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# IMPORTS OF STORE AND BREEDING CATTLE FROM ROI AND GB INCREASE DURING OCTOBER

During October 2022 there was a notable increase in the number of cattle imported from both GB and ROI for further breeding and production on local farms. **Figure 1** shows the monthly imports of cattle onto NI farms during the year to date by category.

The latest available data from DAERA reports during October 2022 the number of cattle imported onto NI farms totalled 4,771 head, of which 4,031 were from ROI while the remaining 740 cattle were imported from GB for further breeding and production in NI. As the diagram shows this has increased from the previous four month period when cattle imports were low, and is the highest monthly import levels onto local farms during the year to date. This is consistent with the trend seen in cattle imports for direct slaughter which recorded the highest levels during the four week period (to w/e 12 November) for the year to date. This reflects the tightening in availability of domestic supplies of prime cattle for slaughter.

The 4,771 store and breeding cattle imported onto NI farms during October takes the total for the year to date to 26,973 head. This is a decline of 21,902 head from the 48,875 cattle imported during the corresponding ten month period in 2021, and behind the 37,372 head imported during the corresponding period of 2020. However all categories remain ahead of 2018 and 2019 levels, as shown in **Figure 2.**

**Figure 2** displays the cattle imported by category during the period from January to October 2018 to 2022. The figure shows female cattle aged over six months old continue to be the most common cattle imported onto NI farms. From the data available it is not possible to differentiate between female cattle being imported for breeding and those being imported for beef finishing. There has however been a strong increase in imports of female cattle during September and October 2022.

During October 2022 there were 2,793 female cattle aged over six months imported from ROI for breeding and production, up 1,309 head from the 1,484 imported during September. Imports from GB during October totalled 442 head the highest monthly import from GB across all categories during 2022 to date. During 2022 to date 16,112 female cattle aged over six months have been imported onto NI farms for further production.

The majority of male cattle imported from ROI will be finished as prime animals and slaughtered in NI plants. During October 2022 there were 1,156 male cattle aged over six months imported from ROI, the highest monthly import level of male cattle aged over six months old during the year to date. This was up from 596 and 748 head imported during August and September respectively, and up 317 head from the combined levels imported during May, June and July. Meanwhile, imports from GB of male cattle aged over six months also increased to 84 head during October. This brings the total imports in this category for the first ten months of 2022 to 6,062 head.

During October 2022 there was also an increase in the number of calves aged less than six months old imported onto NI farms for further production. Calf imports totalled 296 head, with the majority, 214 head, imported from GB. This brings the total calf imports for the year to date to 4,799 head. In the same period last year 9,994 calves were imported. During the same ten month period of 2022 the numbers of beef calves born on NI farms has increased by 5,590 head which may explain the reduced levels imported.

**Figure 1: Monthly cattle imported onto NI farms from GB and ROI during 2022 Source: APHIS/DAERA**

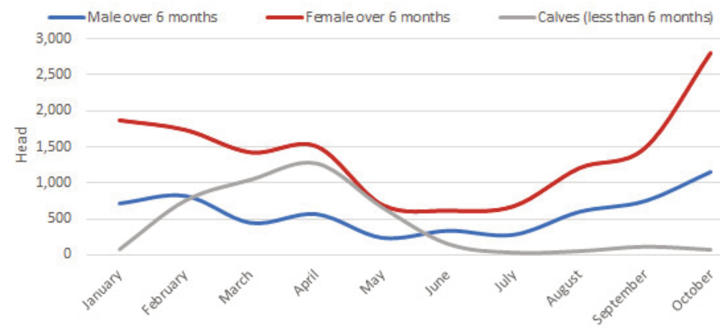
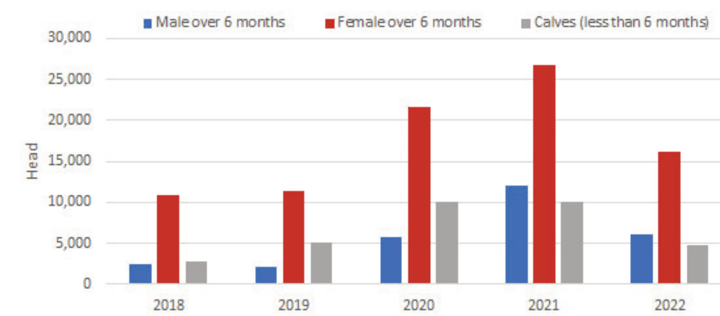



