

## BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - March 25, 2025.

### Weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter

| for week ending: | 1 - February | 8 - February | 15 - February | 22 - February | February Total | January- February YTD |       |          |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| Total Canada     | 188          | 135          | 356           | 152           | 831            | 2025                  | 2024  | % Change |
| previous year    | 164          | 165          | 104           | 263           | 696            | 1,636                 | 1,198 | 36.6%    |
|                  |              |              |               |               |                | 1,882                 | 1,445 |          |

### Provincially Inspected Slaughter

|                                                 | September 2024 | October 2024 | November 2024 | December 2024 | January 2025 | January 2024 | January YTD |       |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| BC / Alberta                                    | 115            | 157          | 167           | 170           | 165          | 169          | 2025        | 2024  | % Change |
| Sask / Manitoba                                 | 38             | 32           | 45            | 31            | 37           | 49           | 165         | 169   | -2.4%    |
| Ontario / Quebec                                | 36             | 50           | 53            | 18            | 44           | 29           | 37          | 49    | -24.5%   |
| Canada Total                                    | 189            | 239          | 265           | 219           | 246          | 247          | 44          | 29    | 51.7%    |
|                                                 |                |              |               |               |              |              | 246         | 247   | -0.4%    |
|                                                 |                |              |               |               |              |              | January YTD |       |          |
|                                                 |                |              |               |               |              |              | 2024        | 2023  | % Change |
| Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter |                |              |               |               |              |              | 1,882       | 1,445 | 30.2%    |

### Canadian Production

|                    | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   | January YTD |        |          |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|----------|
| Total Slaughter    | 9,585  | 7,860  | 9,798  | 10,794 | 9,871  | 11,119 | 2025        | 2024   | % Change |
| Total Live Exports | 20,060 | 24,574 | 27,986 | 32,362 | 39,170 | 35,706 | 1,882       | 1,445  | 30.2%    |
| Total Production   | 29,645 | 32,434 | 37,784 | 43,156 | 49,041 | 46,825 | 34,034      | 39,170 | -13.1%   |
|                    |        |        |        |        |        |        | 35,916      | 40,615 | -11.6%   |

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

### US Federal Slaughter\*

| for week ending: | 1 - February | 8 - February | 15 - February | 22 - February | February Total | January- February YTD |        |          |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|
|                  | 1,454        | 1,127        | 1,209         | 1,506         | 5,296          | 2025                  | 2024   | % Change |
| previous year    | 1,676        | 1,734        | 1,522         | 1,710         | 6,642          | 13,053                | 11,977 | 9.0%     |

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

### Canada Live Bison Exports to US

|                  | September 24 | October 24 | November 24 | December 2024 | January 2025 | February 2025 | January- February YTD |       |          |
|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| Slaughter Male   | 747          | 882        | 460         | 685           | 883          | 953           | 2025                  | 2024  | % Change |
| Slaughter Female | 832          | 834        | 767         | 950           | 1,119        | 1,025         | 1,836                 | 1,855 | -1.0%    |
| Feeder Male      | 64           | 484        | 836         | 410           | 1,110        | 1,093         | 2,144                 | 2,879 | -25.5%   |
| Feeder Female    | 220          | 35         | 837         | 650           | 696          | 1,253         | 2,203                 | 1,592 | 38.4%    |
| Total            | 1,863        | 2,235      | 2,900       | 2,695         | 3,808        | 4,324         | 1,949                 | 1,023 | 90.5%    |
|                  |              |            |             |               |              |               | 8,132                 | 7,349 | 10.7%    |

\*source : USDA, APHIS

### Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

|                 |               |                |              |               |               |              | January YTD |         |          |         |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Boneless        | August 2024   | September 2024 | October 2024 | November 2024 | December 2024 | January 2025 | 2025        | 2024    | % Change |         |
| United States   | Kg            | 605            | 18,126       | 735           | 4,150         | 4,670        | 7,650       | 7,650   | 916      | 735.2%  |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | 23,246         | 433,577      | 30,483        | 26,021        | 50,117       | 101,865     | 101,865 | 25,133   | 305.3%  |
| Netherlands     | Kg            | 10,440         | 9,447        | 11,888        | 21,489        | 17,574       | 14,978      | 14,978  | 6,244    | 139.9%  |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | 299,731        | 324,914      | 448,171       | 603,801       | 530,307      | 561,852     | 561,852 | 226,003  | 148.6%  |
| Switzerland     | Kg            | 2,789          | -            | 272           | 405           | 1,868        | 1,733       | 1,733   | -        | -       |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | 93,218         | -            | 15,074        | 21,529        | 54,250       | 49,912      | 49,912  | -        | -       |
| Italy           | Kg            | -              | -            | -             | -             | 557          | -           | -       | -        | -       |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | -              | -            | -             | -             | 25,040       | -           | -       | -        | -       |
| France          | Kg            | -              | -            | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | 358      | -100.0% |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | -              | -            | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | 10,116   | -100.0% |
| Germany         | Kg            | -              | -            | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | -              | -            | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
| United Kingdom  | Kg            | -              | 517          | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | -              | 24,989       | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
| Other Countries | Kg            | -              | 767          | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | -              | 19,593       | -             | -             | -            | -           | -       | -        | -       |
| Total           | Kg            | 13,834         | 28,857       | 12,895        | 26,044        | 24,669       | 24,361      | 24,361  | 7,518    | 224.0%  |
|                 | Value (\$Cdn) | 416,195        | 803,073      | 493,728       | 651,351       | 659,714      | 713,629     | 713,629 | 261,252  | 173.2%  |

