



Weekly Market Information Report



Week ending Thursday February 23, 2006

The following information is collected from various sources and disseminated by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

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	161.00-165.00	161.00-167.00
A grade heifers	160.00-164.00	160.00-167.00

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	88.80-97.68	93.91	108.25	94.60
Medium Frame Steers +1250	84.62-96.32	92.06	99.75	91.35
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	87.11-97.73	93.62	108.25	94.30
Large Frame Heifers +1000	88.05-98.01	93.20	106.25	92.40
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	76.68-95.87	87.72	100.50	89.54
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	86.10-98.97	92.62	106.25	92.28
Cows-all weights	22.61-36.91	29.44	70.50	26.84
Bulls-all weights	31.36-43.39	37.00	64.00	41.73

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	91.74-105.31	97.69	115.00
900-999	98.34-110.23	105.91	117.50
800-899	96.48-113.06	107.81	118.50
700-799	103.15-118.82	112.05	129.00
600-699	108.24-127.50	118.39	137.00
500-599	106.88-134.55	121.90	142.00
400-499	102.42-139.08	123.92	155.00
-399	90.75-151.40	116.76	365.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	68.99-96.25	85.65	107.25
800-899	90.94-100.56	96.22	108.00
700-799	88.65-106.64	99.69	120.00
600-699	93.39-113.67	104.23	121.00
500-599	96.47-118.45	109.37	125.00
400-499	93.27-117.30	106.78	128.50
300-399	91.36-114.08	100.91	135.00

At Talbotville Livestock: February 18, 2006- 257 head

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	86.00-96.00	102.50
Good & choice heifers	84.00-96.00	101.50
Cows	24.00-34.00	45.50
Bulls	41.50	

Stockers: Brussels Livestock, February 20 .2006

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	100.00-107.25	107.25	900+	74.50-106.50	106.50
900-1000	110.00-114.00	114.00	800-900	84.00-108.00	108.00
800-900	89.00-110.00	118.50	700-800	97.50-118.00	118.00
700-800	94.00-123.00	129.00	600-700	90.50-110.00	112.00
600-700	99.00-119.00	128.00	500-600	97.00-122.00	122.00
500-600	116.50-132.00	136.50	400-500	110.00-125.50	125.50
400-500	100.00-142.50	150.00	300-400	104.00-112.00	112.00
300-400	87.00-132.00	140.00			

Stocker sale at: Keady Livestock- February 21, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
+1000	92.00-108.00	800-899	93.50-96.25
800-899	114.00-118.25	700-799	100.75-108.00
700-799	111.00-122.00	600-699	100.00-114.00
600-699	126.00-136.00	400-599	106.00-120.50
500-599	120.00-142.00	400-499	94.00-121.50

Stocker Sale at : D. H. Hickson Ltd. February 21, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
800-899	68.50-105.00	800-899	70.00-90.50
700-799	78.50-111.00	700-799	56.00-90.00
600-699	82.00-110.50	600-699	63.00-103.50
500-599	97.50-132.50	500-599	75.00-122.50
400-499	68.00-130.00	400-499	81.50-128.50

Denfield Livestock – February 21, 2006

	Price Range
Choice Steers	95.00-100.00
Good Steers	88.00-92.00
Plain Steers	70.00-80.00
Choice Exotic Heifers	95.00-100.00
Good Heifers	86.00-90.00
Plain Heifers	70.00-80.00
Good Fed Cows	38.00-50.00
D1 & D2 Cows	30.00-37.00
D3 & D4 Cows	25.00-30.00
Good Beef Bulls	38.00-45.00
Good Stocker Strs- 650-750 lb	115.00-152.50
Good Stocker Hfrs- 650-750 lb	110.00-120.00
Bred Cows	850.00-1150.00

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – February 23, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
800-899	96.00-116.00	116.00	800-899	94.50-105.00	105.00
700-799	119.00-126.50	126.50	700-799	96.75-110.00	110.00
600-699	116.00-136.00	137.00	600-699	98.50-121.00	121.00
500-599	114.00-140.00	140.50	500-599	109.25-123.00	125.00
400-499	125.50-152.00	155.00	400-499	85.00-114.00	128.00

