



## Q1 - 2009

Week of: January 08, 2009

Certified Angus Beef rib meat and peeled tenderloins have continued their descent in demand and value. Offsetting the drop in value for CAB middle meats are the CAB end cuts, as seasonal interest has cleared quite a bit of the spot-market supply. CAB ground beef supplies are now barely adequate given strong demand from the retail sector to cover feature ads.

Week of: January 15, 2009

Certified Angus Beef values continue to receive support from decent demand amid limited production. Not only has trade levels for CAB end cuts and coarse grinds advanced, but CAB middle meats are now clearing packer inventories, as both retail and foodservice buyers of the branded product are securing product for quick ship.

Week of: January 22, 2009

Certified Angus Beef processors continue to be presented with a decent amount of cattle that meet CAB requirements. The amount of product currently available for the spot-market in combination with a slight dip in demand, has prompted discounts for most CAB end cuts as well as some cuts from the loin section of the animal. CAB coarse grinds continue to clear from processors coolers at a rather fast pace.

Week of: January 29, 2009

Certified Angus Beef cutout values have slipped lower, as supplies overpower demand. Buyers continue to see availability for product in the spot-market given the seasonally ample amount of CAB eligible cattle in the slaughter mix. After many weeks trading at steady/firm levels, CAB coarse grinds slipped slightly, also attributed to increased production of CAB amid retreating demand.

Week of: February 05, 2009

Given the sustained high choice grading percentage, CAB availability remains adequate to mainly fully adequate. Light cuts due to heavy carcass weights are only seeing a minimal amount of downward pressure. CAB peeled tenders realized significant loss in value.

Week of: February 12, 2009

Demand remains only seasonally adequate, and many Certified Angus beef remain available on the spot-market. Today's Yellow Sheet quote for the Certified Angus PSMO is now at data base historical lows. The highest price for the CAB PSMO was reached on November 13, 2003. CAB coarse grinds have waned in value, as demand falls short of clearing production.



# Certified Angus Beef<sup>®</sup> Market Commentary



Week of: February 19, 2009

There are a few bright spots within the Certified Angus Beef complex, with some "light" cuts and thin meats able to sell at steady to higher levels. That being said, many spot market offerings of CAB remained under pressure as demand has failed to clear available inventory. The CAB loin complex realized mixed results, with strips, short loins and peeled tenderloins needing discounts, while the top butt has received an improved call.

Week of: February 26, 2009

Certified Angus Beef middle meat inventories appear to be somewhat improved as it seems most retailers took advantage seasonal low pricing over the last few weeks. CAB end cuts have dipped lower in value, as demand has failed to clear spot-market supplies. CAB processors continue to realize a very high CAB grade out, and the large carcass weights are lending to a premium placed on "down" product.

Week of: March 05, 2009

Overall, Certified Angus Beef supplies appear fairly well matched with demand. CAB end cuts exhibited mixed undertones, with round cuts such as the flat, eye round and peeled knuckle drifting slightly lower in value. CAB ribs and loins were able to command higher prices, as buyers secure product ahead of the spring season.

Week of: March 12, 2009

As seen with choice and select fabricated boxed beef, mixed sentiments are in place for Certified Angus Beef. CAB middle meats have received seasonal improvement in demand, and prices have trended higher. Demand for end cuts has stalled a bit, leaving some carryover supply available at slight price reductions. The recent pullback in production has prompted firmer undertones for thin meats, with ball tips, tri-tips, and flap meat now trading at higher levels. CAB ground beef slipped modestly lower.

Week of: March 19, 2009

Analogous to non-branded product undertones, CAB processors were confronted with challenges to move CAB end cuts over the past week. CAB rounds appeared to have come under the most negative pressure, with the flat and inside round feeling the brunt of the negativity. CAB middle meats exhibited steady to firmer undertones throughout the last week, with sellers also some seeing improved interest in forward delivery time slots. While the amount of CAB eligible cattle remains strong when compared to past seasonal trends, some processors are noting a slight seasonal adjustment, with a few less CAB qualified animals entering the slaughter mix.

Week of: March 26, 2009

Seasonal movements higher were seen for CAB ribs and loin meat, with some of the price advances leveling out over the past few days. Sellers of the branded product have seen their CAB end cuts trade at fairly steady levels over the past few weeks, with only minimal discounts reported. Not that demand has increased leading to the overall steady to firmer feel to the CAB market, as reported last week their appears to be a few less CAB grading animals coming to the processing facilities.



# Certified Angus Beef® Market Commentary



## Q2 – 2009

Week of: April 02, 2009

Varied undertones have developed with the Certified Angus Beef Markets. Sellers of the branded product have struggled to move their CAB end cuts, while rib and loin meat traded at a steady to slightly higher level. Recent decrease in production has not added support to CAB values, as consumer demand remains fair at best.

