

2021 Ontario Market Lamb Calendar

Month	Holiday	Consumption preferences	Market processor needs	Public auction market impact
January 6	Epiphany (Christian)	Lamb is featured in many celebration meals.	Recently weaned and milk fed lambs are preferred.	Lower market volumes generally.
February 12	Chinese (Lunar) New Year	Both mutton and lamb are used in a variety of dishes and is a favorite ingredient in hot pots.		Lower market volumes.
March			Easter holiday inventory buildup.	Growth in supply following winter, with Easter demand increase.
March 28 to Apr. 4	Passover (Jewish) 8 days	Traditionally must be processed under Kosher laws.	Healthy finished lambs. (up to 64 lbs live weight; ideally milk fed and fat)	Steady market. A limited influence.
April 2	Western Easter Eastern Orthodox Easter (May 2, 2021) A peak sale period for in the year.	Roast lamb is a main festive meal for European (Italian, Portuguese, and Greek) heritages.	Healthy young lambs. (under 60 lbs live weight; ideally milk fed and fat) Numbers of lambs under 65 lb begin to increase in three weeks before Easter, and peaks during the week before Easter. Numbers of 65-79lb lambs will increase during this time as well.	Higher market demand in 2 to 3-week period preceding holiday. Hint: check local auction schedules for 'special' Easter sale dates.
Apr 13 to May 11	Ramadan (Islam) 1 month (daylight fasting)	Some celebrations will occur prior to start of Ramadan.	Weaned market lambs (60 – 90 lbs live weight)	A moderate market factor for week leading into Ramadan.
May		Start of barbeque season which more frequently featuring Ontario lamb.	Mod demand. Processors see an increase in BBQ lamb demand from May to August.	Commonly higher supply and slightly higher but still moderate demand.
May 13	Eid al-Fitr (Islam) Festival of Fast Breaking	Celebrations occur during the fast break period which will feature lamb products.	Weaned market lambs 60 – 90 lbs liveweight. Lower demand for heavy lambs.	A moderate market factor for the week leading into Ramadan.
July 20th to 23rd	Eid al Adha (Festival of Sacrifice, Eid) (Islam) A peak sale period in year.	Eid, the festival of sacrifice, is one of the most important observances in the Islamic faith. (This may be referred to as <u>Qurbani</u> , though this refers to the actual act of animal processing.)	Lambs (70 – 110 lbs live weight) Desired weight differs across different communities. Lambs should be under a year of age and be unblemished. Blemishes may include open wounds, torn ears or other physical unsoundness. Wethers	High market demand in period leading up to holiday. Peak demand is in week preceding holiday. Note: There is a high activity level of private holiday sales sought by families for this

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			and lambs with docked tails may not be acceptable to some buyers.	important celebration period.
Aug. 10	Muharram (Islamic New Year)	The Islamic New Year is the first day of the Muslim calendar. Mutton is often served as the main course for this holiday meal.	There is no preferred weight for this holiday, although animals should appear healthy.	Steady market. A limited influencer.
Sept. 7 to 8	Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year	Lamb is a tradition or symbol of a new beginning.	Forequarters from weaned market lambs (60 – 109 lbs live weight)	Steady market. A limited influencer.
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving	Lamb is an alternative to turkey.	Steady demand with slow year over year consumer demand increase.	Steady market. A limited influencer.
Nov.		Stew/casserole are growing in seasonal popularity	Lower but steady demand during transition from Thanksgiving into Christmas period.	Lower market volumes.
Nov. 29 to Dec. 6	Chanukah (Festival of Rededication) (Jewish) 8 days	Traditionally must be processed according to Kosher law.	Healthy heavy lambs. (up to 100 lbs live weight)	Usually occurs close to Christian Christmas which leads to high demand.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day to New Year (Christian) A peak sale period in year.	Lamb is a feature at Christmas parties (lamb-pops, spiedini, roasts). Leg of lamb, stews and curries are food staples.	Lambs should be freshly weaned (milk fed), up to 80 lbs, and not older than 3 months of age. Out-of-season breeding is required to produce the favoured type of lamb for this market. Cull sheep are popular for stew and curry.	Higher market demand in 2 to 3-week period preceding holiday.