Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - June 17, 2010

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	08-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	May Total	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Total Canada	**310**	**329**	**241**	**292**	**1,172**	**7,551**	**8,852**	**-15%**
previous year	413	323	302	432	**1,470**			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb	Mar	Apr-10	Apr-09	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Alberta	133	205	108	151	221	228	685	884	-23%
Saskatchewan	15	33	38	34	35	14	140	151	-7%
Manitoba/BC	62	52	53	64	62	38	231	258	-10%
Ontario/Quebec	30	47	39	44	60	58	190	182	4%
Total	**240**	**337**	**238**	**293**	**378**	**338**	**1246**	**1475**	**-16%**

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

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

	2010	2009	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter	**8,797**	**10,327**	**-15%**

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	08-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	May Total	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
	877	**1059**	**1213**	**1008**	**4,157**	**23,100**	**21,928**	**5%**
previous year	982	1166	1057	910	**4,115**			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Slaughter Male	714	812	603	505	3,473	3,052	**14%**
Slaughter Female	936	773	430	491	3,324	4,188	**-21%**
Feeder Male	397	476	359	203	2,336	1,437	**63%**
Feeder Female	116	417	489	170	1,779	1,422	**25%**
Total	**2,163**	**2,478**	**1,881**	**1,369**	**10,912**	**10,099**	**8%**

**source USDA*

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless

		December	January	February	March	April	YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
USA	Kg	25,396	23,963	47,302	50,036	25,523	146,824	147,781	**-1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	211,430	203,620	380,341	414,742	238,875	1,237,578	1,243,892	**-1%**
France	Kg	36,362	27,768	24,551	28,894	17,796	99,009	129,765	**-24%**
	Value ($Cdn)	383,923	211,581	285,401	358,500	313,358	1,168,840	1,690,059	**-31%**
Germany	Kg	3,655	576	742	709	589	2,616	3,704	**-29%**
	Value ($Cdn)	93,278	11,819	12,561	10,771	13,457	48,608	56,129	**-13%**
Switzerland	Kg	2,281	2,901	2,904	4,288	7,111	17,204	17,545	**-2%**
	Value ($Cdn)	89,531	108,020	119,932	148,430	246,810	623,192	673,082	**-7%**
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	423	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,165	**N/A**
China P.Rep.	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Saudi Arabia	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Hong Kong	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
United Arab Emirates	Kg	238	-	1,656	-	173	1,829	666	**175%**
	Value ($Cdn)	8,986	-	45,752	-	3,759	49,511	19,032	**160%**
Japan	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Moldova	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Italy	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Taiwan	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**N/A**
Total	**Kg**	**67,932**	**55,208**	**77,155**	**83,927**	**51,192**	**267,482**	**299,884**	**-11%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**787,148**	**535,040**	**843,987**	**932,443**	**816,259**	**3,127,729**	**3,698,359**	**-15%**

Bone-in

		December	January	February	March	April	YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
Total	**Kg**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**17,966**	**730**	**18,696**	**8,848**	**-11%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**49,162**	**6,675**	**55,837**	**39,589**	**41%**

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	December	January	February	March	April	YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
Kg	**67,932**	**55,208**	**77,155**	**101,893**	**51,922**	**286,178**	**308,732**	**-7%**
Value ($Cdn)	**787,148**	**535,040**	**843,987**	**981,605**	**822,934**	**3,183,566**	**3,737,948**	**-15%**

**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)
June 2009	238.55	207.04	141.67	152.02
July 2009	239.39	219.85	154.38	149
Aug 2009	234.98	220.24	118	135.18
Sep 2009	235.11	218.8	159.88	147.3
Oct 2009	237.4	222.18	162.14	148.5
Nov 2009	239.53	221.9	160.61	159.98
Dec 2009	242.27	223.67	163.29	164.8
Jan 2010	241	222.99	161.3	158.77
Feb 2010	246.99	228.58	180.73	171.43
Mar 2010	246.53	238.7	185	165.1
Apr 2010	249.04	236.58	195	174.29
May 2010	255.59	241.74		182.07

