



Daily Market Information Report - Wednesday, February 27, 2019

The following information is collected from various sources and disseminated by Beef Farmers of Ontario.

ONTARIO DIRECT TO PACKER RAILGRADE CATTLE TRADE

Prices are on a carcass weight basis before grade and weight discounts, *regardless of delivery date.*

A Grade Steers	250.00-253.00 with limited buyer interest in the afternoon
A Grade Heifers	249.00-253.00 with limited buyer interest in the afternoon

ONTARIO LIVE CATTLE TRADE

Today at **Ontario Livestock Exchange: 490** stocker steers

Steers	Price Range	Top	Heifers	Price Range	Top
1000+	173.00-185.50		800+	N/A	
800-1000	183.00-193.50				

Feeder cattle sold on a steady trade.

Today at **Ontario Stockyards Inc.: 42** fed steers & heifers, **214** Cows, **8** Bulls & **24** Veal

	Price Range	Top
Fancy & Choice Fed Steers	N/A	
Fancy & Choice Fed Heifers	140.00-149.00	152.00
Good to choice fed heifers	135.00-140.00	
Aged and medium fed cattle	N/A	
Good Beef Cows	65.00-75.00	85.00
Good Dairy Cows	54.00-62.00	72.00
Export Cows	48.00-63.00	
Bulls	88.00-105.00	110.00

Good quality heifers sold steady, with too few steers on offer to establish a market. Cows traded at steady prices while bulls sold stronger. Veal was steady to Monday. *600 stockers are expected for Thursday's sale. March 5th @ 11:00 am - Spring All Vaccinated Stocker Sale!*

Denfield Livestock Exchange Inc., February 26, 2019: 140 Fed Cattle, **38** Veal, **2** Bulls, **145** Cows & **151** Drop Calves

	Price Range	Top		Price Range	Top
Choice steers	150.00-155.00		Good beef cows	70.00-80.00	85.00
Good steers	145.00-150.00		Good Holstein cows	60.00-70.00	
Choice heifers	150.00-155.00	173.00	D1 & D2 Cows	50.00-60.00	
Good heifers	145.00-150.00		D3 & D4 Cows	40.00-50.00	
Good Holstein veal	100.00-110.00		Choice drop calves	\$110.00-\$100.00/hd	\$255.00/hd
Plain & heavy veal	80.00-90.00		Good drop calves	\$50.00-\$125.00/hd	
Good beef bulls	85.00-90.00		Plain & Newborns	\$10.00-\$40.00/hd	

The fed cattle sold fully steady to last week's market. Veal sold steady and cull cows and bulls sold slightly higher with a good demand. Drop calves sold lower. *March 23rd @ 11:00 am - First Special Spring Stocker & Bred Cow Sale!*

At **Renfrew Pontiac Livestock Ltd.: February 26, 2019 – 7** Replacement Calves, **85** Cows, **8** Bulls

	Price Range	Top
Replacement Calves	50.00-140.00	160.00
Cows – D1 & D2	66.00-78.00	80.00
Cows – D3	57.00-65.00	
Cows – D4	44.00-56.00	
Bulls	92.00-100.00	106.00

All classes sold steady to last week.

Ontario auction sales on **TUESDAY** saw weighted prices for:

	Volume	Price Range	Average	Top
Large & Medium Frame Fed Steers +1250 lbs	10	113.00-152.00	141.39	152.00
Large & Medium Frame Fed Heifers +1000 lbs	20	88.00-143.00	128.18	143.00
Cows	495	49.48-69.46	58.34	103.00
Bulls under 1600 lbs	5	79.60-98.20	86.90	109.00
Bulls over 1600 lbs	21	89.95-106.62	98.89	116.00
Veal 600 lbs and over	356	78.85-106.52	91.33	146.00
Veal 125 & less	46	76.25-160.38	126.27	304.99

220.00To check out individual auction market results on the Ontario Beef website go to <http://www.ontariobeef.com/markets/market-reports.aspx>

Stocker sale at: **Community Livestock Exchange: February 26, 2019 – 153** Stockers

Steers	Price Range	Average	Top	Heifers	Price Range	Average	Top
600-699	139.99-229.99	205.20	229.99	500-599	117.50-192.99	179.69	192.99
500-599	185.00-239.00	217.20	239.00	400-499	125.00-187.99	158.80	187.99
400-499	130.00-229.99	212.30	229.99				

March 15, 2019 @ 11:00 am- Quinte Cattlemen's Stocker Sale! 90% vaccinated, catalogued and farm fresh.

