



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday June 2, 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
June 1/05	775	79	\$1.31	AB,MB,ON,QC	Aug 31/05
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

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	145-147	146-148
A grade heifers	144-146	145-147

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	81.80-93.02	87.26	106.00	86.07
Medium Frame Steers +1250	74.37-89.51	83.17	95.50	80.84
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	80.16-93.50	86.90	106.00	85.21
Large Frame Heifers +1000	77.61-89.90	83.75	109.00	82.90
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	65.62-80.35	72.88	94.00	75.68
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	73.84-88.02	81.09	109.00	82.03
Cows-all weights	17.20-32.49	24.42	64.00	24.63
Bulls-all weights	25.63-40.89	33.21	83.50	34.63

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	87.37-94.56	91.87	100.75
900-999	91.12-99.01	95.14	106.00
800-899	88.41-105.01	98.43	114.25
700-799	88.56-110.16	101.51	116.00
600-699	93.66-121.12	109.04	130.25
500-599	96.28-125.07	113.46	133.50
400-499	98.96-124.85	112.06	141.00

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HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	77.74-86.27	83.04	99.00
800-899	80.93-91.89	86.20	102.50
700-799	80.68-103.10	93.33	108.85
600-699	79.08-108.32	97.71	126.50
500-599	80.36-110.64	97.98	121.75
400-499	83.70-110.70	98.94	127.50

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday May 28, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	78.00-89.00	106.00
Good & choice heifers	77.00-90.00	100.00
Cows	27.00-38.00	46.50
	30.00-45.00	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, May 27, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	84.75-95.25	95.25	900+	80.00-92.00	99.00
900-999	88.75-99.50	99.50	800-899	86.50-97.00	102.50
800-899	92.00-108.50	108.50	700-799	93.00-108.85	108.85
700-799	97.50-114.50	116.00	600-699	82.00-109.50	109.50
600-699	104.50-119.25	119.25	500-599	82.50-109.00	120.0
500-599	111.00-123.00	127.00	400-499	102.00-117.00	124.00
400-499	111.50-124.50	131.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, May 31, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	97.50-105.25	106.00	+900	77.50-94.75	94.75
800-899	98.00-114.25	114.25	600-699	88.00-114.25	114.25
700-799	93.00-116.00	116.00	500-599	89.00-118.00	121.75
600-699	104.00-128.25	130.25	400-499	95.00-117.00	117.0
500-599	125.00-133.50	133.50			
400-499	105.00-126.00	129.00			

Stocker Sale: D. H. Hickson, May 31, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
600-699	72.00-116.00	116.00	600-699	57.00-102.50	102.50
500-599	63.50-127.50	127.50	500-599	50.50-105.50	105.50
400-499	61.00-127.50	127.50	400-499	62.50-107.50	127.50

Denfield Livestock: May 31, 2005

	Price Range	
Choice steers	90.00-95.00	
Good steers	84.00-88.00	
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	

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Good fed cows	35.00-45.00	
D1 & D2 cows	27.00-32.0	
D3 & D4 cows	20.00-25.00	
Good beef bulls	35.00-54.00	
The market traded on a good demand at fully steady prices on all classes of fed cattle. A good offering of cows sold steady and a good offering of stockers sold strong.		

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, June 1, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	89.00-96.75	100.75	+900	88.00-91.75	91.75
900-999	92.75-96.75	102.50	800-899	89.50-93.00	93.00
800-899	88.50-98.75	106.50			

Stocker sale: **Kawartha Lakes, June 1, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	88.00-114.75	114.75	700-799	60.00-97.50	97.50
600-699	90.50-120.00	120.00	600-699	79.50-101.00	101.00
500-599	80.00-130.50	130.50	500-599	75.00-113.00	113.00

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – June 2, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	80.50-97.50	97.50			
800-899	79.00-99.50	99.50	800-899	82.50-91.75	91.75
700-799	94.00-112.00	112.00	700-799	79.00-101.50	101.50
600-699	103.50-127.00	127.00	600-699	85.00-110.50	112.00
500-599	101.00-131.50	131.50	500-599	91.00-121.00	121.00
400-499	105.00-128.00	130.50	400-499	88.00-110.50	113.00

Stocker Sale: **Tricounty Cattle Co. – June 2, 2005**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	93.75-97.25	99.00	+900	95.85-96.60	96.60
900-999	99.50-104.00	104.00	700-799	80.00-104.00	106.00

ONTARIO BRED COWS

Ontario Stockyards May 27, 2005

	Exotic and Exotic X	British and British X
Top quality bred cows	\$700 – 925	\$600 – 800
Avg quality bred cows	\$450 – 700	\$400 – 650
Top quality cow/calf pairs	\$700 – 925	\$550 – 800
Avg quality cow/calf pairs	\$450 - 700	\$300 - 600
Top quality cows sold on a good demand all other sold under pressure.		

