



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday May 12, 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 |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| May 11/05 | 746 | 35 | \$1.17 | AB,MB,ON,QC | Aug 10/05 |
| May 4/05 | 735 | 32 | \$1.18 | AB,MB,ON | Aug 03/05 |
| April 27/05 | 719 | 31 | \$1.16 | AB,MB,ON,QC | July 27/05 |
| 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 |

To participate in the Fed Cattle Set-Aside program you must register by calling 1-888-292-5856. Auctions run every Monday at 2:00 pm 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 | 148-151 | 149-152 |
| A grade heifers | 147-149 | 148-151 |

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 | 84.02-96.32 | 89.27 | 111.25 | 87.94 |
| Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 80.61-90.85 | 87.25 | 108.50 | 85.01 |
| Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250 | 81.70-94.19 | 88.20 | 111.25 | 87.59 |
| Large Frame Heifers +1000 | 77.52-91.31 | 85.90 | 117.00 | 85.86 |
| Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 74.65-92.06 | 81.43 | 119.00 | 79.92 |
| Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000 | 75.57-91.02 | 84.80 | 119.00 | 84.88 |
| Cows-all weights | 20.24-35.35 | 27.72 | 60.00 | 24.51 |
| Bulls-all weights | 29.56-43.39 | 36.45 | 85.00 | 33.06 |

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

| STEERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| 1000+ | 72.98-92.61 | 88.77 | 100.00 |
| 900-999 | 74.29-98.32 | 91.25 | 108.50 |
| 800-899 | 84.05-105.33 | 97.27 | 110.75 |
| 700-799 | 88.89-115.29 | 104.37 | 127.00 |
| 600-699 | 91.22-123.56 | 111.38 | 130.00 |
| 500-599 | 94.66-124.55 | 112.04 | 135.00 |
| 400-499 | 89.21-127.87 | 110.67 | 139.00 |

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| HEIFERS | Price Range | Average | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| 900+ | 51.96-86.75 | 75.59 | 96.00 |
| 800-899 | 75.60-97.07 | 88.25 | 106.75 |
| 700-799 | 80.62-100.06 | 93.53 | 110.00 |
| 600-699 | 84.20-109.13 | 99.14 | 115.00 |
| 500-599 | 85.14-113.38 | 100.33 | 129.50 |
| 400-499 | 75.85-107.62 | 93.41 | 125.00 |

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday May 7, 2005

| | Price Range | Top |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Good & choice steers | 78.00-93.00 | 107.25 |
| Good & choice heifers | 80.00-92.00 | 104.00 |
| Cows | 20.00-26.00 | 35.00 |
| | 25.00-30.00 | |

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, May 6, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1000+ | 77.00-96.25 | 96.25 | 900+ | 54.00-95.00 | 95.00 |
| 900-999 | 80.50-96.25 | 96.75 | 800-899 | 84.00-103.25 | 106.75 |
| 800-899 | 87.00-100.00 | 108.00 | 700-799 | 84.50-96.75 | 104.75 |
| 700-799 | 88.00-109.00 | 121.50 | 600-699 | 90.25-108.00 | 108.00 |
| 600-699 | 93.00-119.75 | 122.50 | 500-599 | 94.00-112.00 | 116.00 |
| 500-599 | 102.00-124.50 | 124.50 | 400-499 | 81.00-112.00 | 124.00 |
| 400-499 | 95.00-132.00 | 132.00 | | | |

Stocker Sale: D.H. Hickson, May 6, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 800-899 | 62.00-110.00 | 110.00 | 800-899 | 59.00-98.75 | 98.75 |
| 700-799 | 85.00-115.00 | 115.00 | 700-799 | 62.00-106.00 | 106.00 |
| 600-699 | 78.00-130.00 | 130.00 | 600-699 | 75.00-114.00 | 114.00 |
| 500-599 | 86.00-135.00 | 135.00 | 500-599 | 85.00-129.50 | 129.50 |

