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 28, 2020.

Weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter

	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	April Total	January - April YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total Canada	*8*	*55*	*0*	*42*	**105**	**2,579**	**2,944**	**-12.4%**
previous year	*21*	*166*	*98*	*278*	***563***			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	January - March YTD 2020	2019	% Change
BC / Alberta	63	68	98	52	64	73	214	208	2.9%
Sask / Manitoba	29	21	28	24	31	30	83	72	15.3%
Ontario / Quebec	49	25	34	40	32	43	106	104	1.9%
Canada Total	**141**	**114**	**160**	**116**	**127**	**146**	**403**	**384**	**4.9%**

Note: In order to protect the confidentiality of individual abattoirs, the provincial groupings have changed.

	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter *	**2,982**	**3,328**	**-10.4%**

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

Canadian Production

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	January - March YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total Slaughter	14,371	14,186	11,568	10,886	10,041	9,499	2,877	2,765	**4.1%**
Total Live Exports	19,033	26,162	18,364	17,600	17,342	20,060	5,578	5,274	**5.8%**
Total Production	**33,404**	**40,348**	**29,932**	**28,486**	**27,383**	**29,559**	**8,455**	**8,039**	**5.2%**

**Source : Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Provincial Governments, and USDA APHIS*

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	April Total	January - April YTD 2020	2019	% Change
	1,404	**1,237**	**1,213**	**1,085**	**4,939**	**19,987**	**17,736**	**12.7%**
previous year	*1,079*	*1,013*	*1,198*	*1,098*	***4,388***			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	December - 19	January - 20	February - 20	March - 20	April - 20	January - April YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Slaughter Male	591	712	681	508	1,121	3,022	3,103	**-2.6%**
Slaughter Female	398	350	650	757	743	2,500	1,626	**53.8%**
Feeder Male	0	188	487	579	1,034	2,288	2,097	**9.1%**
Feeder Female	0	101	313	252	571	1,237	1,368	**-9.6%**
Total	**989**	**1,351**	**2,131**	**2,096**	**3,469**	**9,047**	**8,194**	**10.4%**

**source : USDA, APHIS*

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	January - March YTD 2020	2019	% Change
United States	Kg	29,095	46,719	56,592	46,884	37,346	25,877	**110,107**	**232,855**	**-52.7%**
	Value ($Cdn)	479,471	649,271	714,996	680,628	299,362	403,313	**1,383,303**	**3,799,553**	**-63.6%**
France	Kg	-	2,632	382	692	44	1,525	**2,261**	**15,197**	**-85.1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	79,612	12,912	30,327	2,289	48,987	**81,603**	**478,869**	**-83.0%**
Switzerland	Kg	1,501	1,329	2,923	574	1,068	873	**2,515**	**25,528**	**-90.1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	56,032	52,330	136,822	25,236	47,789	40,321	**113,346**	**532,846**	**-78.7%**
	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**13,854**	**N/A**
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**128,590**	**N/A**
Germany	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**90,773**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**915,035**	**N/A**
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**9,822**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**73,534**	**N/A**
Netherlands	Kg	3,288	3,631	1,548	876	-	1,260	**2,136**	**1,652**	**29.3%**
	Value ($Cdn)	96,268	112,040	65,438	33,339	-	29,173	**62,512**	**66,606**	**-6.1%**
Other Countries	Kg	5,273	5,141	3,278	718	1,949	795	**3,462**	**3,415**	**1.4%**
	Value ($Cdn)	153,414	151,839	91,684	31,143	67,716	28,705	**127,564**	**74,416**	**71.4%**
Total	**Kg**	**39,157**	**59,452**	**64,723**	**49,744**	**40,407**	**30,330**	**120,481**	**393,096**	**-69.4%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**785,185**	**1,045,092**	**1,021,852**	**800,673**	**417,156**	**550,499**	**1,768,328**	**6,069,449**	**-70.9%**

Bone-in		Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	January - March YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total	**Kg**	**7,409**	**11,688**	**6,467**	**1,667**	**63,879**	**2,595**	**68,141**	**30,679**	**122.1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**52,355**	**85,562**	**54,044**	**17,502**	**655,936**	**28,307**	**701,745**	**352,816**	**98.9%**

