



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - December 21, 2011

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

| | 5-Nov | 12-Nov | 19-Nov | 26-Nov | Nov Total | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Canada | 95 | 362 | 73 | 406 | 936 | 9,620 | 14,860 | -35.3% |
| <i>previous year</i> | 383 | 275 | 351 | 443 | 1,452 | | | |

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

| | June 2011 | July 2011 | Aug 2011 | Sept 2011 | Oct 2011 | Oct 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Alberta | 86 | 69 | 59 | 74 | 85 | 114 | 825 | 1531 | -46.1% |
| Saskatchewan | 7 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 18 | 11 | 128 | 260 | -50.8% |
| Manitoba/BC | 77 | 71 | 81 | 82 | 53 | 56 | 730 | 705 | 3.5% |
| Ontario/Quebec** | 46 | 50 | 53 | 41 | 43 | 71 | 381 | 459 | -17.0% |
| Total | 216 | 207 | 204 | 202 | 199 | 252 | 2064 | 2955 | -30.2% |

** Quebec Provincial slaughter numbers are estimated due to a delay in reporting

| | YTD 2011 | YTD 2010 | % Change |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter * | 11,684 | 17,815 | -34.4% |

*Source AAFC Red Meat Section : Due to varying provincial reporting schedules, total Fed. and Prov. has a one month delay in Prov. Data

US Federal Slaughter*

| | 5-Nov | 12-Nov | 19-Nov | 26-Nov | Nov Total | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 715 | 831 | 1136 | 771 | 3,453 | 39,921 | 48,104 | -17.0% |
| <i>previous year</i> | 1003 | 1011 | 944 | 700 | 3,658 | | | |

*actual slaughter numbers in federally inspected plants, not necessarily inspected, source USDA

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

| | July-11 | Aug-11 | Sept-11 | Oct-11 | Nov-11 | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Slaughter Male | 513 | 464 | 296 | 244 | 335 | 5,266 | 5,359 | -1.7% |
| Slaughter Female | 513 | 205 | 290 | 358 | 223 | 3,686 | 5,218 | -29.4% |
| Feeder Male | 85 | 46 | 23 | 0 | 426 | 2,393 | 4,968 | -51.8% |
| Feeder Female | 84 | 46 | 37 | 0 | 74 | 1,876 | 3,212 | -41.6% |
| Total | 1,195 | 761 | 646 | 602 | 1,058 | 13,221 | 18,757 | -29.5% |

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

| Country | Unit | May 2011 | June | July | August | September | October | October YTD | | % Change |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| | | | | | | | | 2011 | 2010 | |
| Boneless | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | Kg | 19,148 | 16,799 | 25,429 | 27,107 | 24,649 | 21,450 | 268,368 | 448,145 | -40.1% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | 267,829 | 249,877 | 298,966 | 293,029 | 190,370 | 254,391 | 3,256,465 | 3,982,772 | -18.2% |
| France | Kg | 2,614 | 2,898 | 3,058 | 2,913 | 7,833 | 13,864 | 47,269 | 125,537 | -62.3% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | 32,295 | 34,990 | 44,881 | 37,282 | 125,900 | 226,639 | 698,169 | 1,577,799 | -55.8% |
| Switzerland | Kg | 5,098 | 2,763 | 3,617 | 3,593 | 3,767 | 2,098 | 34,545 | 47,526 | -27.3% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | 192,887 | 101,865 | 149,069 | 137,416 | 157,563 | 94,385 | 1,350,890 | 1,742,654 | -22.5% |
| Germany | Kg | - | - | 1,217 | - | - | 359 | 3,452 | 5,152 | -33.0% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | 37,101 | - | - | 10,500 | 99,397 | 111,290 | -10.7% |
| Egypt | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11,682 | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 173,422 | N/A |
| United Arab Emirates | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | 188 | 2,691 | -93.0% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,515 | 89,385 | -96.1% |
| Macau | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8,787 | N/A |
| Singapore | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,381 | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17,517 | N/A |
| Saudi Arabia | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Italy | Kg | - | - | 290 | 90 | - | 251 | 631 | - | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | 7,983 | 2,563 | - | 6,906 | 17,452 | - | N/A |
| Sweden | Kg | - | - | - | 594 | - | - | 594 | - | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | 21,352 | - | - | 21,352 | - | N/A |
| Netherlands | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26,326 | - | N/A |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 133,492 | - | N/A |
| Others | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | Kg | 26,860 | 22,460 | 33,611 | 34,297 | 36,249 | 38,022 | 381,373 | 643,114 | -40.7% |
| | Value (\$Cdn) | 493,011 | 386,732 | 538,000 | 491,642 | 473,833 | 592,821 | 5,580,732 | 7,703,626 | -27.6% |

