

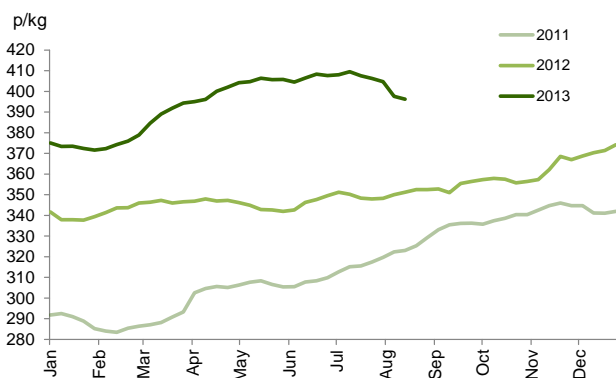
Cattle Weekly

23 August 2013, Issue 34

Cattle prices still subdued

In week ended 17 August, the continuing retail trends during the holiday season meant [deadweight cattle prices](#) remained under pressure, albeit slightly less than in the previous week. The GB all prime indicator eased back 2p on the week to 381.9p/kg. AHDB/EBLEX estimates suggest that numbers forward remain tight, even against subdued demand; harvest work may be taking priority for many producers.

GB R4L deadweight steer price



Source: AHDB/EBLEX

Cull cow prices also eased again but, as with prime cattle, to a lesser extent than in the previous few weeks as the end to the traditional holiday season across the continent is only a couple of weeks away. With lower cereal prices offering the opportunity for some producers to be able to retain cows on finishing rations, it is likely that the already tight supply of cows may be accentuated further during the autumn, possibly offering support to prices.

[Latest livestock market prices](#) are more positive. In week ended 21 August, the all prime cattle average was stable at 205.4p/kg. Heifers and young bulls increased in price, while steer prices edged downwards.

Beef and veal shipments from Ireland up for the first time this year

The latest HMRC trade data has been published and is available on the [EBLEX website](#). In recent months, demand for product closely linked with the horse meat revelations has had an impact on import volumes. However, in June, imports were up 12% on the year, with shipments of fresh/chilled and frozen product both significantly higher. The forecast increase in shipments from Ireland finally became evident, with a 4% rise in production during the month contributing to a near 25% uplift in trade to the UK.

Robust domestic demand and lower cow beef supplies translated into a 3% decline in beef and veal exports. Shipments to Ireland were modestly higher on the year, bucking the trend of recent months. A review of the half year trade position is available now on the [EBLEX website](#).

Cattle market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 21/08/13

	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	205.6	-2.2
Heifers	217.3	+3.9
Young bulls	191.7	+2.4
Cows	122.9	+1.2

GB Deadweight prices week ending 17/08/13

	Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :		
R4L	396.2	-1.4
All	387.0	-3.4
Heifers :		
R4L	388.0	-3.1
All	385.0	-2.2
Young bulls :		
R3	367.9	-1.8
All	360.5	-3.2
Cows :		
-O4L	269.4	-3.3
All	247.1	-2.2

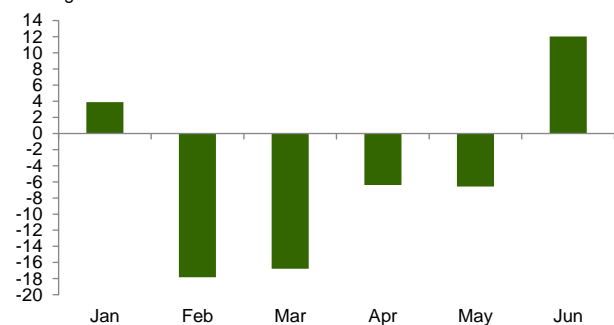
GB Estimated slaughterings

	17/08/13	10/08/13
Steers	11,900	12,000
Heifers	9,400	9,500
Young bulls	4,900	4,800
All prime	26,200	26,300
Cows	8,000	8,500

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

Change in UK beef import volumes 2013/12

% change



Source: GTIS/HMRC

Further analysis of the UK trading position will be available in the August edition of the Cattle and Sheep Update published next week. For subscriptions please email redmeatmi@ahdb.org.uk.

EU HQB allocation in 2012/13

Import licences issued for the EU's High Quality Beef (HQB) quota in 2012/13 were 8%, or 3,000 tonnes, higher than in the previous year. Despite this uplift, some of the major beef producing countries failed to utilise their full allocation and, as a result, from July 2012 to June 2013 the exporting countries have hit just 62% of the full EU allocation of 67,250 tonnes. Further analysis is available on the [EBLEX website](#).

