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## DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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MemorandumREPORT ON LIVESTOCK SURVEYS  
HOGS, DECEMBER 1, 1956

At December 1, 1956 the number of hogs on farms in Canada is estimated to have been 5,550,000 head, a decrease of 7 per cent from the December 1, 1955 total of 5,981,000. The decrease was general, although more marked in Western Canada (12 per cent) than in Eastern Canada (4 per cent). Pigs over 6 months old, estimated at 1,750,000 were 13 per cent below the 1955 figure. Here too the drop was general, amounting to 16 per cent in the West and 9 per cent in the eastern provinces. Young pigs, also fewer in number than at December 1, 1955, are estimated to have declined less sharply (only 4 1/2 per cent) than did pigs over 6 months of age. In Eastern Canada pigs under 6 months old totalled 2,420,000 head, a fall of 2 per cent while in Western Canada they are estimated at 1,380,000, a drop of 9 per cent.

The number of pigs saved from the 1956 summer and fall litters is estimated to have been 3,909,000, or 5 per cent less than the number of pigs saved from the 1955 fall pig crop. These comprise 2,486,000 pigs saved in Eastern Canada (down 2 per cent) and 1,423,000 pigs saved in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia (down 10 per cent). Thus, it would appear that the hog population continued the decline which began between December 1955 and June 1956.

Based on farrowing intentions reported by farmers in the December 1 Survey, 609,700 sows should produce litters before June 1, 1957. This would mean an increase of 6 per cent over the number of sows which farrowed the 1956 spring pig crop, and indicates that the brief downward swing in numbers will be halted. The western hog producers have an 8 per cent increase in prospect while eastern producers are expecting an increase of 5 per cent.

Of the 609,700 expected farrowings, 225,700 should occur before March 1 (a slight decrease from 1956) according to sample indications from farmers reporting quarterly. This would leave 384,000 sows to farrow during March - April - May, an increase of 11 per cent over 1956.

All estimates published in this report are based on replies from farmers to the annual December 1 survey or the Quarterly Pig Survey of December 1. Departments of the Provincial Governments co-operated with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in conducting the survey. The survey has not yet been extended to the Province of Newfoundland where the farm hog population was 1,700 head according to the 1951 census, and pigs elsewhere than on farms totalled 1,300.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

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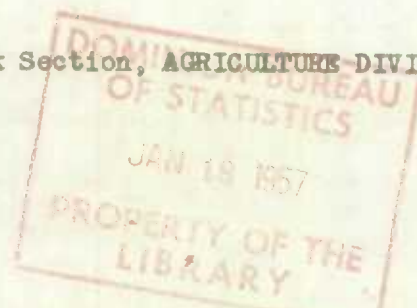


Table 1.- Pigs: Totals on Farms, by Province, June 1 and December 1, 1955 and 1956

Province	June 1, 1955	Dec. 1, 1955	June 1, 1956	Dec. 1, 1956
- thousands -				
Pr. Edward Island	61	62	51	54
Nova Scotia	36	38	33	34
New Brunswick	68	73	64	62
Quebec	1,272	1,245	1,230	1,151
Ontario	1,840	1,900	1,810	1,900
Manitoba	408	370	343	307
Saskatchewan	715	646	645	562
Alberta	1,620	1,590	1,455	1,435
Br. Columbia	55	57	49	45
<b>C A N A D A</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>5,680</b>	<b>5,550</b>

Table 2.- Pigs: Numbers on Farms, by Age Group and Province, December 1, 1955 and 1956

Province	1955			1956			Total
	Over 6 Months	Under 6 Months	Total	Over 6 Months	Under 6 Months	Total	1956 as % of 1955
- thousands -							%
Pr. Edward Is.	14	48	62	12	42	54	87
Nova Scotia	11	27	38	9	25	34	89
New Brunswick	21	52	73	19	43	62	85
Quebec	360	885	1,245	341	810	1,151	92
Ontario	450	1,450	1,900	400	1,500	1,900	100
<b>Eastern Canada</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>96</b>
Manitoba	155	215	370	128	179	307	83
Saskatchewan	346	300	646	292	270	562	87
Alberta	630	960	1,590	535	900	1,435	90
Br. Columbia	19	38	57	14	31	45	79
<b>Western Canada</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>C A N A D A</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>93</b>

Table 3.- Sows Farrowed, Pigs Born and Pigs Saved<sup>1/</sup>, June to November, (Fall Pig Crop) 1955 and 1956

