

NI BEEF MARKET SNAPSHOT MAY 2019

THE average prime cattle price in NI during May 2019 was 334.8p/kg, a decrease of 24p/kg from May 2018 when the average prime cattle price was 358.8p/kg. This accounts for a 6.7 per cent decrease year on year.

The R3 steer price in NI during May 2019 was 343.1p/kg, a 25.8p/kg decrease from May 2018 when the R3 steer price was 368.9p/kg. In monetary terms this equates to a £90 decline on a 350kg carcass year on year. In ROI the R3 steer price decreased by the equivalent of 23.8p/kg to 335.3p/kg during May 2019 which is a decline of £83 on a 350kg carcass. Meanwhile in GB the R3 steer price was back 19.3p/kg to 356.2p/kg in May 2019 which accounts for a £68 decline in the value of a 350kg carcass year on year.

The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and GB widened from 6.6p/kg in May 2018 to 13.1p/kg in May 2019. Meanwhile the differential

in R3 steer prices between ROI and NI narrowed from 9.8p/kg in May 2018 to 7.8p/kg in May 2019.

Prime cattle throughput in NI during May 2019 totalled 33,994 head, a 7.5 per cent increase from year earlier levels. Meanwhile cow throughput level declined by 9.4 per cent during May 2019 with 7,518 cows killed, back from 8,299 head in May 2018. Average carcass weights increased for all classes of cattle slaughtered in NI with the prime carcass weight up by 9.2kg to 343.9kg (+2.7 per cent) while the cow carcass weight increased by 6.8kg to 309.2kg (+2.2 per cent) during May 2019.

Cattle imports for direct slaughter in local plants totalled 1,104 head during May 2019, a notable 86.5 per cent increase from the 592 cattle imported during May 2018. Meanwhile cattle exports from NI for direct slaughter in GB and ROI totalled 424 head during May 2019, back 56.7 per cent from the 979 head exported during May 2018.

The number of cattle for beef production on NI farms aged between 12 and 30 months decreased by 2.6 per cent to a total 468,708 head in May 2019. The number of beef sired cattle in this age group decreased by 2.2 per cent to total 437,515 head while the number of dairy sired males in this age category declined by 7.8 per cent to total 31,193 head.

Beef sired calf registrations in NI totalled 56,386 head during May 2019, a 2.7 per cent decline from the 57,945 calves registered in the region during May 2018. There was a decline in the number of dairy sired male calves registered to 4,394 head in May 2019. This was a 6.2 per cent decrease from May 2018 levels.

The euro remained steady against sterling during May 2019 with €1 = 87.2p. This was a 0.6 per cent decrease compared to May 2018 when €1 = 87.7p

NI Beef Industry Key Performance Indicators (May Snapshot)

	May-18	May-19	% Change
Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)			
Average Prime Cattle Price	358.8	334.8	-6.7%
Average Cow Price	281.7	242.2	-14.0%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	368.9	343.1	-7.0%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	359.1	335.3	-6.6%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	375.5	356.2	-5.1%
Slaughtering			
Total Clean Slaughtering (Head)	31,616	33,994	+7.5%
Total Cow Slaughtering (Head)	8,299	7,518	-9.4%
Average Clean Carcass Weight (kg)	334.7	343.9	+2.7%
Average Cow Carcass Weight (kg)	302.4	309.2	+2.2%
Trade (Head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	592	1,104	+86.5%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	979	424	-56.7%
Availability (Head)			
No. Cattle on the Ground*	481,073	468,708	-2.6%
Beef Sired	447,247	437,515	-2.2%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	33,826	31,193	-7.8%
Calf Births Registrations (Head)			
Calf Births	62,627	60,780	-2.9%
Beef Sired	57,945	56,386	-2.7%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	4,682	4,394	-6.2%
Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)	87.7	87.2	-0.6%

* Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy Male Only)

