



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - March 17, 2009

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	Feb Total	2009 YTD	09 vs 08 % Change
Total Canada	511	242	463	423	1,639	3,750	1%
<i>previous year</i>	474	631	401	315	1,821	3,703	

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec-08	Jan-09	Jan-08	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	% Change
Alberta	197	198	197	142	186	308	186	308	-40%
Saskatchewan	35	34	17	26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Manitoba/BC	64	68	80	55	42	39	42	39	8%
Ontario/Quebec	52	33	56	35	67	74	67	74	-9%
Total	348	333	350	258	295	421	295	421	-30%

*source AAFC Red Meat Section

*Due to varying provincial reporting schedules, total Fed. and Prov. has a one month delay in Prov. Data

	2009	2008	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter	4,045	4,124	-2%

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	Feb Total	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	% Change
	1,039	1,031	971	3,041	7,194	7,251	-1%
<i>previous year</i>	1,012	1,140	1,134	3,286			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	% Change
Slaughter Male	500	722	431	481	912	1,388	-34%
Slaughter Female	735	541	749	792	1,541	1,764	-13%
Feeder Male	791	376	310	415	725	1,734	-58%
Feeder Female	747	269	428	467	895	1,068	-16%
Total	2,773	1,908	1,918	2,155	4,073	5,954	-32%

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless	September	October	November	December	January 2009	YTD 2009	YTD 2008	% Change
USA	Kg 18,194	33,760	49,699	22,844	50,633	50,633	29,539	71%
	Value (\$Cdn) 136,815	235,298	390,958	154,426	392,229	392,229	192,520	104%
France	Kg 45,560	41,867	44,377	43,840	37,657	37,657	32,666	15%
	Value (\$Cdn) 539,152	514,911	591,124	509,241	389,926	389,926	308,618	26%
Germany	Kg 6,027	4,679	4,616	2,105	592	592	9,059	-93%
	Value (\$Cdn) 69,473	76,157	60,222	23,885	7,936	7,936	160,227	-95%
Switzerland	Kg 3,141	8,254	5,502	2,888	2,749	2,749	2,964	-7%
	Value (\$Cdn) 97,703	82,793	198,893	97,146	108,815	108,815	47,513	129%
Mexico	Kg 28,681	70,790	-	-	207,119	207,119	-	
	Value (\$Cdn) 152,488	371,730	-	-	1,039,920	1,039,920	-	
Japan	Kg -	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Value (\$Cdn) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Neth. Antilles	Kg -	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Value (\$Cdn) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Italy	Kg -	-	-	-	-	-	286	-100%
	Value (\$Cdn) -	-	-	-	-	-	4,578	-100%
Other	Kg -	1,414	488	-	647	647	-	
	Value (\$Cdn) -	15,876	13,910	-	18,432	18,432	-	
Total	Kg 101,603	160,764	104,682	71,677	299,397	299,397	74,514	302%
	Value (\$Cdn) 995,631	1,296,765	1,255,107	784,698	1,957,258	1,957,258	713,456	174%

Bone-in

	September	October	November	December	January 09	YTD 2009	YTD 2008	% Change
Total	Kg 8,130	12,044	1,275	749	7,776	7,776	16,953	-54%
	Value (\$Cdn) 42,120	46,843	12,285	7,839	29,181	29,181	45,064	-35%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	September	October	November	December	January 09	YTD 2009	YTD 2008	% Change
Total	Kg 109,733	172,808	105,957	72,426	307,173	307,173	91,467	236%
	Value (\$Cdn) 1,037,751	1,343,608	1,267,392	792,537	1,986,439	1,986,439	758,520	162%