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in		Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	January - March YTD 2020	2019	% Change
	Kg	**46,566**	**71,140**	**71,190**	**51,411**	**104,286**	**32,925**	**188,622**	**423,775**	**-55.5%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**837,540**	**1,130,654**	**1,075,896**	**818,175**	**1,073,092**	**578,806**	**2,470,073**	**6,422,265**	**-61.5%**

**Source: Statistics Canada (HS Code 02013010 - Bison cuts boneless, fresh or chilled and HS Code 02012010 - Bison cuts bone in, fresh or chilled)*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls (UTM)	Heifers (UTM)	Bulls (OTM)	Cows (OTM)
Apr 2019	449.75	428.79	399.83	376.66
May 2019	449.32	432.90	395.10	356.30
June 2019	448.11	445.93	398.50	347.59
July 2019	444.15	442.50	391.49	351.55
Aug 2019	418.75	422.05	317.69	348.72
Sept 2019	431.53	418.72	348.11	352.59
Oct 2019	425.21	390.44	342.79	346.26
Nov 2019	430.59	395.18	335.61	339.92
Dec 2019	433.87	402.09	340.25	332.35
Jan 2020	415.16	390.24	346.38	336.09
Feb 2020	407.21	398.16	346.48	337.96
Mar 2020	408.09	403.90	349.59	340.84
Apr 2020	396.56	378.99	340.26	341.21

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
May 2019	500-530	490-510	375-400	375-400
June 2019	500-520	480-500	375-400	375-400
July 2019	495-510	480-500	375-400	375-400
Aug 2019	495-510	480-500	350-380	350-380
Sept 2019	485-500	470-490	350-375	350-375
Oct 2019	480-500	470-490	350-380	350-380
Nov 2019	480-500	460-490	300-350	300-350
Dec 2019	480-500	460-490	300-350	300-350
Jan 2020	480-525	460-490	300-350	300-350
Feb 2020	425-525	400-490	300-350	300-350
Mar 2020	425-525	400-490	300-350	300-350
Apr 2020	400-450	375-400	300-350	300-350
May 2020	350-450	350-425	250-300	250-300

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

	February 2020		March 2020		April 2020		% Change Current Month vs.	
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	2 mnths prior	1 month prior
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	1,272-1,500	1,284.19	1,272-1,500	1,299.55	1,240-1,249	1,241.21	-3.3%	-4.5%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	620-700	697.76	630-650	638.13	650-663	662.83	-5.0%	3.9%
Striploin Fresh	1,040-1,100	1,044.51	1,048-1,100	1,049.65	899-1,089	1,081.78	3.6%	3.1%
Tenderloin Fresh	2,027-2,311	2,126.25	1,982-2,311	2,113.13	1,851-2,217	1,887.41	-11.2%	-10.7%
Grnd 85% Bulk, Frozen	550-757	643.28	545-757	639.25	560-779	749.54	16.5%	17.3%
Grnd 85% Patties, Fresh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grnd 85% Patties, Frozen	560-763	669.48	560-763	687.46	575-765	759.42	13.4%	10.5%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-February 2020 Pricing	Mid-March 2020 Pricing	Mid-April 2020 Pricing	Mid-May 2020 Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	$50.00 - $55.00	$50.00 - $55.00	$50.00 - $56.90	$50.00 - $56.90
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	$33.00 - $36.00	$33.00 - $36.00	$27.50 - $33.00	$27.50 - $33.00
Inside Round - Fresh	$19.00 - $20.00	$19.00 - $20.00	$19.00 - $19.25	$19.00 - $20.00
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	$16.95 - $18.95	$16.95 - $18.95	$16.95 - $18.95	$16.95 - $18.95
Fresh Bison Trim	$11.95 - $16.50	$11.95 - $16.50	$11.95 - $14.25	$11.95 - $14.50

**source CBA survey of marketers*

Live Auction Reports *most recently reported; may not reflect current market

Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (SK) (May 6, 2020)
Head Sold: 338 (Back to Grass Auction)

