



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - December 17, 2008

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	01-Nov	08-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	Nov Total	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	08 vs 07 % Change
Total Canada	690	249	624	505	2,068	18,789	17,321	8%
<i>previous year</i>	521	436	573	408	1,938			

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Oct-07	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
Alberta	223	236	205	197	198	330	2,455	3,834	-36%
Manitoba/BC	87	81	67	61	68	35	735	395	86%
Ontario/Quebec	101	64	37	52	33	73	597	661	-10%
Total	411	381	309	310	299	438	3,787	4,890	-23%

*source AAFC Red Meat Section

*Due to varying provincial reporting schedules, total Fed. and Prov. has a one month delay in Prov. data (Jan-Apr Federal, plus Jan-Mar Provincial for both years)

	2008	2007	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter	22,576	22,211	2%

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	01-Nov	08-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	Nov-08	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
	937	1,031	951	1,264	4,183	47,782	43,030	11%
<i>previous year</i>	902	929	1,373	526	3,730			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
Slaughter Male	461	924	572	500	7,626	7,812	-2%
Slaughter Female	536	778	679	735	7,882	5,249	50%
Feeder Male	-	143	986	791	4,814	1,949	147%
Feeder Female	-	164	629	747	3,614	1,207	199%
Total	997	2,009	2,866	2,773	23,936	16,217	48%

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		June	July	August	September	October	YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change
USA	Kg	28,654	18,932	47,502	18,194	33,760	250,478	152,261	65%
	Value (\$Cdn)	210,675	155,265	253,776	136,815	235,298	1,700,631	1,041,697	63%
France	Kg	32,176	27,053	64,158	45,560	41,867	447,548	365,622	22%
	Value (\$Cdn)	351,931	348,866	586,963	539,152	514,911	4,668,126	3,227,342	45%
Germany	Kg	1,364	3,815	4,858	6,027	4,679	49,078	168,655	-71%
	Value (\$Cdn)	18,557	53,107	51,960	69,473	76,157	686,389	2,109,346	-67%
Switzerland	Kg	8,342	5,323	21,931	3,141	8,254	91,905	24,220	279%
	Value (\$Cdn)	115,544	79,316	271,740	97,703	82,793	1,303,574	450,333	189%
Mexico	Kg	-	-	1,309	28,681	70,790	100,780	87,724	15%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	5,180	152,488	371,730	529,398	354,244	49%
Japan	Kg	-	-	10,305	-	-	10,305	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	74,727	-	-	74,727	-	-
Neth. Antilles	Kg	-	-	36	-	-	122	923	-87%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	290	-	-	1,183	14,731	-92%
Italy	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	431	5,772	-93%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	6,899	106,034	-93%
Other	Kg	-	-	-	-	1,414	1,461	15,969	-91%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	15,876	16,632	178,661	-91%
Total	Kg	70,536	55,123	150,099	101,603	160,764	952,108	821,146	16%
	Value (\$Cdn)	696,707	636,554	1,244,636	995,631	1,296,765	8,987,559	7,482,388	20%

Bone-in

	June	July	August	September	October	YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change
Total	3,642	10,719	1,353	8,130	12,044	65,530	111,405	-41%
	21,946	37,867	13,474	42,120	46,843	252,172	458,914	-45%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	June	July	August	September	October	YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change	
Kg	74,178	65,842	151,452	109,733	172,808	-	1,017,638	932,551	9%
Value (\$Cdn)	718,653	674,421	1,258,110	1,037,751	1,343,608	-	9,239,731	7,941,302	16%

*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)
Dec 2007	203.27	194.39	134.74	128.14
Jan 2008	206.42	194.98	135.17	131.62
Feb 2008	213.5	199.32	133.39	135
Mar 2008	220.94	207.49	144.83	132.11
Apr 2008	223.96	210.83	140.96	134.97
May 2008	225.63	211.13		141.49
June 2008	227.02	218.03	148.3	131.21
July 2008	228.63	221.07	148.48	138.81
Aug 2008	236.62	228.95	150	142.74
Sep 2008	239.14	230.36	137.5	145.89
Oct 2008	239.99	230.17	147.02	141.71
Nov 2008	241.36	228.87	146.6	144.17

