

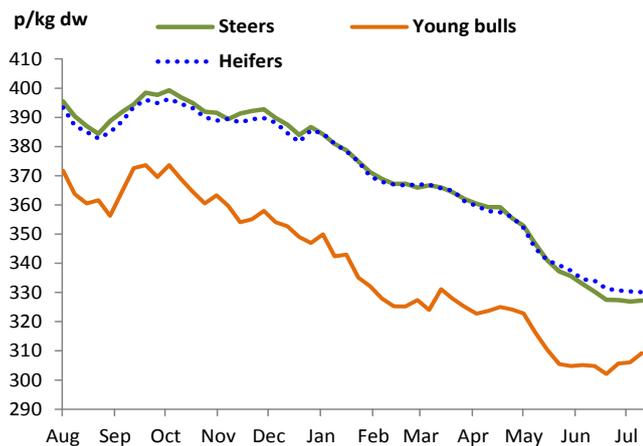
Cattle Weekly

18 July 2014, Issue 29

Cattle trade steady for another week

In week ended 12 July, the [deadweight cattle trade](#) steadied for another week. The all prime average price was almost a penny up on the week at 325.2p/kg. This is the fourth consecutive week that the all prime average has fluctuated around the 325p/kg mark. Reports suggest that last week the market was more balanced than of late as demand was lifted by the continuing fine weather and tighter numbers prevailed. [AHDB/EBLEX estimates](#) suggest that slaughterings were around 300 head back on the week. While this levelling does give an indication of some stability in the trade at the present time, it remains to be seen if the downwards pressure has dissipated entirely.

Deadweight prime cattle average prices 2013-14



Source: AHDB/EBLEX

Despite fewer cows forward, in the latest week prices edged down. At 229.5p/kg the [average cow price](#) was back almost 3p on the week. With good grass growth in some parts of the country there is still the opportunity for producers to take advantage of the better prices on offer for well finished cows, by adding weight and finish. However, despite demand reportedly being still ahead of supplies, the European summer holiday period is imminent and sterling continues to strengthen. Both factors could have an impact on the market over the summer.

UK production up again in June

Total [UK prime cattle throughputs](#) in June were broadly level on the year at 150,000 head. Steer throughputs were 6% higher, while young bull throughputs fell 10%. In a change to recent developments heifer throughputs declined, falling 3% on the year, possibly signalling that supplies are starting to tighten. Adult cattle throughputs were again lower than they were in June 2013. A 3%

Cattle market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 16/07/14		
	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	175.4	+3.1
Heifers	187.0	-0.7
Young bulls	152.5	-3.5
Cows	109.7	-2.7

GB Deadweight prices week ending 12/07/14			
		Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :	R4L	339.7	+1.7
	All	327.2	+0.3
Heifers :	R4L	333.2	-0.9
	All	330.1	-0.3
Young bulls :	R3	312.0	-1.2
	All	309.2	+3.1
Cows :	-O4L	244.6	-1.0
	All	229.5	-2.6

GB Estimated slaughterings		
	12/07/14	05/07/14
Steers	15,300	15,000
Heifers	10,100	10,300
Young bulls	5,600	5,900
All prime	30,900	31,200
Cows	7,300	8,100

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

rise in beef and veal production in the month was driven by higher carcass weights as the better conditions continued to have a positive impact on finishing. This takes [production in the year to date](#) to 438,000 tonnes, up 2% on the year.

Production surges in Ireland during June

Irish beef and veal production surged ahead in June. Once again more cattle came forward which, combined with higher carcass weights, resulted in the highest year-on-year increase in production in 2014 so far. At 46,400 tonnes, production was up 27%, or 10,000 tonnes, on June 2013. With the Irish beef industry very reliant on exports and the UK by far the largest destination for Irish beef, the increased imports into the UK look set to continue. While this situation may continue to add to price pressure on the UK market, current indications are that supplies will tighten towards the end of the year will remain tight in 2015 and into 2016.

