

# Ulster Farmers' Union *UPDATE*

THIS WEEK

23rd December 2016

**Renewable heat incentive** – Members will be aware of the controversy around the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. The situation has been fast moving and the Union has been following developments closely, as well as carrying out discussions internally. Members who are involved with the RHI will have received letters from the Department of Economy asking them to object by 10<sup>th</sup> January if they do not want their names published. The Union is currently considering this, and other issues associated with the operation of the RHI scheme, and intends to issue guidance in advance of this disclosure deadline.

**ANC options** – The UFU met with DAERA this week about the future of the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) scheme and has called on the department to ensure it 'keeps its option open when it comes to the ANC scheme'. The Minister has said she will extend the scheme but only for 2018. **Read the full story here <http://bit.ly/2i0Qafo>**

**Book now - 2017 Arable Conference** - Book your place for the 2017 'Adapting to Change' - Agronomy and Business Management Conference for Arable Growers. Visit [www.ufuni.org/events](http://www.ufuni.org/events) to book a place. Cost: £25.00 (after 5th January, cost is £30)

**Date for your diary** – don't miss the UFU's Winter Road Shows starting early in the New Year. The meetings have a new format and will focus on the future of farming. These road show events are an opportunity to hear members' views, and for them to put questions directly to the UFU leadership team. The focus will be on the facilitated panel discussion and we are expecting lots of questions and a spirited debate.

**All meetings start at 8pm**

- **Monday 9th January**, Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh  
Chairperson – David Wright, Irish Farmers' Journal
- **Wednesday 11th January**, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh, County Armagh  
Chairperson – Robert Irwin, Farm Week
- **Monday 16th January**, Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena, County Antrim  
Chairperson – Ruth Sanderson, BBC
- **Wednesday 18th January**, Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh, County Tyrone  
Chairperson – Conor Macauley, BBC
- **Monday 23th January**, Roe Park Resort, Limavady, County Londonderry  
Chairperson – Richard Halleron, Farming Life
- **Wednesday 25th January**, Millbrook Lodge, Ballynahinch, County Down  
Chairperson – Karen Patterson, BBC

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**Rural schools** - The Ulster Farmers' Union has written to the Education Minister, Peter Weir to express concern regarding the potential detrimental implications the Providing Pathways Draft Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 may have on rural schools. **Read the full story here <http://bit.ly/2iaN6R9>**

**FBIS Capital Scheme - Tier 2** - Tier 2 of the FBIS Capital Scheme is now open with the application window closing at 4pm on 24th February 2017. Visit <http://bit.ly/2hVcRkD> for a step by step guide on how to apply.

## Beef price watch


The table demonstrates the beef quotes for steers each week compared with the official steer prices paid by Northern Ireland plants. The difference between the average price quoted and prices paid for the week is displayed in brackets. \*\*Source – Livestock and Meat Commission.



## Beef Price Watch

NI BASE CATTLE QUOTES VS OFFICIAL STEER PRICES

		U-3	R-3	O+3	P+3
28:11:16	Quotes	344-348	338-342	332-336	296
04:12:16	Prices paid	356	355	354	308
05:12:16	Quotes	344-350	338-344	332-338	296
11:12:16	Prices paid	357	355	354	310
12:12:16	Quotes	342-350	336-344	330-338	298
18:12:16	Prices paid	358	355	353	312



**UFU recruitment** - Following the UK's vote to leave the EU, the UFU has been carrying out an internal review of its staffing structure to ensure it has the capacity to deal with the issues arising out of 'Brexit'. The review was recently completed and the UFU Board and Executive have approved several recommendations which include the recruitment of additional staff. The UFU are currently advertising for a Policy Manager and an Internal Services Manager. Visit [www.ufuni.org](http://www.ufuni.org) for more information. **Closing date for applications 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**



**We would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.**

**Please note: UFU HQ is closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and will reopen 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.**

### UFU MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

→ For up to date fuel prices for UFU members using the UFU Maxol Fuel Card visit the new UFU website <http://www.ufuni.org/membership/services>