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REPORT ON LIVESTOCK SURVEYS

HOGS, DECEMBER, 1957

According to information received from farmers reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the number of hogs on farms in Canada^{1/} at December 1, 1957 stood at 13 per cent above the December 1956 estimate. The total of 5,160,000 head compares with the revised December 1956 estimate of 4,561,000. The estimated hog population in Eastern Canada (2,685,000 head) is 6 per cent above the December 1956 figure, while a greater increase is apparent in the West where the estimated 2,475,000 hogs at December 1, 1957 represents a 22 per cent rise.

Farrowings from June 1 to November 30, 1957 are estimated to have totalled 471,200, which is 13.6 per cent more than in the same six months of 1956. The number of pigs saved from these litters (3,642,000) is 11.3 per cent greater than the 1956 summer and fall pig crop. Regionally the number of pigs saved amounted to 2,110,000 in the East (up 6 per cent) and 1,532,000 in Western Canada (up 20 per cent). Pigs over six months old are estimated at 1,607,000 head, up 18.2 per cent above the December 1956 estimate. Marketings since December 1 have not reflected this increase, but this may be attributed to farmers withholding gilts for breeding, as evidenced by their reported intentions with respect to spring farrowings.

Expected farrowings for the December 1957 to May 1958 pig crop are estimated at 610,400, or 23 per cent more than farrowings for the similar period a year ago. The increase in the East is expected to be 19 per cent and in the West 27 per cent. Sows bred prior to December 1 to farrow before March 1, 1958 are estimated at 218,100, including 130,600 in the East and 87,500 in the West.

The 1957 Hog-Barley Ratio averaged 25.5, which is the highest yearly average since 1939, and considerably above the long-time average and the post-war average.

Canada totals shown in this report are nine-province totals only. The June 1956 Census reported 1,820 pigs on farms in Newfoundland, of which 623 were over six months old.

^{1/} Not including Newfoundland.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

Table 1.- Pigs: Totals on Farms, by Province, June 1 and December 1, 1956 and 1957

Province	June 1, 1956 Census	Dec. 1, 1956 Revised	June 1, 1957	Dec. 1, 1957
- thousands -				
Prince Edward Is.	46.7	49.0	45.0	50.0
Nova Scotia	32.7	34.0	31.0	34.0
New Brunswick	53.8	53.0	52.0	61.0
Quebec	887.1	825.0	874.0	900.0
Ontario	1,548.3	1,575.0	1,565.0	1,640.0
Manitoba	310.5	275.0	316.0	330.0
Saskatchewan	591.9	515.0	633.0	630.0
Alberta	1,211.5	1,190.0	1,300.0	1,470.0
Br. Columbia	48.4	45.0	41.0	45.0
C A N A D A	4,730.9	4,561.0	4,857.0	5,160.0

Table 2.- Pigs: Numbers on Farms, by Age Group and Province, December 1, 1956 and 1957

Province	1956 Revised			1957			Total
	Over 6 months	Under 6 months	Total	Over 6 months	Under 6 months	Total	1957 as % of 1956
- thousands -							
Prince Edward Is.	9	40	49	9	41	50	102
Nova Scotia	9	25	34	8	26	34	100
New Brunswick	17	36	53	16	45	61	115
Quebec	225	600	825	235	665	900	109
Ontario	325	1,250	1,575	370	1,270	1,640	104
Eastern Canada	585	1,951	2,536	638	2,047	2,685	106
Manitoba	107	168	275	125	205	330	120
Saskatchewan	253	262	515	300	330	630	122
Alberta	400	790	1,190	530	940	1,470	124
Br. Columbia	15	30	45	14	31	45	100
Western Canada	775	1,250	2,025	969	1,506	2,475	122
C A N A D A	1,360	3,201	4,561	1,607	3,553	5,160	113

Table 3.- Sows Farrowed, Pigs Born and Pigs Saved^{1/}, June to November, (Fall Pig Crop) 1956 and 1957

