



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday January 13, 2005



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

FEDERAL FED CATTLE SET-ASIDE AUCTION

Week of Jan 12, 2005

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Number of registered bidders | Number of participants accepted | Weighted Average feed cost bid |
| 440 | 40 | \$1.44 |

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 | 150-155 | 145-150 |
| A grade heifers | 150-153 | 144-149 |

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 | 78.30-93.58 | 86.81 | 110.00 | 88.53 |
| Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 72.86-91.14 | 84.93 | 106.25 | 82.34 |
| Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 77.46-93.24 | 86.57 | 110.00 | 87.92 |
| Large Frame Heifers +1000 | 77.75-94.15 | 86.08 | 103.75 | 88.33 |
| Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 66.60-90.90 | 81.56 | 100.25 | 79.49 |
| Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 76.71-94.36 | 85.68 | 103.75 | 86.75 |
| Cows-all weights | 9.61-19.35 | 14.46 | 57.00 | 15.29 |
| Bulls-all weights | 22.90-39.21 | 29.92 | 82.50 | 24.92 |

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

| STEERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1000+ | 82.23-93.79 | 88.79 | 104.75 |
| 900-999 | 97.47-101.31 | 99.58 | 105.25 |
| 800-899 | 81.90-98.36 | 91.92 | 108.00 |
| 700-799 | 73.80-103.87 | 92.45 | 115.75 |
| 600-699 | 91.84-113.16 | 104.65 | 127.25 |
| 500-599 | 95.65-119.30 | 107.74 | 133.00 |
| 400-499 | 89.93-118.97 | 108.97 | 141.00 |

| HEIFERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| 900+ | 83.54-94.22 | 89.48 | 99.60 |
| 800-899 | 80.46-90.62 | 86.28 | 97.00 |
| 700-799 | 72.76-93.80 | 85.78 | 100.25 |
| 600-699 | 75.33-94.53 | 87.60 | 100.00 |
| 500-599 | 81.37-105.59 | 93.81 | 118.25 |
| 400-499 | 81.20-99.41 | 89.73 | 117.00 |

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday January 8, 2005

| | Price Range | Top |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| Good & choice steers | 83.00-100.00 | 111.50 |
| Good & choice heifers | 80.00-95.00 | 116.00 |
| Cows | 16.00-25.00 | 35.00 |
| Bulls | 25.00-45.00 | |

All classes of steers and heifers sold strong to higher. Cows sold higher.

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, January 7, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|---------------|--------|
| 1000+ | 79.75-98.50 | 98.50 | 900+ | 80.50-95.50 | 95.50 |
| 900-999 | 92.00-98.00 | 98.00 | 800-899 | 90.25-97.00 | 97.00 |
| 800-899 | 90.50-100.00 | 100.00 | 700-799 | 88.00-100.00 | 100.00 |
| 700-799 | 56.00-104.00 | 108.50 | 600-699 | 77.00-92.50 | 97.00 |
| 600-699 | 101.00-111.50 | 111.50 | 500-599 | 95.00-116.00 | 116.00 |
| 500-599 | 111.00-121.00 | 121.00 | 400-499 | 102.00-110.00 | 117.00 |
| 400-499 | 112.00-125.00 | 125.00 | | | |

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – January 13, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 700-799 | 67.00-106.75 | 106.75 | 700-799 | 69.00-100.25 | 100.25 |
| 600-699 | 97.00-109.00 | 109.00 | 600-699 | 90.00-97.75 | 97.75 |
| 500-599 | 107.00-124.00 | 124.00 | 500-599 | 80.00-104.00 | 111.50 |
| 400-499 | 92.00-117.00 | 126.00 | 400-499 | 75.00-94.50 | 108.00 |

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

| Week ending – January 7, 2005 | AAA | AA |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Cutout value | 1.6900 | 1.609 |
| Can. – U.S. difference | -0.048 | -0.042 |

