



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday January 6, 2005



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

IMPORTANT

Please read the attached press release from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food on
[**"FEEDER CATTLE SET-ASIDE PROGRAM RESUMED"**](#)

FEDERAL FED CATTLE SET-ASIDE AUCTION

Week of Jan 5, 2005

Number of registered bidders	Number of participants accepted	Weighted Average feed cost bid
433	49	\$1.47

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	145-150	Unestablished
A grade heifers	144-149	Unestablished

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	78.85-95.69	88.53	108.00	79.45
Medium Frame Steers +1250	64.29-94.61	82.34	99.50	80.64
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	76.86-96.18	87.92	108.50	79.96
Large Frame Heifers +1000	82.81-95.47	88.33	103.50	78.62
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	68.03-85.09	79.49	91.75	77.21
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	79.14-94.92	86.75	103.50	77.61
Cows-all weights	10.58-20.29	15.29	52.00	14.57
Bulls-all weights	19.45-31.18	24.92	51.00	27.32

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	81.01-93.47	87.78	101.00
900-999	85.12-89.61	87.40	101.00
800-899	82.87-92.68	88.80	104.00
700-799	86.35-101.18	94.49	105.50
600-699	83.37-106.48	97.24	117.00
500-599	88.73-112.86	104.18	121.00
400-499	92.62-112.89	101.54	122.25

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	71.98-76.91	74.61	86.25

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800-899	78.70-85.48	81.97	95.00
700-799	74.27-96.26	87.20	101.00
600-699	81.99-97.38	89.57	102.00
500-599	87.02-101.58	96.83	108.00
400-499	93.53-108.08	102.21	112.00

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, December 31, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	77.50-94.75	94.75	900+	78.50-83.50	83.50
900-999	92.25-94.00	94.00	800-899	83.50-90.00	95.00
800-899	89.75-96.50	96.50	700-799	77.50-99.00	99.00
700-799	91.00-103.75	103.75	600-699	86.00-101.00	102.00
600-699	95.50-109.50	109.50	500-599	96.00-108.00	108.00
500-599	101.00-115.50	115.50	400-499	98.00-112.00	112.00
400-499	96.50-116.00	119.00			

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards, December 30, 2004

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	84.50-94.50	94.50	600-699	76.00-101.50	101.50
700-799	85.75-102.25	103.50	500-599	70.50-94.50	102.50
600-699	79.00-103.25	109.50	400-499	68.00-92.25	104.50
500-599	100.00-117.00	117.00			
400-499	94.00-116.00	116.00			

Denfield Livestock: January 4, 2005

	Price Range
Choice steers	90.00-100.00
Good steers	80.00-90.00
Plain steers	70.00-80.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	100.00-105.25
Good heifers	80.00-90.00
Plain heifers	65.00-75.00
Good fed cows	30.00-40.00
D1 & D2 cows	20.00-25.00
D3 & D4 cows	15.00-20.00
Good fed bulls	25.00-35.00
Holstein bulls	20.00-25.00

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – January 6, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	82.50-101.00	105.50			
600-699	89.00-107.50	117.00			
500-599	91.50-116.75	121.00	500-599	80.00-107.00	107.00
400-499	106.00-122.25	122.25	400-499	97.00-106.00	109.00

Stocker Sale: Tri-County – January 6, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top			
+1000	94.50-101.00	101.00			

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending [Thursday January 6, 2005](#)

Steers	Live	82.50-87.40	Flat rail	139.50-145.50
Heifers	Live	84.20-84.50	Flat rail	141.00-142.60

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

Week ending [January 6, 2005](#)

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	88.00
	Rail	139.00-140.00

U.S. BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES (U.S. funds)

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	140.20	133.42

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
Dec 25, 2004	835	774
Dec 20, 2003	858	800

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Dec. 25, 2004	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	51,863	3,611,947	125%
Alberta Slaughter	34,158	2,526,782	126%
Ontario Slaughter	9,403	623,623	116%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending Jan. 1, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	538,000	497,000	440,000

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 4 – Dec 25	Mexico Jan 1 – Oct 30
Total	302,628 tonnes	73,026 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Dec 18	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	79,223 tonnes	200,238 tonnes	-60.4%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – Dec 25	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	1,172,721 tonnes	954,442 tonnes	+22.9%
Non-fed	135,334 tonnes	112,345 tonnes	+20.5%

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			
Feb	88.92	+0.57	Jan	103.80	+0.60	Mar	2.066	-2.0	Jan	5.516	+10.0	Spot	81.08	+0.21
Apr	87.75	+1.10	Mar	98.80	+1.02	May	2.146	-1.2	Mar	5.422	+9.6	Mar	81.12	+0.20
Jun	81.55	+0.92	Apr	97.75	+0.90	Jul	2.214	-0.6	May	5.464	+10.2	Jun	81.18	+0.20
Aug	80.32	+0.60	May	97.50	+0.70	Sep	2.282	-1.0	Jul	5.516	+9.2	Sep	81.28	+0.20

Week Ending January 6, 2005

2005 brings a New Year with a new positive message. On December 29 it was announced that the U.S. would be opening their border to Canada allowing live cattle and all beef products under 30 months of age to enter effective March 7. Live cattle entering the U.S. must move in a sealed container to a feedlot or to slaughter and not move to more than one feedlot. This announcement will hopefully put confidence back into the live cattle market in Canada.

Total registered participants in the Federal Fed Cattle Set-Aside Program is 433 with 49 producers accepted in the program. This week the weighted average feed cost bid is \$1.47/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.

A tight supply of Ontario fed cattle made a remarkable price recovery this week. There were 3,767 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$87.92 up \$12.73 compared to the last full trading week before Christmas and the average heifer price was \$86.75 up \$10.87 compared to the last full trading week before Christmas. Auction markets reported fed cattle selling actively at prices anywhere from \$5-10 higher than last week.

The cow trade in Ontario remained about steady with the last full trading week in 2004. The volume of cows sold through Ontario auction markets this week was 1,744 with an average price of \$15.29. Auction markets similarly reported mostly steady prices for cull cows.

Due to the short trading week, replacement cattle trade remained on the light side with Auction markets reporting steady to stronger prices. Volume sold was only 1,319, which is approximately 7000 head fewer cattle traded compared to the last full trading week before the holidays.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices saw a significant increase as steers sold \$145-150 and heifers sold \$144-149.

In Alberta, cattle markets were under pressure compared to last week, but were generally \$2 stronger compared to the last full trading week before the holidays. Steers sold at \$82.50-87.40 live and \$139.50-145.50 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$84.20-84.50 live and \$141.00-142.60 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was moderately active as steers and heifers sold at \$88.00 live and \$139.00-140.00 dressed.

In addition to an improvement in the local fed cattle trade, local beef trade also started to rebound from the holidays with demand deemed fairly good.

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