*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)
Mar 2008	220.94	207.49	144.83	132.11
Apr 2008	223.96	210.83	140.96	134.97
May 2008	225.63	211.13		141.49
June 2008	227.02	218.03	148.3	131.21
July 2008	228.63	221.07	148.48	138.81
Aug 2008	236.62	228.95	150	142.74
Sep 2008	239.14	230.36	137.5	145.89
Oct 2008	239.99	230.17	147.02	141.71
Nov 2008	241.36	228.87	146.6	144.17
Dec 2008	241.11	226.38	150.7	143.66
Jan 2009	238.4	224.73	161.32	142.95
Feb 2009	238.08	221.62	149.43	142.82

*source USDA

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
Mar 2008	195-220	185-210	70	70
Apr 2008	215-225	205-215	90	85
May 2008	205-225	200-210	80-100	80-100
June 2008	205-225	195-220	90-100	90-100
July 2008	205-230	210-225	100-110	100-110
Aug 2008	220-230	210-230	90-100	90-100
Sep 2008	225-240	210-230	90-100	90-100
Oct 2008	230-260	225-255	100-125	100-120
Nov 2008	230-275	225-265	125-130	120-130
Dec 2008	245-280	235-255	100-135	115-130
Jan 2009	235-280	220-260	100-130	100-130
Feb 2009	240-275	230-260	110-125	110-125
Mar 2009	240-270	230-260	115-145	110-145

*source CBA survey of marketers

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

	December		January		February		Change Current Month vs.	
	Range		Range		Range		2 months prior	1 month prior
	Wt. Avg	Wt. Avg	Wt. Avg	Wt. Avg	Wt. Avg	Wt. Avg		
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	740-1,150	980.64	820-1225	990.73	825-1225	968.42	-1%	-2%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	285-425	334.16	290-425	335.27	295-425	333.87	0%	0%
Striploin Fresh	750-1,050	945.32	720-1050	943.85	725-1050	928.2	-2%	-2%
Tenderloin Fresh	1,550-2250	1,651.47	1500-2050	1626.43	1295-2050	1636.82	-1%	1%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	300-335	326	300-335	326.98	250-335	326.45	0%	0%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	295-470	345.67	300-470	356.46	300-470	361.26	5%	1%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	285-340	314.55	285-354	343.52	285-470	343.64	9%	0%

*source USDA

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

	Mid-December Pricing	Mid-January Pricing	Mid-February Pricing	Mid-March Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	\$41.95 - \$45.00	\$40.00 - \$52.00	\$39.95 - \$49.00	\$39.95 - \$51.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	\$22.00 - \$27.95	\$19.00 - \$30.00	\$19.00 - \$30.00	\$24.90 - \$29.40
Inside Round - Fresh	\$8.79 - \$11.80	\$9.00 - \$12.50	\$7.95 - \$10.00	\$9.15 - \$13.00
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	\$7.00 - \$7.92	\$6.95 - \$7.85	\$6.95 - \$7.85	\$6.25 - \$8.35
Fresh Bison Trim	\$6.35 - \$7.30	\$5.75 - \$6.70	\$5.80 - \$6.35	\$6.20 - \$7.35

*source CBA survey of marketers

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

Kramer Auction (SK) (March 11, 2009)				Kramer Auction (SK) (March 7, 2009)				Willowview Auction (AB) (Dec 13, 2008)		
Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of Head	Average (\$/lb)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of Head	Average (\$/lb)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average (\$/lb)
2006 Bulls	>900	6	1.13	2007 Heifers	>750	18	1.2	2008 Bulls	305-375	1.05-1.10
2007 Bulls	>650	17	1.24						400-500	1.19-1.20
	600-650	21	1.11	2008 Bulls	400-500	32	1.31			
	<600	12	0.79		>500	84	1.42	2008 Heifers	350-399	1.00-1.05
2007 Heifers	500-550	6	0.59						400-450	1.05-1.09
	550-600	24	1.06	2008 Heifers	400-450	50	1.12			
	600-700	12	1.23		>450	36	1.29	2007 Bulls	650-680	1.16-1.27
	>700	5	1.21		<400	30	1.04		700-749	1.19-1.28
	<500	3	0.60						750-799	1.24-1.29
2008 Bulls	300-400	57	0.81						800-900	1.30-1.34
	400-450	15	1.10							
	450-500	27	1.46					2007 Heifers	500-599	1.03-1.06
	500-550	44	1.5						600-700	1.08-1.14
	>550	16	1.49							
2008 Heifers	350-400	12	1.12					2006 Heifers	700-750	1.01-1.05
	400-500	13	1.39						800-900	1.12-1.15
	>500	17	1.30					Mature Bulls		0.50-0.60
	<350	39	0.63					Mature Cows		500-650/head

