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Memorandum

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REPORT ON LIVESTOCK SURVEYS

HOGS, JUNE 1, 1956



Based on farmers' replies to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' semi-annual sample survey of Canadian farms, the number of hogs on farms at June 1 is estimated at 5,680,000 head compared to 6,075,000 a year ago. This is a drop of 6 1/2 per cent. The decrease was general across the country, varying from 1 1/2 per cent in Ontario to 16 per cent in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. The decline was less marked in Eastern Canada where it amounted to less than 3 per cent whereas in the West hog numbers were reduced almost 11 per cent. The entire decrease occurred in the under six-months old group, in which the numbers dropped from 4,654,000 in June, 1955 to 4,221,000 this June. Hogs over six months of age were 2.7 per cent above last year, numbering 1,459,000 head at June 1, 1956.

The number of pigs saved from the spring pig crop is estimated at 4,300,000, which is 11 per cent below the 1955 total of 4,827,000 pigs. The number of spring litters in 1956 totalled 572,800 -- 9 per cent fewer than in 1955. Farrowings in Eastern Canada were down 4 1/2 per cent (330,200 versus 345,700) but the decline was greater (14 per cent) in the West where 242,600 sows farrowed this spring compared to 282,100 in the spring of 1955.

According to farmers' intentions reported at June 1 this year, 7 per cent fewer sows are expected to have litters before December 1 than farrowed during the summer and fall of 1955. Expected farrowings June to November are estimated at 503,700. Here again the decrease is general across the country. Sows bred prior to June 1 to farrow before September 1 are estimated at 273,400, leaving 230,300 to farrow later this fall. Comparable figures for 1955 are 278,000 summer and 262,400 fall litters. June to August farrowings are expected to exceed those of 1955 in Alberta and Saskatchewan where it appears that severe winter weather may have resulted in delayed breeding for the spring pig crop.

As no sample survey of farms is undertaken in Newfoundland, Canada totals shown in this report are nine-province totals only.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

Table 1.- Hogs - Numbers on Farms, by Province, June 1, 1956 and 1955

Province	1 9 5 6			1 9 5 5			Total
	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	Total	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	Total	1956 as % of 1955
	- thousand head -						%
Pr. Edward Island	38	13	51	49	12	61	83.6
Nova Scotia	25	8	33	27	9	36	91.7
New Brunswick ^{1/}	47	17	64	50	18	68	94.1
Quebec	959	271	1,230	997	275	1,272	96.7
Ontario	1,440	370	1,810	1,477	363	1,840	98.4
Totals, East ^{1/}	2,509	679	3,188	2,600	677	3,277	97.3
Manitoba	252	91	343	310	98	408	84.1
Saskatchewan	450	195	645	545	170	715	90.2
Alberta	975	480	1,455	1,160	460	1,620	89.8
British Columbia	35	14	49	39	16	55	89.1
Totals, West	1,712	780	2,492	2,054	744	2,798	89.1
TOTALS, CANADA ^{1/}	4,221	1,459	5,680	4,654	1,421	6,075	93.5

^{1/} 1955 revised.

Table 2.- Sows Farrowed, Pigs Born and Pigs Saved^{1/}, by Provinces, December to May, (Spring Pig Crop), 1956 and 1955

	Dec. 1955 to May 1956			Dec. 1954 to May 1955			Pigs Saved
	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs ^{1/} Saved	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs ^{1/} Saved	1956 as % of 1955
	- thousand head -						%
Pr. Edward Island	5.5	53	41	6.6	63	50	82.0
Nova Scotia	3.4	34	26	3.7	37	28	92.9
New Brunswick	6.3	59	48	7.7	70	56	85.7
Quebec	131.0	1,163	970	135.2	1,248	1,035	93.7
Ontario	184.0	1,785	1,470	192.5	1,894	1,540	95.5
Totals, East	330.2	3,094	2,555	345.7	3,312	2,709	94.3
Manitoba	35.0	305	259	41.3	373	317	81.7
Saskatchewan	65.0	550	460	76.1	650	561	82.0
Alberta	138.0	1,218	988	159.6	1,440	1,200	82.3
British Columbia	4.6	46	38	5.1	49	40	95.0
Totals, West	242.6	2,116	1,745	282.1	2,512	2,118	82.4
TOTALS, CANADA	572.8	5,213	4,300	627.8	5,824	4,827	89.1

^{1/} Alive at weaning time.

Table 3.- Sows Expected to Farrow, June to November, 1956 and Sows Farrowed, June to November, 1955, by Provinces

	Expected to Farrow 1956	Farrowed 1955	1956 as % of 1955
	- thousand head -		%
Pr. Edward Island	6.4	6.6	97.0
Nova Scotia	3.7	3.7	100.0
New Brunswick	6.0	7.2	83.3
Quebec	110.0	123.0	89.4
Ontario	184.0	191.0	96.3
Totals, East	310.1	331.5	93.5
Manitoba	24.0	30.8	77.9
Saskatchewan	40.0	42.9	93.2
Alberta	125.0	130.0	96.2
British Columbia	4.6	5.2	88.5
Totals, West	193.6	208.9	92.7
TOTALS, CANADA	503.7	540.4	93.2

Table 4.- Estimates of Sows to Farrow, June to August, 1956 and Sows Farrowed, June to August, 1955 (Based on Quarterly Pig Surveys)

	Expected to Farrow 1956	Farrowed 1955	1956 as % of 1955
	- number -		%
Maritimes	8,400	8,500	98.8
Quebec	65,000	67,000	97.0
Ontario	85,000	93,000	91.4
Totals, East	158,400	168,500	94.0
Manitoba	13,000	17,500	74.3
Saskatchewan	30,000	26,000	115.2
Alberta	70,000	63,500	110.2
British Columbia	2,000	2,500	80.0
Totals, West	115,000	109,500	105.0
TOTALS, CANADA	273,400	278,000	98.4



Table 5.- Hog-Barley Ratio - By Months - 1951 to June, 1956

Months	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	17.0	14.6	15.1	28.1	16.2	16.3
February	17.2	14.7	16.1	28.9	15.3	16.3
March	17.4	15.4	17.0	30.7	16.0	15.2
April	16.4	16.5	17.0	30.6	15.9	14.3
May	20.2	17.4	19.0	31.7	17.0	14.7
June	24.3	17.2	20.7	28.3	19.7	18.8
July	26.1	17.5	21.4	23.6	19.0	
August	25.1	15.9	23.2	18.4	19.4	
September	21.2	15.2	23.8	16.3	19.7	
October	17.0	14.4	26.5	15.8	16.4	
November	15.2	14.2	24.8	16.0	16.3	
December	15.8	16.3	27.4	17.1	16.4	
Average	19.1	15.7	20.6	23.1	17.2	

- 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.