

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 30/09/24	Next Week 07/10/24
Prime		
U-3	472 - 478p	472 - 482p
R-3	466 - 472p	466 - 476p
O+3	460 - 466p	460 - 470p
P+3	404 - 410p	404 - 414p
Cows		
O+3	355 - 375p	355 - 375p

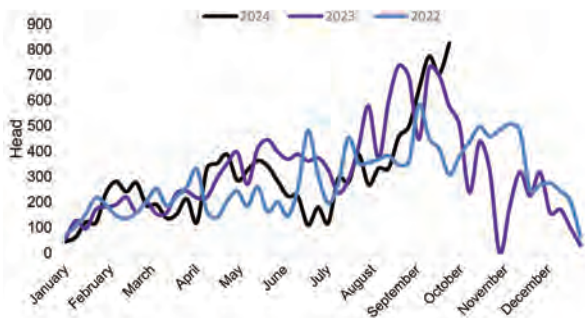
Cow quotes vary depending on weight and grade. Pricing policies vary from plant to plant. Producers are advised to check pricing policies before presenting cattle for slaughter.

FQAS MART DATES OCTOBER 2024

Markethill - Tuesday 8th October
 Ballymena - Friday 11th October
 Omagh - Monday 14th October
 Draperstown - Friday 18th October

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will be present at the locations outlined to assist FQAS members with scheme queries and offer advice. Terry is contactable on the FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.

Prime Cattle Imports for Direct Slaughter 2022 - 2024
 Source: DAERA.



REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 28/09/24	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	495.9	497.3	492.0
R3	489.5	491.1	478.7
O+3	480.2	481.4	465.6

*Prices exclude AA, HER, WAG and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 28/09/24	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	240.4	264.3	281.0	301.2
P2	269.5	300.8	320.5	335.1
P3	299.7	329.7	335.9	346.4
O3	-	336.1	352.1	363.9
O4	-	-	356.4	369.7
R3	-	-	-	389.9

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Last week, 8,183 prime animals were processed in local plants, bringing the monthly total to 31,938 prime animals slaughtered in September, almost 19 per cent ahead of slaughter levels reported during the corresponding month last year. A further 2,259 cows passed through the plants last week, bringing the monthly total for September to 9,509 head, just over six per cent ahead of levels recorded during the corresponding period of 2023. A new record level of 1,104 cattle were imported from ROI for direct slaughter last week, consisting of 751 steers, 73 heifers and 280 cows. Meanwhile, three steers, one heifer and 11 cows were exported from NI to ROI for direct slaughter.

The deadweight cattle trade in NI provided a mixed report last week, with some declines reported for steers and heifers. R3 grade steers were back 0.8p/kg to 493.1p/kg however, R3 grade heifers reported an increase of 1.1p/kg to 493.2p/kg and R3 young bulls were up 3.2p/kg to an average paid price of 481.2p/kg last week. Cow trade in NI strengthened 2p/kg on average to 321.2p/kg last week. The ROI deadweight cattle trade continued to weaken in sterling terms last week, with only a few increases reported in euro terms. Last week in ROI, R3 grade steers, heifers and young bulls reported an average decline of 3.3p/kg, 3.8p/kg and 4.9p/kg respectively and O3 cow trade in ROI weakened by 3p/kg. Across the water in GB, deadweight prime cattle trade strengthened across the board on average with only a few declines reported for deadweight cow trade.

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

W/E 28/09/24	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	497.1	432.0	529.5	516.0	515.4	519.4
	R3	493.1	423.2	526.7	517.5	511.6	516.0
	R4	489.7	423.8	521.9	517.0	509.0	517.6
	O3	483.2	411.1	512.5	502.3	495.6	502.5
AVG	484.5	-	521.1	509.6	500.8	506.6	509.3
Heifers	U3	497.8	436.2	531.7	518.6	523.7	523.6
	R3	493.2	426.5	523.1	513.0	512.0	516.1
	R4	492.3	426.6	524.5	515.7	511.9	517.3
	O3	483.7	419.5	503.3	491.3	492.6	497.2
AVG	486.9	-	521.2	504.9	499.4	498.8	505.4
Young Bulls	U3	491.2	425.1	516.2	506.4	515.7	522.2
	R3	481.2	418.5	507.0	501.4	506.3	516.5
	O3	467.6	406.7	492.7	464.8	480.3	494.3
	AVG	470.8	-	498.8	490.4	496.6	506.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,383	-	5,798	7,259	8,233	5,031	26,321
Cows	O3	362.2	367.2	397.7	388.9	390.3	391.1
	O4	369.2	367.9	403.0	389.0	388.5	392.2
	P2	326.0	331.7	357.7	347.1	349.2	354.9
	P3	343.2	352.9	367.0	362.8	360.2	372.4
AVG	321.2	-	395.1	361.8	355.1	347.9	358.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=83.43p 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

LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 28/09/24	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	280	330	298	225	279	245
Friesians	228	249	234	211	219	215
Heifers	270	304	290	215	269	235
Beef Cows	236	329	265	150	235	185
Dairy Cows	139	175	151	86	138	108
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers up to 400kg	300	374	330	210	298	255
Steers 400kg - 500kg	275	340	300	180	274	235
Steers over 500kg	285	320	295	200	284	230
Heifers up to 450kg	260	298	290	200	259	230
Heifers over 450kg	270	337	295	210	269	235
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	650	460	270	395	325
Continental Heifers	350	660	425	220	345	270
Friesian Bulls	-	250	250	-	-	-
Holstein Bulls	85	95	88	65	75	68

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 30/09/24	Next Week 07/10/24
R3 Lambs up to 22kg	580 - 585p	580 - 590p

REPORTED NI SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 14/09/24	W/E 21/09/24	W/E 28/09/24
D/W R3 Lambs	586.9	581.9	582.7
D/W Lambs	590.1	582.6	583.9
L/W Lambs	529.2	530.3	542.9

REGIONAL SHEEP PRICES (GB / ROI)

GB D/W Lambs	642.9	641.1	640.0
ROI D/W Lambs	601.4	599.8	595.4

Sheep Trade

A total of 10,366 lambs were presented for slaughter in NI plants last week, bringing the consignment for September 2024 to a total of 43,644 head of lambs, falling almost three per cent behind levels recorded during the corresponding period of 2023. Despite this, there was an increase of 4.8 tonnes of lamb meat produced in September 2024 due to heavier carcasses being presented for slaughter this year in comparison to September 2023. Last week, a total of 6,070 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter, the highest volume of exports to ROI recorded since the beginning of April this year. A total of 22,298 lambs were exported during September this year, 812 head less than the 23,110 lambs which were exported during September 2023.

Sheep trade strengthened across the board in NI as the average deadweight sheep price reported an increase of 1.3p/kg to an average paid price of 583.9p/kg last week. Meanwhile, the average liveweight sheep trade surged 12.6p/kg, to an average paid price of 542.9p/kg last week. However, the deadweight sheep trade continued to weaken in both GB and ROI, with the average deadweight price back 1.1p/kg in GB and 4.4p/kg in ROI last week.

LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 28/09/24		Lambs			
To: 03/10/24		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	970	563	622	-
	Swatragh	1350	550	644	-
Monday	Kilrea	1400	548	590	-
	Markethill	1610	540	575	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	1005	535	625	-
	Rathfriland	900	540	621	-
Wednesday	Ballymena	2300	505	580	523
	Enniskillen	1080	500	585	-
	Armoyle	533	490	565	-

THE THREAT OF BLUETONGUE CONTINUES TO GROW

Last week's confirmation of Bluetongue Virus (BTV) in Wales has prompted a very clear and definitive response from Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) Chief Executive, Colin Smith. He said, "I know that many farmers will want to improve the genetic merit of their herds and flocks. But given the events of recent days, there is only one course of action to take: stop importing cattle and sheep from mainland Europe and Great Britain. The risk that such activity poses to our livestock sectors is immense. Northern Ireland has remained clear of BTV up to this point. And we must keep it this way."

Stakeholders representing all aspects of livestock production recently put forward an agreed

strategy to keep BTV out of Northern Ireland. It comprises the following action points: halting or pausing of live animal imports from continental Europe; avoiding rest periods in Great Britain for imports of animals from outside of continental Europe; the need for greater BTV vigilance amongst all stakeholder groups and the need for government to be more transparent, where all measures relating to BTV are concerned.

On 26th August, the first case of BTV serotype 3 (BTV-3) was confirmed in a single sheep at a premises in Norfolk. Infection has now been confirmed on over 100 premises in England. On 27th September, Wales confirmed its first BTV case from imported animals.

LMC ATTENDS BVA EVENT ON ANIMAL HEALTH

Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) Chief Executive, Colin Smith welcomed the opportunity to attend the British Veterinary Association (BVA) Northern Ireland dinner, held in Stormont on Wednesday 02 October.

According to the LMC chief executive the event, hosted by Declan McAleer MLA, provided a timely opportunity to stress the importance of safeguarding Northern Ireland's leading animal health standards and how industry can collaboratively work to strengthen animal health and welfare protocols.

Colin said, "The event covered a wide range of key animal health issues such as the importance of ensuring future access to vital veterinary medicines, with a new EU veterinary agreement posing an opportunity to protect animal health, human health and food safety. The threat posed from Bluetongue was acknowledged and the importance of maintaining rigorous controls to prevent its spread to our livestock was strongly emphasised. The ongoing challenges of TB and the very real impact that this disease is having on both cattle herds and our farming families was too highlighted. The need to bring forward BVD legislation was also touched upon.

