



Weekly Market Information Report

Week ending Thursday March 24, 2005



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	138.00-145.00	138.00-145.00
A grade heifers	137.00-144.00	137.00-144.00

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	79.59-88.15	84.52	94.25	79.91
Medium Frame Steers +1250	76.01-85.89	82.13	91.75	78.02
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	78.40-88.02	83.91	94.25	79.50
Large Frame Heifers +1000	72.45-86.96	80.63	93.25	78.01
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	68.28-84.21	76.88	91.75	73.87
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	70.96-86.89	79.41	93.25	77.69
Cows-all weights	16.73-31.08	24.59	60.00	22.83
Bulls-all weights	26.45-38.09	32.95	79.75	32.43

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	78.05-90.37	86.21	98.00
900-999	91.86-98.26	94.77	101.00
800-899	85.88-98.94	93.36	102.50
700-799	82.49-103.97	97.47	114.00
600-699	86.46-114.04	103.86	117.00
500-599	93.78-118.42	110.69	126.50
400-499	88.03-117.26	105.97	125.50

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	69.42-81.55	76.26	94.25
800-899	53.41-87.39	81.54	96.00
700-799	76.18-99.68	87.07	105.50
600-699	77.08-96.59	87.51	104.50
500-599	75.79-102.57	94.32	123.00
400-499	78.51-109.30	97.15	120.00

At Talbotville Livestock: Saturday March 19, 2005

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	73.00-91.25	
Good & choice heifers	77.00-87.00	94.50
Cows	23.00-32.00	43.50
Bulls	30.00-50.00	

Stocker Sale: Brussel's Livestock, March 18, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	86.00-89.50	92.25	900+	79.50-88.60	88.60
900-999	83.25-90.00	91.00	800-899	54.00-74.22	84.00
800-899	86.50-102.50	102.50	700-799	100.50-87.78	100.50
700-799	86.00-108.00	114.00	600-699	98.00-87.86	103.50
600-699	96.00-116.50	117.00	500-599	87.00-105.00	118.00
500-599	105.00-117.00	120.00	400-499	93.00-111.50	111.50
400-499	115.50-125.50	125.50			

Stocker Sale: D.H. Hickson Ltd., March 18, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
900-999	86.00-94.50	94.50	800-899	51.00-89.00	89.00
800-899	74.00-102.50	102.50	700-799	80.00-105.50	105.50
700-799	78.00-111.00	111.00	600-699	70.00-99.50	99.50
600-699	73.00-117.00	117.00	500-599	67.00-107.50	107.50
500-599	66.00-121.00	121.00	400-499	80.00-120.00	120.00
400-499	96.00-124.00	124.00			

Stocker Sale: Keady Livestock, March 22, 2005

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-999	95.00-99.50	600-699	87.00-104.00
800-899	96.25-99.25	500-599	99.00-97.25
700-799	94.00-97.25		
600-699	106.50-113.00		
400-499	108.00-121.00		

Denfield Livestock: March 22, 2005

	Price Range
Choice steers	95.00-100.00
Good steers	84.00-90.00
Plain steers	70.00-80.00
Choice exotic cross heifers	92.00-98.75
Good heifers	80.00-88.00
Plain heifers	65.00-75.00
Good fed cows	30.00-40.00
D1 & D2 cows	23.00-30.00
D3 & D4 cows	17.00-22.00
Good beef bulls	30.00-50.00
Good Holstein bulls	25.00-30.00

The market traded very active on a strong demand on all classes of fed cattle at prices \$5 higher

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from the weekend close. A good offering of cows were in good demand at steady prices. Stockers traded strong. Holstein bull calves were fully steady.

