



THE NATIONAL BEEF ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16TH JUNE 2017: ISSUE 23/48

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FOR EVERYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE BEEF INDUSTRY

#britishbeef

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NBA'S WEEKLY REPORT

THE NATIONAL BEEF ASSOCIATION WELCOMES MICHAEL GOVE MP, DEFRA SECRETARY OF STATE

The National Beef Association, (NBA) would like to congratulate Michael Gove, MP on his appointment as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on behalf of their members.

Chris Mallon, Chief Executive of the NBA stated, "I look forward to working closely with Michael Gove to ensure the best possible decisions are made for the British Beef Industry and that these decisions are future proofed to protect the industry. It is positive step that we will have a strong Brexiteer at the heart of discussions, who will be committed to forging the best solutions for the industry and will be bold in achieving this.

With the uncertainty around rural payments and export markets at the forefront of our primary producers' concerns it is important that we work together to ensure that the Food and Farming policy will be beneficial to producers and consumers alike; reassuring producers that they will be supported in the efficient production of quality UK produce, and give consumers the confidence that UK farming will continue to deliver safe, high quality and sustainable food at a fair price.



British Beef production is only 75% self-sufficient therefore BREXIT gives us all a fantastic opportunity to grow production for our home market, something we must promote. We, as an industry, must also emphasise the importance of cattle within the UK landscape and infrastructure, managing the environment for people to enjoy and utilising land that cannot be used for cropping to produce a quality protein for the UK consumer which is also high in omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids and vital vitamins and minerals.

We must also campaign to ensure continued access to our EU export markets and the free access of European labour force which is the backbone of many of our red meat processing plants.

The NBA will be calling on the Government to support our primary producers though the implementation of compulsory legislation that will ensure greater transparency in pricing for producers. This is high on our agenda, in particular the enforcement of a compulsory Grocery Code Adjudicator, which will prevent unfair trading practises, such as changes to payment grids without due notice. Such practises leave the producer at an unfair disadvantage, tightening margins and subsequently knocking business progression.

Bovine TB continues to threaten the UK's cattle industry, posing further restrictions to those farming in infected areas. It is important that we work together to deliver practical and feasible solutions, allowing farms to continue trading whilst tackling the disease head on. The NBA will continue to campaign for an extension of the notice period for AFUs in cull areas, businesses that are vital in providing an outlet to cattle from the dairy herd that can only be finished in such units, and without them would instead have to be culled.

Britain’s beef industry is renowned for its high health and welfare standards something the NBA is eager to promote and uphold. The NBA is supportive of the industry led BVD eradication scheme and will continue to encourage the government to move to implement compulsory legislation to eradicate the disease from England, a challenge we feel is achievable and a positive step for the health and welfare of the British cattle herd.

With the announcement of Mr Gove’s appointment, we hope to tackle these challenges with renewed enthusiasm and I look forward to addressing these key challenges with the new Defra Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity.”

2017 NBA DIARY

DATE	EVENT DETAILS
19th June	Traceability Board To be attended by CEO Chris Mallon
20th June	WG implementation meeting To be attended by CEO Chris Mallon
21st June	GB Livestock Core Group meeting To be attended by CEO Chris Mallon
22nd June	Highland Show & SBA AGM To be attended by CEO Chris Mallon
26th June	Industry BREXIT Meeting To be attended by CEO Chris Mallon
4th July	NBA Board Meeting, Hexham

WATCH THIS SPACE! August farm tours and meetings across the UK to be announced next week.

SBA NEWS

A GREAT SUCCESS AT THE SCOTTISH BEEF EVENT

Despite the weather a fantastic day was had by all at the bi-annual Scottish Beef Event themed 'Beef Up your profits'.

A wonderful selection of seminars, demonstrations and trade stands drew in over 2500 farmers attended this year's Scottish beef event, hosted by the Stewart family at their immaculate farm in Fans, Berwickshire. The family have been farming at Fans since 1946 and successfully run the sucker herd, beef finishing unit, cereal and potato enterprises alongside one another. An exceptional example of a mixed farm with each enterprise complementing one another.

The event was opened by Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.

Visitors spirits were not dampened by the weather, and the farm tours were jam packed through the day. Guests enjoying a wee dram at the highest point of the farm, looking out at the Stewarts herd of purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle with spectacular views across the countryside for miles behind.

