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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A. F.S.S.(Hon.), F.R.S.C.  
Chief, Agricultural Branch: T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

SURVEY OF LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY

December 1, 1931.

The following table presents the numbers of live stock in the three Maritime Provinces at June 1 and December 1, 1931.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Swine</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
<u>Prince Edward Island</u>			
June	99,132	40,007	75,752
December	90,100	38,800	55,000
<u>Nova Scotia</u>			
June	220,767	43,668	195,220
December	216,000	43,600	180,000
<u>New Brunswick</u>			
June	215,706	84,737	143,180
December	197,700	80,500	114,500

Comments: It is explained that the consistent decreases shown in all classes are largely seasonal. The period from June to December is one of heavy marketings and reduced replenishments. It is not to be understood from these figures that there is a lower trend in live stock numbers. Such an assumption will only be possible when this survey has been conducted for some years and the reduction is shown to be greater than usual.

The intended marketings mentioned in the following accounts are not confined to commercial marketings but include local and farm-to-farm disposal. As a matter of fact, commercial marketings are very light in the Maritimes. In the period of six months under survey, they amounted to 104 cattle, 760 calves, 10,038 hogs and 11,628 sheep.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Cattle. The total number of cattle on Prince Edward Island farms decreased about 9.1 per cent from 99,132 head in June, 1931 to 90,100 on December 1 of the same year. The decline seems to be most marked in the case of dairy cows and yearling heifers, with slight offsetting increases in beef animals. Future stocking prospects are about normal since 24,400 cows out of 44,900 were reported as bred to calve before May 31, 1932. The marketing intentions also seem to be very moderate as disclosed by the following summary:

	<u>Numbers on Farms, December 1.</u>	<u>Intended for Market, December 1, 1931 to May 31, 1932.</u>
Two-year old steers	3,900	2,800
Yearling steers and heifers	19,400	3,500
Calves	21,700	2,200
Cows	44,900	3,400

In milk production at the first of December, Prince Edward Island, stood very close to the Canadian average. A sample of 6,587 cows reported produced 84,955 pounds or 12.91 pounds per day per cow.

Swine. The number of swine on the Island shows a slight decrease of about 3 per cent from 40,007 to 38,800 head. It is estimated that 3,000 sows farrowed during the six months from June 1 to November 30, 1931, producing 30,030 live pigs, of which number 25,250 were saved. The number of pigs raised per litter is the highest of any of the provinces at 3.4 head and 84 p.c. of those born. 4,080 sows were bred to farrow between December 1, 1931 and May 31, 1932 - an increase of 36 per cent over the summer and fall farrowings.





At December 1, the farmers of Prince Edward Island intended to market 21,700 head of swine in the ensuing six months.

Sheep. The number of sheep on the Island continues to decline and there are evidences that approximately 30,000 lambs were marketed between June 1 and December 1 of last year, together with some reduction of old stock. The sheep population is now placed at 55,000 head compared with 75,752 at June 1. It is estimated that slightly over 50 p.c. of the 42,000 ewes will be bred to lamb before May 31, 1932. Marketing intentions for the next six months are very light, being about 1,200 head of old stock and 1,500 head of lambs.

Poultry. Heavy marketings have also reduced the poultry population, but intentions to market in the next six months are only 37 p.c. of the past six months.

#### NOVA SCOTIA

Cattle. The number of cattle in Nova Scotia, which was given as 220,767 by the decennial census taken in June, was reduced at December 1 to 216,000. The main reductions took place in cows, heifers and calves.

Marketings planned for the six months beginning with December are very light, as revealed by the following table:

Steers, 2 years old and over .....	5,700
Yearling steers and heifers .....	4,100
Calves .....	4,080
Cows 2 years old and over .....	6,760

About 41 per cent of the cows 2 years old and over have been bred to calve within the period from December to May inclusive.

Records were submitted for 17,634 cows milked at the first of February, which produced 235,235 pounds or 13.3 pounds of milk per cow per day, which is about 0.6 pounds under the average for Canada.

Swine. The number of swine in Nova Scotia at December 1 shows no significant change from the census taken in June and is placed at 43,600 compared with 43,668 at June 1. Heavy marketings reduced the number of young pigs on farms, but evidently more than usual of the gilts were held over for stocking purposes. Marketing intentions for the next six months are estimated at 17,200 head of all ages. Reports were received showing the farrowings of 1,081 sows which had 10,932 pigs or 10.1 per litter (the highest of any of the provinces), but the percentage saved was low at 78.6 and the number of pigs saved per litter was 8.0. 4,580 sows are reported as bred to farrow in the six months from December to May inclusive, over 26 per cent higher than in the previous six months.

Sheep. The June census revealed the sheep population of Nova Scotia as 195,220 and there is little evidence of subsequent change with marketings only of moderate proportions. The population of December 1 is placed at 180,000. According to reports submitted less than usual of the ewes have been or will be bred to lamb this spring.

Poultry. Following a tendency general throughout Canada in the period from June to November, there was a heavy reduction in the numbers of poultry held on farms. Intentions to market in the next six months are very light, however, indicating that most of the liquidation is over.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

Cattle. The decennial census taken in June last showed the number of cattle as 213,706, while the estimate at December 1 is 197,700 - a reduction of 7.5 per cent. Increases in milking classes were more than offset by reductions in young stock.

The marketings planned for the ensuing six months are as follows:-

Steers, 2 years old and over .....	5,020
Yearling steers and heifers .....	5,600
Calves .....	5,460
Cows, 2 years old and over .....	8,100





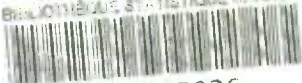
In each case, the marketings planned are small proportions of the stocks on hand.

Nearly 60 per cent of the cows 2 years old and over have been bred to calve within the period from December to May inclusive.

Swine.- The number of swine in New Brunswick declined 5 per cent from 84,737 in June 1931 to 80,500 at December 1. Marketing intentions for the next six months are estimated at 32,600 head of all ages, which indicates a tendency towards increase of stocks.

Reports were received showing the farrowings of 1,367 sows which had 12,792 pigs or an average of 9.4 pigs per litter. Only 74.5 per cent of these pigs were saved or 7.0 pigs per litter compared with the Canadian average of 7.4 pigs. 11,000 pigs were reported as bred to farrow in the six months from December to May inclusive, which is about 14 per cent lower than in the summer season.

Sheep.- The number of sheep in New Brunswick at December 1 is placed at 114,500 head compared with 143,180 head in June - a reduction of 20 per cent. A very high proportion of the ewes has been bred to lamb before May 31, 1932.



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