Class	# of head	Average/lb
2019 Bulls (600 lbs plus)	27	2.38
2019 Bulls (550-599lbs)	34	2.45
2019 Bulls (500-549lbs)	32	2.44
2019 Bulls (400-499lbs)	27	2.08
2019 Bulls (300-399lbs)	25	1.62
2018 Semen Tested Bulls (950-1150lbs)	4	2.34
2018 Feeder Bulls (850 lbs plus)	7	2.26
2018 Feeder Bulls (under 850 lbs)	6	1.87
2017 Bulls (over 1000 lbs)	1	2.42
2017 Bulls (under 1000 lbs)	2	2.52
2019 Heifers (550 lbs plus)	30	2.22
2019 Heifers (500-549lbs)	41	2.35
2019 Heifers (450-499lbs)	33	2.07
2019 Heifers (400-449lbs)	22	1.75
2019 Heifers (under 400 lbs)	31	1.42
2018 Heifers (800 lbs plus)	5	2.86
2018 Heifers (700-799 lbs)	3	1.55
2018 Heifers (under 700 lbs)	6	1.42
2017 Heifers (775-975 lbs)	2	1.60

Jack Auction Group (SK) (May 2, 2020)
Head Sold: 382 (Video Bison Auction)

Class / # of head	# of head	Average/lb
2018 Bull Yearlings - 925	16	2.46
2018 Bull Yearlings - 875	16	2.19
2018 Bull Yearlings - 1,025	62	2.44
2017 Bull Fats - 1,100	5	1.96
2018 Heifer Yearlings - 750	50	1.78
2018 Heifer Yearlings - 740	20	1.71
2017 Heifer Yearlings - 900	13	1.70
2019 Bull Calves - 550	18	2.73
2019 Bull Calves - 400	17	1.73
2019 Mixed Calves - 475	80	1.65
2019 Bull Calves - 520	19	1.91
2019 Heifer Calves - 460	14	1.60
2019 Mixed Calves - 350	15	1.96
2018 Heifer Yearlings - 550	8	1.45
2019 Bull Yearlings - 725	7	1.50
2018 Repl Heifers - 900	20	$1,775.00
2018 Breeding Bull - 1,200	1	$3,000.00
2015 Mature Bull - 1,800	1	1.90

Jack Auction Group (SK) (March 28, 2020)
Head Sold: 924 ("CABIN FEVER" VIDEO BISON SALE)

Class	# of head	Average/lb
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross 900	60	2.41
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross 750	75	2.40
2018 Bull Yrlg Plains 650	13	2.02
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 800	16	2.11
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 700	15	2.48
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 700	15	2.42
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 700	15	2.42
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 750	75	1.94
2018 Heifer Yrlg Cross 650	15	1.60
2018 Heifer Yrlg Plains 575	18	1.50
2018 Mixed Yrlg Cross 750	22	1.60
2018 Mixed Yrlg Plains 625	15	1.55
OTM Heifer Feeder Plains 750	28	1.60
2019 Bull Calves Plains 500	14	1.94
2019 Heifer Calves Plains 475	9	1.75
2019 Bull Calves Plains 535	37	2.28
2019 Heifer Calves Plains 510	20	2.29
2019 Heifer Calves Plains 435	24	2.03
2019 Mixed Calves Cross 450	180	2.00
2019 Heifer Calves Cross 460	125	1.90
2018 Heifer Calves Plains 425	57	1.96
2019 Bull Calves Plains 510	19	2.06
2019 Bull Calves Plains 485	12	2.10
2019 Heifer Calves Plains 435	13	1.90
2019 Mixed Calves Cross 450	16	1.60
2019 Mixed Calves Plains 435	14	1.83
2017 Bulls 2017 Wood 1050	2	2.60

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 canadianbison@sasktel.net or diane.blandford@canada.ca

Bison prices to mid-May in Canada reflected the continued impact of COVID-19 on the food service marketplace in North America and Europe. Prices remained stronger in the U.S. as the industry was able to take advantage of the strong retail demand for red meats. In Canada, with increasing inventories of bison meat, reports indicated fewer animals were being slaughtered as marketers are not prepared to carry increased meat inventory. This has resulted in a problematic build-up of market-ready bison on farms.

