



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - May 22, 2012

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	Apr Total	2012	April YTD	
							2011	% Change
Total Canada	415	131	381	163	1,090	3,462	3,511	-1.4%
<i>previous year</i>	7	357	77	19	460			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Mar 2011	2012	March YTD	
								2011	% Change
Alberta	111	80	58	62	102	75	222	207	7.2%
Saskatchewan	4	23	22	17	19	6	58	48	20.8%
Manitoba/BC	80	94	53	56	68	139	177	265	-33.2%
Ontario/Quebec**	42	32	38	21	30	28	89	62	43.5%
Total	237	229	171	156	219	248	546	582	-6.2%

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

	YTD 2012	YTD 2011	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter *	4,008	4,093	-2.1%

*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*

	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	Apr Total	2012	April YTD	
							2011	% Change
for week ending:	830	726	722	723	3,001	13,474	14,849	-9.3%
<i>previous year</i>	806	844	803	943	3,396			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	2012	April YTD	
							2011	% Change
Slaughter Male	569	576	355	671	376	1,978	2,589	-23.6%
Slaughter Female	316	487	256	245	334	1,322	1,477	-10.5%
Feeder Male	250	494	261	616	103	1,474	1,367	7.8%
Feeder Female	109	341	162	460	117	1,080	1,484	-27.2%
Total	1,244	1,898	1,034	1,992	930	5,854	6,917	-15.4%

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		October 2011	November	December	January 2012	February	March	March YTD		
								2012	2011	% Change
USA	Kg	21,450	7,605	13,315	20,747	11,876	12,297	44,920	99,601	-54.9%
	Value (\$Cdn)	254,391	85,838	167,073	152,534	136,258	95,384	384,176	1,263,242	-69.6%
France	Kg	13,864	31,579	11,328	-	2,496	6,519	9,015	11,340	-20.5%
	Value (\$Cdn)	226,639	543,762	177,976	-	41,724	104,669	146,393	159,865	-8.4%
Switzerland	Kg	2,098	4,423	4,652	1,504	1,501	2,117	5,122	10,454	-51.0%
	Value (\$Cdn)	94,385	172,643	201,504	67,633	65,594	92,905	226,132	398,754	-43.3%
Germany	Kg	359	-	-	96	132	-	228	1,046	-78.2%
	Value (\$Cdn)	10,500	-	-	3,097	3,160	-	6,257	27,210	-77.0%
Egypt	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	188	N/A
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,515	N/A
Macau	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	Kg	251	-	-	602	170	286	1,058	-	N/A
	Value (\$Cdn)	6,906	-	-	13,359	4,852	8,159	26,370	-	N/A
Sweden	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	Kg	-	401	463	-	-	-	-	26,326	N/A
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	11,319	8,565	-	-	-	-	133,492	N/A
Others	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Kg	38,022	44,008	29,758	22,949	16,175	21,219	60,343	148,955	-59.5%
	Value (\$Cdn)	592,821	813,562	555,118	236,623	251,588	301,117	789,328	1,986,078	-60.3%

Bone-in

	October 2011	November	December	January 2012	February	March	March YTD		
							2012	2011	% Change
Total	592	34,985	-	-	-	5,374	5,374	28,306	-81.0%
Value (\$Cdn)	9,552	135,961	-	-	-	52,449	52,449	156,133	-66.4%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	October 2011	November	December	January 2012	February	March	March YTD		
							2012	2011	% Change
Kg	38,614	78,993	29,758	22,949	16,175	26,593	65,717	177,261	-62.9%
Value (\$Cdn)	602,373	949,523	555,118	236,623	251,588	353,566	841,777	2,142,211	-60.7%

*source Statistics Canada

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

Prices for all bison meat cuts and live animals continued to be stable through to mid-May 2012. Finished bison prices at \$3.65 - \$3.90 per pound hot hanging weight were comparable to last month's prices. At current prices marketers believe there are sufficient animals to meet near-term market demand. Preparing for the summer grilling season, marketers indicate that they have adequate supplies. There are also reports that certain marketers are marketing trim at discounted prices. Although there may be some inventory build-up of some cuts, with anticipated tight supplies of animals to process in the future, the inventory does not appear to be problematic.

Nationally, federal slaughter was down 1.4% for the first 17 weeks of 2012 when compared to the first 17 weeks of 2011 (3,462 animals in 2012 compared to 3,511 animals in 2011). Live bison exports to the U.S. were down in the first three months of 2012 by 8.1% - 5,178 compared to 5,635 bison for the same period in 2011.

The average price for Grade A bulls and heifers has remained at previous month levels of \$3.90 per pound with the lower part of the range falling to \$3.65 per pound.