QUEBEC ELECTRONIC AUCTION MARKET (F.O.B. the feedlot)**Week Ending February 16, 2006****Price Range****A1, A2 Steers & Heifers****161.00-164.50**

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending Thursday February 23, 2006

Steers	Live	85.00-87.00	Flat rail	146.00-147.00
Heifers	Live	83.00-88.55	Flat rail	143.50-147.00

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES

Week Ending	AAA	AA
February 11, 2006	1.7215	1.6430
February 4, 2006	1.7519	1.6710

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	Steers	Heifers
February 18 2006	858	800
February 19 2005	838	769

PROVINCIAL SLAUGHTER

	Jan 2006	Jan 2005
Steers	4,401	5,016
Heifers	2,848	2,831
Cows	2,923	3,154
Bulls	731	744

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week End	YTD	% of
	Feb 18 2006		Yr. Ago
Grand Total	63,046	439,197	91%
Alberta Slaughter	37,994	266,791	83%
Ontario Slaughter	13,380	91,355	107%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending	Feb 18, 2006	Year Ago
	Feb 25, 2006		
Grand Total	568,000	539,000	571,000

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	152.29	142.03

U.S. TRADE (U.S funds)

Week ending Thursday February 16, 2006

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	89.00
	Rail	140.00-144.00

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States	Mexico
	Jan 1– Feb 18	Jan 1 – Dec 31
Total	35,586	52,053

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Feb11	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	12,027 tonnes	17,531 tonnes	-31.4%

Fed
Non-fed

		<u>BEEF PRODUCTION</u>		
Jan 1 –Feb 18		Last Year Same Time		% Change
123,218 tonnes		150,165 tonnes		-17.9%
35,921 tonnes		23,651 tonnes		+51.9%

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							
Feb	90.07	-0.70	Mar	106.20	-0.75	Mar	2.276	+4.6	Mar	5.772	+5.4	Spot	87.13	+0.37
Apr	87.00	-0.47	Apr	106.72	-0.92	May	2.386	+5.0	May	5.900	+5.2	Mar	87.12	+0.34
Jun	82.12	-0.60	May	107.45	-0.80	July	2.480	+5.0	Jul	6.014	+5.6	Jun	87.36	+0.34
Aug	82.10	-0.27	Aug	108.47	-0.85	Sep	2.542	+4.4	Aug	6.034	+4.4	Sep	87.57	+0.34

Comments for the week ending February 23, 2006

The finished cattle market saw minimal improvement this week. The volume of live finished steers and heifers sold through auction markets was 1,279. The average fed steer price was \$93.62 down \$0.68 and the average heifer price was \$92.62 up \$0.34 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold on a dull to good demand with prices barley steady to \$2.00 higher.

Slaughter cows sold stronger this week. There were 2,100 head sold through auction markets. This week's average price was \$29.44 up \$2.60 from last week. Auction markets reported cows sold actively on a good demand with prices \$2.00 to \$4.00 higher.

Replacement cattle sold on a mixed market, improving slightly as the week progressed. Total stockers sold was 4,479 up 7.5% from last week and 2% more than last year at this time. Auction markets reported calves sold \$5.00 lower to steady while yearlings sold steady to \$3.00 higher than last week.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices dropped another \$1.00-1.50 over last week's decline. Steers sold at \$161.00-165.00 and heifers sold at \$160.00-164.00 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was active with prices fully steady to last week. Steers sold at \$85.00- 87.00 live and \$146.00-147.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$83.00-88.55 live and \$143.50-147.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was not evident until late on Wednesday with large volume in Nebraska seeing prices up \$1.00 to \$3.00 from last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$142.00 to 144.00 dressed.

Local beef trade has seen some improvement this week with prices stabilizing . All cuts of meat are moving very well as the market gains strength and prices improve.