Federal slaughter for the first 20 weeks in 2020 (week ending May 16, 2020) totalled 2,637 head, which is down 20.1% compared to the 2019 slaughter of 3,301 head for the same period. However the number of animals slaughtered in federally-inspected plants between April 4th, 2020 and May 16th, 2020 declined 82% (163 head in 2020 compared to 920 in 2019) reflecting the major disruption caused by COVID-19. With the reduction in Canadian slaughter, the inventory of market-ready bison continues to increase, having a negative impact on producer cash flows and prices.

Live animal exports to the U.S. for the first four months of 2020 totaled 9,047 head – up 10.4% when compared to the 8,194 bison exported during the same period in 2019. Total exports of live bison and bison meat to the U.S. thus far in 2020, is about $2.5 million below the 2019 level.

Prices offered by Canadian buyers for slaughter in Canada range between $3.50 - $4.50/lb HHW for Grade "A" bison on light trading. Heifers are priced between $3.50 - $4.25/lb on light trading. Canadian buyers purchasing bulls for slaughter in the U.S. market are paying $5.00/lb Canadian HHW when slaughter dates are available. Heifers are priced at about 20 cents lower. Carcasses that do not fall within buyers' specifications may be discounted. Final returns need adjustment for quality, transportation, and export costs.

U.S. buyers are offering $3.60 /lb U.S. HHW for prime bulls from Canada for slaughter in the U.S. They are offering $3.40 /lb U.S. for heifers. Returns to the producers are dependent on exchange rates, quality, transportation, and export costs.

European demand has dropped by over 80% due to the non-existent food service marketplace and the substantial increase in freight rates. As the European economy recovers, the bison industry should be positively influenced.

The rate at which the economy and restaurant trade begins to recover will influence the demand for bison. The shift of domestic marketers from food service to retail should have a positive impact on demand and prices.

Market uncertainty is expected to continue as the world adjusts to the realities of COVID-19.