*source USDA

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

wghtd avg	Bulls (UTM)	Heifers (UTM)	Bulls (OTM)	Heifers (OTM)
Dec	185	180	175	175
Youthful Bulls				
Jan 2008	180-200			
Youthful Heifers				
Jan 2008		175-185		
Cull Cows				
Feb	190-205	180-200	70	65
Cull Bulls				
March	195-220	185-210	70	70
April	215-225	205-215	85	90
May	205-225	200-210	80-100	80-100
June	205-225	195-220	90-100	90-100
July	205-230	210-225	100-110	100-110
August	220-230	210-230	90-100	90-100
September	225-240	210-230	90-100	90-100
October	230-260	225-255	100-120	100-125
November	230-275	225-265	120-130	125-130
December	245-280	235-255	115-130	100-135

*source CBA survey of marketers

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

	September		October		November		Change Current Month vs.	
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	2 months prior	1 month prior
	Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	850-1200	973.15	800-1435	986.46	740-1,150	981.74	1%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	300-425	363.33	275-425	333.63	285-425	329.41	-9%	-1%
Striploin Fresh	700-1075	946.32	690-1150	925.12	750-1,050	943.04	0%	2%
Tenderloin Fresh	1450-2250	1683.34	1550-2150	1923.69	1,550-2,255	1,672.02	-1%	-13%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	300-390	324	300-390	330	300-335	330	2%	0%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	295-795	365.97	300-415	356.36	295-400	365.36	0%	3%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	300-400	344.52	285-470	348.75	285-470	325.19	-6%	-7%

*source USDA

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

	Mid-September Pricing	Mid-October Pricing	Mid-November Pricing	Mid-December Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	\$41.95-49.95	\$41.95-49.50	\$41.95-49.50	\$41.95-45.00
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	\$21.95-27.95	\$21.95-28.50	\$21.95-28.50	\$22.00-27.95
Inside Round - Fresh	\$8.95-12.45	\$8.80-11.75	\$8.75-11.75	\$8.79-11.80
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	\$6.95-7.85	\$7.00-7.50	\$7.00-7.90	\$7.00-7.92
Fresh Bison Trim	\$5.95-6.25	\$5.90-6.50	\$6.35-6.40	\$6.35-7.30

*source CBA survey of marketers

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

Sekura Auction (AB) (Dec 6 2008, 458 head)			Kramer Auction (SK) (Nov 19 2008)				Kramer Auction (SK) (Dec 10 2008)				
Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average (cwt)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of Head	Average (\$/lb)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of Head	Average (\$/lb)	
2008 Males	300-400	115.77	2007 Bulls	500-600	9	0.92	2007 Bulls	500-600	9	0.71	
	400-500	119		600-650	12	1.22		600-650	13	1.10	
2007 Males	400-500	91		650	9	1.26		650-700	16	1.28	
	500-600	109		<500	8	0.67		700-800	40	1.33	
	600-700	57	2007 Heifers	500-600	30	1.03	2007 Heifers	800+	34	1.34	
	700-800	113		600-650	9	1.18		500-600	8	1.10	
	900+	108		>700	4	1.04		600-650	16	0.91	
2008 Females	0-300	85.77		<500	36	0.28		>650	13	1.31	
	300-400	103.95	2008 Bulls	300-400	33	1.3	2008 Bulls	<500	13	0.77	
	400-500	95.55		400-450	41	1.41		300-400	10	1.12	
2007 Females	300-400	40		450+	9	1.4		400-450	14	1.47	
	400-500	73.22	2008 Heifers	300-350	36	1.12	2008 Heifers	450+	20	1.67	
	500-600	97.6		350-400	29	1.2		<300	7	0.85	
	600-700	100.42		400-450	31	1.26		300-400	26	0.83	
700-800	100.05		<300	17	0.56		400-450	33	1.25		
Feeder Cows		70.11	Mature Bulls	1000-1200	9	0.98	Mature Bulls	<300	10	0.66	
				1200+	4	0.59			1000+	6	0.71
				<1000	10	1.06			<1000	10	0.58

