Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

# BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

***Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - May 18, 2010***

### Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

| | 10-Apr | 17-Apr | 24-Apr | 01-May | Apr Total | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Canada** | **270** | **381** | **313** | **334** | **1,298** | **6,393** | **7,382** | **-13%** |
| ***previous year*** | 215 | 419 | 296 | 452 | **1,382** | | | |

### Provincially Inspected Slaughter

| | Nov | Dec | Jan-10 | Feb | Mar-10 | Mar-09 | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alberta** | 169 | 133 | 205 | 108 | 151 | 257 | 464 | 656 | -29% |
| **Saskatchewan** | 34 | 15 | 33 | 38 | 34 | 40 | 105 | 137 | -23% |
| **Manitoba/BC** | 63 | 62 | 52 | 53 | 64 | 85 | 169 | 190 | -11% |
| **Ontario/Quebec** | 52 | 30 | 47 | 39 | 44 | 30 | 130 | 124 | 5% |
| **Total** | **318** | **240** | **337** | **238** | **293** | **412** | **868** | **1107** | **-22%** |

*** 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** | **7,261** | **8,489** | **-14%** |

### US Federal Slaughter*

| for week ending: | 10-Apr | 17-Apr | 24-Apr | 01-May | Apr Total | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1201** | **1025** | **1061** | **1089** | **4,376** | **18,943** | **17,813** | **6%** |
| ***previous year*** | 1017 | 1023 | 1027 | 1028 | **4,095** | | | |

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

### Canada Live Bison Exports to US

| | Jan-10 | Feb-10 | Mar-10 | Apr-10 | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slaughter Male | 839 | 714 | 812 | 603 | 2,968 | 2,193 | **35%** |
| Slaughter Female | 694 | 936 | 773 | 430 | 2,833 | 3,157 | **-10%** |
| Feeder Male | 901 | 397 | 476 | 359 | 2,133 | 1,312 | **63%** |
| Feeder Female | 587 | 116 | 417 | 489 | 1,609 | 1,359 | **18%** |
| Total | **3,021** | **2,163** | **2,478** | **1,881** | **9,543** | **8,021** | **19%** |

**source USDA*

### Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

***Boneless***

| | | November | December | January | February | March | YTD 2010 | YTD 2009 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **USA** | Kg | 48,093 | 25,396 | 23,963 | 47,302 | 50,036 | 121,301 | 102,680 | **18%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 373,907 | 211,430 | 203,620 | 380,341 | 414,742 | 998,703 | 821,469 | **22%** |
| **France** | Kg | 9,382 | 36,362 | 27,768 | 24,551 | 28,894 | 81,213 | 101,667 | **-20%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 115,935 | 383,923 | 211,581 | 285,401 | 358,500 | 855,482 | 1,312,963 | **-35%** |
| **Germany** | Kg | 2,305 | 3,655 | 576 | 742 | 709 | 2,027 | 2,421 | **-16%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 44,571 | 93,278 | 11,819 | 12,561 | 10,771 | 35,151 | 34,930 | **1%** |
| **Switzerland** | Kg | 3,801 | 2,281 | 2,901 | 2,904 | 4,288 | 10,093 | 13,213 | **-24%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 130,189 | 89,531 | 108,020 | 119,932 | 148,430 | 376,382 | 506,611 | **-26%** |
| **Mexico** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| **China P.Rep.** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($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 | 485 | 238 | - | 1,656 | - | 1,656 | 666 | **149%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 4,626 | 8,986 | - | 45,752 | - | 45,752 | 19,032 | **140%** |
| **Japan** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| **Moldova** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| **Italy** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| **Taiwan** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **N/A** |
| **Total** | **Kg** | **64,066** | **67,932** | **55,208** | **77,155** | **83,927** | **216,290** | **220,647** | **-2%** |
| | **Value ($Cdn)** | **669,228** | **787,148** | **535,040** | **843,987** | **932,443** | **2,311,470** | **2,695,005** | **-14%** |

***Bone-in***

| | | November | December | January | February | March | YTD 2010 | YTD 2009 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **Kg** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **17,966** | **17,966** | **7,981** | **-2%** |
| | **Value ($Cdn)** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **49,162** | **49,162** | **31,336** | **57%** |

***Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in***

| | November | December | January | February | March | YTD 2010 | YTD 2009 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kg** | **64,066** | **67,932** | **55,208** | **77,155** | **101,893** | **234,256** | **228,628** | **2%** |
| **Value ($Cdn)** | **669,228** | **787,148** | **535,040** | **843,987** | **981,605** | **2,360,632** | **2,726,341** | **-13%** |

**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) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2009 | 239.33 | 221.12 | 159.5 | 154.78 |
| 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 |

**source USDA*

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

*wghtd avg*

| | Bulls | Heifers | Mature Bulls | Mature Cows |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2009 | 240-270 | 240-265 | 120-170 | 120-170 |
| 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 |

