



Friday 13th October 2017

Cattle

With large numbers of Angus cattle available they are a little bit easier but continentals continue to get reasonable support from the major players. The trade is very finely balanced at present. With the trade well ahead of last year it will be interesting to see what happens in the next 6 weeks. Looking at past years prices, November is usually a good month to sell cattle.

Cows are really firing out from the extensive grass based dairies as the weather begins to take its toll. Silage quality is very variable and there are some real horror stories doing the rounds, particularly in the West. Boning cows to 300p, beef cows to 275-285p base. With many beef herds yet to spear their calves, good quality cows are harder to come by though we expect this to change as we get closer to November.

The chronic shortage of straw is having a big impact on the price of store cattle particularly in the North and West. For the first time in a long while it really is a buyers' market out there, with 6 month old weaned calves looking a good investment on the face of it.

Sheep

Standard weight lambs in the last week have varied between 370 and 375p which has looked quite good as the week has gone on. Super smart Beltex to 400p. The lamb price has come under a little bit of pressure as the week has progressed and this can be totally blamed on the sheer volume of lambs coming forward. Thankfully the exchange rate remains favourable for export.

The quality of lambs coming through the co-op remains remarkably good and this is helping maintain firm demand from the main processors. Many of the markets are saturated with under finished lighter lambs which is just spoiling the job for everyone. Well fleshed genuine lights to 350p.

Long term store lambs look a fantastic buy for anyone with keep. NZ are forecasting a 0.5% increase in export numbers on the back of last year's 2% fall so there shouldn't be an abundance of import competition come the spring, plus Ramadan kicks off on the 15th May 2018 which will be before any real volume of spring lambs enters the market.

With weather increasingly inclement please ensure that your lambs are clean and (if possible) dry before uplift. Half of the abattoirs are now requiring bellies clipped out. Please speak to your fieldsman about specific requirements or if you want them clipped by the processor. Your continued help is much appreciated.

Organics

The Organic fat cattle to 475p, the price is very sensitive at the moment. Organic lambs to 380p, with plenty available. Organic store lambs wanted.

For Sale & Wanted

Store cattle available

Angus bulling heifers available.

Store lambs, medium-long keep, mules, Chev, BF and cross lambs for sale