

22-002
no. 19
1950
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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Agriculture Division
OTTAWA

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

C. R. No. 25
1950

Price: \$2.00 for series of 25 reports.

December Estimate of Value of Field Crops

Ottawa, December 14, 1950, 3 p.m.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its first estimate of the farm value of field crop production for 1950 as compared with the values for 1949 and 1948. It must be emphasized that the values per unit assigned to each crop in 1950 represent for the most part average prices received by farmers from the beginning of the crop year, August 1 up to the end of October only. With the exception of sugar beets no attempt has been made to estimate prices for the remainder of the crop year--although weight has been given in a few cases to November prices when these were available. A further estimate based on average prices during the first six months of the crop year will be issued in February next while a revised statement based on prices during the entire crop year will be released next December with the first estimate of the value of 1951 field crops. For wheat, oats and barley of the 1950 crop in western Canada, only the initial prices are considered in this release. The effect of participation payments will be taken into account in later revisions when the extent of these payments becomes known.

Wherever monthly marketing data are available 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 officials responsible for agricultural statistics in each of the provinces and after due consideration has been given to factors such as quality and grade.

The values of 1949 field crops have been revised, wherever possible, on the basis of weighted average prices for the twelve months of the crop year 1949-50. Effect has also been given to the substantial participation payments made on the 1949 western oats and barley crops. A further upward adjustment will be also required in the farm price and value of the 1945 to 1949 wheat crops when the amount of the final payment on the five-year pool is announced. It should be noted that the estimates in this report do not represent cash income received from sales but are gross values of farm production. Several crops such as mixed grain and fodder corn are utilized almost wholly 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.

Summary

The gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1950 is estimated at 1,483 million dollars, about 4 per cent below the 1949 level of 1,544 million. The gross dollar value of Canada's 1950 field crops is the fifth highest in history, being exceeded only in the years 1919, 1947, 1948 and 1949. It should be noted, too, that anticipated participation payments on western wheat, oats and barley will place this year's crop at a higher level than is currently indicated.

Among the principal factors affecting the apparent decline in the gross value of field crops from the 1949 level were the relatively poor quality of the western wheat and barley crops, the lower initial price for western wheat and a lower average price for potatoes. The gross value of these three crops alone was 121 million dollars less than in 1949. For most other crops, increased production more than offset price declines--with the result that increased gross values were registered for all the remaining crops covered in this report with the exception of dry peas, dry beans and field roots where slight declines occurred. It should be repeated, however, that upward revisions will be required in the 1950 figures depending upon the magnitude of the participation payments which may become payable on the western wheat, oats and barley crops.

The following table shows a comparison of the gross value of field crop production from 1931 to date. Values up to 1949 include the effect of all participation, equalization and adjustment payments for wheat, oats, barley and flax made to date. Upward revisions will be made in the 1945-49 figures when the amount of the final wheat participation payment is announced for the five-year pool, and in the 1950 figures when the participation payments on wheat, oats, and barley become known.

Gross Value of Canadian Field Crop Production, 1931-1950

Year	Thousand Dollars	Year	Thousand Dollars
1931	432,199	1941	704,761
1932	452,527	1942	1,221,942
1933	453,598	1943	1,189,229
1934	549,080	1944	1,386,892
1935	511,873	1945	1,270,947
1936	612,300	1946	1,424,417
1937	556,222	1947	1,531,146
1938	550,069	1948	1,685,211
1939	685,839	1949	1,544,014
1940	704,299	1950	1,482,901

The 1950 wheat crop currently valued at 491 million dollars, is down some 13 per cent from last year. Although the total wheat crop was 94 million bushels greater than in 1949 the sharp drop in average farm value (\$1.06 per bushel as against \$1.54 in 1949) was sufficient to bring about a decrease of 75 million dollars in the estimated total farm value of the crop. The large increase in oats production more than offset a lower farm price and the 1950 crop is accordingly valued nearly 15 million dollars higher than in 1949. Substantial increases in production of mixed grains and flaxseed over 1949 levels, with little change in prices, has resulted in gains of 16 and 7 million dollars, respectively in the 1950 farm value of these crops. Despite the larger 1950 outturn of barley and potatoes the lower prices offered this season have resulted in declines of approximately 23 million dollars in the gross value of each crop. With both production and price of shelled corn above 1949 levels the gross value of this crop is more than 2 million dollars above the 1949 figure. Production of hay and clover, alfalfa and fodder corn in 1950 was generally greater than in 1949 and with prices only a little lower, the gross values of production of these crops are up slightly from last year.

