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THE FEED SITUATION IN CANADA

There is no longer a superabundance of feed grain in Canada. The stockpile created by the big 1942 harvest has not disappeared, but it has been severely trimmed during the past eighteen months by a combination of heavy domestic feeding and large exports to the United States. For this reason the indicated intention of western Canadian farmers to reduce their oats and barley acreage in 1944, coupled with the none too favourable moisture situation in the Prairie Provinces, attracts attention at this time.

It is, perhaps, unlikely that eastern Canada, particularly Ontario and Quebec, will need the volume of western grain in 1944-45 that will be shipped to them during the current crop year. Weather conditions during the balance of the 1944 growing season will supply the answer, but at least the growers have increased their acreages seeded to feed grains and the crop is off to a much better start than was the case a year ago.

A good grain crop in the East this year would be a very significant factor in the over-all domestic supply situation during the crop year 1944-45. This is to be seen in the fact that during the eight months ended March 1944, more than 59,000,-000 bushels of oats and barley, and nearly 17,000,000 bushels of wheat from western Canada, moved into the five eastern provinces under the Federal Freight Assistance Policy to be used as feed for live stock and poultry. These totals will be boosted substantially before the end of July.

As far as western Canada is concerned, the carry-over of feed grains on Prairie farms, though substantially reduced, will still be moderately heavy at the end of July this year. Added to an average crop on the reduced acreage indicated for 1944, these supplies would fully meet the requirements of live stock and poultry in the west and allow a margin for shipment elsewhere. It is doubtful, however, if the prospective supplies of oats and barley in western Canada, based on current expectation, would be large enough in the 1944-45 crop season to meet a demand similar to that experienced in the current crop year without wiping out reserves.

Statistics on which this assumption is based indicate that during the crop year 1943-44 a total of 560,000,000 bushels of western oats and barley will disappear as animal feed, as seed for the 1944 crop, and as exports to the United States. Applying the long-time average yield to the proposed 1944 acreage of oats and barley in the three Prairie Provinces, production of the two crops this year would total about 512,000,000 bushels, so that the current rate of disappearance could be maintained in 1944-45 only by reducing farm feed reserves in western Canada to dangerously low levels.

It is true that wheat has played a large part in the feeding of live stock and poultry during the past two years, but the reserves of this grain are also dwindling as the result of extensive exports to the United States, where feed grain supplies have been acutely short for sometime. It is quite apparent, therefore, that the 1944 harvest in the five eastern provinces will mean much to Canada's grain supply situation in the coming season.

A big job was done during the past nine months in meeting the feed grain requirements of live-stock and poultry producers in eastern Canada. They were left in a precarious position as the result of the poor harvest in 1943, but despite labour and transportation difficulties grain was brought from western Canada in sufficient volume to avoid distress. The Federal Government, through the Feeds Administrator, had established an emergency feed stock, and a substantial part of this was released and is still being made available in cases of emergency.

Provision has been made by the Emergency Transportation Committee to keep western feed grain moving eastward by rail from Fort William and Port Arthur until the end of the present crop year and this, together with shipments by vessel down the Great Lakes, should take care of requirements in eastern Canada until the new harvest is ready.

Meanwhile, heavy export shipments of oats and barley are being made to the United States. Figures compiled to May 4, 1944 show a total of nearly 41,000,000 bushels of oats and more than 23,000,000 bushels of barley shipped across the line. About one-third of this went by rail direct from western Canada. Rail shipments are now being augmented by water movement and the crop year total will be substantial.

Acreage Changes Indicated in Western Canada, 1944

Returning again to the 1944-45 situation, the following table sets out the acreage intentions of western Canadian farmers as at April 30, 1944. Weather and other conditions may alter these plans, but latest reports indicate that seeding is progressing rapidly with a large part of the wheat crop in the ground.

	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Prairie Provinces
		- acres -		
Decreases				
Oats	16,500	454,000	257,000	727,500
Barley	94,000	332,000	112,000	538,000
Flax	43,000	729,000	104,000	876,000
All rye	8,500	81,900	11,900	102,300
Summerfallow	139,000	599,000	381,000	1,119,000
Increases				
Wheat	328,000	2,460,000	966,000	3,754,000

The long-time average yield applied to the proposed acreage of oats would produce a crop of 341,000,000 bushels compared with 392,000,000 bushels produced in 1943, while the barley crop on the same basis would be 179,000,000 bushels against 204,000,000 bushels harvested last year.

Government policy in regard to oats and barley for the 1944-45 season will be the same as in 1943-44. Minimum prices will be guaranteed on the same basis as now and equalization funds will again operate. Advance payments of 10 cents per bushel on oats and 15 cents per bushel on barley will be made at the time of delivery by the grower, over and above the market prices of these grains.

ACREAGE INTENTIONS IN 1944

The 1944 acreage intentions of Canadian farmers as at April 30, indicated expansion of wheat acreage at the expense of oats, barley, flaxseed and summerfallow, according to the crop correspondents of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. If the intentions are carried out, the oats acreage will decline 3 per cent from the 1943 level, the barley acreage 6 per cent and the flaxseed acreage 30 per cent, while summerfallow will show a decrease of 5 per cent. Wheat on the other hand is expected to increase 22 per cent.

Decreases in feed grain acreages as well as flaxseed are expected to occur largely in the three Prairie Provinces. Both Ontario and Quebec anticipate larger seeded areas in oats and barley and this holds also for the Maritime Provinces as a group and for British Columbia. Mixed grains are expected to show an appreciable acreage increase also in Ontario and Quebec where this crop occupies an important place in the agricultural programme.

Acreage intentions are compared with the acreage goals set at the Dominion-Provincial Conference in the following table, for Canada as a whole.