Bone-in

| | May 2011 | June | July | August | September | October | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|--------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Total | 16,138 | 8,955 | 3,110 | 14,572 | 6,507 | 592 | 81,536 | 37,958 | 114.8% |
| | 56,265 | 94,033 | 12,627 | 96,237 | 66,204 | 9,552 | 507,509 | 220,702 | 130.0% |

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

| | May 2011 | June | July | August | September | October | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Total | 42,998 | 31,415 | 36,721 | 48,869 | 42,756 | 38,614 | 462,909 | 681,072 | -32.0% |
| | 549,276 | 480,765 | 550,627 | 587,879 | 540,037 | 602,373 | 6,088,241 | 7,924,328 | -23.2% |

*source Statistics Canada

US Bison Carcasses - Grain Fed (Hot Carcass Wt \$US/cwt) FOB Plant Basis

wghtd avg

| | Bulls (UTM) | Heifers (UTM) | Bulls (OTM) | Cows (OTM) |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Nov 2010 | 325.34 | 312.02 | 237.88 | 228.73 |
| Dec 2010 | 332.43 | 324.30 | 242.19 | 238.03 |
| Jan 2011 | 332.33 | 323.84 | 259.06 | 238.78 |
| Feb 2011 | 354.76 | 335.85 | 249.51 | 254.47 |
| Mar 2011 | 356.63 | 350.08 | 260.52 | 280.91 |
| Apr 2011 | 365.73 | 353.38 | 277.06 | 256.92 |
| May 2011 | 369.99 | 360.97 | 275.16 | 265.24 |
| June 2011 | 373.99 | 367.04 | 295.00 | 295.95 |
| July 2011 | 380.50 | 378.15 | 304.84 | 315.78 |
| Aug 2011 | 381.97 | 380.81 | 298.86 | 280.32 |
| Sept 2011 | 388.59 | 384.18 | 300.80 | 310.00 |
| Oct 2011 | 393.37 | 386.59 | 296.80 | 281.31 |
| Nov 2011 | 397.68 | 385.21 | 305.75 | 285.11 |

*source USDA

Canadian Bison Carcasses - Grain Fed (Hot Carcass Wt Cdn\$/cwt) FOB Plant Basis

wghtd avg

| | Bulls | Heifers | Mature Bulls | Mature Cows |
|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Dec 2010 | 325-350 | 325-340 | 220-225 | 200-225 |
| Jan 2011 | 350-375 | 340-375 | 230-270 | 225-270 |
| Feb 2011 | 350-383 | 350-383 | 250-270 | 250-270 |
| Mar 2011 | 350-375 | 350-365 | 250-270 | 250-270 |
| Apr 2011 | 370-385 | 365-370 | 260-290 | 260-270 |
| May 2011 | 380-410 | 380-400 | 260-275 | 260-275 |
| June 2011 | 400-410 | 400 | 275-280 | 275-280 |
| July 2011 | 400-410 | 400-410 | 280-300 | 275-280 |
| Aug 2011 | 410-420 | 410-415 | 280-350 | 280-350 |
| Sept 2011 | 390-400 | 390-400 | 280-290 | 280-290 |
| Oct 2011 | 375-380 | 370-375 | 280-290 | 260-265 |
| Nov 2011 | 375-400 | 370-400 | 250-280 | 250-280 |
| Dec 2011 | 375-400 | 360-400 | 250-270 | 250-270 |

*source CBA survey of marketers

USDA Key Cuts - Grain Fed Wholesale (\$US/cwt)

| | September 2011 | | October 2011 | | November 2011 | | Change Current Month vs. | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | 2 months prior | 1 month prior |
| Ribeye Lip-On Fresh | 1100-1600 | 1,366.00 | 1100-1650 | 1,358.26 | 1250-1650 | 1,359.52 | -0.5% | 0.1% |
| Chuckroll/Clod Fresh | 500-669 | 560.82 | 500-625 | 550.26 | 500-625 | 554.20 | -1.2% | 0.7% |
| Striploin Fresh | 910-1600 | 1,354.55 | 1250-1600 | 1,333.51 | 1050-1650 | 1,332.19 | -1.7% | -0.1% |
| Tenderloin Fresh | 1850-2300 | 2,013.63 | 1800-2495 | 2,033.76 | 1850-2495 | 2,036.90 | 1.2% | 0.2% |
| Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh | 450-640 | 631.83 | 525-642 | 579.71 | 525-640 | 582.83 | -7.8% | 0.5% |
| Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen | 571-660 | 611.18 | 550-630 | 617.38 | 550-695 | 595.35 | -2.6% | -3.6% |
| Ground 85% Patties, Frozen | 557-660 | 591.91 | 500-695 | 613.42 | 500-695 | 592.25 | 0.1% | -3.5% |

