



BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - October 15, 2008

Weekly Federal Bison Slaughter

	30-Aug	06-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep	Sep Total	2008 YTD	08 vs 07 % Change
Total Canada	335	302	431	301	382	1,751	15,335	12%
<i>previous year</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>492</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>448</i>	<i>2,099</i>	<i>13,746</i>	

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Aug 2007	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
Alberta	322	195	223	236	205	358	2,060	3,166	-35%
Manitoba/BC	72	68	87	81	67	35	606	354	71%
Ontario/Quebec	63	58	101	64	37	85	512	526	-3%
Total	457	321	411	381	309	478	3,178	4,046	-21%

*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	18,513	17,792	4%

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	06-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep	Sep-08	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
	906	1,133	1,077	951	4,067	40,062	36,211	11%
<i>previous year</i>	<i>1,288</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,163</i>	<i>4,731</i>			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	Jun-08	July-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	% Change
Slaughter Male	889	708	461	924	6,554	6,500	1%
Slaughter Female	715	743	536	778	6,468	4,206	54%
Feeder Male	216	-	-	143	3,037	1,146	165%
Feeder Female	225	-	-	164	2,238	676	231%
Total	2,045	1,451	997	2,009	18,297	12,528	46%

*source USDA

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

Boneless		Apr	May	June	July	August	YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change
USA	Kg	7,742	15,791	28,654	18,932	47,502	198,524	111,176	79%
	Value (\$Cdn)	78,210	132,646	210,675	155,265	253,776	1,328,518	763,374	74%
France	Kg	42,845	76,787	32,176	27,053	64,158	360,121	260,890	38%
	Value (\$Cdn)	453,883	602,737	351,931	348,866	586,963	3,614,063	2,358,265	53%
Germany	Kg	2,111	3,938	1,364	3,815	4,858	38,372	128,569	-70%
	Value (\$Cdn)	26,119	49,836	18,557	53,107	51,960	540,759	1,617,629	-67%
Switzerland	Kg	8,943	19,419	8,342	5,323	21,931	80,510	21,102	282%
	Value (\$Cdn)	120,408	248,034	115,544	79,316	271,740	1,123,078	394,690	185%
Mexico	Kg	-	-	-	-	1,309	1,309	87,724	-99%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	5,180	5,180	354,244	-99%
Japan	Kg	-	-	-	-	10,305	10,305	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	81,462	81,462	-	-
Neth. Antilles	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	122	923	-87%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	1,183	14,731	-92%
Italy	Kg	145	-	-	-	-	431	4,357	-90%
	Value (\$Cdn)	2,321	-	-	-	-	6,899	78,216	-91%
Other	Kg	(145)	-	-	-	36	47	15,969	-100%
	Value (\$Cdn)	(2,321)	-	-	-	290	756	178,661	-100%
Total	Kg	61,641	115,935	70,536	55,123	150,099	689,741	630,710	9%
	Value (\$Cdn)	678,620	1,033,253	696,707	636,554	1,251,371	6,701,898	5,759,810	16%

Bone-in

		Apr	May	June	July	August	YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change
Total	Kg	-	11,810	3,642	10,719	1,353	45,356	109,382	-59%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	35,632	21,946	37,867	13,474	163,209	436,044	-63%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	Apr	May	June	July	August		YTD 2008	YTD 2007	% Change
Kg	61,641	127,745	74,178	65,842	151,452	-	735,097	740,092	-1%
Value (\$Cdn)	678,620	1,068,885	718,653	674,421	1,264,845	-	6,865,107	6,195,854	11%

*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)
Oct 2007	200.68	192.31	134.65	130.87
Nov 2007	204.26	190.62	130.11	131.48
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

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)
Oct	187.5	177.5	165	165
Nov	177.5	167.5	160	160
Dec	185	180	175	175

Youthful Bulls		Youthful Heifers	
180-200		175-185	
Jan 2008			
	Bulls	Heifers	Cull Cows
Feb	190-205	180-200	70
March	195-220	185-210	70
April	215-225	205-215	85
May	205-225	200-210	80-100
June	205-225	195-220	90-100
July	205-230	210-225	100-110
August	220-230	210-230	90-100
September	225-240	210-230	90-100
October	230-260	225-255	100-120

source CBA survey of marketers*USDA Key Cuts - Grain Fed Wholesale (\$US/cwt)**

	July		August		September		Change Current Month vs.	
	Range		Wt. Avg		Range		2 months prior	1 month prior
	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg	Range	Wt. Avg		
Ribeye Lip-On Fresh	825-1200	951.75	825-1200	888.56	850-1200	973.15	2%	10%
Chuckroll/Clod Fresh	285-410	317.46	250-425	312.8	300-425	363.33	14%	16%
Striploin Fresh	700-1050	922.03	700-1050	920.04	700-1075	946.32	3%	3%
Tenderloin Fresh	1450-2100	1626.79	1450-2250	1468.33	1450-2250	1683.34	3%	15%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	300-325	315	300-350	324	300-390	324	3%	0%
Ground 85% Bulk, Frozen	295-480	365.56	300-425	345.04	295-795	365.97	0%	6%
Ground 85% Patties, Frozen	285-528	337.96	285-425	336.58	300-400	344.52	2%	2%