Over-all increases in the gross dollar value of 1950 field crop production relative to 1949 were recorded only in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario, with decreases being registered in the other six provinces covered in this report.

Values of Field Crop Production, by Provinces, 1950 and 1949

Province	Total Values		Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
	1949	1950	in Value	
	Thousand Dollars	Thousand Dollars	Thousand Dollars	Per Cent
Prince Edward Island	25,526	17,825	- 7,701	- 30
Nova Scotia	22,472	23,413	+ 941	+ 4
New Brunswick	33,120	25,360	- 7,760	- 24
Quebec	193,361	218,429	+ 25,068	+ 13
Ontario	359,256	388,257	+ 29,001	+ 8
Manitoba	204,042	162,664	- 41,378	- 20
Saskatchewan	405,083	369,214	- 35,869	- 9
Alberta	266,685	249,823	- 16,862	- 6
British Columbia	34,469	27,916	- 6,553	- 19
CANADA	1,544,014	1,482,901	- 61,113	- 4

The total value of all field crops in Canada in 1950 is now estimated at \$1,482,901,000 as compared with \$1,544,014,000 in 1949. The 1950 total is made up of the following items, with the 1949 values within brackets: Wheat \$490,595,000 (\$566,114,000); oats \$265,776,000 (\$251,045,000); barley \$133,879,000 (\$157,124,000); rye \$16,547,000 (\$12,294,000); peas, dry \$2,615,000 (\$2,653,000); beans, dry \$5,549,000 (\$6,092,000); soy beans \$6,655,000 (\$5,887,000); buckwheat \$4,865,000 (\$4,422,000); mixed grains \$72,014,000 (\$55,627,000); flaxseed \$14,911,000 (\$7,570,000); shelled corn \$19,871,000 (\$17,552,000); potatoes \$60,788,000 (\$83,255,000); turnips, mangels, etc. \$22,037,000 (\$23,938,000); hay and clover \$241,823,000 (\$237,744,000); alfalfa \$60,982,000 (\$55,031,000); fodder corn \$35,673,000 (\$34,615,000); grain hay \$14,500,000 (\$11,301,000); sugar beets--total payment except for Alberta where initial payment only is included in 1950 \$13,821,000 (\$11,750,000).

By provinces in order of magnitude, the total values of 1950 crops are as follows, with the 1949 figures within brackets: Ontario \$388,257,000 (\$359,256,000); Saskatchewan \$369,214,000 (\$405,083,000); Alberta \$249,823,000 (\$266,685,000); Quebec \$218,429,000 (\$193,361,000); Manitoba \$162,664,000 (\$204,042,000); British Columbia \$27,916,000 (\$34,469,000); New Brunswick \$25,360,000 (\$33,120,000); Nova Scotia \$23,413,000 (\$22,472,000); Prince Edward Island \$17,825,000 (\$25,526,000).

For the three Prairie Provinces the total value of each of the five principal grain crops in 1950 is now estimated as follows, with the 1949 value within brackets: Wheat \$435,490,000 (\$512,870,000); oats \$129,100,000 (\$141,150,000); barley \$116,350,000 (\$142,880,000); rye \$13,502,000 (\$8,980,000); flaxseed \$14,108,000 (\$6,794,000). The total value of the five crops for the three provinces amounts to \$708,550,000 in 1950 as compared with \$812,674,000 in 1949.

