

APR 14 1942

MONTHLY DAIRY REVIEW OF CANADA 1942

LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

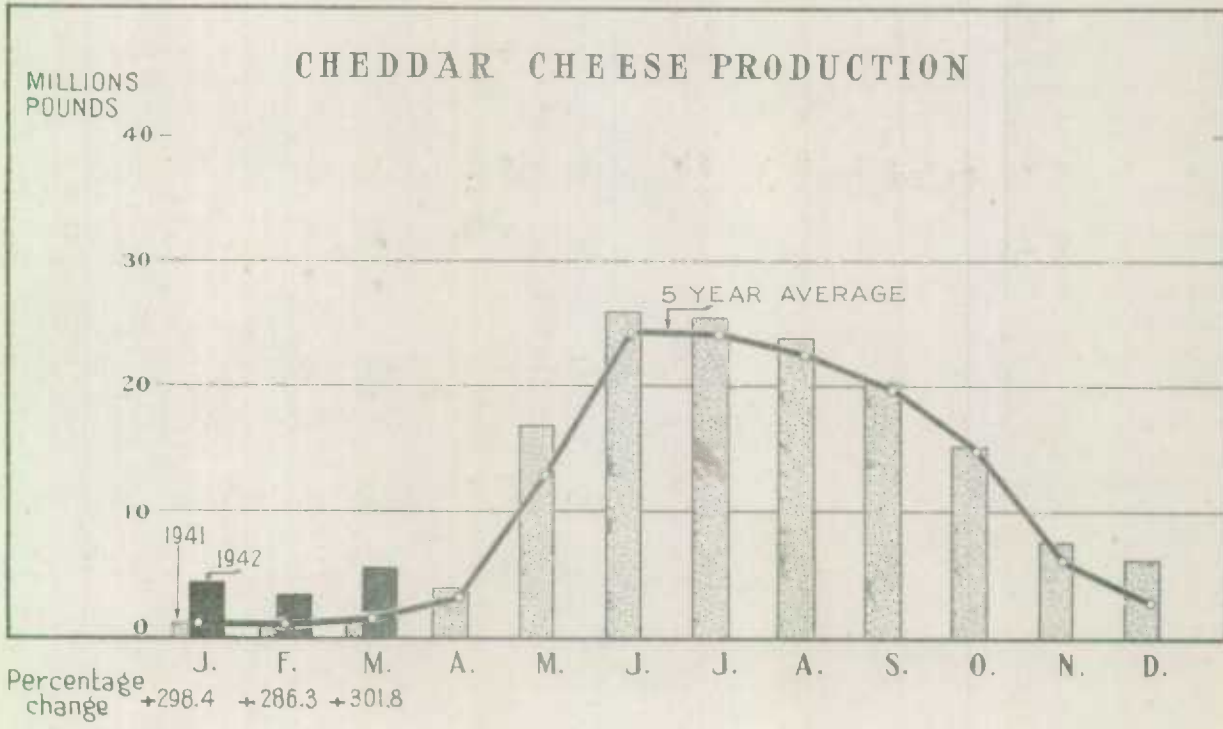
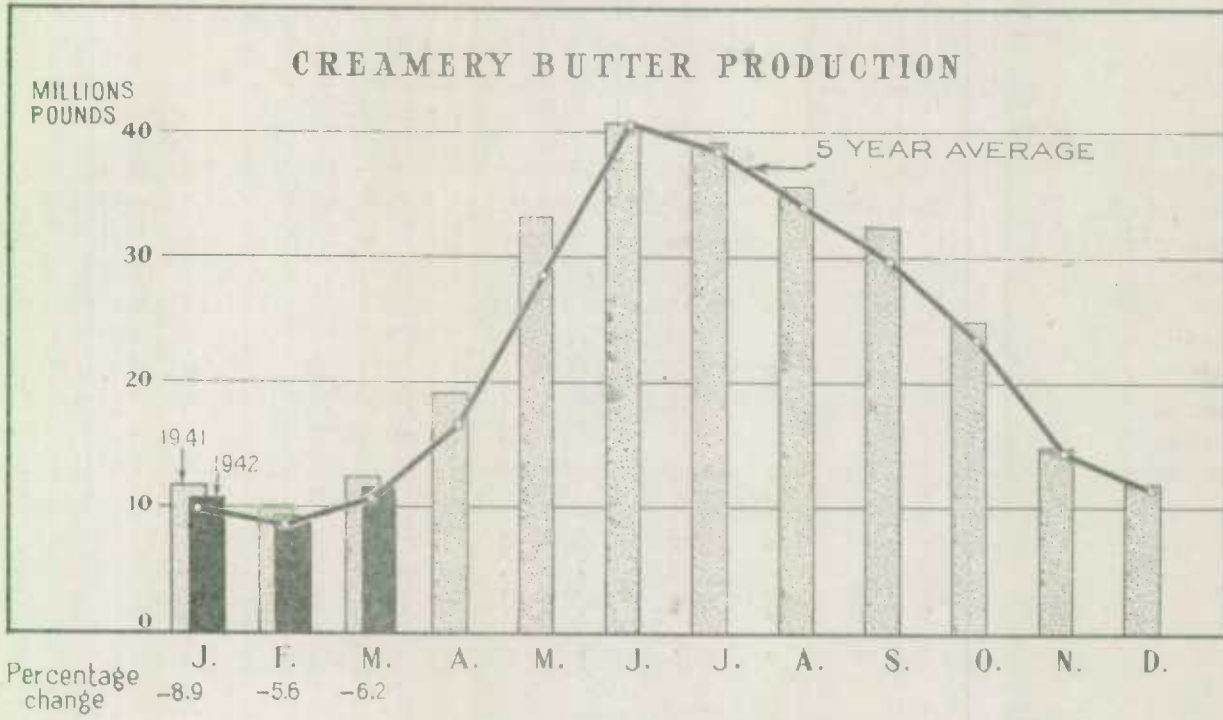
Acting Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Agricultural Branch:
In Charge of Dairying Statistics:

S. A. Cudmore, M.A., (Oxon.), F.S.S., F.R.S.C.
C. F. Wilson, Ph.D.
P. H. Ferguson, M.Sc.

Series XI, Report No. 3

MARCH

Issued April 10, 1942.



I - PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES.

MARCH AND THE CUMULATIVE JANUARY TO MARCH, 1941 AND 1942.

Province	MARCH			JANUARY TO MARCH		
	1941	1942	% Change	1941	1942	% Change
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	12,432,727	11,661,677	(-) 6.2	34,145,911	31,773,997	(-) 6.9
Prince Edward Island	79,627	87,509	(+) 9.9	230,739	265,028	(+) 14.9
Nova Scotia	359,135	352,936	(-) 1.7	1,078,431	1,060,893	(-) 1.6
New Brunswick	111,868	109,846	(-) 1.8	286,245	284,504	(-) 0.6
Quebec	1,069,711	971,430	(-) 9.2	3,271,489	2,212,082	(-) 32.4
Ontario	5,100,561	4,609,029	(-) 9.6	14,061,209	12,572,542	(-) 10.6
Manitoba	1,733,620	1,465,416	(-) 15.5	4,516,180	4,186,418	(-) 7.3
Saskatchewan	1,673,351	1,845,431	(+) 10.3	4,524,908	5,053,860	(+) 11.7
Alberta	1,777,796	1,879,042	(+) 5.7	4,857,329	5,042,478	(+) 3.8
British Columbia	526,558	346,983	(-) 35.2	1,519,371	1,096,192	(-) 16.9

II - PRODUCTION OF CHEDDAR CHEESE IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES.

MARCH AND THE CUMULATIVE JANUARY TO MARCH, 1941 AND 1942.

