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REPORT ON THE LIVE STOCK SURVEY OF DECEMBER 1, 1953

HOGS

This report contains estimates of the number of hogs on farms in Canada^{1/} at December 1, 1953, the fall pig crop, and the number of sows expected to farrow for the spring pig crop in 1954. These estimates are based on farmers' replies to the December Live Stock Survey and were prepared in co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Hogs on farms at December 1, 1953, estimated at 4,721,000, decreased almost 10 per cent from the total of 5,237,000 at December 1, 1952. The decrease in Eastern Canada was almost 10.5 per cent as compared with approximately 9 per cent in Western Canada. Alberta showed less change than any other province. Estimated number of hogs by provinces (December 1, 1952 estimates in brackets) were: Prince Edward Island 69,000 (72,000); Nova Scotia 42,000 (53,000); New Brunswick 65,000 (71,000); Quebec 949,000 (1,040,000); Ontario 1,595,000 (1,800,000); Manitoba 295,000 (327,000); Saskatchewan 433,000 (560,000); Alberta 1,229,000 (1,260,000); British Columbia 44,000 (54,000). It is interesting to note that while in 1952 the number of hogs on farms at December 1 was about 9 per cent lower than at June 1, the number at December 1, 1953 was about 6 per cent above that of June 1.

The fall pig crop (pigs saved in the June to November period) was about 5.5 per cent lower in 1953 than in 1952, with sows that farrowed about 9 per cent lower. Favourable weather during last fall probably was the most important factor contributing to a higher yield of pigs saved per sow. The average of pigs saved per sow in Eastern Canada was 8.28 as compared with 8.01 in 1952, while in the West it changed to 7.66 from 7.39.

According to intentions reported by farmers at December 1, it is estimated that 632,500 sows will farrow during the six-month period ending May 31, 1954. This is about 36 per cent above the number of sows farrowed for the spring pig crop in 1953. The forecast indicates increases of 37 and 34 per cent for East and West, respectively.

Reference to Table IV of this report, showing the Hog-Barley Ratio, indicates that this ratio was more favourable during the last half of 1953 than for any other six-month period in the last twelve years.

^{1/} There are no current estimates available for Newfoundland. The Census of Agriculture showed a total to the nearest hundred, of 1,700 pigs on farms in Newfoundland and 1,300 elsewhere than on farms at June 1, 1951.

Table I: Hogs-Total on Farms, by Provinces, June 1 and December 1, 1952 and 1953

Province	June 1, 1952	Dec. 1, 1952	June 1, 1953	Dec. 1, 1953
- thousands -				
Pr. Edward Island	77	72	57	69
Nova Scotia	51	53	39	42
New Brunswick	83	71	56	65
Quebec	1,312	1,040	867	949
Ontario	1,937	1,800	1,450	1,595
Manitoba	399	327	287	295
Saskatchewan	646	560	469	433
Alberta	1,170	1,260	1,180	1,229
Br. Columbia	66	54	42	44
C A N A D A	5,741	5,237	4,447	4,721

Table II: Hogs-Numbers on Farms by Age Groups December 1, 1952 and 1953

Province	1952			1953			Total
	Under	Over	Total	Under	Over	Total	1953 as % of 1952
	6 Months	6 Months		6 Months	6 Months		
- thousands -							%
Pr. Edward Island	56	16	72	54	15	69	96
Nova Scotia	40	13	53	32	10	42	79
New Brunswick	50	21	71	48	17	65	92
Quebec	746	294	1,040	693	256	949	91
Ontario	1,460	340	1,800	1,320	275	1,595	89
Eastern Canada	2,352	684	3,036	2,147	573	2,720	89.6
Manitoba	192	135	327	192	103	295	90
Saskatchewan	268	292	560	233	200	433	77
Alberta	830	430	1,260	871	358	1,229	98
Br. Columbia	36	18	54	30	14	44	81
Western Canada	1,326	875	2,201	1,326	675	2,001	90.9
C A N A D A	3,678	1,559	5,237	3,473	1,248	4,721	90.1

Table IV

Hog-Barley Ratio - By Months

1942-1953

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
January	20.0	21.4	18.1	18.3	17.1	20.7	17.1	21.0	16.3	17.0	14.6	15.1
February	20.0	21.4	18.1	18.3	17.3	21.4	19.6	21.2	17.3	17.2	14.7	16.1
March	19.7	22.0	18.2	18.3	17.1	19.7	20.6	22.0	16.4	17.4	15.4	17.0
April	19.5	22.0	18.2	18.4	18.3	18.1	19.3	21.5	14.6	16.4	16.5	17.0
May	18.9	21.9	18.2	13.5	18.3	18.1	18.7	21.0	15.0	20.2	17.4	19.0
June	18.3	21.2	18.3	19.0	18.4	18.1	19.2	21.5	16.5	24.3	17.2	20.7
July	19.4	20.5	18.3	19.1	18.4	18.1	19.9	19.8	17.3	26.1	17.5	21.4
August	21.3	16.2	18.3	18.0	20.3	18.1	22.8	20.2	18.6	25.1	15.9	23.2
September	21.0	16.2	18.3	18.2	21.0	19.6	24.1	17.2	17.8	21.2	15.2	23.8
October	23.4	16.1	18.3	17.2	19.6	17.8	22.4	15.9	16.7	17.0	14.4	26.5
November	23.5	16.5	18.3	17.0	19.5	14.4	20.7	15.5	16.1	15.2	14.2	24.8
December	23.5	16.7	18.3	17.0	19.5	13.9	21.7	16.6	17.4	15.8	16.3	27.4
A v e r a g e	20.6	19.0	18.2	18.1	18.7	17.9	20.3	19.1	16.6	19.1	15.7	20.6

- Note -

The hog-barley ratio is the number of bushels of No. 1 feed barley required to equal the value of 100 pounds B1 (live) hogs, both prices at Winnipeg. The long-time average ratio (1913-1949, 1930 omitted due to extreme abnormality) was 18.3. The average ratio 1939-1949 was 20.4.

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