



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday April 14, 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 |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| April 13/05 | 669 | 106 | \$1.19 | AB, MB, ON | July 13/05 |
| April 6/05 | 646 | 66 | \$1.25 | AB, MB, ON, QC | July 6/05 |
| 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 |

The Management Committee of the Fed Cattle Set-Aside program has decided to hold the next auction from Friday April 15, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. (Ontario time) until Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (Ontario time). Registered producers can submit bids at anytime during this period.

Producers who have not yet registered to bid may register up until Monday, April 18 at 2:00 pm by calling OMAF at 1-888-292-5856 if they wish to participate in this auction.

Subsequent auctions will be held weekly during their regular days (Monday to Wednesday) and times, unless otherwise indicated.

The Fed Cattle Set-Aside Management Committee has also decided, effective April 25, 2005, to return the minimum average pen weight requirement for pens of market ready cattle eligible for enrolment into the Fed Cattle Set-Aside to its' previous level. The minimum average pen weight will return to 1,300 pounds for steers and to 1,200 pounds for heifers. This change is made to reflect that most remaining heavy-weight fed cattle that were scheduled to move across the border shortly after March 7 have since moved through the slaughter system.

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 | 142.00-150.00 | 152.00-154.00 |
| A grade heifers | 141.00-148.00 | 151.00-153.00 |

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 | 73.60-92.72 | 83.78 | 100.00 | 88.73 |
| Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 75.60-87.93 | 82.23 | 99.50 | 85.86 |
| Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 73.87-92.08 | 83.61 | 100.00 | 88.78 |

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|------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Large Frame Heifers +1000 | 70.42-87.80 | 80.63 | 99.00 | 86.87 |
| Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 65.49-88.56 | 77.79 | 98.75 | 82.71 |
| Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 68.21-87.81 | 79.92 | 99.00 | 86.26 |
| Cows-all weights | 13.15-32.52 | 26.15 | 72.00 | 25.76 |
| Bulls-all weights | 27.70-49.50 | 37.46 | 80.00 | 34.97 |

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

| STEERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| 1000+ | 75.30-91.08 | 82.68 | 101.50 |
| 900-999 | 88.87-97.93 | 93.35 | 108.00 |
| 800-899 | 89.02-103.77 | 97.47 | 109.00 |
| 700-799 | 94.34-112.18 | 104.01 | 118.50 |
| 600-699 | 97.09-118.87 | 109.60 | 123.50 |
| 500-599 | 100.96-126.48 | 115.61 | 136.00 |
| 400-499 | 97.50-124.85 | 114.51 | 135.00 |

| HEIFERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| 900+ | 74.99-90.15 | 83.19 | 95.00 |
| 800-899 | 87.27-94.60 | 91.42 | 102.00 |
| 700-799 | 80.56-98.07 | 90.94 | 110.00 |
| 600-699 | 87.17-108.04 | 97.74 | 115.00 |
| 500-599 | 85.10-109.25 | 98.66 | 120.0 |
| 400-499 | 83.26-111.24 | 98.82 | 120.00 |

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday April 9, 2005

| | Price Range | Top |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Good & choice steers | 76.00-96.00 | 105.25 |
| Good & choice heifers | 73.00-95.50 | 98.25 |
| Cows | 18.00-32.00 | 41.50 |
| Bulls | 25.00-38.00 | |

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, April 8, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1000+ | 82.00-101.50 | 101.50 | 900+ | 78.00-94.00 | 94.00 |
| 900-999 | 88.00-100.00 | 101.00 | 800-899 | 86.50-95.00 | 102.00 |
| 800-899 | 88.50-107.00 | 107.50 | 700-799 | 77.50-98.00 | 107.00 |
| 700-799 | 92.50-110.75 | 112.50 | 600-699 | 87.50-106.75 | 107.50 |
| 600-699 | 96.00-117.50 | 120.00 | 500-599 | 89.50-114.50 | 120.00 |
| 500-599 | 110.00-128.00 | 128.00 | 400-499 | 95.00-116.00 | 116.00 |
| 400-499 | 116.00-135.00 | 135.00 | | | |

