



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday June 23 ,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 22/05	820	77	\$1.36	AB,MB,ON,QC	Sept 21/05
June 15/05	809	70	\$1.37	AB,MB,ON,QC,SK	Sept 14/05
June 8/05	787	62	\$1.34	AB,SK.ON.QC	Sept 7/05
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

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 2:00p.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	146.00-148.00	147.00-150.00
A grade heifers	145.00-147.00	146.00-148.00

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	82.38-93.22	87.79	109.50	87.38
Medium Frame Steers +1250	74.78-89.87	82.43	97.50	80.50
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	80.35-92.95	86.97	109.50	86.25
Large Frame Heifers +1000	76.42-92.09	84.67	100.75	84.78
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	60.09-84.46	75.40	92.75	80.33
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	72.52-90.34	82.70	100.75	83.58
Cows-all weights	16.38-33.69	25.07	48.00	23.94
Bulls-all weights	27.23-43.96	34.37	88.75	34.19

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	88.81-96.03	93.24	102.50
900-999	95.32-101.55	98.49	107.00
800-899	95.26-102.78	99.07	110.25
700-799	86.38-106.03	99.31	120.00
600-699	86.67-114.90	103.93	131.00
500-599	90.02-118.66	103.50	134.50
400-499	91.72-124.99	110.85	146.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	78.58-89.36	85.27	107.00

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800-899	87.14-96.21	92.22	110.50
700-799	87.27-103.21	96.61	110.50
600-699	87.16-105.11	97.24	113.50
500-599	86.54-108.77	97.74	123.50
400-499	89.83-109.93	100.39	117.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday June 18, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	73.00-90.00	100.25
Good & choice heifers	65.00-98.50	101.50
Cows	20.00-28.00	35.00
Bulls	20.00-35.50	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, June 17, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	84.75-96.50	97.00	900+	79.00-92.00	107.00
900-999	88.75-96.50	106.00	800-899	89.25-96.00	110.50
800-899	90.00-98.25	103.50	700-799	91.25-109.00	110.50
700-799	94.50-107.75	110.00	600-699	94.50-109.00	113.50
600-699	101.00-114.00	116.00	500-599	91.00-109.50	111.00
500-599	103.00-117.00	120.00	400-499	85.00-117.00	117.00
400-499	112.00-131.00	131.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, June 21, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	89.00-98.60	98.60	800-899	91.00-102.75	102.75
800-899	107.85-110.25	110.25	700-799	96.75-105.00	105.00
700-799	98.00-112.75	112.75	600-699	85.00-107.00	107.00
600-699	102.50-121.00	121.00	500-599	100.00-113.50	113.50
500-599	97.00-119.00	119.50			

Stocker sale: Ontario Livestock Exchange, June 22, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	90.00-95.25	101.50	+900	91.25-97.25	97.25
900-999	93.75-100.00	106.00			

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – June 23, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
700-799	90.00-115.00	115.00	700-799	90.00-103.00	103.00
600-699	80.50-121.50	121.50	600-699	80.00-111.00	111.00
500-599	95.50-125.50	134.50	500-599	87.00-103.00	111.00

Stocker Sale: Tricounty Cattle Co. – June 23, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	95.75-102.50	102.50	800-899	90.00-95.00	95.25
900-999	100.85-107.00	107.00			

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending Thursday June 23, 2005

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Steers	Live	79.75-82.25	Flat rail	133.50-135.45
Heifers	Live	79.75-82.10	Flat rail	131.25-135.00

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

Week ending June 23, 2005

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	81.00-82.00
	Rail	128.00-131.00

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – June 17, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.7596	1.6818
Last week	1.7811	1.7149

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	135.07	132.53

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
June 11, 2005	806	741
June 12, 2004	826	754

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending June 11, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	75,235	1,694,909	106%
Alberta Slaughter	49,125	1,142,047	101%
Ontario Slaughter	12,795	290,139	110%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending June 18, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	665,000	656,000	660,000

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– June 18	Mexico Jan 1 – Apr 30
Total	164,494 tonnes	24,902 tonnes

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – June 11, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	48,315 tonnes	34,659 tonnes	+39.4%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – June 18	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	557,302 tonnes	549,380 tonnes	+1.4%
Non-fed	76,027 tonnes	60,931 tonnes	+24.8%

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	82.17	+0.07	Aug	108.45	-0.45	Jul	2.326	+6.2	Jul	7.444	+18.6	Spot	81.17	+0.09
Aug	79.87	-0.10	Sep	107.75	-0.32	Sep	2.420	+6.2	Aug	7.482	+17.6	Sep	81.30	+0.07
Oct	82.35	-0.12	Oct	106.70	-0.35	Dec	2.526	+6.0	Sep	7.560	+21.4	Dec	81.53	+0.08
Dec	84.10	-0.07	Nov	105.50	-0.50	Mar	2.594	+5.4	Nov	7.656	+20.2	Mar	81.75	+0.09

Comments for the week ending June 23, 2005

Cattle sales in Ontario have remained fairly steady over the last couple of weeks. No drastic drops or increases, just holding it's own. The volume of live finished steers and heifers sold through auction markets was 1,853, consistent with last week and last year. The average fed steer price was \$86.25 up \$0.72 and the average heifer price was \$82.70 down \$0.88 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold actively on a good strong trade.

