

*This information is provided as a resource by SAF staff. All stated prices are averages.
Please use this information at your own risk.*

Cattle Market Update

For the week of November 27--December 1, 2006

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average
3-400	110-144	132.35
4-500	111-140	127.39
5-600	101-135	116.91
6-700	94-118	107.55
7-800	91-111	101.31
8-900	90-105	95.75
900+	85-97	90.25

Heifers

	Range	Average
3-400	104-125	114.17
4-500	102-122	111.13
5-600	92-115	104.38
6-700	86-108	96.58
7-800	85-101	92.25
800+	80-95	87.63

Saskatchewan auction market volumes were steady last week, with just over 30,500 head being marketed. Feeder cattle prices fell slightly last week after the previous week's gains. Light calves were the exception, trading slightly higher; heavy cattle took the brunt of the pressure, trading lower. Light steers (300-400 lb.) were up \$3 per cwt, while light heifers (300-400 lb.) averaged \$1 per cwt higher. Steers weighing 400-500 lb. averaged \$3 per cwt lower, while 500-600 lb. steers were down \$4 per cwt, as were both 700-800 lb. steers and 800-900 lb. steers. Heavy steers (900+ lb.) dropped \$5 per cwt from the previous week. Heifers weighing 400-500 lb. averaged \$1 per cwt lower, while 500-600 lb. heifers were unchanged. Heavy heifers (800+ lb.) were down \$3 per cwt from the previous week. Volumes will likely begin to drop off in the coming weeks, as the seasonal slow-down begins.

Fed Cattle & Slaughter Cows

Steers

Live	84.30
Rail	n/a

Heifers

Live	82.25
Rail	n/a

D1, D2 Cows

Range	25.00-33.00
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D3 Cows

Range	15.00-32.00
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Fed cattle traded lower last week across Western Canada. In Saskatchewan, both steers and heifers averaged \$1 per cwt lower than the previous week. At week's end, Alberta steers averaged \$2.25 per cwt lower, while heifers in Alberta were down \$2.50 per cwt. Cattle feeders did not appear to be willing sellers at these lower prices, with Canfax members reporting only 16,000 head sold last week. The number of cattle moving south of the border was down for the week ending November 25, with just over 14,000 head being exported. This lower volume was mainly due to a short week in the U.S. because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Last week's fed cattle trade south of the border was also down \$1 to \$2 per cwt, as cut-out values slipped lower. Slaughter cows traded mainly steady last week.

Bred Cows & Heifers

	Range
Bred Cows	\$300 - \$1000
Bred Heifers	\$350 - \$1150

The range in bred cow and heifer prices has seen little movement this week and continues to remain very wide. Quality and age continue to be the deciding factor in determining where cattle fall within the range. Considerable supplies continue to be available, keeping significant pressure on bred cattle prices.

For more information contact the Livestock Development Branch:

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Cattle Market Update

For the week of December 4--8, 2006

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average
3-400	108-141	124.50
4-500	106-134	119.90
5-600	98-126	114.08
6-700	96-112	104.69
7-800	91-109	100.95
8-900	89-106	96.65
900+	87-101	94.88

Heifers

	Range	Average
3-400	104-117	109.70
4-500	100-116	107.35
5-600	92-108	101.00
6-700	85-100	92.98
7-800	83-95	89.15
800+	78-94	85.97

The number of feeder cattle on offer in Saskatchewan was up slightly last week, with just under 33,000 head being marketed. However, auction market volumes continue to be well behind 2005 volumes, with year-to-date numbers 12 per cent lower than last year. Prices were down again last week, with the only exception being heavy steers, which were up slightly. Light steers took the biggest hit last week, with 300-400 lb. steers down \$8 per cwt and 400-500 lb. steers averaging \$7 per cwt lower. Both 500-600 lb. steers and 600-700 lb. steers dropped \$3 per cwt, while 700-800 lb. steers were unchanged from the previous week. Steers weighing 800-900 lb. averaged \$1 per cwt higher, while 900+ lb. steers were up \$4 per cwt. Both 300-400 lb. heifers and 400-500 lb. heifers traded \$4 per cwt lower, while 500-600 lb. heifers dropped back \$3 per cwt. Heifers weighing 600-700 lb. were down \$4 per cwt, and 700-800 lb. heifers traded \$3 per cwt lower. Heavy heifers (800+ lb.) were down \$2 per cwt from the previous week. Not much has been 'normal' with this year's fall run, but tradition would indicate that volumes should start slowing down as we edge closer to Christmas. However, with nice weather and lots of calves still out in the country yet to be marketed, we could see significant numbers move again this week.