Back at the steading the 100 trade stands and breed societies were a fantastic spectacle, showcasing the very best of the Scottish beef industry. It was a particularly good day for the British Simmental Cattle Society who impressed the judges and claimed the Best Breed Society Stand and Henderson Grass Machinery who claimed the Best Trade Stand.

A fantastic selection of practical demonstrations ran throughout the farm including talks on fertility, nutrition, grass management, bedding equipment, cattle monitoring systems and an insightful farmer focus with the Douglas Stewart explaining his strict breeding policy on the farm and bull beef enterprise alongside beef specialist Gavin Hill, SAC Consulting.



An exciting and topical debate panel including Anna Playfair-Hanny (M&S Agriculture Manager), Adam Woods (Beef and Suckler Editor for the Irish Farmers Journal), Robert Fleming (Beef farmer and Nuffield Scholar in beef genetics) and John Hamilton (past Chairman of SOPA and the Blackfaced Sheep Breeders Association) was chaired by Rob Livesey, previous Vice President of NFUS. Topics included opportunities for the beef industry, protection of the Scotch beef premium brand, integration of the supply chain and innovation within the beef sector.

Steven Sandison also presented on his Nuffield Scholarship which focused on the achievability of industry targets for suckler herd. An Orkney beef farmer who has grown his herd of 100 Simmental and Salers cross cattle from scratch. Steven spoke on his extensive studies across the UK, Europe and Canada viewing top performing suckler herds and his findings of what they had in common. A fascinating and relevant seminar choice, particularly with the uncertainty around CAP payments post Brexit emphasising the need for profitability before subsidies.

As always there was fierce competition in the stock judging, but in the end, it was Forest Irving who took top place in the gentleman's final, closely followed by Tam Renwick and Craig Macpherson.

Jean McKay was the Ladies Champion with Caroline Orr claiming second place and Kara Barrie in third. Last but not least the title of Junior Champion was taken by Andrew Hutchison, with Kirsten Wallace coming second and Ewan Barr third.

The lucky lady of the day however, was Aberdeen Angus Society Vice president Angela McGregor who was the lucky winner of the SBA prize draw, winning an Aberdeen Angus heifer from Marion Tilson's prestigious award winning Wedderlie Herd. The herd was established in 1913 and since then has grown into an award-winning herd most recently winning the Marks & Spencer AA Beef Finishing Competition against pure and cross bred herds. Commenting on her win Angela said she was over the moon and looked forward to selecting her heifer in August.

Commenting on the event, Neil McCorkindale, Chairman of the Scottish Beef Association stated "It was fantastic to welcome so many visitors to this year's Scottish Beef Event, coming out in force despite the weather. Each event we aim to bring together the best of the Scottish Beef industry and act as a knowledge sharing event for visitors, challenging them with innovative ideas and stimulating discussion around policy.

On behalf of the SBA I would like to thank the Clydesdale Bank, our main sponsor along with our gold, silver and bronze sponsors for their ongoing support. Our particular thanks go out to Shaun Williams and the organising committee and of course the Stewart family for welcoming us to their exceptional farm and without whom this event would have not been possible."



FARMERS ABANDONING BEEF EFFICIENCY PLAN

The herd improvement scheme, which initially promised a budget of £45million when it was announced in 2014, struggled to attract producers to sign up in the first place, but a year down the line many beef farmers have withdrawn or are about to withdraw their support on a large scale.

The Government has confirmed that of the 2,114 farmers who agreed to take part, 335 have already formally dropped out.

The disillusionment has come as a result of problems with administration, misinformation and frustration over the delivery of obligatory tissue tags for calves which has made complying with the rules almost impossible for farmers.

High profile farmers such as Douglas Stewart, the host of the flagship Scottish Beef Event in the Borders, condemned the scheme as a fluffy “load of rubbish”

The last straw for many farmers came when multiple batches of tissue tags arrived at different times of the year for different animals in the same batch of calves.

The Scottish Government has now said in future it will only make one selection of animals for tissue sampling per-business per year.



Chairman of the Scottish Beef Association, Neil McCorkindale, was far from positive about the current state of the BES: "To my knowledge, the figures when it comes to people withdrawing from the scheme are anything but encouraging, and are definitely at a worrying level.

"Many people that registered early have found themselves dropping out, including myself," he said. "This has been happening for a number of reasons, but the general feeling is that the whole scheme needs looked at, if it is going to work at all."

