

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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IRELAND

Information Supplied in Respect of
Beef and Veal

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A. PRODUCTION: PRODUCTION MEASURES AND POLICIESA.1. Statistical data on the total volume of productionLive Cattle

Year	Output (1000 heads)
1965	987
1966	1,169
1967	1,467

A.2. Trends in production and estimates for 1970

Cow numbers have risen from 1,322,500 in 1963 to 1,602,900 in 1968. As a result, there has been a substantial corresponding increase in cattle output, as reflected in the data supplied for the most recent three-year period. Production in 1970 is estimated at about 1.5 million heads.

A.3. Statistical data on carry-over stocks and stockpiles

No special carry-over stocks or stockpiles, governmental or otherwise, are maintained.

A.4. Factors affecting production

Though it is difficult to isolate factors under this heading from Government policies and measures, the main factors affecting livestock production other than governmental policies and measures have been:

- improvements in productivity brought about by -
 - improved standards of land and livestock management;
- increased utilization of modern techniques in agriculture including increased fertilizer use;
- improvements in farm structure;
- increased investment in agriculture.

A.5. Policies and measures of governments or other bodies affecting consumption other than those listed under BDirect measures

- (1) A scheme of grants for calved heifers which was introduced in 1964 and is due to terminate in June 1969.
- (2) Governmental support for milk.

Indirect factors

- (3) Animal disease eradication programmes, particularly a bovine tuberculosis eradication scheme.
- (4) Grants for farm buildings.
- (5) Grants for land drainage and improvement; fertilizer subsidies.
- (6) Advisory services.
- (7) Credit facilities available from the Agricultural Credit Corporation (a State agency) and the commercial banks.

B. PROTECTION AND SUPPORT MEASURES AND POLICIESB.I. Internal support measures and policiesB.I.1. Inventory of the instruments of support

There are no measures of price support directly involving the home market. The following arrangements apply to exports of live store cattle and beef to the United Kingdom market.

Live store cattle:

Under the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement Irish store cattle exported to the United Kingdom are eligible for guarantee payments under the British Fatstock Guarantee Scheme after they have spent at least two months in the United Kingdom. Payment is made to the United Kingdom feeder.

Beef:

Under the same Agreement, guarantee payments are made by the British authorities in respect of 25,000 tons each year of Irish carcass beef exported to Britain. The Irish Exchequer provides support at the same rate for quantities of beef exported to Britain in excess of 25,000 tons. The beef exported must conform to the quality specifications of the British Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. The support does not apply to beef derived from cattle imported from the Six Counties and already certified there for guarantee payments.

B.I.2. Levels of guaranteed prices or support prices

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B.I.3. Amount of producer subsidies

This is not applicable to the internal market but internal market prices are, of course, affected by the measures at B.I.1. The export support measures for beef are related to the level of British guarantee payments, and vary accordingly. Amounts of subsidy paid on beef exports in the past three years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity of Beef</u> (metric tons)	<u>Amount of Subsidy</u> (\$'000)
1965/66	8,730	249
1966/67	40,519	4,388
1967/68	114,325	15,531

(Figures relate to financial years ending 31 March.)

B.I.4. Average returns to producers

Average liveweight prices realised by producers at a representative market

[Dublin] 1965/67 (US\$ per 100 Kgs. liveweight)

	<u>Store Cattle</u>		
	<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Fat Cattle</u>
1965	\$46.55	\$46.27	\$44.26
1966	\$42.65	\$41.72	\$41.51
1967	\$43.26	\$40.32	\$41.02

B.I.5. Methods of determining returns to producers

Producer prices are determined by normal free market influences. Since about 80 per cent of total production is exported, prices on external markets, especially the United Kingdom market determine internal prices.

B.II. Measures at the frontier

B.II.1. Quantitative restrictions

There are no quantitative restrictions on live cattle or canned meat. There is a licensing control on beef with the exception of beef of United Kingdom origin.

B.II.2. Import duties

Live cattle - \$7.20 per head (not applicable to cattle of United Kingdom or Canadian origin).

Beef and beef offals. Duties vary from \$6.00 per 100 kilo for meat of United Kingdom origin to a maximum of \$13 per 100 kilo.

Canned beef. Duties vary from \$38 per 100 Kgs. United Kingdom to a maximum of \$54 per 100 Kgs.

There are no other measures of economic protection but veterinary precautions against the introduction of serious animal diseases, particularly foot-and-mouth disease, in effect preclude the importation of livestock or meat from areas other than the Six Counties.

