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DECEMBER ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF FIELD CROPS

Ottawa, December 14, 1948, 3 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its first estimate of the farm value of field crop production for 1948 as compared with the values for 1947 and 1946. It must be emphasized that the values per unit assigned to each crop in 1948 represent average prices received by farmers from the beginning of the crop year, August 1, up to the end of November only. No attempt has been made to forecast prices for the remainder of the crop year, but a further estimate based on average prices during the first 6 months of the crop year will be issued in February next. A revised statement based on prices during the entire crop year will be released next December with the first estimate of the value of 1949 crops. Data on monthly marketings are available for a number of crops and in these cases the monthly average farm prices have been weighted by marketings to give weighted average unit values for the period. The average prices assigned to all crops have been determined after consultation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture and after careful consideration has been given to factors such as quality and grade.

The value of 1947 field crops has been revised, wherever possible, on the basis of weighted average prices for the twelve months of the crop year 1947-48. It should be observed that the estimates presented in this report do not represent cash income received from sales but are gross values of farm production. Several crops such as mixed grains and fodder corn are almost wholly utilized on farms where grown--average unit prices being determined from the relatively small quantities sold commercially and then applied to the entire production of each crop to give its estimated value.

S U M M A R Y

The gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is estimated at 1,595 million dollars, the highest gross value of production ever recorded in this series which extends back forty-one years. The 1,500 million dollar level has previously been exceeded only once, in 1919--while values in excess of 1,400 million were recorded in only two years, 1920 and 1947. High prices were largely responsible for the enhanced values of production in each of these years.

The values of current field crop production in Canada are in strong contrast with those recorded in the 1930's when values (based on depression prices) ranged from 432 million dollars in 1931 to 686 million in 1939. This year's figure is about 11 per cent above the revised gross value of production for 1947 and some 269 per cent above the low point reached in 1931. While prices of some of the major crops have been lower during the current crop year than in 1947-48, generally sharp increases in the 1948 production of most crops more than offset reduced prices, resulting in the substantial increase over 1947 in total value of production noted above.

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The following table shows a comparison of the gross value of field crop production from 1931 to date. Values for recent years have been revised to include, where applicable, the effects of participation payments for wheat and equalization and adjustment payments for oats, barley and flax. Upward revisions will subsequently be required to allow for additional participation payments which will accrue to the 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 wheat crops from the five-year pool now in operation. The 20 cents per bushel payment made in 1948 covering 1945, 1946 and 1947 wheat marketings has been taken into account.

Gross Value of Canadian Field Crop Production, 1931-1948

	Thousand Dollars		Thousand Dollars
1931	432,199	1940	704,299
1932	452,527	1941	704,761
1933	453,598	1942	1,221,942
1934	549,080	1943	1,189,229
1935	511,873	1944	1,386,892
1936	612,300	1945	1,209,918
1937	556,222	1946	1,345,199
1938	550,069	1947	1,438,660
1939	685,839	1948	1,594,897

The 1948 wheat crop is valued at 550.4 million dollars, an increase of 95 million from the 1947 level. While the average price of 1948 wheat is 5 cents per bushel more than in 1947 most of the increased value accrues from the additional 56.6 million bushels of wheat produced in 1948. Despite a lower average price for oats, the total value of the crop is also up nearly 37 million dollars. With barley production only moderately above 1947 levels and a lower average price ruling during the first four months of the crop year, the total value of this crop has declined about 2 million dollars as between the two years. The production of rye was nearly doubled in 1948 but the price drop was so pronounced as to cut the value of this crop by over 8 million dollars from the 1947 level. A somewhat parallel situation prevails with respect to potatoes and dry beans where increased production has been more than offset by lower prices--the value of the potato crop declining nearly 16 million dollars and beans nearly one million from 1947.

