

NI PRIME CATTLE REVIEW AT CLOSE OF Q2 2022

Throughput

During the first six months of 2022, 191,197 prime cattle were slaughtered in the major NI processing plants. This was a 13.2 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2021 when 168,927 prime cattle were killed in NI and 13.3 per cent higher than the same period in 2020 when 168,790 prime cattle were killed locally.

Prime cattle throughput in NI during the first half of 2022 was at its highest levels in twelve years with 2010 being the last time similar levels were recorded, when the total prime kill totalled 191,703 during the first six months of the year.

Imports & Exports

The increased prime cattle slaughterings in NI has occurred despite a decline in the number of prime cattle being imported for direct slaughter. During the first half of 2022 a total of 5,373 prime cattle were imported from ROI for slaughter in local plants, accounting for 2.8 per cent of total prime cattle throughput. In comparison during the first six months of 2021 when 7,198 prime cattle were imported from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants accounting for 4.3 per cent of total prime cattle throughput. No prime cattle were imported from GB during this period of 2021 or 2022 for direct slaughter locally.

The level of prime cattle exported from NI for direct slaughter in GB and ROI has continued to operate at low levels with just 236 prime cattle exported during the first six months of 2022, compared to 393 exports during the relative period of 2021. This has contributed to more locally produced cattle being killed in Northern Ireland plants.

Carcase Weight

The average prime cattle carcass weight of prime cattle slaughtered during 2022 at the close of quarter 2 was 346.8kg, up 0.7kg from the same period in 2021. The average carcass weight of steers was 363.8kg, up by 1.5kg from the corresponding period in 2021. The average heifer carcass weight also recorded an increase year on year during the first six months of 2022, up by 1.3kg to 327.7kg.

Unlike the steer and heifer categories the young bull carcass weight recorded a notable decrease of 2.5kg to 342.2kg. However, the combination of higher carcass weight in the steer and heifer classes combined with the increased throughput during the first half of the year has resulted in more prime beef being handled by NI processing plants overall during 2022, equating to 66,359 tonnes, a 13.5 per cent increase from the 58,483 tonnes processed during the corresponding period in 2021.

Table 1: Conformation and fat scores of NI price reported steer kill Q2 2021 and 2022. Source: LMC deadweight cattle price reporting.

Year	E	U	R	O	P
2021	0.4%	17.7%	34.6%	38.5%	8.8%
2022	0.4%	16.8%	32.6%	39.8%	10.5%

Year	1	2	3	4	5
2021	1.6%	18.1%	57.6%	22.4%	0.3%
2022	2.0%	19.1%	57.8%	21.0%	0.2%

Table 2: Conformation and fat scores of NI price reported heifer kill Q2 2021 and 2022. Source: LMC deadweight cattle price reporting.

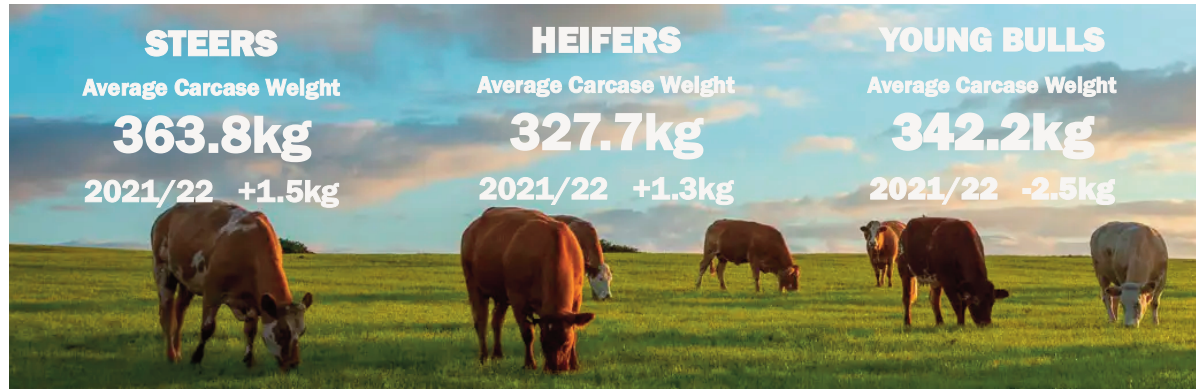
Year	E	U	R	O	P
2021	0.2%	15.0%	42.5%	36.8%	5.6%
2022	0.2%	15.9%	41.5%	36.4%	6.0%