	1943 Acreage	Intentions in 1944		Acreage Objectives 1944
		p.c. of 1943	Acres	
Canada				
Wheat (all types) ..	17,487,700	122	21,325,800	17,500,000
Oats	15,406,900	97	14,950,200	16,377,296
Barley	8,396,800	94	7,872,800	8,500,000
Rye (all types)	576,100	82	472,200	501,207
Flaxseed	2,947,800	70	2,069,600	2,800,000
Mixed Grains	1,463,200	108	1,564,200	1,760,370
Summerfallow	20,637,000	95	19,518,000	20,637,000
T o t a l	66,915,500	101	67,772,800	68,075,873

Prairie Provinces

The shifts that have taken place in acreage seeded to the principal grain crops in the three Prairie Provinces during the war years will be seen in the following table:

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Flaxseed	Summerfallow
	(thousand acres)				
1936-40 (average)	25,049	8,500	3,645	298	16,040
1940	27,750	7,818	3,622	364	17,326
1941	21,140	8,137	4,735	982	23,111
1942	20,653	9,666	6,414	1,466	19,979
1943	16,729	11,790	7,896	2,918	20,637
Average 1940-43	21,568	9,353	5,667	1,433	20,263
1944 1/.....	20,483	11,062	7,358	2,042	19,518

1/ Intentions indicated on April 30, 1944.

FARMERS' MARKETINGS

Producers in western Canada continue to deliver oats and barley at a substantial rate. Almost 102,000,000 bushels of oats had been delivered from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the forty weeks ended May 4, 1944, which was approximately 16,000,000 bushels more than was marketed in the corresponding period of the crop year 1942-43. In the case of barley, just over 70,000,000 bushels had been marketed, compared with about 64,000,000 bushels in the same forty weeks last season and a total of 85,571,000 bushels during the entire crop year 1942-43. Deliveries of rye are running behind last year because of the smaller crop produced in 1943, but flaxseed deliveries to May 4 this year represent about 80 per cent of the 1943 harvest and very little remains in farmers' hands.

All quota restrictions on the delivery of oats, barley and rye have been removed by the Canadian Wheat Board. Producers are now free to market these grains as they see fit, with the availability of storage space at country points the only restricting factor.

Marketings by provinces are shown in the following table, the records being those of the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners.

Deliveries August 1, 1943 to May 4, 1944

	OATS		BARLEY	
	Bushels	% 1943 Harvest	Bushels	% 1943 Harvest
Manitoba	15,658,097	24.9	25,834,069	38.0
Saskatchewan	58,583,449	29.3	33,487,129	41.9
Alberta	27,661,934	21.4	10,793,173	19.3
T o t a l	101,903,480	26.0	70,114,371	34.4
Same Period in 1942-43	85,737,715	17.2	63,705,670	36.4

	RYE		FLAXSEED	
	Bushels	% 1943 Harvest	Bushels	% 1943 Harvest
Manitoba	561,624	67.2	1,583,352	56.5
Saskatchewan	3,049,286	80.2	9,814,971	85.4
Alberta	683,957	55.4	2,689,603	81.5
T o t a l	4,294,867	73.2	14,087,926	80.1
Same Period in 1942-43	6,212,170	27.0	10,852,756	73.8

PRODUCTION AND MARKETINGS IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES 1/

Harvest Year	Sown Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Carry-over on Farms 2/	Total on Farms	Farmers' Marketings 3/	Per Cent of Supply Marketed
	acres	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	p.c.
OATS							
1938	8,518,000	27.2	232,000,000	7,106,000	239,106,000	32,649,088	13.6
1939	8,227,000	28.1	231,500,000	26,501,000	258,001,000	35,562,880	13.8
1940	7,818,000	29.3	229,000,000	23,214,000	252,214,000	32,274,610	12.8
1941	8,137,000	21.9	178,000,000	20,137,000	198,137,000	33,206,047	16.8
1942	9,666,000	51.7	500,000,000	11,952,000	511,952,000	120,689,166	23.6
5-year average ..	8,473,200	31.6	274,100,000	17,782,000	291,882,000	50,876,358	17.4
1943	11,789,500	33.2	392,000,000	102,000,000	494,000,000	101,903,480 4/	20.6
BARLEY							
1938	3,687,000	21.8	80,200,000	2,233,000	82,433,000	24,567,700	29.8
1939	3,607,000	22.5	81,000,000	5,826,000	86,826,000	22,008,867	25.3
1940	3,622,000	22.9	83,000,000	5,351,000	98,351,000	20,980,344	23.7
1941	4,735,000	20.0	94,700,000	4,895,000	99,595,000	26,535,412	26.6
1942	6,414,000	37.6	241,000,000	4,194,000	245,194,000	85,571,086	34.9
5-year average ..	4,413,000	25.0	115,980,000	4,499,800	120,479,800	35,932,682	29.8
1943	7,896,000	25.8	204,000,000	40,000,000	244,000,000	70,114,371 4/	28.7
RYE							
1938	655,000	14.3	9,340,000	44,000	9,384,000	3,440,843	36.7
1939	1,014,100	13.5	13,700,000	345,000	14,045,000	5,228,230	37.2
1940	943,000	13.0	12,250,000	545,000	12,795,000	5,091,064	39.8
1941	861,000	11.6	9,989,000	399,000	10,388,000	5,334,539	51.4
1942	1,246,000	18.5	23,000,000	145,000	23,145,000	9,776,538	42.2
5-year average ..	943,820	14.2	13,655,800	295,600	13,951,400	5,774,243	41.4
1943	498,100	11.8	5,870,000	6,000,000	11,870,000	4,294,867 4/	36.2
FLAXSEED							
1938	201,700	5.9	1,185,000	1,000	1,186,000	855,838	72.2
1939	288,500	6.8	1,950,000	4,800	1,954,800	1,723,980	88.2
1940	363,700	7.9	2,875,000	26,500	2,901,500	2,587,846	89.2
1941	982,000	5.7	5,641,000	14,000	5,655,000	4,902,825	86.7
1942	1,466,000	10.0	14,700,000	19,000	14,719,000	11,359,357	77.2
5-year average ..	630,380	7.3	5,270,200	13,060	5,283,260	4,285,969	81.1
1943	2,918,400	6.0	17,600,000	385,000	17,985,000	14,087,926 4/	78.3

1/ Includes Peace River block in British Columbia.

