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LIVE STOCK SURVEY - DECEMBER 1, 1938.

Ottawa, March 21, 1939. - The Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, publishes in this bulletin results of the semi-annual live stock survey made at December 1, 1938. The numbers of live stock on farms at December 1, 1938, production for the period June to November 1938 and expected production and marketings for the period December 1938 to May 1939 were obtained from farmers by means of the card survey. In appraising the estimates based on these returns it should be noted that the "Intentions to market" and "Expected production" were reported at December 1, 1938. Hence changes in factors affecting marketings and breeding since that date may modify the original estimates.

SUMMARY

As the result of relatively large supplies of feed and low feed prices, live stock production in Canada began to increase during the latter part of 1938. The December 1938 survey indicated an increase in cattle numbers over December 1937, and while numbers of hogs at December 1, 1938 were below those at the corresponding date in 1937, they had increased over the low point of June 1938. A slight decrease was shown in the number of sheep on farms, but poultry numbers were higher than in 1937.

Hogs

Numbers of hogs on farms at December 1, 1938 were 3.0 per cent below those at the same date in the previous year, and intended marketings for this spring were reported as 8.1 per cent less. An increase of 14.9 per cent was reported in the number of sows expected to farrow this spring as compared with last spring.

Cattle

Numbers of cattle on farms at December 1, 1938 were 0.1 per cent above those at December 1, 1937. The intended marketings of cattle during the winter and spring months showed a decrease of 7.0 per cent below a year ago. An increase of 1.1 per cent was shown in the number of cows expected to calve this spring.

Sheep

The number of sheep on farms at December 1, 1938 was 0.1 per cent less than at December 1, 1937. A decrease in marketings of 3.9 per cent for the period December to May 1938-39 was forecast by the survey. A decline of 3.6 per cent was shown in the estimates of the number of ewes expected to lamb this spring.

Chickens

The number of hens and chickens on farms at December 1, 1938 was 3.0 per cent above the figure for December 1, 1937.

HOGS

The number of hogs on farms at December 1, 1938 was estimated at 3,558,600 compared with 3,680,400 at December 1, 1937 and 4,422,000 at December 1, 1936. Hog numbers at December 1, 1938 were the lowest recorded since the December survey was inaugurated in 1931. Declines from December 1937 to December 1938 were shown in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Hog numbers have been declining since 1936, but an increase in December over June 1938, indicates a reversal of this trend. The decline was caused by a feed shortage and relatively high prices for feed grains in 1936 and 1937. The more abundant harvest of 1938 and the general decline in grain prices will result in an increase in hog production. Hog marketings in the fall of 1939 and through the spring of 1940 will show appreciable gains.

A slight decline of 1.8 per cent was shown in the number of sows farrowing in the six months, June to November, 1938 as compared with the same period of 1937. Fairly large increases in farrowings were recorded in Manitoba and Alberta, but declines in all other provinces more than offset these gains. While the number of pigs born also declined by 1.8 per cent, the number of pigs saved showed a slight increase of one per cent.

The numbers of hogs intended for market and farm slaughter in the six months December 1938 to May 1939 were reported as 8.1 per cent below those for the same period a year ago.

Declines in hogs intended for market and farm slaughter are shown for all provinces but Prince Edward Island, with the heaviest indicated in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Official marketing figures for the period December 1 to March 16 indicate a reduction in commercial marketings of 17.4 per cent. This is a considerably greater reduction than indicated by the survey, but some increase in marketings over those of a year ago may occur in the late spring months.

Indications of an appreciable increase in hog production are given by the estimates of the number of sows expected to farrow in the period December 1938 to May 1939 as compared with the numbers reported for the same period a year ago. For all Canada an increase of 14.9 per cent is shown. The greatest increases in production will occur in the Prairie Provinces where the greatest reductions were necessary because of feed shortages. The increase in farrowings for Manitoba is reported at 50.8 per cent, for Saskatchewan 34.9 per cent and for Alberta 37.3 per cent. It is likely that farrowings this spring will be somewhat earlier than usual and as a result marketings next fall should begin to increase at an earlier date than has been the case in the past few years.

