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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA, AGRICULTURAL Hs

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, Chief, Agricultural Branch: T.W. Grindley.

SURVEY OF LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY,

December 1, 1931.

On December 1 of last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics co-operated with the Provincial Governments in making a survey of live stock and poultry throughout Canada. The survey was accomplished through the medium of card schedules distributed mainly through the rural schools. Returns were received from about one out of every five farms in Canada. The results of the survey have been withheld until an exact basis in the decennial census figures of June, 1931, was available. They will now be released in a series of press bulletins.

Numbers of Live Stock in the Prairie Provinces, December 1, 1931.

The following table presents the numbers of live stock in each of the Prairie Provinces at December 1, 1931, as compared with the census figures of the previous June:

	Cattle	Swine	Sheep
Manitoba			
June	677,668	387,646	213,936
December	634,600	353,600	165,000
Saskatchewan			
June	1,188,480	940,436	279,076
December	1,140,500	705,300	209,000
Alberta			
June	1,136,616	1,062,908	789,298
December	1,140,000	1,000,000	614,000
Prairie Provinces			
June	3,003,764	2,390,990	1,282,310
December	2,915,100	2,058,900	988,000

Comments:- It should be noted that the general decrease in numbers shown is largely seasonal. During the period from June to November, marketings are very heavy while additions to numbers are much reduced.

With the climatic conditions prevalent in Western Canada, it is usual for calves and pigs, and particularly lambs, to be born in the spring, so that full advantage may be derived from the summer season of growth. The figures do not indicate a lower trend in live stock production. Only when figures are available for June 1 and December 1 over a number of years will it be possible to show by the variation from normal how the industry is tending.

The figures for intended marketings mentioned in the following notes include the farm to farm movement and the local kill as well as the commercial movement.

MANITOBA

Cattle. - The total number of cattle and calves on Manitoba farms showed a decline of approximately 6.3 per cent between June 1 and December 1, 1931. On June 1, the total number shown by the decennial census was 677,668, while the estimate from the December 1 Survey was 634,600. Records of the Dominion Live Stock Branch show that 53,393 cattle and 16,510 calves were marketed in Manitoba between June 1 and November 30, 1931, but this was partly counterbalanced by an inward movement of 7,944 cattle. There was a considerable reduction evident in the number of cows, offset only partly by an increase in yearling heifers, with heifer calves, remaining unchanged. Heavy marketings resulted in a decrease in steers.

Intentions to market during the six months from December to May inclusive were as follows:

Steers, 2 years old and over	17,800
Yearlings	23,100
Calves	22,600
Cows	37,400

Evidently there is a real tendency towards holding back younger animals for re-stocking, while about 40 per cent of the two-year old steers will be held over for summer feeding.

With regard to milk production at the first of December, records were submitted for 25,261 cows milked showing a production of 302,619 pounds or 12.0 pounds per cow per day. At this level, Manitoba was 2 pounds per cow per day under the average for Canada (excluding Quebec) and considerably lower than the other Prairie Provinces also.

Manitoba farmers reported that 183,750 cows had been bred to calve between December 1, 1931, and May 31, 1932, which is about a normal percentage of the 327,600 cows and 99,700 yearling heifers in the province at December 1, 1931.

Swine. - The numbers of swine in Manitoba also declined between June and December of last year from 387,646 to 353,600 or about 8.8 per cent. The natural growth of spring pigs and rather heavy marketings reduced the number of pigs under six months of age from approximately 301,000 to 194,000. There was an increase, however, in the number of pigs over six months of age from 87,000 to 160,000 which offset about ¾ of the decrease. During the six months under review, 140,838 hogs were marketed through the ordinary commercial channels.

During the six months' period from June 1 to November 30, it is estimated that 26,300 sows farrowed, the number of pigs born being 229,200 or 8.6 per litter and the number saved being 181,000 or 6.7 pigs per litter. The percentage of the born pigs saved is 78.5. In this regard, Manitoba is below the average for Canada of 81.3

Sows bred or to be bred to farrow before May 31, 1932, numbered 38,200 -- a considerable increase (45 per cent) over the estimate for the previous six months. Swine intended for market in the six months period to May 31, 1932, total 172,600 -- a figure which would suggest lower commercial marketings than were recorded from June to November last year.

Sheep. - From information available, it is evident that a decrease also took place in the numbers of sheep in Manitoba, leading particularly to the reduction of older stock. The number of sheep at December 1 is placed at 165,000, a reduction of nearly 49,000 head from the sheep population at June 1. Commercial marketings in the intervening period amounted to 40,432 head. Intentions to market in the next six months, however, are very light, amounting to only 4 per cent of the sheep and 29 per cent of the lambs. Over 90 per cent of the ewes will be bred to lamb before the end of June, 1932.