Year	1	2	3	4	5
2021	0.9%	7.0%	41.4%	46.9%	3.8%
2022	1.2%	7.4%	40.1%	47.5%	3.7%

Table 3: Conformation and fat scores of NI price reported young bull kill Q2 2021 and 2022. Source: LMC deadweight cattle price reporting.

Year	E	U	R	O	P
2021	1.7%	25.0%	30.8%	33.4%	9.0%
2022	2.4%	22.9%	28.2%	34.8%	11.8%

Year	1	2	3	4	5
2021	4.9%	43.4%	46.7%	5.0%	0.0%
2022	4.7%	45.1%	45.1%	5.0%	0.0%



Quarter 2 Carcass Grading Analysis

Steers

Table 1 displays the conformation scores achieved by price reported steers in NI during quarter 2 of 2022 and the same period in 2021. There has been a slight downward movement in the conformation scores year on year.

In the 2022 period 16.8 per cent of steer carcasses were awarded a U grade, back from 17.7 per cent in the 2021 period, while the proportion of R grading steer carcasses declined by two percentage points to account for 32.6 per cent of the price reported kill in the 2022 period. The proportion of O grading steer carcasses increased by 1.3 percentage points to account for 39.8 per cent in the 2022 period while the proportion of P grading carcasses increased to account for 10.5 per cent of the price reported steer kill.

The proportion of price reported steers meeting a fat class 1 increased to total two per cent, while those grading fat class 2 increased year on year to total 19.1 per cent. Meanwhile the proportion of steers meeting a fat class 3 remained steady at 57.8 per cent while the number of steers achieving fat class 4 decreased from 2021 levels to 21 per cent.

Heifers

A similar downward trend can be observed in the conformation scores achieved by price reported heifers as indicated in **Table 2**. In the 2022 period the proportion of U grading carcasses recorded an increase from 2021 levels to account for 15.9 per cent of the price reported heifer kill. Meanwhile the proportion of R grading carcasses was back from 2021 levels to account for 41.5 per cent of the kill. The proportion of O grading carcasses decreased slightly to account for 36.4 per cent, while the proportion of P grading heifer carcasses marginally increased year on year to six per cent.

A small proportion of price reported heifers met a fat class one with an

increase recorded from the same period of 2021. The proportion meeting a fat class 2 increased to 7.4 per cent and fat class 3 decreased to 40.1 per cent respectively when compared to quarter 2 of 2021. The proportion of heifers awarded a fat class 4 increased to 47.5 per cent while fat class 5 was back marginally to 3.7 per cent.

Young Bulls

There has been some improvement in the conformation scores achieved by young bulls during the second quarter of 2022 when compared to the same period in 2021 as shown in **Table 3**. The proportion of young bulls achieving an E grade increased to 2.4 per cent, however the numbers of young bulls achieving U and R grades has fallen to 22.9 per cent and 28.2 per cent respectively. The proportion of young bulls meeting an O grade has increased from the same period during 2021 with 34.8 per cent of price reported young bulls meeting this grade. Meanwhile the proportion of young bulls meeting a P grade during the second quarter of 2022 increased to 11.8 per cent.

The proportion of price reported young bulls meeting a fat class 1 decreased to total 4.7 per cent, while those grading fat class 2 increased year on year to total 45.1 per cent. Meanwhile

the proportion of young bulls meeting a fat class 3 declined to 45.1 per cent while the number of young bulls grading fat class 4 remained steady at five per cent.

Origin

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of the NI prime cattle price reported kill that originated from the dairy herd. During quarter 2 of 2022 suckler origin cattle accounted for 55.3 per cent of total prime cattle kill which is a decline of 1.2 per cent from the same period in 2021. While the proportion of prime cattle from a beef cross origin increased by a marginal 0.7 per cent to total 31.8 per cent and the remaining 12.9 per cent were dairy sired origin which was also up slightly from the corresponding period of 2021.