Province	MARCH			JANUARY TO MARCH		
	1941	1942	% Change	1941	1942	% Change
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	1,388,108	5,577,016	(+) 301.3	3,454,729	13,693,978	(+) 296.4
Prince Edward Island	-	11,993	-	5,195	29,183	(+) 461.8
New Brunswick	-	60,638	-	-	161,220	-
Quebec	69,436	1,077,137	(+) 1451.3	292,285	3,044,493	(+) 941.6
Ontario	871,814	3,639,294	(+) 317.4	2,071,138	8,491,016	(+) 310.0
Manitoba	226,776	416,279	(+) 83.6	494,117	983,977	(+) 99.1
Saskatchewan	-	2,283	-	-	3,299	-
Alberta	162,254	296,389	(+) 82.7	438,436	781,515	(+) 78.3
British C Columbia	57,828	73,000	(+) 26.2	153,558	196,275	(+) 27.8

THE DAIRY SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES

REPORTED BY DAIRY FARM OBSERVERS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - On account of heavy autumn rains pastures were good until late in the season and dairy cattle entered the winter in nice condition. Farmers have ample roughage and possibly sufficient grain. There is a shortage of roots, however, and prices have advanced to 30 cents a bushel. Farmers will have enough hay to see them through the winter, but a shortage in other provinces has advanced the price to \$14. a ton. More concentrates are being fed although linseed oil cake is now selling at \$2.65 a hundred. Western grains are available but many local dealers find it difficult to handle such feed in carload lots. There is a general feeling in the province that farmers are in a difficult position through limited outlets for milk. With a small fluid milk market and no powder plants most of the milk has to be marketed through creameries and a few cheese factories that operate during the winter.

NOVA SCOTIA - Cold weather in late autumn improved pastures, but regardless of better feed conditions many herds went into winter quarters in comparatively poor condition. There was a good hay crop although the quality was below standard. Apparently supplies have lasted fairly well. Farmers are short of roots owing to the poor crops last year. Digby county seems to be an exception where fair crops of both roots and alfalfa were harvested. Concentrated feeds are being fed in larger quantities than in the preceding year where such feeds are available. Many feeds are off the market and a new product, corn distiller's grains is coming into use in some districts. Farm help is scarce. There is a marked demand for fluid milk and new sources of supply are being explored.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Farmers are feeding their herds better than usual, which may be credited to a good supply of home-grown feed, importation of low-cost Western Grains, and higher prices for Dairy Products. Dairy herds are in good condition. There is plenty of moisture in the soil and providing favourable weather prevails in the early Spring pastures should make an early start. Farmers are encouraged by higher prices and the situation may be sufficiently attractive to extend dairying enterprises. The limiting factor, however, is the shortage of farm help. Many farm workers are finding more lucrative employment in the lumber and ship building industry.

QUEBEC - There was a shortage of hay in this province, and prices have advanced to \$20. a ton, about twice that of the previous year. Supplies of home grown feeds have run low on many farms, but supplemented by Western grains which have been imported in considerable quantities, there will be sufficient to meet requirements. Dairy cows are not in particularly good flesh, and some herds have shown the effects of poor feeding. There is no shortage of fluid milk except in districts where war plants are in operation. Farmers hauling to powder milk factories or selling their product to fluid distributors are well satisfied with prices. The market for mill feeds and concentrates has been enlarged, but the purchase of same is confined more or less to those supplying the fluid trade. Industries are attracting men from farms in many localities, thus producing a shortage of labour for farm work. The subsidy given to producers of fluid and manufacturing milk has tended to extend the territories served by dairies and milk plants, and the output or distribution of these products show a considerable increase.

ONTARIO - Many farms in this province yielded light hay crops last year; hence roughage was short this winter, though the quality was good and fed out better than usual. Those who had to purchase hay paid double that of the previous year and in some districts there was very little for sale. In nearly every part of the province more feed is being purchased, particularly mill feeds and Western grains. There is a smaller variety of concentrated feeds available and prices are high, but better markets for fluid and cheese milk has greatly increased the sale of same over that of 1941. The snowfall was light this season and the water level was somewhat low. There was no water shortage, however, with the possible exception of limited areas of Southern Ontario. The payment of subsidies on fluid milk is general throughout the province. There is a shortage of labour and farmers are finding it difficult to operate large scale enterprises.

The payment of subsidies coupled with maximum cheese prices has helped the situation. An extension of dairying operations would be expected to develop in districts favoured with special markets for fluid and manufacturing milk. A special survey of Perth county forecast an increase of 3 to 5 percent in the number of cows available for milking purposes this coming season as compared with 1941.