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, April 12, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | HEIFERS | Price Range |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 900-999 | 93.00-100.75 | 800-899 | 85.00-97.00 |
| 800-899 | 90.00-100.00 | 700-799 | 85.50-101.50 |

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|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 700-799 | 92.00-116.00 | 600-699 | 81.00-110.00 |
| 600-699 | 98.00-121.50 | 500-599 | 76.00-109.00 |
| 500-599 | 99.00-126.50 | 400-499 | 83.00-105.00 |

Stocker Sale: **D. H. Hickson, April 12, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | HEIFERS | Price Range |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 700-799 | 70.00-112.50 | 600-699 | 51.50-106.50 |
| 600-699 | 66.00-116.00 | 500-599 | 64.50-108.50 |
| 500-599 | 79.00-129.00 | 400-499 | 71.00-120.00 |
| 400-499 | 77.00-124.50 | | |

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards, April 12, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 800-899 | 96.00-102.75 | 108.50 | 800-899 | 93.00-95.00 | 95.50 |
| 700-799 | 103.75-113.50 | 114.75 | 700-799 | 90.00-105.00 | 110.00 |
| 600-699 | 110.00-123.50 | 123.50 | 600-699 | 98.00-113.50 | 113.50 |
| 500-599 | 114.00-130.00 | 130.00 | 500-599 | 95.00-111.25 | 117.50 |

Denfield Livestock: **April 12, 2005**

| | Price Range | |
|--|--------------|--|
| Choice steers | 90.00-95.00 | |
| Good steers | 83.00-89.00 | |
| Plain steers | 60.00-70.00 | |
| Choice exotic cross heifers | 95.00-100.00 | |
| Good heifers | 80.00-86.00 | |
| Plain heifers | 60.00-70.00 | |
| Good fed cows | 30.00-40.00 | |
| D1 & D2 cows | 25.00-30.00 | |
| D3 & D4 cows | 18.00-23.00 | |
| Good beef bulls | 30.00-40.00 | |
| Good Holstein bulls | 25.00-30.00 | |
| The market traded on a good demand at steady prices. | | |

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, April 13, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| +1000 | 88.50-96.00 | 96.00 | 800-899 | 87.00-94.50 | 94.50 |
| 900-999 | 93.00-96.00 | 108.00 | 700-799 | 91.50-94.50 | 96.00 |
| 700-799 | 99.50-110.75 | 110.75 | | | |

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – April 14, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 900-999 | 77.00-95.75 | 97.00 | +900 | 70.00-88.00 | 91.00 |
| 800-899 | 88.50-99.00 | 104.00 | 700-799 | 65.00-93.50 | 97.50 |
| 700-799 | 87.50-107.00 | 110.00 | 600-699 | 88.50-106.75 | 106.75 |
| 600-699 | 96.50-117.25 | 119.50 | 500-599 | 90.00-108.50 | 108.50 |
| 500-599 | 104.50-128.00 | 136.00 | 400-499 | 83.00-108.00 | 108.00 |

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|----------------|---------------|--------|--|--|--|
| 400-499 | 104.00-121.00 | 132.00 | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------|--|--|--|

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – April 14, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | | HEIFERS | Price Range | |
|----------------|---------------|--|----------------|--------------|--|
| 800-899 | 81.50-109.00 | | +900 | 84.50-95.00 | |
| 700-799 | 101.00-118.50 | | 800-899 | 91.35-95.25 | |
| 600-699 | 112.00-123.00 | | 700-799 | 85.00-92.75 | |
| | | | 600-699 | 90.00-107.50 | |

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

| Week ending – April 8, 2005 | AAA | AA |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Cutout value | 1.7756 | 1.7215 |
| Last week | 1.7963 | 1.7358 |

