Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - July 25, 2020.

Weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter

	30-May	6-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun	June Total	January - June YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total Canada	*80*	*55*	*81*	*54*	*91*	**361**	**3,183**	**4,226**	**-24.7%**
previous year	*48*	*218*	*99*	*272*	*46*	***683***			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	May 2019	January - May YTD 2020	2019	% Change
BC / Alberta	98	52	64	88	75	61	377	318	18.6%
Sask / Manitoba	28	24	31	44	34	21	161	124	29.8%
Ontario / Quebec	34	40	32	41	34	38	181	166	9.0%
Canada Total	**160**	**116**	**127**	**173**	**143**	**120**	**719**	**608**	**18.3%**

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 *	**3,902**	**4,834**	**-19.3%**

**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 - May YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total Slaughter	14,371	14,186	11,568	10,886	10,041	9,585	3,541	4,151	**-14.7%**
Total Live Exports	19,033	26,162	18,364	17,600	17,342	20,060	11,271	10,377	**8.6%**
Total Production	**33,404**	**40,348**	**29,932**	**28,486**	**27,383**	**29,645**	**14,812**	**14,528**	**2.0%**

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

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	30-May	6-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun	June Total	January - June YTD 2020	2019	% Change
	1,232	**1,300**	**1,234**	**1,042**	**1,102**	**5,910**	**31,310**	**27,198**	**15.1%**
previous year	*925*	*1,093*	*1,081*	*1,142*	*1,233*	***5,474***			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	February - 20	March - 20	April - 20	May - 20	June - 20	January - June YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Slaughter Male	681	508	1,121	806	1,306	5,134	4,735	**8.4%**
Slaughter Female	650	757	743	493	495	3,488	2,530	**37.9%**
Feeder Male	487	579	1,034	225	161	2,674	3,077	**-13.1%**
Feeder Female	313	252	571	700	210	2,147	1,716	**25.1%**
Total	**2,131**	**2,096**	**3,469**	**2,224**	**2,172**	**13,443**	**12,058**	**11.5%**

**source : USDA, APHIS*

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	January - May YTD 2020	2019	% Change
United States	Kg	56,592	46,884	37,346	25,877	293	790	**111,190**	**304,429**	**-63.5%**
	Value ($Cdn)	714,996	680,628	299,362	403,313	13,942	24,084	**1,421,329**	**5,196,396**	**-72.6%**
France	Kg	382	692	44	1,525	663	690	**3,614**	**18,013**	**-79.9%**
	Value ($Cdn)	12,912	30,327	2,289	48,987	15,912	8,278	**105,793**	**585,930**	**-81.9%**
Switzerland	Kg	2,923	574	1,068	873	-	-	**2,515**	**28,228**	**-91.1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	136,822	25,236	47,789	40,321	-	-	**113,346**	**632,467**	**-82.1%**
	Kg	-	-	-	-	142	-	**142**	**26,362**	**-99.5%**
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	2,103	-	**2,103**	**256,122**	**-99.2%**
Germany	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**132,104**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**1,347,626**	**N/A**
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**30,278**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**250,263**	**N/A**
Netherlands	Kg	1,548	876	-	1,260	-	-	**2,136**	**3,079**	**-30.6%**
	Value ($Cdn)	65,438	33,339	-	29,173	-	-	**62,512**	**108,181**	**-42.2%**
Other Countries	Kg	3,278	718	1,949	795	-	-	**3,462**	**21,338**	**-83.8%**
	Value ($Cdn)	91,684	31,143	67,716	28,705	-	-	**127,564**	**429,092**	**-70.3%**
Total	**Kg**	**64,723**	**49,744**	**40,407**	**30,330**	**1,098**	**1,480**	**123,059**	**563,831**	**-78.2%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**1,021,852**	**800,673**	**417,156**	**550,499**	**31,957**	**32,362**	**1,832,647**	**8,806,077**	**-79.2%**

Bone-in		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	January - May YTD 2020	2019	% Change
Total	**Kg**	**6,467**	**1,667**	**59,466**	**599**	**337**	**3,900**	**65,969**	**55,039**	**19.9%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**54,044**	**17,502**	**624,400**	**6,292**	**3,539**	**40,942**	**692,675**	**566,847**	**22.2%**

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	January - May YTD 2020	2019	% Change
	Kg	**71,190**	**51,411**	**99,873**	**30,929**	**1,435**	**5,380**	**189,028**	**618,870**	**-69.5%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**1,075,896**	**818,175**	**1,041,556**	**556,791**	**35,496**	**73,304**	**2,525,322**	**9,372,924**	**-73.1%**

