

# Cattle Weekly

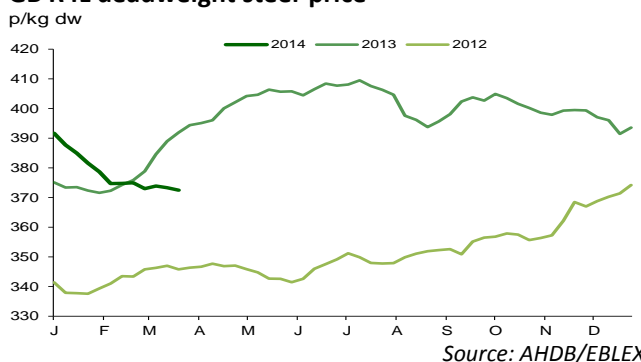
28 March 2014, Issue 13

## Adequate supplies keep a lid on prime trade again

In week ended 22 March the prime cattle trade continued to be somewhat lacklustre on the back of slow demand and adequate supplies. With demand showing little change, supply continues to be the determining factor in price movements. Latest AHDB/EBLEX estimates suggest that throughputs were up on the week, resulting in some downwards pressure on prices. The [GB all prime deadweight](#) average was back a little over a penny on the week at 362.1p/kg.

The estimated number of steers forward increased by over 500 head, which contributed to the price of R4L steers falling a penny on the week to 372.5p/kg. The number of heifers estimated to have been marketed also increased. Consequently, at 368.1p/kg, R4L heifers were also back a similar amount week on week. Despite fewer young bulls being forward, overall prices declined 3p/kg. At 327.8p/kg in the latest week, young bull values are now at their lowest point for 18 months as processors continued to apply significant penalties to out of spec animals. In contrast to the overall trade R3 graded young bulls increased nearly 3p on the week.

### GB R4L deadweight steer price



[Liveweight prime cattle](#) prices have also been somewhat subdued, with the all prime indicator in week ended 26 March falling nearly 2p on the week to average 186.2p/kg. Throughputs of prime cattle at GB auction marts increased 6% on the week, largely as a result of more young bulls coming forward. There is now some indication that more producers are sending young bulls to market in order to avoid the penalties that are currently being incurred when marketing some of these cattle deadweight.

## Boneless cuts outperform subdued export trade

UK [beef and veal exports](#) in January were significantly lower on the year. At 6,300 tonnes total volumes were back almost 40%. This comes as UK availability was lower and UK prices generally remain well above European levels. In contrast to the overall trade, higher valued chilled boneless cuts continued to perform well. Of the 5,140 tonnes of fresh/chilled shipments 60%, or just over 3,000

## Cattle market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 26/03/14		
	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	187.5	-1.0
Heifers	197.4	-1.6
Young bulls	167.0	-1.7
Cows	116.9	-0.1

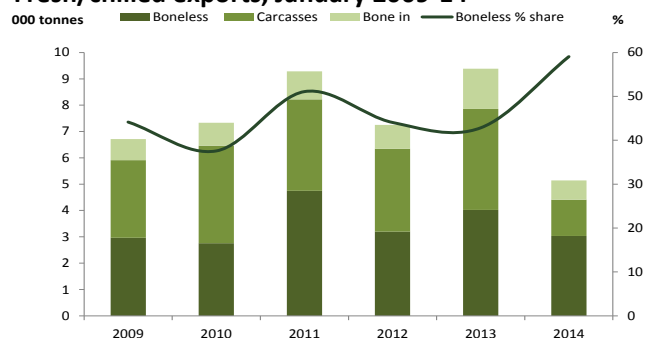
GB Deadweight prices week ending 22/03/14			
		Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :	R4L	372.5	-0.8
	All	364.3	-1.7
Heifers :	R4L	368.1	-1.4
	All	364.9	-0.8
Young bulls :	R3	342.5	+2.6
	All	327.8	-3.3
Cows :	-O4L	248.9	+1.1
	All	233.0	-1.6

GB Estimated slaughtering		
	22/03/14	15/03/14
Steers	16,500	15,900
Heifers	13,100	12,900
Young bulls	3,200	3,400
<b>All prime</b>	<b>32,800</b>	<b>32,200</b>
Cows	7,900	9,200

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

tonnes, was boneless product. This represents a sizeable increase on the share in previous years. Overall, with a 23% increase in the unit price offsetting the lower volumes to some extent, the value of exports in January was 25% back on the year at £24 million.