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

| | STEERS | HEIFERS |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| April 2, 2005 | 834 | 787 |
| April 3, 2004 | 832 | 792 |

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

| | Week Ending Apr 2, 2005 | YTD | % of Yr. Ago |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Grand Total | 73,838 | 911,661 | 101% |
| Alberta Slaughter | 51,114 | 613,216 | 95% |
| Ontario Slaughter | 12,393 | 158,796 | 107% |

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

| | Week Ending April 9, 2005 | Last Week | Year Ago |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Grand Total | 582,000 | 566,000 | 566,000 |

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday April 14, 2005**

| | | | | |
|----------------|------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Steers | Live | 73.20-80.00 | Flat rail | 124.45-133.00 |
| Heifers | Live | N/T | Flat rail | 124.75-130.00 |

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

Week ending **April 14, 2005**

| | | |
|---|------|----------|
| Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers: | Live | \$92.00 |
| | Rail | \$149.00 |

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

| | Choice | Select |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 600-900 | 600-900 |
| Current 5 day average: | 154.80 | 139.89 |

BEEF EXPORTS

| | United States Jan 2– Apr 9 | Mexico Jan 4 – Feb 12 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total | 85,671 tonnes | 8,142 tonnes |

BEEF IMPORTS

| | Jan 1 – Apr 2, 2005 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Total | 26,887 tonnes | 18,237 tonnes | +47.4% |

BEEF PRODUCTION

| | Jan 1 –Apr 9 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Fed | 311,241 tonnes | 316,525 tonnes | -1.7% |
| Non-fed | 45,100 tonnes | 37,072 tonnes | +21.7% |

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 | 89.45 | -0.47 | Apr | 109.70 | +0.40 | May | 2.062 | -1.2 | May | 6.162 | -0.6 | Spot | 80.22 | -0.26 |
| Jun | 84.42 | -0.42 | May | 106.22 | -0.02 | Jul | 2.142 | -1.4 | Jul | 6.220 | -1.0 | Jun | 80.26 | -0.34 |
| Aug | 83.50 | -0.30 | Aug | 107.57 | -0.20 | Sep | 2.212 | -1.2 | Aug | 6.200 | -1.0 | Sep | 80.43 | -0.34 |
| Oct | 84.52 | -0.27 | Sep | 106.35 | -0.15 | Dec | 2.302 | -1.2 | Sep | 6.080 | -3.0 | Dec | 80.62 | -0.34 |

Week Ending April 14, 2005

Cattle markets in Ontario started the week off steady and dropped as the week went on.

The fed cattle market was under pressure with lower prices. There were 2,071 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$83.61 down \$5.17 and the average heifer price was \$79.92 down \$6.34. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold \$3-4 lower.

Slaughter cows continued to sell on a steady market. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,751. This week's average price was \$26.15 up \$0.39. Auction markets reported cows sold on a fairly good demand with prices steady.

Replacement cattle were not as strong as they have been. All weight categories of steers were \$1-3 lower however all heifer categories were \$1-2 higher than last week. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 7,774. Auction markets reported good quality stockers sold steady while plainer types were under some pressure.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices dropped \$7 after seeing an \$11 increase over the last two weeks. Steers sold at \$142-150 and heifers were \$141-148.

In Alberta, cattle trade was way off. Trade was only moderate with prices \$5-6 lower than last week. Steers sold at \$73.20-80.00 live and \$124.45-133.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$124.75-130.00 flat rail. No trade was evident on live heifers.

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U.S. cash cattle trade was light this week with most trade in the north. Steers and heifers traded at \$\$92.00 live and \$149.00 dressed.

Thanks to the nice weather local beef trade saw increased sales and stronger prices. Inventories are low.

Market reports are available daily and weekly through various methods. You can receive them by calling a tapeline at 519-824-9161 and 519-824-7321 or by fax, email, website or mail. For further information call the Ontario Cattlemen's office at 1-866-370-2333.