**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)
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
May 2020	392.40	376.11	343.62	343.42
June 2020	397.89	395.50	339.29	335.70

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
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
June 2020	350-400	350-375	250-300	250-300
July 2020	350-400	350-375	250-325	250-325

**source CBA survey of marketers*

For the U.S.Market

	Bulls	Heifers
June 2020	500	480
July 2020	500	480

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

	April 2020		May 2020		June 2020		% Change Current Month vs.	
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	2 mnths prior	1 month prior
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	1,240-1,249	1,241.21	1,216-1,367	1,218.07	1,145-1,204	1,203.82	-3.0%	-1.2%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	650-663	662.83	638-650	638.58	637-650	637.08	-3.9%	-0.2%
Striploin Fresh	899-1,089	1,081.78	1,057-1,112	1,058.75	1,037-1,134	1,037.64	-4.1%	-2.0%
Tenderloin Fresh	1,851-2,217	1,887.41	N/A	N/A	1,572-1,812	1,612.31	-14.6%	N/A
Grnd 85% Bulk, Frozen	560-779	749.54	560-766	620.19	570-756	641.71	-14.4%	3.5%
Grnd 85% Patties, Fresh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grnd 85% Patties, Frozen	575-765	759.42	570-741	678.20	580-762	647.28	-14.8%	-4.6%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-April 2020 Pricing	Mid-May 2020 Pricing	Mid-June 2020 Pricing	Mid-July 2020 Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	$50.00 - $56.90	$50.00 - $56.90	$50.00 - $56.90	$50.00 - $56.90
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	$27.50 - $33.00	$27.50 - $33.00	$27.50 - $33.00	$27.50 - $33.00
Inside Round - Fresh	$19.00 - $19.25	$19.00 - $20.00	$19.00 - $20.00	$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 - $14.25	$11.95 - $14.50	$11.95 - $14.50	$11.95 - $14.50

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

Jack Auction Group (SK) (July 6, 2020)
Head Sold: 53

Class	# of head	Average/lb
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross (1,150 Base)	29	2.32
2018 Hfrs Yrlg Cross (875 Base)	18	1.91
Aged Cows Cull (1,000 Base)	6	1.00

Jack Auction Group (SK) (June 1, 2020)
Head Sold: 94

Class	# of head	Average/lb
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross (1,075 Base)	48	2.26
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross (975 Base)	35	2.21
2018 Bull Yrlg Cross (1,000 Base)	11	2.21

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

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-July in Canada reflected the continued impact of COVID-19 on the food service marketplace in North America and Europe. Prices remained stronger in the US as the industry continues to take advantage of the strong retail demand for red meats. In Canada, with the weak food service demand, 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. Combined Federal and Provincial Government assistance through AgriRecovery in some regions in Canada, will assist in covering the cost of feed until bison are slaughtered.

From January 1st to July 11, 2020, 3,380 bison were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants in Canada; – 1,168 or 26% below the 4,548 bison slaughtered during the same period in 2019.

With the impact of COVID-19, Canadian bison slaughter from April 4, 2020 to July 11, 2020 totaled 906 head, which is down 58% compared to the 2,167 head slaughtered during the same period in 2019. Continued soft food service demand for bison products in the domestic and European markets, combined with limited available slaughter spaces for bison will continue to keep Canadian bison slaughter at current levels. With the reduction in Canadian slaughter, the inventory of market-ready bison continues to have a negative impact on producer cash flows and prices.

Live animal exports to the US during the first half of 2020 totaled 13,443 head – up 11.5% when compared to the 12,058 bison exported during the same period in 2019. Total exports of live bison and bison meat to the U.S. in 2020 are about $2.4 million below the 2019 levels for the first quarter.

Prices offered by Canadian buyers for slaughter in Canada range between $3.50 - $4.00/lb HHW for Grade "A" bison on light trading. Heifers are priced at similar levels, again on light trading. Canadian buyers purchasing bulls for slaughter in the US 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.

US buyers are offering $3.85/lb US HHW for prime bulls from Canada for slaughter in the US. They are offering $3.60/lb US for heifers. Returns to the producers are dependent on exchange rates, quality, transportation, and export costs.

European demand continues to be burdened by high freight rates. As the European economy recovers, the bison industry should be positively influenced.

The rate at which the economy and the 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. There has been some product purchase to support summer demand. Bison trim and ground is still burdensome for some marketers in Canada.