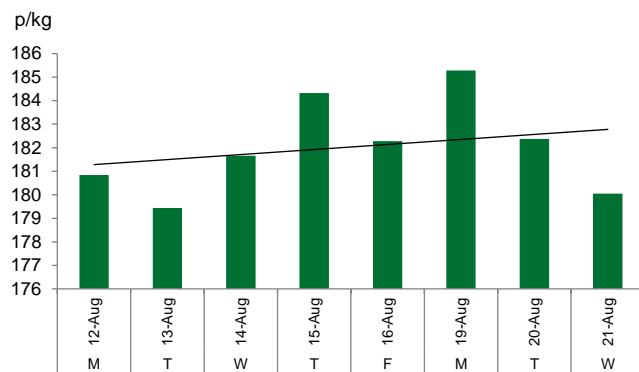
Sheep Weekly

23 August 2013, Issue 34

Lamb trade finely balanced

In week ended 21 August, [liveweight lamb prices](#) edged upwards on the back of firm trading in the early part of this week. The average GB SQQ for the period was 182.9p/kg, up a penny on the week, although on Monday 19 it edged over the 185p/kg mark. In the past 10 days, with prices appearing to be a function of numbers coming forward, the trend has been modestly upwards. Demand for cull ewes also firmed on the week, despite higher throughputs, with the average price increasing £3 to £49 per head.

Daily liveweight SQQ at GB auction marts



Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IASS

In week ended 17 August, the [deadweight lamb SQQ](#) broadly levelled on the week as supply and demand appeared to be finely balanced. At 423.2p/kg the SQQ maintained its position ahead of year earlier levels.

Exports driven by trade to Hong Kong

In the [latest release from HMRC](#), figures for June show that, on the back of a 7% increase in sheep meat production, exports increased over 20% on the year. As shipments to France levelled compared with June last year the increased shipments were mainly destined for Hong Kong. With strong prices throughout the month, a 6% increase in the unit value of sheep meat exports meant that the value of the export trade in June increased nearly 30% on the year to £32.7 million.

Imports in June continued to be well ahead of 2012 levels. This is still being driven by increased volumes from New Zealand. Going forward, on the back of high slaughter rates so far in 2013 and a lower breeding flock, the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is now forecasting an [11% drop in lamb production](#) in the 12 months to June 2014. With the majority of New Zealand production destined for export, a similar drop is forecast for export volumes.

Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 21/08/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - NSL	182.9	+0.8
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	49.5	+3.0
Store lambs - NSL	54.3	+0.4

Deadweight prices week ending 17/08/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - NSL	423.2	-2.6

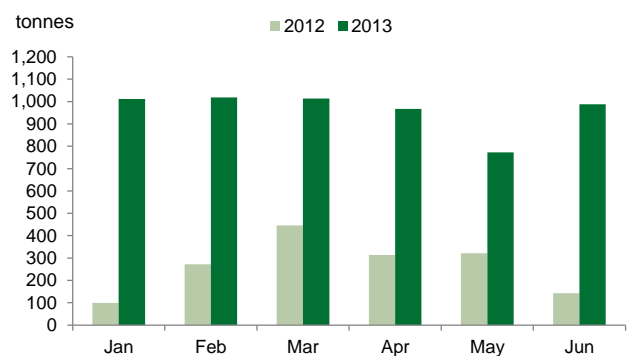
European prices week ending 18/08/13 (converted from €)		
United Kingdom	419.3	-3.1
Republic of Ireland	369.1	-4.8
France	557.4	+0.4
EU-25	444.9	-3.1

Estimated slaughterings (lambs)		
	17/08/13	10/08/13
Great Britain	235,000	252,000
Northern Ireland	10,850	9,200
Republic of Ireland	na	47,350

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS, EU Commission, Bord Bia, DARD

Analysis of the half year UK trade position is available on the [EBLEX website](#).

UK sheep meat export volumes to Hong Kong



Source: GTIS/HMRC

EBLEX conference to highlight the changing face of retailing

The changing face of red meat retailing in a global marketplace and opportunities in the beef and lamb sector will come under the spotlight at this year's EBLEX annual conference. The **free**, one-day event will be held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, on November 5. Further details can be found in the Annual Conference 2013 section of the [EBLEX website](#). Places can be reserved by phoning 0870 608 6610 or email conference2013@eblex.ahdb.org.uk.