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – May 27, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.8628	1.7598
Last week	1.8533	1.7595

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
May 21, 2005	801	753
May 22, 2004	829	770

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending May 21, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	75,088	1,469,136	106%
Alberta Slaughter	48,501	992,887	101%
Ontario Slaughter	13,591	251,305	110%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending May 28, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	657,000	659,000	690,000

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday June 2, 2005**

Steers	Live	76.50-79.75	Flat rail	128.00-132.35
Heifers	Live	77.40-79.70	Flat rail	131.00-132.00

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

Week ending **June 2, 2005**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	83.50-85.00
	Rail	135.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	150.43	139.24

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– May 28	Mexico Jan 1 – Apr 2
Total	139,674 tonnes	20,088 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – May 28, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	40,471 tonnes	29,369 tonnes	+37.8%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – May 28	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	483,145 tonnes	476,301 tonnes	+1.4%
Non-fed	66,686 tonnes	53,395 tonnes	+24.9%

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		

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Jun	84.97	+0.52	Aug	111.70	+0.60	Jul	2.182	+1.2	Jul	6.752	+6.6	Spot	80.28	+0.10
Aug	83.42	+0.27	Sep	110.67	+0.50	Sep	2.272	+1.4	Aug	6.772	+7.2	Jun	80.29	+0.08
Oct	85.35	+0.32	Oct	109.55	+0.62	Dec	2.362	+1.2	Sep	6.776	+7.4	Sep	80.46	+0.07
Dec	87.42	+0.32	Nov	108.52	+0.52	Mar	2.444	+1.4	Nov	6.800	+7.4	Dec	80.65	+0.07

Comments for the week ending June 2, 2005

The fed cattle market was fully steady this week. There were 1,952 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets. The average fed steer price was \$86.90 up \$1.69 and the average heifer price was \$81.09 down \$0.94 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold steady to slightly stronger.

Slaughter cows sold fairly steady this week. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 2,114. This week's average price was \$24.42 down \$0.21 from last week. Auction markets reported cows sold steady to stronger.

Replacement cattle continued to sell well. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 5,507 up 7.7% from last week. Auction markets reported stocker cattle sold actively on a good demand with prices fully steady to \$3 higher.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices \$1.00 lower than they were last week. Steers sold at \$145–147 and heifers were \$144–146 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was moderately active with prices fully steady with last week. Steers sold at \$76.50-79.75 live and \$128.00-132.35 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$77.40-79.70 live and \$131.00-132.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was moderate with prices \$3 lower than last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$83.50-85.00 live and \$135.00 dressed.

Local beef trade was very quiet this week. Wholesalers and retailers are holding off buying expecting prices to come down. They are not wanting to get stuck with high priced inventory.

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US appeals court to hear Canada cattle case July 13

June 2, 2005

Reuters

Sophie Walker

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's appeal to allow imports of Canadian cattle will be heard in Seattle on July 13, a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit in San Francisco told Reuters on Thursday.

The U.S. Agriculture Department is appealing a March ruling by a federal court in Montana that halted, at the request of U.S. ranchers group R-CALF USA, a government plan to allow imports of Canadian cattle under 30 months of age.

Some 67 consumer, food safety, agricultural and other groups urged the appeals court on Thursday to keep the U.S. border closed to Canadian cattle imports to protect the public health.

Supporters of R-CALF filed "friend of the court" documents, urging the appeals court to keep the border closed in the interest of public health.

A total of four cases of mad cow disease stemming from Canadian cattle have been identified since May 2003. Currently only Canadian beef from young slaughtered cattle -- which are believed to pose the least risk -- can be exported to the United States.

"The nation's human and bovine populations are jeopardized by baseless USDA action," the supporters said. Reopening the border to Canadian animals would mean "cattle from a diseased herd will come into the U.S., ending a ban designed to protect U.S. health interests," they said.

"If BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) is vectored into this nation, thousands of cattle producers, millions of cattle, tens of millions of people and billions of dollars are at risk."

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns contends that Canada has sufficient safeguards in place to prevent the spread of mad cow disease. American meatpackers support the USDA, saying shipments of live cattle are urgently needed to avoid laying off workers and curtailing plant operations.

South Dakota rancher Ken Knuppe, participating in a media conference call to announce the latest filing, said allowing Canadian cattle imports into the United States could pose a significant risk to current negotiations with Japan. Japan, which once ranked as the biggest buyer of American beef with imports of \$1.4 billion, is considering re-opening its market to U.S. imports.

"They don't want to be importing Canadian beef being sold as U.S. meat," Knuppe said, warning negotiations were likely to drag on if this was a worry.

Japan banned U.S. beef after the first American case of mad cow disease was discovered 17 months ago. The infected animal was a dairy cow in Washington state, which had been imported from Canada.

The final hearing in the Montana court is slated for July 27.

Both parties have 14 days to tell the San Francisco appeals court if the July 13 hearing date is acceptable.