Stocker sale: Thessalon, May 7, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | HEIFERS | Price Range |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 700-799 | 82.00-97.00 | 700-799 | 80.00 |
| 600-699 | 96.00-104.00 | 600-699 | 81.00-88.00 |
| 500-599 | 95.00-114.00 | 500-599 | 84.00-98.00 |
| 400-499 | 89.00-113.00 | 400-499 | 92.00-99.00 |

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, May 10, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 800-899 | 94.00-106.35 | 106.35 | 800-899 | | |
| 700-799 | 102.00-127.00 | 127.00 | 700-799 | 92.00-101.75 | 101.75 |
| 600-699 | 105.50-130.00 | 130.00 | 600-699 | 99.75-115.00 | 115.00 |
| 500-599 | 105.00-120.00 | 132.50 | 500-599 | 91.50-114.00 | 114.00 |
| 400-499 | 86.00-129.00 | 130.00 | 400-499 | 81.00-104.00 | 104.00 |

Stocker Sale: D. H. Hickson, May 10, 2005

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 600-699 | 59.50-120.00 | 120.00 | 600-699 | 56.50-104.00 | 104.00 |
| 500-599 | 59.00-119.50 | 119.50 | 500-599 | 58.50-112.50 | 120.00 |

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| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 400-499 | 66.50-130.00 | 130.00 | 400-499 | 53.50-106.00 | 115.00 |
|---------|--------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|

Denfield Livestock: May 10, 2005

| | Price Range | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Choice steers | 90.00-95.00 | |
| Good steers | 85.00-89.00 | |
| Plain steers | 70.00-80.00 | |
| Choice exotic cross heifers | 90.00-95.00 | |
| Good heifers | 84.00-88.00 | |
| Plain heifers | 60.00-70.00 | |
| Good fed cows | 35.00-50.00 | |
| D1 & D2 cows | 27.00-34.00 | |
| D3 & D4 cows | 20.00-25.00 | |
| Good beef bulls | 35.00-50.00 | |
| Good Holstein bulls | 25.00-30.00 | |

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, May 11, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|---------|--------------|--------|---------|-------------|-------|
| +1000 | 70.00-93.75 | 93.75 | 600-699 | 70.00-97.00 | 97.00 |
| 900-999 | 64.00-100.50 | 100.50 | 400-499 | 65.00-86.00 | 86.00 |
| 700-799 | 78.00-111.25 | 111.25 | | | |

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – May 12, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 800-899 | 95.00-110.75 | 110.75 | 700-799 | 71.00-99.00 | 110.00 |
| 700-799 | 88.00-118.50 | 118.50 | 600-699 | 74.00-104.00 | 107.00 |
| 600-699 | 99.00-119.75 | 121.00 | 500-599 | 85.00-116.50 | 117.50 |
| 500-599 | 99.75-129.50 | 134.00 | 400-499 | 85.00-121.00 | 125.00 |
| 400-499 | 102.50-134.50 | 139.00 | | | |

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – May 12, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | Top | HEIFERS | Price Range | Top |
|---------|---------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 900-999 | 92.00-98.75 | 98.75 | 800-899 | 95.10-96.85 | 96.85 |
| 800-899 | 95.50-106.75 | 106.75 | 700-799 | 93.75-106.50 | 106.50 |
| 700-799 | 107.25-123.50 | 123.50 | 500-599 | 91.00-106.00 | 116.25 |

Stocker Sale: **South River – May 10, 2005**

| STEERS | Price Range | HEIFERS | Price Range |
|----------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| 800-1000 | 80.00-90.00 | 800-1000 | 60.00-80.00 |
| 600-800 | 91.00-100.00 | 600-800 | 79.00-88.00 |
| 400-600 | 80.00-108.00 | 400-600 | 77.00-86.00 |
| -400 | 84.00-99.00 | | |

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

| Week ending – May 6, 2005 | AAA | AA |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Cutout value | 1.8603 | 1.7504 |
| Last week | 1.8236 | 1.7521 |

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

| | STEERS | HEIFERS |
|--|--------|---------|
| | | |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| April 30, 2005 | 805 | 768 |
| May 1, 2004 | 831 | 772 |

