

## DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

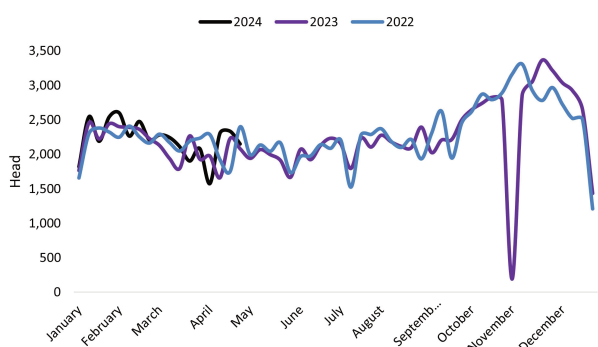
### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 29/04/24	Next Week 06/05/24
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	458 - 466p	458 - 466p
R-3	452 - 460p	452 - 460p
O+3	446 - 454p	446 - 454p
P+3	390 - 398p	390 - 398p
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	326 - 340p	326 - 340p

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.

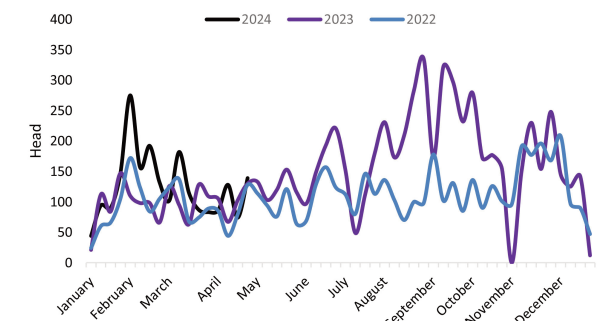
### Cow Throughput in NI to date 2022-2024.

Source: DAERA.



### Cow Imports from ROI for Direct Slaughter to date 2022-2024.

Source: DAERA.



### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 27/04/24	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	483.7	485.4	469.5
R3	478.2	481.0	465.4
O+3	470.0	469.1	462.0

\*Prices exclude AA, HER, WAG and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 27/04/24	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	223.0	242.8	261.0	272.9
P2	258.2	282.2	301.7	318.2
P3	210.6	299.1	319.4	324.9
O3		324.3	334.7	344.2
O4	310.0	330.0	327.1	342.3
R3		-	-	370.1

### Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes for prime cattle and cows are expected to remain steady early next week however, there are reports of significantly stronger prices being quoted to producers offering good quality cattle for slaughter. A total of 7,967 head of prime cattle and 2,148 head of cows were presented for slaughtered in local plants last week. As for imports from ROI, 387 prime cattle and 139 cows were brought into NI, an increase of 35 prime and 65 cows from the week previous. Meanwhile, only two steers and five cows were exported to ROI for direct slaughter last week.

In NI, the deadweight cattle trade strengthened for the most part last week, with prices paid on average for R3 grading steers up 1.5p/kg to 482.5p/kg, R3 heifers were up 1.2p/kg to 483.4p/kg and R3 grading young bulls reported the largest deadweight cattle price increase last week of 4.5p/kg to 469.1p/kg. The average price paid for an O3 cow was up 3.4p/kg to 342.7p/kg last week in NI.

The deadweight cattle trade in ROI strengthened across the board in sterling terms last week with the average prices paid for R3 grading steers, heifers and young bulls up similar levels of 2.2p/kg, 2.4p/kg and 2.3p/kg respectively. ROI reported the largest increase for O3 grading cows last week which were up 4p/kg to an average paid price of 367.2p/kg. This was 24.5p/kg above the price paid for an O3 grade cow in NI.

Across the water in GB, R3 grading heifers reported a decline of 0.7p/kg meanwhile, R3 grading steers and young bulls increased by 0.3p/kg and 1.4p/kg respectively. On average, O3 grading cows were up 1.8p/kg to 385.3p/kg in GB last week.