Province	1956 Revised			1957			Pigs Saved 1957 as % of 1956
	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs ^{1/} Saved	Sows Farrowed	Pigs Born	Pigs ^{1/} Saved	
	- thousands -						%
Pr. Edward Is.	5.3	50	42	5.6	53	42	100
Nova Scotia	3.4	32	26	3.6	34	27	104
New Brunswick	4.8	44	37	6.0	56	46	124
Quebec	82.0	749	631	92.0	845	715	113
Ontario	153.0	1,530	1,263	164.0	1,550	1,280	101
Eastern Canada	248.5	2,405	1,999	271.2	2,538	2,110	106
Manitoba	22.0	206	175	28.0	245	210	120
Saskatchewan	36.5	300	266	45.0	400	335	126
Alberta	104.0	928	800	123.0	1,120	955	119
Br. Columbia	3.8	36	31	4.0	39	32	103
Western Canada	166.3	1,470	1,272	200.0	1,804	1,532	120
C A N A D A	414.8	3,875	3,271	471.2	4,342	3,642	111

^{1/} Pigs alive at weaning time or alive, not yet weaned, at December 1.

Table 4.- Estimates of Sows Expected to Farrow December, 1957 to May, 1958 and Sows Farrowed December, 1956 to May, 1957 (revised).

Province	Farrowed Spring Period 1957	Expected to Farrow Spring Period 1958	Intentions 1958 as % 1957
	- numbers -		%
Pr. Edward Island	5,200	6,000	115
Nova Scotia	3,300	4,200	127
New Brunswick	5,400	7,200	133
Quebec	92,000	115,000	125
Ontario	164,000	190,000	116
Eastern Canada	269,900	322,400	119
Manitoba	31,400	43,000	137
Saskatchewan	66,300	85,000	128
Alberta	125,000	155,000	124
Br. Columbia	3,700	5,000	135
Western Canada	226,400	288,000	127
C A N A D A	496,300	610,400	123

Table 5.- Estimates of Sows Bred to Farrow, December, 1957 to February, 1958 and Sows Farrowed December, 1956 to February, 1957

(Based on Quarterly Pig Surveys)

Province	Farrowed 1957	Expected to Farrow 1958	1958 as % of 1957
	- numbers -		%
Maritimes	4,200	5,600	133
Quebec	35,000	45,000	128
Ontario	71,000	80,000	113
Totals, Eastern Canada	110,200	130,600	119
Manitoba	7,500	11,500	153
Saskatchewan	12,300	19,000	154
Alberta	38,000	55,000	145
British Columbia	1,500	2,000	133
Totals, Western Canada	59,300	87,500	147
Totals, C A N A D A	169,500	218,100	129

Table 6.- Hog-Barley Ratios, by Month, 1948-1957

Months	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
January	17.1	21.0	16.3	17.0	14.6	15.1	28.1	16.2	16.3	23.0
February	19.6	21.2	17.3	17.2	14.7	16.1	28.9	15.3	16.3	25.8
March	20.6	22.0	16.4	17.4	15.4	17.0	30.7	16.0	15.2	24.7
April	19.3	21.5	14.6	16.4	16.5	17.0	30.6	15.9	14.3	24.3
May	18.7	21.0	15.0	20.2	17.4	19.0	31.7	17.0	14.7	25.1
June	19.2	21.5	16.5	24.3	17.2	20.7	28.3	19.7	18.8	28.3
July	19.9	19.8	17.3	26.1	17.5	21.4	23.6	19.0	19.8	29.1
August	22.8	20.2	18.6	25.1	15.9	23.2	18.4	19.4	19.6	29.8
September	24.1	17.2	17.8	21.2	15.2	23.8	16.3	19.7	20.6	28.5
October	22.4	15.9	16.7	17.0	14.4	26.5	15.8	16.4	21.9	23.3
November	20.7	15.5	16.1	15.2	14.2	24.8	16.0	16.3	21.5	21.6
December	21.7	16.6	17.4	15.8	16.3	27.4	17.1	16.4	22.4	22.9
Averages	20.3	19.1	16.6	19.1	15.7	20.6	23.1	17.2	18.4	25.5

- 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 and for 1947 to 1956 it was 18.8.