

# The Market Report

## Stratford Forthcoming Events

### Tuesday 19th December

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

Christmas Dressed Poultry Sale - 12 noon

### Tuesday 26th December

No Market

### Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

### Tuesday 9th January

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

*For further information regarding any of the sales  
please contact the Market Team*

Agricultural & Development Consultants, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers & Estate Agents

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## REPORT FOR TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER

### 119 Prime Lambs

Lighter lambs see a lift in the trade for best meat, more lean lambs forward that were drawn out of the fat and into the stores. Meat is continuing to find premiums. R Wixey topped the day pence per kilo with 36.5kg Texels to 278p/kg. PE Dickin topped the day overall with 51.5kg Suffolk lambs to £126.18. SQQ 250.59p/kg.

**Highlights** - TR Tame & Son topped with their Charollais lambs to 276p/kg for their 36kgs; RL Stone saw a high of 260p/kg for 43kgs Texels; WR Spencer penned their usual run of Charollais crosses with smart meat 40kgs to 258p/kg; FG Belcher & Sons saw a smart trade for heavier lambs with 48kg Texels crosses to 253p/kg.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
278p	£101.47	246p	£87.33	252.9p	£96.01
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
260p	£111.80	244p	£98.82	249p	£107.43
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
253p	£126.18	238p	£112.70	247.8p	£119.53

### 161 Store Lambs

A bigger entry forward this week with all grades, lean big frame lambs sold to a strong trade with the mid frame lambs looking the dearest sold. All in average of £79.02. TR Tame & Son topped the day with big framed Charollais to £99 and followers at £94.50, with their Suffolks at £93; K Elgar saw a run of Romneys sell to £92, £87 and £85 for well grown but lean lambs; RE Greenhill topped their run with mid frame Texel crosses to £88. Very little sold under £78, with only the smallest frame lambs sub £65.

To	From	Average
£99.00	£32.00	£79.02



Click the link to view our Stratford Facebook page for further up to date information about our sales pre and post sale.

<https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLivestockMarket/>

Our chaplain Rev. Richard Wilde, Methodist Minister, member of the Agricultural Chaplains Association and the Farming Community Network will be in attendance at the market on Tuesdays for a chat, if you would like to talk.

[richardwilde.FCN@gmail.com](mailto:richardwilde.FCN@gmail.com)

## 74 Cull Ewes & Rams

Culls remain a constant trade with meat and weight driving the price. All in average £68.54. T Swift topped the day with Texel rams to £123; S Belcher esq topped with thick Continental ewes to £100; RM Eglin & Son saw their Continental ewes to £96 with a run of Chamoise ewes at £70, £63 and £62; MJ & M Cole topped the Mules for the day with big framed meat to £80. Leaner well bred types were in the £70's with feeders around £60.

To	From	Average
£123.00	£41.00	£68.54

The annual sale of dressed poultry at the last sale before Christmas is a high point in the year with an atmosphere of good cheer in the crowd of buyers and sellers. Along with the carol singing, snacks and drinks before the sale its building up a sense of anticipation for us all. When, in ancient times, it was decided to fix a feast to mark the birth of Jesus Christ it made sense to repurpose the existing winter solstice festivals with the feast of Christmas. Perhaps placing it the day before St Stephen's day was not so well thought through. Stephen was the first follower of Jesus to be martyred for his faith which his persecutors saw as blasphemous. (The account of the mock trial and execution are in 'The Acts of the Apostles' chapter 7). The celebration of a birth one day and the marking of a cruel death the next...

Midwinter was a good choice to mark the birth of the Christ child with a feast was, and is, sound. I think that by the time we reach the shortest day we are ready for a gathering with good food – prime meat from the sale perhaps!- a warm place and family or friends to share with. Add in generous giving and receiving of carefully chosen gifts, stories to tell and an atmosphere of celebration and the scene is set for Christmas day. I hope you all have such an experience this year. I am also aware that St Stephen's day – 26th December is a reminder that Jesus was born into a world which was and is a place of injustice, inhospitality and even death. The current war in Israel/Palestine brings us face to face with the reality of flawed human values which lead to war over land and power.

There is little we can do about that conflict except pray that courageous peace brokers might rise up, pray for the victims of war and pray for the neutral agencies who risk life and limb to deliver aid. We can also be grateful that we live with peace and stability in our time and place. And we can remember and try and live up to the example of the One whose birthday our feasting and celebrating are in honour of. One who was born to be the "Prince of Peace"...

*Rev Richard Wilde*



# Christmas Dressed Poultry Sale

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
at 12 noon*

**To be held at Stratford Livestock Market**

Entries are invited to include all types of oven ready birds and meats.

Sections include: Turkeys, Chickens, Guinea Fowl,  
Ducks Partridge & Pheasants.

Long Legged & Other Poultry sections will also be available.

**Entry Forms available online or from the Market Office**