Commentary

By Terry Kremeriuk, 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 isteadc@agr.gc.ca

Average prices paid for prime slaughter bulls remained relatively stable in mid-December compared to mid-November. It has been reported that although demand is strong, the economy is having an impact on the food services sector in the U.S. Prices are expected to remain firm through the Christmas season. Certain marketers have also reported some resistance to pricing at the retail level preventing retailers from achieving the margins they expect. Nationally federal slaughter for the first 45 weeks of 2008 was up 8% (20,222 in 2008 compared to 18,700 for the same period in 2007). Exports of live animals to the end of October were up 48% (24,656 in 2008 compared to 16,701 in 2007). Although many animals continue to go to slaughter, processors continue to secure their supplies for 2009. Total bison meat exports to the end of October 2008 have also increased by 16% (952,108 Kg. in 2008 compared to 821,146 Kg. in 2007). There has been growth in bison meat exports to the U.S. and France. This data does not reflect the Canadian bison slaughtered in the U.S. where the meat is exported to Europe. Such data is not readily available.

Chart 1

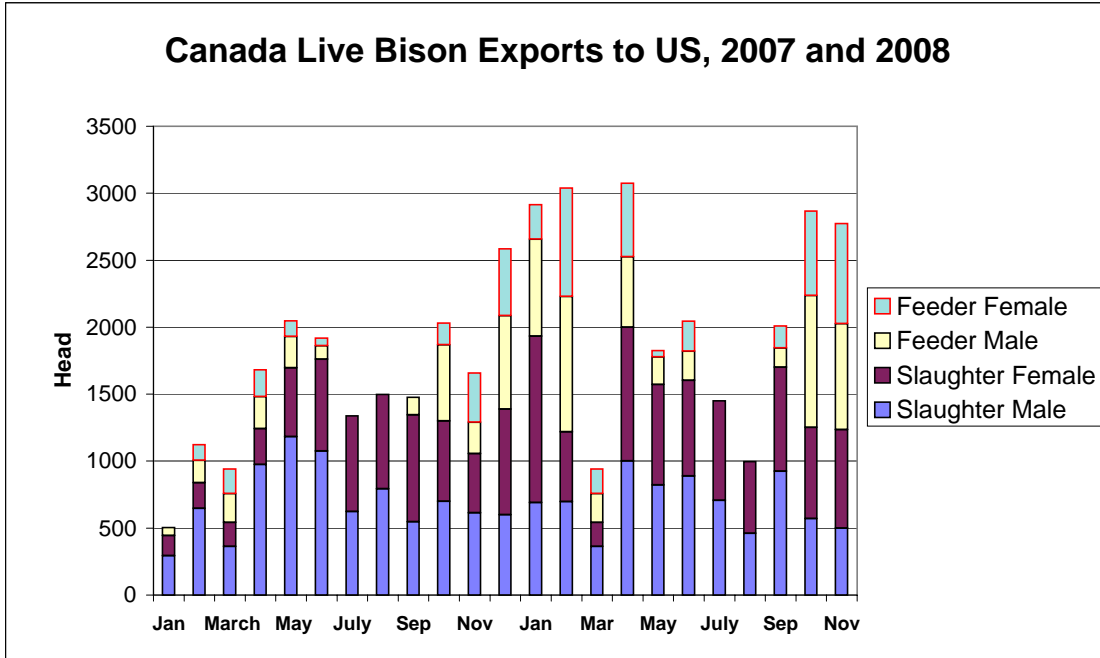


Chart 2