2/ Stocks at end of July.

3/ August 1 to July 31, 1938-39 to 1942-43. Excludes minor quantities loaded over platforms prior to 1940-41.

4/ August 1, 1943 to May 4, 1944.

FARM STOCKS ON MARCH 31, 1944

Stocks of oats on Canadian farms at the end of March 1944 totalled 217,000,000 bushels compared with 362,000,000 bushels a year earlier, while barley stocks showed a drop from 135,000,000 bushels on March 31, 1943 to 85,000,000 bushels at the end of March this year. These figures do not represent the total disappearance of oats or barley from farms during this twelve-month period as the new crops produced in 1943 have to be taken into account in determining the statistical position on farms.

With respect to oats, the total supply on farms during the twelve-months April 1, 1943 to March 31, 1944 was 844,000,000 bushels, and of this only 217,000,000 bushels remained at the end of March this year, representing a disappearance in farm stocks during the fiscal year of 627,000,000 bushels. In the same period the disappearance in farm stocks of barley was almost 266,000,000 bushels as will be noted from the table that follows:

Farm Position April 1, 1943 - March 31, 1944

	Oats	Barley
	bushels	
On Farms March 31, 1943	362,140,000	135,039,000
New Crop 1943	482,022,000	215,562,000
Total	844,162,000	350,601,000
On Farms March 31, 1944	217,036,000	85,003,000
Disappearance in farm stocks	627,126,000	265,598,000

The disappearance figures shown above represent oats and barley fed in the provinces where it was grown, plus the seed used for the 1943 crop and the quantities delivered to market. The marketings are available only for the Prairie Provinces, but the records show that in this twelve-month period 130,000,000 bushels of oats, or about 20 per cent of the total disappearance in farm stocks, were marketed by western producers. Part of this went back on farms for live-stock feed, part of it was exported, and a small quantity went into the domestic production of human food.

The position with respect to barley shows that western growers delivered to market more than 91,000,000 bushels or about one-third of the farm stock disappearance. These commercial quantities of barley were disposed of in much the same way as oats, but what the figures clearly denote is that an enormous volume of oats and barley was fed to live stock and poultry on Canadian farms during the twelve months ended March 31, 1944.

SHIPMENTS TO UNITED STATES

Shipments of Canadian oats and barley to the United States during the forty weeks ended May 4, 1944 totalled approximately 64,000,000 bushels made up of 41,000,000 bushels of oats and 23,000,000 bushels of barley. Compared with the same forty-week period in the crop year 1942-43, the shipments of oats are up more than 5,000,000 bushels and the shipments of barley about 9,000,000 bushels.

The movement of oats by rail from points in western Canada has been quite substantial this season and has accounted for almost 37 per cent of the total shipments. Provision is being made for the continuation of this movement in United States box cars up to the end of May. Thereafter, it is presumed that the bulk of the grain will move by water from Fort William and Port Arthur.

Barley shipments this season have been made very largely by steamer from the head of the lakes, although about one-sixth of the total shipments reported to May 4 this year went by rail direct from points in the three Prairie Provinces. The twin ports of Duluth-Superior have received the bulk of the barley shipments so far, but almost one-third of the total movement has gone into Buffalo and a small quantity into Milwaukee.

The following table shows shipments of both oats and barley to the United States up to the first week in May this year with comparative figures for last season:

Shipments August 1, 1943 to May 4, 1944

	Oats	Barley
	bushels	
From Fort William-Port Arthur	24,766,692	19,171,760
From Western Country Points	15,343,960	4,063,787
From Pacific Coast Terminals	533,922	-
From Eastern Elevators	174,651	24,435
Total (40 weeks)	40,819,225	23,259,982
Same Period 1942-43	35,371,330	14,555,930

A very tight situation in oats has developed in the United States in recent weeks and there has been a pressing demand for further importations from Canada. The price of Canadian oats imported into the United States has recently been stabilized, so that supplies brought in for resale may be distributed more equitably. Not only are feeders in need of the grain for their live stock, but it is reported that producers of human food have been experiencing difficulty in obtaining their requirements.

RAIL SHIPMENTS FROM FORT WILLIAM-PORT ARTHUR

The movement of grain by rail from Fort William-Port Arthur during the eight months ended April 1944 shows some reduction from the shipments made during the corresponding period in the crop year 1942-43. This is largely due to the falling-off in April, brought about by an early opening of navigation on the Great Lakes and a switch from rail to vessel movement. It is expected that a fairly substantial amount of coarse grains will continue to move to the eastern provinces by rail during the last four months of the crop year to take care of live-stock feed requirements until a new crop is harvested in eastern Canada.

A substantial amount of wheat was moved by rail from the lakehead ports during the winter months, partly to meet feed requirements in the East, but largely to fill the requirements of flour mills in Ontario and Quebec. The movement also included wheat bound for Atlantic seaboard ports for subsequent shipment overseas.

The following table shows the shipments monthly during the present crop year together with comparative figures for last season.

