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REPORT ON LIVESTOCK SURVEYS

HOGS, MARCH 1, 1963

The number of hogs on farms in Canada^{1/} at March 1 is estimated at 4,756,000 head, almost 2 per cent above the revised estimate of 4,678,000 at March 1, 1962. Numbers were up 17 per cent in Eastern Canada but down 17 per cent in the West from year-earlier totals. Increases were quite substantial in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec to offset decreases in all other provinces. Three months ago, at December 1, 1962, the number of hogs on farms was almost 3 per cent below the comparable year-earlier total. The moderate change to a small over-all increase by March 1 indicates that a build-up of hog production is taking place. Sharply reduced marketings during the last three months, especially in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, appear to have resulted partly from withholding sows and gilts for breeding stock.

The number of sows that farrowed during the December-February quarter is estimated at 212,600, slightly below the estimate of 213,700 that farrowed during the same period a year earlier. This is well below intentions which were reported by farmers in the December survey which indicated a probable increase of 11 per cent during this winter quarter. However, from the March survey reports, most of the increase in farrowings previously forecast for the half year (December 1962 to May 1963) is still expected. Reported intentions indicate that second quarter (March-May) farrowings are expected to be 12 per cent above last year in the East and 16 per cent above last year in the West, a 13 per cent increase for Canada as a whole. If these reported intentions for the second quarter are realized, farrowings for the six-month period will be 8 per cent above last year in the East and up 6 per cent in the West, a net increase of 7 per cent in total. Thus, present indications are that 536,600 sows are expected to farrow during the December to May period this year compared to 499,600 last year.

^{1/} Not including Newfoundland.

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Table 1.- Hogs: Number on Farms, by Age Group and Province, at March 1, 1962 and 1963

Province	March 1, 1962 ^{1/}			March 1, 1963			1963 Total as % of 1962
	6 months or over	Under- 6 months	Total	6 months or over	Under- 6 months	Total	
- thousand head -							%
P.E.I.	12.0	36.0	48.0	13.0	30.0	43.0	90
N.S.	12.0	28.0	40.0	10.0	38.0	48.0	120
N.B.	12.0	28.0	40.0	10.0	28.0	38.0	95
Que.	240.0	635.0	875.0	250.0	680.0	930.0	106
Ont.	425.0	1,150.0	1,575.0	470.0	1,490.0	1,960.0	124
EAST	701.0	1,877.0	2,578.0	753.0	2,266.0	3,019.0	117
Man.	115.0	195.0	310.0	98.0	200.0	298.0	96
Sask.	215.0	225.0	440.0	165.0	165.0	330.0	75
Alta.	460.0	850.0	1,310.0	370.0	705.0	1,075.0	82
B.C.	14.0	26.0	40.0	12.0	22.0	34.0	85
WEST	804.0	1,296.0	2,100.0	645.0	1,092.0	1,737.0	83
CANADA	1,505.0	3,173.0	4,678.0	1,398.0	3,358.0	4,756.0	102

^{1/} Revised to correspond with 1961 Census benchmarks.

Table 2.- Sows Farrowed December 1961 to February 1962 vs. December 1962 to February 1963
Sows Farrowed March to May 1962 vs. Sows Expected to Farrow March to May 1963

Province	December, January, February			March, April, May			Dec.to May
	Farrowed 1962	Farrowed 1963	1963 Total as % of 1962	Farrowed 1962	Expected to Farrow 1963	1963 Total as % of 1962	1963 Total as % of 1962
- thousands -			%	- thousands -			%
Maritimes	5.4	5.4	100	9.1	11.6	127	117
Quebec	52.0	53.0	102	60.0	70.0	117	110
Ontario	85.5	90.0	105	102.5	110.0	107	106
EAST	142.9	148.4	104	171.6	191.6	112	108
Manitoba	11.5	12.0	104	20.5	28.0	137	125
Sask.	11.7	11.0	94	27.5	34.0	124	115
Alberta	46.0	40.0	87	64.0	68.0	106	98
B.C.	1.6	1.2	75	2.3	2.4	104	92
WEST	70.8	64.2	91	114.3	132.4	116	106
CANADA	213.7	212.6	99	285.9	324.0	113	107