



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday May 26, 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 25/05	764	49	\$1.26	AB.ON.QC.SK	Aug 24/05
May 18/05	754	41	\$1.19	AB,SK,MB,ON,QC	Aug 17/05
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

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	146-148	N/T
A grade heifers	145-147	N/T

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	79.73-92.45	86.07	106.25	86.18
Medium Frame Steers +1250	67.96-87.56	80.84	95.00	82.44
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	77.62-92.31	85.21	106.25	85.62
Large Frame Heifers +1000	77.35-88.55	82.90	99.25	85.05
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	64.95-84.01	75.68	103.50	79.22
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	74.87-88.49	82.03	103.50	84.05
Cows-all weights	17.31-32.06	24.63	63.00	25.81
Bulls-all weights	27.41-41.85	34.63	78.00	36.89

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	87.32-98.04	94.63	114.00
900-999	92.64-100.09	97.06	105.50
800-899	92.07-104.40	99.43	112.00
700-799	91.00-110.55	102.18	117.00
600-699	94.81-118.04	106.11	125.00
500-599	97.63-124.58	113.41	136.75
400-499	90.33-124.94	110.98	142.00

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HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	81.78-91.84	87.22	94.50
800-899	77.33-97.30	90.64	104.00
700-799	79.00-101.24	90.42	110.00
600-699	78.28-106.29	93.60	113.00
500-599	84.11-109.28	98.32	140.00
400-499	78.76-110.53	95.27	121.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday May 21, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	80.00-95.00	106.00
Good & choice heifers	78.00-94.00	106.75
Cows	21.00-31.00	37.50
	30.00-40.00	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, May 20, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	84.00-102.75	102.75	900+	75.00-93.75	94.50
900-999	84.00-102.75	102.75	800-899	85.50-102.50	104.00
800-899	88.75-101.50	105.50	700-799	84.25-104.00	105.50
700-799	94.00-111.25	111.25	600-699	84.50-110.00	111.00
600-699	94.00-120.00	122.25	500-599	86.00-113.25	122.00
500-599	112.00-129.00	133.00	400-499	87.00-114.00	116.00
400-499	99.00-124.00	124.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, May 24, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	94.00-99.50	99.50			
900-999	101.00-105.50	105.50			
800-899	98.00-108.75	108.75	800-899	76.00-101.25	101.25
700-799	91.50-106.50	115.00	700-799	82.00-102.00	102.00
600-699	107.00-122.25	122.50	600-699	87.50-109.50	111.00
500-599	115.00-129.25	129.25	500-599	92.50-117.00	117.00
400-499	110.00-129.00	129.50	400-499	79.00-109.00	118.00

Stocker Sale: D. H. Hickson, May 24, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
			700-799	63.00-93.50	93.50
600-699	69.00-113.00	113.00	600-699	53.50-98.00	113.00
500-599	63.00-122.50	122.50	500-599	57.00-100.00	115.00
400-499	71.00-127.50	127.50	400-499	48.00-104.00	108.50

Denfield Livestock: May 24, 2005

	Price Range		
Choice steers	90.00-95.00		
Good steers	83.00-88.00		
Plain steers	70.00-80.00		
Choice exotic cross heifers	90.00-95.00		
Good heifers	82.00-87.00		
Plain heifers	60.00-70.00		
Good fed cows	35.00-45.00		

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D1 & D2 cows	26.00-32.00	
D3 & D4 cows	20.00-24.00	
Good beef bulls	35.00-44.00	
The market traded on a good demand at steady prices on all classes of fed cattle with the fancy cattle selling at premium prices. A good offering of cows sold fully steady to stronger.		

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, May 25, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	91.50-96.25	102.00	+900	86.75-93.75	93.75
900-999	92.00-97.25	105.00	800-899	70.00-94.75	95.75

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – May 26, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	100.25-111.00	112.00			
700-799	102.00-112.50	117.00	700-799	80.00-110.00	110.00
600-699	102.50-125.00	125.00	600-699	83.00-110.50	110.50
500-599	103.50-131.50	136.75	500-599	102.00-115.50	140.00
400-499	96.00-133.00	142.00	400-499	86.00-115.50	121.00

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – May 26, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	91.00-98.00	98.00	+900	92.00-94.25	94.25
900-999	93.50-97.50	97.50	800-899	80.00-92.25	92.25
800-899	85.00-91.00	98.50			
700-799	96.00-113.50	113.50			

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – May 20, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.8533	1.7595
Last week	1.8894	1.7700

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
May 14, 2005	807	766
May 15, 2004	833	783

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending May 14, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	82,524	1,394,048	106%
Alberta Slaughter	56,712	944,386	101%
Ontario Slaughter	13,214	237,714	110%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending May 21, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	659,000	654,000	688,000

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday May 26, 2005**

Steers	Live	76.75-79.00	Flat rail	128.35-131.00
Heifers	Live	76.75-78.75	Flat rail	128.25-131.00

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

Week ending **May 26, 2005**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	\$87.00-88.50
	Rail	\$138.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	154.76	141.66

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2- May 21	Mexico Jan 1 - Mar 26
Total	133,875 tonnes	16,816 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 - May 14, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	39,186 tonnes	27,655 tonnes	+41.7%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 - May 21	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	46183906 tonnes	456,796 tonnes	+1.0%
Non-fed	64,160 tonnes	51,715 tonnes	+24.1%

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	\$/bu US		¢/bu			
Jun	85.07	+0.47	Aug	111.45	+0.67	Jul	2.212	-3.6	Jul	6.676	-8.2	Spot	79.78	+0.89
Aug	84.07	+0.00	Sep	110.25	+0.25	Sep	2.294	-3.4	Aug	6.690	-7.6	Jun	79.75	+0.86
Oct	86.10	+0.02	Oct	109.27	+0.12	Dec	2.386	-3.0	Sep	6.674	-7.0	Sep	79.92	+0.86
Dec	87.67	-0.10	Nov	108.25	+0.25	Mar	2.466	-3.0	Nov	6.680	-8.4	Dec	80.10	+0.86

Comments for the week ending May 26, 2005

The fed cattle market was a bit lower this week. There were 1,778 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$85.21 down \$0.41 and the average heifer price was \$82.03 down \$2.02 from last week. Market conditions changed as the week went on. At the beginning of the week it was reported that fancy and high yielding cattle sold very strong while others were steady. Mid to late week it was reported that the fancy cattle sold under pressure with prices \$2 lower. As noted in the actual average pricing, over the week across all markets, on average prices were up to \$2 lower.

Slaughter cows were not as strong this week as they have been. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,941. This week's average price was \$24.63 down \$1.18 from last week. Auction markets

reported cows sold moderately with prices steady to \$2 lower.

Replacement cattle continued to sell well. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 5,112 up 1% from last year. Auction markets reported stocker cattle sold on a good demand with prices fully steady to \$2 higher. Good grass type cattle continue to sell strong.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices \$1.50 lower than they were two weeks ago. Steers sold at \$146–148 and heifers were \$145–147 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was moderately active with prices steady with last week. Steers sold at \$76.75-79.00 live and \$128.35-131.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$76.75-78.75 live and \$128.25-131.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was fairly active with trade evident every day with prices \$2 lower than last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$87.00-88.50 live and \$138.00 dressed.

Local beef trade was fairly slow this week given it was a short week of sales. It appears that buyers have inventory that they are trying to clean up before purchasing more. Prices are still strong.