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STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAIN AT MARCH 31, 1952

Stocks of Canadian grain in all positions* as at March 31, 1952 were well above those of a year ago and, with the exception of flaxseed, were also above the 1941-1950 averages. This year's March 31 stocks of the major commercial grains, in millions of bushels, with last year's figures and the 1941-1950 averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 465.9 (352.9, 421.0); oats, 318.8 (229.9, 194.6); barley, 196.3 (111.0, 81.6); rye, 13.8 (10.9, 9.1); and flaxseed 6.0 (3.0, 6.7).

Data for this report have been obtained from the Bureau's annual March-end survey of grain held on farms, from returns by mill operators, and from data supplied by the Board of Grain Commissioners relative to stocks of grain in commercial positions**. The statistics on total stocks as presented in this report, therefore, differ from the weekly visible supply figures by the inclusion of certain mill stocks and farm stocks.

Estimating farm stocks of grain in the Prairie Provinces has presented unusual problems this year; consequently, the estimated farm stocks of grain as published in this report should be considered in the light of the following qualifications. The regular March 31 survey of grain stocks in farm storage applies to harvested grain only which, under normal conditions, accounts for practically all grain on farms at the end of March. With substantial proportions of the 1951 grain stocks still in the fields in some parts of Western Canada, however, this year's March 31 stocks of farm-held threshed grain represent only part of total potential farm stocks. Since the amount of grain still in the fields cannot be determined until after the completion of spring harvesting, a modified approach in estimating this year's stocks has been used.

Basically, the figures published for farm stocks have been derived from a "balance sheet" approach in which commercial marketings and estimated farm disappearance for the August--March period of the current crop year have been deducted from total farm supplies (July 31, 1951 farm carryover plus the 1951 estimated production). The difference between the results obtained by this method and farm stocks as indicated by the March 31 survey approximate in most cases the unharvested proportion of the 1951 crop as indicated by the December 31 special survey. For wheat, however, there is some indication that, should the extent of the unharvested crop be as great as previously indicated, an upward revision of the 1951 production estimate in the Prairie Provinces may be necessary.

Wheat Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions at March 31, 1952 were estimated at 465.9 million bushels, 113 million more than a year ago and 45.0 million greater than the 1941-1950 average.

*Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

**Data for commercial positions (except mills) as at March 27, 1952.

This year's March 31 stocks of Canadian wheat in United States positions amounted to 5.1 million bushels, the greater part of which was held for drying in bond in Duluth elevators. Farm-held wheat stocks were estimated at almost 252 million bushels, about 54 per cent of the total in all positions. Of the 208.9 million bushels in Canadian off-farm positions slightly more than half, some 108.0 million bushels, were held in country elevators, interior private and mill elevators, and interior terminal elevators. Stocks in Fort William-Port Arthur and Pacific Coast elevators were 42.8 million and 11.8 million bushels, respectively. The remaining 46.3 million bushels were either in transit or held in mill bins, in eastern elevators and at Churchill.

Oats Stocks of Canadian oats at March 31, 1952 were estimated at 318.8 million bushels, compared with 229.9 million a year ago and 194.6 million for the 1941-1950 average. Farm stocks, placed at 277.3 million bushels, accounted for about 87 per cent of this year's total supplies. Of the 41.1 million bushels in Canadian commercial positions, slightly more than half were in country elevators and about one-quarter in Lakehead terminals.

Barley March-end stocks of Canadian barley, estimated at 196.3 million bushels, were well above both last year's level of 111.0 million and the ten-year average of 81.6 million bushels. Stocks on farms were estimated at 144.4 million bushels. As with oats, slightly more than half the off-farm stocks of 51.9 million bushels were in country elevators and about one-quarter in Lakehead terminals.

Rye Rye stocks at March 31, 1952 were estimated at 13.8 million bushels of which half was still on farms. The bulk of commercial supplies was about equally divided between Lakehead terminals and country elevators.

Flaxseed Stocks of flaxseed at the end of March 1952 were placed at almost 6.0 million bushels, with an estimated 2.6 million still on farms. Lakehead stocks of 2.4 million bushels and country elevator stocks of 0.6 million bushels accounted for most of the supplies in commercial positions.

Stocks on Farms at March 31, 1952

The quantity of wheat remaining on farms at March 31, 1952 was estimated at 251.9 million bushels or 45 per cent of the 1951 crop of 562.4 million. Comparable figures for a year ago and the 1941-1950 average were 161.4 million bushels or 35 per cent, and 156.0 million bushels or 40 per cent, respectively. Farm stocks of wheat in the Prairie Provinces were estimated at 246.0 million bushels, with the provincial distribution as follows: Manitoba, 14.4 million; Saskatchewan, 162.6 million; and Alberta, 69.0 million bushels. From these stocks (which include an allowance for unharvested grain as explained above) will be taken seed for the 1952 crop and such amounts as may be required for live stock and poultry feed during the April-July period of the current crop year, leaving the balance to be divided between deliveries until July 31 and carryover stocks at that date.

Of the other crops, the proportions and quantities in bushels remaining on farms at March 31, 1952, with corresponding figures at the same date last year within brackets, were as follows: oats, 56 per cent or 277.3 million (46 per cent or 193.1 million); barley, 57 per cent or 144.4 million (42 per cent or 72.6 million); rye, 39 per cent or 7.0 million (31 per cent or 4.1 million); and flaxseed, 28 per cent or 2.6 million (30 per cent or 1.4 million). Stocks of these four grains on farms in the Prairie Provinces were estimated as follows: oats, 224.7 million; barley, 141.5 million; rye, 6.8 million; and flaxseed, 2.5 million bushels.

