

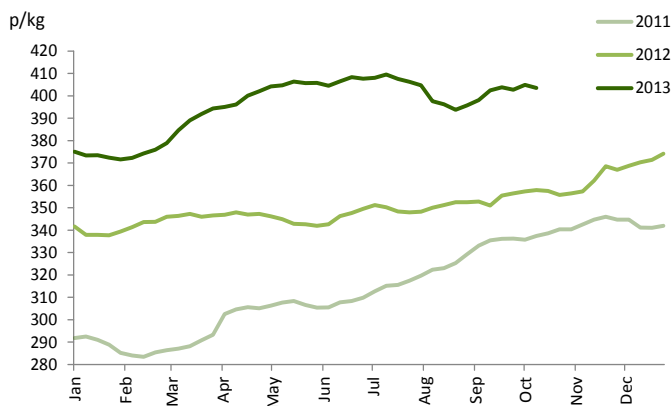
Cattle Weekly

18 October 2013, Issue 42

Trade level on the back of subdued demand

As the mild weather continues and consumers' budgets remain tight following the summer holiday period, retail demand is reported to be subdued. With producers leaving cattle outside to save on bedding costs, supplies off grass are reported to be slightly ahead of current market requirements. As a result, in week ended 12 October, upwards pressure stalled as processors kept a lid on prices. The [GB all prime indicator](#) eased back 2p on the week to average 393.3p/kg. Despite the demand-led downwards pressure on price in the latest week, the likelihood is that the tight supply of in-spec yarded cattle could offer support for prices in the run up to the peak Christmas procurement period. Prices continue to trade well ahead of year earlier levels.

GB R4L deadweight steer price



Source: AHDB/EBLEX

Latest prices at [GB auction markets](#) followed the same trend. In week ended 16 October, with slightly more cattle forward, the all cattle average was back 5p on the week at 197.4p/kg. Cow prices at auction also appear to have been subdued. However, trade has fluctuated throughout the week as price reflected processors requirements for the type of carcasses for which they have orders.

Lower steer throughputs and carcase weights leads to another drop in production

UK prime cattle slaughterings for September have been published by Defra and are now available on the [EBLEX website](#). Prime cattle slaughterings were back just 1% on year earlier levels as an increase in heifer and young bull throughputs was partly offset by lower steer throughputs. Once again, the sustained increase in heifer slaughterings could indicate that the number of females being retained for breeding in the UK is not increasing, a situation which clearly has implications for beef production in the UK over the longer term. Northern Ireland was the only region of the UK to report a year-on-year decline in heifer

Cattle market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 16/10/13		
	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	199.3	-4.3
Heifers	206.9	-4.8
Young bulls	183.7	-4.8
Cows	108.3	-2.1

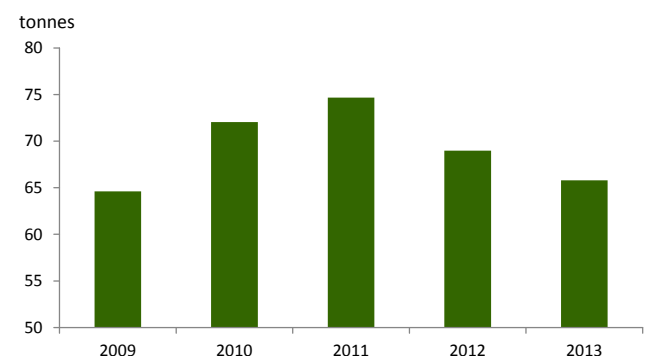
GB Deadweight prices week ending 12/10/13			
		Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :	R4L	403.5	-1.4
	All	396.8	-2.5
Heifers :	R4L	398.5	-2.3
	All	394.6	-1.7
Young bulls :	R3	377.9	-1.9
	All	368.8	-4.8
Cows :	-O4L	254.9	-6.6
	All	231.9	-8.4

GB Estimated slaughterings		
	12/10/13	05/10/13
Steers	15,900	15,800
Heifers	12,000	12,400
Young bulls	4,100	4,400
All prime	32,000	32,600
Cows	10,400	11,000

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

throughputs. As expected, cull cow and adult bull throughputs were once again markedly lower in all regions of the UK.

Beef and Veal production, September 2009-2013



Source: DEFRA

The poor seasonal conditions and low feed availability earlier in the year still had an impact on carcase weights, which were again lower on the year. Combined with reduced throughputs, this meant that beef and veal production in September was 5% lower than year earlier levels at 66,200 tonnes. Further analysis of the year to date position is available on the [EBLEX website](#).

