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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Ottawa, February 21, 1929, 4 p.m. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics published to-day its annual report on farm values for the year 1928, comprising estimates of the values of (1) farm lands; (2) farm help; (3) farm live stock and wool; (4) poultry, all compiled from the returns of crop correspondents.

AVERAGE VALUES OF FARM LANDS

The average value of the occupied farm lands of Canada as a whole, including both improved and unimproved land, as well as dwelling houses, barns, stables and other farm buildings, is returned as $38 per acre, as compared with $38 in 1927. By provinces the averages are as follows, with the previous year's values given within brackets: Prince Edward Island $44 ($41); Nova Scotia $34 ($37); New Brunswick $31 ($30); Quebec $54 ($57); Ontario $62 ($65); Manitoba $27 ($27); Saskatchewan $27 ($26); Alberta $28 ($28); British Columbia $90 ($89). The average values in 1928 of orchard and fruit lands, including buildings, etc., in the fruit-growing districts, are estimated to be as follows; the figures for 1927 being given within brackets: Nova Scotia $116 ($104); Ontario $151 ($143); British Columbia $315 ($321).

AVERAGE WAGES OF FARM HELP

For the whole of Canada, the average wages per month of farm help during the summer season of 1928 were/men $40, as against $40 in 1927 and for women $24, as against $23. In addition, the value of the board is placed at $23 for men as compared with $22 in 1927 and $20 for women as compared with $19. The total wages and board thus amounted to $63 as against $62 for men and for women $44 as against $42. By the year, the average for men, including board, was $634 as compared with $629 in 1927 and for women $476, as compared with $467. The value of the yearly board is given for men as $252 ($245 in 1927) and for women as $225 ($220 in 1927). By provinces, the average monthly wages for men and women respectively in the summer season, including the value of board, were in 1928 as follows, with the averages for 1927 given within brackets: Prince Edward Island $49; $31 ($46;$31); Nova Scotia $53; $32 ($55; $30); New Brunswick $59; $33 ($57; $32); Quebec $58; $33 ($58; $33); Ontario $58; $41 ($59; $38); Manitoba $61; $41 ($60; $40); Saskatchewan $69; $47 ($67; $45); Alberta $72; $49 ($70; $49); British Columbia $77; $52 ($78; $51).

VALUES OF LIVE STOCK AND WOOL

For all Canada the average values of horses in 1928 show no change as compared with 1927. Sheep values also remain unchanged, while swine show a slight increase. Milch cows and other cattle show marked increases. The average value of horses under one year old was $34, as compared with $34 in 1927 and $30 in 1926; horses one year to under three years old were $67, as against $67 and $61; and horses 3 years old and over were $101, as against $101 and $95. Cattle under one year averaged $21, as against $17 in 1927 and $14 in 1926; cattle one year to under three years $45 as against $38 and $30; and cattle three years old and over $64 as against $54 and $43. For all descriptions, the average value per head for Canada are estimated as follows, with the averages for 1927 and 1926 within brackets: Horses $76 ($76 $72); Milch cows $72 ($61, $52); Other cattle $46 ($39, $31); total cattle $57 ($48, $41); Sheep $10 ($10, $10); Swine $15 ($14 $16). For swine per 100 lb. live weight, the average is $10, as compared with $9 in 1927. The average price of wool per lb. is returned as 26 cents for unwashed and 31 cents for washed, as against 22 cents and 29 cents, the corresponding averages for 1927.

By application of the average values per head to the numbers as returned in June last, it is possible to estimate approximately the total value of farm live stock in Canada for the year 1928. The numbers and values are as follows, with the comparative figures for 1927 within brackets: Horses: No. 3,376,394; value $255,469,000 (3,421,857; $260,476,000); milch cows: No. 3,792,522; $272,109,000 (3,894,311; $236,626,000); other cattle: No. 5,000,750; $231,700,000 (5,277,927 $204,917,000); total cattle: No. 8,793,272; $503,809,000 (9,172,238; $441,543,000); sheep: No. 3,415,788; $35,530,000 (3,262,706; $32,004,000); swine: No. 4,497,367; $66,595,000 (4,694,789; $65,116,000).