"We can do nothing but hold our hands up at this point, and admit that the scheme is failing" continued Mr McCorkindale, "It's a great pity, and a massive concern, that the money is there for beef farmers, and effectively, we're not being able to use it just now."

"I do not think tweaking some of the rules is the right way to go, the whole scheme needs re inventing and I will be meeting with the NFU, QMS and SAC shortly to discuss a way forward. We need to get round the table, and try and reassess the situation," he added. "It's a huge disappointment that things have got to this stage, but hopefully it is not too late to resolve things."

The five-year scheme was intended to introduce a range of improvements focusing on cattle genetics and management practice on-farm, but many are now questioning the information they have been given, and the level of guidance with regard to what the scheme actually requires of them.

Farmers can drop out without penalty if they do so before the first payments of £96 per calf are made. These were scheduled to be paid last month but the latest indication is that they will be delayed until the autumn.

NBA MARKET REPORT WRITTEN AT 4PM OF THE DAY OF ISSUE

The beef sector is performing well in the UK and for the 12 weeks ended 24 April Kantar Worldpanel data indicate a rise of as much as 4% year on year in both volume and spend with little sign of any retail price inflation. The latest Kantar Worldpanel data also shows the continuing strong demand for beef, in the 12 weeks ended 21st May volume of purchases were unchanged on the year whilst expenditure was up 2%. With strong retail demand for beef, lighter carcasses, fewer bulls available and generally less cattle presently available the trade for finished cattle looks robust for the near future. The price for finished cattle is strong in ROI where most of our imports come from, having a strong trade in Ireland reduces the desire for substitution of British with Irish product by retailers and that bodes well for demand from retailers for UK beef. Last years procurement decisions by processors are coming home to roost.

The price trend of recent weeks has continued into the week ending 10 June, with most deadweight categories recording price rises again. Steers meeting R4L specification rose by 0.4p in the week taking the measure to 369.9p/kg, now 36.6p above where it was in the same week in 2016. Prices for R4L heifers too increased, to 371.5p/kg although young bulls meeting the same specification were broadly unchanged at 353.8p/kg. Overall, young bulls rose in price to 345p/kg. The GB prime average was up 0.9p to 358.83p/kg. Prime slaughterings were recorded to be 35,500, up from last week's number of 32,200.

The demand for cow beef continues to strengthen due to a strong euro and less cows available on the continent. The improved milk market has led to reduced dairy cow slaughterings across continental Europe, especially in France. GB carcasses meeting -O4L specification were pricing at 274.5p/kg in the week ending 10 June, which is a 38.4p/kg rise since the beginning of the year, and demonstrates a significant narrowing in the spread between cow beef and clean beef. Slaughterings of cows rose to 10,000 in the week, picking up again from 8,200 the week before.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter in NI from ROI last week were similar to previous weeks and consisted of 147 prime cattle and 87 cows. A further 13 prime cattle and 128 cows were imported from GB for direct slaughter in NI plants. cattle exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter included 26 prime cattle, 144 cows and 5 bulls while no cattle were exported to GB for direct slaughter for the second consecutive week.

The average R4L steer price in GB is up 0.4p/kg at 369.9p/kg, Scotland is up 2.6p/kg at 383.1p/kg, the South is up 6.9p/kg at 369.6p/kg, the average in the North is holding at 366.8p/kg, Midland steers are back 2.7p/kg at 360.9p/kg for the week. In NI steers are steady at 367.1p/kg whilst in the ROI steers are steady at 357.5p/kg.

The average R4L heifer price in GB is up 1.7p/kg at 371.5p/kg, the R4L heifer price in Scotland is up 5.7p/kg at 384.2p/kg, Midlands heifers are steady at 369.2p/kg, in the North heifers are back 1.6p/kg at an average of 362.3p/kg, whilst Southern England heifers are up 6.2p/kg at 369.9p/kg. In NI heifers are up 1.7p/kg at 366.7p/kg whilst ROI heifers are at 366.8p/kg.

For the coming week:

In the South of England, we are seeing cattle being quoted from around 363p, the North, is seeing base prices quoted for next week in the region of 366p/kg, Scottish cattle are being quoted from a base of 378p/kg.

Northern Ireland, prices quoted are from a base of 360p/kg based on R4L for the coming week.

Angus are from 405p/kg, Shorthorn and Hereford native bred cattle continue to attract premiums of depending on the scheme, with organic cattle at over 480p/kg.

