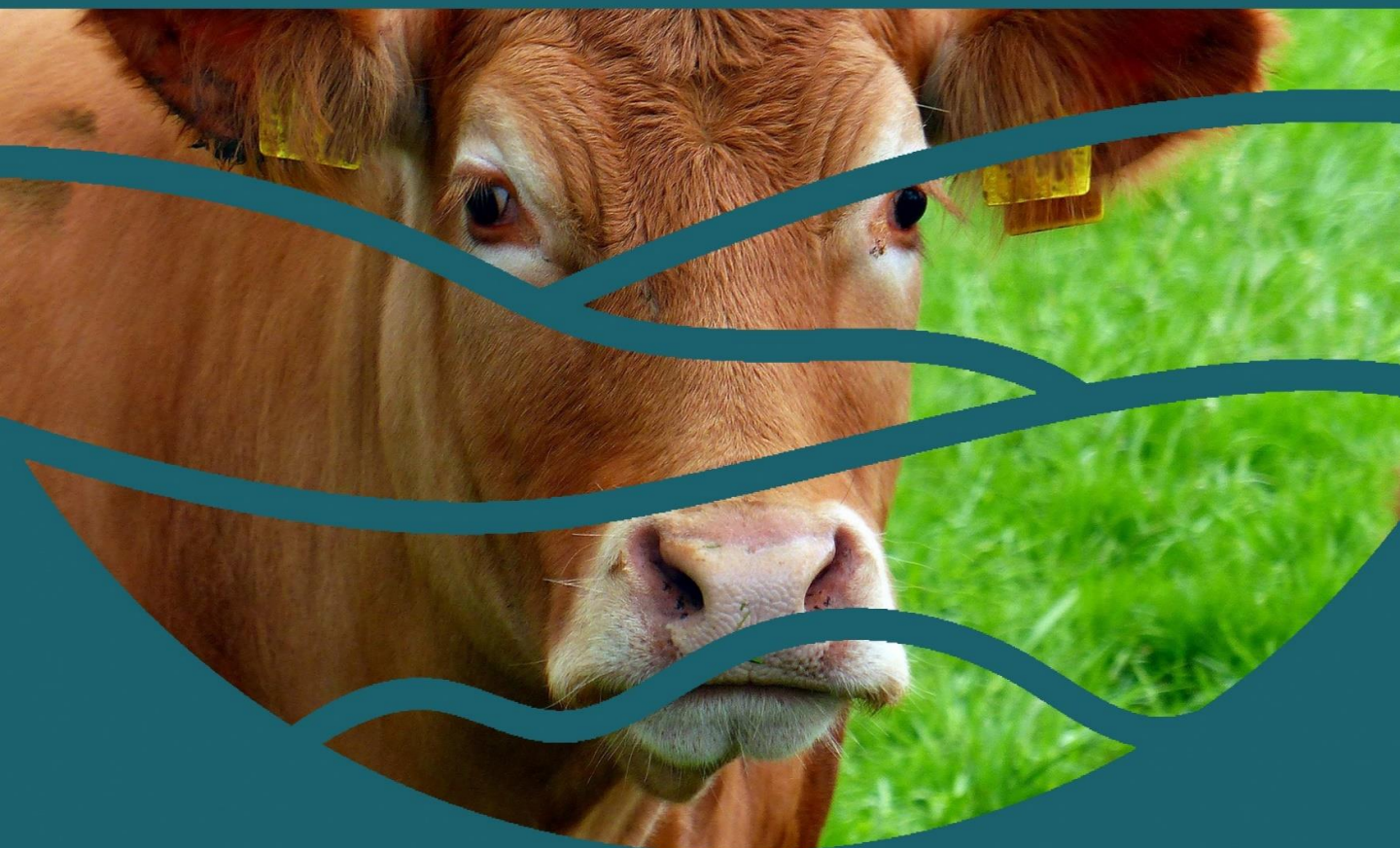




An Rialálaí Agraibhia
Agri-Food Regulator



Methodology Information

Weekly selling prices for Beef Forequarter,
Beef Hindquarter and Beef Minced Meat

March 2025



Introduction

An Rialálaí Agraibhia | Agri-Food Regulator (Regulator) was set up under the [Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023 \(2023 Act\)](#) to promote fairness and transparency in the agricultural and food supply chain.

