Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

# BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

***Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - February 22, 2010***

## Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

| | 09-Jan | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | Jan Total | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Canada** | **264** | **301** | **463** | **502** | **1,530** | **1,530** | **2,109** | **-27%** |
| *previous year* | 650 | 448 | 536 | 475 | **2,109** | | | |

## Provincially Inspected Slaughter

| | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Dec-08 | 2009 YTD | 2008 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alberta** | 150 | 169 | 220 | 169 | 133 | 142 | 2278 | 2794 | -18% |
| **Saskatchewan** | 15 | 26 | 25 | 34 | 15 | 26 | 342 | N/A | |
| **Manitoba/BC** | 74 | 73 | 96 | 63 | 62 | 55 | 877 | 883 | -1% |
| **Ontario/Quebec** | 59 | 62 | 49 | 51 | 21 | 35 | 594 | 656 | -9% |
| **Total** | **298** | **330** | **390** | **317** | **231** | **258** | **4091** | **4333** | **-6%** |

*** 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*

| | 2009 | 2008 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter** | **5,621** | **6,442** | **-13%** |

## US Federal Slaughter*

| for week ending: | 09-Jan | 16-Jan | 23-Jan | 30-Jan | Jan Total | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1267** | **1222** | **1142** | **1038** | **4,669** | **4,669** | **4,264** | **9%** |
| *previous year* | 1132 | 1128 | 1099 | 905 | **4,264** | | | |

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

## Canada Live Bison Exports to US

| | Oct-09 | Nov-09 | Dec-09 | Jan-10 | 2010 YTD | 2009 YTD | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slaughter Male | 763 | 324 | 916 | 839 | 839 | 431 | **95%** |
| Slaughter Female | 798 | 502 | 968 | 694 | 694 | 749 | **-7%** |
| Feeder Male | 988 | 603 | 180 | 901 | 901 | 310 | **191%** |
| Feeder Female | 899 | 661 | 189 | 587 | 587 | 428 | **37%** |
| Total | **3,448** | **2,090** | **2,253** | **3,021** | **3,021** | **1,918** | **58%** |

**source USDA*

## Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

***Boneless***

| | | August | September | October | November | December | YTD 2009 | YTD 2008 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **USA** | Kg | 26,877 | 27,609 | 26,608 | 48,093 | 25,396 | 396,541 | 323,021 | **23%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 216,995 | 232,014 | 231,321 | 373,907 | 211,430 | 3,279,666 | 2,246,015 | **46%** |
| **France** | Kg | 35,613 | 36,111 | 17,777 | 9,382 | 36,362 | 347,193 | 535,765 | **-35%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 468,654 | 490,282 | 238,221 | 115,935 | 383,923 | 4,643,222 | 5,768,491 | **-20%** |
| **Germany** | Kg | 4,298 | 2,179 | 4,446 | 2,305 | 3,655 | 30,915 | 55,799 | **-45%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 57,497 | 25,750 | 42,771 | 44,571 | 93,278 | 462,673 | 770,496 | **-40%** |
| **Switzerland** | Kg | 4,242 | 3,116 | 1,907 | 3,801 | 2,281 | 43,790 | 100,295 | **-56%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 157,339 | 112,673 | 58,625 | 130,189 | 89,531 | 1,599,007 | 1,599,613 | **0%** |
| **Mexico** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | 423 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | 16,165 | - | **N/A** |
| **China P.Rep.** | Kg | 186 | - | - | - | - | 186 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 1,030 | - | - | - | - | 1,030 | - | **N/A** |
| **Saudi Arabia** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | 10,073 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | 209,682 | - | **N/A** |
| **Hong Kong** | Kg | - | - | - | - | 1,955 | 1,955 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | 14,348 | 14,348 | - | **N/A** |
| **United Arab Emirates** | Kg | 13 | 185 | - | 485 | 238 | 1,587 | 47 | **3277%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | 361 | 5,285 | - | 4,626 | 8,986 | 38,290 | 756 | **4965%** |
| **Japan** | Kg | - | - | 401 | - | 1,042 | 1,443 | 10,305 | **-86%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | 1,603 | - | 8,445 | 10,048 | 74,727 | **-87%** |
| **Moldova** | Kg | - | 1,008 | - | - | - | 1,008 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | 15,760 | - | - | - | 15,760 | - | **N/A** |
| **Italy** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | 1,008 | 431 | **134%** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | | - | - | - | 15,760 | 6,899 | **128%** |
| **French S. Terr.** | Kg | - | - | - | - | - | 195 | - | **N/A** |
| | Value ($Cdn) | - | - | - | - | - | 2,971 | - | **N/A** |
| **Total** | **Kg** | **71,229** | **70,208** | **51,139** | **64,066** | **70,929** | **835,309** | **1,025,663** | **-19%** |
| | **Value ($Cdn)** | **901,876** | **881,764** | **572,541** | **669,228** | **809,941** | **10,292,862** | **10,466,997** | **-2%** |

