

THRAPSTON LIVESTOCK CENTRE

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JANUARY PROFESSIONAL PONDERINGS

Well, we are into 2012 and already a month has gone by, all of the festivities seem a distant memory. Several people are lambing and if not it won't be long before they start. We continue to see a dry period of weather despite a few mm of rain falling on a weekly basis. My new year's resolution is to record the rainfall through the year, so armed with my recording chart, Winwick has had 37mm of rain in January up to 7pm on Friday the 27th January (if anyone would like a chart please let me know!). However looking on today's forecast we are due a cold week!

In the Markets since the week between Christmas and New Year we have seen a sticky fat lamb trade, not as predicted by a National Farming Press, although in the last week though we have seen a lift, let's hope that this continues! With the Pound being so weak against the Euro the export type lambs are hard to place, and many abattoirs have freezers full, making lamb hard to place. This is coupled with 'January Blues' with people having to pay off credit cards at the end of the month. Let's hope next month sees that continued lift in trade! It has, however, come to the time of year when there are a lot of heavy hogs about and this is when we ought to be looking at £s per head as opposed to p/kg. We will be short of lambs in the coming months, in hindsight when we were doing those big numbers in the Summer and Autumn we will be paying now, but so will everywhere else! You can only sell them once!

In respect of the fat cattle these remain a good trade, and there is demand for everything. On a Saturday the stores; well they are on a different planet! In the Farmers Guardian a fortnight ago headline read 'Stores in Demand in Thrapston'. Well if they had come last week, the 21st, who knows what the headline would have been,?? with the 150 steers sold that day from top to bottom averaging £930??! Brian commented they would be the dearest he has seen in Forty Years, and another regular market man saying they were £150 up on the same time last year. Let's hope they continue like that! If you want us to come on farm to look at cattle don't be afraid to ask!

On the professional side of things, we have a few parcels of land to come on the market; it will be interesting to see how the land market pans out in 2012. HS2 was given the go ahead in the early part of the month; this could have serious impacts on landowners and future farming. If you are affected by the Scheme please do speak to our Rural Team who will be able to assist. Several Farmers have now received their Single Farm Payment monies, together with Entitlement Statements. If you have surplus SPS entitlement (with a use by scheme year date of 2012) then you ought to consider trading these. If you do have surplus entitlements then please let me know, as I have people looking to buy. Similarly we are looking at Grasskeeping arrangements again for the Spring. If you have surplus grass again please let me know (07753 895716), the list of people looking is as long as my arm!!

We were very disappointed to hear from East Northants Council that, owing to staff shortages, the two planning applications will not now be considered by committee on 8 February. We continue to press for an early determination and will keep you informed as soon as we get an alternative date.

Well let's hope that the white stuff stays away and things remain buoyant!

James

To book stock in for either Stratford or Thrapston Markets, discuss the trade or arrange for us to call on farm to view stock please contact:

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To Read our Weekly Market Reports and to see our Store Cattle Listings on a Friday Afternoon please log onto www.bletsoes.co.uk or register your email address with us.

THRAPSTON MARKET JANUARY ROUND UP: 2,824 Head of Stock Sold This Month

Saturday 31st December

Sheep 70 sold; A nice New Years Eve show of lambs met a super trade, confidence certainly for the New Year, selling from £58.50 to £80 to average £73.69. Top price went to J Kimbell who had Continental lambs at £80; NP & M Russell had 2 pens at £75, then £72, and £67.80 and WG Childs & Sons £78, and £74 and longer keep lambs £58.50.

Store Cattle 37 sold; DB & SM Gamble had £540 for a Hereford heifer, 20 months; £325 for a Welsh Black steer and £270 for a heifer, both 17½ months; OJ Cornwell had a pen of Simmental steers, 17-21 months £860; a Gentleman Farmer from Haddenham had £742 for Limousin heifers and £645 for others, 17-19 months; Miss J Armstrong had a 10 month Limousin steer £650; D Hancock made the trip from Cheshire again having £1,040 for Limousin steers, £818 for Hereford steers, 18-20 months and a Welsh Black steer 21 months, £845 for a Belgian Blue steer 21 months, 2 super Limousin steers 10-12 months £870, Limousins 10-11 months £760 then Limousin steers 15 months, £688, £665 and heifers the same age £650.

Saturday 7th January

Store Sheep 41 sold; H Houghton & Son got to £77.80 with Suffolk crosses and NP & M Russell got to £73.40 with Charollais crosses.

Calves 29 sold; K & A Badrick got to £208 with Angus bulls and £138 with heifers; AG Burton had Angus bulls to £200 and heifers £176; Friesian bulls from Valley Farms, 4-6 weeks old got to £79 and younger sorts were £20 to £50 and a weaned Angus heifer made £288.

