



# Weekly Market Information Report

## Week ending Thursday March 17, 2005



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

### 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
<b>A grade steers</b>	138.00-145.00	148.00-149.00
<b>A grade heifers</b>	137.00-144.00	147.00-148.00

### 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	73.68-84.57	79.91	100.25	86.10
Medium Frame Steers +1250	72.73-82.60	78.02	90.00	84.24
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	73.61-84.23	79.50	100.25	85.37
Large Frame Heifers +1000	71.86-84.07	78.01	96.00	83.58
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	62.25-81.54	73.87	86.75	74.42
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	70.63-84.90	77.69	96.00	82.76
Cows-all weights	15.92-29.45	22.83	58.00	28.96
Bulls-all weights	26.19-39.60	32.43	69.00	37.04

#### **STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame**

<b>STEERS</b>	Price Range	Average	Top
<b>1000+</b>	73.52-88.70	81.95	92.50
<b>900-999</b>	83.61-92.90	89.06	99.50
<b>800-899</b>	85.94-96.68	92.13	102.50
<b>700-799</b>	86.08-103.00	94.74	112.50
<b>600-699</b>	87.55-112.54	102.49	127.00
<b>500-599</b>	94.87-118.19	107.57	127.00
<b>400-499</b>	90.51-117.06	104.50	128.00

<b>HEIFERS</b>	Price Range	Average	Top
<b>900+</b>	66.74-82.92	76.87	90.00
<b>800-899</b>	76.92-85.78	81.74	90.75
<b>700-799</b>	72.97-88.58	82.72	120.00
<b>600-699</b>	76.72-99.46	88.22	109.50
<b>500-599</b>	75.54-97.26	88.14	113.00
<b>400-499</b>	74.88-100.74	88.87	114.00

**At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday March 12, 2005**

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	77.00-87.00	98.50
Good & choice heifers	70.00-85.00	91.00
Cows	30.00-42.00	53.50
Bulls	40.00-50.00	

**Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, March 11, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	73.00-90.50	90.50	+900	61.50-86.25	86.75
900-999	83.50-91.00	92.00	800-899	79.25-85.75	88.50
800-899	83.00-99.00	99.00	700-799	81.00-89.00	91.00
700-799	79.75-99.50	107.00	600-699	74.00-96.00	105.00
600-699	92.00-113.50	114.50	500-599	87.00-106.00	106.00
500-599	106.50-121.50	126.00			
400-499	114.00-124.00	124.00			

**Stocker Sale: Leo's Livestock, March 12, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	86.00-99.00	99.00			
700-799	94.00-106.00	106.00	700-799	61.00-89.00	101.00
600-699	95.00-117.00	117.00	600-699	75.00-101.50	104.00
500-599	94.00-124.50	127.00	500-599	83.00-104.00	113.00
400-499	82.00-128.00	128.00	400-499	77.00-101.00	106.00

**Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, March 15, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-999	91.00-92.00	>900	79.75-79.75
800-899	92.00-95.50	700-799	81.50-84.50
700-799	90.50-105.50	600-699	85.25-96.75
600-699	100.00-117.00	500-599	60.00-87.00
400-499	70.00-121.00	400-499	77.00-98.00

**Denfield Livestock: March 15, 2005**

	Price Range
Choice steers	85.00-92.00
Good steers	80.00-84.00
Plain steers	60.00-70.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	85.00-91.00
Good heifers	77.00-80.00
Plain heifers	50.00-70.00
Good fed cows	30.00-40.00
D1 & D2 cows	25.00-30.00
D3 & D4 cows	20.00-25.00
Good beef bulls	40.00-60.00
Good Holstein bulls	25.00-32.00

The market traded at prices steady to the week decline with the fancy cattle bringing premium prices. Second cut cattle traded under pressure, cows were in good demand at lower prices, stockers traded steady, good Holstein bull calves strong.

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Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 16, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	86.50-92.50	92.50	+900	71.25-87.25	87.25
900-999	88.00-95.50	96.75	800-899	87.00-88.50	88.50
800-899	87.25-93.25	100.00			

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – March 17, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	74.00-93.50	108.00			
600-699	83.00-108.00	112.25	600-699	60.50-83.00	89.50
500-599	93.00-117.75	119.00	500-599	68.00-99.50	102.50
400-499	92.00-118.00	121.00	400-499	75.00-106.00	106.00

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – March 17, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	90.00-99.50	99.50	+900	82.50-87.25	90.00
700-799	95.25-99.00	99.00	800-899	81.50-90.25	90.75
			700-799	84.00-92.00	92.00

**CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE**

Week ending – March 11, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.8348	1.7714
Last week	1.7588	1.6919

**AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
March 5, 2005	842	791
March 6, 2004	849	808

**FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL**

	Week Ending March 5, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	77,041	617,771	100%
Alberta Slaughter	54,096	409,778	94%
Ontario Slaughter	12,670	110,666	109%

**USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL**

	Week Ending Mar 12, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	599,000	598,000	624,000

**ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE**

Week ending **Thursday March 17, 2005**

Steers	Live	75.00-81.00	Flat rail	134.00-138.00
Heifers	Live	75.00-81.75	Flat rail	131.65-137.65

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

Week ending March 17, 2005

<b>Weekly range</b> for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	92.00
	Rail	146.00-150.00

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

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Select</b>
	<b>600-900</b>	<b>600-900</b>
<b>Current 5 day average:</b>	156.08	150.18

**BEEF EXPORTS**

	United States Jan 2– Mar 12	Mexico Jan 4 – Jan 15
<b>Total</b>	57,507 tonnes	2,694 tonnes

**BEEF IMPORTS**

	Jan 1 – Mar 5, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
<b>Total</b>	19,442 tonnes	10,479 tonnes	+85.5%

**BEEF PRODUCTION**

	Jan 1 –Mar 12	Last Year Same Time	% Change
<b>Fed</b>	217,936 tonnes	227,225 tonnes	-4.1%
<b>Non-fed</b>	32,753 tonnes	26,687 tonnes	+22.7%

**CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE**

Closing quotes on futures today were as follows:

<b>Live Cattle</b>			<b>Feeder Cattle</b>			<b>Corn</b>			<b>Soybeans</b>			<b>Canadian \$</b>		
\$/cwt US			\$/cwt US			\$/bu US		¢/bu	\$/bu US		¢/bu			
<b>Apr</b>	87.40	-1.07	<b>Mar</b>	105.62	-0.27	<b>May</b>	2.196	-3.6	<b>May</b>	6.490	-22.4	<b>Spot</b>	83.15	-0.10
<b>Jun</b>	84.10	-1.22	<b>Apr</b>	103.42	-1.00	<b>Jul</b>	2.274	-3.6	<b>Jul</b>	6.530	-23.0	<b>Jun</b>	83.16	-0.05
<b>Aug</b>	82.50	-0.65	<b>May</b>	102.05	-1.60	<b>Sep</b>	2.342	-3.0	<b>Aug</b>	6.504	-23.4	<b>Sep</b>	83.33	-0.05
<b>Oct</b>	83.50	-0.50	<b>Aug</b>	103.15	-1.42	<b>Dec</b>	2.430	-2.0	<b>Sep</b>	6.404	-9.4	<b>Dec</b>	83.51	-0.05

**Week Ending March 17, 2005**

Volume of cattle traded this week was back to normal levels after last week's extremely low trade volume.

The fed cattle market saw another decline in prices. There were 2,015 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$79.50 down \$5.87 and the average heifer price was \$77.69 down \$5.07 from last week. Auction markets

reported fed cattle sold under pressure with prices \$3-5 lower than last week.

Slaughter cows sold moderately with prices \$2-3 lower. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 2,001. This week's average price was \$22.83 down \$6.13. Auction markets reported cows sold at lower prices.

Replacement cattle trade saw a slight decrease in prices with good volume sold. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 4,452 up 16.7% from last week. Auction markets reported stockers sold on a good demand at prices barely steady to slightly lower.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were \$7.00 lower as steers sold \$138-145 and heifers were \$137-144.

In Alberta, cattle trade was very light with prices slightly higher than last week. Steers sold at \$75.00-81.00 live and \$134.00-138.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$75.00-81.75 live and \$131.00-137.65 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was very light with lower prices. Steers and heifers sold at \$92.00 live and \$146.00-150.00 dressed.

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WASHINGTON, March 17, 2005-The U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, today filed a request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit asking that the court overturn the decision issued by the U.S. District Court in Montana that granted a preliminary injunction to delay the implementation of USDA's minimal-risk regions rule, which would re-establish trade with Canada for beef products and live cattle under 30 months of age.

USDA's rule is the product of a multi-year, deliberative, transparent and science-based process to ensure that human and animal health are fully protected. We remain confident that the requirements of the minimal-risk rule, in combination with the animal and public health measures already in place in the United States and Canada, provide the utmost protection to both U.S. consumers and livestock. We also remain fully confident in the underlying risk assessment, developed in accordance with the OIE guidelines, which determined Canada to be a minimal-risk region.

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*(March 17, 2005)* The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) stated that today's announcement by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to appeal the preliminary injunction delaying movement of live cattle to the U.S. is a positive step that indicates USDA's confidence in Canada's BSE controls and the safety of Canadian beef. CCA is pleased with USDA's resolve to move toward normalized trade between our two countries.

A USDA rule to allow importation of live feeder and slaughter cattle under 30 months and an expanded list of beef products from Canada was to have gone into effect March 7. Implementation of that rule was delayed by a U.S. District Court for Montana, Billings Division preliminary injunction issued on March 2. USDA today

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filed a request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit asking that that court overturn the preliminary injunction.

CCA agrees with the USDA that the requirements of the minimal-risk rule, in combination with the animal and public health measures already in place in the United States and Canada, provide the utmost protection to consumers and livestock in both our countries.