Week of: April 09, 2009

Significant advances in live cattle prices over the past week have market participants anticipating reduced slaughter levels as packers work to regain profitability. Loins have seen some strength with demand coming from retail, foodservice and processing sectors. The middle of the week saw inside rounds trading at lower levels but prices have stabilized more recently as volume moves to east coast retailers. Ribs range from steady to firm.

Week of: April 16, 2009

The CAB market has seen significantly higher trade levels on middle meats and support building on the ends. Some seasonal demand and higher front end costs have played their role in packers advancing prices. Availability of CAB eligible cattle may tighten a bit going forward, lending support to the CAB market.

Week of: April 23, 2009

The Certified Angus Beef market has reacted to supply-driven economics. CAB processors have for the most part limited their production, prompting tight near-term inventory positions for many CAB cuts. Going forward, the CAB grade out is expected to seasonally adjust lower which may provide added support to CAB carcass values.

Week of: April 30, 2009

Certified Angus end cuts have fallen victim to lackluster demand, and values diminished since the previous report. CAB strips, short loins, and PSMOs continue to exhibit strength, while other loin meat such as the top butt and thin meats came under negative pressure.

Week of: May 07, 2009

The Certified Angus Beef Market has followed suit with the boxed beef market. CAB end cuts have come across moderate to heavy negative pressure. CAB ribs also drifted lower in value, while strips and short loins were able to post modest gains. Increased production amid stalled demand has forced CAB coarse grinds and thin meats lower.



# Certified Angus Beef® Market Commentary



Week of: May 14, 2009

While demand for CAB middle meats remains fairly steady, particularly noted on strips, short loins and tenders, mixed results were seen with trade levels. Top butts were under the most negative pressure, as many buyers have sufficiently procured product to match their needs. CAB ground beef values firmed, given rather strong demand for the approaching Memorial Day Celebration.

Week of: May 21, 2009

Certified Angus Beef undertones for the most part resemble those seen for choice grade product. Minor reductions in prices materialized for CAB ribs as sellers looked to clear all spot market production. The top butt exhibited the most downward pressure during the last week of trading, followed by thin meats which need slight discounts. As packer's now see a seasonally decreasing amount of CAB eligible animals entering their production facilities, CAB values are not expected to vary in large fashion near term.

Week of: May 28, 2009

Mixed undertones have surfaced within the Certified Angus Beef complex. Mild price reductions developed throughout the past week for CAB ribs and top butts, while CAB Strips and tenderloins gained in value. Most CAB end cuts found stable trading ranges since last week's report. CAB processors continue to see lessening volumes of eligible cattle entering the slaughter mix.

Week of: June 04, 2009

Certified Angus Beef prices for the most part have varied minimally from prior week levels. CAB middle meats supplies remain fairly well balanced with current demand. CAB ground beef however, saw heavy declines in value as demand has diminished.

Week of: June 11, 2009

While supplies of Certified Angus Beef are reasonably matched with the current level of interest, prices for CAB loin meat drifted lower due to seasonal trends. Rib meat exhibited the similar minimal slipping in value. CAB end cuts fared well over the past week, given improved interest emanating from the retail sector.

Week of: June 18, 2009

CAB chucks have received support recently and values have edged higher, with the chuck roll well cleared. Demand for the approaching Fathers Day and Independence Day celebrations has lent to the rib complex gaining strength near term. CAB rounds are seen at steady to slightly bearish market tones. The main issue for CAB processors is the loin complex, with the strip, short loin, and top butt trading amid softer undertones.

Week of: June 25, 2009

CAB middle meats struggled to maintain value this week, following the trend of the choice and select market. End cuts range anywhere from about steady to fully steady and at prices that are near the lows that were posted earlier in the year. Ground beef is supported as retailers take delivery on anticipated July 4 needs.



## Q3 - 2009

Week of: July 02, 2009

Certified Beef loin values continue to slip, as licensed sellers of the branded product fail to clear spot market strips and short loin. CAB rib meat traded close to steady over the past week. CAB thin meats have found support near term.

Week of: July 09, 2009

Certified Angus Beef primal values saw mixed results over the past week. Reduced chain speeds have lent a bit of support to a few items such as ribs and thin meats. The CAB loin complex also saw varied movement in value, with the strip and short loin drifting lower, while the top butt has found some near term support.

