

### Update on fallen stock collections 2013 compared to 2012

Fallen stock collectors working under the National Fallen Stock Company's scheme are making extensive use of the "Ten+" and Special Services category, reports The National Fallen Stock Company. This effectively offers farmers bulk discounts off normal collection prices, with one collector in a hardship area known to be offering discounts of 20%, and another negotiating on a case-by-case basis. Other collectors are offering to send bulkers direct to the worst affected farms to pick-up fallen stock.

The initial assessment of stock losses for January to the end March 2013, compared to the same period in 2012, is:

<b>Sheep</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Diff</b>	<b>% Diff</b>
<b>England</b>	61918	52401	9517	18.16%
<b>Scotland</b>	33654	27636	6018	21.78%
<b>Wales</b>	42364	39162	3202	8.18%
<b>NI</b>	10711	9538	1173	12.30%
<b>Total</b>	148647	128737	19910	15.47%

NB: This data includes the category "container / bag of lambs" and "unweighed skip, sheep", which do not identify how many animals are inside. Consequently these figures are the minimum.

<b>Cattle</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Diff</b>	<b>% Diff</b>
<b>England</b>	37651	36491	1160	3.18%
<b>Scotland</b>	18527	17532	995	5.68%
<b>Wales</b>	8400	7542	858	11.38%
<b>NI</b>	18305	16589	1716	10.34%
<b>Total</b>	82883	78154	4729	6.05%

The current statistics will largely exclude losses from the most badly hit regions, as the snow will still be masking dead animals. The data will be revised upwards as more data is received from collectors.

NFSCo chairman Michael Seals paid credit to the collectors working on behalf of the scheme in difficult conditions, and said his Board is discussing ways to help farmers in hardship regions. He urged farmers to use NFSCo scheme collectors where possible to enable the most accurate figures on losses to be collated, and in order to put their businesses in the best position to receive hardship payments in light of already announced or potential Government compensation packages.