**Figure 2: Year to date cattle imported onto NI farms from GB and ROI January to October 2018-2022. Source: APHIS/DAERA.**




# ALL MAJOR NI LAMB PROCESSORS PAYING UP TO 22KG

This week base quotes for R3 grade lambs ranged from 505-510p/kg with the three major NI lamb processors paying up to 22kg. Next week base quotes of 515p/kg are expected across the plants. The seasonal changeover to paying for heavier carcases this year has been later than previous years, with the plants quoting up to 22kg during late October last year. However, the supply of lambs in NI in recent weeks has been strong with 63,939 lambs processed by the three major plants during the last 6 week period. This is an increase of 11,884 head compared to the corresponding period of 2021, and is also ahead of 2020 levels by 653 head as shown in **Table 1.**

NI processors have reported this increase in availability of lambs for slaughter in recent weeks is the result of producers feeding less meal and slow grass growth during the dry spell, which slowed the finishing rates of lambs during the summer months. Meanwhile, the average carcase weight during the six week period ending 12 November was 21.5kg, up from the previous six week period reflecting the good quality lambs coming forward for slaughter.

These strong carcase weights and availability of fat lambs explains the delay in local processors increasing the upper weight limit. The shift in the upper weight limit to 22kg occurs to encourage better fleshed lambs during the winter months when grass supplies are tighter and more traditional breeds of lambs are slaughtered. These breeds are typically leaner sheep from upland areas which have been sold as stores and finished on lowland farms. While producers are also encouraged to produce lambs as close to 22kg as possible, they are also reminded not to exceed this level as lambs heavier than this will provide no additional return.

**Table 1: Lamb throughput and average carcase weight during the six weeks ending 12 November from 2017-2022. Source: DAERA.**

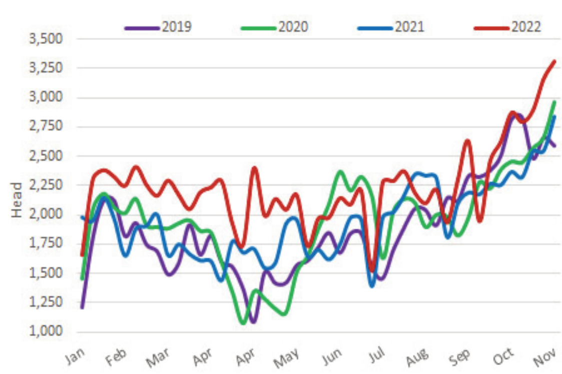
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Kill (head) | 58,041 | 55,198 | 51,589 | 62,740 | 51,509 | 63,393 |
| Average weight (Kg) | 21.2 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 21.7 | 21.9 | 21.5 |

# HIGHEST WEEKLY NI COW KILL RECORDED THIS MONTH

There was a strong increase in cow throughput in local plants in recent weeks with 3,307 head processed last week. During the previous week ending 05 November 2022, 3,158 cows were processed in local plants. These are the highest weekly cow throughput levels recorded in NI. **Figure 3** outlines weekly cow throughput in NI plants over the four year period from January 2019 to w/e 12 November 2022.

As indicated in the chart cow throughput in NI plants during 2022 has been high compared to previous years, and has continued to increase in recent weeks. The strong slaughter levels last week correspond with the LMC slaughter forecast predicting cow throughput this year will peak during the quarter 4 period. Cow throughput in NI plants during the 12 week period ending 12 November 2022 totalled 31,091 head. This is an increase of 3,371 head from the same period in 2021 when 27,720 cows were killed locally. This accounted for a 12.2 per cent increase year on year.

