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 23, 2013

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	Mar Total	March YTD 2013	March YTD 2012	% Change
Total Canada	**252**	**353**	**195**	**278**	**138**	**1,216**	**3,281**	**2,372**	**38.3%**
previous year	*97*	*382*	*70*	*282*	*57*	***888***			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Feb 2012	February YTD 2013	February YTD 2012	% Change
Alberta	105	93	101	147	136	62	283	120	135.8%
Saskatchewan	26	13	10	12	12	15	24	19	26.3%
Manitoba/BC	62	75	40	101	37	49	138	101	36.6%
Ontario/Quebec**	39	33	17	15	18	15	33	48	-31.3%
Total	**232**	**214**	**168**	**275**	**203**	**141**	**478**	**288**	**66.0%**

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

	YTD 2013	YTD 2012	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter *	**3,759**	**2,660**	**41.3%**

**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*	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	Mar Total	March YTD 2013	March YTD 2012	% Change
for week ending:	**839**	**936**	**752**	**846**	**939**	**4,312**	**10,503**	**10,473**	**0.3%**
previous year	*839*	*575*	*578*	*811*	*850*	***3,653***			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	March YTD 2013	March YTD 2012	% Change
Slaughter Male	306	320	771	337	373	1,481	1,602	**-7.6%**
Slaughter Female	381	251	484	707	339	1,530	988	**54.9%**
Feeder Male	289	367	121	340	42	503	1,371	**-63.3%**
Feeder Female	213	93	100	131	41	272	963	**-71.8%**
Total	**1,189**	**1,031**	**1,476**	**1,515**	**795**	**3,786**	**4,924**	**-23.1%**

**source USDA*

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		Sept 2012	October	November	December	January 2013	February	February YTD 2013	February YTD 2012	% Change
USA	Kg	7,933	14,965	11,469	16,976	11,449	14,273	**25,722**	**32,623**	**-21.2%**
	Value ($Cdn)	92,331	146,356	61,549	115,373	152,591	147,399	**299,990**	**288,792**	**3.9%**
France	Kg	16,657	1,285	5,391	18,010	4,720	3,084	**7,804**	**2,496**	**212.7%**
	Value ($Cdn)	239,710	20,350	92,197	188,588	80,920	81,938	**162,858**	**41,724**	**290.3%**
Switzerland	Kg	1,903	3,433	4,079	6,238	2,291	6,099	**8,390**	**3,005**	**179.2%**
	Value ($Cdn)	82,091	148,858	138,586	251,424	101,893	249,866	**351,759**	**133,227**	**164.0%**
Germany	Kg	-	-	157	290	-	-	**-**	**228**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	3,740	5,854	-	-	**-**	**6,257**	**N/A**
Egypt	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
United Arab Emirates	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
China	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Singapore	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Hong Kong	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Italy	Kg	512	415	192	-	-	605	**605**	**772**	**-21.6%**
	Value ($Cdn)	13,290	10,770	4,385	-	-	15,709	**15,709**	**18,211**	**-13.7%**
Sweden	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Netherlands	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Belgium	Kg	-	-	-	17,611	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
	Value ($Cdn)	-	-	-	226,435	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total	**Kg**	**27,005**	**20,098**	**21,288**	**59,125**	**18,460**	**24,061**	**42,521**	**39,124**	**8.7%**
	Value ($Cdn)	**427,422**	**326,334**	**300,457**	**787,674**	**335,404**	**494,912**	**830,316**	**488,211**	**70.1%**

Bone-in		Sept 2012	October	November	December	January 2013	February	February YTD 2013	February YTD 2012	% Change
Total	**Kg**	**10,196**	**737**	**19,675**	**-**	**238**	**21**	**259**	**-**	**N/A**
	Value ($Cdn)	**77,011**	**7,734**	**87,255**	**-**	**3,098**	**317**	**3,415**	**-**	**N/A**

