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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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REPORT ON LIVE STOCK SURVEYS

HOGS, MARCH 1, 1956

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

According to estimates based on farmers' reports at March 1 the spring pig crop in 1956 should be about 2 per cent above the crop farrowed in the spring of 1955. This represents farrowings of some 639,000 sows between December 1, 1955 and May 31 this year, compared to 627,800 between these dates a year ago. This estimate of 639,000 litters constitutes a downward revision of the prospects of 646,600 estimated three months ago, based on breeding and farrowing intentions reported at December 1.

The anticipated 2 per cent increase results from a reported 5 per cent rise in Eastern Canada coupled with a 2 per cent drop in the West. The December survey had pointed to probable increases of 4 per cent in the East and 1 per cent in the West.

It is estimated that 227,000 sows farrowed during the period December, 1955 to February, 1956, and that 412,000 will farrow during March, April and May.

Quebec is the only province where producers have indicated an upward revision of farrowing intentions for the December - May period. The Maritimes and Ontario show no change from their expectations reported at December 1. However, at March 1 reports from the West indicated a decrease from previously reported intentions in all four provinces. In Saskatchewan spring farrowings are now expected to exceed those of last year by 3 per cent (forecast at 6 per cent in December) and by about 4 per cent (forecast at 8 per cent in December in British Columbia, while farrowings in Alberta and Manitoba are expected to decrease from last spring by about 3 and 9 per cent respectively, rather than by the very moderate 1 per cent decrease indicated for these provinces by the intentions reported at December 1.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

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Table 1.- Sows Farrowed Dec., 1955 to Feb., 1956, Corresponding Three Months of Previous Year, and March-May, 1955, and Sows Expected to Farrow March-May, 1956

	December, January, February			March, April, May		
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	Farrowed	Farrowed	1956 as	Expected	to Farrow	1956 as
	Dec.1954-	Dec.1955-	% of	March-May:	March-May:	% of
	Feb.1955	Feb.1956	1 9 5 5	1 9 5 5	1 9 5 6	1 9 5 5
	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	%
Maritime Provinces	5.5	5.0	90.9	12.5	14.0	112.0
Quebec	54.0	55.0	102.0	81.2	84.0	103.0
Ontario	86.0	90.0	105.0	106.5	115.0	108.0
Eastern Canada	145.5	150.0	103.0	200.2	213.0	106.0
Manitoba	11.0	10.5	95.5	30.3	27.0	89.1
Saskatchewan	11.0	13.7	125.0	65.1	64.5	99.1
Alberta	54.0	51.0	94.4	105.6	104.0	98.5
British Columbia	1.5	1.8	120.0	3.6	3.5	97.2
Western Canada	77.5	77.0	99.4	204.6	199.0	97.3
Totals, Canada	223.0	227.0	102.0	404.8	412.0	102.0

Table 2.- Sows to Farrow December 1, 1955, to May 31, 1956 and Sows Farrowed December 1, 1954 to May 31, 1955

	Dec. 1954-			Dec.1955 to May 1956			1955-56 Estimate as		
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	May 1955	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	'000	%	'000	%
Maritime Provinces	18.0	19.1	19.0	106.0	106.0	18.0	106.0	19.1	106.0
Quebec	135.2	137.0	139.0	101.0	103.0	135.2	101.0	137.0	103.0
Ontario	192.5	205.0	205.0	106.0	106.0	192.5	106.0	205.0	106.0
Eastern Canada	345.7	361.1	363.0	104.0	105.0	345.7	104.0	361.1	105.0
Manitoba	41.3	41.0	37.5	99.3	90.8	41.3	99.3	41.0	90.8
Saskatchewan	76.1	81.0	78.2	106.0	103.0	76.1	106.0	81.0	103.0
Alberta	159.6	158.0	155.0	99.0	97.1	159.6	99.0	158.0	97.1
British Columbia	5.1	5.5	5.3	108.0	104.0	5.1	108.0	5.5	104.0
Western Canada	282.1	285.5	276.0	101.0	97.8	282.1	101.0	285.5	97.8
Totals, Canada	627.8	646.6	639.0	103.0	102.0	627.8	103.0	646.6	102.0

1/ Based on December 1, 1955 Survey data.