Poultry. - At June 1, the number of hens in Manitoba was 2,182,130; at December 1 this figure had been reduced to 1,916,000 due to heavy summer marketings. Similarly, heavy reductions took place in turkeys, geese and ducks with much smaller marketings planned for the period from December 1 to May 31.

SASKATCHEWAN

Cattle. - The total number of cattle and calves in Saskatchewan on December 1 is estimated at 1,140,500 head compared with 1,188,480 shown by the census in June -- a reduction of 4 per cent. The net commercial marketings in the intervening period amounted to 74,654 cattle and 16,847 calves. The increased interest in dairying and the holding over of more heifer calves for this purpose served to offset the heavy marketings and the local kill to some extent.

Intentions to market during the six months from December to May inclusive were as follows:

Steers, 2 years old and over	27,000
Yearlings	41,000
Calves	38,000
Cows	54,000

As explained previously, these figures include local and farm to farm marketings and although no previous basis for comparison is available, they indicate that commercial marketings will be lower than those of the previous six months, when drought enforced heavy liquidation.

Milk Production at First of December. - The records of 42,946 cows milked showed a total production of 567,667 pounds or 13.22 pounds per cow per day. This

latter figure is 0.77 pounds under the average for Canada (excluding Quebec).

Saskatchewan farmers reported that 292,000 cows had been bred to calve between December 1, 1931, and May 1, 1932, which is a slightly low percentage of the 526,000 cows and 167,000 yearling heifers on farms at December 1, 1931.

Swine. - The numbers of swine in Saskatchewan show a reduction of 25 per cent from 940,436 in June to 705,300 in December. The shortage of coarse grains was an important contributing factor in this liquidation. Commercial marketings in the intervening period amounted to 185,847 head, while there was a greater than usual farm consumption.

Between June 1 and November 30 of last year, it is estimated that 47,400 sows farrowed, producing 396,500 pigs, of which 308,800 were saved. The number of pigs born per litter was 8.4 and the number of pigs saved 6.5 -- a percentage of 77, as compared with the Canadian averages of 9.1, 7.4 and 81.3 respectively.

Sows bred or to be bred to farrow before May 31, 1932, are estimated at 77,100 -- an increase of 62 per cent over the farrowings of the previous six months. This change is about normal, since spring farrowings predominate in the province.

Swine intended for market in the next six months (i.e. to May 31, 1932) are estimated at 296,700 head -- which indicates continued heavy marketings.

Sheep. - The number of sheep and lambs at December 1 is placed at 209,000 head compared with 279,076 in June -- a reduction of 25 per cent. Commercial marketings during the period amounted to 42,749 head. Marketing intentions for the six months from December to June are much lighter amounting to only one-third of those of the previous six months. A very high proportion of the ewes have been bred to lamb in the coming spring.

Poultry. - The number of poultry on farms declined considerably in the period from June to December, although no figures for the different classes in the June census are yet available.

ALBERTA

Cattle. - The number of cattle and calves on Alberta farms showed a slight increase from 1,136,616 at June 1 to 1,140,000 at December 1. The Dominion Live Stock Branch reports that net commercial marketings of cattle and calves in this period amounted to 53,226 head. The large supplies of both roughage and coarse grains encouraged both dairying and beef-raising. Alberta is the only province to show an increased cattle population in this period.

Because of the limited number of schedules returned in Alberta, the survey was compiled on the basis of representative farms which replied to both June and December schedules. Thus the statistics are confined mainly to population changes and no statistics on intended marketings are available.

Records were submitted for 14,399 cows milked at the first of December, showing a total production of 197,621 pounds or 13.72 pounds per cow per day. This figure is only 0.27 pounds under the average for Canada.

Swine. - Alberta also furnishes an exception to the other provinces in that only a slight decrease was shown in the swine population of the province between June and December. At June 1, the census revealed a total hog population of 1,062,908, while the survey estimate for December 1 is exactly 1 million head. Thus a decrease of roughly 63,000 was registered, despite the high commercial marketings of 340,503 head. Fall farrowings are more common in Alberta and the feed grain supply much higher.

The average litter of pigs produced in Alberta is the six months' period had 8.6 pigs born and 6.9 pigs saved -- a percentage of 80.2 and very close to the Canadian average of 81.3 per cent.

Sheep. - There was a reduction of 22 per cent in the number of sheep at December 1 -- the figure being 614,000 compared with the June census total of 789,298. Commercial marketings in the June to December period were 31,319 head, which is a moderate disposal, especially when compared with the liquidation in Saskatchewan. In addition, about 24,000 sheep and lambs were shipped direct.