Production declines coupled with relatively small changes in average prices have resulted in somewhat lowered values this year for the dry pea, buckwheat and hay and clover crops. The sugar beet prices shown for 1948 indicate initial payments only, and upward revisions will be required in the value of this crop as soon as the extent of the final payment is known in each of the four provinces concerned. The 1948 values of all other crops for which estimates have been included in this release are higher than those recorded for 1947.

Increases in gross value of production over 1947 levels have occurred in all provinces except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where the drop in potato prices seriously affected total value of production, particularly in the former province. The greatest percentage increases in value of production took place in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec in that order, excellent 1948 grain crops being the chief factor responsible for the improved value position in these provinces. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, higher wheat crop values were nearly offset by lower prices for other major crops with the net result that gross value of production in each province increased only 1 per cent over last year. In Nova Scotia and British Columbia value increases of 4 and 5 per cent respectively were recorded as between the two years.

Values of Field Crop Production, by Provinces, 1947 and 1948

Province	Total	Values	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
	1 9 4 7	1 9 4 8	in Value	
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cent
Prince Edward Island	23,270	22,812	- 458	- 2
Nova Scotia	22,430	23,345	+ 915	+ 4
New Brunswick	44,178	36,894	- 7,284	- 16
Quebec	170,139	188,490	+ 18,351	+ 11
Ontario	282,239	370,264	+ 88,025	+ 31
Manitoba	164,268	213,306	+ 49,038	+ 30
Saskatchewan	393,002	396,817	+ 3,815	+ 1
Alberta	306,976	309,232	+ 2,256	+ 1
British Columbia	32,158	33,737	+ 1,579	+ 5
CANADA	1,438,660	1,594,897	+ 156,237	+ 11

The total value of all field crops in Canada in 1948 is now estimated at \$1,594,897,000 as compared with \$1,438,660,000 in 1947. The 1948 total is made up of the following items, with the 1947 values within brackets: Wheat \$550,427,000 (\$455,436,000); oats \$251,975,000 (\$215,072,000); barley \$144,648,000 (\$146,553,000); rye \$35,114,000 (\$43,517,000); peas \$4,283,000 (\$5,138,000); beans \$6,874,000 (\$7,721,000); soy beans \$3,955,000 (\$3,397,000); buckwheat \$4,904,000 (\$6,075,000); mixed grains \$60,081,000 (\$32,635,000); flaxseed \$66,358,000 (\$64,135,000); shelled corn \$17,218,000 (\$12,506,000); potatoes \$83,881,000 (\$99,362,000); turnips, mangels, etc. \$20,521,000 (\$19,392,000); hay and clover \$248,249,000 (\$251,154,000); alfalfa \$50,910,000 (\$38,965,000); fodder corn \$29,334,000 (\$19,654,000); grain hay \$10,080,000 (\$9,264,000); sugar beets \$6,085,000, initial payment (\$8,684,000).

By provinces in order of magnitude, the total values of 1948 crops are as follows, with the 1947 figures within brackets: Saskatchewan \$396,817,000 (\$393,002,000); Ontario \$370,264,000 (\$282,239,000); Alberta \$309,232,000 (\$306,976,000); Manitoba \$213,306,000 (\$164,268,000); Quebec \$188,490,000 (\$170,139,000); New Brunswick \$36,894,000 (\$44,178,000); British Columbia \$33,737,000 (\$32,158,000); Nova Scotia \$23,345,000 (\$22,430,000); Prince Edward Island \$22,812,000 (\$23,270,000).

For the three Prairie Provinces the total value of the five principal grain crops in 1948 is now estimated as follows, with the 1947 values within brackets: Wheat \$488,890,000 (\$424,450,000); oats \$139,930,000 (\$138,980,000); barley \$130,340,000 (\$134,680,000); rye \$30,606,000 (\$39,594,000); flaxseed \$63,115,000 (\$60,394,000). The total value of the five crops for the three provinces amounts to \$852,881,000 in 1948 as compared with \$798,098,000 in 1947.