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

W/E 27/04/24	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	486.1	457.9	496.2	500.5	495.7	498.0
	R3	482.5	450.5	496.8	496.8	491.4	491.8
	R4	480.3	453.1	495.8	499.3	490.0	489.6
	O3	470.2	441.6	483.5	479.0	475.7	477.0
AVG	472.9	-	493.5	490.8	482.8	482.6	487.4
Heifers	U3	487.6	465.3	502.0	499.5	503.0	501.3
	R3	483.4	454.5	496.3	493.2	491.8	489.5
	R4	480.7	456.6	495.3	499.2	490.9	490.9
	O3	471.4	447.2	473.9	474.5	469.2	471.5
AVG	474.0	-	493.7	488.5	478.8	479.2	484.4
Young Bulls	U3	474.7	449.2	488.9	493.3	491.4	496.7
	R3	469.1	438.9	482.6	485.0	483.0	486.2
	O3	454.0	426.9	451.3	465.2	456.9	471.2
	AVG	454.2	-	479.3	477.3	465.6	480.4
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,725	-	5,763	7,231	8,487	5,116	26,597
Cows	O3	342.7	367.2	387.8	384.2	386.4	382.7
	O4	340.9	366.1	393.8	388.1	388.2	381.3
	P2	304.3	332.1	347.4	345.8	335.2	336.1
	P3	321.9	351.7	361.8	359.6	359.8	360.6
AVG	302.1	-	381.9	362.8	356.9	344.3	358.5

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.93p 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 27/04/24	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	270	315	285	220	269	245
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	270	297	282	215	269	240
Beef Cows	225	266	238	145	224	185
Dairy Cows	154	190	166	89	153	115
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers up to 400kg	300	438	350	250	329	275
Steers 400kg - 500kg	310	395	330	220	309	260
Steers over 500kg	275	310	290	200	274	240
Heifers up to 450kg	325	463	340	220	324	265
Heifers over 450kg	250	294	275	200	249	225
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	380	510	420	280	375	320
Continental Heifers	320	420	360	200	315	255
Friesian Bulls	130	280	180	60	125	85
Holstein Bulls	120	260	145	14	115	70

## DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

### NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 29/04/24	Next Week 06/05/24
R3 Hoggets up to 22 & 22.5kg	780 - 790p	740 - 750p
R3 Spring Lambs up to 21kg	850p	790 - 800p

### REPORTED NI SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 13/04/24	W/E 20/04/24	W/E 27/04/24
D/W R3 Hoggets	733.9	789.2	812.1
D/W Hoggets	735.4	791.9	812.3
L/W Hoggets	641.5	671.2	677.6
D/W R3 Spring Lambs	795.7	839.0	857.3
D/W Spring Lambs	787.1	827.3	844.6
L/W Spring Lambs	754.6	815.0	790.1

### REGIONAL SHEEP PRICES (GB / ROI)

GB D/W Hoggets	850.7	860.5	849.6
ROI D/W	750.8	786.7	810.6

### Deadweight Sheep Trade

Base quotes started the week at 780-790p/kg for R3 grading hoggets up to 22 & 22.5kg, meanwhile 850p/kg was quoted for R3 grading spring lambs up to 21kg. Base quotes dropped mid-week and further reductions are expected early next week with quotes of 740-750p/kg for R3 grading hoggets and 790-800p/kg for R3 spring lambs.

Deadweight hogget and lamb trade continues to soar at record levels across NI with the average R3 deadweight hogget prices up 22.9p/kg and average deadweight R3 grading spring lambs up 18.3p/kg. In ROI deadweight hoggets prices also increased by 23.9p/kg to 810.6p/kg, in contrast to deadweight hogget prices in GB, which reported a decline of 10.9p/kg to 849.6p/kg.

