



Weekly Market Information Report



Week ending Thursday March 2, 2006

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

****Important notice regarding Ontario Railgrade pricing at the end of the report.**

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	165.00-167.00	161.00-165.00
A grade heifers	164.00-166.00	160.00-164.00

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	93.10-99.48	96.42	107.00	93.91
Medium Frame Steers +1250	90.16-97.88	95.21	99.75	92.06
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	92.12-99.11	96.13	107.00	93.62
Large Frame Heifers +1000	91.09-99.47	95.19	108.25	93.20
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	78.84-96.75	90.37	102.50	87.72
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	88.86-98.42	93.98	108.25	92.62
Cows-all weights	21.72-37.54	29.74	75.00	29.44
Bulls-all weights	35.13-47.70	41.38	81.00	37.00

STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame

STEERS	Price Range	Average	Top
1000+	98.32-108.8	105.28	115.75
900-999	104.84-113.99	109.57	117.00
800-899	100.44-114.05	108.26	120.00
700-799	104.66-121.70	114.42	126.25
600-699	114.31-132.08	122.86	139.50
500-599	117.00-137.64	128.56	147.50
400-499	113.36-142.85	131.37	151.00
-399	101.18-178.69	137.52	287.00

HEIFERS	Price Range	Average	Top
900+	83.46-102.60	94.00	107.25
800-899	91.14-103.89	97.21	109.25
700-799	87.02-106.75	98.13	118.75
600-699	92.72-114.70	106.05	125.00
500-599	99.70-118.28	110.28	126.50
400-499	90.18-115.94	106.04	142.00
300-399	83.23-115.15	101.70	133.50

At Talbotville Livestock: February 25, 2006- 356 head

	Price Range	Top
Good & choice steers	90.00-98.50	103.25
Good & choice heifers	92.00-99.50	104.00
Cows	31.00-40.00	52.00
Bulls	35.00-47.50	

Stockers: Brussels Livestock, February 24, 2006.

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	101.00-111.25	111.25	900+	93.25-107.25	107.25
900-1000	101.25-115.00	116.75	800-900	94.25-108.00	109.25
800-900	95.00-112.00	117.25	700-800	92.00-110.00	110.00
700-800	106.50-123.00	124.00	600-700	91.00-117.25	124.00
600-700	118.00-131.50	132.00	500-600	110.00-122.00	124.00
500-600	126.00-142.50	146.00	400-500	99.00-121.50	130.50
400-500	109.00-138.00	138.00	300-400	88.00-119.00	119.00

Stocker sale at: Keady Livestock- February 28, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
900-999	96.50-106.50	900+	83.00-96.50
800-899	108.50-120.00	800-899	89.50-101.00
700-799	104.00-124.00	700-799	98.50-106.00
600-699	108.00-130.00	600-699	83.00-114.00
500-599	114.00-142.00	500-599	95.50-116.00
400-499	112.50-144.66	400-499	101.00-142.00

Stocker Sale at : D. H. Hickson Ltd. February 28, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	HEIFERS	Price Range
700-799	74.00-116.00	700-799	63.50-75.00
600-699	91.50-121.50	600-699	89.00-111.50
500-599	71.00-134.50	500-599	82.00-117.50
400-499	123.00-141.50	400-499	95.50-111.50

Denfield Livestock – February 28 2006

	Price Range
Choice Steers	90.00-95.00 top 98.00
Good Steers	85.00-90.00
Plain Steers	80.00-85.00
Choice Exotic Heifers	90.00-95.00 top 98.50
Good Heifers	85.00-90.00
Plain Heifers	65.00-75.00
Good Fed Cows	40.00-60.00
D1 & D2 Cows	30.00-38.00
D3 & D4 Cows	25.00-30.00
Good Beef Bulls	40.00-60.00
Good Stocker Strs- 650-750 lb	120.00-126.00
Good Stocker Hfrs- 650-750 lb	110.00-120.00

Stocker sale: Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 1, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
+1000	107.25-115.25	115.75	+900	78.00-105.00	105.00
900-999	109.50-117.00	117.00	700-799	106.00-118.75	118.75
800-899	111.00-116.00	116.00			

Stocker Sale: Ontario Stockyards – March 2, 2006

STEERS	Price Range	Top	HEIFERS	Price Range	Top
1000+	83.00-89.00	99.75	900+	84.00-101.50	101.50
900-999	90.00-105.75	105.75	800-899	87.50-99.50	99.50
800-899	102.50-116.50	116.50	700-799	86.00-107.25	109.00
700-799	111.50-126.25	126.25	600-699	102.50-115.25	117.00
600-699	124.00-139.50	139.50	500-599	110.00-120.25	120.25
500-599	125.00-147.50	147.50	400-499	95.00-114.00	122.00
400-499	115.00-149.00	151.00	300-399	94.00-115.00	115.00

ONTARIO BRED COWS

Ontario Stockyards Inc. - February 24, 2006- 176 cows, 10 cow/calf pairs, 2 bulls

	Exotic and Exotic X	British and British X
Top quality bred cows	\$750.00-\$1,000.00 top \$1,230.00	\$650.00-\$85.00
Avg quality bred cows	\$550.00-\$675.00	\$400.00-\$550.00
Top quality cow/calf pairs	\$750.00-\$900.00	\$650.00-\$820.00
Avg quality cow/calf pairs	\$550.00-\$750.00	\$500.00-\$700.00

Good cows sold actively, all others sold steady.

