



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday March 31, 2005



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

FEDERAL FED CATTLE SET-ASIDE AUCTION

Auction Week	# Bidders	# Participants this week	Weighted average accepted bid price	Provinces with accepted bids	Scheduled release date
March 30/05	622	53	\$1.29	AB,SK,MB,ON.QC	June 29/05
March 23/05	597	70	\$1.28	AB,MB,ON.QC	June 22/05
March 16/05	561	75	\$1.28	AB,SK,MB,ON.QC	June 15/05
March 9/05	518	45	\$1.35	AB,SK,MB,ON.QC	June 8/05

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	149.00-153.00	138.00-145.00
A grade heifers	149.00-151.00	137.00-144.00

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	82.49-97.35	90.83	105.75	84.52
Medium Frame Steers +1250	77.98-94.43	88.22	100.00	82.13
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	81.06-96.12	90.10	105.75	83.91
Large Frame Heifers +1000	79.62-95.63	89.13	100.00	80.63
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	66.21-90.88	80.97	100.25	76.88
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	76.39-94.98	87.31	100.25	79.41
Cows-all weights	18.26-34.18	26.44	57.50	24.59
Bulls-all weights	25.63-38.70	32.51	64.00	32.95

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	66.82-95.82	89.34	102.35
900-999	87.50-101.81	96.94	106.50
800-899	80.49-101.79	92.79	115.00
700-799	91.21-111.88	102.81	119.00
600-699	91.01-116.53	107.16	130.00
500-599	91.63-125.22	112.40	137.00
400-499	100.21-123.70	115.03	135.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	68.32-86.12	79.71	95.50

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

800-899	80.46-93.49	87.71	103.00
700-799	72.19-97.06	88.36	114.00
600-699	84.04-102.24	94.68	106.00
500-599	80.30-107.27	97.26	114.50
400-499	82.69-110.54	97.64	121.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday March 26, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	78.00-88.00	104.00
Good & choice heifers	77.00-89.00	101.00
Cows	23.00-38.00	46.00
Bulls	35.00-45.00	45.00

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, March 26, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	36.00-96.00	98.00	900+	77.00-90.50	90.50
900-999	46.00-96.00	106.50	800-899	84.50-93.75	94.00
800-899	86.00-102.00	112.50	700-799	81.00-95.00	95.00
700-799	98.00-112.50	112.50	600-699	87.00-103.00	103.00
600-699	94.00-118.00	118.00	500-599	75.00-108.00	108.00
500-599	107.00-126.00	128.00	400-499	88.00-118.00	121.00
400-499	105.00-124.50	124.50			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, March 29, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
+1000	92.00-102.35	+900	67.00-86.50
900-999	95.25-102.75	700-799	95.00-101.50
800-899	97.25-105.25	600-699	97.50-106.00
700-799	100.75-112.50	500-599	108.00-112.90
600-699	108.50-117.50		
400-499	49.00-126.50		

Stocker Sale: D. H. Hickson, March 29, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
600-699	70.00-115.00	600-699	62.00-102.50
500-599	75.00-131.00	500-599	56.00-111.00
400-499	76.00-126.00	400-499	67.00-107.00
600-699	108.50-117.50		

Denfield Livestock: March 29, 2005

	Price Range
Choice steers	90.00-95.00
Good steers	84.00-89.00
Plain steers	70.00-80.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	90.00-95.00
Good heifers	84.00-89.00

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

Plain heifers	60.00-70.00	
Good fed cows	30.00-40.00	
D1 & D2 cows	22.00-28.00	
D3 & D4 cows	18.00-22.00	
Good beef bulls	30.00-40.00	
Good Holstein bulls	25.00-30.00	
The market traded on a strong demand at prices \$2-3 higher. A good offering of cows sold steady.		

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 30, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	90.00-102.25	102.25	+900	88.00-95.50	95.50
900-999	96.25-105.00	105.00			

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – March 31, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	53.50-94.75	94.75	+900	49.50-86.50	87.50
900-999	70.00-98.50	98.50	700-799	49.50-84.89	104.00
800-899	69.00-104.00	108.50	600-699	85.00-105.50	105.50
700-799	78.50-117.00	119.00	500-599	88.00-114.50	114.50
600-699	87.50-122.00	130.00	400-499	81.00-110.00	115.00
500-599	103.50-132.50	137.00			
400-499	114.00-130.75	135.00			

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – March 31, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	99.85-102.10	102.10	800-899	90.75-97.75	98.75

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – March 25, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.8074	1.7513
Last week	1.8260	1.7771

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
Mar 19, 2005	833	789
Mar 20, 2004	854	799

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Mar 19, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	80,022	776,394	102%
Alberta Slaughter	55,362	520,185	96%
Ontario Slaughter	13,091	136,709	110%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending	Last Week	Year Ago
--	-------------	-----------	----------

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

	March 26, 2005		
Grand Total	572,000	590,000	573,000

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday March 31, 2005**

Steers	Live	83.00-87.25	Flat rail	140.15-146.00
Heifers	Live	83.00-87.70	Flat rail	141.00-146.00

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

Week ending **March 31, 2005**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	94.00-95.00
	Rail	152.00-153.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	150.36	140.57

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– Mar 26	Mexico Jan 4 – Jan 29
Total	72,463 tonnes	5,369 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Mar 19, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	23,921 tonnes	14,385 tonnes	+66.3%

Keying error last week –was 24,217 should have been 21,217

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 –Mar 26	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	263,166 tonnes	275,096 tonnes	-4.3%
Non-fed	38,761 tonnes	31,757 tonnes	+22.1%

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					
Apr	89.72	-0.10	Apr	109.10	+1.42	May	2.126	-0.2	May	6.140	-13.4	Spot	82.26	-0.43
Jun	85.42	+0.17	May	105.85	+0.90	Jul	2.210	+0.0	Jul	6.234	-12.4	Jun	82.28	-0.41
Aug	84.10	+0.27	Aug	108.20	+0.95	Sep	2.280	+0.4	Aug	6.200	-9.4	Sep	82.44	-0.41
Oct	84.60	-0.37	Sep	106.70	+0.92	Dec	2.370	+2.2	Sep	6.062	-12.6	Dec	82.62	-0.41

Week Ending March 31, 2005

Cattle markets in Ontario were very strong across the board with higher volumes of cattle sold as well.

The fed cattle market was strong with 2,244 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$90.10 up \$6.19 and the average heifer price was \$87.31 up \$7.90 from last week. Last year at this time fed steers were \$12.71 lower so we are headed in the right direction. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold actively with prices \$2-5 stronger.

Slaughter cows were about steady with last week. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,762. This week's average price was \$26.44 up \$1.85. Auction markets reported cows sold on a good demand with steady prices.

Replacement cattle were stronger again. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 3,429. Auction markets reported stockers sold actively with prices \$5 higher. Volume of stockers sold to date is 4,000 head more than last year at this time and only 2,000 less than in 2003 and 2002.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices jumped \$9.50 this week as steers sold \$149-153 and heifers were \$149-151.

In Alberta, cattle trade was moderately active with prices \$3 higher than last week. Steers sold at \$83.00-87.25 live and \$140.15-146.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$83.00-87.70 live and \$141.00-146.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was very active mostly in the north with higher prices as steers and heifers traded at \$94.00-95.00 live and \$152.00-153.00 dressed.