The average prices received by farmers for the 1950 crops up to the end of November are estimated as follows, with the prices of 1949 crops within brackets: Cents per bushel - Wheat 106 (154); oats 63 (79); barley 78 (130); rye 124 (123); peas, dry 315 (283); beans, dry 401 (345); soy beans 219 (226); buckwheat 126 (124); mixed grains 98 (99); flaxseed 328 (331); shelled corn 144 (129); potatoes 62 (93); Cents per hundredweight - turnips, mangels, etc. 96 (122); Dollars per ton - Hay and clover 18.37 (19.61); alfalfa 18.83 (21.15); fodder corn 558 (632); grain hay 13.07 (12.36); sugar beets - total price per ton except for Alberta where initial price only is included in 1950 - 12.65 (13.68).

FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE GROSS VALUE OF FIELD CROPS, IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES,
1950 AS COMPARED WITH 1948 AND 1949

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

C r o p	1 9 4 8		1 9 4 9		1 9 5 0	
	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value
	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$
<u>CANADA</u>						
Wheat	1.58	611,951	1.54	566,114	1.06	490,595
Oats	0.71	254,525	0.79	251,045	0.63	265,776
Barley	0.97	149,991	1.30	157,124	0.78	133,879
Rye	1.31	33,261	1.23	12,294	1.24	16,547
Peas, dry	2.93	4,328	2.83	2,653	3.15	2,615
Beans, dry	4.16	6,836	3.45	6,092	4.01	5,549
Soy beans	2.30	4,195	2.26	5,887	2.19	6,655
Buckwheat	1.24	4,982	1.24	4,422	1.26	4,865
Mixed Grains	0.97	60,317	0.99	55,627	0.98	72,014
Flaxseed	3.81	67,460	3.31	7,570	3.28	14,911
Corn, shelled	1.32	16,369	1.29	17,552	1.44	19,871
Potatoes	1.00	91,837	0.93	83,255	0.62	60,788
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.98	22,257	1.22	23,938	0.96	22,037
Hay and Clover	15.85	254,769	19.61	237,744	18.37	241,823
Alfalfa	17.01	51,412	21.15	55,031	18.83	60,982
Fodder corn	5.67	28,639	6.32	34,615	5.58	35,673
Grain Hay	10.70	12,880	12.36	11,301	13.07	14,500
Sugar beets	14.62	9,202	13.68	11,750	12.65 ^{1/}	13,821
Totals	-	1,685,211	-	1,544,014	-	1,482,901
<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u>						
Wheat	1.79	231	1.85	278	1.84	344
Oats	0.82	3,774	0.82	3,614	0.80	3,978
Barley	1.18	343	1.17	394	1.22	518
Buckwheat	1.24	27	1.25	29	1.40	34
Mixed Grains	0.98	2,597	0.98	2,793	0.87	3,209
Potatoes	0.67	7,072	0.61	8,287	0.31	3,565
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.72	2,768	1.17	4,201	0.60	2,121
Hay and Clover	13.10	6,576	13.00	5,850	13.40	3,940
Fodder Corn	8.00	96	8.00	80	10.50	116
Totals	-	23,484	-	25,526	-	17,825

^{1/} Estimated total price except for Alberta where initial price only available.

