



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday December 16, 2004



The following information is collected from various sources and disseminated by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

FEDERAL FED CATTLE SET-ASIDE AUCTION

Week of December 15, 2004

Number of registered bidders	Number of participants accepted	Weighted Average feed cost bid
389	41	\$1.48

ONTARIO DIRECT TO PACKER RAILGRADE CATTLE TRADE

This is a summary for the week of rail grade prices on a carcass weight basis, before grade and weight discounts.

	Price Range	Last Week
A grade steers	139-141	139-142
A grade heifers	139-140	139-140

ONTARIO LIVE CATTLE TRADE

Ontario auction sales this week saw weighted average price ranges for

FED CATTLE

	Price Range	Average	Top	Last week avg.
Large Frame Steers +1250	60.38-85.24	74.78	95.25	79.33
Medium Frame Steers +1250	64.65-84.84	75.73	91.25	75.22
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	61.37-85.75	75.19	95.25	78.37
Large Frame Heifers +1000	67.36-83.63	76.37	104.00	79.07
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	64.42-78.94	73.74	84.50	73.02
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	67.30-83.84	75.88	104.00	77.69
Cows-all weights	11.08-19.18	15.13	41.00	17.07
Bulls-all weights	17.23-28.69	22.76	70.00	23.95

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	71.99-88.18	81.53	96.25
900-999	81.52-94.02	89.03	99.25
800-899	84.78-97.20	92.45	102.00
700-799	74.84-98.58	89.20	110.00
600-699	79.36-109.54	97.75	115.00
500-599	89.60-117.11	104.44	127.00
400-499	85.77-119.44	103.60	129.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	65.71-83.19	76.58	92.75
800-899	71.87-87.85	81.74	94.00

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700-799	68.21-89.10	80.27	94.75
600-699	67.77-95.80	83.34	105.50
500-599	70.73-100.52	87.87	107.00
400-499	70.57-102.71	88.52	115.00

Talbotville Livestock Exchange: December 11, 2004

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	75.00-85.00	114.00
Good & choice heifers	73.00-84.00	96.00
Cows	14.00-19.00	24.50
Bulls	17.00-23.00	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, BRUSSELS: December 10, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	80.00-91.00	95.25	900+	72.50-87.25	92.75
900-999	86.00-94.75	99.00	800-899	75.50-89.25	94.00
800-899	82.00-101.00	101.00	700-799	71.00-92.25	93.00
700-799	86.00-102.00	110.00	600-699	79.00-101.00	102.75
600-699	85.50-111.25	111.25	500-599	80.00-103.75	103.75
500-599	91.00-115.25	127.00	400-499	78.00-110.50	115.00
400-499	103.00-127.00	127.00	300-399	81.00-107.00	113.00

Stocker Sale: Kawartha Lakes Co-operative Auction Market Inc.: December 11, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	50.00-80.75	80.75	+900	40.00-72.75	72.75
900-999	43.00-75.50	75.50	800-899	47.00-75.50	75.50
800-899	62.00-84.00	84.00	700-799	59.00-90.00	90.00
700-799	70.00-95.00	95.00	600-699	56.50-99.75	99.75
600-699	60.00-108.75	108.75	500-599	54.00-99.50	99.50
500-599	66.00-110.50	110.50	400-499	54.00-93.50	93.50
400-499	60.00-116.00	116.00			

Stocker Sale: Temiskaming: December 13, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
600-699	80.00-101.00	104.00	600-699	56.00-85.00	85.00
500-599	85.00-111.00	111.00	500-599	70.00-86.00	86.00
400-499	90.50-105.50	105.50	400-499	65.00-92.50	103.00
-399	61.00-111.50		300-399	80.00-105.00	105.00

Stocker Sale: D.H. Hickson, HOARD'S STATION: December 14, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	59.00-89.50	89.50	+900	23.00-53.00	76.50
600-699	60.00-104.00	104.00	600-699	45.00-83.00	83.00

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500-599	63.00-113.00	113.00	500-599	50.50-99.00	99.00
400-499	65.00-123.00	123.00	400-499	53.00-109.00	109.00

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock: December 14, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	76.50-94.75	94.75	+900	82.00-89.25	89.25
800-899	91.75-98.25	102.00	800-899	77.50-90.00	90.00
700-799	87.50-103.50	103.50	700-799	85.00-89.25	89.25
600-699	84.50-111.00	112.50	600-699	77.00-95.75	95.75
500-599	108.00-123.50	125.00	500-599	85.50-107.00	107.00
400-499	104.00-129.00	129.00	400-499	82.00-104.00	111.00

Sale: Denfield Livestock: December 14, 2004

	Price Range
Choice steers	90.00-95.00
Good steers	77.00-84.00
Plain steers	60.00-70.00
Overaged steers	35.00-40.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	90.00-95.00
Good heifers	75.00-82.00
Plain heifers	60.00-70.00
Good feedlot cows	25.00-35.00
D1 and D2 cows	20.00-25.00
D3 and D4 cows	15.00-20.00
Good beef bulls	25.00-40.00
Good Holstein bulls	20.00-25.00

Stocker Sale: Ontario Livestock Exchange: December 15, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	85.00-95.00	96.25	+900	78.00-88.50	88.50
900-999	88.75-97.00	99.25	700-799	87.00-93.25	94.75