***Bone-in***

| | | August | September | October | November | December | YTD 2009 | YTD 2008 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **Kg** | **54** | **16,465** | **789** | **-** | **-** | **26,471** | **67,554** | **-61%** |
| | **Value ($Cdn)** | **563** | **171,118** | **10,147** | **-** | **-** | **225,771** | **272,296** | **-17%** |

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

| | | August | September | October | November | December | YTD 2009 | YTD 2008 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Kg** | **71,283** | **86,673** | **51,928** | **64,066** | **70,929** | **861,780** | **1,093,217** | **-21%** |
| | **Value ($Cdn)** | **902,439** | **1,052,882** | **582,688** | **669,228** | **809,941** | **10,518,633** | **10,739,293** | **-2%** |

**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) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 2009 | 238.08 | 221.62 | 149.43 | 142.82 |
| Mar 2009 | 237.3 | 220.08 | 146.71 | 145.8 |
| Apr 2009 | 238.71 | 220.44 | 150 | 151.9 |
| 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 |

**source USDA*

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

*wghtd avg*

| | Bulls | Heifers | Mature Bulls | Mature Cows |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 2009 | 240-275 | 230-260 | 110-125 | 110-125 |
| Mar 2009 | 240-270 | 230-260 | 115-145 | 110-145 |
| Apr 2009 | 240-250 | 240-240 | 130-150 | 130-150 |
| 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 |

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

| | November | | December | | January | | Change Current Month vs. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | Range | Wt. Avg | 2 months prior | 1 month prior |
| Ribeye Lip-On Fresh | 700-1225 | 951 | 700-1225 | 939.05 | 700-1225 | 956.85 | 1% | 2% |
| Chuckroll/Clod Fresh | 335-390 | 340.32 | 240-440 | 341.2 | 336-425 | 341.63 | 0% | 0% |
| Striploin Fresh | 700-915 | 897.64 | 700-1050 | 871.61 | 720-1050 | 888.94 | -1% | 2% |
| Tenderloin Fresh | 900-1650 | 1267.1 | 950-1650 | 1325.21 | 800-1650 | 1366.45 | 8% | 3% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh | 333-390 | 371.65 | 341-354 | 351.48 | 344-390 | 381.49 | 3% | 9% |
| Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen | 332-445 | 384.06 | 300-445 | 370.94 | 300-470 | 397 | 3% | 7% |
| Ground 85% Patties, Frozen | 325-440 | 362.59 | 325-440 | 362.67 | 325-440 | 363.53 | 0% | 0% |

**source USDA*

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

| | Mid-November Pricing | Mid-December Pricing | Mid-January Pricing | Mid-February Pricing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tenderloin - Fresh | $39.95 - $40.00 | $38.00 - $48.00 | $29.95 - $43.00 | $36.00 - $49.50 |
| Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh | $23.40 - $26.01 | $21.95 - $27.50 | $19.95 - $27.00 | $22.00 - $24.50 |
| Inside Round - Fresh | $8.49 - $12.75 | $8.45 - $12.00 | $8.45 - $12.00 | $10.00 - $15.00 |
| Ground 90% Bulk Fresh | $7.25 - $9.45 | $7.45 - $9.35 | $7.50 - $7.58 | $7.50 - $10.15 |
| Fresh Bison Trim | $7.25 - $7.49 | $6.45 - $7.30 | $7.25 - $7.58 | $7.00 - $7.78 |

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

| Willowview Auctions (AB) (February 13, 2010) | | | Sekura Auctions (AB) (February 8, 2010) | | | Kramer Auctions (SK) (January 27, 2010) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birth Year, Sex | lbs | Average ($/cwt) | Birth Year, Sex | lbs | Average ($/cwt) | Birth Year, Sex | lbs | # Head | Average ($/cwt) |
| 2009 Bull Calves | 300-350 | 126-137 | 2009 Males | 0-300 | 125 | 2007 Bulls | 1001-1100 | 2 | 121 |
| | 350-400 | 139-144 | | 300-400 | 146.33 | | 850-900 | 5 | 126 |
| | 400-500 | 148-154 | | 400-500 | 146 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2008 Bulls | 575-625 | 8 | 134 |
| 2009 Heifer Calves | 300-350 | 112-120 | 2008 Males | 500-600 | 120.6 | | 626-700 | 13 | 143 |
| | 350-400 | 124-128 | | 600-700 | 131 | | 700< | 2 | 125 |
| | 400-500 | 129-135 | | 700-800 | 132 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2008 Heifers | 500-600 | 17 | 113 |
| 2008 Yearling Bulls | 500-600 | 120-125 | 2006 Males | 1000-999 | 102 | | 601-750 | 24 | 115 |
| | 650-750 | 136-139 | | | | | | | |
| | 750-850 | 139-145 | 2009 Females | 0-300 | 85 | 2009 Bulls | <350 | 19 | 122 |
| | | | | 300-400 | 116.78 | | 351-400 | 18 | 141 |
| 2008 Yearling Heifers | 500-600 | 110-115 | | 400-500 | 120 | | 401-500 | 75 | 167 |
| | 600-650 | 115-119 | | | | | 500< | 10 | 165 |
| | 650-700 | 120-122 | 2008 Females | 500-600 | 107 | | | | |
| | | | | 600-700 | 100 | 2009 Heifers | <350 | 35 | 114 |
| Mature Bulls | | 80-85 | | | | | 350-400 | 40 | 121 |
| Bison Cows | | 72-82 | Feeder Cows | | 77.4 | | 400-500 | 24 | 148 |
| | | | Mature Bulls | | 88 | | | | |

