

BRIDGNORTH LIVESTOCK MARKET WEEKLY REPORT

Tuesday 3rd February 2009



Nock Deighton

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Prime Cattle Report (Red Market)

Auctioneer: Mark Burgoyne 07831 192603

132 Prime Cattle

With icy side roads marking life difficult, there was a reduced entry forward. An improved trade produced an average of nearly 158p/kg on all clean and bulls, with the bulls very mixed in quality.

A sprinkling of supermarket sized cattle saw steers to 185p/kg and to a top price of £1239. There were some decent butchers cattle entered selling to 200p/kg for heifers with many in the 190 pence's. £1102.64 was the high in the female section

Some decent suckler bulls sold to 179p/kg with £1078.68 top dollar per head. Holsteins were generally plain but still average 134p/kg with several black and whites selling above 140p/kg up to a high of 149p/kg.

90 Clean Cattle

17 steers sold to average 162p/kg. Dave Awre sold handy 532kg Limousins to 185p/kg. 708kg to 175p/kg for Blue crosses from Andrew Dalton with another to 170p/kg for 586kg. Mike Williams' Charolais steers sold to 175p/kg for 560kg. Plenty of other steers above 160p/kg – in front of dead quotes which had dropped Monday morning.

73 heifers sold to average 164p/kg. More 'beauties' from the Awre stable sold to 192p/kg, 195p/kg x 2 and 200p/kg the latter 468kg – they also sold 488kg to 191p/kg and 496kg to 189p/kg. Miss Kirkham sold to 192p/kg for 444kg Limousin. 480kg to 191p/kg from Neil Preece. 578kg Blondes to 185p/kg from Charlie Cadwallader.

MORE CLEAN CATTLE REQUIRED NEXT WEEK

41 Young Bulls or average 146p/kg

Our entry includes 26 Holstein/Friesian bulls.

Limousins from Mulberry Homes realised 179p/kg, 178p/kg and 170p/kg for 548kg, 606kg and 560kg respectively. 545kg Limousins to 163p/kg from Mr Johnson.

Charlie Lloyd's Friesians to 148p/kg x 2 and 149p/kg to top the black and whites. Mulberry Homes sold to 147p/kg with Mr Robinson's realising 143p/kg. 110p/kg was bottom book.

MORE BULLS REQUIRED NEXT WEEK

WE ARE OPEN AT 06:30 AM

Would you please continue the effort to arrive early to allow a prompt start

Sale Times

Lambs 09:45 am prompt

Ewes 11:00am

Young Bulls 11.30 am prompt

Followed by Clean Cattle

19 Over Forty Eight Month Cattle

Producers Please Note:

BSE Stem Cell Testing Charge

Facts for you to know:

- Beginning in 2009 the Government have stopped subsidising this cost and have passed it to slaughterers to pay.
- Abattoirs contacted the Livestock Auctioneers Association late in 2008, requiring them to pass on this charge onto their livestock producers as much as £15/head was discussed.
- At the LAA AGM in November, the membership voted unanimously NOT to deduct this charge based on the fact that this is not a statutory charge imposed by the Government. The LAA may face a legal challenge from the producers' representative bodies i.e. NFU, NBA, FUW, CLA etc.
- Abattoirs were immediately advised of the situation and asked to bid accordingly in the live auction.
- Certain abattoir companies have contacted individual auction markets asking them to deduct £7.50 - £8.00 per beast for 48 months or over.
- The companies have boycotted all live auctions which have all stood firm (except Ross on Wye) and not deducted this charge. The boycott began Monday 2nd February.
- The NFU and NBA support the LAA stance (see Member's circulars sent out 30.01.09)

As auctioneers we feel this could be the 'thin end of the wedge' at a time when there is a shortage of cattle for the red meat sector process.

Until we are advised to the contrary by your representative bodies, we feel a united stance should prevail and we will sell over 48 month cattle to those abattoirs who are prepared to stand on their 'own two feet'.

This is not only about the cost, but about the principles involved. For once, stick together and you will maintain your position of strength in the ongoing discussions which will surely follow. We already have two new cow buyers for next Tuesday.

Please contact Mark Burgoyne on 07831 192603, should you wish to discuss matters further. Below are NFU and NBA Members circulars for your information which were sent out on 30/12/09 and NFU Media Release of 3rd February.

NFU

"The NFU has long argued for greater transparency within the red meat marketing sector in both liveweight and deadweight systems. We firmly believe that all deductions and charges should be communicated to producers in a clear and transparent manner in order that producers can make informed business decisions on their marketing strategy. As we have moved in 2009 we have seen the cost of BSE testing for cattle over 48 months of age entering the food chain passing from the government to industry.