The average prices received by farmers for the 1948 crops up to the end of November are estimated as follows, with the prices of 1947 crops within brackets: Cents per bushel - Wheat 140 (135); oats 70 (77); barley 94 (104); rye 139 (329); peas 292 (287); beans 417 (534); soy beans 235 (306); buckwheat 125 (117); mixed grains 97 (93); flaxseed 382 (524); corn, shelled 139 (187); Cents per cwt. - Potatoes 151 (220); turnips, mangels, etc. 91 (92); Dollars per ton - Hay and clover 15.48 (15.51); alfalfa 16.72 (15.22); fodder corn 5.71 (5.08); grain hay 8.37 (6.86); sugar beets 9.71, initial payment (14.34).

FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE GROSS VALUE OF FIELD CROPS, IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, FOR 1948 AS
COMPARED WITH 1946 AND 1947

NOTE: Average prices are per bushel for grain crops, per cwt. for potatoes, turnips, mangels, etc., and per ton for hay, alfalfa, fodder corn and sugar beets.

C r o p	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7		1 9 4 8	
	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value
	\$	000\$	\$	000\$	\$	000\$
<u>CANADA</u>						
Wheat	1.33	551,861	1.35	455,436	1.40	550,427
Oats	0.58	213,786	0.77	215,072	0.70	251,975
Barley	0.77	114,670	1.04	146,553	0.94	144,648
Rye	2.23	19,651	3.29	43,517	1.39	35,114
Peas, dry	2.94	6,860	2.87	5,138	2.92	4,283
Beans, dry	3.09	4,865	5.34	7,721	4.17	6,874
Soy beans	2.21	2,369	3.06	3,397	2.35	3,955
Buckwheat	0.98	4,789	1.17	6,075	1.25	4,904
Mixed grains	0.67	35,358	0.93	32,635	0.97	60,081
Flaxseed	2.99	19,173	5.24	64,135	3.82	66,358
Corn, shelled	1.06	11,269	1.87	12,506	1.39	17,218
Potatoes	1.72	82,721	2.20	99,362	1.51	83,881
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.76	20,439	0.92	19,392	0.91	20,521
Hay and clover	12.80	183,974	15.51	251,154	15.48	248,249
Alfalfa	13.70	37,422	15.22	38,965	16.72	50,910
Fodder corn	4.21	16,711	5.08	19,654	5.71	29,334
Grain hay	6.25	10,092	6.86	9,264	8.37	10,080
Sugar beets	12.49	9,189	14.34	8,684	9.71 ^{1/}	6,085
TOTAL Field Crops	-	1,345,199	-	1,438,660	-	1,594,897

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Wheat	1.20	94	1.51	146	1.79	231
Oats	0.67	2,822	0.91	3,886	0.86	3,958
Barley	0.91	248	1.04	334	1.22	355
Buckwheat	0.94	23	1.14	29	1.30	29
Mixed grains	0.70	1,331	0.85	2,090	0.98	2,597
Potatoes	1.07	6,124	1.77	10,395	1.03	6,503
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.63	2,322	0.75	2,475	0.60	2,306
Hay and clover	17.50	3,255	21.19	3,835	13.42	6,737
Fodder corn	6.00	54	8.00	80	8.00	96
TOTAL	-	16,273	-	23,270	-	22,812

^{1/} Initial payment only.

