



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - May 25, 2011

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	09-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr	Apr Total	2011	April YTD 2010	% Change
Total Canada	7	357	77	19	460	3,511	6,393	-45.1%
<i>previous year</i>	270	381	313	334	1,298			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Mar 2010	2011	March YTD 2010	% Change
Alberta	135	112	55	77	75	151	207	464	-55.4%
Saskatchewan	10	9	14	28	6	34	48	105	-54.3%
Manitoba/BC	76	60	54	72	139	64	265	169	56.8%
Ontario/Quebec**	51	25	16	18	28	41	62	100	-38.0%
Total	272	206	139	195	248	290	582	838	-30.5%

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

	YTD 2011	YTD 2010	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter *	4,093	7,231	-43.4%

*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*

	09-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr	Apr Total	2011	April YTD 2010	% Change
Total	806	844	803	943	3,396	14,849	18,943	-21.6%
<i>previous year</i>	1201	1025	1061	1089	4,376			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	2011	April YTD 2010	% Change
Slaughter Male	530	607	760	627	595	2,589	2,968	-12.8%
Slaughter Female	352	418	462	302	295	1,477	2,833	-47.9%
Feeder Male	702	147	343	431	446	1,367	2,133	-35.9%
Feeder Female	632	165	333	472	514	1,484	1,609	-7.8%
Total	2,216	1,337	1,898	1,832	1,850	6,917	9,543	-27.5%

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

		October 2010	November	December	January 2011	February	March	2011	March YTD 2010	% Change
Boneless										
USA	Kg	34,190	43,017	45,712	39,978	32,352	27,835	99,601	121,301	-17.9%
	Value (\$Cdn)	393,613	506,010	531,813	496,613	405,658	372,676	1,263,242	998,703	26.5%
France	Kg	451	3,514	16,808	1,609	5,557	4,174	11,340	81,213	-86.0%
	Value (\$Cdn)	11,430	50,689	223,326	26,337	76,807	56,721	159,865	855,482	-81.3%
Switzerland	Kg	3,957	7,769	5,750	2,641	4,568	3,245	10,454	10,093	3.6%
	Value (\$Cdn)	145,691	309,195	195,266	95,953	182,343	120,458	398,754	376,382	5.9%
Germany	Kg	1,416	635	397	369	312	365	1,046	2,027	-48.4%
	Value (\$Cdn)	40,001	14,979	7,909	7,689	6,858	12,663	27,210	35,151	-22.6%
Egypt	Kg	-	13,496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	201,221	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	Kg	185	-	-	188	-	-	188	1,656	-88.6%
	Value (\$Cdn)	9,925	-	-	3,515	-	-	3,515	45,752	-92.3%
Macau	Kg	-	-	1,052	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	20,433	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
French S. Terr.	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	26,326	26,326	-	N/A
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	133,492	133,492	-	N/A
Others	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Kg	40,199	68,431	69,719	44,785	42,789	61,945	148,955	216,290	-31.1%
	Value (\$Cdn)	600,660	1,082,094	978,747	630,107	671,666	696,010	1,986,078	2,311,470	-14.1%

Bone-in

	October 2010	November	December	January 2011	February	March	2011	March YTD 2010	% Change
Total	0	0	17,116	17,567	7,083	3,656	28,306	17,966	57.6%
Value (\$Cdn)	0	0	52,429	54,789	82,497	18,847	156,133	49,162	217.6%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	October 2010	November	December	January 2011	February	March	2011	March YTD 2010	% Change
Total	40,199	68,431	86,835	62,352	49,872	65,601	177,261	234,256	-24.3%
Value (\$Cdn)	600,660	1,082,094	1,031,176	684,896	754,163	714,857	2,142,211	2,360,632	-9.3%

*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)
Apr 2010	249.04	236.58	195.00	174.29
May 2010	255.59	241.74		182.07
June 2010	260.77	249.48	186.36	176.32
July 2010	266.74	258.33	208.75	186.43
Aug 2010	272.93	263.38	225.00	224.74
Sept 2010	296.03	276.84	228.75	206.18
Oct 2010	317.57	304.34	234.38	233.46
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

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
May 2010	245-265	225-250	150-170	150-170
June 2010	255-285	235-270	175-200	175-200
July 2010	255-285	235-270	160-200	160-200
Aug 2010	285-290	275-290	180-220	180-220
Sep 2010	280-310	280-310	180-220	180-220
Oct 2010	330-345	310-345	220-240	220-240
Nov 2010	345-350	330-335	220-230	210-220
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

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

	February 2011		March 2011		April 2011		Change Current Month vs.	
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	2 months prior	1 month prior
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	900-1375	1,251.23	900-1450	1,290.27	1000-1550	1,320.53	5.5%	2.3%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	440-560	489.81	440-610	531.62	500-725	545.49	11.4%	2.6%
Striploin Fresh	750-1375	1,176.35	800-1375	1,178.94	875-1500	1,222.25	3.9%	3.7%
Tenderloin Fresh	1650-1900	1,767.67	1650-2000	1,860.41	1650-2195	1,913.35	8.2%	2.8%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	450-585	515.00	450-585	519.56	450-585	533.96	3.7%	2.8%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	524-635	571.51	500-665	572.33	540-638	575.84	0.8%	0.6%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	525-668	564.07	500-730	564.88	500-650	583.58	3.5%	3.3%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-February 2011 Pricing	Mid-March 2011 Pricing	Mid-April 2011 Pricing	Mid-May 2011 Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	\$42.99 - \$60.00	\$45.00 - \$60.00	\$44.99 - \$60.00	\$49.40 - \$60.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	\$23.89 - \$36.00	\$23.89 - \$36.00	\$23.99 - \$36.00	\$28.00 - \$34.40
Inside Round - Fresh	\$12.25 - \$15.50	\$12.75 - \$15.50	\$12.75 - \$15.00	\$15.00 - \$18.30
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	\$11.95 - \$14.00	\$11.95 - \$14.00	\$12.95 - \$13.50	\$12.50 - \$13.00
Fresh Bison Trim	\$11.50 - \$12.09	\$11.05 - \$12.05	\$11.85 - \$12.69	\$11.80 - \$12.00