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

| | Week Ending Apr 30, 2005 | YTD | % of Yr. Ago |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Grand Total | 78,572 | 1,228,411 | 105% |
| Alberta Slaughter | 52,816 | 831,317 | 100% |
| Ontario Slaughter | 13,290 | 210,801 | 110% |

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

| | Week Ending May 7, 2005 | Last Week | Year Ago |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Grand Total | 656,000 | 622,000 | 686,000 |

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday May 12, 2005**

| | | | | |
|----------------|------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Steers | Live | 77.50-81.10 | Flat rail | 132.50-134.00 |
| Heifers | Live | 77.50-81.00 | Flat rail | 132.00-134.00 |

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

Week ending **May 12, 2005**

| | | |
|---|------|----------|
| Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers: | Live | \$89.00 |
| | Rail | \$142.00 |

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

| | Choice | Select |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 600-900 | 600-900 |
| Current 5 day average: | 159.64 | 143.09 |

BEEF EXPORTS

| | United States Jan 2– May 7 | Mexico Jan 1 – Mar 12 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total | 117,327 tonnes | 14,336 tonnes |

BEEF IMPORTS

| | Jan 1 – Apr 30, 2005 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Total | 35,134 tonnes | 25,204 tonnes | +39.4% |

BEEF PRODUCTION

| | Jan 1 – May 7 | Last Year Same Time | % Change |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Fed | 412,231 tonnes | 408,949 tonnes | +0.8% |
| Non-fed | 58,132 tonnes | 47,327 tonnes | +22.8% |

CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

Closing quotes on futures today were as follows:

| Live Cattle | Feeder Cattle | Corn | Soybeans | Canadian \$ |
|-------------|---------------|------|----------|-------------|
|-------------|---------------|------|----------|-------------|

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| \$/cwt US | | | \$/cwt US | | | \$/bu US | | ¢/bu | \$/bu US | | ¢/bu | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|------------|-------|------|------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Jun | 87.27 | +0.47 | May | 111.42 | -0.07 | May | 1.952 | -1.0 | May | 6.036 | -16.0 | Spot | 79.11 | -0.85 |
| Aug | 86.57 | +0.02 | Aug | 112.32 | +0.42 | Jul | 2.034 | -0.6 | Jul | 6.126 | -10.6 | Jun | 79.11 | -0.88 |
| Oct | 87.50 | +0.35 | Sep | 111.55 | +0.72 | Sep | 2.116 | -0.4 | Aug | 6.126 | -10.4 | Sep | 79.29 | -0.87 |
| Dec | 88.32 | +0.35 | Oct | 110.35 | +0.70 | Dec | 2.216 | -0.4 | Sep | 6.076 | -12.6 | Dec | 79.47 | -0.86 |

Comments for the week ending May 12, 2005

The fed cattle market was strong and active. There were 1,630 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$88.20 up \$0.61 and the average heifer price was \$84.80 down \$0.08 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold on a strong active trade at prices \$1-2 higher.

The market for slaughter cows was very strong as well. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,844. This week's average price was \$27.72 up \$3.21. Auction markets reported cows sold on a good demand with prices \$3-4 higher.

Replacement cattle sold on a very strong demand. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 6,452. Auction markets reported all classes of stocker cattle sold actively with prices \$2-3 higher. Good grass type cattle were even stronger at prices \$3-5 higher.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were \$1 lower than last week as steers sold at \$148-151 and heifers sold at \$147-149 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was moderate with prices steady. Steers sold at \$77.50-81.10 live and \$132.00-134.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$77.50-81.00 live and \$132.00-134.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was light to moderate with prices \$2 lower than last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$89.00 live and \$142.00 dressed.

Local beef trade was very light. Very few orders were evident the first part of the week with movement slightly better later in the week. Retailers are waiting until the last minute to fill their orders. It appears that more product is coming in from the U.S. which has taken over some of the Canadian shelf space. It is expected that we will see better movement next week. We may see more orders for the long weekend being placed at the last minute.