

MEAT4SCHOOLS COMPETITION FURTHER CONFIRMS LMC'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

This academic year has been marked by the re-launch of LMC's much praised Meat4schools competition. Initially hosted by the Commission in 2019, the award scheme was put on hold last year in light of the then Covid-19 restrictions.

Image 1: Marketing and Communications Manager, Lauren Patterson



"But it's very much a case now of normal service being resumed," confirmed the Commission's marketing and communications manager Lauren Patterson. "Such was the popularity of the pilot competition in 2019 that going ahead again in 2021 was an obvious choice to make.

"Recent weeks have seen us receiving many queries from teachers asking if we intend going ahead with Meat4schools again this year. And the very obvious answer to this question is: yes!"

Up for grabs is £100 worth of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured (NIFQA) beef and lamb for each of seven schools. LMC is selecting a winner from each county plus one from Belfast. All the meat will be supplied by ABP. Taking part couldn't be easier or more fun. Entrants will be expected to answer fully the questions contained in the Meat4schools entry form around topics of nutrition, sustainability and the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme.

They will also be required to create a recipe using Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Beef or Lamb. This should be an original recipe and not be copied from any other source. All documentation, appendices and terms and conditions are available to download from the website: <https://www.food4life.org.uk/>

Image 2: LMC's Education Website Food4life



All applications will be scored and marked against a marking criteria and winners selected accordingly. The overall winner will win a cookery lesson for their class with one of LMC's esteemed demonstrators. Subsequent to the delivery of the beef and lamb, the winning schools must provide photographic evidence of how the meat was used in a classroom setting.

Currently LMC provides 375 beef and lamb cookery demonstrations to post primary schools and runs 3 beef and lamb practical workshops for teachers each year. Food4Life is a dedicated education website, which hosts a wide variety of resources relevant to the Key Stage 3, 4 and A-Level syllabus for teachers and pupils to use. Lauren Patterson again: "The Meat4schools competition has been designed to raise awareness of the Farm Quality

Assurance Scheme and increase the availability of NI Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb for practical lessons.

"In a very practical sense the competition represents the third strand of LMC's commitment to education. "Significantly, it builds on our work up skilling teachers, informing students and then improving the availability of NI Farm Quality Assurance Scheme beef and lamb in the classroom."

All post-primary schools in Northern Ireland are eligible to enter the Meat4schools competition. While beef is obviously important in this context, Lauren Patterson is particularly keen to use Meat4schools as a vehicle to promote lamb to young people.

She said: "Lamb is often viewed as a less suitable option for school practical lessons because of perceived cost and reduced school budgets. Additionally, lamb is often considered to be a meat less popular with younger demographics when in reality, it has so much to offer people of all age groups. This is a great opportunity for schools

in Northern Ireland to experiment with more red meat options and allow young people to improve their cookery skills with beef and lamb." Lauren concluded: "The main aim behind the competition is to improve the availability of beef and lamb in post-primary schools.

"Our Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme is incorporated into the GCSE Food and Nutrition and A Level Nutrition and Food Science syllabuses, and we provide a range of resources to teachers that support these topics.

"Our hope through this scheme is that pupils can further their understanding of food traceability, animal welfare and environmental sustainability which are key pillars of the farm quality assurance.

"We also hope that through improving the pupils' cooking skills, they will learn about the versatility of beef and lamb as part of a healthy, balanced diet and be encouraged to cook with it inside and outside the classroom."

AGRI-FOOD STAKEHOLDER GROUPS DISCUSS ‘EXECUTIVE’ CLIMATE CHANGE BILL WITH AERA COMMITTEE

The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) recently submitted oral evidence to members of the Stormont Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (AERA) committee on the content and potential impact of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill (Number 2).

This draft legislation was recently introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in conjunction with the farm minister Edwin Poots.

“We were accompanied by representatives from a wide range of food industry bodies, including the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters’ Association, the Ulster Farmers’ Union, Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association and the Dairy Council,” LMC chief executive Ian Stevenson.

“The key message delivered to the AERA committee by all the groups making up the delegation was that the recommendations and targets contained within the ‘Executive’ bill are

based on the scientific facts as we know them to be today.

“They also allow scope for the continued sustainable development of the farming and food sectors here in Northern Ireland. In total contrast, the over-arching target of NI Net Zero by 2045, set down within the Private Members Climate Change bill, which was previously introduced at Stormont, will act to erode our farming and food base for no good reason.”

The targets contained within the Executive climate change bill would see the greenhouse gas emission levels in Northern Ireland dropping by at least 82% over the next three decades as the region’s fair contribution to the overall target of UK Net Zero by 2050.