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye
		- bushels -		
1943-44				
August	990,879	2,645,379	1,591,611	-
September	1,547,042	2,925,651	1,866,752	14,700
October	780,035	2,167,058	1,313,810	4,152
November	711,238	1,356,258	821,433	2,000
December	898,565	1,034,982	447,929	-
January	4,364,157	1,377,871	796,385	93,081
February	4,397,318	637,078	174,898	46,723
March	1,076,193	1,766,172	354,718	54,183
April	107,257	1,184,852	382,318	13,562
T o t a l	14,872,684	15,075,301	7,750,354	228,401
1942-43				
August	390,264	571,881	554,283	61,622
September	600,921	712,126	592,467	45,708
October	644,926	1,220,510	1,025,082	77,802
November	1,250,952	1,151,850	1,036,192	90,674
December	3,871,297	1,835,415	1,302,373	36,911
January	1,757,163	2,536,713	613,020	43,070
February	3,196,248	2,817,418	1,055,613	22,677
March	1,997,275	2,550,706	819,749	39,644
April	3,968,148	3,462,003	2,179,358	63,032
T o t a l	17,677,194	16,858,622	9,178,137	481,140

FREIGHT ASSISTANCE SHIPMENTS

Freight assistance claims paid on western Canadian wheat, oats and barley during the first eight months of the current crop year cover a larger volume of grains than was shipped during the entire twelve months ending July 31, 1943. This grain was used for live-stock and poultry feed in the five eastern provinces and British Columbia. Preliminary figures for the eight months ending March this year show that a total of almost 80,000,000 bushels of these three grains moved under the Federal Freight Assistance Policy. This is almost 22,000,000 bushels more than the total claims paid on wheat, oats and barley during the preceding twelve months.

Shipments of oats and barley have been substantially greater this season, and it is apparent at this date that the movement of wheat in the current crop year will exceed that of 1942-43. Smaller quantities of rye and screenings appear in the claims this season but shipments of millfeeds are well maintained and are expected to approximate those of a year ago.

Since the Freight Assistance Policy went into effect in October 1941, the Federal Government had paid out almost $31,000,000 in freight up to the end of March 1944. This does not include monies paid out under the drawback on wheat fed to live stock, which cost the treasury $4,783,962 between August 1, 1942 and March 31, 1944. It also excludes $1,261,547 paid in bonuses under "Plan B" between July 1, 1943 and March 31, 1944.

In the following tables the provincial distribution of feedstuffs eligible for freight assistance is set out for the entire crop year 1942-43 and for the first eight months of the crop year 1943-44.

August 1, 1942 to July 31, 1943

Crop Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Screenings	Millfeeds
	bu.	bu.	bu.	bu.	tons	tons
1942-43						
Ontario	8,497,083	10,243,179	7,042,746	395,493	22,741	203,485
Quebec	6,106,862	7,167,562	6,805,973	135,468	16,532	314,598
New Brunswick	678,671	1,119,947	754,967	27,148	1,417	46,148
Nova Scotia	979,192	1,360,408	1,287,908	19,534	802	51,332
Prince Edward Is. .	393,213	391,776	414,220	3,872	160	12,235
British Columbia ..	2,355,049	1,817,550	863,252	-	3,342	44,174
Total (12 months) .	19,010,070	22,100,422	17,169,066	581,515	44,994	671,972

August 1, to March 31, 1944

1943-44						
Ontario	8,883,935	21,309,432	13,023,654	98,280	19,770	141,297
Quebec	5,584,078	8,856,318	10,458,413	46,230	6,985	165,979
New Brunswick	586,974	1,157,103	950,037	574	430	28,774
Nova Scotia	912,858	1,148,739	1,144,836	1,493	332	32,839
Prince Edward Is. .	383,825	256,424	412,673	475	29	9,155
British Columbia ..	2,080,392	1,539,368	823,142	-	623	36,427
Total (8 months) ..	18,432,062	34,267,384	26,812,755	147,052	28,169	414,471

HOG-BARLEY RATIO

In the following table is shown the number of bushels of barley equivalent in price to 100 pounds of bacon hog at Winnipeg by months from January 1939 to April 1944.

(Long-time Average = 17.2)

Month	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 1/	1944 2/
January	29.4	20.5	21.4	20.0	21.4	18.1
February	31.1	20.0	20.4	20.0	21.4	18.1
March	31.1	20.5	17.6	19.7	22.0	18.2
April	27.9	18.9	17.7	19.5	22.0	18.2
May	25.2	24.2	21.0	18.9	21.9	
June	30.3	31.0	22.0	18.3	21.2	
July	34.8	31.7	23.1	19.4	20.5	
August	31.1	32.2	24.9	21.3	20.4	
September	22.3	31.3	22.1	21.0	20.3	
October	23.3	26.1	22.3	23.4	20.2	
November	23.7	21.0	22.4	23.5	20.8	
December	21.2	23.4	21.1	23.5	21.1	

1/ If the advance Equalization payment of 15 cents per bushel was added to the price of barley, the hog-barley ratio in August and September would stand at 16.2, in October at 16.1, in November at 16.5 and in December at 16.7.

2/ Including Equalization payment on barley and Subsidy on hogs.

FEED AND LIVE-STOCK PRICES

Despite some rise in feed grain prices the index of feed prices and the prices of live stock and live-stock products continues to favour the feeding of grain to animals. The sharp rise of more than 7 points in the index level of animal and animal products between September and October 1943 was due largely to the new milk subsidy, which became effective in October. The following table shows the changes month by month during 1944 with comparative figures for the preceding three years.

Index Numbers of Feed Prices and Prices of Live Stock and Live-Stock Products by Months, 1941-1944

1926=100

Month	1941		1942		1943		1944	
	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal
January	69.6	90.0	102.4	101.5	96.3	116.2	101.4	123.8
February	70.7	91.6	105.8	102.1	100.2	116.8	103.0	124.1
March	72.2	91.8	111.2	102.7	100.0	117.8	102.4	123.7
April	74.3	92.2	109.4	103.7	99.2	118.2	102.6	123.4
May	74.1	93.3	109.3	104.8	100.0	118.7		
June	75.7	94.3	107.2	107.0	99.7	119.4		
July	78.8	96.1	99.9	103.6	99.1	119.4		
August	84.7	97.9	93.8	102.9	97.2	118.6		
September ...	94.8	99.6	89.8	112.3	97.8	117.6		
October	97.2	101.1	90.0	115.5	99.8	125.0		
November	95.8	102.0	88.8	116.3	101.3	125.7		
December	98.0	100.5	93.9	117.3	101.4	126.1		

LIVE-STOCK AND POULTRY POPULATION IN CANADA

The answer to the enormous disappearance of feed grains in Canada during the past two years is to be found in the expansion in live-stock and poultry numbers. Since 1941 the total number of cattle, hogs, horses, sheep, hens and chickens on Canadian farms has increased by about one-third. Hens and chickens have increased by about 14,000,000, hogs by almost 3,000,000 and cattle by about 1,250,000.