Commentary

By Terry Kremeriuk, 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

Although strong, there were reported signs of price weakening for prime slaughter bulls and heifers. This market softness is expected to be short lived with the grilling season just around the corner. The prices offered for mature bulls and cows remain strong as the demand for ground bison remains strong. The value of the Canadian dollar continues to support present price levels.

Nationally, federal slaughter for the first nine weeks was up 4.9% (4,362 in 2009 compared to 4,157 for the same period in 2008). Exports of live animals to the end of December were down by 25% for January (2,030 in 2009 compared to 2,722 in 2008).

Total bison meat exports for the month of January were much stronger in 2009 than in 2008 (299,397 Kg. in 2009 compared to 74,514 Kg. in 2008). There has been growth in bison meat exports to the U.S. and France with significant exports to Mexico. The United Arab Emirates appear to have become a new market for Canadian bison.

Chart 1

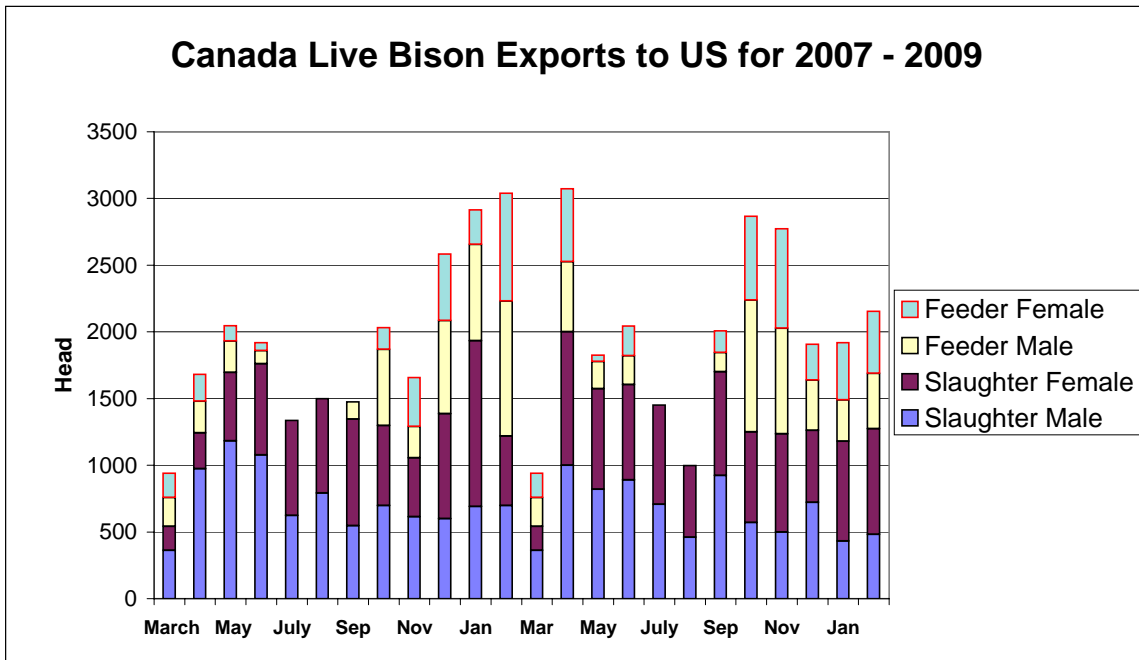


Chart 2