Cows are in great demand with quotes of 300p/kg, with more for better fleshed cows with good conformation.

AHDB (MEAT SERVICES) AND LMC MARKET PRICES:

AUCTION AVERAGES WEEK ENDING 14/06/2017

	Price p/kg live weight	Price p/kg change on wk
STEERS	195.1	+1.5
HEIFERS	203.1	-0.1
YOUNG BULLS	182.7	+2.5
COWS	125.7	+0.9

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG) WEEK ENDING 10/06/2017

	GB	SOUTHERN	CENTRAL	NORTH	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	ROI
R4L STEER	369.9	369.6	360.9	366.8	383.1	367.1	357.5
p/kg change on wk	+0.4	+6.9	-2.7	-1.5	+2.6	-0.7	-0.3
R4L HEIFER	371.5	369.9	369.2	362.3	384.2	366.7	366.8
p/kg change on wk	+1.7	+6.2	-1.0	-1.6	+5.7	+1.7	-0.9
R3 BULL	354.9	358.3	352.4	350.5	364.8	364.7	352.5
p/kg change on wk	+1.3	+1.7	+3.2	+1.3	-3.1	+5.2	+0.2
O+3 COW	287.5	287.5	290.2	281.8	290.8	284.3	289.2
p/kg change on wk	+1.8	+2.0	+4.0	-1.6	+0.6	+0.4	-4.9

All GB data in the above tables is reproduced from tables created by AHDB/LAA/IAAS – For more detailed information please visit www.laa.co.uk or www.beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk.

**The above tables are unique because they are the only ones in existence that are published on a cross-UK basis that carry information on all UK regions plus the Republic of Ireland. The information, which is delivered free to NBA members by email, can only otherwise be obtained through AHD/LAA/IAAS (see above) and the Livestock and Meat Commissions (LMC) Bulletin for Northern Ireland. The tables should be a useful source of information to committed beef finishers across the UK.*

BEEF INDUSTRY NEWS

CAMPAIGN TO PUT STEAK ON BRITAIN’S BBQS BEGINS

More than a quarter of Brits would like to see more lamb and beef steaks on the barbecue this summer.

However, British barbecues have also been voted the worst in the world with burnt food, backseat BBQ-ers and drunk arguments cited as the top niggles.

In a bid to get our barbecues back on track, a campaign is being launched to get us grilling like an Aussie, American or Argentinian, who over half of Brits agree are better at it.



AHDB Head of Beef and Lamb Marketing, Nick White said: “It’s a misconception that steak is difficult to cook on the barbecue – it’s actually one of the quickest and tastiest cuts to prepare on the grill. It’s brilliantly versatile and there are numerous ways to enjoy it, from cutting it into kebabs to marinating it in different flavours; it’s an easy way to impress guests.”

AHDB is targeting the country’s barbecue market because it presents a huge opportunity for the lamb and beef industry. Last year, around 108 million barbecues took place – with an almost even split across mid-week (46%) and weekend meals (54%). The number of barbecues held has also risen by six per cent year on year.

For beef farmers, the industry is currently heavily reliant on mince, which accounts for half of carcass utilisation. Mince is also the main way younger consumers choose to eat beef.

Surrey based beef farmer and butcher, Steve Conisbee said: “Beef steak is delicious and with millions of Brits barbecuing any day of the week, we need to help them learn to barbecue steaks just like the Australians or Argentinians do.”



The AHDB’s Simply Beef and Lamb barbecue campaign is running throughout the summer months, calling in support from comedy YouTuber, Anto Sharp and online ‘Food Busker’, John Quilter – who together have more than 1.4 million followers across social media channels.

WARM WEATHER INCREASES PARASITE RISK IN SHEEP AND CATTLE:

NADIS JUNE PARASITE FORECAST

NADIS are warning sheep and cattle farmers that recent above average temperatures could lead to a rise in parasitic disease in growing animals this summer.

Dairy and beef cattle are at risk of husk, caused by infection with the cattle lungworm from June onwards. Unvaccinated calves, naïve adult cattle and those without an effective anthelmintic programme face the greatest threat.

Early signs of lungworm include coughing after periods of exertion and progress to more severe compromise, with coughing at rest, increased respiratory rate, and difficulty breathing. Prompt recognition and treatment is critical.