**Figure 3: Weekly cow throughput in NI plants from January to November 2019-2022. Source: DAERA.**




During the 12 week period ending 12 November 2022, cow imports for direct slaughter from GB and ROI totalled 1,434 head. These animals accounted for just 4.6 per cent of total cow throughput in local plants during the 12 week period. This proportion has decreased from the corresponding period in 2021 when 1,911 cows were imported to processing plants in NI and accounted for 6.9 per cent of the local cow kill. This indicates more NI cows are coming forward for slaughter in local plants in recent weeks.

Analysis of the price reporting data has shown there was a shift in the origin of cows in the NI slaughter mix for w/e 12 November, with dairy origin cows accounting for 72 per cent of the kill, and the remianing 28 per cent coming from suckler cows. The origin of cows slaughtered in recent weeks has been changeable from week to week however during 2022 to date the dairy/suckler mix has remained similar in comparison to 2021 as shown in **Table 2.**

**Table 2: Origin of cows killed in NI during the w/e 12 November 2022 and year to date 2022 and 2021. Source: LMC deadweight cattle price reporting.**

| | Dairy | Suckler |
|---|---|---|
| w/e 12 November | 72% | 28% |
| Year to Date 2021 | 65% | 35% |
| Year to Date 2022 | 65% | 35% |

During the w/e 12 November the average cow price paid in NI was 303.6p/kg which was the lowest price paid during 2022 since the w/e 19 March 2022 when the average cow price in NI was 301p/kg. The average price paid for cows has been declining in recent weeks and this may have encouraged the record high culling rate seen recently.

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

LMC Livestock & Meat Commission

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

| (P/KG DW) | This Week 14/11/22 | Next Week 21/11/22 |
|---|---|---|
| **Prime** | | |
| U-3 | 414 - 428p | 414 - 428p |
| R-3 | 408 - 422p | 408 - 422p |
| O+3 | 402 - 416p | 402 - 416p |
| P+3 | 346 - 360p | 346 - 360p |
| | Including bonus where applicable | |
| **Cows** | | |
| O+3 | 294 - 335p | 294 - 335p |

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 12/11/22 | Steers | Heifers | Young Bulls |
|---|---|---|---|
| U3 | 441.0 | 443.7 | 431.9 |
| R3 | 436.5 | 438.4 | 425.8 |
| O+3 | 429.6 | 432.2 | 417.3 |

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

| W/E 12/11/22 | Weight Bands | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <220kg | 220-250kg | 250-280kg | >280kg |
| P1 | 227.2 | 246.0 | 256.0 | 276.4 |
| P2 | 259.6 | 276.8 | 295.1 | 315.2 |
| P3 | 245.4 | 297.9 | 316.7 | 322.8 |
| O3 | 306.2 | 309.5 | 328.7 | 338.7 |
| O4 | 330.0 | 308.0 | 335.4 | 343.0 |
| R3 | - | - | - | 357.0 |

## Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes from the major NI plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady at 414-428p/kg this week with the majority of plants quoting 420p/kg and upwards for steers and heifers. Quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows came back as expected early this week to range from 294-335p/kg across the plants. Similar quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week increased to 8,403 head. Meanwhile a total of 3,307 cows were killed in NI last week up by 149 cows from the previous week. This takes throughput during the last six weeks to 17,631 head, up by 2,767 cows from the corresponding six week period of 2021.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI plants last week consisted of 508 prime cattle and 191 cows, while no cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports of cattle out of NI for direct slaughter to ROI last week consisted of four prime cattle and 100 cows with no cattle making the journey from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