The proportion of Aberdeen Angus in the prime cattle slaughter mix during quarter 2 of 2022 recorded an increase of 33 per cent year on year. This will have affected the grading performance of the steer and heifer categories during quarter 2. In addition producers selling cattle at a range of finishing stages to avail of strong market prices while managing rising costs of production, will have been strong forces causing the shifts observed in grading results during quarter 2.

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

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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 18/07/22	Next Week 25/07/22
Prime		
U-3	420 - 426p	420 - 426p
R-3	414 - 420p	414 - 420p
O+3	408 - 414p	408 - 414p
P+3	352 - 358p	352 - 358p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3	335 - 376p	335 - 376p

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 plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady this week ranging from 420-426p/kg with similar quotes expected early next week. The cow trade also remained steady across the plants this week at 335-376p/kg for good quality O+3 grade cows with similar quotes expected for early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 5,454 head, a decrease of 644 head on the 6,098 prime cattle processed the previous week, due to the shorter working week. In the same week last year prime cattle throughput totalled 5,220 head. In NI last week the number of cows processed locally totalled 1,522 head, 126 head more than the 1,396 cows processed during the same week last year.

Imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week increased from the previous week to total 270 prime cattle and 80 cows with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of ten prime cattle and seven cows, while no cattle left NI last week for direct slaughter in GB.

The NI deadweight trade for prime cattle last week reported downward movement across all of the grades. The average steer price was 430.9p/kg, back 4.8p/kg from the previous week while the R3 steer price was back 5.2p/kg to 442.2p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price in NI last week decreased by 3.2p/kg to 434.5p/kg with the R3 heifer price back by 5.1p/kg to 441.8p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was back by 5.8p/kg to 424.4p/kg with the R3 young bull price back 6.4p/kg to 433.2p/kg. In the same week last year the NI R3 steer, heifer and young bull prices were 401.1p/kg, 402.3p/kg and 394.3p/kg respectively. Last week in NI the O3 cow price declined by almost 4p/kg to 379p/kg from the previous week.

In GB last week the majority of deadweight prime cattle prices came back from the previous week. The average steer price was back by 1.3p/kg to 441.2p/kg with the R3 steer price back by 2.8p/kg to 447.3p/kg. This puts the R3 steer price in GB at 5.1p/kg ahead of the same price in NI. The average heifer price in GB last week decreased by almost 4p/kg to 439.9p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 2.5p/kg to 446.6p/kg. This puts the GB R3 heifer price 4.8p/kg above the equivalent price in NI or an additional £15 on a 320kg carcass. Meanwhile last week in GB both the average cow price and O3 cow price declined by 5p/kg from the previous week to 359.5p/kg and 381p/kg respectively.

In ROI last week the deadweight trade for prime cattle reported significant downward movement in prices across all of the grades from the previous week. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 419.9p/kg, back by almost 12p/kg while the R3 heifer price declined by just over 11p/kg to the equivalent of 424p/kg. Meanwhile the O3 cow price in ROI last week recorded a decline of 7.6p/kg to the equivalent of 375.3p/kg which places it 3.7p/kg less than the same price in NI.