“Early intervention significantly reduces costs and the impact on productivity. A diagnosis should be sought from the farm’s vet at the first sign of symptoms, “ advises Sioned. “Treatment with a fast acting zero milk withhold wormer with up to 28 days of persistent activity provides effective control without the loss of milk sales.”

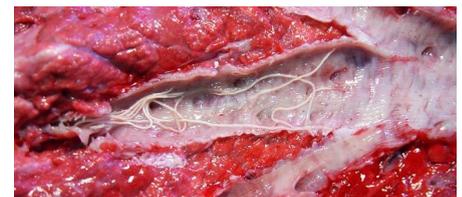
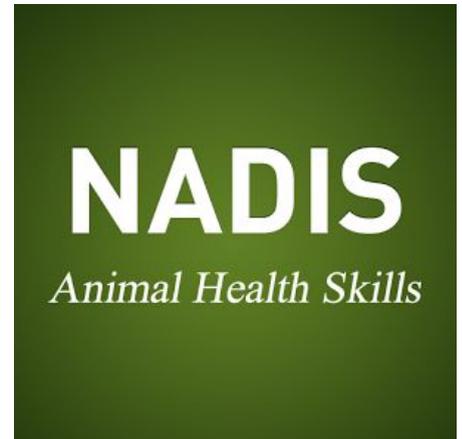
Incidents of parasitic disease caused by gutworms, including *Ostertagia ostertagi*, peak in August and September, though even low levels of worm challenge can reduce growth rates by up to 30% in beef calves and dairy replacement heifers.

Strategic control with a broad-spectrum wormer can reduce the impact of parasites in autumn/winter born calves in their first grazing season, and spring-born suckler calves in their second grazing season. Those animals receiving strategic treatments must remain set stocked for the entire grazing period or moved to aftermaths when they become available.

However, it’s not just youngstock that is affected by gutworms.

Farmers concerned about the parasite status of their livestock should talk to their vet or local animal health advisor.

The full NADIS Parasite Forecast can be found [HERE](#) While the NADIS June Disease Alert can be found [HERE](#)

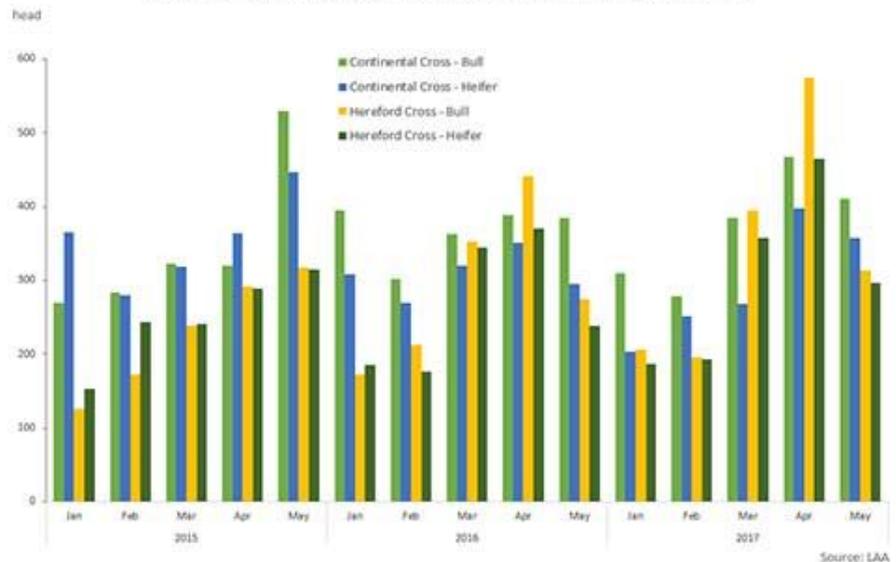


NATIVE CALVES PROVING POPULAR AT AUCTION

The auction markets of England and Wales appear to have been doing a [healthy trade](#) in store animals so far in this historic year, the 200th anniversary of the Livestock Auctioneers Association. Trade in rearing calves has also been positive, particularly for native bred cattle. In the year to the end of March, nearly 3,200 Hereford crossed rearing calves under three weeks old were traded at auction, which is a 15% increase year on year and a 33% increase on the same period in 2015. The number of continental crosses has remained more stable from year to year, with numbers in the first five months falling by 1.5% compared with 2016.

May sees the number of calves available for sale start to fall as the main calving season for beef breeds comes to an end. The number of non-dairy calves registered in the first four months of the year was actually only about 3% higher than in 2016, so against this background the trade in native calves has been particularly strong with a relatively larger proportion changing hands at auction.