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in	Sept 2012	October	November	December	January 2013	February	February YTD 2013	February YTD 2012	% Change
Kg	**37,201**	**20,835**	**40,963**	**59,125**	**18,698**	**24,082**	**42,780**	**39,124**	**9.3%**
Value ($Cdn)	**504,433**	**334,068**	**387,712**	**787,674**	**338,502**	**495,229**	**833,731**	**488,211**	**70.8%**

**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)
Mar 2012	390.43	371.89	296.26	286.80
Apr 2012	391.85	380.45	305.18	293.24
May 2012	392.57	381.52	308.23	299.28
June 2012	394.12	384.26	308.90	299.01
July 2012	390.28	383.55	308.93	311.93
Aug 2012	391.95	382.88	313.63	300.49
Sept 2012	391.95	380.23	306.09	306.00
Oct 2012	387.49	379.00	305.24	286.23
Nov 2012	388.79	375.65	290.00	278.86
Dec 2012	389.82	373.85	287.23	281.64
Jan 2013	388.29	375.04	281.52	268.40
Feb 2013	389.80	376.15	274.29	272.58
Mar 2013	389.29	374.23	293.14	273.26

**source USDA*

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

wghtd avg

	Bulls	Heifers	Mature Bulls	Mature Cows
Apr 2012	365-390	355-390	160-210	160-260
May 2012	365-390	355-390	160-250	160-250
June 2012	365-390	355-390	160-250	160-250
July 2012	365-390	355-390	160-250	160-250
Aug 2012	365-390	355-390	160-250	160-250
Sept 2012	365-390	355-380	no prices reported	no prices reported
Oct 2012	350-390	350-380	180	180
Nov 2012	350-385	325-375	150-190	150-180
Dec 2012	350-375	340-365	150-190	150-175
Jan 2013	350-375	340-360	150-180	150-170
Feb 2013	350-375	340-360	150-180	150-170
Mar 2013	350-375	340-360	150-180	150-170
Apr 2013	350-370	340-360	150-180	150-170

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

	January 2013		February 2013		March 2013		% Change Current Month vs.	
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	2 months prior	1 month prior
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	1,300-1,650	1,404.48	1,300-1,650	1,392.14	1,275-1,600	1,399.37	-0.4%	0.5%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	500-625	579.74	500-625	570.56	500-630	583.80	0.7%	2.3%
Striploin Fresh	800-1,650	1,341.80	775-1,650	1,333.48	750-1,650	1,342.06	0.0%	0.6%
Tenderloin Fresh	1,850-2,595	2,153.74	1,850-2,595	2,180.93	1,850-2,595	2,202.25	2.3%	1.0%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	520-640	571.74	525-640	579.89	525-640	585.85	2.5%	1.0%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	550-635	566.68	550-635	560.62	510-635	560.79	-1.0%	0.0%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	500-650	569.92	500-650	564.55	500-650	558.97	-1.9%	-1.0%

**source USDA*

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

	Mid-January 2013 Pricing	Mid-Febuary 2013 Pricing	Mid-March 2013 Pricing	Mid-April 2013 Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	$49.95 - $58.00	$49.50 - $57.00	$49.50 - $57.00	$45.95 - $60.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	$27.95 - $34.00	$27.95 - $30.38	$27.95 - $30.38	$26.95 - $37.00
Inside Round - Fresh	$13.00 - $16.90	$13.00 - $16.90	$13.95 - $16.90	$13.45 - $17.00
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	$11.95 - $13.00	$11.95 - $13.00	$11.95 - $13.00	$11.95 - $12.50
Fresh Bison Trim	$8.95 - $11.25	$9.95 - $11.00	$9.95 - $11.00	$9.45 - $11.00

**source CBA survey of marketers*

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

Kramer Auctions (SK) (March 20th, 2013)

Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of head	Avg ($/cwt)
2012 BULLS	550-650 lbs	16	192
	450-549 lbs	52	209
	Under 450 lbs	27	204
2011 BULLS	800-900 lbs	34	151
	650-799 lbs	22	150
2012 HEIFER CALVES	450-550 lbs	39	203
	400-449 lbs	54	153
	300-399 lbs	22	140
2011 HEIFERS	600-730 lbs	21	139