### Bone-in

|       |               | August 2024 | September 2024 | October 2024 | November 2024 | December 2024 | January 2025 | 2025    | 2024    | % Change |
|-------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Total | Kg            | 67,717      | 18,403         | 35,811       | 35,499        | 18,157        | 18,157       | 36,307  | 17,532  | 107.1%   |
|       | Value (\$Cdn) | 849,830     | 353,407        | 609,335      | 763,045       | 370,345       | 370,345      | 781,378 | 341,097 | 129.1%   |

### Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

|    |               | August 2024 | September 2024 | October 2024 | November 2024 | December 2024 | January 2025 | 2025      | 2024    | % Change |
|----|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Kg |               | 81,551      | 47,260         | 48,706       | 61,543        | 42,826        | 42,518       | 60,668    | 25,050  | 142.2%   |
|    | Value (\$Cdn) | 1,266,025   | 1,156,480      | 1,103,063    | 1,414,396     | 1,030,059     | 1,083,974    | 1,495,007 | 602,349 | 148.2%   |

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



## Commentary

By Executive Director, CBA

This report can only be improved with your feedback. Please send any comments that you have to either [director@canadianbison.ca](mailto:director@canadianbison.ca) or [diane.blandford@agr.gc.ca](mailto:diane.blandford@agr.gc.ca)

Unclassified / Non classifié

## Bison Marketplace – February 2025

From January 1, 2025 to March 1, 2025, 1,874 head of bison were slaughtered at federally inspected plants in Canada. This is 50% higher than the 1249 animals slaughtered in 2024 over the approximate same time frame.

In the United States during January and February 2025, 11,917 bison were slaughtered in US federally inspected plants. For the same time period in 2024, 14,541 bison were slaughtered in US federal plants. That's an 18% decrease year over year.

According to most current USDA data for the months of January and February of 2025, Canada exported 1,836 slaughter males (1% less than 2024), 2,144 slaughter females (26% less than 2024), 2,203 feeder males (38% more than 2024) and 1,949 feeder females (90% higher than 2024). Comparative 2024 numbers for January and February that are used in the %age calculations - Canada exported 1,855 slaughter males, 2,879 slaughter females, 1,592 feeder males and 1,023 feeder females. In total, 8,178 animals were exported to the US in the first 2 months of 2025, compared to 7,374 for the same time period last year (11% more).

**February 2025 Prices:** Prices for prime finished bulls for the Canadian market have continued to be strong. Recent sales have shown highs of \$650/CWT HHW with heifers up to \$620/CWT. Canadian bison headed to the US reached highs of \$485 (USD) for bulls and \$465 (USD) for heifers. Note that to ship to the US market, shippers are responsible for currency risk, shipping costs, vet checks and admin costs.

