



Weekly Market Information Report



Week ending Thursday March 23, 2006

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

****Important notice regarding Rail Grade Pricing at the end of the report.**

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	88.24-97.99	94.16	111.50	91.87
Medium Frame Steers +1250	82.70-96.59	90.87	108.00	91.83
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	87.55-98.82	93.67	111.50	91.81
Large Frame Heifers +1000	84.03-96.94	92.65	102.00	90.89
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	68.78-95.08	86.83	101.00	86.36
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	82.18-97.74	91.84	102.00	90.01
Cows-all weights	23.29-38.09	30.09	70.00	29.62
Bulls-all weights	43.68-59.72	52.70	105.45	43.76

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	93.67-103.38	99.21	108.75
900-999	101.25-108.07	104.47	112.75
800-899	100.01-112.56	107.98	116.25
700-799	104.29-119.76	113.57	126.00
600-699	113.94-134.91	125.44	146.00
500-599	115.30-143.26	131.40	154.00
400-499	118.32-144.80	132.54	158.00
-399	111.17-147.01	132.10	285.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	88.98-97.13	93.20	103.50
800-899	93.47-104.84	99.73	111.00
700-799	92.84-110.86	104.72	121.50
600-699	103.76-120.62	113.12	133.50
500-599	104.71-125.80	118.47	130.00
400-499	108.65-128.84	120.49	135.50
300-399	107.39-127.58	118.75	154.00

Denfield Livestock – March 21, 2006

	Price Range
Choice Steers	95.00-100.00
Good Steers	90.00-94.00
Plain Steers	70.00-80.00
Choice Exotic Heifers	98.00-103.00 top 110.00
Good Heifers	88.00-93.00
Plain Heifers	65.00-75.00
Good Fed Cows	40.00-50.00
D1 & D2 Cows	30.00-38.00
D3 & D4 Cows	25.00-30.00
Good Beef Bulls	40.00-60.00
Good Holstein Bulls	30.00-40.00
Good Stocker Strs- 650-750 lb	115.00-122.00
Good Stocker Hfrs- 650-750 lb	110.00-115.00
Good hol bull calves	200.00-305.00

ONTARIO REPLACEMENT TRADE

Stockers: **D.H. Hickson, March 17, 2006- Spring Sale- 100% Vaccinated.**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
1000+	97.50-106.50	800-900	87.50-108.50
900-1000	94.50-109.00	700-800	89.50-112.00
800-900	102.50-113.00	600-700	109.50-123.00
700-800	98.00-122.00	500-600	89.00-128.00
600-700	111.00-139.00	400-500	95.50-135.50
500-600	110.50-153.50		
400-500	126.50-149.50		

Stockers: **Brussels Livestock, March 17, 2006.**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	91.00-103.25	103.25	900+	93.50-100.00	100.50
900-1000	96.00-104.25	106.25	800-900	94.50-106.50	106.50
800-900	97.00-112.75	112.75	700-800	94.00-108.25	114.50
700-800	109.00-122.50	123.75	600-700	103.50-116.25	119.00
600-700	112.00-132.00	140.00	500-600	111.00-125.25	127.00
500-600	115.25-136.50	139.00	400-500	115.50-128.50	128.50
400-500	116.00-140.00	152.00	300-400	123.00-127.00	

Stockers- **Brussels Livestock, March 20, 2006-Vaccinated-Spring Sale**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-1000	99.00-109.50	800-900	101.00-102.50
800-900	98.00-110.25	700-800	99.50-113.50
700-800	107.00-120.00	600-700	105.50-113.75
600-700	122.75-139.00	500-600	116.00-129.00
500-600	132.00-150.00	400-500	121.00-133.00
400-500	121.00-150.00	300-400	127.00-145.00
- 400	143.00-154.00		

Stockers: **Keady Livestock- March 21, 2006**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-999	95.50-105.50	900+	92.75
800-899	104.50-111.50	800-899	97.00-104.10
700-799	104.00-125.25	700-799	94.75-111.00
600-699	128.75-134.50	600-699	113.85-122.00
500-599	128.00-151.00	500-599	113.00-130.00
400-499	105.00-151.00	400-499	114.00-131.00
Under 400	132.00-139.00		

A good selection of replacement cattle sold on good demand at steady prices.

