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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

OTTAWA

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PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS,August, 1952 (1935-39=100)

The Dominion composite price index of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm family living costs, dropped 0.9 per cent from 229.8 in April 1952 to 227.7 in August. Compared with August, 1951 this index decreased 0.4 per cent. The composite index, exclusive of living costs, recorded an advance of 0.1 per cent to 243.4 between April and August, and 2.4 per cent over the August 1951 level.

Within the farm operating component of the index, farm wages advanced 3.9 per cent to 471.9 between April and August with the Eastern series rising 3.4 per cent to 447.4 and the Western series 4.6 per cent to 506.8. The index for farm equipment and materials receded 2.0 per cent to 212.5 between April and August although there has been an increase of 2.4 per cent since August 1951. Among major group changes the feed index decreased 6.6 per cent to 221.1 between April and August while a decline of 3.9 per cent to 223.7 was registered by the seed index. Small decreases were noted for farm machinery, hardware items, fertilizers and gasoline, oil and grease. Binder twine prices remained unchanged while building materials moved up slightly.

Farm family living costs declined 2.6 per cent to 204.1 in August from 209.6 in April, with almost parallel movements occurring in the east and west indexes. The index now stands 4.9 per cent below the August 1951 level of 214.7. Indexes for clothing and foods dropped 5.2 per cent to 227.4 and 4.5 per cent to 228.8 respectively between April and August. The miscellaneous items index declined 0.3 per cent to 124.4, while the fuel and household equipment indexes increased 0.4 per cent each to 194.8 and 230.2. Health maintenance costs advanced 1.7 per cent to 179.2.