C r o p	1 9 4 8		1 9 4 9		1 9 5 0	
	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total
	Price	Value	Price	Value	Price	Value
	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$
<u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>						
Wheat	1.72	55	1.72✓	76✓	1.75	79
Oats	0.93	2,280	0.92✓	2,558✓	0.98	3,106
Barley	1.26	272	1.26✓	295✓	1.26	359
Buckwheat	1.47	40	1.43✓	40✓	1.50	26
Mixed Grains	1.02	202	1.04✓	249✓	1.19	384
Potatoes	1.18	5,433	0.92✓	4,453✓	0.70	3,646
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.15	2,827	1.30✓	3,123✓	1.15	3,243
Hay and Clover	17.30	14,082	16.50✓	11,616✓	17.50	12,495
Fodder Corn	6.25	69	6.25✓	62✓	6.25	75
Totals	-	25,260	0	22,472	-	23,413
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u>						
Wheat	1.90	139	1.88✓	149✓	1.80	162
Oats	0.83	5,898	0.86✓	6,014✓	0.80	6,624
Barley	1.20	422	1.27✓	552✓	1.22	806
Beans, dry	4.25	81	4.75✓	119✓	4.75	81
Buckwheat	1.33	492	1.28✓	489✓	1.29	611
Mixed Grains	0.92	292	0.91✓	340✓	0.85	552
Potatoes	0.72	12,467	0.60✓	11,298✓	0.29	4,968
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.00	2,225	1.20✓	2,243✓	1.20	2,160
Hay and Clover	15.60	15,803	14.50✓	11,832✓	15.00	9,300
Fodder Corn	6.00	102	6.00✓	84✓	6.00	96
Totals	-	37,921	-	33,120	-	25,360
<u>QUEBEC</u>						
Wheat	1.80	860	1.83✓	856✓	1.82	1,378
Oats	0.90	36,417	0.90✓	33,817✓	0.90	45,916
Barley	1.20	4,675	1.25✓	3,750✓	1.25	5,325
Rye	1.43	315	1.52✓	336✓	1.56	427
Peas, dry	4.00	1,088	4.00✓	888✓	4.00	1,044
Beans, dry	4.50	940	4.50✓	702✓	4.25	820
Buckwheat	1.30	2,256	1.25✓	1,995✓	1.34	2,409
Mixed Grains	1.13	10,406	1.17✓	9,491✓	1.34	15,654
Potatoes	0.97	24,282	0.94✓	20,053✓	0.60	15,939
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.25	5,208	1.25✓	4,978✓	1.25	5,872
Hay and Clover	17.60	99,352	21.70✓	102,098✓	22.00	106,590
Alfalfa	20.00	3,300	24.30✓	4,641✓	24.00	5,040
Fodder Corn	7.00	6,265	8.00✓	8,864✓	7.50	10,260
Sugar Beets	13.00	358	13.00✓	892✓	13.00	1,755
Totals	-	195,722	-	193,361	-	218,429

C r o p	1 9 4 8		1 9 4 9		1 9 5 0	
	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value	Average Price	Total Value
	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$
<u>ONTARIO</u>						
Wheat	2.05	55,707	1.77✓	45,624✓	1.59	49,660
Oats	0.82	62,917	0.84✓	60,452✓	0.78	75,025
Barley	1.11	8,634	1.25✓	8,635✓	1.22	10,156
Rye	1.52	4,182	1.33✓	2,961✓	1.40	2,598
Peas, dry	2.86	1,859	2.47✓	966✓	3.00	849
Beans, dry	4.11	5,762	3.32✓	5,239✓	3.95	4,614
Soy Beans	2.30	4,195	2.26✓	5,887✓	2.19	6,655
Buckwheat	1.15	2,119	1.21✓	1,826✓	1.16	1,706
Mixed Grains	0.95	45,288	0.97✓	41,466✓	0.92	50,519
Flaxseed	3.80	3,150	3.30✓	647✓	3.34	755
Corn, shelled	1.32	15,998	1.30✓	17,030✓	1.45	19,501
Potatoes	1.18	24,077	1.12✓	20,966✓	0.81	17,574
Turnips, mangels, etc.	0.88	8,586	1.18✓	8,753✓	0.82	8,027
Hay and Clover	14.40	82,800	21.15✓	78,022✓	17.29	77,961
Alfalfa	16.00	29,168	22.39✓	31,973✓	18.84	33,366
Fodder Corn	5.28	21,099	5.80✓	24,244✓	4.93	23,846
Sugar Beets .	14.40	2,837	13.61✓	4,565✓	15.00	5,445
Totals	-	378,378	-	359,256	-	388,257
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
Wheat	1.58	79,000	1.55	88,350	1.11	55,500
Oats	0.65	39,000	0.77✓	40,810✓	0.53	37,100
Barley	0.98	44,100	1.40✓	56,000✓	0.77	42,350
Rye	1.29	2,516	1.19✓	892✓	1.20	1,560
Peas, dry	2.30	626	1.95✓	234✓	2.05	238
Buckwheat	1.42	48	1.35✓	43✓	1.05	79
Mixed Grains	0.84	313	0.78✓	349✓	0.67	462
Flaxseed	3.82	34,533	3.32✓	3,652✓	3.30	9,570
Corn, shelled	1.25	371	0.95✓	522✓	0.95	370
Potatoes	0.98	3,537	1.18✓	3,477✓	0.60	2,394
Hay and Clover	10.37	4,469	12.20✓	4,148✓	10.00	5,910
Alfalfa	14.00	2,520	15.85✓	2,980✓	15.00	4,200
Fodder Corn	7.00	490	8.00✓	768✓	8.00	760
Sugar Beets	14.32	1,153	14.33✓	1,817✓	14.50	2,171
Totals	-	212,676	-	204,042	-	162,664
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>						
Wheat	1.55	296,050	1.53	279,990	0.98	254,800
Oats	0.63	56,070	0.74✓	62,900✓	0.50	56,000
Barley	0.95	39,900	1.28✓	42,240✓	0.72	33,120
Rye	1.30	13,650	1.20✓	5,280✓	1.21	7,502
Peas, dry	2.25	79	2.30✓	101✓	2.30	28
Mixed Grains	0.82	104	0.76✓	92✓	0.66	86
Flaxseed	3.80	18,012	3.31✓	2,152✓	3.25	3,250
Potatoes	1.24	4,452	1.47✓	3,788✓	1.13	3,729
Hay and Clover	13.60	6,025	14.00✓	4,634✓	12.00	5,556
Alfalfa	17.25	4,002	17.35✓	3,782✓	15.50	5,022
Fodder Corn	13.85	208	13.75✓	124✓	11.00	121
Totals	-	438,552	-	405,083	-	369,214

