



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday March 10, 2005



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

The Federal Fed Cattle Set-aside program auction is continuing weekly. The Management Committee has decided to reduce the minimum average weight requirement for market ready cattle eligible for entry into the fed cattle set aside program. The minimum average pen weight will be reduced from 1300 to 1200 pounds for steers and from 1200 to 1100 pounds for heifers. Producers interested in participating must register by calling 1-888-292-5856. Auctions run every Monday at 2:00 to Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

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	148.00-149.00	158.00-160.00
A grade heifers	147.00-148.00	158.00-159.00

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	78.90-93.22	86.10	100.00	92.95
Medium Frame Steers +1250	79.82-89.59	84.24	97.75	90.26
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	78.56-92.18	85.37	100.00	92.43
Large Frame Heifers +1000	78.69-87.72	83.58	97.75	92.59
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	64.90-83.44	74.42	94.75	85.49
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	76.07-88.11	82.76	97.75	91.84
Cows-all weights	21.79-36.12	28.96	55.00	26.04
Bulls-all weights	30.35-44.24	37.04	74.00	35.16

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	65.28-92.13	81.29	96.75
900-999	87.51-96.95	94.06	105.00
800-899	92.04-100.73	97.45	116.25
700-799	89.40-106.44	97.21	111.00
600-699	88.61-107.69	98.86	116.50
500-599	98.71-115.05	108.49	125.00
400-499	113.04-123.47	119.24	127.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
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900+	65.61-78.15	73.50	89.50
800-899	79.01-87.83	85.51	97.50
700-799	73.26-90.00	86.32	101.00
600-699	79.29-95.04	87.55	108.00
500-599	76.28-98.40	87.46	108.00
400-499	78.22-99.78	90.54	108.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday March 5, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	78.00-92.50	
Good & choice heifers	76.00-89.00	94.00
Cows	25.00-38.00	47.50
Bulls	27.00-40.00	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, March 4, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	75.00-96.75	96.75			
900-999	91.50-99.75	99.75	800-899	81.00-97.50	97.50
800-899	93.00-116.25	116.25	700-799	84.50-96.50	101.00
700-799	93.00-111.00	111.00	600-699	86.00-103.00	108.00
600-699	93.00-114.00	116.50	500-599	85.00-107.50	108.00
500-599	106.00-119.00	125.00	400-499	69.00-99.00	106.00
400-499	115.00-127.00	127.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, March 8, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-999	91.50	800-899	84.50
800-899	93.75	500-599	74.00-95.00
600-699	100.00-107.50		
500-599	108.50-118.50		

Denfield Livestock: March 8, 2005

	Price Range
Choice steers	92.00-100.00
Good steers	82.00-88.00
Plain steers	60.00-70.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	90.00-100.00
Good heifers	80.00-86.00
Plain heifers	60.00-70.00
Good fed cows	35.00-50.00
D1 & D2 cows	27.00-33.00
D3 & D4 cows	21.00-26.00
Good beef bulls	30.00-60.00
Good Holstein bulls	26.00-35.00

The market traded on a better market than expected. Good fed cattle were \$3-4 lower than last week. Cows sold very active at prices \$3-5 higher. Stockers sold steady.

Stocker sale: Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 9, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
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+1000	65.00-93.75	93.75	+900	76.00-89.50	89.50
900-999	86.25-98.25	105.00			
800-899	93.00-99.25	109.00			

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – March 10, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	85.00-99.00	106.50	700-799	60.50-82.00	82.00
600-699	82.00-101.00	106.50	600-699	73.00-85.00	89.00
500-599	107.00-122.25	122.25	500-599	68.00-88.00	99.00
400-499	117.00-126.50	126.50	400-499	89.00-108.00	108.00

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – March 4, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.7588	1.6919
Last week	1.7171	1.6447

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
Feb 26, 2005	846	777
Feb 28, 2004	854	797

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Feb 26, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	55,639	540,719	99%
Alberta Slaughter	33,862	355,671	92%
Ontario Slaughter	12,334	97,996	109%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending Mar 5, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	598,000	574,000	614,000

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday March 10, 2005**

Steers	Live	76.80-80.40	Flat rail	130.00-133.00
Heifers	Live	76.00-80.40	Flat rail	130.00-133.00

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

Week ending **March 10, 2005**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	92.00-94.00
	Rail	148.00-150.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	147.49	143.39