Keady Livestock Market: Next regular sale is March 12th @ 10:00 am. Regular schedule resumes April 2nd @ 9:00 am.

Stocker sale at: **Renfrew Pontiac Livestock: February 26, 2019 – 200** Stockers

Steers	Price Range	Average	Top	Heifers	Price Range	Average	Top
800-899	161.00-184.00	176.60	184.00	700-799	123.99-170.99	150.89	170.99
700-799	100.00-186.00	159.20	186.00	600-699	141.99-176.00	164.10	176.00
600-699	130.00-222.99	187.79	222.99	500-599	139.99-187.99	182.80	187.99
500-599	207.50-233.00	225.89	233.00	400-499	180.00-189.99	183.09	189.99
400-499	175.00-231.00	196.70	231.00				
399-	212.99-237.50	216.29	237.50				

Stockers sold steady to last week's market.

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

	Choice 600-900	Select 600-900
Cutout Values (noon estimate):	219.85	213.06
Change (from yesterday's close):	+0.18	-0.67
Current Five Day Average:	218.63	212.71

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Alberta direct trade remains at a standstill this morning, however so scattered trade could develop this afternoon. Canfax reports that asking prices are sitting at \$253.00-\$255.00 cwt delivered on a dressed basis.

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

The U.S. cash cattle trade remains untested today, however packer interest did improve from morning to afternoon. Bids are sitting at \$125.00 live in the south which is \$1.00 below last week's weighted average, and \$202.00 dressed which is steady to last weeks average price. Asking prices are holding at \$130.00 plus live in the south and \$206.00 plus dressed in the north. A few scattered deals are possible this afternoon but active trading is not expected to develop today.

At the Fed Cattle Exchange online auction today there were 287 head on offer in 3 lots with delivery in 1-9 days. Asking prices were set from \$128.00-\$128.25 live with no buyer interest and all lots unsold.

Choice and Select Steers and Heifers:	Live	N/T
	Rail	N/T

CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

Closing quotes on futures today were as follows:

Live Cattle		Feeder Cattle		Corn		Soybeans		Canadian \$	
Feb	129.40 -0.17	Mar	143.87 +0.42	Mar	3.636 -2.4	Mar	9.034 -0.2	Spot	76.05 +0.10
Apr	129.92 +0.00	Apr	147.22 +0.45	May	3.736 -2.2	May	9.166 -0.2	Mar	76.08 +0.10
Jun	120.15 +0.10	May	148.27 +0.37	Jul	3.822 -2.2	Jul	9.304 +0.0	Jun	76.24 +0.10
Aug	116.15 +0.17	Aug	142.12 +0.12	Sep	3.880 -1.6	Aug	9.362 +0.0	Sep	76.38 +0.09
Oct	117.00 +0.07	Sep	152.40 +0.12	Dec	3.944 -1.6	Sep	9.402 +0.2	Dec	76.52 +0.10
Dec	119.40 +0.05	Oct	142.40 +0.15	Mar	4.052 -1.9	Nov	.492 +0.4	Mar	76.64 +0.10

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Yield Grades, Slaughter & Carcass weights

