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REPORT ON LIVESTOCK SURVEYS

CATTLE - SHEEP - HORSES, DECEMBER 1, 1956

Cattle: The number of milk cows on farms in Canada at December 1, 1956 is estimated at 3,294,000 head, virtually the same as at December 1, 1955. It would appear that the upward swing which began in 1952 has now lost its momentum. Yearling heifers being raised for milking decreased 3 per cent in number to 779,900 head. On the other hand, beef cattle and calves again increased, so that the number of all cattle and calves, estimated at 9,843,000 head, showed a 1.8 per cent increase over the December 1, 1955 total of 9,666,000.

Two-thirds of the milk cows are located in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, where they number 1,140,000 head and 1,050,000 head respectively. The only increases during the year occurred in Prince Edward Island, up 2 per cent, and Quebec, up nearly 3 per cent. The 1 per cent increase in Eastern Canada was offset by a 2 per cent drop in numbers on Western Canadian farms. Beef cattle increased nearly 6 per cent with all provinces except Nova Scotia and British Columbia contributing to the increase. Calf numbers rose everywhere except in the Maritimes and British Columbia.

Sheep: The number of sheep and lambs on farms at December 1, 1956 is estimated at 1,172,000 head, about 1 per cent under the December, 1955 total. The number in Eastern Canada remained at the 1955 level while the West experienced a small decline.

Horses: The number of farm horses continued to decrease, falling 6 per cent during the year to 817,400 head at December 1, 1956.

The estimates tabulated in this report were derived from the semi-annual sample surveys conducted in co-operation with the Provincial Departments, and are subject to revision as soon as the 1956 Census of Agriculture figures are published. The sample surveys are not conducted in the Province of Newfoundland, where the 1951 Census reported 4,100 milk cows, 3,900 other cattle, 17,500 sheep and 2,900 horses on farms, in addition to which there were 3,300 milk cows, 2,600 other cattle, 56,100 sheep and 10,500 horses kept elsewhere than on farms.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

Table 1a.-Number of Cattle on Farms in Canada, by Class and Province, at December 1, 1956

Province	Bulls	Cows		Yearling Heifers		Steers	Calves	Total
		for Milk	for Beef	for Milk	for Beef			
- thousand head -								
Pr. Edward Isld.	1.2	46.0	6.0	10.4	6.8	14.6	34.0	119.0
Nova Scotia	2.5	87.0	12.0	21.0	9.5	13.0	42.0	187.0
New Brunswick	4.0	94.0	7.7	19.5	5.5	5.8	43.5	180.0
Quebec	40.0	1,140.0	41.0	205.0	25.0	32.0	337.0	1,840.0
Ontario	42.0	1,050.0	325.0	325.0	210.0	450.0	725.0	3,127.0
Totals, East	109.7	2,417.0	391.7	580.9	256.8	515.4	1,181.5	5,453.0
Manitoba	16.0	203.0	122.0	46.0	40.0	53.0	185.0	665.0
Saskatchewan	26.0	270.0	354.0	58.0	118.0	134.0	410.0	1,370.0
Alberta	40.0	305.0	630.0	70.0	170.0	200.0	605.0	2,020.0
Br. Columbia	5.0	99.0	78.0	25.0	21.0	25.0	82.0	335.0
Totals, West	87.0	877.0	1,184.0	199.0	349.0	412.0	1,282.0	4,390.0
Totals, CANADA	196.7	3,294.0	1,575.7	779.9	605.8	927.4	2,463.5	9,843.0

Table 1b.-Number of Cattle on Farms in Canada, by Class and Province, at December 1, 1955

Province	Bulls	Cows		Yearling Heifers		Steers	Calves	Total
		for Milk	for Beef	for Milk	for Beef			
		- thousand head -						
Pr. Edward Isld.	1.2	45.0	6.0	11.6	7.0	13.2	34.0	118.0
Nova Scotia	2.7	89.0	12.1	23.4	10.8	14.0	44.0	196.0
New Brunswick	3.9	96.0	6.5	21.0	6.6	4.0	44.0	182.0
Quebec	58.0	1,110.0	40.0	205.0	25.0	30.0	332.0	1,800.0
Ontario	45.0	1,055.0	321.0	334.0	202.0	400.0	726.0	3,083.0
Totals, East	110.8	2,395.0	385.6	595.0	251.4	461.2	1,180.0	5,379.0
Manitoba	15.0	204.0	112.0	48.0	36.0	45.0	180.0	640.0
Saskatchewan	25.0	278.0	345.0	60.0	103.0	114.0	400.0	1,325.0
Alberta	39.0	309.0	602.0	75.0	155.0	200.0	590.0	1,970.0
Br. Columbia	5.6	101.0	78.0	26.2	25.6	28.6	87.0	352.0
Totals, West	84.6	892.0	1,137.0	209.2	319.6	387.6	1,257.0	4,287.0
Totals, CANADA	195.4	3,287.0	1,522.6	804.2	571.0	848.8	2,437.0	9,666.0

Table 2.- Number of Sheep on Farms in Canada, by Age Group and Province,
at December 1, 1955 and 1956

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	Sheep over 1 year old	Lambs	Total	Sheep over 1 year old	Lambs	Total
	- thousand head -					
Pr. Edward Isld.	18.4	3.6	22.0	17.6	3.4	21.0
Nova Scotia	45.9	11.1	57.0	45.0	10.0	55.0
New Brunswick	31.3	6.7	38.0	32.4	6.6	39.0
Quebec	166.0	37.0	203.0	167.0	38.0	205.0
Ontario	207.0	65.0	272.0	204.0	70.0	274.0
Totals, East	468.6	123.4	592.0	466.0	128.0	594.0
Manitoba	26.0	8.0	34.0	24.0	12.0	36.0
Saskatchewan	82.0	23.0	105.0	80.0	27.0	107.0
Alberta	232.0	160.0	392.0	227.0	158.0	385.0
Br. Columbia	41.4	16.6	58.0	39.2	10.8	50.0
Totals, West	381.4	207.6	589.0	370.2	207.8	578.0
Totals, CANADA	850.0	331.0	1,181.0	836.2	335.8	1,172.0

Table 3.- Number of Horses on Farms in Canada, by Province, at December 1, 1955 and 1956

	1955	1956	1956 as % of 1955
	- thousand head -		%
Prince Edward Island	16.2	15.5	95.7
Nova Scotia	19.4	18.3	94.3
New Brunswick	22.8	21.6	94.7
Quebec	190.0	182.0	95.8
Ontario	147.0	132.0	89.8
Totals, East	395.4	369.4	93.4
Manitoba	80.0	76.0	95.0
Saskatchewan	200.0	190.0	95.0
Alberta	167.0	154.0	92.2
British Columbia	29.0	28.0	96.6
Totals, West	476.0	448.0	94.1
Totals, CANADA	871.4	817.4	93.8