C. CONSUMPTION AND INTERNAL PRICES

C.1. Statistical data on consumption

BEEF

Year	Total domestic consumption (metric tons)	Consumption per caput (kgs.)
1964	47,000	16.4
1965	45,000	15.7
1966	47,000	16.3

VEAL

Year	Total domestic consumption (metric tons)	Consumption per caput (kgs.)
1964	1,000	0.2
1965	1,000	0.2
1966	1,000	0.2

Figures for 1967 are not yet available.

C.2. Trends in consumption and estimates for 1970

In the period under review, domestic consumption of beef and veal has been comparatively static. By 1970, annual consumption is expected to be about 49,000 metric tons beef and 1,250 metric tons veal.

C.3. Retail and wholesale prices on internal markets

Wholesale prices

Live fat cattle

(Dublin Market)

(US\$ per 100 kgs.)

Average annual price

Seasonal variations
(quarterly)

		<u>Minimum</u> (Oct./Dec.)	<u>Maximum</u> (April/June)
1965	44.20	39.66	47.48
1966	41.53	33.95	48.41
1967	41.07	40.44	44.10

Retail prices of beef

(Representative cut)

(US\$ per kg.)

	<u>Mid-February</u>	<u>Mid-May</u>	<u>Mid-August</u>	<u>Mid-November</u>
1965	1.60	1.65	1.64	1.57
1966	1.60	1.67	1.64	1.57
1967	1.58	1.61	1.56	1.56

C.4. Factors which determine evolution of internal consumption

The level of domestic beef consumption is high as is the consumption of pigmeat and lamb. Apart from the obvious factors affecting consumption trends e.g. incomes, supply and prices, the main influence on beef consumption is the availability and comparative prices of other meat. For instance, the fall in beef consumption in 1965 was largely due to a rise in beef prices in that year coupled with a greater availability of pigmeat at more attractive price levels.

C.5. Policies and measures affecting consumption

There are no consumer subsidies, or domestic welfare, or promotion schemes affecting beef consumption. Some quantities of canned beef have been used in international welfare schemes but the quantities were not significant in regard to total production.

D. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PRICESD.1. Statistical data on the volume and value of imports and exports by source and destinationIMPORTS(i) Live cattle

Year	Number (1000 head)	Value (\$ million)	Origin
1965	101	20.2	United Kingdom
1966	75	12.4	United Kingdom
1967	157	23.1	United Kingdom

(ii) Beef

No significant imports

EXPORTS(i) Live cattle

(Quantity = '000 head. Value = \$ million)

Year	Total		United Kingdom		EEC	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1965	597	125.0	515	104.5	81	20.2
1966	625	121.8	563	109.2	52	11.2
1967	671	122.2	650	118.7	21	3.0

(ii) Beef

(Quantity = metric tons. Value = \$ million)

Year	Total		United Kingdom		EEC		United States	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1965	55,135	43.0	28,815	21.5	19,193	14.8	4,225	3.4
1966	70,153	55.1	42,306	30.1	8,146	6.7	19,022	17.0
1967	148,298	113.1	110,066	76.8	2,393	1.9	34,822	33.2

D.2. Levels of export prices prevailing in various markets; levels of import prices

Export prices (annual average f.o.b.)

Live animals

(Prices per head f.o.b. in \$)

	United Kingdom			EEC		
	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967
Fat cattle	218.0	197.8	186.4	249.5	233.0	226.0
Store cattle	193.1	182.9	182.2	-	-	-

Note:

Prices by weight are not available for live cattle exports but the following is a rough guide to the live weights of the types of animals referred to above.

Fat cattle 550 kgs.-700 kgs.

Store cattle 400 kgs.-500 kgs.

Import prices: (annual average c.i.f. in \$)

Live animals:

(Per head)

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
	201.71	170.63	148.43

Beef: No significant imports.

Seasonal variations in live cattle and beef export prices throughout the year are as follows:

Prices rise sharply in the early months of the year reaching their peak in April/May, level out during the Summer months and decline in the late Autumn. This is the normal pattern but there may be deviations from year to year depending on a variety of factors.

As regards average export prices in the period under review, prices were at a high level in 1965 and for the first six months of 1966. They then declined sharply and remained at a comparatively low level for the remainder of the three-year period. There has been a recovery in prices in 1968.

D.3. Export aid measures and policies

1. See reply to questions under B.I.3. above.
2. There are no stock management policies relating to exports.
3. There are no non-commercial transactions or policies affecting exports.

D.4. Bilateral agreements affecting imports and exports.

The main bilateral agreement affecting Irish cattle and beef exports is the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area Agreement, (see Section B.I.1).