	Total Weight	# of head	Price ($)
2010 BREEDING BULLS	3200	3	1450

Kramer Auctions (SK) (March 2nd, 2013)

Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of head	Avg ($/cwt)
2012 BULLS (PENS OF 5)			
	400-450	15	233
	325-375	8	230
2010 BULLS (PENS OF 3)			
	1400-1450	6	123
	1100-1200	8	140
2012 HEIFERS CALVES (PENS OF 5)			
	400-450	15	172
	300-375	21	173
2011 YEARLING HEIFERS (PENS OF 5)			
	700-750	5	177

	High Price ($)	Low Price ($)	Avg Price ($)
2010 BRED HEIFERS (PENS OF 2)			
Rockwood	6,000	2,400	2215.63
Intermountain	3,300	2,000	1312.5
2012 BULL CALVES			1444.74
2011 YEARLING BULLS			2771.43
2012 HEIFERS CALVES (PENS OF 3) - per heifer:			1030.55
2011 YEARLING HEIFERS (PENS OF 3) - per heifer:			1341.66
2010 BRED HEIFERS (PENS OF 2) - per heifer:			1585.72

Sekura Livestock Auctions (AB) (March 2, 2013)

Sex, lbs	# of head	Avg ($/cwt)
2012 Bulls		
300 - 399	28	229
400 - 499	24	216
500 - 599	3	212
2011 Bulls		
600 - 699	10	171
2012 Heifers		
300 - 399	33	170
400 - 499	4	123
2011 Heifers		
500 - 599	1	113
600 - 699	5	148
Cows	2	133
Breeding Bulls	5	105

	Low Price ($)	High Price ($)
Bred Cows	950	1,500

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

Based on available market information, finished bison prices in mid-April were at the same levels reached in March. Bison trim continues to be burdensome in Canada but less so in the US. Moisture in the central US has resulted in optimism after a severe dry spell and the bison liquidation that resulted. Reports continue to indicate that some frozen trim continues to be discounted in Canada. Fresh bison trim sold as high as $11.25 per kg with frozen trim being discounted to $8.00 per kg by some marketers. Middle and prime cuts continue to show steady movement with little or no inventories, as they have been moving well in Canada, the US and in parts of Europe.

Finished bison bull prices at a high of $3.70 per pound HHW and finished heifer prices at $3.60 per pound HHW were comparable to last month's prices. Marketers continue to report that they have access to sufficient animals to meet current market demand. With the supply chain beginning to prepare for the grilling season, marketers expect sufficient supply at current prices.

Nationally, federal slaughter was up 38% for the first 13 weeks of 2013 (week ending March 30, 2013) when compared to the same time period in 2012 (3,281 animals in 2013 compared to 2,372 animals in 2012). Live animal exports at 3,786 head for January – March 2013 are down by 23% when compared to the 4,924 bison exported in the first three months of 2012.

Quality 2012 bulls sold for around $2.00/lb live weight while 2011 bulls sold for up to $1.80/lb live weight on light offerings. 2012 heifers sold for up to $1.70/lb live weight while 2011 heifers reached $1.50/lb on light trading.