The US market continues to be much stronger than the Canadian market. Although the demand for ground and trim is strong, there has been some build-up of middle cuts for some marketers.

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

Chart 1

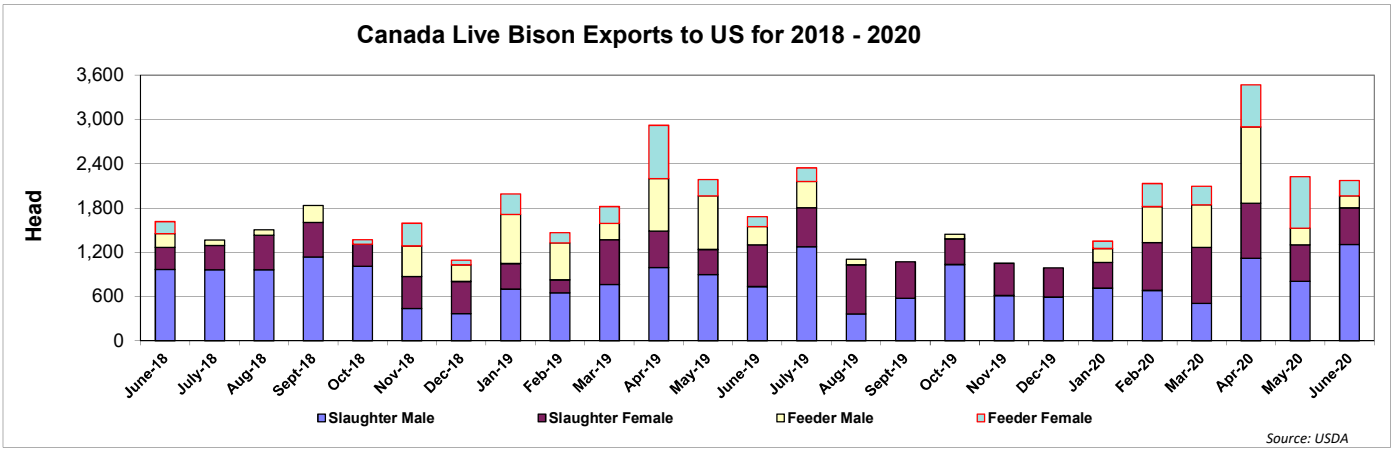
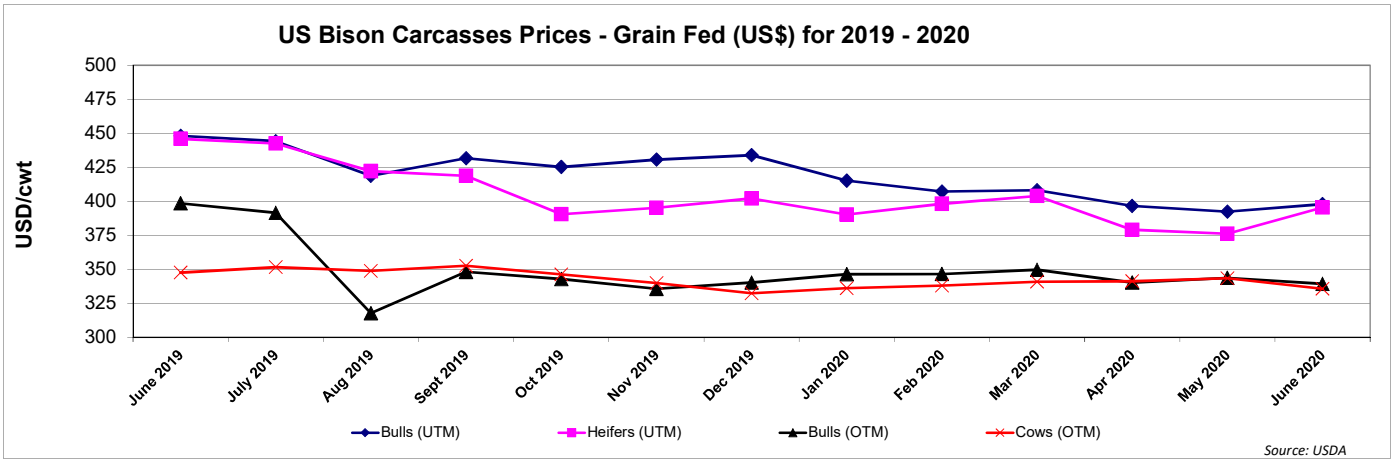


Chart 2



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

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