



# Weekly Market Information Report



Week ending Thursday March 31, 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.

**A grade steers** 164.00-166.00  
**A grade heifers** 164.00

## ONTARIO LIVE CATTLE TRADE

Ontario auction sales this week saw weighted average price ranges for

### **FED CATTLE**

	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Top</b>	<b>Last week avg.</b>
Large Frame Steers +1250	88.53-96.81	92.99	103.75	94.16
Medium Frame Steers +1250	82.90-96.96	91.16	99.75	90.87
Large & Medium Frame Steers +1250	87.88-97.58	92.85	103.75	93.67
Large Frame Heifers +1000	87.70-95.87	92.21	99.00	92.65
Medium Frame Heifers +1000	74.88-94.41	87.52	97.25	86.83
Large & Medium Frame Heifers +1000	81.91-95.61	91.07	99.00	91.84
Cows-all weights	22.22-36.43	29.31	72.00	30.09
Bulls-all weights	35.53-46.61	40.59	83.00	52.70

### **STOCKERS – Large & Medium Frame**

<b>STEERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>1000+</b>	95.64-105.10	101.34	109.00
<b>900-999</b>	99.02-108.23	103.82	115.25
<b>800-899</b>	104.78-112.76	109.36	121.50
<b>700-799</b>	104.98-121.09	115.34	128.50
<b>600-699</b>	110.12-131.50	123.28	142.00
<b>500-599</b>	115.07-143.20	131.25	163.00
<b>400-499</b>	112.15-147.96	131.46	163.00
<b>-399</b>	94.34-162.60	123.46	255.00

<b>HEIFERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Top</b>
<b>900+</b>	86.69-99.19	93.47	105.35
<b>800-899</b>	90.74-104.97	99.98	114.75
<b>700-799</b>	94.96-112.06	104.89	116.75
<b>600-699</b>	95.96-120.01	110.28	127.00
<b>500-599</b>	103.29-126.27	116.34	136.00
<b>400-499</b>	102.21-126.06	116.44	135.00
<b>300-399</b>	104.38-124.55	114.80	145.00

**Denfield Livestock – March 28, 2006**

	Price Range
<b>Choice Steers</b>	95.00-100.00 top 104.25
<b>Good Steers</b>	90.00-95.00
<b>Plain Steers</b>	75.00-85.00
<b>Choice Exotic Heifers</b>	95.00-100.00 top 106.25
<b>Good Heifers</b>	88.00-94.00
<b>Plain Heifers</b>	70.00-80.00
<b>Good Fed Cows</b>	40.00-50.00
<b>D1 &amp; D2 Cows</b>	30.00-35.00
<b>D3 &amp; D4 Cows</b>	25.00-30.00
<b>Shells</b>	15.00-25.00
<b>Good Beef Bulls</b>	40.00-60.00
<b>Good Holstein Bulls</b>	35.00-40.00
<b>Good hol bull calves</b>	150.00-300.00

**ONTARIO REPLACEMENT TRADE**Stockers: **Brussels Livestock, March 24, 2006.**

<b>STEERS</b>	Price Range	Top	<b>HEIFERS</b>	Price Range	Top
<b>1000+</b>	86.00-106.50	106.50	<b>900+</b>	84.00-105.00	105.00
<b>900-1000</b>	99.75-114.00	115.00	<b>800-900</b>	95.50-107.25	107.25
<b>800-900</b>	102.00-115.00	121.50	<b>700-800</b>	92.00-113.00	113.00
<b>700-800</b>	99.50-119.75	128.50	<b>600-700</b>	95.50-127.00	127.00
<b>600-700</b>	112.00-129.50	135.00	<b>500-600</b>	108.00-133.00	136.00
<b>500-600</b>	119.00-145.00	145.00	<b>400-500</b>	104.00-120.00	129.00
<b>400-500</b>	122.00-151.50	151.50	<b>300-400</b>	105.00-128.00	128.00

Stocker sale at: **Keady Livestock- March 28, 2006- 800 head**

<b>STEERS</b>	Price Range	<b>HEIFERS</b>	Price Range
<b>900-999</b>	97.00-115.25	<b>900+</b>	75.00-86.00
<b>800-899</b>	111.50-115.50	<b>800-899</b>	95.50-107.00
<b>700-799</b>	114.00-126.50	<b>700-799</b>	97.00-112.00
<b>600-699</b>	109.50-142.00	<b>600-699</b>	108.00-125.50
<b>500-599</b>	130.00-150.00	<b>500-599</b>	111.50-129.50
<b>400-499</b>	115.00-152.00	<b>400-499</b>	109.00-130.00
<b>Under 400</b>	121.00-139.00	<b>300-399</b>	121.00-135.00