C r o p	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7		1 9 4 8	
	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value
	\$	000\$	\$	000\$	\$	000\$
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>						
Wheat	1.12	28	1.35	34	1.82	58
Oats	0.75	1,916	0.91	2,048	0.92	2,256
Barley	1.01	249	1.13	215	1.22	264
Buckwheat	1.07	46	1.26	34	1.35	36
Mixed grains	0.84	121	1.03	148	1.02	202
Potatoes	1.87	5,296	2.29	4,186	1.45	4,019
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.00	3,263	1.00	2,010	0.90	2,212
Hay and Clover	17.21	10,309	18.93	13,705	17.48	14,229
Fodder corn	6.25	56	6.25	50	6.25	69
TOTAL Field Crops	-	21,284	-	22,430	-	23,345
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>						
Wheat	1.37	47	1.59	73	1.88	137
Oats	0.66	4,174	0.88	5,373	0.85	6,040
Barley	0.95	309	1.12	376	1.22	429
Beans, dry	4.00	80	4.17	63	4.25	81
Buckwheat	1.13	466	1.28	493	1.35	500
Mixed grains	0.83	242	0.84	271	0.92	293
Potatoes	1.43	13,754	2.03	19,198	1.09	11,324
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.60	1,760	0.85	1,638	0.80	1,780
Hay and clover	16.15	11,483	18.55	16,565	16.00	16,208
Fodder corn	6.00	156	8.00	128	6.00	102
TOTAL Field Crops	-	32,471	-	44,178	-	36,894
<u>QUEBEC</u>						
Wheat	1.25	486	1.56	507	1.84	874
Oats	0.69	23,982	0.92	24,508	0.91	35,817
Barley	0.90	2,473	1.21	3,491	1.19	4,190
Rye	1.07	135	1.32	164	1.31	299
Peas, dry	3.64	1,103	3.96	836	3.95	1,043
Beans, dry	3.86	764	4.55	701	4.46	972
Buckwheat	1.01	1,643	1.26	1,919	1.32	2,132
Mixed grains	0.83	5,550	0.98	5,457	1.09	10,169
Potatoes	1.85	21,090	2.47	26,078	1.45	22,026
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.00	4,169	1.10	3,798	1.23	4,959
Hay and clover	12.98	70,572	15.93	94,545	17.00	95,268
Alfalfa	14.43	2,092	17.45	2,722	19.25	3,619
Fodder corn	6.10	4,703	7.40	5,276	7.08	6,960
Sugar beets	12.00	219	13.00	137	6.00 ^{1/}	162
TOTAL Field Crops	-	138,981	-	170,139	-	188,490

^{1/} Initial payment only.

C r o p	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7		1 9 4 8	
	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total
	Price	Value	Price	Value	Price	Value
	\$	000\$	\$	000\$	\$	000\$
<u>ONTARIO</u>						
Wheat	1.25	21,388	1.42	25,985	2.09	56,794
Oats	0.60	43,066	0.90	37,341	0.80	61,382
Barley	0.77	8,280	1.13	6,930	1.10	8,556
Rye	1.99	2,742	2.56	3,697	1.52	4,182
Peas, dry	2.84	2,045	3.00	1,932	2.86	1,859
Beans, dry	2.97	3,944	5.47	6,903	4.11	5,762
Soy beans	2.21	2,369	3.06	3,397	2.35	3,955
Buckwheat	0.93	2,503	1.11	3,543	1.17	2,156
Mixed grains	0.64	27,063	0.94	23,793	0.95	45,288
Flaxseed	3.03	512	5.42	3,653	3.80	3,150
Corn, shelled	1.06	11,016	1.89	12,153	1.39	16,847
Potatoes	1.96	21,168	2.38	21,658	1.80	22,000
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.67	8,406	0.89	8,845	0.88	8,586
Hay and clover	11.61	60,326	14.29	87,941	13.71	78,833
Alfalfa	12.88	20,595	14.25	19,195	15.28	27,855
Fodder corn	3.60	10,980	4.38	13,022	5.28	21,099
Sugar beets	13.70	3,184	13.70	2,251	10.00 <u>1/</u>	1,960
TOTAL Field Crops	-	249,587	-	282,239	-	370,264
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
Wheat	1.39	80,620	1.38	57,960	1.37	78,090
Oats	0.56	28,000	0.72	28,080	0.65	39,000
Barley	0.78	33,540	1.04	35,360	0.95	42,750
Rye	2.25	779	3.54	2,124	1.36	2,652
Peas, dry	2.85	1,744	2.40	1,049	2.30	626
Buckwheat	1.28	108	1.64	57	1.50	51
Mixed grains	0.59	248	0.80	246	0.84	313
Flaxseed	3.00	8,937	5.24	27,248	3.81	38,100
Shelled corn	0.94	253	1.40	353	1.25	371
Potatoes	1.59	2,147	1.67	3,028	1.53	3,300
Hay and clover	9.04	2,197	10.78	4,743	10.00	4,310
Alfalfa	12.94	1,307	13.05	2,584	14.00	2,520
Fodder corn	7.78	327	7.00	623	7.00	490
Sugar beets	11.03	1,080	12.55	813	9.10 <u>1/</u>	733
TOTAL Field Crops	-	161,287	-	164,268	-	213,306
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
Wheat	1.34	278,720	1.35	229,500	1.35	257,850
Oats	0.55	55,000	0.73	58,400	0.62	55,180
Barley	0.77	33,110	1.04	46,800	0.92	38,640
Rye	2.27	9,091	3.32	22,510	1.38	14,490
Peas, dry	2.85	502	2.50	255	2.25	79
Mixed grains	0.65	104	0.74	70	0.82	104
Flaxseed	2.99	7,756	5.23	21,966	3.86	15,440
Potatoes	2.00	3,552	2.01	4,798	2.19	4,733
Hay and clover	10.42	4,887	14.22	5,674	13.75	6,091
Alfalfa	13.93	2,688	16.72	2,859	17.25	4,002
Fodder corn	8.00	120	10.00	170	13.86	208
TOTAL Field Crops	-	395,530	-	393,002	-	396,817