*source USDA

Canadian Bison Cuts - Grain Fed Wholesale (\$Cdn/kilogram)

| | Mid-September 2011 Pricing | Mid-October 2011 Pricing | Mid-November 2011 Pricing | Mid-December 2011 Pricing |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tenderloin - Fresh | \$50.00 - \$60.00 | \$50.00 - \$60.00 | \$50.00 - \$63.00 | \$49.25 - \$56.00 |
| Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh | \$27.00 - \$35.00 | \$27.00 - \$35.00 | \$27.00 - \$37.00 | \$25.95 - \$32.00 |
| Inside Round - Fresh | \$15.00 - \$16.90 | \$15.00 - \$17.00 | \$15.00 - \$17.00 | \$13.95 - \$18.00 |
| Ground 90% Bulk Fresh | \$13.00 - \$14.50 | \$13.00 - \$13.50 | \$13.00 - \$13.50 | \$12.95 - \$13.50 |
| Fresh Bison Trim | \$12.00 - \$13.00 | \$12.00 - \$13.00 | \$12.00 - \$13.00 | \$11.50 - \$12.50 |

*source CBA survey of marketers

Live Auction Reports *most recent reported, may not reflect current market

| Sekura Auctions (AB) (December 10, 2011) | | | | Kramer Auctions (SK) (December 7, 2011) | | | | Kramer Auctions (SK) (May 11, 2011) | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------------|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------|--|
| Birth Year, Sex | lbs | # of head | Average (\$/cwt) | Birth Year, Sex | lbs | # of head | Average (\$/cwt) | Birth Year, Sex | lbs | Average (\$/cwt) | |
| Cows | | 38 | 129.24 | 2011 Bulls | 400-475 | 9 | 308 | 2009 Bulls | 750< | 217 | |
| Cow / Calf Pairs | | 1 | 1,200 | | 350-399 | 16 | 340 | | <750 | 195 | |
| Bred Cows | | 54 | 2,125 | | under 300 | 12 | 331 | 2009 Heifers | 700< | 96 | |
| Mature Bulls | | 14 | 108.43 | 2011 Heifers | 450-575 | 19 | 264 | | 725-850 | 237 | |
| 2011 Bulls | 200 - 299 | 1 | 310 | | under 450 | 29 | 222 | | 950< | 164 | |
| | 300 - 399 | 23 | 360.22 | 2010 Bulls | 925-1025 | 25 | 218 | | <725 | 227 | |
| | 400 - 499 | 28 | 363.93 | | 850-924 | 44 | 240 | 2010 Bulls | 400-499 | 289 | |
| 2010 Bulls | 500 - 599 | 4 | 261 | | 750-849 | 61 | 248 | | 500-599 | 286 | |
| | 600 - 699 | 27 | 253.67 | | under 750 | 21 | 247 | | 600-675 | 283 | |
| | 700 - 799 | 5 | 257.5 | 2010 Heifers | 700-800 | 33 | 219 | | <400 | 220 | |
| 2009 Bulls | 700 - 799 | 8 | 227.81 | | 650-699 | 37 | 220 | 2010 Heifers | 450-575 | 264 | |
| | 800 - 899 | 11 | 223.55 | | under 650 | 46 | 208 | | <450 | 222 | |
| | 1000+ | 6 | 185 | Mature Bulls | over 850 | 20 | 148 | | | | |
| 2011 Heifers | 200 - 299 | 2 | 320 | | | | | | | | |
| | 300 - 399 | 27 | 287.04 | BRED FEMALES | | | | | | | |
| | 400 - 499 | 15 | 281.33 | Bell Creek Bison (Heifers) | | 30 | 311 | | | | |
| 2010 Heifers | 400 - 499 | 10 | 229 | Eastview Bison Ranch (Heifers) | | 10 | 240 | | | | |
| | 500- 599 | 33 | 235.46 | Richards Bison Ranch | | 21 | 207 | | | | |
| | 600 - 699 | 1 | 135 | EXPOSED | | | | | | | |
| | 700 - 799 | 6 | 205 | Wapeton Dakota Bison | | 19 | 100 | | | | |
| 2009 Heifers | 600 - 699 | 1 | 185 | | | | | | | | |
| | 700 - 799 | 7 | 231 | | | | | | | | |
| | 800 - 899 | 6 | 226 | | | | | | | | |

Commentary

By Terry Kremenik, Executive Director, CBA

This report can only be improved with your feedback. Please send any comments that you have to either cba2@sasktel.net or diane.kelly@agr.gc.ca

December live finished bison prices have stayed near November 2011 levels with price pressures expected as the supply of finished 2011 animals comes to the market. Meat prices have declined slightly. These declines are attributed to consumer resistance in North America and Europe. Prime cuts to Europe have sold well for the Christmas season, but the market for trim and hip cuts has been under pressure as marketers liquidate their inventories.