Figures compiled on December 1 in each of the past three years showing the numbers of live stock and poultry on farms in Canada are tabulated below, rounded off to even thousands.

	1941	1942	1943
Cattle	8,249,000	8,834,000	9,506,000
Swine	6,527,000	7,751,000	9,473,000
Horses	1,917,000	2,886,000	2,845,000
Sheep	2,254,000	2,483,000	2,733,000
Hens, Chickens	43,459,000	49,781,000	57,512,000
T o t a l s	62,406,000	71,735,000	82,069,000

During the crop year 1942-43 the quantity of oats consumed in Canada for live-stock and poultry feed totalled 433,000,000 bushels, while barley was fed to the extent of 146,000,000 bushels. In addition to this consumption of regular feed grains, no less than 94,000,000 bushels of wheat went toward the maintenance of Canada's live-stock and poultry population.

Preliminary estimates of feeding requirements during the current crop year differ very little in total from the consumption estimated for the crop year 1942-43 although less oats and more wheat are likely to go to animals than was the case last season. The barley figure stands about the same in both years.

Provincial totals of the principal types of live stock and poultry on Canadian farms as at December 1, 1943 are listed below:

	Cattle	Swine	Horses	Sheep	Hens and Chickens
Prince Edward Island	96,700	73,900	28,500	30,300	897,500
Nova Scotia	213,500	79,600	36,400	103,700	1,091,500
New Brunswick	199,200	106,900	46,500	67,300	1,156,800
Quebec	1,765,200	1,289,100	411,800	568,100	10,388,400
Ontario	2,786,300	1,809,400	513,500	486,500	18,597,800
Manitoba	875,000	863,200	300,000	215,000	5,679,000
Saskatchewan	1,614,000	2,182,400	835,800	400,800	10,676,300
Alberta	1,619,900	2,977,400	611,000	775,800	6,860,600
British Columbia	336,400	91,300	61,700	85,500	2,164,600
T o t a l	9,506,200	9,473,200	2,845,200	2,733,000	57,512,500

Compared with December 1, 1942, the numbers of cattle, swine and poultry are substantially higher in every province. The increase in swine numbers in the Prairie Provinces alone amounted to nearly 1,700,000 in this one year, Saskatchewan showing an increase of 814,000, Alberta an increase of 707,000 and Manitoba an increase of 167,000 head.

COMMERCIAL MIXED FEEDS

The production of commercial mixed feeds has been stepped up tremendously in Canada during the past four years and preliminary figures for 1943 show an output of nearly 806,000 tons compared with about 650,000 tons in 1942 and 376,000 tons in 1939. Poultry feeds and concentrates account for more than half the production, but there has been a substantial increase also in the preparation of dairy and cattle feeds, swine feeds and swine concentrates.

Ingredients for the manufacture of these feeds have been in short supply during the past two years but some improvement is now noted in both the animal and vegetable proteins so extensively used in the production of stock and poultry feeds. Linseed oilcake and meal are in better supply than at this time a year ago, while importations of soybean oilcake meal are making up for some of the deficiency in domestic production.

Animal proteins are less scarce than they were in the middle of 1943 due to heavy marketings of live stock, so that the higher protein elements can be obtained much more readily by the stock and poultry feed industry than was the case even a few months ago. The production of brewers' dried grains is being well maintained, while the output of fishmeal, particularly at the Pacific coast, exceeded expectation in 1943 and has made a good start in 1944.

Gluten feed will be less plentiful in 1944 than it was a year ago due to the scarcity of corn for the manufacture of starch and glucose. It may be that the output of gluten feed will be only half or less than half what it was the past year unless corn supplies can be obtained in larger volume than seems possible at the moment.

Production of millfeeds is breaking all records but no floor stocks are accumulating in any of the flour mills and despite the greatly increased output, demand appears not yet to be satisfied. A moderate amount of bran, shorts and middlings goes into the production of prepared stock and poultry feeds, only about 90,000 tons in 1943, but the great bulk of the millfeed is sold to farmers and others who do their own mixing.

In the following table the production of prepared stock and poultry feeds in Canada during the past five years is set out.

Products	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 1/
			- tons -		
Calf meals	4,060	4,628	6,719	10,484	13,878
Dairy and cattle feeds	61,264	67,745	97,048	106,002	124,578
Dairy and cattle concentrates	3,907	5,081	6,691	10,540	18,264
Horse feeds	13,658	11,782	13,935	15,591	10,321
Sheep feeds	246	20	25	8	1
Swine feeds	41,908	45,052	61,510	100,536	134,227
Swine concentrates	10,763	16,216	18,541	32,733	39,432
Poultry feeds	199,588	214,633	242,011	310,755	410,025
Poultry concentrates	12,352	16,453	23,059	30,477	35,924
Other mixed feeds	17,119	20,983	16,976	22,084	12,443
Other mixed concentrates	152	637	579	234	701
Mineral mixtures	10,883	10,027	9,684	10,494	5,824
T o t a l	375,900	413,257	496,778	649,938	805,618

1/ Preliminary figures.

MILLFEEDS

Although the production of bran, shorts and middlings has been of record volume during the current crop year, supplies are disappearing faster than they can be made. The domestic utilization plus exports during the first eight months of the crop year 1943-44 exceeded the production in this period by almost 6,000 tons, the difference coming out of small stocks on hand at the beginning of the season.