We are disappointed that the cost of BSE testing has been passed to industry as inevitably this tends to be passed on to the primary producer. We firmly believe that the price a farmer receives at an auction market or abattoir should be the actual price he receives and no further deductions (other than statutory levies) should be taken off the invoice. With this in mind the NFU fully supports and applauds the position taken by Livestock Auction Markets across the country that are choosing not to deduct any monies from the bid price to cover the BSE testing costs which occur at point of slaughter. We believe that any increase in processing operating costs should be factored into the bid price at auction making the system far clearer for the seller and we welcome the stance taken by the auction markets.”

NBA

Livestock Auctions need your support in fight to stave off new brain-stem testing charge.

NBA members should be aware of the battle being fought on their behalf this week and ensure that they support livestock auctions as much as they can through February.

Some of the larger abattoirs are again trying to make live auction markets introduce a new deduction of £7.50 on all cattle over 4 years old and are even threatening to unilaterally deduct that amount per head off their cheques to the mart.

Members may remember that last autumn the Government pushed the cost of BSE brain-stem testing of cattle (a human health Government responsibility) onto abattoirs with effect from the beginning of January. When the EU allowed the age level for brain-stem testing to be raised to 48 months, the Government, without any public or even private consultation, forced the charge for brain-stem testing onto abattoirs. The Government previously had unwisely employed only one private lab for testing all over-24 month cattle. Many abattoirs were then persuaded (under pressure of time) by that single lab to sign up for a year or more at up to £15 per head. The NBA has heard that at least one other lab has offered to test brain-stems for £6 each.

At the end of last year the abattoirs asked the auction markets to deduct £7.50 from all older cattle before paying the sellers and hand the amount collected to the abattoirs. The matter was put to a vote at the Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA) AGM and there was a unanimous decision that brain-stem testing was an abattoir cost - not a market operating charge. Then the abattoirs accepted the auctioneers’ refusal. Now however there has been a backlash because the abattoirs are concerned that, with live market prices for cattle higher than the equivalent deadweight, the difference in returns to farmers is becoming even more apparent. Many abattoirs are demanding that auctions make and show a deduction of £7.50 on every over 4 year old animal going through the ring.

This coming week there is going to be showdown - with the threat of a possible repeat of abattoirs’ actions in 1995 when the auctioneers were similarly asked, and at first refused, to deduct a charge for the abattoirs’ cost of removing and destroying SBOs (Specified Bovine Offals). In 1995 farmers eroded the auctioneers’ fight by falling into the abattoirs’ trap and taking higher deadweight prices. Then, the auctions gave way and had to impose a £3.50 SBO deduction (which has remained for years) because farmers undermined the auctioneers’ struggle by reducing the cattle numbers sent to live markets. Don’t let us do so again. The situation is very different now with cattle shortages and rising prices.

The NBA recommends members to maintain live market throughput or, if their farms are under movement restriction, at least to go and support the auctioneers’ resistance and say so.

NFU MEDIA RELEASE – 03.02.09

NFU DISAPPOINTMENT AT BSE TESTING COST DECISION

The NFU has expressed disappointment at the decision by a number of large meat processors to inform producers they will be making a charge to cover the cost of BSE testing for cattle over 48 months of age.

Alistair Mackintosh, the NFU’s livestock board chairman, said: “We were opposed to the cost of testing being passed from the Government to the industry and we’re extremely disappointed that the cost is now being passed directly to the primary producer.

“We have long argued for greater transparency, sustainability and simplicity within red meat marketing and firmly believe any additional costs such as these are costs of production and, as a result, should be factored into the price paid to the producer.

“The price a farmer receives at an abattoir or auction market should be the actual price he receives and no further deductions should be taken off the invoice. We urge processors to urgently review this decision for the good of producers.”

Mr Mackintosh said he supported and applauded the position adopted by a number of livestock markets across the country which had decided not to deduct a charge to cover the BSE testing cost on behalf of processors.

“We believe any increase in processing operating costs should be factored into the bid price at auction making the system far clearer for the seller,” he said.

Leading Vendors

Steers

185p/kg	532kg	DA & MDM Awre
175p/kg	708kg	LH Dalton
175p/kg	560kg	MJ Williams
170p/kg	586kg	LH Dalton
168p/kg	582kg	DA & MDM Awre
168p/kg	698kg	LH Dalton
165p/kg	688kg	CH Froggatt & Son

Heifers

200p/kg	468kg	DA & MDM Awre
195p/kg	472kg	DA & MDM Awre
195p/kg	444kg	DA & MDM Awre
192p/kg	454kg	DA & MDM Awre
192p/kg	444kg	Miss JE Kirkham
191p/kg	480kg	M Preece & Co
186p/kg	476kg	DA & MDM Awre
185p/kg	438kg	Wynn Hughes & Sons

Bulls

191p/kg	488kg	DA & MDM Awre
189p/kg	496kg	DA & MDM Awre
179p/kg	548kg	Mulberry Homes
178p/kg	606kg	Mulberry Homes
170p/kg	560kg	Mulberry Homes
167p/kg	522kg	Mulberry Homes
163p/kg	542kg	RA & RE Johnson
160p/kg	512kg	Mulberry Homes
160p/kg	534kg	SD Pennington

Sheep – Auctioneer Martin Clack 07977 067519

920 Hogs

Despite the snow, a very respectable entry of hogs forward and trade as predicted firmer with the weather restricting both movement and supply throughout the country.