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
June 2009	240-265	240-250	130-170	130-165
July 2009	255-280	235-265	125-165	130-165
Aug 2009	235-275	225-260	130-150	130-140
Sep 2009	235-275	225-250	130-140	130-150
Oct 2009	235-275	225-250	130-140	130-150
Nov 2009	245-260	225-245	140-165	140-165
Dec 2009	225-260	215-245	140-150	140-150
Jan 2010	220-255	210-240	140-155	140-150
Feb 2010	240-255	220-240	140-155	140-155
Mar 2010	225-260	225-245	150-160	145-155
Apr 2010	245-260	240-255	150-160	150-160
May 2010	245-265	225-250	150-170	150-170
June 2010	255-285	235-270	175-200	175-200

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

	March		April		May		Change Current Month vs. 2 months prior	Change Current Month vs. 1 month prior
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg		
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	750-1225	978.64	750-1225	976.46	725-1225	978.05	0%	0%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	330-425	341.78	330-425	342.65	345-519	364.8	7%	6%
Striploin Fresh	720-1050	898.18	650-1050	909.95	675-1050	903.65	1%	-1%
Tenderloin Fresh	1050-1650	1239.63	1050-1650	1168.05	1000-1650	1195.59	-4%	2%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	300-395	340	300-395	331	300-395	362	6%	9%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	300-470	391.87	340-470	391.44	340-470	416.11	6%	6%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	345-435	418.15	345-440	374.98	345-440	397	-5%	6%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-March Pricing	Mid-April Pricing	Mid-May Pricing	Mid-June Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	$29.95 - $49.50	$35.90 - $47.00	$35.90 - $45.00	$34.95 - $46.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	$19.95 - $26.00	$18.95 - $26.00	$18.95 - $28.00	$22.24 - $28.50
Inside Round - Fresh	$9.00 - $11.00	$9.65 - $12.70	$9.65 - $12.80	$10.95 - $13.60
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	$8.45 - $10.15	$7.95 - $9.95	$7.95 - $9.95	$9.45 - $11.45
Fresh Bison Trim	$7.30 - $7.70	$7.50 - $8.25	$8.00 - $8.25	$9.15 - $9.25

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

Sekura Auctions (AB) (April 10, 2010)			Willowview Auctions (AB) (March 20, 2010)			Sekura Auctions (AB) (March 6, 2010)		
Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)
2007 Males	800-899	125.00	2009 Bull Calves	300-350	136-140	2009 Males	0-299	141.64
2008 Males	500-599	125.00		400-450	152-156		300-399	133.58
	600-699	120.00		450-550	154-158		400-500	153.28
	700-799	119.25					400-499	144.00
2009 Males	0-300	117.50	2009 Heifer Calves	300-350	130-135		500-599	149.24
	300-400	134.58		400-450	138-141	2008 Males	500-599	114.46
	400-500	150.90					600-699	122.50
2008 Females	400-499	85.00	2008 Yearling Bulls	500-600	110-120		700-799	145.19
	500-599	105.50		600-650	128-135		800-899	75.00
	600-699	120.37		700-800	145-148		900-999	125.00
	700-799	124		800-900	146-148	2007 Males	1000-9999	88.10
2009 Females	0-300	118.66				2009 Females	0-300	102.00
	300-400	129.11	2008 Yearling Heifers	500-600	120-125		300-400	123.55
	400-500	137.20		600-700	129-135		400-500	139.26
Mature Bulls	1000-9999	104.00		700-800	135-138	2008 Females	500-600	126.63
Cows	0-999	93.54					600-700	129.24
			Mature Bulls		83-90	Cows		86.56
			Bison Cows		85-91	Bred Heifers		1071.43 / hd
						Breeding Bulls		1559.22 / hd

Commentary

By Terry Kremeniuk, Executive Director, CBA

<u>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</u>

Live bison prices continue to be strong with finished animals and animals for the trim market in short supply. Consumer demand remains particularly strong for bison ground products with middle cuts now moving out of inventory. The US market demand for bison continues to be strong. Some U.S. retailers are beginning to show resistance to the high prices of ground bison. Even though the Canadian dollar has hovered near par and prices for animals to the export market have been reduced compared to last year, returns to producers continue to be higher in the U.S. market.