Week of: July 16, 2009

While supplies of Certified Angus Beef appear fairly balanced for the moment, CAB end cuts, however, had trouble avoiding a seasonal slip in value. Lack of retail features for CAB chucks and rounds left some product available on the spot market. CAB middle meats held at steady/firm levels, attributed to some major chain stores booking product to cover prominent ad features. Several weeks of reduced slaughter has aided in the somewhat manageable spot-market supply conditions.

Week of: July 23, 2009

Tighter supplies of spot market Certified Angus Beef spurred prices higher. CAB processors have maintained seasonally reduced slaughter over the past few weeks, and there is mention that both this week's as well as next week's may be pared back for plant maintenance. Peeled tenderloins and some isolated thin meats were the isolated offerings that slipped slightly in value.

Week of: July 30, 2009

Beef processors for the most part have reported the bulk of their spot market Certified Angus Beef inventory is fairly well matched with current demand. Loin meat continues to receive a decent call except for the peeled tenderloin. While chucks and rounds edged higher in value, flats and inside rounds appear as two items that may have limited upside potential near term.

Week of: August 06, 2009

Minor adjustments for the most part appeared to be the main theme within the Certified Angus Beef complex over the past week. CAB ribeyes held at steady levels while the round complex saw only sporadic and minimal changes. The CAB loin complex was under the most negative pressure, with the peeled tenderloin and sirloin flap meat positing moderate slips in value.



# Certified Angus Beef® Market Commentary



Week of: August 13, 2009

While Certified Angus Beef supplies appeared fairly well matched with buyer's interest, some CAB product realized a slip in value due to seasonal demand. The peeled tenderloin and flap meat were cuts within the loin complex that were under negative pressure, while CAB strips and short loins found themselves gaining some value. End cuts traded at steady to higher levels, with the round complex a solid performer for CAB cutouts.

Week of: August 20, 2009

The bulk of Certified Angus Beef spot market production has found support. Most chucks and rounds gained value over the past week, as buyers sought product for quick ship and forward delivery. The noted exceptions would be clod tenders and top blades, as foodservice orders are very limited. CAB middle meats were steady to slightly firmer, with buyers finding the short loin a bit scarce. CAB thin meats were the weakest area for processors, with flap meat and tri-tips once again slipping in value.

Week of: August 27, 2009

Typical seasonal undertones surround the Certified Angus Beef market. Production of Certified Angus Beef matches fairly well with demand, with buyers interest throughout August rated "respectable." End cuts have found support from the retail sector, with the top round and eye round posting decent gains in values. Buyer's interest for rib meat was diverted over to chucks and rounds, lending to some slippage in value.

Week of: September 03, 2009

Certified Angus Beef supplies remain well-matched with current demand. Both CAB middle meats and end cuts gained in value. CAB thin meats and ground beef found themselves trading at slight discounts from our previous report, given a bit of seasonal malaise.

Week of: September 10, 2009

The Certified Angus Beef market continued to exhibit mixed undertones. Some participants have indicated that they are well sold on branded materials for spot market, values for the end cuts remained largely range bound. Coarse grounds were steady to slightly firmer. Flap meat continued to need discounts in order to attract additional buying interest.

Week of: September 17, 2009

The Certified Angus Beef market remains unsettled. Sellers indicate that the lighter production levels over the past couple of weeks have enabled them to gain more manageable inventory positions but the overall beef market remains about steady. The supply based-market makes for some wide trading ranges as seller's inventory position varies from area to area. The amount of product grading choice and prime has declined compared to the last report but still remains well above where it was this time last year.



# Certified Angus Beef® Market Commentary



Week of: September 24, 2009

Balance between supplies and spot market demand remain fairly well balanced, but undertones vary seasonally across the branded carcass. Certified Angus rounds have sustained a steady/firm undertone, while chucks were seen falling slightly in value. Thin meats slipped lower in value, with ball tips, trip tips, as well as skirt meat needing discounts to move product. CAB ground beef edged nominally lower, as buyers diverted their attention for the most part over to end cuts.

## Q4 – 2009

Week of: October 01, 2009

Seasonal adjustments were apparent within the boxed beef market as we closed September. CAB middle meats needed some reductions to move supply, as interest for "holiday rib packages" remains fairly dormant for the moment. CAB chucks drifted slightly lower, while round cuts were basically steady on the week. CAB loin meat exhibited barely steady undertones, spurred by peeled tenderloins posting a moderate loss in value. Heavy carcass weights has added some slight pressure on a few CAB cuts.

Week of: October 08, 2009

The amount of Angus influenced cattle entering the slaughter mix remains large, and has only recently pulled back slightly from year-to-date highs. Packer sources have confirmed their current cattle supplies contain a record amount of CAB eligible animals. Also the quantity of market-ready cattle eligible for the 2/3rds choice grading category remains well above collected historical data. This week's CAB market saw many of the last week's high-side prices of our quotes pull back slightly. Supplies of CAB end cuts are said to be rather manageable near term. CAB loin meat remains under pressure for the moment. Ribs appear poised to make a seasonal push upward.

