Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - April 20, 2010

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	Mar Total	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Total Canada	**575**	**458**	**520**	**202**	**233**	**1,988**	**5,081**	**6,000**	**-15%**
previous year	612	340	472	379	449	**2,252**			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-10	Feb-10	Feb-09	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Alberta	220	169	133	205	108	213	313	399	-22%
Saskatchewan	25	34	15	33	38	57	71	97	-27%
Manitoba/BC	96	63	62	52	53	63	105	105	0%
Ontario/Quebec	42	52	30	47	39	36	86	94	-9%
Total	**383**	**318**	**240**	**337**	**238**	**369**	**575**	**695**	**-17%**

*** 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*

	2010	2009	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter	**5,656**	**6,695**	**-16%**

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	Mar Total	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
	1147	**1200**	**1062**	**1092**	**1299**	**5,800**	**14,567**	**13,718**	**6%**
previous year	1054	1143	1138	1009	907	**5,251**			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	2010 YTD	2009 YTD	% Change
Slaughter Male	916	839	714	812	2,365	1,467	**61%**
Slaughter Female	968	694	936	773	2,403	2,465	**-3%**
Feeder Male	180	901	397	476	1,774	1,136	**56%**
Feeder Female	189	587	116	417	1,120	1,096	**2%**
Total	**2,253**	**3,021**	**2,163**	**2,478**	**7,662**	**6,164**	**24%**

**source USDA*

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless

		October	November	December	January	February		YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
USA	Kg	26,608	48,093	25,396	23,963	47,302		71,265	75,520	**-6%**
	Value ($Cdn)	231,321	373,907	211,430	203,620	380,341		583,961	588,901	**-1%**
France	Kg	17,777	9,382	36,362	27,768	24,551		52,319	51,621	**1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	238,221	115,935	383,923	211,581	285,401		496,982	612,389	**-19%**
Germany	Kg	4,446	2,305	3,655	576	742		1,318	1,423	**-7%**
	Value ($Cdn)	42,771	44,571	93,278	11,819	12,561		24,380	21,829	**12%**
Switzerland	Kg	1,907	3,801	2,281	2,901	2,904		5,805	5,775	**1%**
	Value ($Cdn)	58,625	130,189	89,531	108,020	119,932		227,952	220,420	**3%**
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	16,841	18,330		35,171	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	62,589	52,786		115,375	-	**N/A**
China P.Rep.	Kg	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
Saudi Arabia	Kg	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
Hong Kong	Kg	-	-	1,955	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	14,348	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
United Arab Emirates	Kg	-	485	238	-	1,656		1,656	666	**149%**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	4,626	8,986	-	45,752		45,752	19,032	**140%**
Japan	Kg	401	-	1,042	20,411	-		20,411	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	1,603	-	8,445	194,338	-		194,338	-	**N/A**
Moldova	Kg	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
Italy	Kg	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	**N/A**
Taiwan	Kg	-	-	-	24,944	-		24,944	-	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	234,000	-		234,000	-	**N/A**
Total	**Kg**	**51,139**	**64,066**	**70,929**	**117,404**	**95,485**		**212,889**	**135,005**	**58%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**572,541**	**669,228**	**809,941**	**1,025,967**	**896,773**		**1,922,740**	**1,462,571**	**31%**

Bone-in

		October	November	December	January	February		YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
Total	**Kg**	**789**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**		**-**	**7,981**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	**10,147**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**		**-**	**31,336**	**N/A**

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	October	November	December	January	February		YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% Change
Kg	**51,928**	**64,066**	**70,929**	**117,404**	**95,485**		**212,889**	**142,986**	**49%**
Value ($Cdn)	**582,688**	**669,228**	**809,941**	**1,025,967**	**896,773**		**1,922,740**	**1,493,907**	**29%**

**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)
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
Feb 2010	246.99	228.58	180.73	171.43
Mar 2010	246.53	238.7	185	165.1

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
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
Mar 2010	225-260	225-245	150-160	145-155
Apr 2010	245-260	240-255	150-160	150-160

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

	January		February		March		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	956.85	725-1225	977.67	750-1225	978.64	2%	0%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	336-425	341.63	332-425	337.96	330-425	341.78	0%	1%
Striploin Fresh	720-1050	888.94	720-1050	900.75	720-1050	898.18	1%	0%
Tenderloin Fresh	800-1650	1366.45	1000-1650	1366.13	1050-1650	1239.63	-9%	-9%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	340-395	345	330-390	333	300-395	340	-1%	2%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	300-470	397	300-470	393.3	300-470	391.87	-1%	0%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	325-440	363.53	325-440	368.71	345-435	418.15	15%	13%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-January Pricing	Mid-February Pricing	Mid-March Pricing	Mid-April Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	$29.95 - $43.00	$36.00 - $49.50	$29.95 - $49.50	$35.90 - $47.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	$19.95 - $27.00	$22.00 - $24.50	$19.95 - $26.00	$18.95 - $26.00
Inside Round - Fresh	$8.45 - $12.00	$10.00 - $15.00	$9.00 - $11.00	$9.65 - $12.70
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	$7.50 - $7.58	$7.50 - $10.15	$8.45 - $10.15	$7.95 - $9.95
Fresh Bison Trim	$7.25 - $7.58	$7.00 - $7.78	$7.30 - $7.70	$7.50 - $8.25

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

Sekura Auctions (AB) (April 10, 2010)

Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)
2007 Males	800-899	125.00
2008 Males	500-599	125.00
	600-699	120.00
	700-799	119.25
2009 Males	0-300	117.50
	300-400	134.58
	400-500	150.90
2008 Females	400-499	85.00
	500-599	105.50
	600-699	120.37
	700-799	124
2009 Females	0-300	118.66
	300-400	129.11
	400-500	137.20
Mature Bulls	1000-9999	104.00
Cows	0-999	93.54

Willowview Auctions (AB) (March 20, 2010)

Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)
2009 Bull Calves	300-350	136-140
	400-450	152-156
	450-550	154-158
2009 Heifer Calves	300-350	130-135
	400-450	138-141
2008 Yearling Bulls	500-600	110-120
	600-650	128-135
	700-800	145-148
	800-900	146-148
2008 Yearling Hei	500-600	120-125
	600-700	129-135
	700-800	135-138
Mature Bulls		83-90
Bison Cows		85-91

Sekura Auctions (AB) (March 6, 2010)

Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average ($/cwt)
2009 Males	0-299	141.64
	300-399	133.58
	400-500	153.28
	400-499	144.00
	500-599	149.24
2008 Males	500-599	114.46
	600-699	122.50
	700-799	145.19
	800-899	75.00
	900-999	125.00
2007 Males	1000-9999	88.10
2009 Females	0-300	102.00
	300-400	123.55
	400-500	139.26
2008 Females	500-600	126.63
	600-700	129.24
Cows		86.56
Bred Heifers		1071.43 / hd
Breeding Bulls		1559.22 / hd

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 cba2@sasktel.net or diane.kelly@agr.gc.ca

Consumer demand for bison ground products continues to grow in both Canada and the United States as everyone prepares for the summer BBQ season. The inventory of frozen middle cuts is beginning to move. Prices of these cuts have been reduced compared to last months prices. Marketers are expecting further reduction in these inventories as the BBQ season gets into full swing. The US market demand for Canadian bison continues to be strong even though the Canadian dollar has strengthened in recent weeks. Prices for all classes of live animals were stronger than reported in February. Price ranges for mature bulls and cows narrowed. Heifers with excess finish continue to be discounted.

The appreciation of the Canadian dollar continues to add additional risk for marketers shipping into the U.S. while the devaluation of the EURO adds additional risk for those shipping into the European market. The Middle Eastern market remains steady. These factors have translated into steady prices for finished bison as well as strong trim prices. The shortage of animals continues to motivate marketers to lock in their supply of animals. Further pressures have been placed on the tight supplies as most producers have culled their herds and are holding animals back to build their herds in response to the strong demand.

Nationally, federal slaughter for the year is down 15.3% (5,081 in 2010 compared to 6,000 for the same period in 2009). Exports of live animals to the end of February jumped by 24.6% in 2010 when compared to the same period in 2009 (5,342 in 2010 compared to 4,286 in 2009). Even though the Canadian dollar has appreciated, the strong demand for bison in the U.S. market combined with marketers locking in their supplies has contributed to the strong exports early in the year.

Total boneless bison meat exports for the first two months in 2010 are comparable for the U.S. and European markets with an increase in exports to the United Arab Emirates.

Chart 1

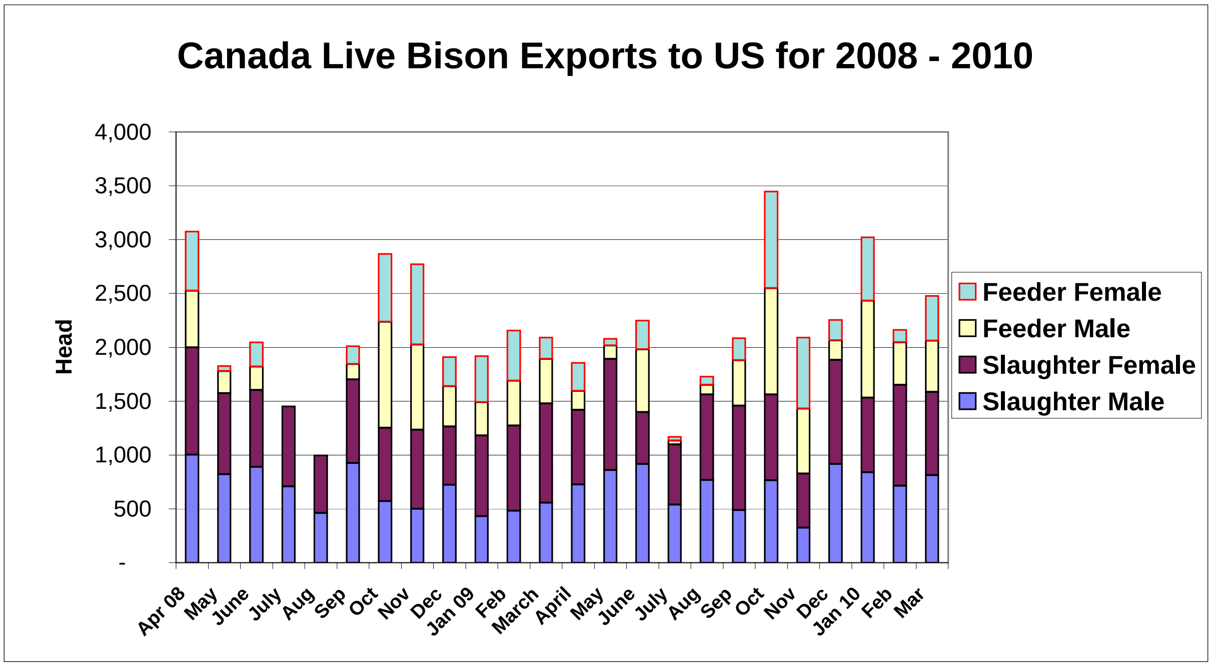

Chart 2