



CANADA URGENTLY NEEDS MORE WOOL

Even in normal times, Canada produces only about one-quarter of the wool she requires. Under wartime conditions, with half a million fighting men to equip with uniforms, greatcoats, blankets, and other woollen articles, at least 85 per cent of the wool needed in Canada has had to be brought from overseas—largely from Australia and New Zealand.

With war developments now threatening the supply lines used for bringing wool to this continent, Canada faces a serious situation—so serious as to call not only for compulsory reduction in the amount of wool allowed to be used for civilian purposes in Canada but also for greatly increased numbers of sheep on Canadian farms and ranges in order that Canada may attain a greater degree of self-sufficiency in wool.

Canada Must Produce More Wool.—One million more sheep in Canada in 1943 is the minimum objective. It can be reached if every sheep owner holds for breeding purposes all useful ewes and early ewe lambs of good quality that he can use in increasing his own flock or place with someone who is expanding his sheep holdings or making a beginning with sheep.

Not only is increased sheep production a way of helping with the war effort but it likewise promises to be good business.

Canada's Wool Requirements

Faced with constantly increasing needs of wool for war purposes, Canada is making every effort to provide substitutes for wool, is restricting the use of wool for civilian and non-essential purposes, and is appealing to all sheep owners to increase the size of their flocks and to use good-fleeced rams in order that more of the wool urgently required in this country may be produced here.

At least 85 per cent of Canada's present wool requirements come from overseas—chiefly from Australia and New Zealand. War developments threaten the supply lines over which this wool moves to this continent. Though certain wool reserves have been built up in Canada (and are still being accumulated) since the outbreak of war, the cutting off or reduction of overseas supplies might lead to a serious wool shortage in Canada by 1943 unless Canada can produce much larger quantities by that time. If imports can be continued and

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there is increased production of wool in Canada, the new Canadian Wool Board Limited will continue to build up the reserve stocks of wool so urgently needed in wartime.

Entire Canadian Wool Clip to be Controlled

In order that all of Canada's wool may now be directed into the channels where it is most needed and that the wool of every producer shall be paid for on an equitable basis, Canadian Wool Board Limited has been established under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to control the marketing of all wool in Canada *for the duration of the war and one year thereafter*.

The bulk of the wool, of course, will be utilized for military purposes. Approximately 80 per cent of the military wools are of the so-called "cross-bred" type. As, however, there has been a considerable increase in Canadian combing capacity since the beginning of the war, it should not be necessary to go outside of Canada for a market for any of the wool which Canada can produce.

All Wool to be Paid for on Graded Basis

Under the new arrangements, Canadian Wool Board Limited will buy all the wool produced in Canada except that which is needed by the grower himself for the making of articles for himself and family. All wool will be handled through registered warehouses licensed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the producer will be paid on the basis of grade and weight.

To facilitate the marketing of the wool under wartime conditions, certain changes have been made in the grades for Eastern Canadian wool. There will be only two basic grades for Eastern wools, for example: "Military Style Wool" and "Felting Wool"—but there will also be five "reject" grades. "Military Style Wool" will include clean wool from such breeds as Oxfords, Shropshires, Hampshires, Dorsets, Cheviots, and Suffolks—all medium-wool breeds. "Felting Wool" will include clean, long-stapled wool from the Leicester, Lincoln, and Cotswold breeds. "Rejects" will include cotted, grey and black, seedy and burry, dead and taggy wools.

No changes have been made in the grades of Western wools.

Prices to the Producer Increased

To encourage greater production of wool in Canada and to provide for increased production costs under wartime conditions, Canadian Wool Board Limited has prepared a new schedule of prices for the 1942 clip of wool. These provide returns for *1942 wool sold by any producer* that are in most cases 8 to 10 per cent higher than those received for *1941 wool marketed on a graded basis through co-operative organizations*. In other words, the 1942 prices are based generally on an 8 to 10 per cent advance over the *best average prices* paid in 1941—and a much greater advance, of course, over the prices paid in 1941 for the 50 per cent or so of that clip which was sold on an ungraded basis.

Further, Canadian Wool Board Limited gives the assurance that the prices named for Canadian wool (cleaned, scoured basis) for 1942 will not be lowered for the duration of the war and one year thereafter.

To make these new prices possible, Government funds become necessary as Canadian Wool Board Limited must sell wool to consumers at not more than the "ceiling prices" established during the base period of September 15 to October 11, 1941, thus creating a loss on the sale of wool purchased at the advanced prices.