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Week ending – March 18, 2005	AAA	AA
Cutout value	1.826	1.777
Last week	1.834	1.771

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	STEERS	HEIFERS
Mar 12, 2005	837	793
Mar 13, 2004	852	798

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week Ending Mar 12, 2005	YTD	% of Yr. Ago
Grand Total	78,601	696,372	101%
Alberta Slaughter	55,045	464,823	95%
Ontario Slaughter	12,952	123,618	109%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending March 19, 2005	Last Week	Year Ago
Grand Total	590,000	599,000	613,000

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending [Thursday March 24, 2005](#)

Steers	Live	81.00-85.00	Flat rail	136.00-140.00
Heifers	Live	81.55-85.55	Flat rail	139.00-140.90

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

Week ending [March 24, 2005](#)

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	90.00-92.00
	Rail	146.00-147.00

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	154.29	147.83

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States Jan 2– Mar 19	Mexico Jan 4 – Jan 22
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Total	65,134 tonnes	3,900 tonnes
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BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Mar 12, 2005	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	24,217 tonnes	11,979 tonnes	+77.1%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 – Mar 19	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	243,916 tonnes	251,043 tonnes	-2.8%
Non-fed	35,883 tonnes	29,260 tonnes	+22.6%

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 US					
							¢/bu		¢/bu					
Apr	88.35	+0.95	Mar	106.35	+0.02	May	2.104	-0.2	May	6.286	+5.4	Spot	82.26	+0.03
Jun	84.87	+0.62	Apr	104.92	+0.80	Jul	2.184	-0.2	Jul	6.340	+6.0	Jun	82.23	-0.11
Aug	83.05	+0.52	May	103.27	+0.80	Sep	2.246	-0.6	Aug	6.304	+5.2	Sep	82.38	-0.11
Oct	84.20	+0.75	Aug	105.20	+0.70	Dec	2.336	-0.4	Sep	6.144	+4.4	Dec	82.53	-0.11

Week Ending March 24, 2005

Volume of cattle traded this week was very low just because of the short week. Overall prices seem to have been a bit stronger after last week's loss.

The fed cattle market gained a bit of strength back. There were 881 head of finished steers and heifers sold live through Ontario auction markets in just the four day week. The average fed steer price was \$83.91 up \$4.41 and the average heifer price was \$79.41 up \$1.72 from last week. Auction markets reported good offerings of fed cattle sold actively with prices steady to \$4 higher.

Slaughter cows sold somewhat stronger but not enough to make up for last week's large decline. The volume of cows sold through auction markets was 1,013. This week's average price was \$24.59 up \$1.76. Auction markets reported cows sold steady to \$3 higher.

Replacement cattle trade rebounded this week with stronger prices. Total stockers sold live through auction markets was 2,267. Auction markets reported stockers sold on a strong active trade with prices higher.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were steady with last week as steers sold \$138-145 and heifers were \$137-144.

In Alberta, cattle trade was active on Wednesday with prices \$2 higher than last week. Steers sold at \$81.00-85.00 live and \$136.00-140.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$81.55-85.55 live and \$139.00-140.90 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was very active on Wednesday with prices steady to \$1 lower than last week as steers and heifers traded at \$90.00-92.00 live and \$146.00-147.00 dressed.

Local beef trade saw steady prices with good movement.

Subject: Canadian Cattlemen's Association News Release

Canadian Cattle Producer Associations File for Standing in R-CALF vs. USDA Suit

(March 21, 2005) The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) today jointly filed for intervener status in the R-CALF vs. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) law suit to be heard in U.S. District Court for Montana, Billings Division in late July.

The request for intervener status argues that the Canadian cattle producers have substantial interests in the outcome of this case, and no other party to the proceeding can adequately represent those interests. The CCA represents over 90,000 Canadian beef cattle producers. ABP represents 28,000 cattle producers in the province of Alberta.

The CCA had filed a Motion for Leave to File a Brief Amicus Curiae ("friend of the court") to the District Court in February, but that motion was rejected by the Court. The Court's explanation in ordering a preliminary injunction to delay the border re-opening demonstrates that there is a fundamental lack of information before the Court with respect to BSE controls in Canada and numbers of cattle available. CCA's amicus curiae brief would have provided this highly relevant information to the Court had it not been denied. Consequently, CCA and ABP have no other recourse but to seek to inform the Court as interveners.

For further information:

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