QUEBEC ELECTRONIC AUCTION MARKET (F.O.B. the feedlot)

Week Ending February 23, 2006	Price Range
A1, A2 Steers & Heifers	160.50-163.00

ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE

Week ending **Thursday March 2, 2006**

Steers Live	86.90-89.65	Flat rail	146.50-149.00
Heifers Live	86.75-90.65	Flat rail	146.50-150.00

CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES

Week Ending	AAA	AA
February 18, 2006	1.7194	1.6671
February 11, 2006	1.7215	1.6430

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA

	Steers	Heifers
February 25, 2006	870	793
February 26, 2005	846	777

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL

	Week End	YTD	% of
	Feb 25, 2006		Yr. Ago
Grand Total	61,654	500,873	93%
Alberta Slaughter	38,645	305,436	86%
Ontario Slaughter	13,257	104,612	107%

USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL

	Week Ending	Feb 25, 2006	Year Ago
	Mar 4, 2006		
Grand Total	615,000	568,000	588,000

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

	Choice	Select
	600-900	600-900
Current 5 day average:	153.51	142.83

U.S. TRADE (U.S funds)

Week ending **Thursday March 2, 2006**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	Live	N/T
	Rail	141.00-142.00

BEEF EXPORTS

	United States	Mexico
	Jan 1– Feb 25	Jan 1 –7
Total	41,166	527

BEEF IMPORTS

	Jan 1 – Feb18	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Total	14,454 tonnes	19,433 tonnes	-25.6%

BEEF PRODUCTION

	Jan 1 –Feb 25	Last Year Same Time	% Change
Fed	140,849 tonnes	167,240 tonnes	-15.8%
Non-fed	40,645 tonnes	26,620 tonnes	+52.7%

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	86.02 -0.77	Mar	106.32 -0.82	Mar	2.286 +0.2	Mar	5.932 +2.2	Spot	88.07 -0.35
Jun	81.70 -0.65	Apr	107.05 -0.45	May	2.394 +0.2	May	6.060 +2.0	Mar	88.09 -0.34
Aug	82.25 -0.32	May	107.92 -0.55	July	2.492 +0.0	Jul	6.172 +2.4	Jun	88.32 -0.34
Oct	85.55 -0.32	Aug	109.17 -0.50	Sep	2.562 +0.6	Aug	6.216 +2.2	Sep	88.56 -0.32

Comments for the week ending March 2, 2006

The finished cattle market saw some improvement this week. The volume of live finished steers and heifers sold through auction markets was 1,927. The average fed steer price was \$96.13 up \$2.51 and the average heifer price was \$93.98 up \$1.36 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold actively on a good demand with prices \$1.00 to \$3.00 higher.

Slaughter cows sold on a strong demand this week. There were 2,313 head sold through auction markets. This week's average price was \$29.74 up \$0.30 from last week. Auction markets reported cows sold actively on a strong demand with prices steady to \$5.00 higher.

Replacement cattle sold on a mixed market. Total stockers sold was 3,601 down 19.6% from last week and 6% less from last year at this time. Auction markets reported calves sold on a good demand at steady prices while yearlings sold from \$5.00 lower up to \$3.00 higher.

Direct to packer railgrade cattle prices were up \$3.00 over last week. Steers sold at \$165.00-167.00 and heifers sold at \$164.00-166.00 dressed.

In Alberta, cattle trade was active with prices steady to \$1.00 higher. Steers sold at \$86.90- 89.65 live and \$146.50-149.00 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$86.25-90.65 live and \$146.50-150.00 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was not evident until Thursday in the north with prices barely steady to last week. Steers and heifers sold at \$141.00-\$142.00 dressed.

Local beef trade has seen some improvement this week as the market is gaining strength. Middle cuts are selling strong while the end cuts are sluggish.

Important notice regarding Ontario Railgrade pricing.

Effective Monday March 6, 2006 rail grade prices will not be reported to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association office by the major plants.

Since May 2003, we have been getting prices from only Better Beef. Since Cargill purchased the plant changes are being made. Cargill does not want to be the only plant reporting prices. Other major packing plants have declined to participate.

The OCA Board of Directors is addressing this issue to come up with an alternate plan. It is common knowledge that the prices reported each day are more of a guideline for people to see if the market is going up or down or holding steady. The information is extremely important for our database to track trends and historical stats.

Cargill would be happy to give producers a quote if they phone directly to Dan Weatherby, Head Buyer, Better Beef/Cargill at 519-823-5200.