### Fresh/chilled exports, January 2009-14



[Imports](#) in January were unchanged on the year as increased shipments from the UK's main suppliers were offset by lower shipments from a range of smaller suppliers. Of the key suppliers, both Ireland and the Netherlands sent increased volumes, up 10% and 28% respectively. In contrast, a range of smaller suppliers, including Germany, Poland, Uruguay and Namibia all recorded lower volumes.

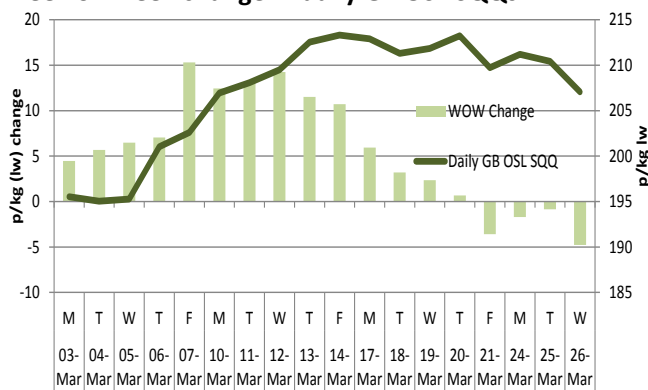
# Sheep Weekly

28 March 2014, Issue 13

## Old season lambs edge lower

Having slowed at the end of the previous week, [liveweight old season lamb prices](#) have now eased back to some degree as some of the pressure has evidently been relieved in the market. At 210.7p/kg the GB OSL SQQ for week ended 26 March was back by over a penny on the week, as numbers rose by 8%. By Wednesday 26 March the old season trade was down nearly 5p on the week at 207.1p/kg.

### Week on week change in daily GB OSL SQQs



Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

While the trade appears to have stalled this week, there is still likely room for movement over coming weeks. The overall supply situation is still fundamentally tight and if the numbers tighten again, or demand improves further, then prices will likely push higher ahead of Easter.

[Deadweight lamb prices](#) have continued to respond to the recent rising liveweight trade. At 468.0p/kg the GB OSL SQQ in week ended 22 March was up 20p on the week.

## Heavy lamb numbers increase

With better conditions for much of 2013 producers have been able to add weight to their lambs, resulting in increased numbers of lambs falling into the 'Heavy' And 'Others' weight categories. In the latest week the total OSL throughputs at GB marts increased by 8% on the week, fuelled by a 15% increase in 'Heavy' numbers and a 24% increase in 'Others'.

At this level these animals accounted for 38% of the total number of lambs forward, compared with 26% last year.

[This follows the trend set so far this year.](#)

## Spring lambs push on

In contrast to the old season trade [new season lamb prices](#) have strengthened further in week ended 26 March. At 239.0p/kg the GB NSL SQQ was up 4p on the week,

## Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 26/03/14		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - OSL	210.7	-1.5
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	73.1	+5.9
Store lambs - OSL	66.1	-3.0

Deadweight prices week ending 22/03/14		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - OSL	468.0	+19.2

European prices week ending 23/03/14 (converted from €)		
United Kingdom	465.3	+19.2
Republic of Ireland	394.0	+1.3
France	512.7	+22.1
EU-25	457.2	+18.3

Estimated slaughterings (lambs)		
	22/03/14	15/03/14
Great Britain	184,400	191,500
Northern Ireland	4,600	6,100
Republic of Ireland	28,900	33,300

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

even as numbers increased by 61% on the week to total just over 1,000 head.

## Cull ewes move higher

Having hit their [highest point in over 20 months](#) average cull ewe values have increased further in the latest week of trading. At £73.10 per head the latest cull ewe average for week ended 26 March was up £6 on the week. This comes as the cull ewe follows the prime lamb trade and numbers have tightened. Following a better season, these animals should also be in better condition, further increasing headage values. Latest DEFRA figures for February showed that adult sheep carcase weights were over 1kg heavier than they were a year ago.

## Non-EU exports increase further

Latest [customs data](#) for January showed that despite an overall fall in export volumes, shipments to non-EU markets continued to increase. While total volumes fell by 8% to 7,000 tonnes, exports to countries outside of the EU rose by 45% to 1,600 tonnes. These markets now account for almost a quarter of shipments, compared with only 15% a year ago. Of these Hong Kong remains by far the stand out destination, accounting for 19% of total volumes with shipments rising 31% on the year. Other key non-EU destinations included Thailand, Ghana, the Philippines, Singapore and the Congo.