Find more in depth analysis of [UK](#) and Irish beef and veal production in the first half of 2014 on the [MI news section](#) of the EBLEX website.

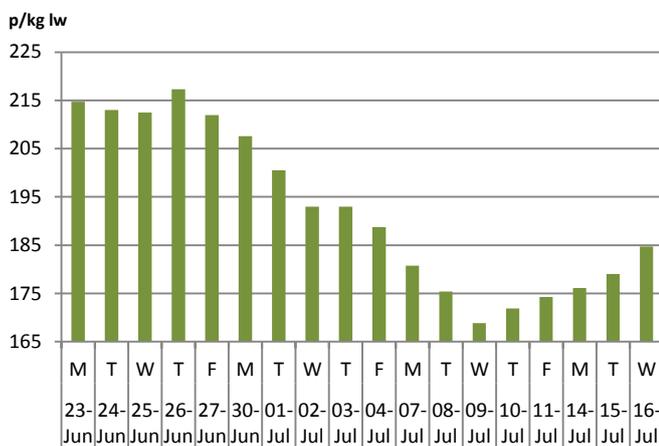
Sheep Weekly

18 July 2014, Issue 29

Lamb trade shows some recovery

After the sharp drops over the previous couple of weeks the [liveweight lamb trade](#) first stabilised then showed some recovery in week ended 16 July. While the weekly average GB NSL SQQ was nearly a penny lower week on week at 178.1p/kg, the trade was much more buoyant as the week progressed and finished on a relatively strong note. Having hit a recent low of 168.9p/kg on Wednesday 9 July, the GB NSL SQQ had risen to 184.7p/kg by Wednesday 16 July.

GB Daily Liveweight SQQs



Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

This recovery in the trade has been helped by numbers tightening to some extent as producers have reacted to the drop in prices. With numbers normally tightening around the Royal Welsh Show, which falls next week, there is the potential for the trade to remain stable or even potentially show some further recovery.

Meanwhile, the [deadweight trade](#) is still playing catch up with the liveweight market to a large extent and in the latest reported week showed the largest week-on-week fall in almost a year. At 419.4p/kg the GB NSL SQQ for week ended 12 July was over 40p lower on the week and has now dropped by over a pound over the past month.

Store lamb values lower on the year

Store lamb sales have now started and with increased supplies of lambs and pressure on the finished lamb trade the trade is reportedly tracking below year earlier levels. In the two weeks to 16 July over 11,000 store lambs were reported to the AHDB/EBLEX price reporting

Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 16/07/14		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - NSL	178.1	-0.8
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	62.6	-2.4
Store lambs - NSL	51.9	-4.9

Deadweight prices week ending 12/07/14		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - NSL	419.4	-40.4

European prices week ending 13/07/14 (converted from €)		
United Kingdom	414.3	-37.8
Republic of Ireland	352.9	-1.1
France	501.1	+0.8
EU-25	427.4	-19.3

Estimated slaughterings (lambs)		
	12/07/14	05/07/14
Great Britain	249,900	248,700
Northern Ireland	11,800	14,300
Republic of Ireland	50,100	56,600

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

system covering GB, more than double the number reported in the corresponding period of last year.

At an average of £55 per head, prices were down about £5 on the year and on the corresponding period of 2012.

UK lamb kill shows large increase

DEFRA figures for June show that UK lamb slaughterings were 8% higher on the year at 907,000 head. This partly comes as the UK lamb crop is expected to have been considerably larger than it was a year ago after a much better season. Additionally, better conditions and good grass growth will have allowed quicker finishing of lambs meaning that they are also being marketed earlier.

With lamb numbers being one of the key factors in the recent drop in prices the size of the UK the size of the lamb crop is likely one of the hot topics at the moment. While it almost universally accepted that the lamb crop will be bigger this year it is still now clear how much larger it actually is. These June figures give some indication however the earlier marketing of lambs will be distorting them to some degree. Revised forecasts of UK lamb and sheep meat supplies will be published at the end of this month.