Chart 1

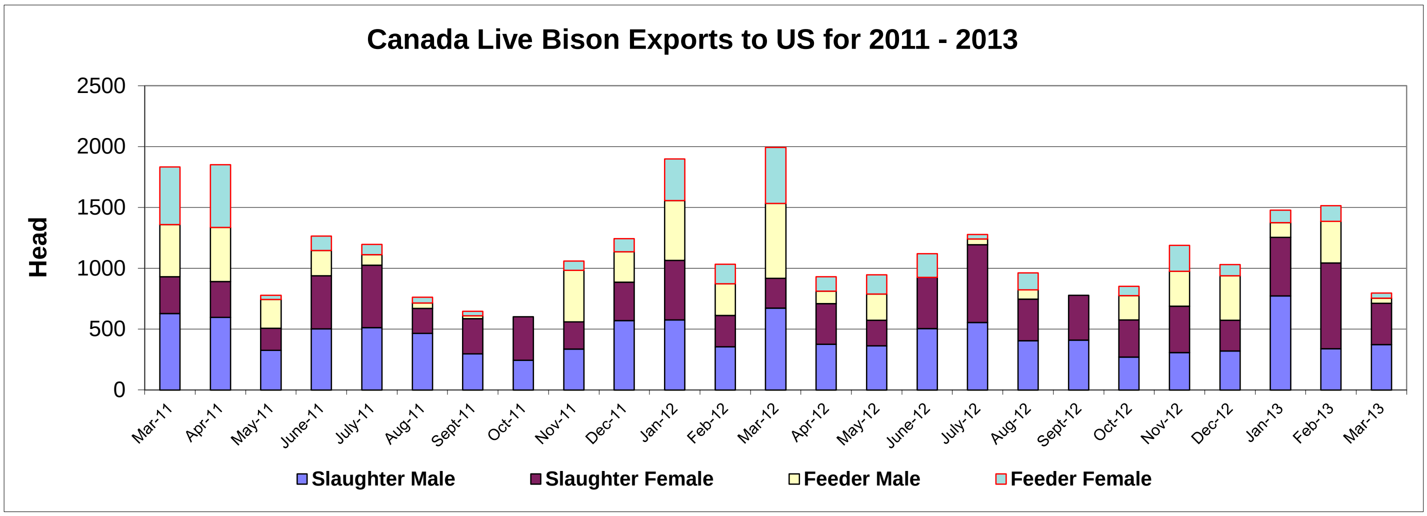
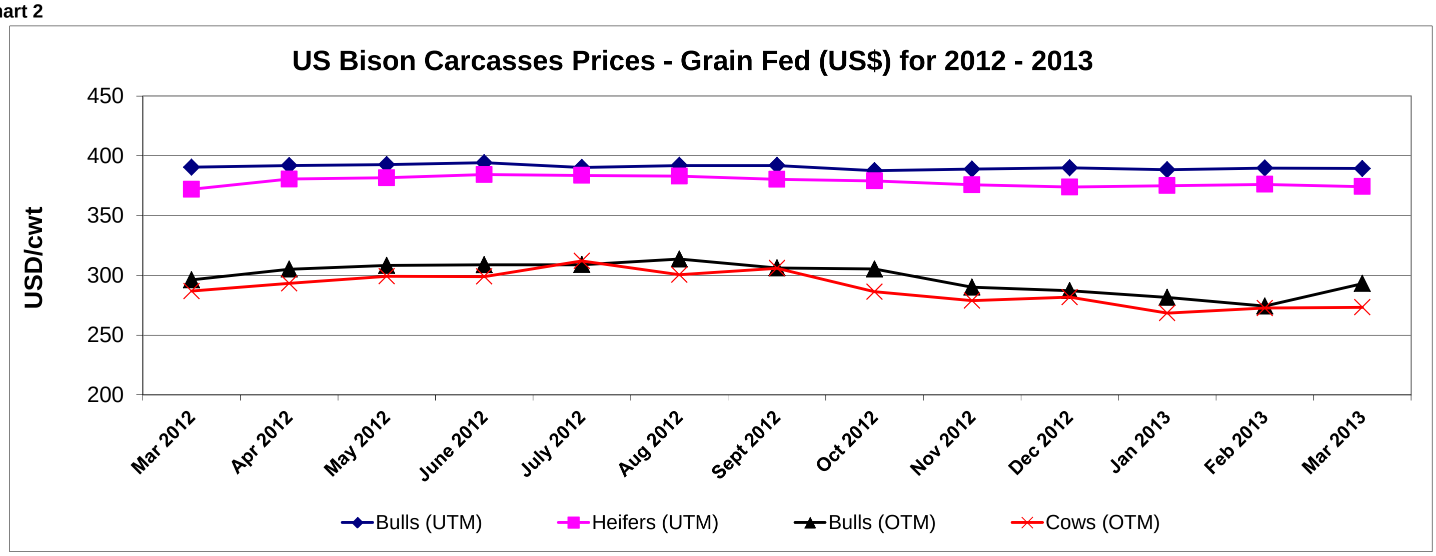


Chart 2



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	-	-	-	-	-	-
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.

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