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – December 16 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	80.00-95.00	96.50	+900	50.00-74.50	86.50
700-799	72.00-102.00	104.00	800-899	66.00-90.00	90.00
600-699	88.50-115.00	115.00	700-799	55.00-93.00	93.0
500-599	93.50-123.00	124.50	600-699	60.00-92.50	100.00
400-499	84.00-118.25	125.00	500-599	69.00-101.00	104.50
300-399	78.00-112.00	121.50	400-499	71.00-100.50	100.50

Stocker Sale: Ontario Livestock Exchange – December 16 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
600-699	69.00-90.00	107.50	500-599	49.00-80.50	92.00
500-599	73.00-97.00	112.00	400-499	58.00-98.00	102.00
400-499	75.00-101.50	104.00			

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Stocker Sale: **Tri-County – December 16 2004**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	72.00-87.00	87.75	+900	62.50-89.00	89.00
900-999	65.50-87.50	87.50	600-699	85.00-105.50	105.50

Stocker Sale: **Leo's – December 16 2004**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
600-699	75.00-102.00	103.00	500-599	69.00-95.00	101.00
500-599	78.00-108.00	111.00	400-499	74.00-98.00	114.00

Stocker Sale: **Brussel's – December 16 2004**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
400-499	81.00-116.50	118.00	400-499	85.00-105.25	105.25
-399	70.00-124.00	131.00	300-399	75.00-103.00	105.00

ONTARIO BRED COWS

Ontario Stockyards: December 10, 2004 Volume: 240 cows

	Exotic and Exotic X	British and British X
Top quality bred cows	\$600 – 700	
Avg quality bred cows	\$350 - 600	\$350 - 550

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday December 16, 2004**

Steers	Live	80.35-83.65	Flat rail	137.00-140.50
Heifers	Live	80.00-83.75	Flat rail	139.00-140.50

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES

Week ending	Light AAA	Heavy AAA	Light AA	Heavy AA
December 10, 2004	1.6292	1.6631	1.5624	1.5836

U.S. TRADE (U.S. funds)

Week ending **December 16, 2004**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	86.00
	Rail	135.00

U.S. BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES

	Choice			Select		
	600-900	600-750	750-900	600-900	600-750	750-900
Current 5 day average:	138.46	140.85	138.36	132.17	133.49	132.30

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
Dec. 4, 2004	838	777
Nov. 29, 2003	865	805

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Dec. 4, 2004	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	69,281	3,415,693	127%
Alberta Slaughter	47,944	2,392,691	128%
Ontario Slaughter	13,310	589,791	117%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending Dec. 11, 2004	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	627,000	585,000	614,000

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 1 – Dec 11	Mexico Jan 1 – Oct 9
Total	291,988 tonnes	69,830 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Dec 11	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	75,579 tonnes	196,167 tonnes	-61.5%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – Dec 11	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	1,134,596 tonnes	922,114 tonnes	+23.0%
Non-fed	129,386 tonnes	108,858 tonnes	+18.9%

CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

Closing quotes on futures today were as follows:

Live Cattle			Feeder Cattle			Corn			Soybeans			Canadian \$		
\$/cwt US			\$/cwt US			\$/bu US		¢/bu	\$/bu US		¢/bu			
Dec	88.35	+1.75	Jan	103.25	+1.47	Mar	2.044	+1.0	Jan	5.486	+4.2	Spot	81.57	+0.64
Feb	89.85	+1.87	Mar	99.17	+1.65	May	2.116	+0.4	Mar	5.440	+2.0	Mar	81.48	+0.53
Apr	86.75	+1.32	Apr	97.52	+1.02	Jul	2.194	+0.4	May	5.470	+2.0	Jun	81.54	+0.53
Jun	81.75	+0.92	May	97.25	+1.00	Sep	2.266	+0.0	Jul	5.524	+1.2	Sep	81.64	+0.53

Week Ending December 17, 2004

Total registered participants in the Federal Fed Cattle Set-Aside Program is 389 with 41 producers accepted in the program. This week the weighted average feed cost bid is \$1.48/head/day. The bids open every Monday at 2:00 p.m. and close every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. To register, call 1-888-292-5856.

Ontario fed cattle trade was feeling some pressure this week. There were 2,178 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$75.19 down \$3.18 and the average heifer price was \$75.88 down \$1.81. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold on a dull demand with prices lower.

The cow trade in Ontario remained about steady to a touch lower with the last couple of weeks. The

volume of cows sold through Ontario auction markets was 2,060 with an average price of \$15.13 down \$1.94 from last week. Auction markets reported cows traded on a good demand with prices steady to \$2 lower. Although cow prices remain extremely low, last year at this time they were \$5.00 lower than they are now.

Replacement cattle sold strong again this week. Volume sold was 8,333 down 7.1% from last week and up 22% from last year. Auction markets reported stocker cattle sold actively on a good demand at steady prices.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were about steady as steers sold \$139-141 and heifers sold \$139-140.

In Alberta, trade was moderately active with prices steady. Steers sold at \$80.35-83.65 live and \$137.00-140.50 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$80.00-83.75 live and \$139.00-140.50 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was moderately active as steers and heifers sold at \$86.00 live and \$135.00 dressed.

Local beef trade was basically unchanged from the last couple of weeks. Trading was erratic. Pricing was steady to weak. Inventory movement is slow.