Week of: October 15, 2009

Demand for both CAB rib eyes and tenderloins has increased, as buyers look to secure product for the upcoming holiday season. While buyers have shifted their focus to both the "holiday" type beef cuts and CAB end cuts, strips, short loins, and top butts have slipped in value. Ground Beef has seen improved value, as retail buyers have procured product for their near term feature ads.

Week of: October 22, 2009

Rather tight supplies of Certified Angus beef rib eyes, end cuts, and tenderloins has spot market values of those products advancing. Buyers from retail, secondary wholesale, and the foodservice sectors of the market are looking to insure they have product on hand as the calendar moves toward the holiday season. CAB strips, short loins and top butts have fallen victim to lackluster interest, and moved moderately lower on our weekly quotation.

Week of: October 29, 2009

Improved seasonal demand continues to be the driving force behind some positive price movements, noted for ribs and tenderloins which have found a tremendous amount of support and prices have advanced. Strips, short loins, and top butts have slipped lower in value, as buyers have diverted their attention to holiday needs and ground beef.



# Certified Angus Beef® Market Commentary



Week of: November 05, 2009

Certified Angus Beef prices this week were mixed. Rib cuts were steady to firm as they continue their seasonal advance. Many chuck items saw a new higher end of trading. Rounds and loins were mixed from item to item.

The most recent report shows that the percentage of product falling into the upper 2/3 of the choice grade is near YTD highs. The quantity of Angus-influenced cattle being offered is 62% of the run, this is a few points down from the yearly highs posted in early September. The prime grading percentage is 3.7% which is some of the highest levels that have been posted in recent history.

Week of: November 12, 2009

The Certified Angus Beef complex maintained mixed sentiments over the past week. Holiday demand spurred further advances for rib cuts and tenderloins. End cuts became victim to diminished demand as buyers focused more on other proteins as well as the holiday type beef cuts. Interest for the branded product on the back side of the approaching holiday appears decent, most specifically noted from the retail sector of the market.

Week of: November 19, 2009

Sellers of Certified Angus Beef have recently received enough interest for the branded product that lends to improved undertones heading towards the Thanksgiving celebration. Although consumers are seeing rather inexpensive offerings of turkeys thereby stifling beef demand, current price levels are presenting some opportunities. End cuts have worked lower in value over the last week, but a bit of stabilization has developed.

Week of: November 25, 2009

Seasonal buying patterns continue to dictate whether spot market values for CAB move either upward or decline. CAB ribs, strips and tenders posted gains, while end cuts and ground beef traded at slightly lower levels. Licensed CAB processors are showing a bit of concern that the amount of CAB eligible cattle currently entering fabrication plants falls short of meeting current sales needs.

Week of: December 03, 2009

Trading levels were declining this week as CAB follows the rest of the boxed beef market lower. Post-Thanksgiving retail and foodservice demand is just fair and is under expectations. The latest supply information, shows a slight upturn in the quantity of animals coming to market with Angus influence and the amount of carcasses grading un the upper 2/3 choice. In both instances these figures hit a seasonal low in Early November.

Week of: December 10, 2009

Prices and values for much of the CAB market eroded over the past week. That being said, the large snowstorm that blanketed much of the cattle producing region has lent to some optimism coming from the packer's perspective. Seller's of boxed beef are now holding their end cuts with a bit more confidence, basically attributed to the lack of supply due to production curtailments.





# Certified Angus Beef<sup>®</sup> Market Commentary



Week of: December 17, 2009

As seen with choice beef, CAB rib values continue to erode. Some CAB processors have reported fairly decent seasonal movement of the loin meat, including the CAB peeled tenderloin. CAB thin meats are rated a steady/firm for the moment, attributed in part to manageable inventory positions.

Week of: December 31, 2009

Trading levels for Certified Angus Beef were mixed this week. Rib items trended lower, this was expected by most traders as Christmas demand is finished. Many loins have also been trending lower but demand for items including peeled tenderloins is extended an additional week as foodservice distributors were still taking deliveries on anticipated New Years Eve business. Chucks and rounds are steady to firm. Retailers have been looking for lower valued items for January - this interest has been generally supportive to end cuts. The latest supply data shows that the number of animals with Angus influence being slaughtered dropped off slightly after increasing steadily since November 2. The number of animals in the upper portion of the choice grade increased in early December but the overall trend has been a declining one since late October.