

2022 Ontario Market Lamb Calendar

| Month | Holiday | Consumption preferences | Market processor needs | Public auction market impact |
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| January 6 | Epiphany (Christian) | Lamb is featured in many celebration meals. | Recently weaned and milk fed lambs are preferred. | Lower market volumes generally. |
| February 1 | 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. |
| April 15 to 23 | 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 17 April 24 | Western Easter Eastern Orthodox Easter A peak sale period 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 2 to May 2 | 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 3 | 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 9 to 10 The Hajj is July 7 to 12 | 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 |

2021 Ontario Market Lamb Calendar

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| | | | and lambs with docked tails may not be acceptable to some buyers. | important celebration period. |
| July 29 | 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. 25 to 27 | 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. 10 | 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. |
| Dec. 18 to 26 | Chanukah (Festival of Rededication) (Jewish) 8 days | Traditionally meats 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. |