C r o p	1 9 4 8		1 9 4 9		1 9 5 0	
	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total
	Price	Value	Price	Value	Price	Value
	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$	\$	000 \$
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
Wheat	1.53	175,950	1.49	144,530	1.07	125,190
Oats	0.61	45,750	0.72✓	37,440✓	0.50	36,000
Barley	0.93	51,150	1.24✓	44,640✓	0.73	40,880
Rye	1.27	12,573	1.17✓	2,808✓	1.20	4,440
Peas, dry	2.55	528	3.50✓	298✓	2.85	279
Mixed Grains	0.75	796	0.74✓	511✓	0.70	758
Flaxseed	3.78	11,529	3.30✓	990✓	3.22	1,288
Potatoes	1.27	4,281	1.73✓	4,247✓	1.02	4,330
Hay and Clover	14.20	14,441	16.00✓	10,640✓	15.50	11,315
Alfalfa	17.00	6,647	19.00✓	6,004✓	19.00	8,018
Fodder Corn	6.50	13	7.00✓	21✓	7.50	75
Grain Hay	10.00	11,200	12.00✓	10,080✓	12.50	12,800
Sugar Beets	14.98	4,854	13.65✓	4,476✓	10.00 1/	4,450
Totals	-	339,712	-	266,685	-	249,823

1/ Initial payment.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Wheat	1.61	3,959	1.61	6,261	1.44	3,482
Oats	0.70	2,419	0.82✓	3,440✓	0.75	2,027
Barley	1.02	495	1.25✓	618✓	0.98	365
Rye	1.30	25	1.20✓	17✓	1.28	20
Peas, dry	3.60	148	2.25✓	166✓	3.00	177
Beans, dry	4.80	53	4.50✓	32✓	4.80	34
Mixed Grains	0.94	319	0.97✓	336✓	0.98	390
Flaxseed	3.80	236	3.40✓	129✓	3.40	48
Potatoes	1.68	6,236	1.71✓	6,686✓	1.23	4,643
Turnips, mangels, etc.	1.80	643	2.00✓	640✓	1.90	614
Hay and Clover	24.50	11,221	21.10✓	8,904✓	22.00	8,756
Alfalfa	25.00	5,775	21.65✓	5,651✓	23.00	5,336
Fodder Corn	9.00	297	8.00✓	368✓	9.00	324
Grain Hay	20.00	1,680	16.50✓	1,221✓	20.00	1,700
Totals	-	33,506	-	34,469	-	27,916

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