### Liveweight Sheep Trade

Last week the liveweight hogget price in NI was up 6.4p/kg to an average paid price of 677.6p/kg. Spring lambs are being met with a weaker trade. Liveweight spring lambs reported a 24.9p/kg decline last week, to an average paid price of 790.1p/kg. NI trade for fat ewes continues to strengthen as a top price of £300 was paid for a cull ewe last Monday afternoon in Kilrea livestock mart.

## LIVEWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

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

From: 27/04/24		Hoggets			Spring Lambs				
		No	From	To	Avg	No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	248	639	742	-	51	739	799	-
	Swatragh	530	675	870	-	200	748	783	-
Monday	Kilrea	450	685	738	-	250	770	800	-
	Markethill	350	670	732	-	220	720	784	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	425	660	745	-	165	750	825	-
	Rathfriland	388	600	690	662	321	700	754	725
Wednesday	Ballymena	560	600	766	-	451	720	838	750
	Enniskillen	302	647	690	-	159	717	809	-
	Armoys	314	685	746	-	52	755	800	-



## THE VALUE-ADDED CONTRIBUTION OF LMC TO THE RED MEAT SECTOR IS TRULY IMMENSE

### In my opinion

By Richard Halleron

I have a very quick and easy way of determining the value delivered by the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) for beef and sheep producers in Northern Ireland. And it centres on the relationship that the Commission enjoys with our schools and the teaching profession. At one level we see LMC delivering beef and lamb cookery demonstrations in secondary and primary schools the length and breadth of Northern Ireland. And all of this is extremely positive in its own right. But at another level something altogether more fundamental is taking place.

The reality is that many teachers will actively seek out LMC advice when it comes to communicating the principles of what constitutes a balanced diet to children and the role played by beef and lamb within it. Moreover, I have seen the outworking of this relationship at numerous events including: conferences, seminar and at a one-to-one level. Driving all of this is one single – but very important – word: trust. Teachers see the LMC as a totally trusted source of information when it comes to relating the actual facts regarding the role of red meat in the diet to children. This critically important state-of-affairs can be further discerned when one considers the curriculums followed in our schools. What we are seeing to today is the outworking of a partnership that has taken many years to build up. Trying to put a monetary value on this relationship would be difficult. Let's just say it is more than significant. However, its true value is better contextualised from the perspective of those many organisations that are unable to have the same calibre of communication and open engagement with our schools.

The Commission's engagement with education is just a very small

part of the work undertaken by the organisation on behalf of Northern Ireland's beef and sheep sector. Using what can only be described as optimal use of available funds, LMC drives forward on a significant number of fronts. These include the active promotion of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb to local consumers, using the entire gamut of media outlets, through to the active co-ordination of the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) itself.

**Image 1: pupils at Clounagh Junior High School, Portadown sampling creamy peppered beef at a LMC demonstration.**



Price reporting is also included within the remit of the Commission's work as is the facilitation of debate on how best to support Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors into the future. FQAS continues to deliver for Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors. Not alone does it provide a fundamental and essential foundation, where our farm management and welfare standards are concerned, but it also manages to reflect these core issues in ways that fully reflect the unique structure of local agriculture.

It is these principles that LMC has managed to secure within a scheme that is recognised at so many levels across the UK as a whole. FQAS is the passport for locally produced beef and lamb on to supermarket shelves throughout the UK. I sometimes sense this is a fundamental reality that can be easily overlooked by some commentators. As farmers will be very aware, the transparency of the UK's farming and food chain continues to be questioned by many of our agri food stakeholder groups. And rightly so! But it's also worth pointing out that the UK market continues to deliver, possibly, the best red meat prices in the world. And there is every prospect of this remaining the case for the foreseeable future.