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending Thursday January 13, 2005

| | | | | |
|---------|------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Steers | Live | 82.00-85.00 | Flat rail | 140.00-141.85 |
| Heifers | Live | 83.00-85.60 | Flat rail | 140.00-142.25 |

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

Week ending January 13, 2005

| | | |
|--|------|-------------|
| Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers: | Live | 90.00-93.00 |
| | Rail | 145.00 |

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

| | Choice | Select |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 600-900 | 600-900 |
| Current 5 day average: | 149.82 | 143.01 |

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

| | STEERS | HEIFERS |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Jan. 1, 2005 | 835 | 768 |

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| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Dec. 27, 2003 | 861 | 817 |
|---------------|-----|-----|

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

| | Week Ending Jan. 1, 2005 | YTD | % of Yr. Ago |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Grand Total | 51,520 | 3,663,467 | 125% |
| Alberta Slaughter | 39,435 | 2,566,217 | 126% |
| Ontario Slaughter | 6,444 | 630,067 | 116% |

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

| | Week Ending Jan. 8, 2005 | Last Week | Year Ago |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Grand Total | 574,000 | 538,000 | 561,000 |

BEEF EXPORTS

| | United States Jan 2– Jan 8 | Mexico Jan 4 – Nov. 13/04 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total | 5,236 tonnes | 76,543 tonnes |

BEEF IMPORTS

| | Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2004 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Total | 82,340 tonnes | 201,300 tonnes | -59.1% |

BEEF PRODUCTION

| | Jan 1 – Jan 8 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| Fed | 19,335 tonnes | 22,734 tonnes | -15.0% |
| Non-fed | 2,954 tonnes | 2,224 tonnes | +32.9% |

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 | | | |
| Feb | 91.32 | +0.15 | Jan | 105.85 | -0.30 | Mar | 1.972 | -2.6 | Jan | 5.420 | -15.4 | Spot | 81.95 | -1.29 | |
| Apr | 89.15 | -0.37 | Mar | 102.15 | -0.25 | May | 2.046 | -2.6 | Mar | 5.194 | -17.0 | Mar | 81.93 | -1.25 | |
| Jun | 83.37 | +0.02 | Apr | 100.60 | -0.22 | Jul | 2.120 | -2.6 | May | 5.226 | -16.2 | Jun | 82.00 | -1.24 | |
| Aug | 81.32 | -0.07 | May | 99.95 | -0.17 | Sep | 2.190 | -3.0 | Jul | 5.286 | -16.0 | Sep | 82.11 | -1.23 | |

Week Ending January 14, 2004

Total registered participants in the Federal Fed Cattle Set-Aside Program is 440 with 40 producers accepted in the program. This week the weighted average feed cost bid is \$1.44/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 continued to sell on a steady market after last week's stronger prices. There were 1,837 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$86.57 down \$1.35 and the average heifer price was \$85.68 down \$1.07. Most auction markets reported fed cattle sold mostly steady while one auction called the market dull with barely steady prices.

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The cow trade in Ontario remained about steady. The volume of cows sold through auction markets this week was 2,118 with an average price of \$14.46 down \$0.83. Auction markets similarly reported mostly steady prices for cull cows.

Replacement cattle sold very strong at much higher prices. Volume sold was 3,022 up 86% from last year at this time. Auction markets reported cattle sold actively with calves \$5-10 higher and yearlings \$5-7 higher.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices saw another significant increase of \$5 as steers sold \$150-155 and heifers sold \$150-153.

In Alberta, cattle markets were moderately active with prices steady starting the week lower and continuing steady through the week. Steers sold at \$82.00-85.00 live and \$140.00-141.85 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$83.00-85.60 live and \$140.00-142.25 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was active in all areas with higher prices as steers and heifers sold at \$90.00-93.00 live and \$145.00 dressed.

Local beef trade saw fairly good movement with steady prices. A few cuts still dragging are top butts, sirloin and ribs.