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INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, MARCH, 1951 (1935-39 = 100)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its regular monthly report on the index numbers of prices received by Canadian farmers at the farm for agricultural products. The index numbers for March 1951 are initially released along with data for February 1951, March 1950 and annual figures for 1948, 1949 and 1950. An historical series of index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products is carried in the Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics. Most of the price information used in compiling this index is obtained from reports furnished monthly by volunteer farm correspondents throughout Canada.

The index of farm prices of agricultural products set a new record when it rose to 280.8 in March. This figure compares with the previous record high of 272.0 established in February and 252.4 for the month of March 1950. The rise in the March index results from a continued rise in livestock prices and increased prices for dairy products, poultry and eggs. Some slight increase was registered for grains due to higher prices in eastern Canada and British Columbia.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (1935-39 = 100)

| Province | MONTHLY INDEX | | | ANNUAL INDEX | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| | March 1951 | Feb. 1951 | March 1950 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 |
| P.E.I. | 203.1 | 199.9 | 180.1 | 188.3 | 203.9 | 236.6 |
| N. S. | 219.6 | 216.4 | 199.6 | 203.4 | 210.5 | 214.1 |
| N. B. | 230.0 | 224.1 | 208.7 | 216.1 | 220.2 | 250.4 |
| Que. | 301.8 | 291.9 | 251.8 | 260.4 | 261.3 | 265.6 |
| Ont. | 314.3 | 302.7 | 252.8 | 265.2 | 257.8 | 258.6 |
| Man. | 279.3 | 269.5 | 267.9 | 264.9 | 262.8 | 259.6 |
| Sask. | 236.5 | 229.8 | 249.4 | 239.3 | 248.8 | 247.1 |
| Alta. | 283.3 | 275.5 | 266.9 | 265.2 | 265.6 | 262.9 |
| B. C. | 271.2 | 266.8 | 233.0 | 244.3 | 245.1 | 240.2 |
| CANADA | 280.8 | 272.0 | 252.4 | 255.2 | 255.4 | 255.8 |

Note:- Data for Newfoundland not available.

Prepared in Research Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION.



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Current prairie farm prices for wheat, oats and barley are initial prices only, paid by the Canadian Wheat Board under the terms of the government authorized compulsory marketing scheme. Effective February 1, 1951 and retroactive to August 1, 1950, initial prices were raised from \$1.40 to \$1.60 per bushel for wheat, basis No. 1 Northern, from 65 to 75 cents for oats, basis No. 2 C. W. and from 93 cents to \$1.13 for barley, basis No. 3 C. W. 6 Row, in store Fort William-Port Arthur. In addition to the initial payments made at the time of delivery, producer certificates are issued to the grower covering quantities and grades delivered. These certificates entitle producers to share in any surpluses accumulated by the Board through the sale of these grains delivered to the Board during the crop year August 1, 1950 to July 31, 1951. Any participation payments made on these grains at a later date will be added to the initial prices currently used in the price index and the index revised upwards accordingly.

The prices used in computing the index are, as closely as can be determined, the prices which are actually received by farmers. Thus the storage, transportation, processing and handling charges which are not actually received by farmers are not included. On the other hand, subsidies, bonuses and premiums which can be attributed to specific products are all included to date.

The amounts paid per bushel on wheat participation certificates are included in the wheat prices up to July 1945. Subsequently, wheat prices include the ten cents per bushel retroactive increase announced on July 30, 1946 and paid on the 1945 crop, the 20 cent retroactive payment made on all wheat delivered during the crop years 1945-46, 1946-47, and up to April 1, 1948, and the 20 cents per bushel payment made on all wheat delivered during the crop years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and up to April 1, 1949. They also include the recent 20 cent increase in the initial price of wheat made retroactive to August 1, 1950 and the 8.3 cent final payment made on all wheat delivered during the period August 1, 1945 to July 31, 1950.

Oats and barley prices include advance equalization payments until their discontinuance on March 18, 1947 and the adjustment payments made by the Canadian Wheat Board and Western grain companies on deliveries of these grains from August 1 to October 21, 1946 when price ceilings were removed. In addition, oats and barley prices include final equalization payments up to July 1948 and participation payments made on the 1949 crops. From August 1, 1946 to March 17, 1947, barley prices include the 10 cent adjustment payment made in respect of barley delivered during that period. From August 1, 1950 to January 31, 1951, prices of oats and barley include the retroactive payments of 10 and 20 cents respectively made in connection with the recent increase in the initial price paid to producers at time of delivery.

Flax prices include the adjustment payments of 50 cents per bushel made on all deliveries of commercial flaxseed during the 1947-48 crop year.

In compiling the index the fixed base weighted aggregative method has been used. Each commodity has been weighted by the annual average amounts sold in the five-year base period 1935-39. No adjustments for seasonal variation of the prices have been made. The index is based upon prices for about 50 farm products which contributed approximately 90 per cent to the total cash income received by farmers from the sale of farm products during the base period. The series is subject to revision as more complete data become available.

May 8, 1951.