Livestock farmers from Northern Ireland must be allowed to fully avail of these opportunities. Again, the operation of FQAS is an integral part of this process. So much for the background! Delivering those critically important service-driven requirements of our beef and sheep industry is, and will remain, an absolute priority. They make that all important difference when it comes to delivering a commodity or a premium product to markets around the world. LMC has a uniquely impressive track record in making this happen. A recent case in point was its key role in delivering Northern Ireland's inclusion within the successful campaign to secure Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) status for Irish grass fed beef. And this work continues apace. There is a value added opportunity to profile Irish beef as a premium product in countries around the world. And it must be grasped. Here in Northern Ireland the significance of PGI is, perhaps, not fully grasped: the polar opposite is the case in Europe and other regions of the world. Delivering services of the highest standards is one thing. But they must be paid for. Quite rightly, farmers want value-for-money when they pay for anything: product or service. The good news, in my opinion, is that the LMC has always met this litmus test....and then some.

## LMC ALL SET FOR BALMORAL SHOW 2024

Balmoral Show 2024 is a flagship venue for LMC. According to Commission chief executive, Colin Smith, the event allows representatives from the organisation to interface directly with consumers, farmers and representative of other stakeholder groups in equal measure.

This year's show follows-on directly from a highly successful Northern Ireland Beef Week. "Lamb has its own dedicated week of celebration later in September," Colin confirmed. "These are two key opportunities that can be availed of to profile the tremendous benefits of including Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb in a healthy balanced diet. "Meeting consumers on a face-to-face basis is at the heart of the work carried out by LMC. And, in the case of the recent Beef Week celebration, we hosted cookery demonstrations at ASDA stores in Antrim and Portadown. Colin said "The consumer impact generated by both campaigns is analysed in depth, which means that we can factor this information into the discussions that we have with the very large number of people that come on to our stand at Balmoral."

The LMC will be located in its usual position, Stand B4, adjacent to the main show ring at Balmoral 2024. February of this year saw LMC pushing forward once more with its 'Good Honest Food' campaign. It features the experiences of well known chef, James Devine as he invites consumers to find out more about the farm-to-fork journey of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured (NIFQA) beef and lamb. The campaign has had the widest possible exposure with social media outlets a key component of this mix.

Colin Smith explained: "Good Honest Food has worked tremendously well for us. A campaign of this scale represents a significant investment for LMC. "So, yes, it has generated tremendous exposure for NIFQA beef and lamb to consumers of all ages. "But of equal importance is the opportunity that a campaign

of this type provides to analyse in detail actual consumer responses and perceptions, where these meats are concerned. "Again, we will have the opportunity of profiling this information at Balmoral 2024." And the figures speak for themselves. According to a recent independent Omnibus survey of the Good Honest Food campaign, 90 per cent of consumers in Northern Ireland enjoy eating red meat. They are also highly aware of the messaging associated with NIFQA beef and lamb.



This year's Balmoral Show will be used to mark the 25th anniversary of LMC's educational programme. What started out as an opportunity to host cookery demonstrations in secondary schools has been extended to include primary schools and so much more, in terms of the Commission's interfacing with the education sector and the teaching profession.

"The popularity of our schools' campaign continued apace," Colin Smith commented. "It's important that young children, the consumers of tomorrow, learn about the benefits of NIFQA beef and lamb in ways that have real meaning for them. "The Commission has a tremendous relationship with schools across Northern Ireland and we want to build on this for the future." Cookery demonstrations will also feature on the Commission's stand across the four days of Balmoral Show. They are a true highlight of the event with the recipe options to be featured profiling NIFQA beef and lamb in equal measure. LMC is also confirming its continuing sponsorship of key livestock classes at Balmoral Show 2024. These are: the sheep interbreed pairs' championship, the beef inter-breed champion of champions, the sheep young handlers' competition and the beef group-of-five championship. So it's very much a case of complementing activities in the show ring with those planned for the LMC stand over the four days of Balmoral 2024.

Colin Smith concluded: "Balmoral Show is a must attend event for LMC. The occasion physically brings together all the target groups, which the Commission interfaces with on a year-round basis: consumers, farmers and representatives of the various agri food stakeholder organisations. "The backdrop of the show also means that it is possible to communicate with all of these important target groupings in a meaningful and relaxed manner. "It adds to a win:win scenario from all perspectives."



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