



Canadian Bison Association
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Market Synopsis-May 2011-Terry Kremeniuk, Executive Director

May live bison and meat prices remain strong with some prices moving marginally above April price levels. Consumer demand continues to be strong. Many consumers certainly understand the health benefits of bison and recognize that it tastes great as well. The demand for trim continues to be strong in Canada and the U.S. with the demand for all other cuts being steady. With the Bar-b-que season just beginning the demand for bison products is expected to remain strong.

As mentioned in previous reports, the supply of finished animals for processing continues to be tight with bison numbers being down and heifers being held back for breeding. 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. Never-the-less the consumer demand remains strong with increased calls on where bison products can be purchased or where live animals can be accessed.

Nationally, federal slaughter was down 44% in the first 1 weeks of 2011 when compared to 2010 (3,924 animals in 2011 compared to 7,032 animals for 2010). Live bison exports to the U.S. are down by almost 30% - 5,635 for the first three months of 2011 compared to 8,098 bison for the same period in 2010. The average price for Grade A bulls and heifers continues to be strong at \$4.00 - \$4.10 per pound compared to \$3.70 - \$3.85 per pound in April 2011. Mature bulls in mid- May ranged from \$2.60 - \$2.75 per pound. Today's price for fresh bison trim is \$11.80 - \$12.00 per kg.

Prices for 2010 bison calves have been very strong with one sale reporting prices of up to \$2.85 per pound live weight for bull calves. Bred heifer prices are being reported at \$2,100 - \$2,200.

Bulls	\$3.70 - \$3.85/lb
Heifer's	\$3.65- \$3.70/lb
Mature Bulls	\$2.60 - \$2.75 /lb
Mature Cows	\$2.60 - \$2.75 /lb

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