Chart 1

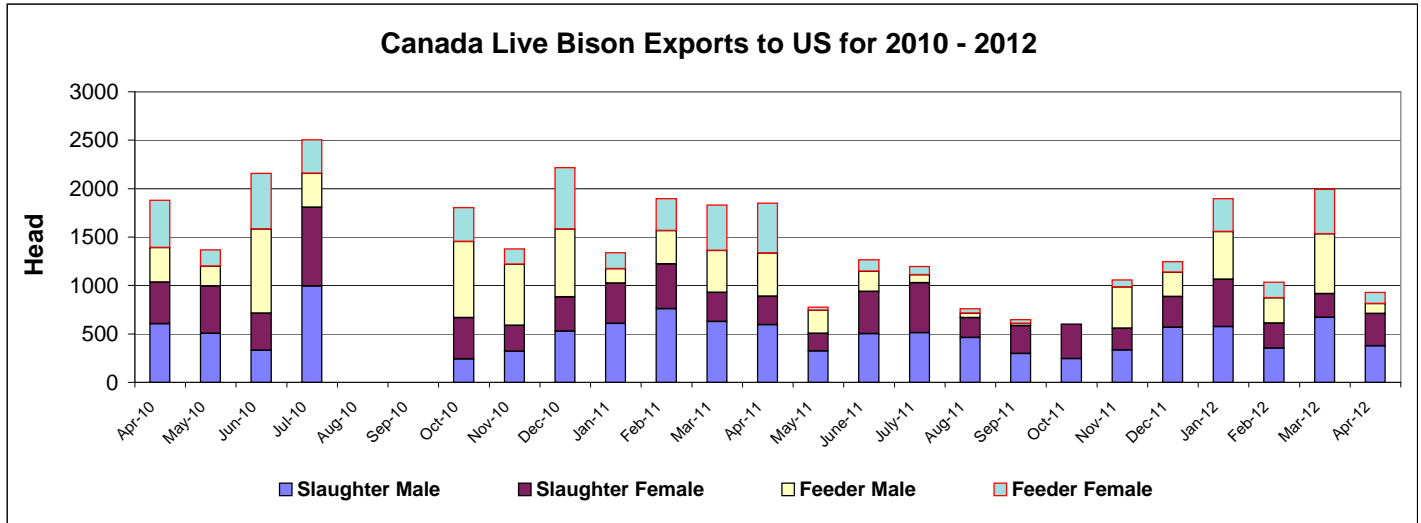
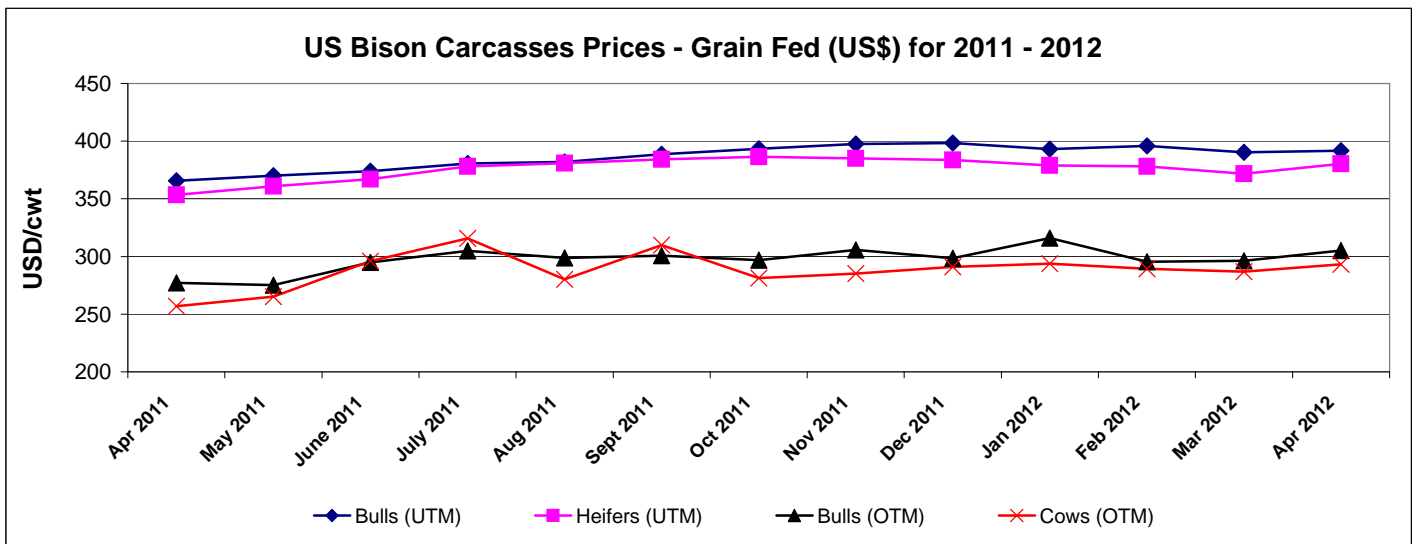


Chart 2



The Canadian Bison Industry by the Numbers.....

On another note, the 2011 Canadian Census of Agriculture was released on May 10, 2011. Nationally, the number of bison farms and ranches reporting bison was at 64% of the 2006 levels. The number of bison reported on farms and ranches in 2011 was also reported to be at about 64% of 2006 levels. According to the data, the average bison herd has remained at 103 head.

Excluding the Atlantic region, there were declines in the number of farms and ranches ranging from 15.5% to 41.3% with the greatest decline in British Columbia and the smallest decline in Ontario.

Again excluding the Atlantic Region, there were declines in the number of bison on farms and ranches in Canada ranging from 27.3% to 44.9% with the greatest decline in QC and the smallest decline in BC.

	FARMS REPORTING BISON			NUMBER OF BISON REPORTED		
	2011	2006	% Change	2011	2006	% Change
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	-	-	-	-	-
Prince Edward Island	0	1	-100.0%	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	2	1	100.0%	-	-	-
New Brunswick	2	3	-33.3%	-	-	-
Quebec	45	69	-34.8%	2,380	4,322	-44.9%
Ontario	60	71	-15.5%	2,320	4,106	-43.5%
Manitoba	108	166	-34.9%	14,116	19,609	-28.0%
Saskatchewan	352	597	-41.0%	39,343	57,395	-31.5%
Alberta	571	869	-34.3%	57,483	97,366	-41.0%
British Columbia	71	121	-41.3%	9,206	12,656	-27.3%
Canada Total	1,211	1,898	-36.2%	125,142	195,728	-36.1%

Note: In Atlantic Provinces number of farms reporting too small for public disclosure.

Prepared by: Red Meat Section, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Contact: Diane Kelly (613) 773-0816 (diane.kelly@agr.gc.ca) or see us at: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/redmeat>