Slaughter cows saw steady trade as well. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,650. Volume has consistently dropped over the past month which is very typical for this time of year. This week's average price was \$20.72 up \$0.85 from last week. Auction markets reported cows sold on a good demand at steady prices.

Replacement cattle continued to sell strong. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 2,883 down 14.7% from last week and 26% more than last year at this time. Auction markets reported stocker cattle sold actively on a good demand with prices fully steady.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were \$1.50 lower than they were last week. Steers sold at \$146-148 and heifers were \$145-147 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was active with prices fully steady. Steers sold at \$79.75-82.25 live and \$133.50-135.45 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$79.75-82.10 live and \$131.25-135.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was moderate with prices \$1-3 lower than last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$81.00-82.00 live and \$128.00-131.00 dressed.

Local beef trade has been very strong over the last couple of weeks. Major retailers have been placing their orders and wiping inventories clean.

Release No. 0232.05 Contact: USDA Press Office (202)720-4623

PRIVATE "TYPE=PICT;ALT= "USDA ANNOUNCES BSE TEST RESULTS AND NEW BSE CONFIRMATORY TESTING PROTOCOL

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2005 -- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has received final test results from The Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, England, confirming that a sample from an animal that was blocked from the food supply in November 2004 has tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Johanns also directed USDA scientists to work with international experts to thoughtfully develop a new protocol that includes performing dual confirmatory tests in the event of another "inconclusive" BSE screening test.

"We are currently testing nearly 1,000 animals per day as part of our BSE enhanced surveillance program, more than 388,000 total tests, and this is the first confirmed case resulting from our surveillance," Johanns said. "I am encouraged that our interlocking safeguards are working exactly as intended. This animal was blocked from entering the food supply because of the firewalls we have in place. Americans have every reason to continue to be confident in the safety of our beef."

Effective immediately, if another BSE rapid screening test results in inconclusive findings, USDA will run both an IHC and Western blot confirmatory test. If results from either confirmatory test are positive, the sample will be considered positive for BSE.

"I want to make sure we continue to give consumers every reason to be confident in the health of our cattle herd," Johanns said. "By adding the second confirmatory test, we boost that confidence and bring our testing in line with the evolving worldwide trend to use both IHC and Western blot together as confirmatory tests for BSE."

USDA has initiated an epidemiological investigation to determine the animal's herd of origin. That investigation is not yet complete. The animal was born before the United States instituted a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban in August 1997, which prevents the use of most mammalian protein in cattle feed. According to internationally accepted research, feed containing meat-and-bone meal is the primary way BSE is transferred to the cattle population.

The animal was selected for testing because, as a non-ambulatory animal, it was considered to be at higher risk

for BSE. An initial screening test on the animal in November 2004 was inconclusive, triggering USDA to conduct the internationally accepted confirmatory IHC tests. Those test results were negative. Earlier this month, USDA's Office of the Inspector General recommended further testing of the seven-month-old sample using another internationally recognized confirmatory test, the Western blot. Unlike the IHC, the Western blot was reactive, prompting USDA to send samples from the animal to the Weybridge laboratory for further analysis.

The laboratory in Weybridge, England, is recognized by the World Animal Health Organization, or OIE, as a world reference laboratory for BSE. Weybridge officials this week conducted a combination of rapid, IHC and Western blot testing on tissue samples from the animal in question. At the same time these diagnostic tests were being run by Weybridge, USDA conducted its own additional tests.

As a non-ambulatory, or "downer" animal, the cow was prohibited from entering the human food supply, under an interim final rule in effect since January 2004. Research has shown that BSE is most likely to be found in older non-ambulatory cattle, animals showing signs of central nervous system disorders, injured or emaciated animals, and cattle that have died for unexplained reasons. USDA's testing program targets these groups of animals for testing.

The system of human health protections includes the USDA ban on specified risk materials, or SRM's, from the food supply. SRM's are most likely to contain the BSE agent if it is present in an animal. Additional measures, such as a longstanding ban on importing cattle and beef products from high-risk countries, a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban, U.S. slaughter practices, and aggressive surveillance provide a series of interlocking safeguards to protect U.S. consumers and animal health.

USDA remains committed to protecting both U.S. consumers and U.S. livestock from BSE, and to that end continues efforts to detect the disease through its enhanced BSE surveillance program. Once sufficient data from the surveillance program has been accumulated, USDA will consult with outside experts to analyze it and determine whether any changes to existing risk management measures are necessary.

This confirmed case of BSE in no way impacts the safety of our nation's food supply. As the epidemiological investigation progresses, USDA will continue to communicate findings in a timely and transparent manner.