Exports are possible only under permit and have been held down to less than 5 per cent of production. These amounted to only 27,000 tons during the eight months ended March 1944, while domestic disappearance in the same period totalled nearly 528,000 tons. The bulk of the domestic consumption can be traced to the five eastern provinces.

The benefits of the Federal Freight Assistance Policy apply to the shipments of millfeed and claims paid during the eight months ended last March show that a total of 414,471 tons had moved with freight assistance during this period. All but 36,427 tons of this total was distributed in the five eastern provinces. Details of the provincial distribution under freight assistance appear elsewhere in this Review.

In the table which follows, the production, exports and domestic disappearance are shown by months:

Production and Use of Millfeeds

1943-44	Production	Exports	Domestic Disappearance
	tons	tons	tons
August	63,862	3,363	61,966
September	67,043	3,627	63,616
October	69,812	3,496	65,298
November	71,057	4,255	67,295
December	70,272	3,229	69,037
January	65,994	3,021	62,746
February	67,747	3,234	67,588
March	73,157	2,864	70,227
Total (8 months)	548,944	27,089	527,773

It may be of interest to record here the breakdown of millfeed production during the first eight months of the current season together with comparative figures for the corresponding period in the crop year 1942-43. The breakdown is as follows:

August-March	Bran	Shorts	Middlings
	tons	tons	tons
1942-43	213,263	200,048	112,524
1943-44	224,048	217,970	106,926

SHELLED CORN

The supply position in shelled corn is critical in the current crop year and drastic measures have had to be adopted by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in order to meet in part the requirements of the processors of corn. An order "freezing" existing stocks of corn became effective on April 17, 1944 with restrictions on the sale of corn as follows:

(1) On and after April 17, 1944, unless authorized in writing by the Co-ordinator, Foods Aministration, or by some other duly authorized representative of the Board, no operator of a licensed elevator in Ontario or Quebec shall sell, supply or deliver any corn to any other person.

(2) On and after April 17, 1944, unless authorized in writing by the Co-ordinator, Foods Administration, or by some other duly authorized representative of the Board,

(a) no processor of corn,

(b) no person who uses corn as a constituent of any product processed or otherwise prepared for sale by him, and

(c) no operator of an elevator which is not a licensed elevator and is situated in Ontario in the County of Essex, Kent, Elgin, Middlesex or Lambton,

who has in Ontario or Quebec a quantity of corn, in excess of 1500 bushels, in stock, in transit to him or which is owned by him but not delivered to him, shall sell, supply or deliver any corn to any other person.

(3) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to sales of corn to a farmer for use as feed on his own farm premises.

Production in Canada of shelled corn in 1943 was light. Acreage was reduced by wet weather in the spring, and a considerable part of the crop was of such poor quality at harvest time that farmers retained most of it for live-stock feed. Commercial marketings were consequently small and fell far short of the ordinary requirements of the starch and glucose trades. Importations from the United States were difficult of procurement and the manufacturers were faced with a shut-down unless corn supplies could be obtained for them.

Since the stocks of corn in elevators etc., were "frozen" a month ago some of the stored corn has been channeled to the starch companies, but supplies are still very far short of requirements. Less than 600,000 bushels of Ontario corn were stored in licensed elevators at the time the "freeze" order was issued but additional amounts were held in unlicensed elevators in south-western Ontario.

The normal domestic requirements of corn in Canada run between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 bushels annually with the starch and glucose trades using about half this amount. The 1943 harvest of shelled corn in Canada was less than 8,000,000 bushels and an unusually large percentage of this crop was retained on farms for feeding purposes owing to the general shortage of feedstuffs in eastern Canada.

Curtailment of operations in the corn starch industry means also the cutting down of supplies of gluten feed, an important protein used quite extensively in the manufacture of commercial mixed feeds.

OIL-BEARING SEEDS

FLAXSEED

A reduction of 30 per cent in the area to be seeded to flaxseed in 1944 compared with 1943 is indicated in the "intentions" of Canadian farmers as at April 30 this year. If put into effect this will mean a reduction of about 900,000 acres from a year ago, and will fall short of the revised objective for 1944 by some 800,000 acres.

Yields of flax were disappointing in 1943 and the season was favourable for weed growth which resulted in the flax plant being choked out or heavily penalized for dockage. Fears were expressed during the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference last December that at least 1,000,000 acres would be dropped in this crop in 1944 and the conference was told that less than 2,000,000 acres would be seeded to flax this year.

The urgent need of vegetable oils and the ready market that awaits the flaxseed crop later brought forth an appeal for at least 2,800,000 acres to be seeded in 1944 and as an inducement the Federal Government agreed to raise the price of the 1944 crop from $2.50 per bushel for No. 1 C.W. flaxseed (basis Fort William) to $2.75 per bushel, effective August 1, 1944.

Crushing facilities have been increased in Canada but these are still capable of crushing only about 6,500,000 bushels of flaxseed in a single year if devoted to nothing else. There is a market in the United States and the United Kingdom, however, currently estimated at close to 20,000,000 bushels in the form of oil and seed, and for this reason Canadian farmers are being urged by the Federal Department of Agriculture to maintain flax acreage.

There has been no restriction on the marketing of flaxseed from farms during the past year as in the case of other grains, and the same conditions will prevail in the 1944-45 crop year. Almost 80 per cent of the 17,600,000 bushels of flaxseed produced in western Canada in 1943 had been delivered by growers at mid-May, leaving only sufficient in their hands to seed the 1944 crop and allow for a small carry-over.

The oil produced from flaxseed serves a number of important industries in Canada, while the by-product of oilcake and oilcake meal occupies a top position among the vegetable proteins so greatly needed for the production of live stock and live-stock products in Canada's greatly expanded wartime agricultural programme.