The average NI steer price last week was up 1.7p/kg to 428p/kg from previous week while the R3 steer price increased by 0.8p/kg to 438.8p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2021 the reported R3 steer price was 403.2p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was up by a marginal 0.2p/kg to 429.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by just over a penny bringing it to 440.1p/kg. In the same week last year the R3 heifer price was 403.7p/kg. The average NI young bull price last week was up by 1.7p/kg to 413.2p/kg while the R3 young bull price slightly declined by 0.2p/kg bringing it to 426.1p/kg. Meanwhile last week the NI cow trade came under pressure with the average cow price back by 7.6p/kg to 303.6p/kg, while the O3 cow price decreased by 9p/kg from the previous week bringing it to 337.2p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price was back by 0.2p/kg to 444.8p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by half a penny to 452.4p/kg. This has narrowed the differential in R3 steer prices last week between NI and GB to 13.6p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week increased by a penny to 441.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price decreased by 0.4p/kg to 450.4p/kg. This brought the differential in R3 heifer prices last week between NI and GB to 10.3p/kg. The cow trade in GB last week came under pressure with the O3 cow price back by 1.8p/kg to 360.5p/kg, 23.3p/kg ahead of the O3 cow price in NI, while the average cow price in GB last week was 330.6p/kg back 1.7p/kg from the previous week.

In ROI last week prime cattle prices improved in both euro and sterling terms. The R3 steer price increased by the equivalent of 5.5p/kg when compared to the previous week bringing it to 397.9p/kg, narrowing the differential with NI to 40.9p/kg or a difference of £143.15 on the value of a 350kg carcase. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price increased by 5.7p/kg last week to 403.4p/kg which puts it 36.7p/kg lower than the same price in NI or a difference of £117.44 on the value of a 320kg carcase.

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

| W/E 12/11/22 | | Northern Ireland | Rep of Ireland | Scotland | Northern England | Midlands & Wales | Southern England | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steers | U3 | 441.8 | 406.7 | 464.6 | 452.7 | 456.4 | 457.8 | 458.6 |
| | R3 | 438.8 | 397.9 | 460.9 | 452.8 | 449.2 | 446.8 | 452.4 |
| | R4 | 435.7 | 397.1 | 461.3 | 454.0 | 447.0 | 447.2 | 456.0 |
| | O3 | 427.6 | 383.7 | 450.8 | 438.3 | 429.1 | 427.7 | 434.2 |
| | AVG | 428.0 | - | 459.3 | 446.6 | 437.2 | 434.2 | 444.8 |
| Heifers | U3 | 443.8 | 415.6 | 466.8 | 456.2 | 460.3 | 457.6 | 461.2 |
| | R3 | 440.1 | 403.4 | 459.3 | 450.0 | 449.3 | 446.6 | 450.4 |
| | R4 | 437.0 | 403.4 | 460.3 | 452.3 | 448.5 | 445.6 | 454.3 |
| | O3 | 427.9 | 395.1 | 447.1 | 436.4 | 421.8 | 423.7 | 428.1 |
| | AVG | 429.5 | - | 458.8 | 445.5 | 433.0 | 429.3 | 441.7 |
| Young Bulls | U3 | 431.8 | 401.2 | 447.1 | 451.8 | 445.2 | 450.3 | 447.6 |
| | R3 | 426.1 | 388.6 | 448.1 | 438.8 | 440.0 | 424.3 | 440.7 |
| | O3 | 412.9 | 377.0 | 414.9 | 412.0 | 409.9 | 415.8 | 411.3 |
| | AVG | 413.2 | - | 438.2 | 435.0 | 427.5 | 399.5 | 427.2 |
| Prime Cattle Price Reported | | 6,762 | - | 6,188 | 6,660 | 7,789 | 4,708 | 25,345 |
| Cows | O3 | 337.2 | 341.4 | 369.5 | 362.6 | 356.7 | 357.3 | 360.5 |
| | O4 | 342.2 | 341.4 | 373.9 | 364.0 | 359.8 | 355.9 | 362.3 |
| | P2 | 299.5 | 300.6 | 317.9 | 319.9 | 319.1 | 318.9 | 319.1 |
| | P3 | 319.1 | 326.3 | 334.7 | 338.6 | 335.5 | 333.1 | 335.4 |
| | AVG | 303.6 | - | 361.7 | 336.2 | 323.1 | 321.4 | 330.6 |