Chart 1

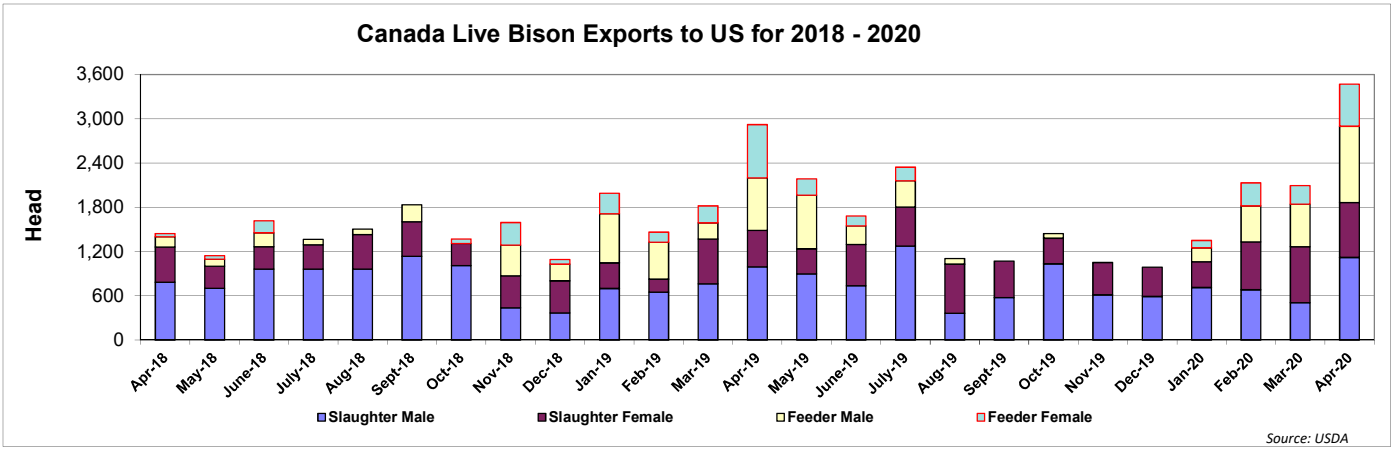
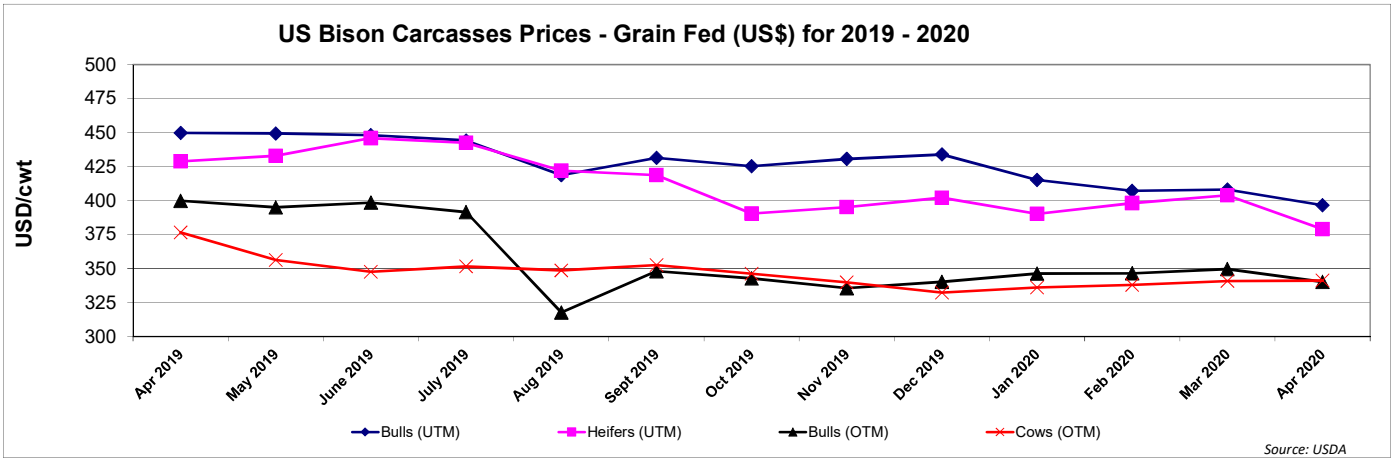


Chart 2



The Canadian Bison Industry by the Numbers…..

On another note, the 2016 Canadian Census of Agriculture data was released on May 10, 2017. Nationally, the number of bison farms and ranches reporting bison was at 81% of the 2011 levels. The number of bison reported on farms and ranches in 2016 was reported to be at about 95% of 2011 levels. According to the data, the average bison herd increased to 122 head.

Excluding the Atlantic region, there were declines in the number of farms and ranches ranging from 13.9% to 24.4% with the smallest decline in Saskatchewan and the greatest decline in Quebec.

Again excluding the Atlantic Region, the only province to report an increase in the number of bison was Saskatchewan (+2.7%), while Quebec reported the largest decrease (-35.4%).

	FARMS REPORTING BISON				NUMBER OF BISON REPORTED			
	2016	2011	2006	% Chg '16 vs '11	2016	2011	2006	% Chg '16 vs '11
Nfld and Labrador	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	-	0	0	*	-
Nova Scotia	2	2	1	0.0%	*	*	*	-
New Brunswick	1	2	3	-50.0%	*	*	*	-
Quebec	34	45	69	-24.4%	1,538	2,380	4,322	-35.4%
Ontario	49	60	71	-18.3%	1,843	2,320	4,106	-20.6%
Manitoba	86	108	166	-20.4%	14,025	14,116	19,609	-0.6%
Saskatchewan	303	352	597	-13.9%	40,418	39,343	57,395	2.7%
Alberta	445	571	869	-22.1%	54,907	57,483	97,366	-4.5%
British Columbia	55	71	121	-22.5%	6,504	9,206	12,656	-29.4%
Canada Total	**975**	**1,211**	**1,898**	-19.5%	**119,314**	**125,142**	**195,728**	-4.7%

* Note: In Atlantic Provinces, the number of farms reporting is too small to publically disclosure the number of bison