Consumption of linseed oil by industry during the past two calendar years is set out in the following table:

	1942	1943
	p.c.	p.c.
Paint and Varnish industry	71.5	74.6
Coated fabrics	17.2	13.8
Oil Co. including Core Oil	5.0	4.0
Ink Manufacturers	2.1	2.2
War and Machinery industries	1.6	0.2
Soap Manufacturers	1.3	4.2
Other Manufacturers	1.3	1.0
T o t a l	100.0	100.0

The total consumption of linseed oil in 1942 was almost 53,000,000 pounds and in 1943 it was up over 57,000,000 pounds.

SOYBEAN

Commercial marketings of soybean from the 1943 crop continue small and the total quantity inspected at Ontario points during the eight months August 1943 to April 1944 was only 118,000 bushels. The commercial crop in Ontario has been estimated at 322,600 bushels, but less than 37 per cent of this total has so far come forward for official inspection. A number of small lots have been marketed without inspection, however, so that commercial marketings are estimated in excess of 40 per cent of the estimated commercial crop.

A substantial part of the beans already marketed went to the soy products trade and is, therefore, not available for the production of soybean oil or oilcake meal The crushers are getting a share of the more recent marketings by producers, but the volume is disappointing.

The acreage objective for soybean in 1944 is 90,000 acres, an increase of 78 per cent over the acreage seeded in 1943. Present indications from Ontario farmers do not point the way to any such increase being realized, the intentions figures on April 30 indicating an increase of only 2 per cent over last year's acreage. This figure is only a preliminary one and a further survey will be conducted at the end of May when weather and other factors will probably have determined acreage plans for this year.

No change in the floor price of $1.96 for No. 1 Beans has been announced although official consideration has been given to this matter in connection with the achievement of acreage goals for 1944.

The oil produced from soybean is used largely for edible purposes, the latest estimate of usage indicating about 90 per cent of the production going into foods including shortening, salad oils and salad dressings, etc. The oilcake and oilcake meal which is a by-product of the oil production is a high protein feed greatly in demand.

RAPESEED

The acreage objective for rapeseed in 1944 is 10,000 acres but at this date no indication of acreage has been obtained from growers. The acreage seeded in 1943 was estimated at just over 4,000 acres, chiefly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but the marketings do not support the estimate of production.

Deliveries to the Canadian Wheat Board up to mid-February this year totalled less than 600,000 pounds out of an estimated production of 2,822,000 pounds and there is evidence that as in the case of sunflower seed, the estimate of acreage sown, which was based on the amount of seed distributed to growers, was too high.

The Federal Minister of Trade and Commerce announced in the House of Commons on April 27, 1944 that the Government's policy for the crop year 1944-45 was to continue the price paid in the present crop year. This means that the Canadian Wheat Board will be empowered to purchase rapeseed at 6 cents per pound, delivered f.o.b. shipping points which will be designated by the Board. This price applies to top grades of rapeseed.

Oil produced from rapeseed is used for marine engines and the total consumption of rapeseed oil in Canada in 1942 was 1,255,918 pounds. The amount used in 1943 was slightly less at 1,141,812 pounds.

SUNFLOWER SEED

A survey of growers to whom sunflower seed was distributed in 1943 was recently completed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the results reveal that not only was the estimate of acreage, which was based on the distribution of seed, much too high, but a considerable proportion of the seeded acreage was not harvested due to frost damage, failure of the crop to mature and damage caused by birds.

The records of the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture show that seed was distributed to about 725 growers in the three Prairie Provinces, sufficient to plant about 29,000 acres. Manitoba got sufficient for 14,000 acres, Saskatchewan enough for 14,500 acres and the balance of 500 acres was credited to Alberta. The results of the recent survey change this picture greatly as will be noted from the following figures:

	Original Estimate	Actually Seeded	Actually Harvested
	acres	acres	acres
Manitoba	14,000	5,100	4,270
Saskatchewan	14,500	12,100	7,600
Alberta	500	1,100	500
T o t a l	29,000	18,300	12,370

It will be seen that the harvested acreage was only about 42 per cent of the original estimate of acreage seeded, and that the abandonment of acreage actually seeded was almost 37 per cent. The estimates of yield at harvest time were applied to the original acreage, estimated on the basis of seed distribution, consequently the estimate of production was high.

The revised estimate of the production of sunflower seed in 1943 based on the questionnaire sent to growers now places the total crop at 5,302,500 pounds distributed by provinces as follows:

	Acres Seeded	Acres Harvested	Yield per acre	Production
	acres	acres	pounds	pounds
Manitoba	5,100	4,270	650	2,775,500
Saskatchewan ...	12,100	7,600	320	2,432,000
Alberta	1,100	500	190	95,000
T o t a l	18,300	12,370	429	5,302,500

About four-fifths of this production had been delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board by May 10, 1944, made up of approximately 2,500,000 pounds in Manitoba, 1,700,000 pounds in Saskatchewan and less than 7,000 pounds in Alberta. In addition, a substantial quantity had been sold to seed houses in the Prairie Provinces or delivered to the Experimental Farms at Morden, Brandon and Saskatoon.

The quantity remaining on farms for delivery as of March 10, 1944 was less than 500,000 pounds, while at the same date growers reported that they were holding 120,000 pounds for seed for the 1944 crop.

Acreage Distribution

The distribution of acreage seeded to sunflower seed in 1943 shows that in Manitoba the production was concentrated in Crop District No. 3 with scattered fields in Crop Districts 1, 2, 4 and 7. A little was planted in Crop District 10, but it was not harvested.

Saskatchewan's acreage was scattered through every crop district but was heaviest in 6A, 6B, 7B and 9A, these four districts accounting for almost half the seeded acreage. A substantial amount was grown also between Regina and Swift Current and south to the international border.

In Alberta, most of the acreage was seeded in the southern crop districts Nos. 1 and 2, but conditions over part of that area were very unfavourable and the low yield per acre in Alberta, together with abandonment showed the experiment in 1943 to be not a very profitable one for growers there.