**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>

**Prices for grain-fed grade "A" bulls and heifers has remained steady. Heifers with excess finis continue to be discounted. The volatility of the Canadian dollar continues to add additional risk to those producers shipping into the U.S. market. Although some of the frozen inventory is moving, the large inventory of frozen prime and middle cuts continues to be problematic as storage costs continue to mount. Marketers report that fresh cuts are moving well. The market for trim continues to be very strong in the U.S. There are also signs that there is some strength building in the EU market.**

**The steady prices for finished bison as well as the strong trim prices of trim have translated into a stronger calf market with Canadian calves moving into the U.S. Prices are also being driven by a tight supplies as some producers have culled their herds and others rebuild theirs.**

**Nationally, federal slaughter for the year was down 6.0% (19,725 in 2009 compared to 20,949 for the same period in 2008). Exports of live animals to December 31, 2009 were down by 13.0% (25,580 in 2009 compared to 29,670 in 2008). The decline in live exports is attributed to the short supply of animals combined with the strong Canadian dollar.**

**Total boneless bison meat exports for 2009 were 835,309 Kg. compared to 1,027,687 Kg. for 2008 – a decrease of almost 19%. Exports of meat have increased to the U.S. have increased by 23% in volume and 46% in value. Exports to Europe have declined as significant amounts of Canadian bison continue to be shipped to the EU from the U.S. New markets developed over 2009 include Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.**

**Chart 1**

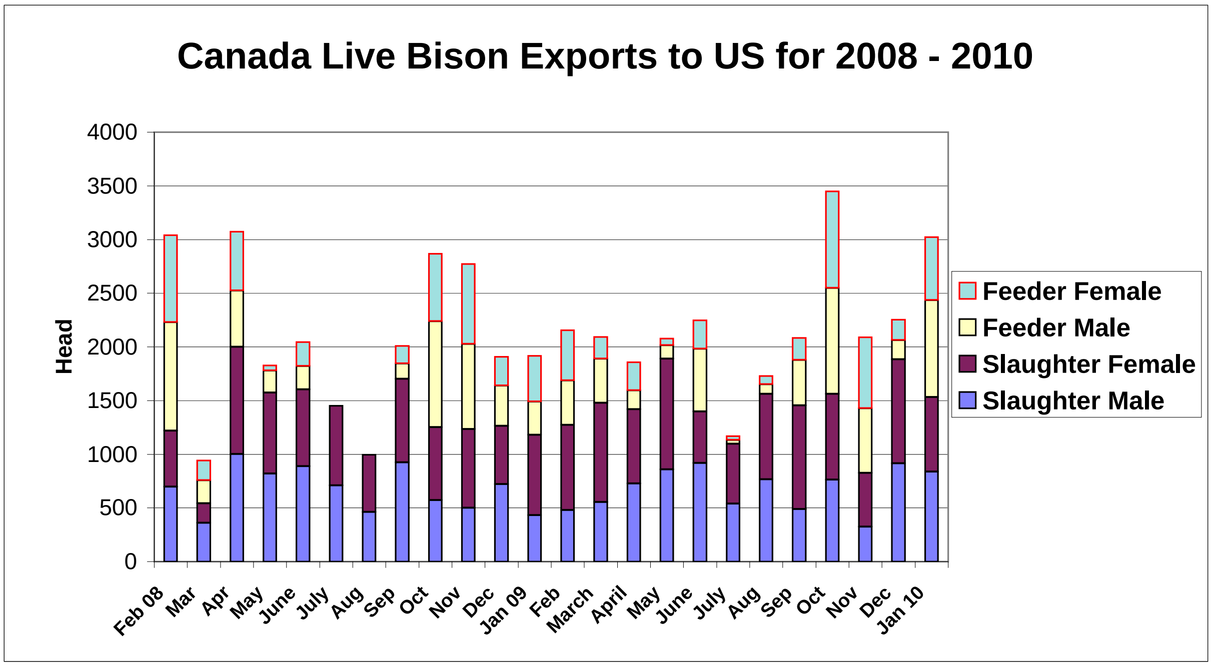


**Chart 2**