



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.