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

<b>STEERS</b>	Price Range	<b>HEIFERS</b>	Price Range
<b>800-899</b>	88.00-90.00	<b>700-799</b>	74.00-106.00
<b>700-799</b>	93.00-116.00	<b>600-699</b>	69.00-117.00
<b>600-699</b>	90.00-128.50	<b>500-599</b>	75.00-127.50
<b>500-599</b>	76.00-144.00	<b>400-499</b>	65.00-130.50
<b>400-499</b>	83.00-153.50	<b>300-399</b>	60.00-131.50

Stocker sale: **Ontario Livestock Exchange, March 29, 2006**

<b>STEERS</b>	Price Range	Top	<b>HEIFERS</b>	Price Range	Top
<b>+1000</b>	100.00-108.00	108.50	<b>+900</b>	97.25-99.25	103.00
<b>900-999</b>	100.00-107.75	112.25	<b>800-899</b>	96.50-114.75	114.75
<b>800-899</b>	107.50-115.25	115.25	<b>700-799</b>	104.00-109.50	109.50
<b>600-699</b>	119.50-130.00	130.00			

Stocker Sale: **Ontario Stockyards – March 30, 2006**

<b>STEERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Top</b>	<b>HEIFERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Top</b>
1000+	66.04-87.50	87.50	800-899	86.50-105.00	105.00
900-999	81.00-99.00	100.50	700-799	96.50-116.75	116.75
800-899	98.50-108.00	110.00	600-699	94.00-117.50	121.75
700-799	111.50-124.75	125.50	500-599	110.00-127.50	133.00
600-699	110.00-135.75	135.75	400-499	118.00-133.50	135.00
500-599	116.00-145.50	163.00	300-399	123.00-131.00	131.00
400-499	116.50-152.00	163.00			

Stocker Sale: **Tri-county Cattle –March 30, 2006**

<b>STEERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>	<b>HEIFERS</b>	<b>Price Range</b>
1000+	102.75-106.35	900+	104.35-105.35
900-999	98.25-106.25	800-899	93.50-98.00
800-899	101.25-106.25	700-799	107.00-107.50
700-799	108.00-116.50		
500-599	120.00-130.75		

**ONTARIO BRED COWS**

**Ontario Stockyards, March 24, 2006. 177 bred cows, 17 cow/calf pairs, 3 bulls.**

	<b>Exotic and Exotic X</b>	<b>British and British X</b>
Top quality bred cows	\$900.00-\$1,325.00	\$750.00-\$950.00
Avg quality bred cows	\$650.00-\$850.00	\$550.00-\$750.00
Top quality cow/calf pairs	\$950.00-\$1,250.00	\$800.00-\$950.00
Avg quality cow/calf pairs	\$750.00-\$950.00	\$650.00-\$800.00

**D.H. Hickson , March 24, 2006 118 bred cows.**

	<b>Exotic and Exotic X</b>	<b>British and British X</b>
Top quality bred cows	\$900.00-\$1,370.00	
Avg quality bred cows	\$600.00-\$875.00	\$400.00-\$785.00
Top quality cow/calf pairs	\$1,000.00-\$1,250.00	
Avg quality cow/calf pairs	\$750.00-\$975.00	

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

<b>Week Ending March 30, 2006</b>	<b>Price Range</b>
<b>A1, A2 Steers &amp; Heifers</b>	161.00

**ALBERTA DIRECT TRADE**

Week ending **Thursday March 30, 2006**

<b>Steers</b>	<b>Live</b>	84.25-87.00	<b>Flat rail</b>	140.00-144.30
<b>Heifers</b>	<b>Live</b>	84.25-87.15	<b>Flat rail</b>	140.00-143.75

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

Week ending **Thursday March 30, 2006**

Weekly range for choice and select steers and heifers:	<b>Live</b>	84.00-84.50
	<b>Rail</b>	133.00-135.00

**AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS – CANADA**

	<b>Steers</b>	<b>Heifers</b>
<b>March 25, 2006</b>	848	778
<b>March 26, 2005</b>	836	793

