562.8p/kg, a strong increase of 11.4p/kg from the previous week. In ROI the combined average deadweight hogget/lamb price was up by the equivalent of 18.4p/kg to 594.4p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

An improved trade was reported across the marts this week with smaller numbers of hoggets passing through the sale rings compared to last week. In Omagh last Saturday 591 hoggets sold from 506-576p/kg compared to 457 hoggets the previous week selling from 495-551p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 555 hoggets sold from 500-540p/kg compared to 605 hoggets last week selling from 500-540p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 488 hoggets sold from 500-542p/kg (avg 510p/kg) compared to 400 hoggets last week selling from 497-525p/kg (avg 509p/kg). Increased numbers of spring lambs passed through the marts this week with prices ranging from 580-620p/kg. The cull ewe trade remained firm this week with a top reported prices ranging from £154-210 across the marts.

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

	W/E 01/04/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	493.1	474.8	506.6	503.8	505.0	503.9	505.0
	R3	488.6	465.7	503.9	494.9	496.2	493.5	496.4
	R4	488.4	469.1	502.8	495.4	493.6	494.1	497.8
	AVG	474.9	455.2	488.4	475.2	474.2	470.9	474.7
Heifers	U3	494.5	479.0	505.3	501.8	511.4	505.5	506.5
	R3	490.0	468.4	499.3	492.7	496.6	492.5	495.0
	R4	485.3	470.6	502.2	497.2	494.8	490.0	497.5
	AVG	477.3	462.1	483.4	473.0	472.9	466.9	471.9
Young Bulls	U3	482.7	462.9	494.8	494.1	496.6	501.3	496.1
	R3	477.1	451.9	488.8	481.6	485.5	492.8	485.7
	O3	460.3	439.3	466.4	458.7	454.8	465.0	457.9
	AVG	463.9	-	486.8	471.5	468.5	477.6	472.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,896	-	5,659	6,789	7,684	5,241	25,373	
Cows	O3	395.1	399.4	413.9	409.3	412.2	405.4	410.2
	O4	395.3	398.6	420.6	411.1	407.6	403.1	409.3
	P2	353.7	361.1	371.2	371.0	366.6	367.0	367.9
	P3	372.0	384.1	383.8	392.0	386.4	383.2	386.0
AVG	359.9	-	408.2	388.8	378.7	372.3	383.5	

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=87.97p 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 LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

	W/E 01/04/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)							
Steers		290	326	300	220	289	245
Friesians		228	241	232	213	227	220
Heifers		290	326	300	225	289	245
Beef Cows		250	298	265	200	249	220
Dairy Cows		165	202	178	70	164	120
Store Cattle (p/kg)							
Bullocks up to 400kg		300	397	340	230	299	265
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		281	352	300	200	279	240
Bullocks over 500kg		250	307	275	180	249	220
Heifers up to 450kg		300	383	330	200	299	250
Heifers over 450kg		255	328	280	190	254	220
Dropped Calves (£/head)							
Continental Bulls		380	480	420	250	375	305
Continental Heifers		300	430	350	200	295	250
Friesian Bulls		100	175	130	40	95	65
Holstein Bulls		75	155	110	5	70	35

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 01/04/23		Hoggets			
To: 06/04/23		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	940	520	605	-
	Omagh	591	506	576	-
Monday	Kilrea	740	516	636	-
	Markethill	920	500	557	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	555	500	540	-
	Rathfriland	488	500	542	510
Wednesday	Ballymena	1403	500	585	525
	Enniskillen	603	500	528	-
	Arroy	414	554	619	-

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 03/04/23	Next Week 10/04/23
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	565p	575p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 18/03/23	W/E 25/03/23	W/E 01/04/23
NI L/W Hoggets	505.1	507.1	502.6
NI D/W Hoggets	545.4	551.4	562.8
GB D/W Hoggets	522.5	548.2	583.1
ROI D/W	562.4	576.0	594.4

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ 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. Not for further publication or distribution without prior permission from LMC

Contact us

T: 028 9263 3000
E: bulletin@lmcni.com
W: www.lmcni.com