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

| | February | | March | | April | | Change Current Month vs. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | 2 months prior | 1 month prior |
| Ribeye Lip-On Fresh | 725-1225 | 977.67 | 750-1225 | 978.64 | 750-1225 | 976.46 | 0% | 0% |
| Chuckroll/Clod Fresh | 332-425 | 337.96 | 330-425 | 341.78 | 330-425 | 342.65 | 1% | 0% |
| Striploin Fresh | 720-1050 | 900.75 | 720-1050 | 898.18 | 650-1050 | 909.95 | 1% | 1% |
| Tenderloin Fresh | 1000-1650 | 1366.13 | 1050-1650 | 1239.63 | 1050-1650 | 1168.05 | -14% | -6% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh | 330-390 | 333 | 300-395 | 340 | 300-395 | 331 | -1% | -3% |
| Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen | 300-470 | 393.3 | 300-470 | 391.87 | 340-470 | 391.44 | 0% | 0% |
| Ground 85% Patties, Frozen | 325-440 | 368.71 | 345-435 | 418.15 | 345-440 | 374.98 | 2% | -10% |

**source USDA*

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

| | Mid-February Pricing | Mid-March Pricing | Mid-April Pricing | Mid-May Pricing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tenderloin - Fresh | $36.00 - $49.50 | $29.95 - $49.50 | $35.90 - $47.00 | $35.90 - $45.00 |
| Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh | $22.00 - $24.50 | $19.95 - $26.00 | $18.95 - $26.00 | $18.95 - $28.00 |
| Inside Round - Fresh | $10.00 - $15.00 | $9.00 - $11.00 | $9.65 - $12.70 | $9.65 - $12.80 |
| Ground 90% Bulk Fresh | $7.50 - $10.15 | $8.45 - $10.15 | $7.95 - $9.95 | $7.95 - $9.95 |
| Fresh Bison Trim | $7.00 - $7.78 | $7.30 - $7.70 | $7.50 - $8.25 | $8.00 - $8.25 |

**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***

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

**Live bison prices continue to be strong with finished animals and animals for the ground market in short supply. Consumer demand remains particularly strong for ground bison products, with middle cuts starting to show some movement out of inventory as prices for these cuts have been reduced and the grilling season has begun. The US market demand for Canadian bison continues to be strong. 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 will likely reduce 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. 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.**

**Nationally, federal slaughter is down 13.4% for the first 17 weeks of this year (6,393 in 2010 compared to 7,382 for the same period in 2009). Exports of live animals to the end of March jumped by 25% 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 for the first quarter of 2010 are down 2% with a slight decline in all markets except for the United Arab Emirates which showed a 149% increase in the first quarter of 2010 over 2009.**

**Chart 1**

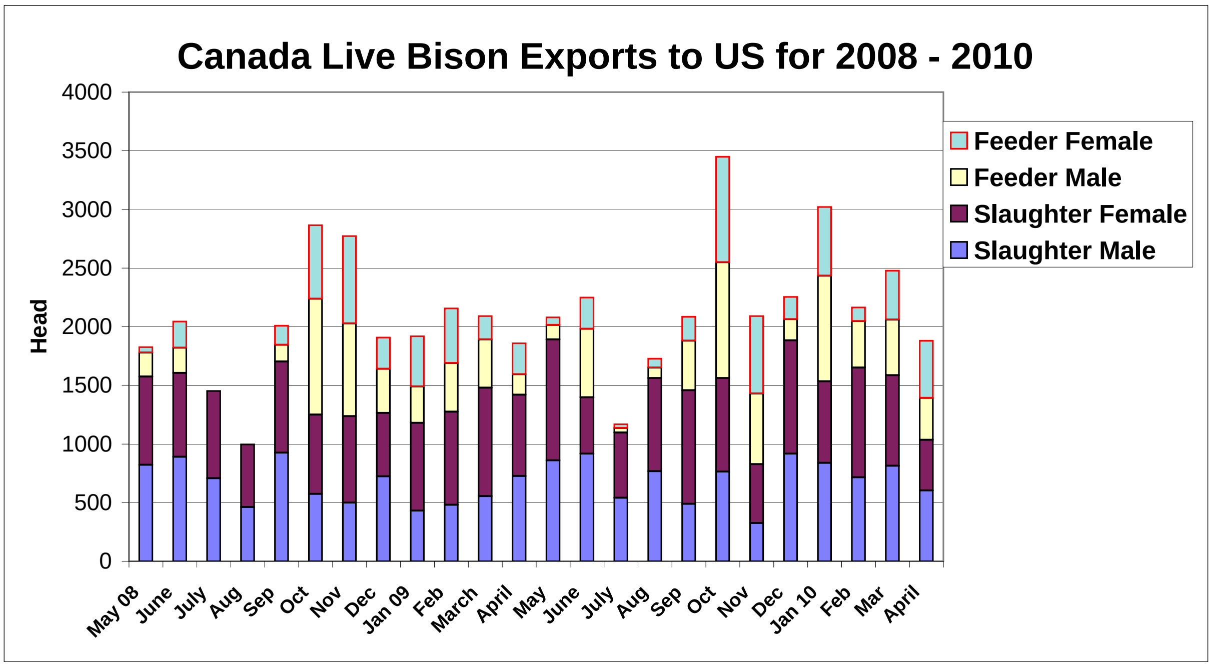


**Chart 2**