Stockers: **D. H. Hickson Ltd. March 21, 2006**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
800-899	84.50-106.50	700-799	88.00-106.50
700-799	78.50-120.50	600-699	72.50-111.00
600-699	87.50-126.00	500-599	67.00-129.50
500-599	74.00-146.50	400-499	96.00-124.00
400-499	84.00-151.50	300-399	77.00-116.00

Stockers: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 22, 2006**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	97.75-107.75	108.75	+900	94.75-99.75	101.75
900-999	103.00-109.25	112.75	800-899	94.50-103.25	103.25
800-899	104.00-116.25	116.25	700-799	102.00-106.00	
700-799	119.00-119.50				

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – March 23, 2006**

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	82.00-97.50	98.50	900+	75.00-95.75	103.50
900-999	98.50-107.25	109.50	800-899	97.00-111.00	111.00
800-899	103.50-115.25	115.25	700-799	100.00-121.50	121.50
700-799	104.00-119.00	126.00	600-699	107.00-133.50	133.50
600-699	117.50-140.00	146.00	500-599	108.00-127.00	128.00
500-599	119.50-151.50	154.00	400-499	119.00-134.00	134.00
400-499	127.00-153.00	158.00	300-399	100.00-145.50	154.00

Stocker Sale: **Tri-county Cattle –March 23, 2006**

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
1000+	95.25-102.00	800-899	95.50-104.75
800-899	105.25-106.75	700-799	97.25-111.00
700-799	116.50-119.75	600-699	97.00-121.50
		500-599	120.00-123.00
		400-499	115.00-119.00

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday March 23, 2006**

Steers	Live	86.00-87.75	Flat rail	143.50-145.50
Heifers	Live	85.50-88.25	Flat rail	143.00-143.50

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	Steers	Heifers
March 18, 2006	859	777
March 19, 2005	834	789

PROVINCIAL SLAUGHTER

	February 2006	February 2005
Steers	3,013	4,330
Heifers	2,493	2,532
Cows	2,130	3,048
Bulls	501	721

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week End	YTD	% of
	Mar 18, 2006		Yr. Ago
Grand Total	67,509	702,083	91%
Alberta Slaughter	43,102	431,917	83%
Ontario Slaughter	12,853	144,435	106%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending	Mar 11, 2006	Year Ago
	Mar 25, 2006		
Grand Total	583,000	623,000	567,000

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES

Week Ending	AAA	AA
March 4, 2006	1.7240	1.6821
February 25, 2006	1.7380	1.6740

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

	Choice 600-900	Select 600-900
Current 5 day average:	142.67	131.71

U.S. TRADE (U.S funds)

Week ending [Thursday March 23, 2006](#)

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	86.00-86.50
	Rail	138.00

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 1 – Mar 18	Mexico Jan 1 – 28
Total	58,218	1,953

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Mar 11	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	21,164	25,188	-16%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – Mar 18	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	198,679 tonnes	243,916 tonnes	-18.5%
Non-fed	55,659 tonnes	35,883 tonnes	55.1%

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		
Apr	82.47 -0.80	Mar	103.45 -1.20	May	May 2.186 -0.4	May	5.736	Spot	85.63 -0.16
Jun	76.90 -0.65	Apr	104.97 -0.97	July	July 2.296 -0.4	Jul	5.870	Jun	85.81 -0.20
Aug	78.95 -0.70	May	104.97 -0.97	Sep	Sep 2.394 +0.0	Aug	5.914	Sep	86.05 -0.20
Oct	82.77 -0.55	Aug	107.05 -0.62	Dec	Dec 2.514 +0.2	Sep	5.944	Dec	86.29 -0.20

* The Board of Directors is very aware of how important the rail grade price is to our members. They have made a decision to accept rail grade prices from Ontario producers. In order for the rail grade pricing to be established on any given day, we require a minimum of five sources reporting information by fax or email.

Producers who are willing to report are encouraged to call our office to get the form. All prices need to be in writing. Information will be audited on a random basis. All information will be kept strictly confidential within the office of the Market Information Coordinator.

We are hopeful that Federal plants will resume price reporting which will benefit the Ontario industry.

Comments for the week ending March 23, 2006

The finished cattle market saw a slight improvement this week. The volume of live finished steers and heifers sold through auction markets was 1,589. The average fed steer price was \$93.67 up \$1.86 and the average heifer price was \$91.84 up \$1.83 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold on a strong active trade with prices ranging from steady to \$3.00 higher.

Slaughter cows sold actively this week. There were 2,440 head sold through auction markets. This week's average price was \$30.09 up \$0.47 from last week and up \$5.50 from last year at this time. Auction markets reported cows sold on an active demand with prices firm to \$2.00 higher.

Replacement cattle sold on good demand. Total stockers sold was 5,348 down 22.8% from last week and 136% more than last year at this time. Auction markets reported stockers sold actively on a good demand with prices steady early in the week to steady to \$5.00 higher later in the week.

In Alberta, cattle trade was light with prices steady to \$1.00 higher than last week. Steers sold at \$86.00- 87.75 live and \$143.50-145.50 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$85.50-88.25 live and \$143.00-143.50 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade did not see business in the north until late in the week due to a major winter storm, but developed early in the south for the same reason. Cattle traded actively with prices fully steady to \$1.00 higher as steers and heifers sold at \$86.00-\$86.50 live and \$138.00 dressed.

Local beef trade reports that the market is slowly improving from March break and prices remain steady. Top butts, loins and ribs are moving well with end cuts moving steady to last week.