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Average farm values 1918

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Ottawa, March 11, 1919. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes to-day its annual report on average farm values for the year 1918, consisting of estimates of (1) the values of farm land; (2) of the wages paid for farm help; and (3) the value of farm live stock and of wool. These estimates have been compiled from the returns of a numerous corps of Crop Correspondents throughout Canada.

AVERAGE VALUES OF FARM LAND.

According to the returns received, the average value of farm land for the Dominion, including both improved and unimproved land, together with dwelling houses, barns, stables and other farm buildings, is \$46 per acre, as compared with \$44 in 1917, \$41 in 1916, \$40 in 1915 and \$38 in 1914. By provinces, the value is highest in British Columbia, viz. \$149, this being exactly the same figure as in 1917. The higher value per acre in this province is due to orcharding and fruit-growing. Quebec and Ontario have the same average per-1917-in-Que value per acre, viz., \$57, the average for 1917 in Quebec being, however, \$53, whilst in Ontario it was \$55 in Prince Edward Island the value is \$44 as in 1917; in Nova Scotia it is \$36 against \$34; in New Brunswick \$35 against \$29; in Manitoba \$32 against \$31; in Saskatchewan \$29 against \$26 and in Alberta \$28 against \$27.

AVERAGE WAGES OF FARM HELP.

The average wages paid for farm help in 1918 show a substantial increase as compared with the previous year, and are again the highest on record. For the whole of Canada, the average wages per month of farm help during the summer, inclusive of board, are for males \$70 as compared with \$64 in 1917, and for females \$38 as compared with \$34. For the complete year, including board the wages averaged for males \$617 and for females \$416, as compared with \$611 and \$364, respectively in 1917. The average value of board per month is \$21 for males and \$17 for females, as against \$19 and \$15 in 1917. Compared by provinces, the average wages per month for male and female help, respectively, in the summer season, including board, were in 1918 in order of value as follows: British Columbia \$89 and \$57; Alberta \$86 and \$50; Saskatchewan \$86 and \$49; Manitoba \$78 and \$45; New Brunswick \$69 and \$31; Quebec \$65 and \$33; Ontario \$62 and \$35; Nova Scotia \$60 and \$30; Prince Edward Island \$46 and \$25.

VALUES OF FARM LIVE STOCK AND OF WOOL.

Horses show little difference in value as compared with 1917; but the value of all descriptions of horned cattle has again increased. The prices of sheep are also higher, but swine are somewhat less. For the Dominion as a whole, horses under one year average in price \$56 as against \$57 in 1917, for horses one year to under three years the average is \$112 against \$116, and for horses three years and over the value is \$162 against \$167. Milch cows are \$87 against \$84, cattle under one year are \$25 against \$24, cattle from one year to under three years old are \$57 against \$52 and cattle three years old and over are \$88 against \$77. Sheep average \$16 against \$15 and swine per 100 lb. live weight are \$16 against \$17. The average value of wool per lb. is 62 cents for unwashed, as compared with 59 cents and for washed 80 cents as compared with 75 cents. Correspondents were requested to report as nearly as possible the average value per head of each description of farm animal, and the averages compiled from the returns received have been used for the calculation of total values according to the number of farm animals as returned last June. The resulting total values for the Dominion are as follows, the totals for 1918 being given in brackets for comparison: Horses \$459,155,000 (\$429,123,000); milch cows \$307,244,000 (\$274,081,000); other cattle \$398,814,000 (\$274,081,000); total cattle \$706,058,000 (\$544,676,000); sheep \$48,802,000 (\$55,576,000); swine \$112,751,000 (\$92,886,000). The total value of farm live stock in Canada for 1918 is therefore estimated to be \$1,326,766,000 as compared with \$1,102,261,000 in 1917. It should be noted, however, that the comparison with 1917 is affected by the change in the method of collecting agricultural statistics, which went into operation last year, the increase in numbers being greater probably than that which was due to actual growth.

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