Sheep Weekly

18 October 2013, Issue 42

Lamb trade edges back following festival

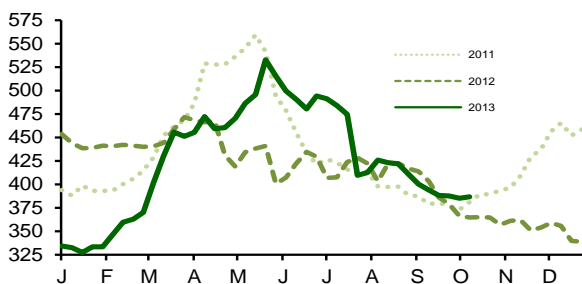
While the overall average [GB SQQ](#) for week ended 16 October still shows some uplift in the lamb trade, the daily SQQs are showing that demand has stalled. This comes as demand has evidently slowed following the Muslim festival of Eid-al-Ahda. Across the week, prices fell from a high of 177.7p/kg on Thursday 10 October to 168.6p/kg on Wednesday 16 October.

For the same reason, cull ewe prices have eased across the week. On Thursday 10 October the average value was up £1.51 on the week at £51.28 per head; by Wednesday 16 October it was down £6.21 on the week at £40.51 per head.

In week ended 12 October, the [deadweight GB SQQ](#) levelled as increased procurement needs for Eid-al-Adha strengthened demand.

GB Deadweight SQQ lamb price

p per kg dw



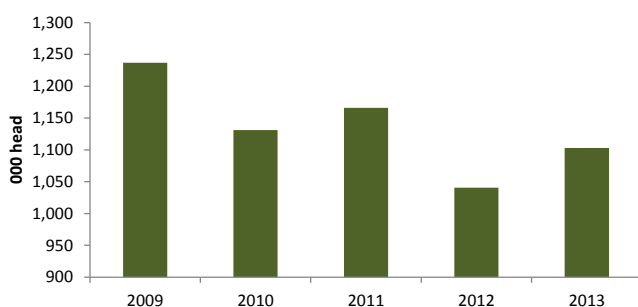
Source: AHDB/EBLEX

Increased kill drives higher production

[UK lamb slaughterings](#) in September were 6% higher year on year, as better seasonal conditions meant that the marketing pattern is adhering closer to the usual trend.

There is also some indication that the lamb crop was better than expected, with the English census results in particular showing more lambs were on the ground than previously thought. This means that availability has probably been better. However, while these throughputs are higher year on year due to the serious weather related disruptions last year, they remain below the levels of previous years. This still indicates that the UK lamb crop was relatively poor.

UK lamb slaughterings, September 2009-2013



Source: DEFRA

Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 16/10/2013

	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - NSL	173.9	+3.6
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	45.8	-1.5
Store lambs - NSL	54.5	+2.0

Deadweight prices week ending 12/10/13

	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - NSL	386.7	+1.6

European prices week ending (converted from €) 13/10/13

United Kingdom	383.0	+1.6
Republic of Ireland	341.1	+5.3
France	546.9	+2.7
EU-25	420.4	+3.6

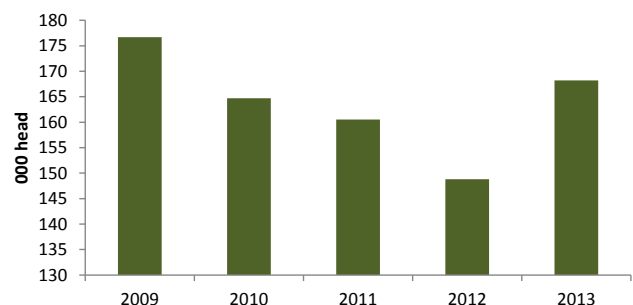
Estimated slaughterings (lambs)

	12/10/13	05/10/13
Great Britain	298,500	281,200
Northern Ireland	11,700	11,700
Republic of Ireland	62,200	51,600

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

Adult sheep slaughterings in the UK during September were again well above year earlier levels as producers still appear to be rationalising their flocks. This activity is likely in an effort to avoid the difficulties (with feed supplies etc.) that were experienced last year. While adult slaughterings in 2012 were relatively low, this level is still above those recorded in the corresponding month of 2010 and 2011.

UK adult sheep slaughterings, September 2009-2013



Source: DEFRA

Overall sheep meat production for the month was 25,000 tonnes, an increase of 7% on the year. A summary of production on the first nine months of the year can be found on the [EBLEX website](#).