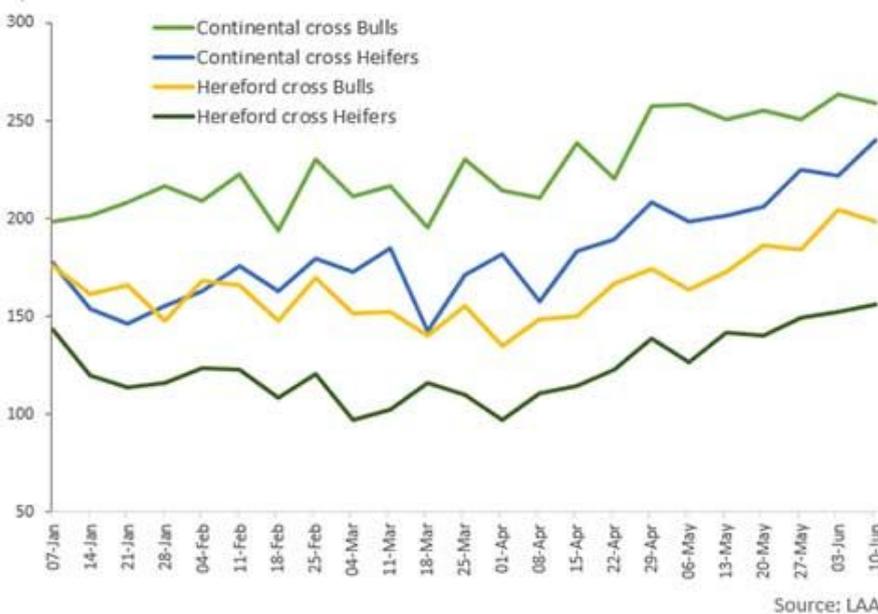
Rearing calves under 3 weeks of age sold at auction in England and Wales



Prices for rearing calves have been rising. In the week ending 10 June, continental cross bulls and heifers were

pricing at £259/head and £241/head respectively, an increase of over £60 since the beginning of the year, or about 25%. Hereford crosses have seen lower price rises in the order of 10%, which is £22 for bulls, trading at £199/head and £12.50 for heifers, priced at £156. Prices of two-year-old store animals have been more stable than yearlings, with differentials between the age groups narrowing over the year so far. The latter category, along with the trade in rearing calves, can perhaps be seen as representing something of an indicator of future prospects for the cattle trade in England and Wales, and as such still shows a degree of optimism held by producers in the sector.