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

	Mid-July Pricing	Mid-August Pricing	Mid-September Pricing	Mid-October Pricing
Tenderloin - Fresh	\$44.83-49.50	\$41.95-49.00	\$41.95-49.95	\$41.95-49.50
Strip Loin Boneless - Fresh	\$23.86-28.50	\$21.95-28.00	\$21.95-27.95	\$21.95-28.50
Inside Round - Fresh	\$7.73-11.90	\$8.75-12.00	\$8.95-12.45	\$8.80-11.75
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	\$5.94-7.45	\$6.95-7.85	\$6.95-7.85	\$7.00-7.50
Fresh Bison Trim	\$5.10-6.28	\$5.85-5.95	\$5.95-6.25	\$5.90-6.50

source CBA survey of marketers*Live Auction Reports *most recent reported, may not reflect current market**

Sekura Auction (AB) (10/04/08, 93 head)			Kramer Auction (SK) (03/19/08)			Kramer Auction (SK) (05/14/08)		
Birth Year, Sex	lbs	Average (cwt)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs	# of Head	Average (\$cdn/lb)	Birth Year, Sex	lbs
2008 Males	0-300	120.00	2005 Bulls	1000+	5	0.96	2006 Bulls	850
	300-400	112.00		700-800	8	0.89	2006 Heifers	500-600
2007 Males	500-700	158.74		800-900	4	1.04	2006 Heifers	600-650
2006 Males	300-400	n/a		900-1000	4	0.96	2006 Heifers	650-700
	400-500	n/a	2006 Bulls	500-550	7	0.66	2006 Heifers	700+
	500-600	n/a		550-600	25	0.81	2007 Bulls	350-450
	600-700	n/a		600-700	35	1.04	2007 Bulls	450-550
	700-800	n/a		700+	14	1.19	2007 Bulls	500+
2008 Females	0-300	150.00		Under 500	9	0.62	2007 Heifers	400-450
	300-400	93.00	2006 Heifers	500-600	51	0.74	2007 Heifers	450+
	400-500	91.00		over 600	22	0.84	2007 Heifers	under 400
2007 Females	500-600	107.00		under 500	26	0.52		
2006 Females	400-500	n/a	2007 Bulls	300-350	14	0.70		
	500-600	n/a		350-400	25	0.99		
	700-800	n/a		400-450	17	1.25		
	800-900	n/a		500+	4	1.25		
Feeder Cows		58.16	2007 Heifers	300-350	19	0.87		
Cow/Calf Pairs		725.00		350-400	26	0.90		
				400+	13	0.99		
				under 300	16	0.69		

NB - the next Kramer Auction is expected in November 2008

Commentary

By Terry Kremenik, 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 moved upward about 20 cents a pound hot hanging weight in mid-October compared to mid-September. This increase has been driven by strong consumer demand and the depreciation of the Canadian dollar. Prime heifer prices were also up by equal amounts. Nationally federal slaughter for the first 40 weeks of 2008 was up 11.8% (15,709 in 2008 compared to 14,054 for the same period in 2007). Exports of live animals to the end of August were up 43% (19,027 in 2008 compared to 13,277 in 2007) as U.S. and Canadian buyers competed aggressively for bison. Although many animals continue to go to slaughter, processors are also ensuring that they have sufficient supply for 2009. Marketers in Canada continue to report a strong demand for bison trim and reduced demand for rib-eyes.

Chart 1

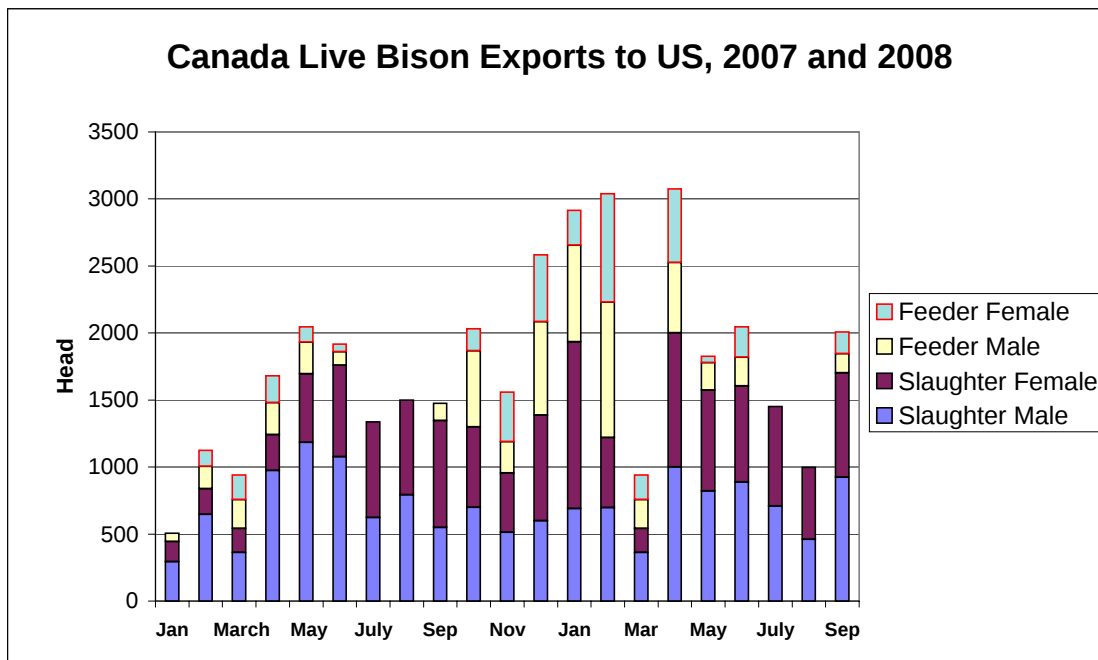


Chart 2