Province	1955			1956			Pigs Saved 1956 as % of 1955
	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs <sup>1/</sup> Saved	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs <sup>1/</sup> Saved	
	- thousands -						%
Pr. Edward Is.	6.6	63.0	50.0	5.8	55.0	45.0	90
Nova Scotia	3.7	35.0	28.0	3.4	32.0	26.0	93
New Brunswick	7.2	70.0	54.0	5.7	53.0	44.0	81
Quebec	123.0	1,100.0	920.0	109.0	990.0	841.0	91
Ontario	191.0	1,866.0	1,490.0	184.0	1,840.0	1,530.0	103
Eastern Canada	331.5	3,134.0	2,542.0	307.9	2,970.0	2,486.0	98
Manitoba	30.8	266.0	228.0	23.3	218.0	184.0	81
Saskatchewan	42.9	368.0	309.0	40.0	320.0	281.0	91
Alberta	130.0	1,190.0	998.0	118.0	1,084.0	926.0	93
Br. Columbia	5.2	48.0	40.5	4.1	39.0	32.0	79
Western Canada	208.9	1,872.0	1,575.5	185.4	1,661.0	1,423.0	90
C A N A D A	540.4	5,006.0	4,117.5	493.3	4,631.0	3,909.0	95

<sup>1/</sup> Pigs alive at weaning time or alive, not yet weaned, at December 1.

Table 4.- Estimates of Sows Bred to Farrow December, 1956 to May, 1957 and Sows Farrowed December, 1955 to May, 1956

Province	Farrowed Spring Period 1956	Expected to Farrow Spring Period 1957	Intentions 1957 as % 1956
	- numbers -		%
Pr. Edward Island	5,500	6,000	109
Nova Scotia	3,400	3,700	109
New Brunswick	6,300	6,800	108
Quebec	131,000	130,000	99
Ontario	184,000	200,000	109
Eastern Canada	330,200	346,500	105
Manitoba	35,000	35,000	100
Saskatchewan	65,000	74,000	114
Alberta	138,000	150,000	109
Br. Columbia	4,600	4,200	91
Western Canada	242,600	263,200	108
C A N A D A	572,800	609,700	106





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Table 5.- Estimates of Sows Bred to Farrow, December, 1956 to February, 1957 and Sows Farrowed December, 1955 to February, 1956

(Based on Quarterly Pig Surveys)

Province	Farrowed 1956	Expected to Farrow 1957	1957 as % of 1956
	- numbers -		%
Maritimes	5,000	5,700	114
Quebec	55,000	55,000	100
Ontario	90,000	90,000	100
Totals, Eastern Canada	150,000	150,700	100
Manitoba	10,500	10,000	95
Saskatchewan	13,700	15,000	109
Alberta	51,000	48,000	94
British Columbia	1,800	2,000	111
Totals, Western Canada	77,000	75,000	97
Totals, C A N A D A	227,000	225,700	99

Table 6.- Hog-Barley Ratios, by Month, 1947-1956

Months	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	20.7	17.1	21.0	16.3	17.0	14.6	15.1	28.1	16.2	16.3
February	21.4	19.6	21.2	17.3	17.2	14.7	16.1	28.9	15.3	16.3
March	19.7	20.6	22.0	16.4	17.4	15.4	17.0	30.7	16.0	15.2
April	18.1	19.3	21.5	14.6	16.4	16.5	17.0	30.6	15.9	14.3
May	18.1	18.7	21.0	15.0	20.2	17.4	19.0	31.7	17.0	14.7
June	18.1	19.2	21.5	16.5	24.3	17.2	20.7	28.3	19.7	18.8
July	18.1	19.9	19.8	17.3	26.1	17.5	21.4	23.6	19.0	19.8
August	18.1	22.8	20.2	18.6	25.1	15.9	23.2	18.4	19.4	19.6
September	19.6	24.1	17.2	17.8	21.2	15.2	23.8	16.3	19.7	20.6
October	17.8	22.4	15.9	16.7	17.0	14.4	26.5	15.8	16.4	21.9
November	14.4	20.7	15.5	16.1	15.2	14.2	24.8	16.0	16.3	21.5
December	13.9	21.7	16.6	17.4	15.8	16.3	27.4	17.1	16.4	22.4
Averages	17.9	20.3	19.1	16.6	19.1	15.7	20.6	23.1	17.2	18.4

- Note -

The hog-barley ratio is the number of bushels of No. 1 feed barley required to equal the value of 100 pounds B<sub>1</sub> (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.