

## LMC TO PARTICIPATE IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S FIRST 'FOOD STRATEGY FRAMEWORK' CONSULTATION

The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) will be participating in the consultation that will lead to the creation of Northern Ireland's first ever food strategy framework.

Launched at this year's Balmoral Show by farm minister Edwin Poots, this new initiative - putting agriculture and food at the very heart of the Stormont Executive's decision making process, has the over arching theme: 'Food at the Heart of Our Society - A Prospectus for Change'.

Six core themes have been identified as drivers for future policy making decisions, where farming and food are concerned. These are:

- Building connections between health/wellbeing and food.
- Building Sustainable Economic Prosperity.
- Building a Food Culture and Food Conscious Society.
- Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Resources.
- Building Healthy Lives through Food Education.
- Building and maintaining appropriate Emergency Contingency plans across the supply chain

LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson confirmed that Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors interface directly with all of these priorities.

He further explained; "Beef, for example, is an integral part of a healthy balanced diet. Uniquely, it high contains high levels of naturally occurring Vitamin B12 and the grass fed nature of our beef also ensures it is high in Omega 3 fatty acids."

"Lamb is also an extremely healthy source of nutrition for people of all ages." Ian continued:"Beef and sheep are also major contributors to the local economy, both at a farm and processing level. In addition, 80% of the beef and lamb produced on local farms is destined for external and export markets."

"Northern Ireland's food culture is fast growing. One of the most positive developments to have come out of the Covid-19 lockdown was local consumers' rejuvenated interest in cooking at home and the origins of their food. This very welcome phenomenon has given many thousands of people the opportunity to re-acquaint themselves with the tremendous taste and quality of the beef and lamb that is produced on their very doorsteps."

LMC intends to build on these positive, consumer-related trends into the future. According to Ian, the sustainability of the beef and sheep management systems adopted on farms across Northern Ireland speaks for themselves. He said:"Our cattle and sheep are unique in

converting grass, a resource that cannot be utilised directly by humans, into human edible protein of the highest quality that can deliver nutrition and sustenance to populations around the world."

"Meanwhile our beef cattle and sheep are helping to deliver, day-in: day-out, an environment and a countryside that is the envy of the world." Central to all of these fundamentally important issues for beef and sheep has been the ongoing impact of the farm quality assurance scheme (FQAS).

Ian Stevenson again: "FQAS delivers in so many ways for the beef and lamb industries. It complements Northern Ireland's renowned livestock traceability system, it sets the threshold for the environmental standards expected of farmers while also underpinning the health, safety and animal welfare standards that are now the norm on our farms. "Looking to the future, farmers must achieve the economic and environmental sustainability levels that will be needed to remain viable. FQAS will continue to play a key role in this context."

He concluded:"LMC welcomes the opportunity to participate in the ongoing consultation process associated with the new food strategy framework. "The Commission fully recognises the benefits of

putting food, and how it is produced, at the very centre of future Executive decision making."

"As an organisation we are already committed to communicating the benefits of a healthy balanced diet for everyone in our society. We do this through our work with schools and the myriad of consumer-focussed campaigns and events that we organise throughout the year, where FQAS beef and lamb are concerned."

"Northern Ireland's farming and food industries are currently feeding between 10 and 12m people with a wide range of healthy and nutritious foods. We are a fundamental part of the UK food supply and it is important that this food strategy framework underpins Northern Ireland's key position in the security of UK food supply in the decades ahead."

"Co-ordinating all of this interconnected effort in ways that deliver more effectively for society makes total sense. This will be the key message that LMC will be communicating courtesy of its submission to the food strategy consultation."

# LMC CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO CHAIR FINAL ‘SUSTAINABLE BEEF PRODUCTION’ WEBINAR

One of the highlights of 2021 has been the success of the ‘sustainable beef’ webinar series, jointly hosted by LMC, CAFRE, AFBI, UFU, NIMEA and NBA.

The three events held up to this point have very much focussed on the changes that will take place at farm level, where the issues of climate change and future sustainability are concerned. However, the fourth and last webinar in the series will take a look at the response required of the supply chain as a whole, in meeting these challenges.

The event will take place on Thursday, 21st October at 8pm with Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) chief executive Ian Stevenson in the chair.

The participating speakers will include Sarah Haire, Head of Agriculture with Dawn Meats Group, LMC’s Industry Development Manager-Colin Smith, beef farmer-Sam Chesney and Conall Donnelly- Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association. Speakers will address the need for the entire red meat supply chain to operate in a co-ordinated manner.

Sarah Haire will provide an insight into supply chain customers’ demand for sustainable beef and the expectations of the beef producers as a result. As Chair of the UK Roundtable for

Sustainable Beef Sarah brings a vast knowledge of the national and global challenges that lie ahead and will detail an example of how the Dawn Meats group is responding.