The weak EURO and increased prices by marketers in order to preserve margins has reduced shipments into that market. This will make some product available for the North American market. The Middle Eastern Market remains strong. These factors have translated into strong prices for finished bison as well as trim. Certain marketers have indicated they have ground up middle cuts to serve the strong burger market. The shortage of animals continues to motivate marketers to lock in their supply of animals. Further pressures have been placed on the tight supplies as most producers have culled their herds and are holding animals back to build their herds in response to the strong demand. These tight supplies will require higher prices to ration available supply.

Grade A bison prices for bulls in June 2009 were in the $2.40 - $2.65 range. Today prices are higher at $2.55 - $2.85 range. Last year 90% ground was selling in the range of $6.95 - $8.80 compared to today's prices of $9.45 - $11.45. However prices of tenderloins, strips, and inside round are down by up to 15% depending on cuts.

Nationally, federal slaughter is down 14.7% for the first 21 weeks of this year (7,551 in 2010 compared to 8,852 for the same period in 2009). Exports of live animals to the end of March jumped by 25.0% in 2010 when compared to the same period in 2009 (8,098 in 2010 compared to 6,477 in 2009). The average price per animal exported was down from $1,168 in 2009 to $1,060 in the first quarter – a decline of 9.2%. The strong demand for bison in the U.S. market combined with marketers locking in their supplies has contributed to the strong exports in the first quarter of 2010.

Total boneless bison meat exports to April 30, 2010 are down 10.8% with a slight decline in all markets except for the United Arab Emirates which showed a 175% increase to April 30, 2010.

Chart 1

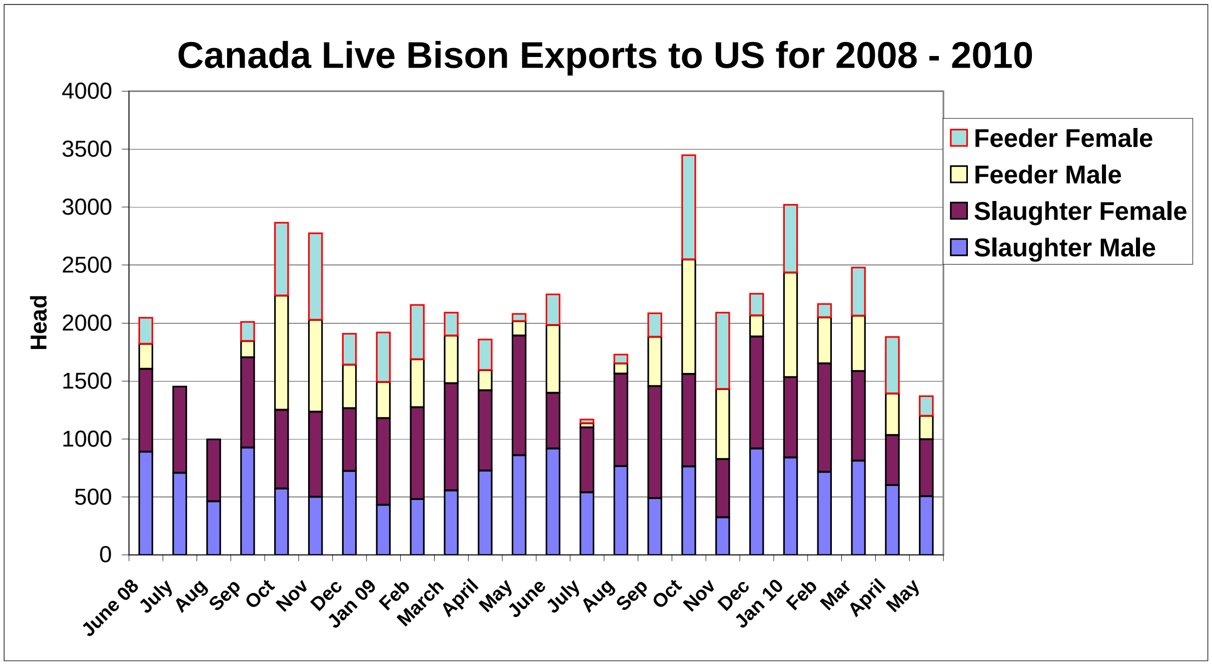

Chart 2