Pigs 23 sold; What a variation, some super pigs at £75 and £73.20, and then some very lean sorts at £10 to £12 and some lean sows and boars at £25 to £30.

Store Cattle 154 sold; EF Wootton & Son had Blue steers at £735 and Angus heifers £650, all yearlings; Limousin heifers from W Darby & Son, 17-19 months made £550; some super steers from OJ Cornwell around 20 months got to £990; Hereford bulls 19-19½ months sold to £735; G Holgate sold a good lorry load of Continental steers and heifers: Limousin steers £950, Simmental steers £990, Angus heifers £900, Blue X Limousin steers £1,080, D Hancock was here with a good run of cattle: Charolais steers £1,200, Blue steers £920, Blue heifers £850, Blonde steers £800.

Saturday 14th January

Store Sheep 109 sold; Geddington Farms had £69.80 for Suffolk crosses; H Houghton & Son £72.80; RF Davy £75.80, £75.50 and £68.20 and NP & M Russell £67.50. Some Shetland ewes got to £25.

Store Pigs 43 sold; A varied entry saw little weaners at £9, some strong Gilt and boar pigs £58 to £70, in-pig sows to £69 and cull boars £40.

Store Cattle 149 sold; As Friday's Farmers Guardian reported, stores were in demand in Thrapston! and this week they were more in demand and dearer. AP & TB Trolove had Blonde heifers - £800 for a 23 month; £695 for a 14 month and £585 for 11 months; PG Duffin had Angus steers, 17-19 months at £638 and £590 for yearling Simmental steers; we had a super run of 28 Charolais, Blue and Limousin steers from WH & R Weston, all 20-22 months: Charolais steers £1,200, Blues £1,160 and £1,105, averaging £1,085; D Hancock was here with a load: Limousin steers £1,100, Welsh Black £980. E Garner & Sons made £854 of Limousin steers, 20-22 months; G Holgate had a grand load of cattle: Limousin steers, 26-29 months £1,070, OJ Cornwell sold several good pens of cattle: Limousin steers £1,000, Charolais £1,115 and Friesians £770

Saturday 21st January

Sheep 83 sold; H Houghton & Son had £75.20 for Suffolks; NR Shayler £74, again for Suffolks and RWH & MJ Fenemore had Texels at £73.50 and £71.

Calves 8 sold; JEG James had Blue bulls at £210 and £205, a Welsh Black heifer at £160; K & A Badrick had Angus bulls at £235, £230 and £200 and £195 for a heifer; a stabiliser bull from AC Pearce £175.

Store Pigs 12 sold; Berkshire weaners £27 and £29 and then some older sows and boars up to £39.

Store Cattle 164 sold; In the words of one professional cattle man, the only way to describe today's trade was "Ballistic". In 40 years I think this is the best trade I have experienced. Demand far outstripped supply and it was impossible to value some cattle within £100 or more and the better the cattle were, valuation became harder. Moving into the stores - B Page had £710 for a Hereford bull 9½ months and £560 for similar Hereford steers there were a few young sorts £400 to £470; Pentelow Farms had 18 month steers at £1,025, £1,000 and £955; GB Sewell & Partners had £1,145 for Blonde steers, 18½ months and £790 for heifers; Padray Farms had £1,040 for 22 month Simmental steers; G Holgate showed a good run of Continental steers, with 4 lots over £1,000 to £1,070, most around £900; R & K Driver had 4 super Charolais heifers, 22-23 months at £1,240 and £1,070; D Hancock had his usual consignment of steers and heifers, with something for everyone: a single pen of 4 smart Limousin steers sold to £1,105, Hereford steers got to £950, AJ Day & Son had Limousin steers and heifers, 21-22 months to £975 and £838.

THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY 2012					THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2012				
LAMBS	524	Sold			LAMBS	560	Sold		
Sold to	206.00	p/kg	Pentelow Farms (Rothwell)		Sold to	214.00	p/kg	Mrs P Bonner	
SQQ	194.20	p/kg			SQQ	190.10	p/kg		
Top Price £ / Head	£95.00		IS & NK Johnson		Top Price £ / Head	£92.00		C J Stancombe & Son	
EWES	52	Sold	£57.12	Average	EWES	27	Sold	£77.87	Average
Top Price	£86.00		Morgan Pell Livestock		Top Price Ram & Ewe	£100		Miss MR Smith & BT Caswell & Son	
Total Cattle Sold	35	Head			Total Cattle Sold	13	Head		
Steers	22	Sold	Av: 166.50	p/kg	Steers	6	Sold	Av: 167.84	p/kg
Top Price £ / Head	£1,360.13		TH Bletsoe & Son		Top Price £ / Head	£1,307.30		TH Bletsoe & Son	
Top Price p/kg	183.00		Pentelow Farms (Rothwell)		Top Price £ / Kg	172.00		TH Bletsoe & Son	
Heifers	12	Sold	Av: 178.00	p/kg	Heifers	4		Av: 163.13	p/kg
Top Price £ / Head	£1,169.28		B Jolley		Top Price £ / Head	£903.60		P Brightwell	
Top Price p/Kg	188.00		B Jolley		Top Price p / Kg	180.00		P Brightwell	
THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2012					THURSDAY 26th JANUARY 2012				
LAMBS	191	Sold			LAMBS	575	Sold		
Sold to	207.00	p/kg	Mrs P Bonner		Sold to	203.00	p/kg	WH Saunders & Son	
SQQ	189.67	p/kg			SQQ	192.93	p/kg		
Top Price £ / Head	£90.00		Yelden Growers		Top Price £ / Head	£100.00		Bowood Farms	
EWES	45	Sold	£71.34	Average	EWES	63	Sold	£66.29	Average
Top Price	£109		C Horrell Ltd		Top Price	£97.00		PT Harris & Son	
Total Cattle Sold	30	Head			Total Cattle Sold	32	Head		
Steers	22	Sold	Av: 171.36	p/kg	Steers	19	Sold	Av: 173.96	p/kg
Top Price £ / Head	£1,288.80		A B Wilkinson Farmers Ltd		Top Price £ / Head	£1,409.10		TH Bletsoe & Son	
Top Price p/kg	180.00		A B Wilkinson Farmers Ltd		Top Price p / Kg	215.00		B Jolley	
Heifers	8	Sold	Av: 188.32	p/kg	Heifers	7	Sold	Av: 177.81	p/kg
Top Price £ / Head	£1,166.00		E Sansom & Son		Top Price £ / Head	£1,182.33		E Sansom & Son	
Top Price £p/ Kg	225.50		E Sansom & Son		Top Price p/ Kg	228.50		E Sansom & Son	

STRATFORD MARKET ROUND UP: 1,556 Head of Stock Sold This Month

Cattle:

3rd January 5 Sold

Just 5 cattle to start the New Year the single steer from A North & Sons weighed 680kgs at 203p grossing £1,380.40. The four heifers sold to 195p averaging 179.55p. 3 Limousins from A North & Sons 540kgs, 195p/kg (£1,053), 545kgs, 180p/kg (£981). 2 Simmentals from AV Taylor 525kgs, 177p/kg (£929.25) and 535kgs, 166p/kg (£888.10).

17th January 8 Sold

Just a handful of cattle this week, the 3 steers sold to 173 p/kg to average 170.77p, the 4 heifers sold to 185 p/kg to average 181.21p. We started with a Simmental cow from JE Lea & Son weighing 720kgs grossing £900. In the clean cattle steers from H Page & Son Simmentals 675 kgs, 173 p/kg (£1,167.75) 670 kgs, 171 p/kg (£1,145.70) Gipsy Hall Farms had an average Charolais steer 600 kgs, 168 p/kg (£1,108). The heifers from AV Taylor Simmental 570 kgs, 185 p/kg (£1,054.50) then 3 Hereford crosses from Gipsy Hall Farms Ltd all 540 to 590 kgs selling to 183 p/kg, grossing £1,044.30.

TUESDAY 3 rd January 2012				TUESDAY 10 th January 2012			
PRIME LAMBS	361	Sold		PRIME LAMBS	223	Sold	
Sold to	205	p/kg		Sold to	210	p/kg	JR Neather
SQQ		p/kg		SQQ		p/kg	
Top Price £ / Head	£112.20		TR Tame & Son	Top Price £ / Head	£99.96		AS Hayes & Son
EWES	74	Sold		EWES	39	Sold	
Average	£58.66			Average	£72.51		
Top Price	£76.00		Thornecroft Farms	Top Price	£97.00		GL Bomford & Sons
STORE LAMBS	28	Sold		STORE LAMBS	109	Sold	
Average	£64.75			Average	£68.77		
Top Price	£76.50		RM Phillips & Partners	Top Price	£78.00		RT Cripps
TUESDAY 17 th January 2012				TUESDAY 24 th January 2012			
PRIME LAMBS	344	Sold		PRIME LAMBS	152	Sold	
Sold to	200	p/kg	WA Goffe & Son	Sold to	214.50	p/kg	AV Taylor
SQQ		p/kg		SQQ	200.75	p/kg	
Top Price £ / Head	£100.80		PF Edwards	Top Price £ / Head	£105.28		PGS Smith
EWES	60	Sold		EWES	91	Sold	
Average	£61.48			Average	£71.60		
Top Price	£90		R Burrows	Top Price	£96.00		R Burrows
STORE LAMBS	60	Sold		STORE LAMBS	11	Sold	
Average	£58.38			Average	£		
Top Price	£65.50		PS Slatter	Top Price	£66.50		A Taylor

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