



Canadian Bison Association
Association Canadienne Du Bison
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Market Synopsis-April 2011-Terry Kremeniuk, Executive Director

April live bison and meat prices remain strong with some prices moving marginally above March price levels. Producers are having difficulty delivering finished animals because of snow conditions and now excess runoff. This has magnified the shortage of animals for processing. The demand for trim continues to be strong in Canada and the U.S. with the demand for all other cuts being steady. The demand for prime cuts in the European market remains strong.

The supply of finished animals for processing continues to be tight with bison numbers being down and heifers being held back for breeding. When road and animal access conditions improve a greater number of bison for processing should be available. Domestic consumer demand has shown some resistance at current prices. Certain meat processors are evaluating their bison program at current prices while others continue to look for steady supplies of product.

Nationally, federal slaughter was down 40% in the first 13 weeks of 2011 when compared to 2010 (3,051 animals in 2011 compared to 5,095 animals for 2010). Live bison exports to the U.S. are down by almost 38% - 3,235 for the first two months of 2011 compared to 5,184 bison for the same period in 2010. The average price for Grade A bulls and heifers continues to be strong at \$3.70 - \$3.85 per pound in April 2011 compared to \$2.45 - \$2.60 per pound in April 2010. Mature bulls in mid-April 2011 ranged from \$2.60 - \$2.90 per pound compared to the \$1.50 - \$1.60 reported in April 2010. Today's price for fresh bison trim at \$12.69 per kg is 62% higher than the \$8.25 reported in April 2010.

Prices for 2010 bison calves have been very strong with one sale reporting prices of \$2.40 - \$2.50 per pound live weight with some going higher. Bred heifer prices are being reported at \$1,700 - \$2,200.

Bulls	\$3.70 - \$3.85/lb
Heifers	\$3.65- \$3.85/lb
Mature Bulls	\$2.60 - \$2.90 /lb
Mature Cows	\$2.60 - \$2.70 /lb

For more information contact the
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