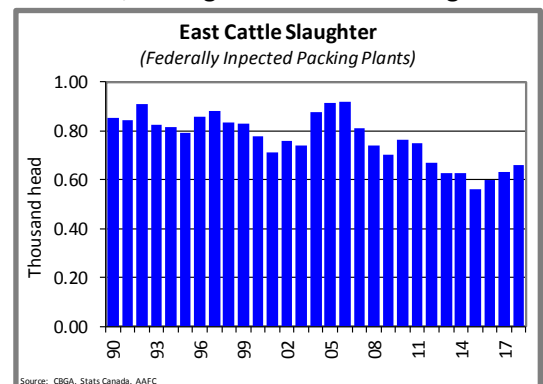
On January 15th 2019 the Canadian Beef Grading Agency started using the US five yield classes. This was requested by industry in 2011 to provide greater transparency in comparing Canadian cattle yield grade to the US. The previous Canadian three yield grade system was implemented in 1992 and was based on the estimated percentage of red meat (minus fat and bone) in the entire carcass. The US five yield classes is a prediction of the cutability or the yield of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts from the round, loin, rib and chuck. These two systems used different calculations and are not comparable, nor are the three yield classes simply being spread over five. For example, a carcass that was a Yield Grade 2 (YG2) in the old system could fall into any of the yield grade classes in the new system.

Eastern YTD Yields (excluding the first two weeks of January 2019)						
YIELD %	Yield 1	Yield 2	Yield 3	Yield 4	Yield 5	Total
Prime	0.02%	0.27%	0.77%	1.79%	1.88%	4.73%
AAA	0.84%	17.16%	20.33%	18.03%	8.69%	65.05%
AA	2.74%	16.57%	6.42%	2.66%	0.66%	29.06%
A	0.76%	0.36%	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	1.16%
Total	4.36%	34.36%	27.55%	22.49%	11.24%	100.00%

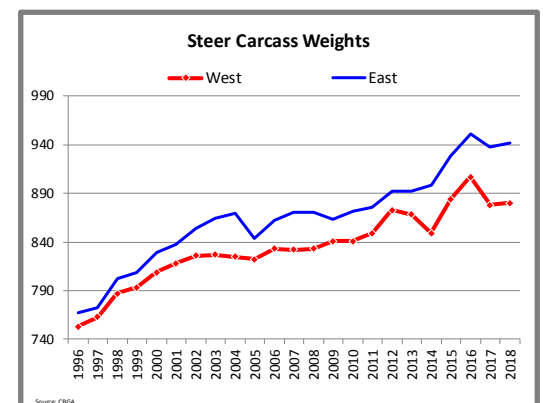
From January 15 to February 16, 2019 eastern Canada has had 34% Yield Grade 2 (YG2), 27.5% YG3, 22.5% YG4, 11.2% YG5 with the smallest proportion 4.4% being YG1. Yield grading tends to be seasonal and therefore, these breakdowns are expected to change as the year progresses. The ideal carcass would be AAA or Prime and YG1 or YG2; those cattle are current representing 18.3% of the total in eastern Canada compared to 36.6% in western Canada and a

Canadian average of 32%. The cattle that meet this target can be increased, over time, through a combination of genetics and feeding; while at the same time decreasing the proportion of undesirable YG4 and YG5 cattle currently that make up 33.7% of the total.

In 2018, eastern federally inspected cattle slaughter was 658,000 head, up 4% from the prior year and up 8% from the five-year average to be the largest slaughter since 2012. Steer slaughter was up 3%, heifer slaughter down 1%, cow slaughter up 15% and bull slaughter down 23%. The slaughter mix was 63% steers, 19% heifers, 17% cows and <1% bulls. In the first 7 weeks of 2019, eastern slaughter is up 5% with steers up 6%, heifers up 4% and cows up 1%. Overall fed beef production is up 5% and non-fed production is up 1%.



Steer carcass weights averaged 942 lbs in 2018, up 4 lbs from the prior year. Steer carcass weights in the east have been 60-62 lbs heavier than the west in the last two years. This is larger than the historic average of being 32 lbs heavier. Since 1996, steer carcass weights have increased on average 8 lbs per year. This is higher than the Canadian average of 5.6 lbs per year over the same time period. Seasonally steer carcass weights, have made their annual low in July around 900 lbs. In the first 7 weeks of 2019, Ontario steer carcass weights have declined 17 lbs to be 973 lbs, down 4 lbs from last year and up 27 lbs from the five-year average. - Brenna Grant



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