Regardless of weight, all sheep saw a lift in value to a top price per head of £95.20 and all lambs weighing over 52kg averaging £90.77. Texel lambs 38kg sold to 197p/lg from Peter Morris, with better shaped hogs 180p/kg plus. 45kg to 85kh hogs showing the most improvement to 174p/kg for 46.5kg.

MORE HOGGS REQUIRED FOR NEXT WEEK

Leading Prices

197p/kg	38kg	IGC Morris
192p/kg	38kg	M Preece & Co
188p/kg	38.5kg	R Massey
188p/kg	40.5kg	M Preece & Co
181p/kg	42.5kg	ET White & Son

122 Ewes

Suffolk ewes to £70 with large meated ewes dearer. Small Cheviots £42 to £48 and lean Mules to £46. 10 rams to £67 averaging £49.

MORE EWES REQUIRED FOR NEXT WEEK WITH A NEW CUSTOMER IN ATTENDANCE

STORE SALE REPORT – 30/01/09

Auctioneer: Mark Burgoyne 07831 192603

172 Store Cattle

A tremendous trade with a few better sorts to satisfy the full ring of buyers. All bulls, heifers and steers averaged 170p/kg including plenty of dairy bred bunches. Bulls sold to £830, steers to £902 and heifers to £922,

Prices as follows;

Feeding Bulls

210kg	£348	Hereford	6mths
390kg	£810	Charolais	10mths
447kg	£830	Charolais	24mths
415kg	£680	Limousin	11mths
420kg	£640	Simmental	12mths
262kg	£395	Friesian	6mths
320kg	£550	Limousin	8mths

Steers

Limousin

218kg	£435	8mths	Devon	290kg	£460	21mths
280kg	£520	8mths		240kg	£400	21mths
442kg	£665	19mths		230kg	£300	21mths
370kg	£720	9mths				
330kg	£550	8mths	Angus			
327kg	£490	18mths		361kg	£630	17mths
350kg	£548	17mths				
295kg	£568	9mths	Hereford			
295kg	£550	10mths		400kg	£590	19mths
352kg	£568	10mths				
331kg	£660	17mths	Belgian Blue			
331kg	£572	19mths		355kg	£520	18mths

Charolais

505kg	£902	22mths	Piedmontese	420kg	£760	22mths
435kg	£840	10mths				

Blonde

420kg	£800	22mths
342kg	£650	10mths
395kg	£590	28mths
445kg	£760	28mths

Heifers

Limousin

235kg	£330	14mths
415kg	£610	27mths
255kg	£500	8mths
215kg	£360	13mths
305kg	£430	15mths
345kg	£470	14mths
217kg	£325	8mths
316kg	£500	22mths
255kg	£460	15mths

Hereford

300kg	£485	19mths
310kg	£418	10mths
555kg	£705	22mths

Charolais

380kg	£585	18mths
470kg	£672	19mths
320kg	£590	11mths
373kg	£602	17mths
370kg	£560	21mths
310kg	£500	19mths

Welsh Black

210kg	£370	11mths
227kg	£385	11mths

Devon

280kg	£340	15mths
405kg	£622	16mths
315kg	£488	11-14mths
315kg	£470	10mths

Piedmontese

355kg	£640	24mths
345kg	£530	19mths

Belgian Blue

305kg	£590	10mths
690kg	£922	26mths

Angus

352kg	£485	20mths
330kg	£430	

Blondes

271kg	£550	12mths
385kg	£700	24mths
335kg	£530	19mths
280kg	£535	10mths

Calf Report

Auctioneer Mike Walters

A larger entry of calves met a very strong trade with plenty of buyers around the ring including new faces.

The general shortage of calves is making demand stronger by the week.

Limousin Bulls

£260	J & P Breakwell
£160	SJ Palmer

Limousin Heifers

£154 x 2	SJ Palmer
£122	SJ Palmer

Holstein x Friesian Bulls

£80	SJ Palmer
£68	SJ Palmer
£50	SJ Palmer

Store Lambs

Auctioneer: Martin Clack 07977 067519
Welsh Mules £60, £45

**NEXT SALE FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY.
CALVES & WEANLINGS WANTED.**

ENTRIES TO DATE 100 STORE CATTLE

FOR SALE

**311 BIG BALES OF ORGANIC HAYLAGE
NO RAIN**

CONTACT: 01902 842551