All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated

MORE ABERDEEN ANGUS CATTLE IN SLAUGHTER MIX

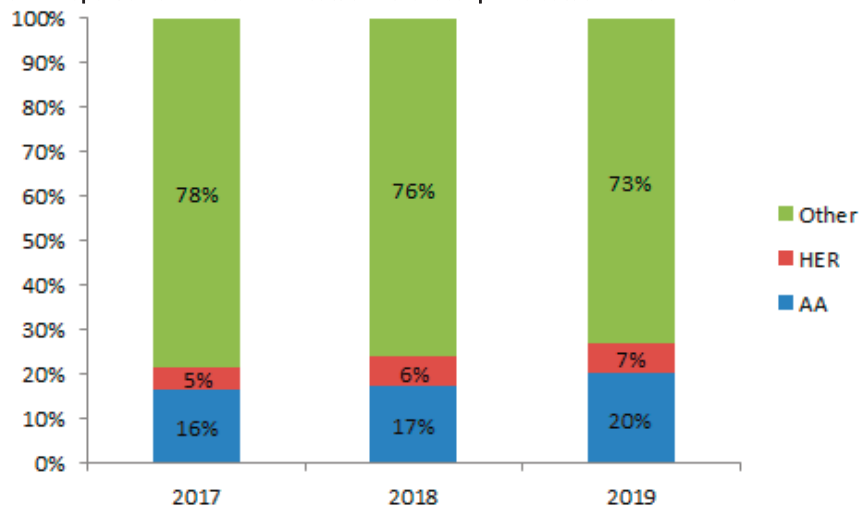
In recent years there has been a notable increase in the number of Aberdeen Angus (AA) calves being registered in Northern Ireland. During May 2019 there were 9,872 calves registered in NI which brings the total for the year to date to 42,232 head and accounts for 23.5 per cent of all beef sired calf registrations. In the same period in 2018 40,745 AA calves were registered which accounted for 21.7 per cent of total beef sired registrations.

The increase in the AA calf registrations over the last few years has started to be reflected in the local prime cattle kill. During 2019 to date AA cattle have accounted for 20 per cent of the price reported prime kill in Northern Ireland. This proportion has been steadily increasing as

outlined in Figure 1. While there has been an increase in the use of AA bulls in both the dairy and suckler herds in Northern Ireland the growth in numbers has been driven primarily by more AA calves being registered to dairy cows. Smaller birth weights, shorter gestations, demand from finishers and bonuses at point of slaughter have all contributed to the growing number of AA calves being registered.

There has also been an increase in the number of Hereford cattle being killed in local plants. During 2019 to date they have accounted for seven per cent of the price reported prime kill. The proportion of hereford cattle in the slaughter mix has also been steadily increasing.

Figure 1: Proportion of AA and HER cattle in the local prime cattle kill 2017-2019 YTD



NI CALF REGISTRATIONS REMAIN LOWER IN 2019

THERE were 56,386 beef sired calves registered in NI during May 2019 which takes total registrations for the year to date to 182,384 head. This is a three per cent decrease from the corresponding five month period in 2018.

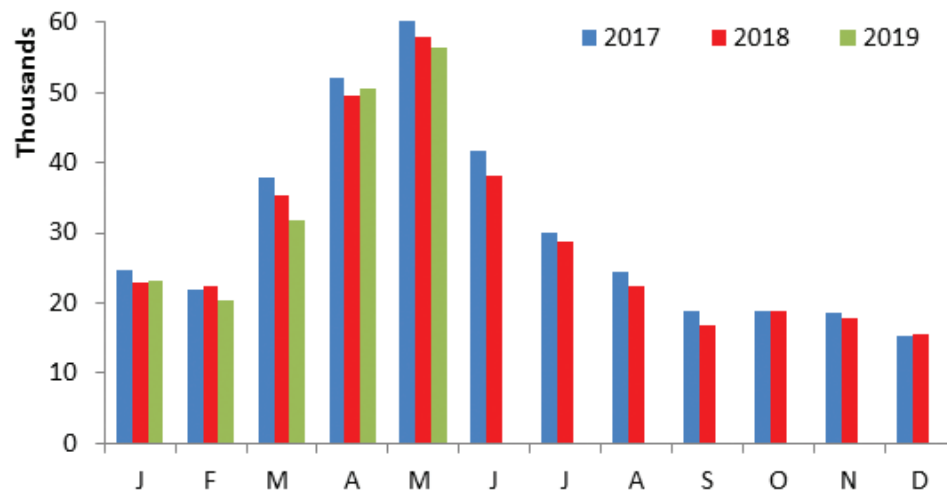
This decline in beef sired calf registrations during 2019 to date is not unexpected given the decline in suckler cow numbers recorded on NI farms in the DAERA Agricultural survey December 2018. The number of beef calves being registered in NI has been steadily declining since 2017 with much of the decline coming from the suckler herd.