1/ Initial payment only.

C r o p	1 9 4 6		1 9 4 7		1 9 4 8	
	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value
	\$	000\$	\$	000\$	\$	000\$
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
Wheat	1.31	168,370	1.33	136,990	1.33	152,950
Oats	0.54	52,380	0.70	52,500	0.61	45,750
Barley	0.75	36,000	1.01	52,520	0.89	48,950
Rye	2.34	6,849	3.52	14,960	1.36	13,464
Peas, dry	3.00	942	2.66	591	2.55	528
Beans, dry	3.50	21	-	-	-	-
Mixed grains	0.63	459	0.74	266	0.75	796
Flaxseed	2.98	1,892	5.20	11,180	3.83	9,575
Potatoes	1.97	4,040	2.08	4,077	2.03	4,119
Hay and clover	10.89	11,108	13.90	13,553	14.42	14,665
Alfalfa	13.47	6,210	14.64	6,544	17.37	6,792
Fodder corn	6.00	18	6.00	24	6.50	13
Grain hay	6.00	9,264	6.50	8,288	7.50	8,400
Sugar beets	12.16	4,706	14.98	5,483	10.00 ^{1/}	3,230
TOTAL Field Crops	-	300,259	-	306,976	-	309,232

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Wheat	1.33	4,108	1.43	4,241	1.40	3,443
Oats	0.55	2,446	0.75	2,936	0.75	2,592
Barley	0.85	461	1.04	527	1.06	514
Rye	1.90	55	3.25	62	1.40	27
Peas, dry	2.52	524	2.76	475	3.60	148
Beans, dry	2.65	56	3.60	54	5.40	59
Mixed grains	0.69	240	0.80	294	0.94	319
Flaxseed	2.97	76	5.22	88	3.86	93
Potatoes	2.30	5,550	2.78	5,944	2.63	5,857
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.30	519	1.60	626	1.90	678
Hay and clover	19.25	9,837	21.53	10,593	26.00	11,908
Alfalfa	19.44	4,530	21.00	5,061	26.50	6,122
Fodder corn	6.60	297	7.50	281	9.00	297
Grain hay	11.50	828	13.00	976	20.00	1,680
TOTAL Field Crops	-	29,527	-	32,158	-	33,737

^{1/} Initial payment only.

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