“This is still a staggeringly significant challenge but is an ambition that our industry is up for,” Ian Stevenson stressed. “And it’s hard not to underestimate the change that will be effected within all our farming sectors to make this happen.”

The LMC representative went on to point out that all sectors of farming, even those focussed on crop production generate a carbon footprint.

“The challenge that lies ahead will be met by a combination of driving efficiency at farm level and making best use of the technical solutions that become available, where climate change mitigation measures are concerned.

“We know about the scientific breakthroughs that have been made over recent years. And it is to be hoped that this work will gather further momentum during the period ahead.”

But whatever the detail of the final climate change legislation agreed for Northern Ireland is, Ian Stevenson points to the need for real action to be taken and incentivised as a matter of priority. He explained: “In truth, we are already on the journey towards 2050.

But we need to see real targets and action plans put in place. Initially these will take us through to 2030.

Thereafter, it’s a case of agreeing incremental change on a regular basis.

Ian went on to point out that leaving the subject of climate change in abeyance until closer to 2050 and then working on the basis that a quick fix can be agreed that will see real change effected within a short period beforehand would be sheer folly.

He concluded: “The farming and food sectors are up for real change, where their response to climate change is concerned. And it is imperative that members of the general public are made aware of this fundamental fact.

“But the climate legislation implemented must be grounded in scientific fact. This is certainly the case where the proposed DAERA bill is concerned, the principles of which the agri food industry supports.

“The same cannot be said for the Private Members bill sponsored by Clare Bailey.” Ian concluded: “All the food industry groupings in attendance had a very constructive debate with the

members of the AERA committee on the issues pertaining to climate change.

“It was made very clear to the politicians that through working in genuine partnership it is more than feasible to have a sustainable farming and food industry here in Northern Ireland while not eroding our production capacity at the same time. “The point was also made that enacting realistic climate change legislation is a priority.”

Image 3: The Agri-Food industry will continue to take the necessary measures to reach UK net-zero.



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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 18/10/21	Next Week 25/10/21
Prime		
U-3	386 - 394p	386 - 394p
R-3	380 - 388p	380 - 388p
O+3	374 - 382p	374 - 382p
P+3	320 - 332p	320 - 332p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
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 major processors remained steady this week ranging from 386-394p/kg for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle with similar quotes expected for early next week. Quotes for O+3 cows are ranging from 260-300p/kg, with the majority of plants quoting at the upper end of the scale.

Imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week consisted of 209 prime cattle and 139 cows which was well back when compared to previous weeks. Meanwhile no cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter in local plants. Exports of cattle from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week included four prime cattle and 91 cows while no cattle were exported to GB for direct slaughter.

Reports have indicated steady supplies of both prime cattle and cows available for slaughter. Prime cattle throughput increased last week by 674 head from the previous week to total 7,564 head. This was the highest weekly prime cattle throughput to date in 2021. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,366 head, up 111 head from 2,255 cows killed during the previous week.

The NI deadweight prime cattle trade generally reported increases last week across the majority of grades from the previous week. The average NI steer price was up 0.2p/kg to 391.9p/kg with the R3 steer price up 0.1p/kg to 401.2p/kg. In the same week in 2020 the R3 steer price was 367.1p/kg. The average NI heifer price increased by 2.4p/kg to 395.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price was up 0.9p/kg to 402.4p/kg. In the corresponding week in 2020 the R3 heifer price was 367.8p/kg, 34.6p/kg behind current levels. The average young bull price last week reported a decrease of 4.7p/kg to 375.1p/kg while the R3 young bull price was back 2.7p/kg to the equivalent of 386.6p/kg. Meanwhile the cow trade in NI came under pressure last week with the average cow price back 4.3p/kg to 276.7p/kg and the O3 cow price back 2.7p/kg to 311.3p/kg.

The deadweight prime cattle trade came under some pressure last week in GB. The average steer price in GB was back 0.1p/kg to 409.6p/kg while the R3 steer price was up 1.1p/kg to 417.5p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price was back 1.5p/kg to 406.4p/kg with the R3 heifer price back a penny to 416.3p/kg. This places the R3 heifer price in GB at 13.9p/kg above the same price in NI. Last week in GB the deadweight cow trade continued to remain under pressure with prices back in the region of 2-4p/kg from the previous week. The average cow price was back 3.5p/kg to 267.6p/kg while the O3 cow price was back 4.1p/kg to 296.1p/kg.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in ROI came under pressure this week across the majority of grades. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back 2.8p/kg to 354.7p/kg, which brings the R3 steer price differential between ROI and NI to 46.5p/kg. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price was back 2.6p/kg to the equivalent of 358.7p/kg. The O3 cow price in ROI was back 2.9p/kg to 300.5p/kg.