MANITOBA - With the exception of North Western Manitoba there was plenty of fall pasture in all districts and ample quantities of hay were provided for Winter use. Farms were well stocked with oats and barley and there is still some surplus supplies of feed wheat. Bran prices were high in relation to butter fat, but low grain prices permitted farmers to feed dairy cows with reasonable economy. There seems to be little change in the purchases of either concentrates or mill feeds. Dairy farming was adversely affected by the movement of labour from farms to urban centres where war work has proved attractive, and this is expected to be a limiting factor in the output of dairy products in 1942. Fluid milk was delivered to dairies in Winnipeg at the base price of \$2.33 per hundred and butter fat is fetching 34 cents per pound delivered at the creameries.

SASKATCHEWAN - The winter season was somewhat abnormal, with low snow fall and high temperatures. There was a fair hay crop but other classes of roughage were less plentiful. Ordinary hay is being retailed in many districts at \$10. and \$12. a ton and Alfalfa is selling at \$14. to \$18. Bran has remained steady at \$23. a ton. The feeding of concentrated feeds is very limited and although there may be a slight increase in the feeding of mill feeds most farmers are dependent on home grown grain. On account of the shortage of oats and barley in some districts and the low prices of wheat which might be bought at elevators for about 58 cents per bushel, the latter has been extensively employed in the feeding of dairy herds. Help is scarce, due to enlistments and to more attractive employment elsewhere. The best dairy cows are selling at \$125. to \$135. and heifers two years old at \$100. or more. There was a slight shortage of water in north-central Saskatchewan but other districts were well supplied. Base prices of fluid milk in controlled areas ranged from \$2.35 to \$2.81 per hundred and \$1.62 per hundred for the secondary product.

ALBERTA - Dairy herds grazed late in the Fall with a consequent low feed cost, and went into winter in a nice condition. The hay crop was badly cured and a shortage was indicated as the season advanced. There was no shortage of grain, and considerable quantities of wheat were fed where other grain was not available. There was little change in the feeding of mill feeds and concentrates as compared with other years as farmers depend largely on the use of home grown products. The extension of beef and hog production will limit the development of dairying to some extent while existing prices continue. Those engaged at dairying are finding it more profitable, however, on account of higher prices, and will continue to operate if not limited by shortage of farm help. Wages are reported to be about 30 per cent higher than last year owing to a general shortage of farm help. Hay prices were about 50 per cent higher than they were a year ago and grain prices have slightly increased. Many fluid milk producers who purchase feed are of the opinion that feed costs have risen above the revenue obtained. Since butter fat is being produced as a by-product of grain farming where low cost feeds are available, the higher prices paid by creameries may tend to give some encouragement to the dairy industry.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - Heavy fall rains ruined a great deal of the hay crop in the province last fall and led to a shortage in the winter supply. The feed situation was solved to considerable extent by the importation of low cost Western Grains. Bran is selling up to \$26 a ton and hay prices have advanced 75 per cent above those of the previous year. There has been some reduction in the supply of fluid milk in the Okanagan and Skeena Valley, and in many districts of the province there is a tendency to reduce the numbers in dairy herds rather than to increase them. Milk is selling at 10 cents a quart in Vancouver. Farmers are obtaining \$2 or less for fluid and 35 cents for butter fat delivered to creameries. It is believed that the income from dairy production has not advanced in proportion to feed prices and the shortage of farm help promises to limit the development in dairy farming in many cases. In some sections it is the opinion that some reduction in the milk supply may occur.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN CANADA

(March, 1942)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION in March decreased approximately 6 per cent as compared with the March make of 1941 and increased 24 per cent, as compared with the output for the preceding month. During the month of March 11.7 million pounds of butter were produced and during the three months ending March, the output reached a total of 31.8 million pounds. The decrease in the March make occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

CHEESE PRODUCTION increased approximately 302 per cent in March as compared with March, 1941, and increased 50 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. The March make was approximately 5.6 million pounds and the total for the three months, January to March, amounted to 13.7 million pounds. The increase in the March make occurred in all provinces.