Colin Smith believes that the beef industry in Northern Ireland is about to reach a tipping point, where sustainability is concerned.

He explained: “We are on a journey, one that must allow the beef industry to show that it can deliver high quality food in a sustainable manner. “Every stakeholder group within the supply chain will have to make decisions that allow all of this to happen. “But decisions are only as good as the data that they are based on.

“This is why the industry must be in a position to accurately capture the information relating to all aspects of its carbon footprint and all relevant measures of sustainability.”

According to Colin, the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) could be used as a mechanism to gather a very significant proportion of the data that the beef industry needs to allow it to evidence its levels of overall sustainability.

He said: “We need data from the widest possible range of farming businesses in Northern Ireland. And FQAS is well placed to meet this requirement.

“Armed with the information that these steps can deliver, provided the appropriate IT infrastructure is in place, it will be possible to calculate the carbon footprint for participating farms and help paint a more accurate picture for our beef industry as a whole.

“This approach will be critically important as Northern Ireland’s entire beef sector looks to the future.”

Sam Chesney, a beef farmer from Kircubbin, Co. Down will share his experiences following participation in a recent pilot exercise to gather the required information as part of an on farm survey and Conall Donnelly will complete the line up by outlining the importance of this work for the whole of the Northern Ireland beef supply chain. The October 21st webinar gets underway at 8.00pm. LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson confirmed the relevance of the three events held up to this point. He said:

“Each of the webinars has highlighted in a very practical manner the opportunities and challenges that exist for beef farmers in Northern Ireland as they adapt their businesses in line with a changing world climate and the need to marry economic levels of output with environmental sustainability.

“Their relevance has been wholly confirmed by

the tremendous number of farmers and redmeat stakeholder representatives logging on for each of the events.

“The fourth and final webinar, in many ways, completes the circle. Everyone working within the beef industry is dependent on people working within the supply chain. Farmers need processors and, of course, processors need retail and food service customers.

“The need to take an holistic approach, where beef sustainability is concerned, makes total sense. This is why the upcoming webinar will provide a fitting finale to a series of valuable discussion opportunities that kicked-off back in the spring of this year.”



## FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances, contact the FQAS helpline:  
Tel: 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](mailto:bulletin@lmcni.com)  
Tel: 028 9263 3000

# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 04/10/21	Next Week 11/10/21
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	384 - 394p	386 - 394p
R-3	378 - 388p	380 - 388p
O+3	372 - 382p	374 - 382p
P+3	318 - 332p	320 - 332p
Including bonus where applicable		
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	260 - 300p	260 - 300p

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 plants this week for in spec U-3 grading prime cattle continued to range from 384-394p/kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to range from 386-394p/kg. Quotes for O+3 cows have come under some pressure this week ranging from 260-300p/kg. With such a range in quotes, producers are encouraged to shop around and use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 7,206 head, up 150 head from the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2020, prime cattle throughput in local plants totalled 7,024. Cow throughput remained steady with 2,265 cows processed in NI last week. This is up 90 cows from the previous week and back 120 when compared to the 2,385 cows processed in the same week in 2020.

Imports of cattle from ROI for direct slaughter in NI consisted of 241 prime and 109 cows, with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter in local plants. Last week 49 prime cattle and 54 cows were exported out of NI to ROI for direct slaughter with a further 30 prime cattle and 11 cows making the journey from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

The NI deadweight prime cattle trade remained steady this week. The average steer price in NI last week increased marginally to 391.9p/kg, up 0.1p/kg from the previous week. The R3 steer price in NI last week was up 0.3p/kg to 402.5p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2020 the R3 steer price was 366.4p/kg, 36.1p/kg behind current levels. The average NI heifer price last week was up 0.9p/kg to 395.3p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up 1.1p/kg to 401.7p/kg. In the same week last year the R3 heifer price was 367.5p/kg, 34.2p/kg behind current levels. The average young bull price in NI last week was back 3.5p/kg to 379.2p/kg while the R3 young bull price was up 1.0p/kg to 393.7p/kg. Meanwhile the NI cow trade came under pressure, the average cow price decreased 1.0p/kg to 280.8p/kg while the O3 cow price was back 0.5p/kg to 315.1p/kg.

In GB last week the average steer price was back 0.9p/kg to 410.8p/kg while the R3 steer price was up 0.2p/kg to 417.3p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2020 the R3 steer price was 374.9p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was back 1.1p/kg to 408.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back 1.6p/kg to 416.4p/kg. This places the R3 heifer price in GB at 14.7p/kg above the same price in NI. Meanwhile the GB cow trade remained under pressure, the average cow price was back 6.2p/kg to 273.2p/kg with the O3 cow price back 5.6p/kg to 301.1p/kg.