1944 Objective

The acreage objective set for 1944 is 50,000 acres but the experience of many farmers with this new crop in 1943 gives little promise that anything like this acreage will be planted in 1944. No change has been made in the price which the Canadian Wheat Board will pay for the 1944 crop, this being 5 cents per pound for top grades, f.o.b. shipping points to be designated by the Board.

Crushing facilities for sunflower seed are expected to be in operation this fall at Altona, Manitoba, and Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan, while a small plant now exists in Saskatoon. None of the 1943 crop has yet been processed and the quantity in store in elevators licensed by the Board of Grain Commissioners was 4,501,485 pounds on May 4, 1944. More than half of this quantity was held in eastern elevators, over 1,000,000 pounds in western country elevators or interior terminals, and almost 1,000,000 pounds at Fort William and Port Arthur.

The oil produced from sunflower seed is among the best for edible use. The consumption of this oil in Canada is quite substantial, the figures for 1942 showing a total of 18,000,000 pounds consumed and in 1943 a total of over 34,000,000 pounds. Sunflower oil has been imported from Argentina in recent years.

Other Producers

Russia is the largest producer of sunflower seed and Argentina is now running second, having displaced Roumania. Other important producers in the years before the war were Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

The growth of sunflower production in Argentina in the past ten years has been very extensive and the 1944 crop which has just been harvested is estimated to be of record size, or in the neighbourhood of two and one-half billion pounds. Less than one-third of this total would take care of domestic requirements in Argentina, so that a very substantial surplus now exists there.

A price of 13 pesos per quintal equal to $1.76 per 100 pounds in United States currency is guaranteed by the Argentine Government to the growers of sunflower seed and while this price is low in comparison to the price guaranteed to Canadian growers, its announcement last fall resulted in a record number of acres being planted to sunflower seed.

OILCAKE AND OILCAKE MEAL

The tremendous expansion in Canada's live-stock and poultry production during the war years has led to an unprecedented demand for oilcake and oilcake meal. Supplies of these by-products of the oil-seed crushing industry have increased with the enlargement of the crushing capacity in Canada but for the past two years the supplies have been a long way short of actual requirements.

Flaxseed has been the principal source of oilcake meal available to the domestic market and for the past two seasons production of flaxseed in Canada has been sufficiently large to ensure full operation of the crushing industry. Production of linseed oilcake and oilcake meal in Canada increased almost 70 per cent between 1939 and 1942, while domestic consumption in the same period more than doubled.

Production of soybean oilcake and meal in Canada has been relatively small but substantial quantities have been imported annually and the consumption has been at a high level during the past two years. Like linseed oilcake meal, the by-product of soybean has been in heavy demand for use in the manufacture of commercial mixed feeds, the volume of which has risen with the expansion of the live-stock industry in Canada and the wartime demand for animal and poultry products.

The following table sets out the production, imports, exports and domestic consumption of linseed oilcake and oilcake meal in Canada since 1934 and partial statistics covering soybean oilcake and oilcake meal for a similar period.

Linseed Oilcake and Oilcake Meal

	Production	Imports	Exports	Domestic Consumption
		- pounds -		
1934	45,878,000	2,000	12,861,000	33,019,000
1935	57,922,644	242,000	11,481,500	46,683,144
1936	73,561,975	213,200	14,702,100	59,073,075
1937	82,498,000	163,200	12,279,100	70,382,100
1938	57,166,000	405,900	10,152,200	47,419,700
1939	70,744,000	214,000	16,792,000	54,166,000
1940	94,146,000	245,000	15,206,100	79,184,900
1941	104,182,000	4,623,900	9,440,500	99,365,400
1942	118,878,000	1,150,000	1,515,600	118,512,400
1943	136,800,000	nil	158,600	136,641,400

Soybean Oilcake and Oilcake Meal

1934	1/	3,799,700	-	Not
1935	1/	11,930,000	-	
1936	1,144,669	5,287,500	-	Avail-
1937	3,363,025	20,802,500	-	
1938	3,302,389	47,671,300	-	able
1939	4,528,000	44,965,300	-	
1940	2/	42,614,400	-	
1941	2/	41,795,600	-	
1942	2/	33,556,700	-	
1943	2/	32,913,800	-	

1/ Not available. 2/ Figures confidential, less than three companies producing.

PRICES

Monthly Average of Closing Prices, Basis in Store Fort William-Port Arthur

	Crop Year 1943-44								
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	cents and eighths per bushel								
OATS									
No. 2 C. W.	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4
No. 3 C. W.	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4
No. 1 Feed	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4	51/4
No. 2 Feed	51/4	51/2	51/4	51/4	50/4	50	50	50/1	51
No. 3 Feed	50/4	50/4	51	50	49/6	49	49	49/7	50
BARLEY									
Nos. 1 and 2 C.W. 6-Row	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6
Nos. 3 C.W. 6-Row	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6
Nos. 1 and 2 C.W. 2-Row	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6
No. 1 Feed	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6
No. 2 Feed	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6
No. 3 Feed	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/6	64/1	63/6	63/6	63/6	63/6
RYE									
No. 2 C.W.	93/3	99/2	109/4	115/1	119/2	124/7	125	127/3	131/6
No. 3 C.W.	88/3	94/2	104/4	111/1	114/3	119/7	120	122/2	126/7
No. 4 C.W.	84	87/4	95	101/1	105/2	110/7	111/5	113/7	121/3
Ergoty	82	85/4	93	99/1	103/2	108/7	109/5	111/6	116/6
Rejected 2 C.W.	85/3	89/4	97	103/1	107/2	112/7	113/5	115/6	120/3
FLAXSEED									
No. 1 C.W.	250								
No. 2 C.W.	246			Fixed Prices					
No. 3 C.W.	237								
No. 4 C.W.	233								
CORN									
3 C.W. Yellow 20% moisture	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80