The production of CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS for the month of February registered a decrease of approximately 6 per cent as compared with the same month last year and an increase of 3 per cent as compared with the preceding month. During February 9.4 million pounds of Concentrated Whole Milk Products were manufactured in Canada and 2.0 million pounds of Concentrated Milk By-Products. EVAPORATED MILK included in the former decreased approximately 11 per cent as compared with the same month last year and increased approximately 13 per cent as compared with the preceding month. SKIM MILK POWDER included in the latter showed decreases compared with the same month last year and with the preceding month, of 7 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. During the two months January and February, 18.1 million pounds of Concentrated Whole Milk Products and 4.4 million pounds of Concentrated Milk By-Products were produced in condenseries and creameries in the Dominion, making a total of 11.4 million pounds for February and 22.5 million pounds for the two months ended February.

CREAMERY BUTTER PRICES at Montreal, as quoted daily by the Canadian Commodity Exchange for the first grade product, averaged 35 1/4 cents a pound, compared with 35 cents in March, 1941. Export cheese at Montreal based on daily quotations, averaged 16 cents in March compared with 14 cents in March, 1941. Domestic cheese at Montreal averaged 25 1/4 cents in February and 25 1/2 cents in March, 1942.

The combined output of creamery butter and cheddar cheese during the month of March represented the equivalent of 335.5 million pounds of milk, registering an increase of approximately 28.9 million pounds as compared with the combined make in terms of milk for the same month a year ago. Creamery butter represented 81.4 per cent and cheese represented 18.6 per cent of the total.

The domestic disappearance of butter in the month of February amounted to 20.8 million pounds, representing an increase of 9.0 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 4.3 per cent in comparison with the preceding month. This estimate is based on storage and transit stocks amounting to 21.5 million pounds at March 1, 1942, and exports and imports amounting to 31,500 pounds and 219 pounds, respectively.



Dairy Production Conditions

The month of March was mild with comparatively heavy falls of snow in the Eastern Provinces and parts of Manitoba. The precipitation was rather light in many parts of the Western Prairies and a normal rain fall was reported from several stations in British Columbia. Snow is disappearing from fields and roadways in most sections of the Dominion and the coming of Spring is possibly a week or ten days ahead of the average season. In the Maritime Provinces precipitation was above normal; the weather was more or less unsettled with less than the usual amount of sunshine. Lennoxville, Quebec received 37 inches of snow during the month, the highest on record. A normal precipitation was reported at Ottawa but at Kapuskasing lying further to the north there was a snow fall of 35 inches. At Morden, Manitoba 37 inches of snow was recorded, three times the normal precipitation at that station; whereas in the Western Prairies and in British Columbia the precipitation fluctuated slightly above or below normal. Temperatures were high in most sections of the Dominion and the hours of sunshine were unusually low.

Favourable moisture conditions were reported from many parts of Canada (see provincial summaries) and if suitable weather conditions continue pastures are expected to make an early start. Feed has been holding out well, and in spite of the shortage of hay in many sections of the Central Provinces dairy herds are being well cared for and production has been maintained at a high level. Baled hay is gone up in price and is now quoted on the Montreal market at \$27.50 a ton as against \$22.00 last month and \$12.75 at this time last year. Oats is now quoted at approximately 60 cents, which is down slightly from last month but represents a 15 cent advance over that quoted at the end of March 1941.

Farmers appear to be holding their cows for milking purposes except in some cases where farm help has forced changes in the agricultural programme. The numbers sold for export in both February and March were slightly greater than in the same months in the preceding year. The total holdings on the farms of the dairy correspondents, however, showed an increase in February over those reported in February 1941. The percentage of cows milking has also advanced, moving from 59.9 per cent in February 1941 to 63 per cent in February 1942.

Milk production shows a small increase in comparison with the production of February last year. This was due, of course, to the increased numbers employed for milking purposes. Production per cow based on those actually milking was 20.7 pounds per cow per day as compared with 21.4 pounds in the corresponding month of the preceding year. Less butter was made on farms and smaller quantities were used in farm homes and for the feeding of livestock. The domestic disappearance of butter in March advanced to nearly 22 million pounds as against 20.8 million pounds in February 1942 and 19.8 million pounds in March 1941. Although butter production is still below the corresponding period of the preceding year it is apparent that adequate supplies will be available to meet normal requirements.