The R3 steer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 360.9p/kg, up 0.7p/kg from the previous week. This puts the R3 steer price in ROI at 41.6p/kg behind the same price in NI. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price was up 1.7p/kg to 365.1p/kg. The cow trade remained steady across all grades, the O3 cow price reported an increase of 1.0p/kg to the equivalent of 305.9p/kg. This puts the O3 cow price in ROI at 9.2p/kg behind the same price in NI.

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

W/E 02/10/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	402.8	370.3	424.1	420.9	421.1	425.8
	R3	402.5	360.9	418.7	418.9	416.0	417.3
	R4	399.4	360.8	419.0	422.4	415.6	417.7
	O3	391.7	345.6	403.5	410.0	391.3	396.7
	AVG	391.9	-	416.0	414.2	404.9	407.0
Heifers	U3	406.5	375.8	428.5	424.6	426.5	425.1
	R3	401.7	365.1	419.6	417.3	415.9	413.5
	R4	398.9	365.6	420.8	418.9	415.3	411.4
	O3	394.0	355.9	401.7	402.4	393.3	392.0
	AVG	395.3	-	417.5	412.5	403.6	398.5
Young Bulls	U3	395.7	354.5	413.7	418.9	419.0	414.4
	R3	393.7	347.0	410.3	409.1	409.8	410.6
	O3	376.7	333.6	375.4	373.8	384.5	377.2
	AVG	379.2	-	401.9	390.3	400.7	394.5
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5750	-	6306	6320	6950	4522	24098
Cows	O3	315.1	305.9	303.0	298.3	301.5	302.7
	O4	314.6	305.6	306.8	301.6	298.4	299.0
	P2	273.5	275.3	258.5	251.0	261.5	270.5
	P3	292.8	296.4	272.3	268.4	274.4	283.4
	AVG	280.8	-	297.7	276.2	269.1	267.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.90p 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

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 02/10/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	401.8	406.8	398.8
R3	398.7	400.8	392.8
O+3	392.4	393.2	381.9

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 02/10/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	209.1	220.4	231.9	239.1
P2	225.2	250.1	271.4	286.1
P3	239.5	277.4	283.5	296.7
O3	260.0	287.5	307.5	316.5
O4	-	-	309.2	314.8
R3	-	-	-	333.3

### LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 02/10/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	240	260	248	205	239	220
Friesians	180	199	187	140	178	163
Heifers	227	253	236	205	226	212
Beef Cows	179	222	192	140	178	158
Dairy Cows	120	157	135	100	119	112
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	250	300	275	205	249	225
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	230	272	250	200	229	212
Bullocks over 500kg	225	266	233	190	224	200
Heifers up to 450kg	230	260	245	200	229	215
Heifers over 450kg	230	294	242	190	229	212
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	400	595	460	250	395	320
Continental Heifers	380	540	410	250	375	310
Friesian Bulls	150	350	185	75	145	100
Holstein Bulls	120	270	150	15	115	65

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 04/10/21	Next Week 11/10/21
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	485-490p/kg	495p/kg

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 18/09/21	W/E 25/09/21	W/E 02/10/21
NI L/W Lambs	439.2	450.7	460.1
NI D/W Lambs	469.2	471.7	476.3
GB D/W Lambs	508.4	494.0	502.3
ROI D/W	501.5	510.1	521.1

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the local plants for R3 grading lambs improved as the week progressed and ended this week in the region of 495p/kg up to 21kg. The plants have reported strong supplies of lambs coming forward for slaughter with 10,139 lambs processed locally last week. This is up 365 from the previous week. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter increased to 7,332 head last week, up 654 from the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2020 6,407 lambs were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter. The NI deadweight lamb price last week increased by 4.6p/kg to 476.3p/kg. Meanwhile the ROI deadweight lamb price was up 11p/kg to the equivalent of 521.1p/kg.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

Good numbers of lambs passed through the sale rings this week. In Omagh on Saturday 1942 lambs sold from 467-494p/kg compared to 1953 lambs sold from 446-485p/kg the previous week. On Monday in Massereene 903 lambs sold from 440-480p/kg compared to 793 lambs sold from 440-474p/kg the previous week. A strong entry from Ballymena on Wednesday with 2695 lambs sold from 420-511p/kg compared to 2008 lambs sold from 440-488p/kg the previous week. On Thursday in Markethill 1430 lambs sold from 440-506p/kg compared to 1450 lambs sold from 450-506p/kg. Top reported prices for culled ewes ranged from £126-£193 across the marts this week.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 02/10/21		Lambs			
To: 07/10/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	1942	467	494	-
	Swatragh	1500	393	500	-
Monday	Kilrea	600	447	538	-
	Massereene	903	440	480	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	742	445	525	-
	Rathfriland	1046	444	525	470
Wednesday	Ballymena	2695	420	511	450
	Enniskillen	848	438	501	-
	Arroy	574	450	485	-
	Markethill	1430	440	506	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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