During 2019 to date 61,391 beef sired calves were registered to dairy cows. This was a marginal

increase from the corresponding period in 2018 and accounted for 34 per cent of all beef sired calf registrations. Meanwhile the number of beef calves registered to suckler cows during 2019 to date is almost 5,500 head or three per cent lower than the corresponding period in 2018.

This on-going decline in suckler calf registrations will start to have an impact on the domestic prime cattle kill in the second half of 2019 with prime cattle availability for slaughter expected to tighten. With the number of suckler origin animals being registered in decline while the number of beef crosses holds fairly stable there may also be implications on the type and quality of prime cattle being presented for slaughter in local plants.

Figure 2: Monthly beef sired calf registrations in NI 2017-2019



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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 10/06/19	Next Week 17/06/19
Prime		
U-3	326 - 336p	324 - 334p
R-3	320 - 330p	318 - 328p
O+3	314 - 324p	312 - 322p
P+3	266 - 280p	264 - 278p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	240 - 250p	235 - 250p
Steakers	140 - 170p	140 - 170p
Blues	120 - 130p	120 - 130p

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

THE deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI held fairly steady this week with base quotes for in-spec U-3 grading steers and heifers ranging from 326-336p/kg. Quotes for next week are expected to range from 324-334p/kg. With the range of base quotes available producers are encouraged to shop around for the best deal and use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes for O+3 grading cows this week ranged from 240-250p/kg.

The plants have reported steady supplies of prime cattle to meet demand for beef with 6,999 prime cattle killed in NI last week. This was up slightly from the 6,937 prime cattle killed during the previous week and well above the 5,733 prime cattle killed locally in the same week last year. Cow throughput has remained firm with 1,723 cows killed locally last week compared to 1,608 cows during the previous week.

Imports for direct slaughter in NI last week from ROI consisted of 134 prime cattle and 26 cows while a further 11 prime cattle and 87 cows were imported from GB. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week included 23 prime cattle and 74 cows while no cattle were exported from NI to GB last week for direct slaughter.

The NI deadweight prime cattle trade came under pressure last week across the majority of grades. The average steer price in NI last week decreased by 2p/kg to 335.3p/kg while the R3 steer price came back marginally by 0.2p/kg to 344.2p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back 1.7p/kg to 337.9p/kg while the R3 heifer price decreased by 0.8p/kg to 344.9p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week decreased by 1.7p/kg to 322.3p/kg while the R3 young bull price came back by 1.3p/kg to 332.9p/kg. The O3 cow price last week was up by 1.5p/kg to 260.7p/kg with the average NI cow price increasing by half a penny to 244.7p/kg when compared to the previous week.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB also came under pressure last week. The average steer price in GB last week came back by 1.5p/kg to 344.2p/kg while the average R3 steer price reported a decrease of 3.3p/kg to 351.3p/kg. The R3 steer price came back across all the GB regions. The differential between NI and the GB average R3 steer price last week was 7.1p/kg or £25 on a 350kg carcass. The average heifer price in GB last week was 346.2p/kg, back 3.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price decreased by 5.5p/kg to 350.2p/kg. The R3 heifer price reported a decrease in all regions, except in Scotland where an increase of 1.4p/kg was reported. This puts the R3 heifer price 5.3p/kg ahead of the equivalent price in NI.

In ROI last week the R3 steer price was the equivalent of 343p/kg, back 1.5p/kg from the previous week. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 354.6p/kg, back 0.4p/kg from the previous week and 9.7p/kg above the equivalent price in NI. The O3 cow price in ROI decreased by the equivalent of 3.4p/kg to 268.8p/kg, 8.1p/kg higher than the same price in NI.