The Regulator publishes weekly aggregate selling prices for the Beef Forequarter, Beef Hindquarter and a selling price for Beef Minced Meat (5% fat content) sold in 500g packs.

These values, as reported to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) under [S.I. No. 449/2021 - European Union \(Market Transparency\) Regulations 2021](#), provide a standardised baseline for comparing values across different Member States.

The provision of this information can enhance transparency in the supply chain by providing an estimate of the value accruing at the processing stage.



Background

Section 12 of the 2023 Act provides that the Regulator may 'seek from businesses within the agricultural and food supply chain any data impacting upon price and margins considered necessary'.

In pursuit of this function, the Regulator met with representatives of DAFM to discuss the methodology used to fulfil the reporting requirements under S.I. No. 449/2021 - European Union (Market Transparency) Regulations 2021, the Statutory Instrument responsible for implementing:

- *Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 (as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 and Regulation (EU) 2017/2393)*
- *Regulation (EU) 2017/1183 and Regulation (EU) 2017/1185 (as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1746)*

During these meetings, the Regulator came to understand the extensive engagement undertaken by DAFM with Meat Industry Ireland undertaken in conjunction with four of the largest beef processors (representing greater than 80% of the national beef kill) to define and agree the reporting process for Beef Forequarter, Beef Hindquarter and Beef Minced Meat (5% fat content) prices as required under S.I. No. 449/2021.

The Regulator met with representatives from ABP, Dawn Meats, Kepak and Liffey Meats in August and September 2024 and secured their agreement to sharing with the Regulator the weekly prices for Beef Forequarter, Beef Hindquarter and a Beef Minced Meat (5% fat content) as provided to DAFM under S.I. No. 449/2021.



DAFM Methodology

The methodology agreed between DAFM and the beef processors was to estimate the realised value accruing to processors from the sale of their output.

The method uses an average of the yield data for all bovine animals, captured by each processor from the previous year, to weight the value of cuts produced from the carcass. These weighted values are then reconstituted back into forequarter and hindquarter sections by each processor, as defined by a standardised cutting technique, to produce composite values for each section.

For beef quarters', the European Commission specified that either of two prices could be reported depending on the Member State situation as follows:

1. Price of the quarter sold as a whole
2. Price of the quarter reconstructed from the cuts prices.

In Ireland's case, the reconstructed method is more representative.

The standardised cutting technique used in this process is the 'Italian Pistola Cut'.

In addition to the production of a Beef Forequarter and Hindquarter value, a value for the selling price of Beef Minced Meat (5% fat content) sold in 500g packs is also produced.

A weighting based on the previous year's national beef kill is applied to the submitted values to create a single weighted average value for each of the three reported prices. These weekly weighted average values are then reported to the European Union.



This method was selected to satisfy the requirement of the EU Regulation with a view to realising the value accruing to processors with different customer bases and final demands.

Italian Pistola Cut

The price reporting structure as agreed by DAFM and the processors is based on an Italian Pistola Cut. The main feature of this cut is that it maximises yield and value by separating high value muscles and emphasises premium cuts.



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Methodology

The Regulator will receive a weekly national beef kill weighted selling price for a reconstituted Beef Forequarter, Beef Hindquarter and Beef Minced Meat (5% fat content) sold in 500g packs.

The Regulator will calculate and publish weekly and monthly prices changes.

The values provided represent selling prices and no costs are accounted for. The sale of beef as Forequarter and Hindquarter is not typical in Ireland.

Limitations of this process should be taken into consideration when interpreting these values.

*The weekly pricing information published for 2 March 2025 onwards by the Regulator is now using the national kill weighted beef pricing information. These prices are shared under agreement by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, ABP, Dawn Meats, Kepak and Liffey Meats.

The pricing information for all previous weeks has been replaced by the DAFM calculated values.



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