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=87.42p 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 12/11/22 | 1st QUALITY | | | 2nd QUALITY | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | From | To | Avg | From | To | Avg |
| **Finished Cattle (p/kg)** | | | | | | |
| Steers | 250 | 283 | 260 | 200 | 249 | 220 |
| Friesians | 209 | 209 | 209 | - | - | - |
| Heifers | 235 | 280 | 250 | 190 | 234 | 210 |
| Beef Cows | 200 | 255 | 213 | 145 | 198 | 172 |
| Dairy Cows | 140 | 190 | 148 | 70 | 139 | 105 |
| **Store Cattle (p/kg)** | | | | | | |
| Bullocks up to 400kg | 245 | 297 | 270 | 200 | 244 | 222 |
| Bullocks 400kg - 500kg | 222 | 276 | 240 | 170 | 220 | 195 |
| Bullocks over 500kg | 235 | 260 | 243 | 178 | 233 | 206 |
| Heifers up to 450kg | 240 | 360 | 270 | 175 | 237 | 206 |
| Heifers over 450kg | 210 | 238 | 221 | 170 | 202 | 185 |
| **Dropped Calves (£/head)** | | | | | | |
| Continental Bulls | 405 | 570 | 460 | 275 | 400 | 330 |
| Continental Heifers | 300 | 430 | 360 | 185 | 295 | 240 |
| Friesian Bulls | 100 | 155 | 125 | 45 | 95 | 70 |
| Holstein Bulls | 70 | 150 | 100 | 1 | 65 | 35 |

## SHEEP TRADE

### NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

| (P/Kg DW) | This Week 14/11/22 | Next Week 21/11/22 |
|---|---|---|
| R3 Lambs up to 22kg | 505 - 510p | 515p |

### REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

| (P/KG) | W/E 29/10/22 | W/E 05/11/22 | W/E 12/11/22 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NI L/W Lambs | 463.5 | 463.6 | 463.6 |
| NI D/W Lambs | 502.5 | 500.4 | 502.0 |
| GB D/W Lambs | 519.5 | 512.6 | 534.5 |
| ROI D/W | 532.0 | 530.9 | 540.2 |

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes for R3 grade lambs firmed early this week at 505-510p/kg with processors paying up to 22kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to be 515p/kg across the plants. Lamb throughput in local plants last week increased by 528 head from the previous week to total 10,508 lambs. A further 8,325 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter last week, an increase of 1,669 lambs from the previous week. This takes the total number of lambs exported to ROI for direct slaughter in the six week period to 43,006 head. The average NI deadweight lamb price last week increased by 1.6p/kg from the previous week to 502p/kg. The average ROI lamb price last week up by the equivalent of 9.3p/kg to 540.2p/kg.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

The liveweight sheep trade improved in the majority of local marts this week with numbers generally back from last week. In Swatragh last Saturday a good entry of 1,275 lambs sold from 471-513p/kg compared to 1,205 lambs the previous Saturday selling from 469-510p/kg. In Massereene on Monday 478 lambs sold from 460-498p/kg, an improved trade from last week when 748 lambs sold from 450-484p/kg. In Saintfield this week 812 lambs sold from 463-540p/kg compared to 675 lambs selling from 455-568p/kg. In Ballymena this week 2,187 lambs sold from 440-508p/kg (avg 471p/kg) compared to 2,532 lambs last week selling from 440-510p/kg (avg 464p/kg). Top reported prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £135-170 across the marts.

### LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

| From: 12/11/22 | | Lambs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To: 17/11/22 | | No | From | To | Avg |
| Saturday | Omagh | 1090 | 474 | 516 | - |
| | Swatragh | 1275 | 471 | 513 | - |
| Monday | Kilrea | 720 | 460 | 493 | - |
| | Massereene | 478 | 460 | 498 | - |
| Tuesday | Saintfield | 812 | 463 | 540 | - |
| | Rathfriland | 402 | 440 | 522 | 480 |
| Wednesday | Ballymena | 2187 | 440 | 508 | 471 |
| | Enniskillen | 502 | 440 | 512 | - |
| | Armoy | 490 | 455 | 515 | - |
| | Markethill | 1020 | 470 | 512 | - |



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