CATTLE

Numbers of cattle on farms at December 1, 1938 were estimated at 8,091,100 as compared with 8,079,900 at the same date in 1937. This slight increase in the cattle population indicates that the cycle in cattle numbers has turned upward and this trend is expected to continue for the next few years. The low point in numbers apparently was reached the June of 1938 when the cattle population was set at 8,511,000.

The number of cattle intended for market and farm slaughter from December 1938 to May 1939 was reported as 7 per cent less than for the corresponding period a year ago. Thus while the number cycle has turned upward it is likely that a downward trend in output will continue for the next two or three years.

The number of cows expected to calve from December 1938 to May 1939 was estimated at 3,298,800 as compared with 3,264,400 for the same period a year ago. This increase, amounting to 1.1 per cent, is a further indication of an upward trend in the cattle production cycle but its effects in increased output will not be manifested until 1941 or 1942.

SHEEP

The numbers of sheep on farms at December 1, 1938 were only slightly less than those reported a year ago. Declines in the sheep population were shown in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Sheep and lambs intended for market and farm slaughter during the six months December 1938 to May 1939 were reported as 3.9 per cent less than for the corresponding period of 1937-1938. A very large increase was shown in Saskatchewan where the marketings in 1938 were drastically reduced because of liquidation of live stock holdings.

The number of ewes expected to lamb from December 1938 to May 1939 was estimated at 3.6 per cent less than for the corresponding period of 1937-1938. The greatest reduction was expected in British Columbia. Only two provinces, New Brunswick and Manitoba anticipate a slight increase in the 1939 lamb crop.

HENS AND CHICKENS

The numbers of hens and chickens on farms at December 1, 1938 were 40,752,700 compared with 39,564,000 at December 1, 1937. The increase in numbers amounted to 3 per cent with the largest increases being shown in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Decreases in numbers were recorded in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec.

Table 1

Hogs on Farms at December 1, 1937 and 1938.

	1937			1938			Percentage Change
	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	Total	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	Total	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Pr. Ed. Island	32,000	15,700	47,700	33,200	14,800	48,000	+ 0.6
Nova Scotia	35,400	22,900	58,300	34,000	20,200	54,200	- 7.0
New Brunswick	44,600	30,300	74,900	49,500	28,200	77,700	+ 3.7
Quebec	379,300	339,900	719,200	388,800	302,400	691,200	- 3.9
Ontario	1,030,600	460,500	1,491,100	1,003,000	385,600	1,388,600	- 6.9
Manitoba	130,700	87,400	218,100	133,300	87,600	220,900	+ 1.3
Saskatchewan	217,600	165,400	383,000	214,300	147,600	361,900	- 5.5
Alberta	389,300	237,300	626,600	452,100	220,300	672,400	+ 7.3
British Columbia	36,500	25,000	61,500	32,300	21,400	53,700	-12.7
TOTAL CANADA	2,296,000	1,384,400	3,680,400	2,340,500	1,228,100	3,568,600	- 3.0

Table 2

Hogs on Farms in Canada
June 1 and December 1, 1931 to 1938
Thousands

	June 1	December 1
	No.	No.
1931	4,700	4,264
1932	4,639	4,125
1933	3,801	3,588
1934	3,654	3,649
1935	3,349	3,951
1936	4,145	4,422
1937	3,963	3,680
1938	3,487	3,569

Table 3

Sows Farrowed, June to November, 1937 and 1938

	1937	1938	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	5,800	5,600	- 3.4
Nova Scotia	6,100	5,200	-14.8
New Brunswick	8,500	7,700	- 9.4
Quebec	74,100	71,100	- 4.0
Ontario	131,500	122,300	- 7.0
Manitoba	17,900	19,700	+10.1
Saskatchewan	38,000	34,100	-10.3
Alberta	65,100	75,900	+16.6
British Columbia	5,100	4,300	-15.7
TOTAL CANADA	352,100	345,900	- 1.8

Table 4

Pigs Born, June to November, 1937 and 1938.

