



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday April 21, 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 20/05	704	153	\$1.14	AB,SK,MB,ON,QC	July 20/05
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

The Fed Cattle Set-Aside Management Committee has 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	142.00-144.00	142.00-150.00
A grade heifers	140.00-143.00	141.00-148.00

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	77.51-91.68	85.34	110.00	83.78
Medium Frame Steers +1250	72.98-87.67	82.28	106.00	82.23
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	77.01-92.41	85.22	110.00	83.61
Large Frame Heifers +1000	69.25-87.01	79.38	100.00	80.63
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	60.12-82.36	73.16	92.00	77.79
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	66.71-87.91	77.77	100.00	79.92
Cows-all weights	18.21-33.02	25.73	66.50	26.15
Bulls-all weights	28.10-44.13	34.39	79.00	37.46

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
--------	-------------	---------	-----

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

1000+	81.07-91.04	86.20	99.50
900-999	85.09-97.55	92.70	106.00
800-899	83.44-99.67	93.09	103.25
700-799	85.02-106.72	97.27	114.50
600-699	87.62-115.27	105.27	121.50
500-599	89.32-123.20	110.53	129.50
400-499	88.06-124.18	108.94	130.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	64.63-82.79	74.27	95.00
800-899	75.83-91.07	84.34	98.25
700-799	77.50-99.16	89.20	111.50
600-699	77.39-101.08	90.83	115.00
500-599	76.45-103.67	92.45	124.00
400-499	74.61-108.40	92.41	135.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday April 16, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	75.00-87.00	95.25
Good & choice heifers	75.00-88.00	95.00
Cows	21.00-32.00	40.00

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, April 15, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	85.25-94.50	94.50	900+	75.00-91.50	91.50
900-999	81.00-99.50	99.50	800-899	81.00-98.25	98.25
800-899	82.50-102.50	102.50	700-799	78.00-111.50	111.50
700-799	88.00-109.00	114.50	600-699	70.00-102.00	115.00
600-699	75.00-107.25	112.50	500-599	85.00-107.00	124.00
500-599	92.50-117.50	121.00	400-499	75.00-108.00	135.00
400-499	92.50-125.00	125.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, April 19, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	84.00-99.00	103.00	700-799	91.00-104.00	104.00
700-799	97.50-110.75	110.75	600-699	98.50-109.46	109.46
600-699	110.00-119.50	120.00	500-599	101.00-111.50	111.50
500-599	108.00-125.00	125.00	400-499	87.50-109.00	115.00
400-499	86.00-127.00	127.00			

Stocker Sale: D. H. Hickson, April 19, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
600-699	68.50-108.50	600-699	57.00-95.00
500-599	62.00-129.00	500-599	50.00-100.00
400-499	66.00-126.50	400-499	49.00-104.50

Denfield Livestock: April 19, 2005

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

	Price Range	
Choice steers	90.00-95.00	
Good steers	82.00-87.00	
Plain steers	65.00-75.00	
Choice exotic cross heifers	90.00-95.00	
Good heifers	80.00-86.00	
Plain heifers	60.00-70.00	
Good fed cows	35.00-40.00	
D1 & D2 cows	24.00-30.00	
D3 & D4 cows	20.00-24.00	
Good beef bulls	30.00-40.00	
Good Holstein bulls	25.00-30.00	
The market traded at steady prices.		

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, April 20, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top			
+1000	85.00-91.25	97.50			
900-999	89.50-94.75	97.00			
800-899	85.00-96.50	99.00			

Stocker sale: **Kawartha Lakes, April 20, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	78.25-95.00	95.00	800-899	73.00-83.25	83.25
700-799	80.00-107.50	107.50	700-799	62.00-90.00	90.00
600-699	73.50-121.50	121.50	600-699	76.00-104.00	104.00
500-599	79.00-126.00	126.00	500-599	62.00-103.50	103.50
400-499	69.00-130.00	130.00	400-499	72.00-107.00	107.00

PROVINCIAL SLAUGHTER STATS

	March 2005	March 2004
Steers	4,735	4,421
Heifers	3,170	2,986
Cows	3,428	2,368
Bulls	900	811

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday April 21, 2005**

Steers	Live	73.25-79.50	Flat rail	128.65-132.00
Heifers	Live	72.75-79.50	Flat rail	128.65-130.00

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

Week ending **April 21, 2005**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	\$94.00-95.00
	Rail	\$149.00-152.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

Current 5 day average:	157.16	140.74
-------------------------------	--------	--------

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – April 15, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.7607	1.6571
Last week	1.7963	1.7358

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
April 9, 2005	821	769
April 10, 2004	842	798

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Apr 9, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	77,818	989,479	103%
Alberta Slaughter	53,470	666,686	98%
Ontario Slaughter	12,831	171,627	109%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending April 16, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	586,000	582,000	595,000

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– Apr 16	Mexico Jan 4 – Feb 19
Total	92,854 tonnes	9,759 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Apr 9, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	27,325 tonnes	20,222 tonnes	+35.1%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 –Apr 16	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	336,088 tonnes	340,283 tonnes	-1.2%
Non-fed	48,548 tonnes	39,586 tonnes	+22.6%

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 US					
Apr	92.02	+0.62	Apr	110.47	+0.10	May	2.092	-2.0	May	6.330	-4.6	Spot	80.97	+0.27
Jun	85.72	+0.27	May	106.90	+0.30	Jul	2.174	-2.0	Jul	6.404	-4.6	Jun	81.02	+0.22
Aug	84.87	+0.10	Aug	107.87	+0.15	Sep	2.244	-2.0	Aug	6.386	-5.0	Sep	81.19	+0.22
Oct	85.27	+0.17	Sep	106.95	+0.05	Dec	2.340	-1.6	Sep	6.312	-5.4	Dec	81.38	+0.22

Comments for the week ending April 21, 2005

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

The fed cattle market held about steady this week. There were 1,573 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$85.22 up \$1.61 and the average heifer price was \$77.77 down \$2.15. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold moderately active with prices steady to \$2 higher.

Slaughter cows continued to sell steady to strong. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,784. This week's average price was \$25.73 up \$1.92. Auction markets reported cows sold actively on a good demand at steady prices with better quality cows selling stronger.

Replacement cattle were lower this week. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 7,026 down 9.6% from last week and 7% lower than last year at this time. Auction markets reported good quality grass type cattle sold actively at strong prices while second cut cattle were lower.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices dropped \$3 this week. Steers sold at \$142-144 and heifers were \$140-143.

In Alberta, cattle trade was moderately active with prices steady to \$3 higher. Steers sold at \$73.25-79.50 live and \$128.65-132.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$72.75-79.50 live and \$128.65-130.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was active with prices \$2 higher than last week as steers and heifers sold at \$94-95 live and \$149-152 dressed.

Local beef trade saw another good week of meat movement. Prices are also stronger.