Chart 1

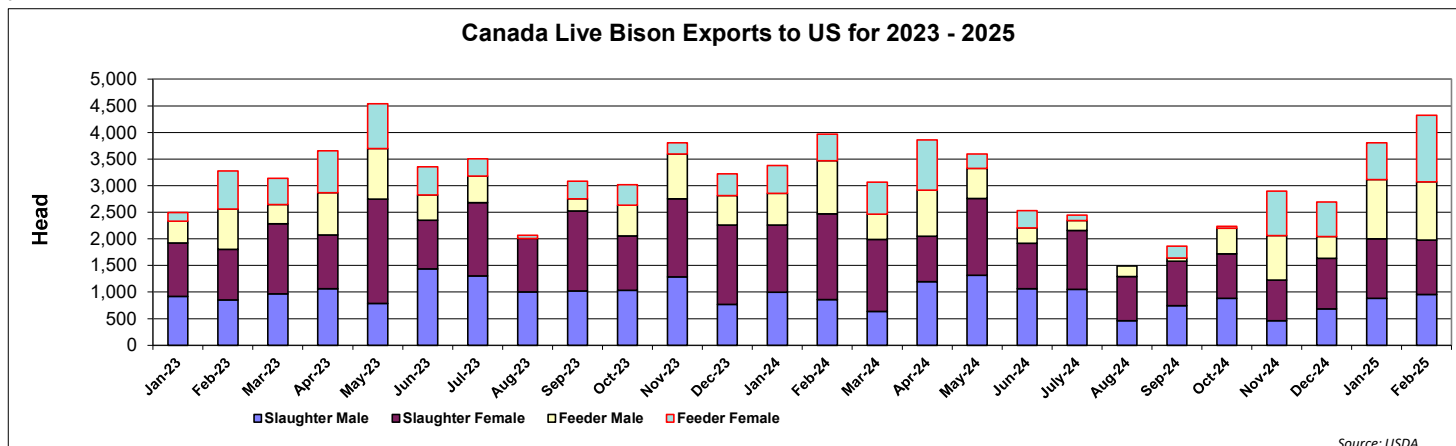
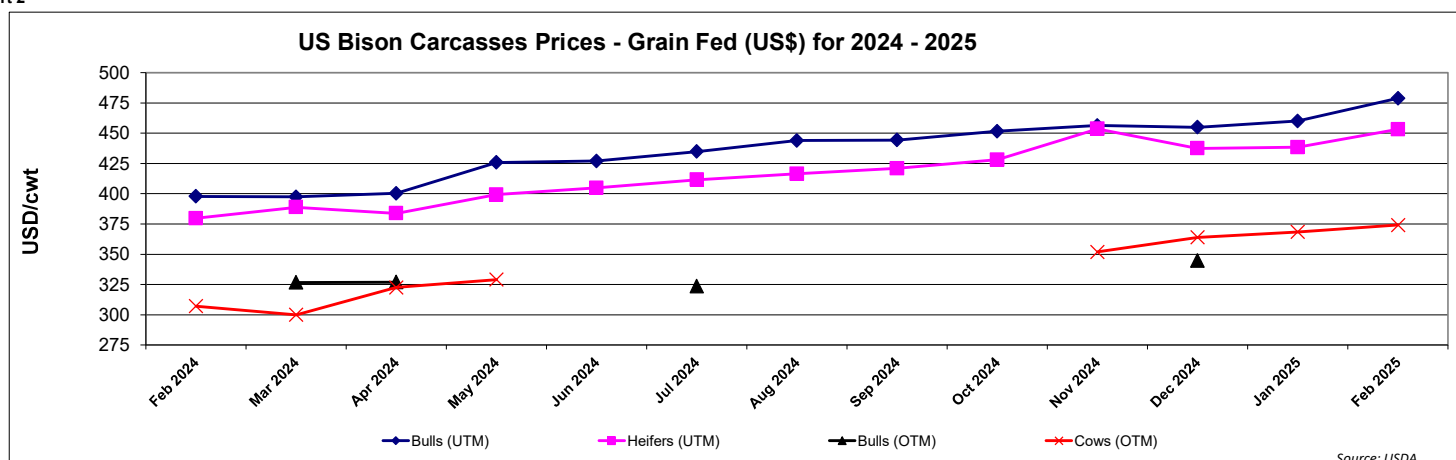


Chart 2



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

On another note, the 2021 Canadian Census of Agriculture data was released on May 11, 2022. Nationally, the number of bison farms and ranches reporting bison was up 1.4% from 2016 levels. The number of bison on farms and ranches in 2021 was reported to have increased by over 25% within the past five years. According to the data, the average bison herd size increased to 151 head (from 122 head in 2016).

The number of farms and ranches held relatively steady since 2016 (up by 14 farms); some provinces reported increases (Ontario and Alberta both up by 6.1%) and some reported declines (Quebec down by 23.5% and British Columbia down 12.7%).

Excluding the Atlantic Region, the only province to report a decrease in the number of bison was Manitoba (-16.4%), while British Columbia reported the most significant increase (+128.9%); more than doubling the 2016 provincial herd size.

| FARMS REPORTING BISON |            |            |              |                 | NUMBER OF BISON REPORTED |                |                |                |                 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2021                  | 2016       | 2011       | 2006         | %Chg '21 vs '16 | 2021                     | 2016           | 2011           | 2006           | %Chg '21 vs '16 |
| Nfld and Labrador     | 0          | 0          | 0            | -               | 0                        | 0              | 0              | 0              | -               |
| Prince Edward Island  | 0          | 0          | 0            | -               | 0                        | 0              | 0              | 0              | -               |
| Nova Scotia           | 1          | 2          | 2            | -50.0%          | *                        | *              | *              | *              | -               |
| New Brunswick         | 0          | 1          | 2            | -100.0%         | 0                        | *              | *              | *              | -               |
| Quebec                | 26         | 34         | 45           | -23.5%          | 1,682                    | 1,538          | 2,380          | 4,322          | 9.4%            |
| Ontario               | 52         | 49         | 60           | 6.1%            | 2,974                    | 1,843          | 2,320          | 4,106          | 61.4%           |
| Manitoba              | 82         | 86         | 108          | -4.7%           | 11,725                   | 14,025         | 14,116         | 19,609         | -16.4%          |
| Saskatchewan          | 308        | 303        | 352          | 1.7%            | 52,860                   | 40,418         | 39,343         | 57,395         | 30.8%           |
| Alberta               | 472        | 445        | 571          | 6.1%            | 65,405                   | 54,907         | 57,483         | 97,366         | 19.1%           |
| British Columbia      | 48         | 55         | 71           | -12.7%          | 14,888                   | 6,504          | 9,206          | 12,656         | 128.9%          |
| <b>Canada Total</b>   | <b>989</b> | <b>975</b> | <b>1,211</b> | <b>1.4%</b>     | <b>149,539</b>           | <b>119,314</b> | <b>125,142</b> | <b>195,728</b> | <b>25.3%</b>    |

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