Fed Cattle & Slaughter Cows

Steers

Live	83.55
Rail	140.75

Heifers

Live	82.75
Rail	140.75

D1, D2 Cows

Range	29.00-39.00
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D3 Cows

Range	12.00-38.00
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Fed cattle prices were mixed in Saskatchewan last week, with steers averaging \$0.75 per cwt lower, while heifers were up \$0.50 per cwt. In Alberta, prices were slightly higher, with steers up \$1 per cwt and heifers trading \$0.50 per cwt higher. Canfax members reported approximately 19,500 head being sold last week, up slightly from the previous week. There was significant trade in fed cattle south of the border late Friday,

with prices up \$1 per cwt. Slaughter cows traded much stronger last week, with D1,2 cows averaging \$7 per cwt higher than the previous week. The late strength in the market south of the border last week, combined with the weaker Canadian dollar, should be supportive of Canadian fed cattle this week.

Bred Cows & Heifers

	Range
Bred Cows	\$300 - \$1050
Bred Heifers	\$350 - \$1150

Large volumes of bred cows and heifers continue to be on offer across the province, with no significant price movement seen in the market. The range in prices remains very wide, with quality and age still the deciding factors on where cattle fall within the range.

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Cattle Market Update

For the week of December 11--15, 2006

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average
3-400	110-132	120.58
4-500	109-136	121.29
5-600	102-121	110.75
6-700	96-109	102.63
7-800	90-105	97.46
8-900	88-102	93.00
900+	80-96	87.97

Heifers

	Range	Average
3-400	100-115	105.00
4-500	92-119	104.38
5-600	88-112	99.04
6-700	83-110	92.63
7-800	80-92	85.38
800+	80-90	83.44

Just over 23,000 head of feeder cattle moved through Saskatchewan auction markets last week, down 10,000 head from the week previous. Prices continued their downward slide, with heavy steers feeling the most pressure. Light steers (300-400 lb.) averaged \$2 per cwt lower, while 400-500 lb. steers were the only weight class that experienced a positive price shift, albeit only \$1 per cwt. Steers weighing 500-600 lb. were down \$3 per cwt, as were 700-800 lb. steers, while 800-900 lb. steers traded \$4 per cwt lower. Heavy steers (900+ lb.) averaged \$7 per cwt lower than the previous week. Light heifers (300-400 lb.) were down \$5 per cwt, while both 400-500 lb. heifers and 500-600 lb. heifers dropped \$3 per cwt from the previous week. Heifers weighing 600-700 lb. were unchanged from the previous week, while 700-800 lb. heifers averaged \$4 per cwt lower. Heavy heifers (800+ lb.) were down \$3 per cwt from the previous week. Feeder cattle sales will slow down this week as things come to a standstill over the Christmas holiday.

Fed Cattle & Slaughter Cows

Steers

Live	83.65-83.75
Rail	141.15

Heifers

Live	83.65
Rail	141.15

D1, D2 Cows

Range	22.00-38.00
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D3 Cows

Range	15.00-38.00
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Fed cattle traded slightly higher in Saskatchewan last week, with steers averaging \$0.25 per cwt higher, while heifers were up \$1 per cwt. In Alberta, steers averaged \$0.75 per cwt lower, while heifers were unchanged from the week previous. A similar number of cattle compared to the previous week were reported to have sold last week. The number of fed cattle moving south of the border remains steady, with just under 15,000 head of fed cattle being exported to the U.S. for the week ending December 9. The lower cash market in the U.S. last week, combined with the shorter holiday weeks approaching will likely result

in some pressure being placed on the fed market in the coming week. After last week's significant price increase, slaughter cows traded lower, down \$2 per cwt from the week previous.

Bred Cows & Heifers

	Range
Bred Cows	\$350 - \$1100
Bred Heifers	\$400 - \$1200

Bred cow and heifer sales are winding down for 2007, with large supplies continuing to result in wide price ranges. Buyers are still willing to pay for top quality bred cows and heifers, but significantly discount cattle of lesser quality.

Due to the Holiday Season the Cattle Market Update will not be available December 25 or January 1. The next Cattle Market Update will be published on January 8, 2007.



Merry Christmas & All the Best in 2007!



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