Canadian boneless meat exports to October 31, 2011 were 381,373 Kg compared to 643,114 Kg in 2010 – a decline of about 41%. Exports to October 31, 2011 to the US were 268,368 Kg compared to 448,145 Kg for the same period last year. The major markets of Germany, Switzerland and France also experienced declines from Canada. These declines can be attributed to limited availability of bison, the economic uncertainty in Europe and the strength of the Canadian dollar.

Nationally, federal slaughter was down 34% in the first 49 weeks of 2011 when compared to 2010 (10,153 animals in 2011 compared to 15,351 animals for 2010). Live bison exports to the U.S. are down by 33% - 13,714 to October 31, 2011 compared to 20,515 bison for the same period in 2010. The average price for Grade A bulls and heifers has stabilized at October levels of \$3.80 - \$4.00 per pound hot hanging weight. Mature bull and cow prices have stayed in the range of \$2.50 - \$2.60 per pound.

As mentioned in last months report, at a recent Saskatchewan sales 2011 bull calves sold for as high as \$3.30 per pound and 2011 heifers reached \$2.65 per pound. 2010 bulls at the sale sold as high as \$2.48 per pound and heifers as high as \$2.20 per pound. Downward pressures on these prices are expected as meat prices experience downward pressure as well.

Chart 1

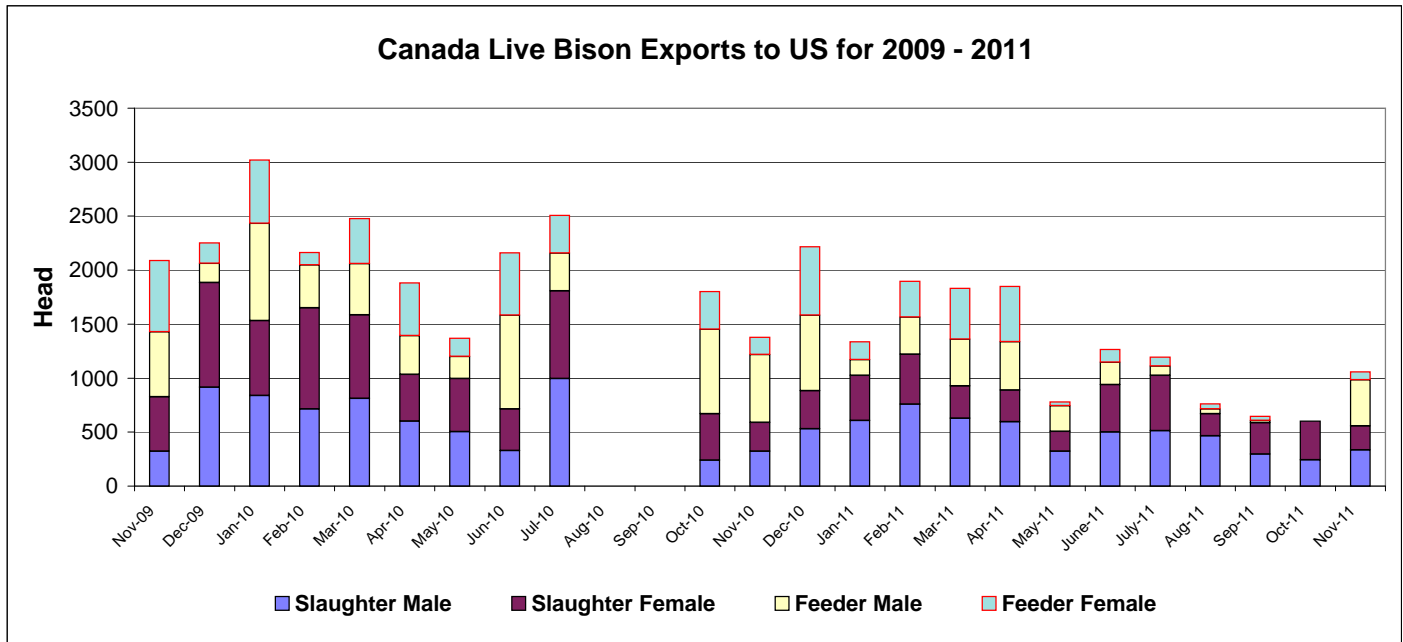


Chart 2