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

W/E 16/07/22		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	449.1	427.6	451.6	451.0	451.4	453.3	451.7
	R3	442.2	419.9	452.4	449.6	444.7	443.5	447.3
	R4	438.5	422.3	454.3	455.6	445.3	453.5	453.1
	O3	429.0	410.2	438.7	434.5	424.1	423.9	428.6
	AVG	430.9	-	449.4	445.1	435.2	434.0	441.2
Heifers	U3	448.5	435.4	457.0	460.5	456.6	453.7	457.2
	R3	441.8	424.0	452.8	451.9	443.2	441.1	446.6
	R4	440.3	424.1	456.1	451.9	444.9	445.9	451.7
	O3	429.8	416.0	439.8	430.7	420.8	416.1	423.1
	AVG	434.5	-	452.4	445.4	432.8	426.6	439.9
Young Bulls	U3	437.4	422.8	444.3	446.8	448.9	450.1	446.5
	R3	433.2	413.2	439.2	439.6	442.3	437.6	440.4
	O3	415.6	388.8	403.4	409.6	413.7	424.3	411.0
	AVG	424.4	-	438.0	435.7	435.7	424.4	435.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported		4,610	-	6,318	6,835	7,330	4,794	25,277
Cows	O3	379.0	375.3	385.1	379.3	381.8	378.6	381.0
	O4	380.6	376.7	388.1	382.5	387.6	378.3	384.5
	P2	336.5	344.8	334.2	331.2	343.4	338.6	339.6
	P3	356.3	365.3	355.1	346.1	366.9	358.2	360.8
	AVG	361.7	-	382.9	360.7	358.7	346.7	359.5

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.66p 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 09/07/22	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	255	288	270	212	254	235
Friesians	200	220	210	152	198	175
Heifers	250	302	262	210	249	220
Beef Cows	225	253	235	175	224	200
Dairy Cows	145	186	165	100	144	122
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	260	335	285	215	259	230
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	250	312	265	205	249	225
Bullocks over 500kg	235	300	258	200	234	217
Heifers up to 450kg	250	294	272	200	249	225
Heifers over 450kg	230	259	245	180	229	210
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	580	450	295	395	345
Continental Heifers	260	340	310	150	255	205
Friesian Bulls	110	180	140	50	105	80
Holstein Bulls	80	120	100	20	75	55

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 16/07/22	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	450.1	448.2	437.6
R3	440.8	441.6	434.6
O+3	431.2	432.6	419.4

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 16/07/22	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	265.2	275.4	283.6	309.5
P2	285.8	318.8	333.9	351.6
P3	324.9	341.1	353.8	358.6
O3	322.0	345.8	371.6	380.7
O4	-	351.3	375.8	381.1
R3	-	-	-	396.2

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 18/07/22	Next Week 25/07/22
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	555p	545-550p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 02/07/22	W/E 09/07/22	W/E 16/07/22
NI L/W Lambs	562.2	575.8	493.8
NI D/W Lambs	585.6	599.2	586.3
GB D/W Lambs	637.9	645.9	639.1
ROI D/W	630.5	629.5	608.1

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the plants ended this week ranging from 550-555p/kg up to 21kg. Quotes are expected to come under some pressure early next week and range from 545-550p/kg up to 21kg. Lamb throughput in local plants last week totalled 6,875 head well behind the previous week by 2,929 head and back by 1,073 lambs when compared to the same week last year. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 2,265 head, well behind the 6,886 lambs exported to ROI for direct slaughter in the same week last year. The lamb trade has come under pressure across the British Isles. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was back by almost 13p/kg from the previous week to 586.3p/kg. In GB and ROI last week the deadweight lamb prices were the equivalent of 639.1p/kg and 608.1p/kg, back by 6.8p/kg and 21.4p/kg respectively from the previous week.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Strong shows of lambs passed through the sale rings this week despite prices being back considerably. In Swatragh last Saturday a strong entry of 940 lambs sold from 485-540p/kg. In Masereene on Monday 1,255 lambs sold from 500-535p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 805 lambs sold from 495-540p/kg. In Enniskillen on Wednesday 698 lambs sold from 478-527p/kg, and meanwhile in Markethill this week a strong show of 1,410 lambs sold from 500-542p/kg. The ewe trade has come back in recent weeks to more normal levels having held strong during the first half of 2022 due to a strong liveweight trade. This week the marts reported top ewe prices ranging from £120-£180

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 16/07/22		Lambs			
To: 21/07/22		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	940	485	540	-
	Omagh	827	498	534	-
Monday	Kilrea	650	492	524	-
	Massereene	1255	500	535	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	805	495	540	-
	Rathfriland	901	485	583	500
Wednesday	Ballymena	1776	470	544	505
	Enniskillen	698	478	527	-
	Arroy	564	490	523	-
	Markethill	1410	500	542	-

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