	1937	1938	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	58,400	55,800	- 4.5
Nova Scotia	62,400	54,000	-13.5
New Brunswick	80,800	76,000	- 5.9
Quebec	710,000	672,900	- 5.2
Ontario	1,341,600	1,247,300	- 7.0
Manitoba	160,000	178,600	+11.6
Saskatchewan	317,000	292,300	- 7.8
Alberta	615,900	713,700	+15.9
British Columbia	50,200	43,000	-14.3
TOTAL CANADA	3,396,300	3,333,600	- 1.8

Table 5

Pigs Saved, June to November, 1937 and 1938.

	1937	1938	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	49,900	47,900	- 4.0
Nova Scotia	51,800	46,800	- 9.7
New Brunswick	67,600	65,000	- 3.8
Quebec	593,800	573,000	- 3.5
Ontario	1,091,700	1,039,400	- 4.8
Manitoba	130,100	151,700	+16.6
Saskatchewan	247,800	249,400	+ 0.6
Alberta	501,800	592,900	+18.2
British Columbia	40,200	35,300	-12.2
TOTAL CANADA	2,774,700	2,801,400	+ 1.0

Table 6

Hogs Intended for Market and Farm Slaughter
December to May 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	40,900	43,400	+ 6.1
Nova Scotia	36,200	32,800	- 9.4
New Brunswick	47,600	45,400	- 4.6
Quebec	431,500	391,900	- 9.2
Ontario	883,000	795,100	-10.0
Manitoba	124,100	121,700	- 1.9
Saskatchewan	235,400	198,000	-15.9
Alberta	409,900	406,700	- .8
British Columbia	45,000	36,100	-19.8
TOTAL CANADA	2,253,600	2,071,100	- 8.1

Table 7

Sows to Farrow
December to May 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	6,600	7,100	+ 7.6
Nova Scotia	6,800	6,500	- 4.4
New Brunswick	12,600	12,300	- 2.4
Quebec	127,400	132,500	+ 4.0
Ontario	133,400	132,700	- .5
Manitoba	24,400	36,800	+50.8
Saskatchewan	45,800	61,800	+34.9
Alberta	91,800	126,000	+37.3
British Columbia	5,600	6,600	+17.9
TOTAL CANADA	454,400	522,300	+14.9

CATTLE

Table 1

Cattle on Farms,
December 1, 1937 and 1938

	1937	1938	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	90,000	92,100	+ 2.3
Nova Scotia	232,700	240,000	+ 3.1
New Brunswick	217,000	221,000	+ 1.8
Quebec	1,643,800	1,671,000	+ 1.7
Ontario	2,619,200	2,555,900	- 2.4
Manitoba	757,800	749,000	- 1.2
Saskatchewan	960,400	1,018,700	+ 6.1
Alberta	1,216,700	1,211,400	- 0.4
British Columbia	342,300	332,000	- 3.0
TOTAL CANADA	8,079,900	8,091,100	+ 0.1

Table 2

Cattle Intended for Market and Farm Slaughter
December to May 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	16,800	18,600	+10.7
Nova Scotia	33,400	34,200	+ 2.4
New Brunswick	27,400	26,500	- 3.3
Quebec	233,700	230,400	- 1.4
Ontario	653,600	572,900	-12.3
Manitoba	96,500	88,400	- 8.4
Saskatchewan	132,600	136,000	+ 2.6
Alberta	236,000	222,000	- 5.9
British Columbia	33,500	31,400	- 6.3
TOTAL CANADA	1,463,500	1,360,400	- 7.0

Table 3

Cows Expected to Calve
December to May, 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	39,700	40,300	+ 1.5
Nova Scotia	86,700	90,000	+ 3.8
New Brunswick	102,100	105,800	+ 3.6
Quebec	1,021,900	1,033,300	+ 1.1
Ontario	836,000	821,500	- 1.7
Manitoba	242,800	252,400	+ 4.0
Saskatchewan	367,200	375,800	+ 2.3
Alberta	469,700	471,900	+ 0.5
British Columbia	98,300	107,800	+ 9.7
TOTAL CANADA	3,264,400	3,298,800	+ 1.1