Prices set for 1942 for the different grades follow:

Eastern Canada:

Military Style Wool.....	30c. per lb. Ontario and Quebec. 31c. per lb. Maritime Provinces.
Felting Style Wool.....	33c. per lb. throughout.
Four Main Reject Grades.....	21c. to 25c. per lb. in all Eastern Provinces.
Tags	7c. per lb. in all Eastern Provinces.

All prices are to the producer, less freight or cartage to a Registered Warehouse.

Western Canada:

Choice Range Wool.....	Top grades 28c. per lb. Other grades accordingly.
Average Range Wool.....	Top grades 26c. per lb. Other grades accordingly.
Domestic Wool (Western).....	Classed as "bright," "semi-bright," and "dark". For top grades: bright 29c. per lb.; semi-bright 26c. per lb.; dark 24c. per lb. Other grades accordingly.

All prices to the Western producer are less transportation charges to Eastern Registered Warehouses.

Handling and Settlement

All wool sold commercially must pass through a Registered Warehouse for grading. Farmers may deliver or forward their wool direct to a Registered Warehouse, or they may make use of the services of a Licensed Operator (i.e. agent, dealer, country collector, fieldman, association, acting on behalf of a Registered Warehouse).

No producer should release his wool to any person, association, or company not duly licensed; and since it is not possible for one Licensed Operator to offer more or less than any other Licensed Operator, subject to grade and transportation every producer will receive exactly the same price for his wool regardless of where he may be located.

No one is authorized to collect wool unless he is licensed by the Canadian Wool Board Limited. *No Licensed Operator is authorized to purchase wool—he acts only on behalf of a Registered Warehouse. Operators must give an official receipt for their wool to each person from whom it was received.* Offers for outright purchase or for purchase on a flat rate must not be made, and operators violating this rule should be reported to the Canadian Wool Board Limited.

The net receiving weights at a Registered Warehouse on Government-tested scales constitute the basis of settlement, by grade, direct to the producer, and settlement can only be made through a Registered Warehouse. Full settlement will be made immediately the individual clip is graded, but in the interim an advance payment may be made to the producer. This advance must not exceed 25 cents per pound in Eastern Canada or 20 cents per pound in Western Canada, and it can only be made as under arrangement between the Registered Warehouse and the licensed operator.

One Million More Sheep by 1943

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, sheep and lambs on farms at June 1, 1941, numbered slightly over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million head, rather evenly divided between Eastern and Western Canada. The *minimum* sheep and lamb population aimed at for all Canada in 1943 is $4\frac{1}{2}$ million—in other words, an *over-all increase of roughly 30 per cent.*

In Eastern Canada, where there are many farm flocks of small or average size, increase of sheep population must come largely from the expansion of present flocks. The man who now has a flock of 6 to 12 might well expand it to 18; the man who now keeps 40 sheep might consider whether his holding could not advantageously be increased to 60. The objective will only be reached if every patriotic sheep owner does his share, and a 50 per cent increase on farms suited to sheep will be needed to make up for those farms that may not be reached by the present campaign. Present flock owners throughout Eastern Canada are urged to increase their flocks to the extent that housing and pasture facilities permit.

In Western Canada, sheep flocks are less numerous than in the East, large range flocks being responsible for total sheep numbers being as great. To achieve the objective in Western Canada by 1943 will mean not only maximum increase in range flocks and in present farm flocks in the West but also the establishment of new flocks and bands where pasturage and water are available.

The present appeal for more sheep is an urgent one from the national standpoint—Canada needs more wool to meet wartime requirements. At the same time, it is felt that sheep owners will find it profitable to increase their flocks. The increased wool returns have already been stressed. With so large a proportion of Canadian pork products required for export, lamb and mutton should share with beef a good demand on the domestic market during the next few years.

Keep the Good Ewes and Ewe Lambs for Breeding

If Canada is to have one million more sheep by 1943, every useful ewe and every good ewe lamb, particularly the early ones, should be regarded as a potential breeding ewe either for use in the owner's flock or for selling to someone who wishes to increase his holding or to start a new flock.

Before the time comes for marketing lambs and surplus aged stock, flock owners should pick out the ewe lambs needed to bring their own flocks up to the size called for by the present emergency. If they still have good ewe lambs or useful aged ewes that someone might want for foundation stock, they should get in touch with the district representative of the Provincial Department of Agriculture or the live-stock representative of the Dominion Department of Agriculture before deciding to send potential breeding stock to market.