Estimated Grain Stocks on Farms in Canada, March 31

Grain	1941-1950 Average			1951			1952		
	Crop 1/	%	Stocks	Crop 3/	%	Stocks	Crop 2/	%	Stocks
	000 bu.	2/	000 bu.	000 bu.	4/	000 bu.	000 bu.	4/	000 bu.
Wheat ..	394,454	40	156,031	461,664	35	161,450	562,395	45	251,915
Oats ...	402,778	42	170,153	419,930	46	193,138	492,683	56	277,273
Barley .	160,769	37	59,772	171,393	42	72,550	252,795	57	144,413
Rye	12,938	32	4,156	13,333	31	4,075	18,007	39	6,956
Flax ...	9,767	20	1,936	4,686	30	1,390	9,212	28	2,588

1/ Average production of 1940-1949 period. 2/ Percentage of 1940-1949 average production. 3/ Previous year's crop. 4/ Percentage of previous year's crop.

Estimated Use of Wheat for Feed

The estimated quantities of wheat for use as feed in the provinces where it was produced during the crop year 1951-52 amount to 38.1 million bushels, one million less than the estimate for 1950-51. While increases are indicated in the use of locally-grown wheat for feed in all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, the estimated decrease of 3.2 million bushels in the latter province more than offset increases in the Maritimes, the Prairies and in British Columbia.

Estimated quantities fed or to be fed in the Prairie Provinces are up from 21.8 million bushels in 1950-51 to 23.4 million bushels during the current crop year. In Ontario, the other major wheat-feeding area, the estimated quantities of wheat for use as feed have dropped from 15.9 million bushels in 1950-51 to 12.7 million in 1951-52. These estimates do not include wheat moved interprovincially under the federal Freight Assistance Plan. Some 13.9 million bushels of feed wheat were shipped under this plan in 1950-51 and current crop-year shipments have been running somewhat above last year's levels.

Estimate of Wheat Fed 1/ to Live Stock and Poultry,
1950-51 and 1951-52

Province	Production 1950	Fed		Production 1951	Fed and to be Fed	
		Crop Year 1950-51			Crop Year 1951-52 2/	
		p.c. of 1950 Crop	Quantity		p.c. of 1951 Crop	Quantity
	000 bu.	p.c.	000 bu.	000 bu.	p.c.	000 bu.
Prince Edward Is.	187	72	135	235	71	167
Nova Scotia	45	88	40	53	79	42
New Brunswick ...	90	81	73	126	75	94
Quebec	691	86	594	650	82	533
Ontario	31,233	51	15,929	26,506	48	12,723
Manitoba	50,000	7	3,400	52,000	7	3,800
Saskatchewan	260,000	4	10,400	329,000	3	10,500
Alberta	117,000	7	8,000	150,000	6	9,100
British Columbia.	2,418	22	520	3,825	30	1,148
Canada	461,664	8	39,091	562,395	7	38,107

1/ These figures do not include wheat shipped from one province to another and used for feed as, for example, wheat moved under the federal Freight Assistance Plan. 2/ Preliminary; subject to revision.

Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1952 1/

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada has compiled data showing stocks of Canadian grain as of March 31, 1952. With the exception of the Prairie Provinces, farm stocks are estimated from the reports of crop correspondents. Methods used in estimating this year's farm stocks in the Prairie Provinces are set out in the text of this report. Stocks in flour mills are estimated from monthly returns made by mill operators.

Position	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
	- thousand bushels -				
<u>In Canada</u>					
On farms	251,915	277,273	144,413	6,956	2,588
Country elevators	91,733	21,665	26,044	2,640	629
Interior private and mill elevators	5,846	844	2,430	15	94
Interior terminal elevators	10,446	15	764	6	1
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	11,340	398	809	1	2/
Prince Rupert elevator	487	-	-	-	-
Churchill elevator	1,997	2/	-	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators	42,757	10,567	13,154	2,648	2,367
In transit - rail	20,493	5,368	4,951	352	136
Eastern elevators	20,970 3/	1,635	3,514	701	148
Eastern mills	2,496 ^{2.446}	529 ⁴⁸⁸	209 ¹⁷⁴	2/	-
Western mills	336 ³³⁴	100 ⁹⁸	40 ³⁹	10	-
Total in Canada, March 31, 1952	460,816 ⁷⁶⁴	318,394 ³⁵¹	196,328 ²⁹²	13,329	5,963
Total Canadian Grain in United States, March 31, 1952	5,099	430	-	499	-
Total Canadian Grain in Canada and United States, March 31, 1952	465,915 ⁸⁶³	318,824 ⁷⁸¹	196,328 ²⁹²	13,828	5,963
<u>Comparative Stocks, March 31, 1951 4/</u>					
In Canada	352,506	228,552	110,731	9,354	2,974
In United States	370	1,306	314	1,575	-
Total in Canada and United States	352,876	229,858	111,045	10,929	2,974
1941-1950 average	420,961	194,561	81,632	9,088	6,711

1/ Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners as at March 27.

2/ Less than 500 bushels. 3/ Includes 1,699 thousand bushels in storage afloat. 4/ Revised.