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

	W/E 08/06/19	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	342.7	352.5	359.7	352.3	353.8	350.3	354.2
	R3	344.2	343.0	359.4	350.1	347.6	348.9	351.3
	R4	341.8	343.2	362.2	354.4	346.5	346.8	353.3
	O3	334.0	328.3	343.2	331.6	320.9	329.0	330.8
	AVG	335.3	-	357.5	344.0	336.6	338.4	344.2
Heifers	U3	347.1	366.6	368.3	349.3	355.6	354.6	357.6
	R3	344.9	354.6	361.4	346.7	346.3	346.2	350.2
	R4	342.5	353.9	364.7	353.4	350.1	346.4	354.1
	O3	336.9	339.2	343.6	336.3	321.5	329.1	332.0
	AVG	337.9	-	361.1	345.8	340.1	336.8	346.2
Young Bulls	U3	335.8	341.3	359.1	344.9	342.3	347.5	346.9
	R3	332.9	332.1	352.3	338.9	339.0	336.2	341.0
	O3	310.9	311.8	322.6	305.7	300.7	317.3	307.5
	AVG	322.3	-	350.8	329.3	330.1	326.3	333.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,927	-	7,117	6,888	7,295	4,893	26,193	
Cows	O3	260.7	268.8	273.2	262.0	261.3	264.5	263.7
	O4	262.1	270.0	275.1	263.4	260.8	259.5	263.0
	P2	225.3	241.2	221.7	214.4	212.3	223.1	216.8
	P3	243.3	260.7	247.2	231.9	234.5	245.9	239.1
	AVG	244.7	-	263.5	245.9	231.4	235.8	239.2

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.64p 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 08/06/19	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	341.8	346.5	335.9
R3	339.0	342.7	333.1
O+3	330.7	334.0	317.8

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 08/06/19	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	156.9	171.9	183.9	203.5
P2	176.4	201.1	223.2	236.0
P3	-	228.7	235.6	245.0
O3	-	240.2	253.9	261.8
O4	-	236.0	255.6	262.5
R3	-	-	-	277.8

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 08/06/19	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	191	196	193	170	190	180
Friesians	148	156	152	136	145	140
Heifers	202	210	206	170	194	182
Beef Cows	153	186	165	125	152	138
Dairy Cows	110	124	113	60	109	80
Store Cattle(p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	225	255	235	200	224	212
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	215	246	225	175	214	195
Bullocks over 500kg	200	216	208	165	199	185
Heifers up to 450kg	225	254	235	190	224	205
Heifers over 450kg	210	229	215	170	209	190
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	370	335	200	295	250
Continental Heifers	250	335	295	125	245	195
Friesian Bulls	145	300	185	60	140	100
Holstein Bulls	100	185	140	8	95	50

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 10/06/19	Next Week 17/06/19
Lambs up to 21kg	425-430p	430-435p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 25/05/19	W/E 01/06/19	W/E 08/06/19
NI L/W Lambs	394.4	402.6	404.3
NI D/W Lambs	419.5	412.6	423.7
GB D/W Lambs	498.2	479.0	472.5
ROI D/W	425.2	439.5	453.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the plants this week for R3 grading lambs ranged from 425-430p/kg up to 21kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to range from 430-435p/kg up to 21kg. Lamb throughput in NI plants last week totalled 8,218 head, up 770 head from the previous week. This is the highest weekly throughput to date in 2019 and well above the same week last year when 6,005 lambs were killed locally. A further 3,383 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter last week, up 359 head when compared to the previous week. In the same week last year 3,533 lambs were exported to ROI for direct slaughter. The average NI deadweight lamb price last week increased by 11.1p/kg to 423.7p/kg. In ROI last week the average lamb price was the equivalent of 453.2p/kg, up 13.7p/kg from the previous week.

This week's marts

THERE was a strengthening in lamb trade this week with increasing numbers of lambs passing through many of the marts. In Omagh last Saturday 457 lambs sold from 392-435p/kg compared to 392 lambs the previous week selling from 381-437p/kg. In Saintfield this week 406 lambs sold from 392-436p/kg compared to 411 lambs selling from 390-415p/kg last week. In Ballymena this week 901 lambs sold from 390-461p/kg (avg 414p/kg) compared to 607 lambs last week selling from 380-422p/kg (avg 395p/kg). In Markethill on Wednesday 730 lambs sold from 400-431p/kg compared to 600 lambs last week selling from 390-426p/kg. In Armoys this week 238 lambs sold from 385-438p/kg. The top reported price for cull ewes ranged from £96-124.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 07/06/19		Lambs			
To: 13/06/19		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	125	396	412	-
Saturday	Swatragh	700	413	437	-
	Omagh	457	392	435	-
Monday	Massereene	636	410	450	-
	Kilrea	300	410	436	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	406	392	436	-
	Rathfriland	540	395	450	422
Wednesday	Ballymena	901	390	461	414
	Enniskillen	238	385	432	-
	Armoys	238	385	438	-
	Markethill	730	400	431	-

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