We are acutely aware of the immense efforts our farmers have made to help bring eradication of this disease within touching distance. The final step is now to bring forward legislation, which we hope will be done in a timely fashion to support the sectors ongoing efforts."

Image 1: LMC chief executive Colin Smith (right) pictured with Iain Smith, Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practising in Northern Ireland (AVSPNI) president.



SUPPORTING THE SHEEP SECTOR INTO THE FUTURE

LMC endorses the steps taken by the Sheep Taskforce to secure bespoke support measures for the sheep sector. Commission Chief Executive, Colin Smith, commented, "The need for full recognition to be given of the role played by the sheep sector in delivering for the local economy and the environment is obvious. Sheep production has strong sustainability credentials that should be recognised. The part played by grazing sheep in maintaining the biodiversity of our upland areas has been long recognised. These are significant attributes, which benefit society as a whole."

Meanwhile, sheep numbers across the UK and Ireland continue to drop. The June 2024 agricultural census for England confirmed a 7 per cent fall in sheep numbers, year-on-year. Similar trends have been recorded across the island of Ireland and the European Union over recent months.

Colin Smith again, "The need to support the sheep sector is clear. Ensuring a tailored support package is made available to the industry will help to secure this objective. With meaningful support there is an opportunity to introduce new and potentially younger entrants into the industry via sheep production. The availability of bespoke support measures will help make this a reality."

Members of the Sheep Taskforce recently met with both the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Minister, Andrew Muir MLA, and the members of the Stormont Agriculture Committee. And this process of engagement will continue.

The 2023 Taskforce report specifically called for collaboration between government, meat processors and farmers, to ensure the sheep industry has a stable and sustainable future at the heart of the rural economy.

The work of the task force has specifically identified the need to maintain a 'critical mass' within the sheep sector. This will be required to secure the infrastructure needed to develop the industry and secure a level of future profitability.

According to the report, the starting point for this process is retaining the current level of meat and wool output. Longer term perspectives would be better secured if productivity was increased. Securing extra output can come from extra breeding animals or greater yield from existing breeding animals. Task force members believe the latter option can deliver the best outcomes.

Securing the budget

One of the key constraints to securing future support measures for the sheep sector centres on the required funding levels.

The current pressures on the Minister of Agriculture, Andrew Muir, in this regard, should be significantly reduced if the Chancellor of the Exchequer agrees a larger block grant for agriculture in Northern Ireland, courtesy of the upcoming Budget: it is due at the end of this month (October).

Colin Smith concluded, "Future support measures for sheep must be developed in ways that will deliver the highest level of return for the sector. Securing enhanced levels of genetic improvement is an obvious priority. Measures that will allow flock owners to better manage their flocks should also be considered. It is also important that additional monies made available to the sheep sector are targeted at schemes that have a specific focus. In addition, the benefits that accrue from such schemes must be made fully quantifiable."

MEAT4SCHOOLS COMPETITION 2024

October 18th marks the closing date for LMC's 2024 Meat4Schools' competition. The initiative has been specifically developed as an important opportunity to allow post primary students to learn more about the important role played by both Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured (NIFQA) beef and lamb in a healthy diet.

Sponsored by ABP, Meat4Schools encourages pupils to get creative in the production of a short one minute video on the entry topic relevant to their key stage. Commenting LMC head of marketing and communications, Lauren Patterson said, "Meat4Schools is an annual competition run by LMC which aims to improve access to beef and lamb for use in practical school cookery lessons. At LMC we are passionate about promoting the positive credentials of NIFQA beef and lamb to pupils of all ages. The Meat4Schools competition encourages pupils to use their theoretical knowledge in a creative way. Information on topics can be found on our website with entries

welcomed from classes, groups or individuals. Entries can be uploaded to food4life.org.uk/meat4schools."

Image 2: Newtownhamilton High School were one of the 2023 Meat4Schools winners



PRICES PAID NOW INCLUDED IN WEEKLY LMC TEXT UPDATE

Friday, 27th September saw the roll out of a new LMC text message format to over 9,000 stakeholders' mobile phones.

Subscribers to the weekly LMC text message will now receive both a summary of the latest reported NI deadweight cattle and sheep prices, and base quotes which LMC receives from the major processing plants.

Colin Smith explained, "This service has been updated to deliver a more relevant market update to our stakeholders. The new service also reflects the views that a significant

number of beef and sheep farmers have expressed to us over a period of time."

Colin Smith explained, "The Commission is committed to providing an accurate and timely market information service to the beef and sheep sectors of Northern Ireland."

Feedback on the LMC text service and other market information publications compiled by LMC is welcomed and can be forwarded to bulletin@lmcni.com or by contacting the LMC Market Information team on 028 9263 3000



Contact us:

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