The estimated total value of these descriptions of farm live stock in 1928 amounts to $861,403,000, as compared with $799,139,000. By provinces the total values are as follows, the totals for 1927 being given within brackets: Prince Edward Island $10,857,000 ($9,445,000); Nova Scotia $21,891,000 ($19,630,000); New Brunswick $18,353,000 ($16,592,000); Quebec $161,767,000 ($142,871,000); Ontario $280,743,000 ($261,673,000); Manitoba $70,578,000 ($65,107,000); Saskatchewan $146,386,000 ($140,925,000); Alberta $120,862,000 ($118,917,000); British Columbia $29,966,000 ($23,979,000).

VALUES OF FARM POULTRY

The average values per head for Canada for each description of farm poultry are estimated as follows; the averages for 1927 being given within brackets: Turkeys $3.16 ($3.08); geese $2.26 ($2.20); ducks $1.23 ($1.18); other fowls 97 cents (94 cents). These averages, multiplied by the numbers as returned in June last, give approximately the total values. For the whole of Canada the numbers and values of farm poultry in 1928 are estimated as follows, with figures for 1927 within brackets: Turkeys: No. 2,065,797 (1,890,203); value $6,526,000 ($5,817,000); geese: No. 1,125,047 (1,135,155); value $2,545,000 ($2,496,000); ducks: No. 995,840 (981,032); value $1,228-000 ($1,154,000); other fowls: No. 49,592,855 (46,172,095); value $47,913,000 ($43,491,000); total poultry: No. 53,779,539 (50,178,485); value $58,212,000 ($52,958,000).

By provinces the total values of all descriptions of poultry are as follows; the estimates for 1927 being given within brackets: Prince Edward Island $997,000 ($950,000); Nova Scotia $978,000 ($879,000); New Brunswick $1,192,000 ($1,103,000); Quebec $9,835,000 ($8,724,000); Ontario $23,253,000 ($22,005,000); Manitoba $4,465,000 ($4,187,000); Saskatchewan $7,178,000($6,245,000); Alberta $5,953,000 ($5,483,000); British Columbia $4,361,000 ($3,382,000)

GENERAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, 1929.

The following is a brief summary by provinces of the remarks of crop correspondents, as made on schedules returnable February 4, 1929.

Atlantic Provinces:- With a comparatively mild winter throughout the three provinces, live stock are in the best of condition. Draught horses are being imported into New Brunswick, there being a scarcity on the home market, Milch cows and beef cattle are in demand and are bringing high prices. In fact, prices for all classes of stock seems to be on the upward trend. Feed is quite plentiful.

Quebec:- Live stock are reported to be in good condition. There is plenty of feed for the remainder of the winter. Young butcher beef cattle and milch cows are scarce and are bringing good prices. It is quite difficult to purchase new stock.

Ontario:- The condition of all live stock is good. Feed is generally plentiful. Milch cattle are still in great demand and are bringing good prices, with however, much variation. Hog prices are unsatisfactory. Poultry prices are good and the production has been heavy as a result.

Manitoba:- Live stock are doing well despite the very cold weather during January. There is plenty of feed on hand. There is little demand for horses which are rather low in price. Cattle are bringing good prices, especially milk cows. Hog prices are poor and farmers are finding them unprofitable to feed. Fowl are bringing good prices and there has been a fairly large export trade.

Saskatchewan:- Live stock in general are reported in good condition. Mild weather prevailed until after the New Year. Since then, the weather has been colder and not so favourable for live stock. Prices of cattle have been very encouraging especially milk cows. There is a good demand for ewes.

Alberta:- Live stock are reported to be wintering well. The weather has been favourable, although in some cases severe, and cattle and horses have been able to secure feed on the ranges. There is plenty of feed of all kinds. The demand for horses is weak, but that for beef cattle and milk cows very strong. In many instances, prices are higher than last year.

British Columbia:- Crop correspondents report that there is more than sufficient feed to carry over winter. A steadily increasing interest in sheep is evident. Milk cows are rising in value and there is a good demand for beef cattle with prices steady.