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

Kramer Auctions (SK) (May 11, 2011)				Sekura Auctions (AB) (April 2, 2011)				Kramer Auctions (SK) (March 16, 2011)		
Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of head	Average (\$/cwt)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	low per cwt	high per cwt	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average (\$/cwt)
2009 Bulls	750<	6	217	2010 Bulls	300-399	130	267.5	2008 Exposed Females	765-890	162
	<750	2	195		400-499	172.5	261			
2009 Heifers	700<	6	96		500-599	140	232	2009 Bulls	565-745	214
	725-850	10	237	600-699	192	192	800<			
	950<	6	164	700-799	157.5	157.5		2009 Heifers	550-649	200
	<725	4	227	800-899	165	165	650-735			
2010 Bulls	400-499	23	289	2010 Heifers	0-299	180		192.5	2010 Bulls	300-399
	500-599	60	286	300-399	117.5	198	550-600	272		
	600-675	41	283	400-499	211	217.5			2010 Heifers	<349
	<400	21	220	2009 Heifers	400-499	172.5	184	350-399		
2010 Heifers	450-575	19	264	500-599	169	182.5	400-449		240	
	<450	29	222	600-699	180	180		450-570		241
				700-799	192	192				
				2008 Heifers	600-699	175	175			
				700-799	180	180				
				2007 Heifers	800-899	120	120			
				Mature Bulls	800-9999	1550	2400			

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

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. Nevertheless, 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 45% in the first 17 weeks of 2011 when compared to 2010 (3,511 animals in 2011 compared to 6,393 animals for 2010). Live bison exports to the U.S. are down by more than 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.

Chart 1

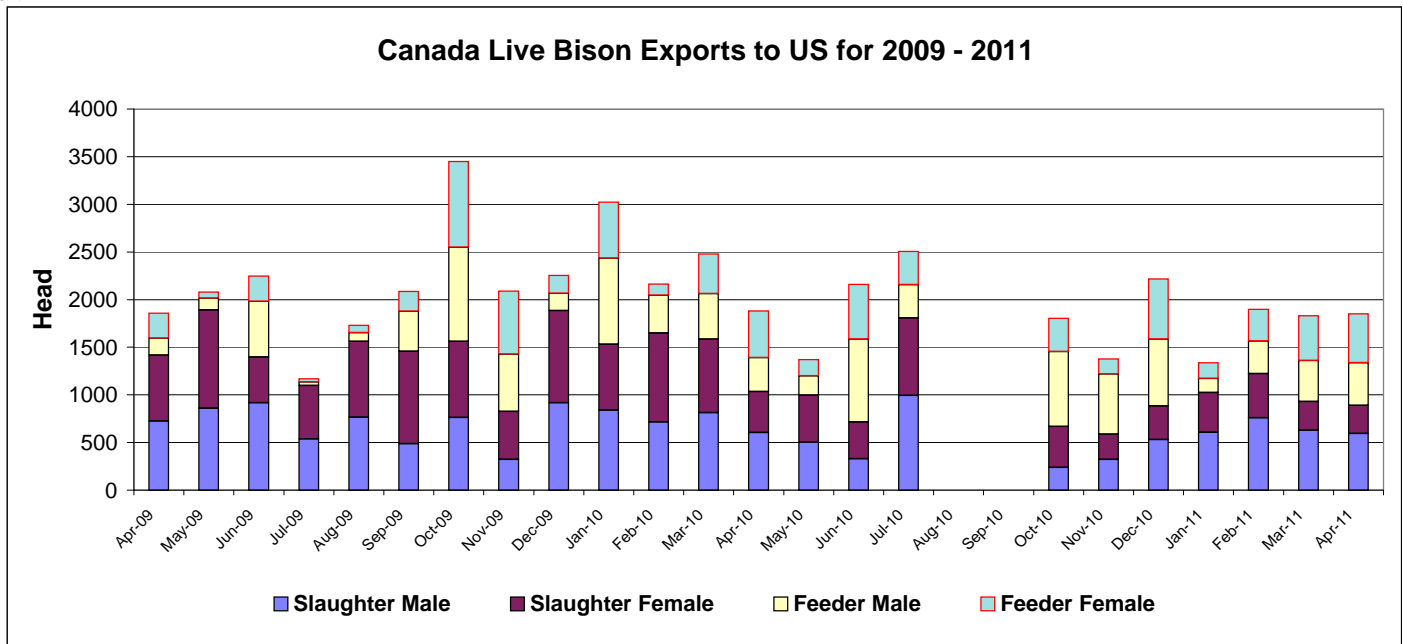


Chart 2