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– Mar 5	Mexico Jan 4 – Jan 8
Total	50,547 tonnes	1,620 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Feb 26, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	13,316 tonnes	8,280 tonnes	+60.8%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 –Mar 5	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	192,059 tonnes	203,652 tonnes	-5.7%
Non-fed	29,925 tonnes	23,915 tonnes	+25.1%

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			
Apr	89.10	-1.60	Mar	104.90	-0.65	Mar	2.174	+5.0	Mar	6.566	+23.4	Spot	83.05	-0.10
Jun	85.85	-0.87	Apr	103.92	-1.45	May	2.246	+4.6	May	6.624	+23.2	Mar	83.00	-0.09
Aug	82.95	-0.50	May	103.50	-1.30	Jul	2.314	+4.4	Jul	6.664	+23.4	Jun	83.09	-0.08
Oct	84.15	-0.45	Aug	104.57	-0.80	Sep	2.366	+3.4	Aug	6.634	+22.4	Sep	83.28	-0.07

Week Ending March 10, 2005

This week the markets continued the downward trend most of us expected. Volume of cattle sold was way off except for cows.

There were 1,341 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$85.37 down \$7.06 and the average heifer price was \$82.76 down \$9.08 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold under pressure with prices \$4-6 lower than last week's loss.

Slaughter cows continued to sell strong with steady volume and higher prices. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,502. This week's average price was \$28.96 up \$2.92. Auction markets reported cows sold actively on a strong market with prices \$2-3 higher.

Replacement cattle trade was tough this week with very low volume sold. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 1,603 down 58% from last week and 62% lower than last year at this time. Over all weight categories stockers were \$8-10 lower. Auction markets reported extremely low volume with prices much lower.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were \$10.50-11 lower as steers sold \$148-149 and heifers

were \$147-148.

In Alberta, cattle trade was very limited with prices generally \$7–10 lower. Steers sold at \$76.80-80.40 live and \$130.00-133.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$76.00-80.40 live and \$130.00-133.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was active with prices \$3-4 higher. Steers and heifers sold at \$92.00-94.00 live and \$148.00-150.00 dressed.

On March 9, 2005 the National Meat Association from Oakland CA filed an emergency appeal in an attempt to over turn the preliminary injunction that stopped the resumption of live cattle imports from Canada

Ottawa, March 10, 2005 – Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Andy Mitchell today announced a \$50 million contribution to the Canadian Cattlemen Association's Legacy Fund to help launch an aggressive marketing campaign to reclaim and expand markets for Canadian beef.

The fund will support the market development activities of the Canada Beef Export Federation, the Beef Information Centre and the Canadian Beef Breeds Council.

"The uncertainty created by the closure of many borders, including that of the United States to Canadian live cattle, makes it imperative that we accelerate our efforts to regain and expand our markets," said Minister Mitchell. "Through the Legacy Fund, the industry and governments will work together to launch an aggressive marketing campaign to increase exports and reduce our reliance on any one single market."

The contribution responds to a request by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) for governments to jointly support a 10-year market development fund, the Legacy Fund.

The marketing campaign is expected to generate more demand for the increased slaughter capacity that is being developed through Canada's Repositioning the Livestock Industry Strategy, announced on Sept. 10, 2004. The Strategy is helping ensure the viability of the sector by increasing domestic slaughter capacity, by providing financial support to the sector as that capacity comes on line and by increasing effort to access international markets.

Another priority for the Government is increasing slaughter capacity in Canada. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) will be the first of what is expected to be a number of lenders to deliver one of the strategy's key programs, the Ruminant Loan Loss Reserve Program. With additional funding of \$17.1 million announced for the program in the recent federal budget, a total of \$54.6 million is available in the reserve to support loans for building and expanding small and medium-sized ruminant slaughter and processing facilities that will increase Canada's slaughter capacity.

At their March 3 meeting in Ottawa, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture vowed to continue their efforts to normalize trade between Canada and the United States, and to increase access to other international markets. They also agreed to maintain the current set-aside programs under the Repositioning Strategy and to monitor the situation so that measures continue to respond to industry needs.

"We will continue to make every effort to get the American border re-opened for live ruminants but

we are also stepping up our efforts to reposition our industry so that it can thrive whether that particular border is opened or closed," said Minister Mitchell. "Continuing to meet the needs of producers through this difficult period is a key priority for the Government. Our best position is a united one and we will continue to work with industry and governments on next steps."

The Government of Canada remains committed to the expansion of foreign markets while supporting the domestic marketing initiatives of all producers.