Rearing calf prices in England and Wales

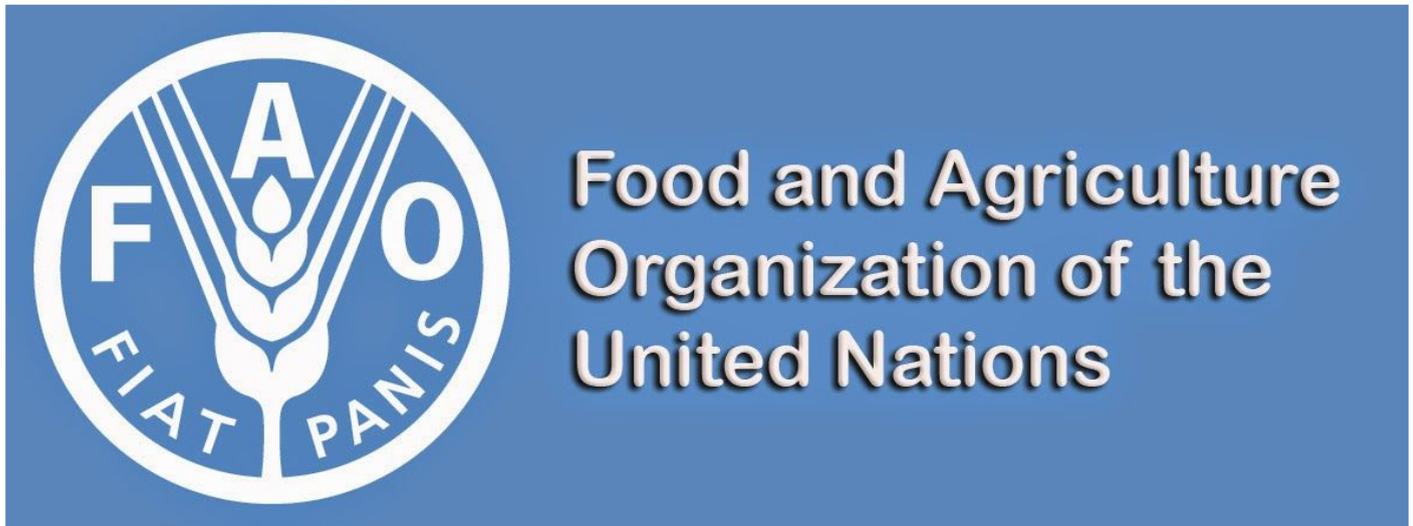


FAO GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF BEEF PRODUCTION IN 2017

According to the bi-annual Food Outlook report published by the FAO global beef production has been forecast to increase by 1.9 percent to 69.6 million tonnes during 2017. Substantial increases in production are expected in Brazil and the US with more moderate increases expected in Argentina, china and the EU. Meanwhile beef outputs from Australia, New Zealand and Russia are forecast to decline during 2017.

In Brazil a favourable international market has encouraged producers to expand their herds despite stagnant domestic demand for beef. Beef production in Brazil during 2017 is expected to be 2.7 per cent higher than 2016 levels due to increased cattle throughput and also an increase in average carcase weights. Good pasture conditions combined with reductions in feed prices are both expected to contribute to the increase in average carcase weights.

In Argentina beef production in 2017 is expected to rise by 4.2 per cent to 2.8 million tonnes. This expected increase will be driven by increased cattle availability for slaughter following a period of herd expansion combined with an increase in carcase weights in response to better pasture conditions. Production in Uruguay is also expected to increase in 2017 as herd rebuilding comes to an end while in Paraguay beef production is expected to remain stable.



In India subdued global demand was expected to slow the growth of bovine meat production in 2017 however recent developments in the country banning the sale of aged cattle for slaughter at the country’s livestock markets and stricter documentation requirements for any sale and purchase of bovines will have a notable negative influence on bovine meat production in the region.

In China beef production is expected to rise by 1.4 per cent to total 7.1 million tonnes in 2017. Steady domestic beef prices have encouraged investment in beef production in china while marginal returns from milk production is expected to encourage further downscaling of the chinese dairy herd. Meanwhile in Korea beef production is also expected to rise as weak prices encourage producers to kill cattle earlier while in Japan beef production is expected to remain stable.

The FAO report has forecast beef production in the US to increase by 5.1 per cent to 12.1 million tonnes during 2017, taking total production to the highest levels in nine years. This forecast increase will be driven by an increase in availability of cattle for slaughter and an increase in average carcase weights.

A notable increase in heifer retention in Canada during 2016 was thought to be an indication of herd rebuilding but this growth has not continued with cattle numbers on the ground expected to remain stable in 2017. Beef production during 2017 is forecast to be just above 1.2 million tonnes with any increase in throughput offset by a

reduction in average carcass weights.

Beef production in Australia is forecast to be 2 million tonnes during 2017, back three per cent from 2016 levels. While increases in carcass weights are expected due to improved pasture conditions total cattle throughput is forecast to decline as producers enter a period of herd rebuilding.

A reduction in beef production is also expected in New Zealand during 2017 with the FAO forecasting a 4.5 per cent drop in production to 588,000 tonnes as a result of reduced slaughterings. An improvement in the global dairy market has halted the heavy culling of dairy cows which will contribute to the reduction in cattle throughput and lower beef production.

Beef production in Russia is forecast to be 1.6 million tonnes during 2017, a two per cent reduction from year earlier levels. The reduction in output has been forecast in response to poor profitability discouraging investment in beef production and a decline in the national herd. Meanwhile in the EU beef production is forecast to increase by 1.2 per cent during 2017 where restructuring of the dairy industry has increased the availability of cattle for slaughter.

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BVD FREE ENGLAND

The NBA are proud supporters of the industry led BVD FREE ENGLAND scheme and encourage all members to sign up to the initiative. To sign up please visit: <https://bvdfree.org.uk/>



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STUDENT DISCOUNT VOUCHER £40 MEMBERSHIP



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Date of Birth	Establishment
Attached proof of identity []	Course studied
Signed	Course start date
Date	Course finish date

FOR EVERYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE BEEF INDUSTRY

www.nationalbeefassociation.com