**FEDERALLY INSPECTED CANADIAN KILL**

	Week End	YTD	% of
	Mar 25, 2006		Yr. Ago
<b>Grand Total</b>	64,146	766,234	92%
<b>Alberta Slaughter</b>	38,454	470,376	84%
<b>Ontario Slaughter</b>	14,097	158,532	108%

**USDA ESTIMATED CATTLE KILL**

	Week Ending		
	April 1, 2006	Mar 25, 2006	Year Ago
<b>Grand Total</b>	613,000	583,000	566,000

**CANADIAN BOXED BEEF CUT-OUT VALUES**

Week Ending	AAA	AA
March 11, 2006	1.7286	1.6525
March 4, 2006	1.7240	1.6821

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

	Choice 600-900	Select 600-900
Current 5 day average:	140.48	129.68

**BEEF EXPORTS**

	United States	Mexico
<b>Total</b>	Jan 1 – Mar 25 63,698	Jan 1 – Mar 4 5,861

**BEEF IMPORTS**

	Jan 1 – Mar 18	Last Year Same Time	% Change
<b>Total</b>	22,639	27,176	-16.7%

**BEEF PRODUCTION**

	Jan 1 – Mar 25	Last Year Same Time	% Change
<b>Fed</b>	160,871 tonnes	208,645 tonnes	-22.9%
<b>Non-fed</b>	39,912 tonnes	21,234 tonnes	88.0%

**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		
<b>Apr</b>	79.50	-1.50	<b>Apr</b>	101.47 -2.77	<b>May</b>	2.360 +8.2	<b>May</b>	5.714 -16.2	<b>Spot</b>	85.60 -0.55
<b>Jun</b>	74.35 -1.55	<b>May</b>	101.75 -2.65	<b>July</b>	2.472 +8.4	<b>Jul</b>	5.854 -15.4	<b>Jun</b>	85.79 -0.55	
<b>Aug</b>	76.30 -1.30	<b>Aug</b>	104.10 -2.52	<b>Sep</b>	2.560 +8.0	<b>Aug</b>	5.902 -15.4	<b>Sep</b>	86.02 -0.55	
<b>Oct</b>	79.75 -1.45	<b>Sep</b>	103.60 -2.50	<b>Dec</b>	2.680 +8.0	<b>Sep</b>	5.930 -15.4	<b>Dec</b>	86.26 -0.55	

## Comments for the week ending March 31, 2006

The finished cattle market sold on a mixed demand this week. The volume of live finished steers and heifers sold through auction markets was 2,080. The average fed steer price was \$92.85 down \$0.82 and the average heifer price was \$91.07 down \$0.77 from last week. Auction markets reported fed cattle sold on a strong demand at the beginning of the week with prices reported from steady to \$2.00 - \$3.00 higher. As the week progressed the market was reported as moderate to steady mid week and \$1.00 to \$2.00 lower by the end of the week.

Slaughter cows sold on a mixed demand this week. There were 2,369 head sold through auction markets. This week's average price was \$29.31 down \$0.78 from last week and up \$2.87 from last year at this time. Auction markets reported cows sold steady at the beginning of the week with prices off \$1.00 to \$2.00 by the end of the week.

Replacement cattle sold actively this week. Total stockers sold was 4,979 down 6.9% from last week and 45% more than last year at this time. Auction markets reported stockers sold actively with calves ranging from steady to \$4.00 to \$5.00 higher and yearlings selling from barely steady to \$1.00 to \$2.00 higher.

Ontario railgrade prices reported for this week were on average \$1.00 lower than what was reported one month ago. Steers sold at \$164.00 to \$166.00 and heifers sold \$164.00. We appreciate the support of railgrade price reporting and encourage more participation.

In Alberta, cattle trade was active with prices under pressure to \$1.00 lower than last week. Steers sold at \$84.25- 87.00 live and \$140.00-144.30 flat rail. Heifers sold at \$84.25-87.15 live and \$140.00-143.75 flat rail.

U.S. cash cattle trade was active with prices down \$2.00 - \$2.50 on the live cattle and down \$3.00 - \$4.00 dressed. Steers and heifers sold 84.00-84.25 live and 133.00-135.00 dressed.

Local beef trade was somewhat sluggish with prices remaining steady. Middle cuts are moving well, however end cuts are sloppy price and movement wise.