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

	W/E 16/10/21	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	402.6	363.7	419.9	421.0	421.6	420.9	420.8
	R3	401.2	354.7	418.3	419.5	416.5	415.6	417.5
	R4	399.7	354.1	419.3	424.5	414.9	415.3	419.8
	O3	391.6	338.7	406.5	405.1	394.1	393.8	398.7
	AVG	391.9	-	415.8	413.6	404.8	402.9	409.6
Heifers	U3	404.7	369.4	427.5	425.1	428.2	422.0	426.6
	R3	402.4	358.7	419.2	415.8	417.0	411.7	416.3
	R4	398.0	358.8	419.4	418.3	416.7	412.4	417.8
	O3	393.6	349.1	394.3	404.6	391.4	392.4	394.9
	AVG	395.5	-	415.3	411.6	402.2	392.1	406.4
Young Bulls	U3	392.5	350.5	411.5	420.9	412.2	416.5	414.1
	R3	386.6	341.5	408.6	407.3	409.3	409.6	408.5
	O3	369.5	330.0	377.1	380.3	383.2	373.1	379.4
	AVG	375.1	-	396.0	398.3	399.8	384.9	397.4
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6069	-	6435	6562	7262	4520	24779	
Cows	O3	311.3	300.5	300.2	295.7	294.7	296.1	296.1
	O4	312.6	300.7	301.0	300.4	294.3	294.0	296.7
	P2	269.6	271.4	255.6	247.6	256.8	260.6	257.1
	P3	292.0	289.9	265.9	267.7	270.9	275.2	271.7
	AVG	276.7	-	288.7	272.4	265.1	260.7	267.6

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=84.70p 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 16/10/21	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	240	259	245	200	239	220
Friesians	170	190	180	135	169	152
Heifers	225	249	232	195	224	208
Beef Cows	177	221	188	130	176	150
Dairy Cows	117	138	128	100	116	110
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	230	268	250	200	229	212
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	225	270	240	195	224	208
Bullocks over 500kg	220	256	230	185	219	200
Heifers up to 450kg	230	265	245	200	229	212
Heifers over 450kg	225	270	238	190	224	210
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	350	475	400	220	345	285
Continental Heifers	340	520	375	200	335	250
Friesian Bulls	150	215	180	60	145	90
Holstein Bulls	100	170	135	5	95	50

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 16/10/21	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	403.2	406.9	395.1
R3	398.1	401.0	389.7
O+3	392.2	394.3	374.3

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 16/10/21	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	204.3	218.3	226.4	234.5
P2	216.3	245.2	267.1	281.3
P3	170.0	268.7	288.5	293.7
O3	320.0	270.1	302.8	312.4
O4	-	268.0	299.4	313.5
R3	-	-	-	326.5

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 18/10/21	Next Week 25/10/21
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	495-500p/kg	505p/kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 02/10/21	W/E 09/10/21	W/E 16/10/21
NI L/W Lambs	460.1	456.2	459.2
NI D/W Lambs	476.3	480.1	482.4
GB D/W Lambs	502.3	522.6	528.3
ROI D/W	521.1	521.9	524.5

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes from the plants continued to strengthen and ended this week in the region of 505p/kg up to 21kg, with similar quotes expected for early next week. Lamb throughput in NI plants last week totalled 7,459, back 1,259 head from the previous week. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter last week increased to 7,844, up 308 head when compared to the previous week. In the same week last year 7,012 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week was up 2.3p/kg to the equivalent of 482.4p/kg while the deadweight lamb price in ROI was up 2.6p/kg to the equivalent of 524.5p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

The marts have reported steady numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings this week with a firmer trade reported for good quality lambs. In Swatragh on Saturday 1300 lambs sold from 458-557p/kg compared to 1520 lambs sold from 450-526p/kg the previous week. On Monday in Masereene 960 lambs sold from 450-480p/kg compared to 803 lambs sold last week from 440-466p/kg. In Saintfield on Tuesday 832 lambs sold from 455-514p/kg compared to 555 lambs sold from 445-515p/kg the previous week. On Wednesday in Enniskillen 526 lambs sold from 480-535p/kg compared to 782 lambs sold from 424-500p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes ranged from £118-£158 across the marts this week.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 16/10/21		Lambs			
To: 21/10/21		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	977	484	531	-
	Swatragh	1300	458	557	-
Monday	Kilrea	550	440	510	-
	Massereene	960	450	480	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	832	455	514	-
	Rathfriland	797	450	526	476
Wednesday	Ballymena	980	440	502	468
	Enniskillen	526	480	535	-
	Armoyle	408	450	495	-
	Markethill	1450	460	503	-

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