SHEEP

Table 1

Sheep on Farms,
December 1, 1937 and 1938

	1937	1938	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	38,700	37,600	- 2.8
Nova Scotia	110,500	112,500	+ 1.8
New Brunswick	83,900	84,700	+ 1.0
Quebec	515,800	504,500	- 2.2
Ontario	576,200	550,700	- 4.4
Manitoba	137,800	134,700	- 2.2
Saskatchewan	297,300	318,800	+ 7.2
Alberta	738,000	773,700	+ 4.8
British Columbia	175,600	154,400	-12.1
TOTAL CANADA	2,673,800	2,671,600	- 0.1

Table 2

Intended Marketings and Farm Slaughterings of Sheep and Lambs
December to May 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	3,500	2,900	-17.1
Nova Scotia	16,900	18,900	+11.8
New Brunswick	9,200	10,000	+ 8.7
Quebec	92,400	82,900	-10.3
Ontario	91,900	70,000	-23.8
Manitoba	9,000	9,400	+ 4.4
Saskatchewan	13,400	20,000	+49.3
Alberta	132,300	137,700	+ 4.1
British Columbia	36,300	37,400	+ 3.0
TOTAL CANADA	404,900	389,200	- 3.9

Table 3

Ewes Expected to Lamb
December to May 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	31,200	30,500	- 2.2
Nova Scotia	84,800	81,800	- 3.5
New Brunswick	61,400	61,700	+ 0.5
Quebec	362,100	356,000	- 1.7
Ontario	432,100	411,900	- 4.7
Manitoba	106,700	107,200	+ 0.5
Saskatchewan	137,400	135,100	- 1.7
Alberta	443,900	428,400	- 3.5
British Columbia	117,400	100,000	-14.8
TOTAL CANADA	1,777,000	1,712,600	- 3.6

HENS AND CHICKENS

Table 1

Hens and Chickens on Farms
December to May, 1937-38 and 1938-39

	1937-38	1938-39	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	734,500	721,200	- 1.8
Nova Scotia	820,500	800,200	- 2.5
New Brunswick	986,800	951,900	- 3.5
Quebec	6,550,700	6,367,300	- 2.8
Ontario	13,947,700	14,289,700	+ 2.5
Manitoba	3,151,000	3,419,100	+ 8.5
Saskatchewan	6,515,300	6,936,200	+ 6.5
Alberta	4,992,000	5,381,200	+ 7.8
British Columbia	1,865,500	1,885,900	+ 1.1
TOTAL CANADA	39,564,000	40,752,700	+ 3.0

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS
IN RELATION TO PRICES OF FEED, BY MONTHS, 1936 TO DATE
INDEX NUMBERS - 1926 = 100.

	1936			1937		
	Live Stock Prices	Feed Prices	Ratio	Live Stock Prices	Feed Prices	Ratio
January	77.5	62.3	124.4	82.1	105.3	78.0
February	77.8	61.0	127.5	82.6	104.7	78.9
March	76.0	62.1	122.4	84.2	107.5	78.3
April	73.8	61.8	119.4	86.3	107.8	80.1
May	73.0	60.6	120.5	85.7	102.8	83.4
June	70.4	61.7	114.1	81.4	99.2	82.1
July	71.6	76.5	93.6	83.9	107.1	78.3
August	71.9	89.8	80.1	85.5	90.9	94.1
September	74.7	90.2	82.8	88.8	91.3	97.3
October	76.2	90.0	84.7	86.9	91.5	95.0
November	79.5	91.6	86.8	87.4	87.3	100.1
December	80.8	101.0	80.0	84.6	88.4	95.7

	1938			1939		
	Live Stock Prices	Feed Prices	Ratio	Live Stock Prices	Feed Prices	Ratio
January	82.2	94.2	87.3	81.7	57.2	142.8
February	81.1	96.4	84.1	81.5	58.4	139.6
March	81.7	93.1	87.8			
April	81.2	88.4	91.9			
May	81.8	85.8	95.3			
June	80.5	81.2	99.1			
July	80.8	74.0	109.2			
August	79.7	63.4	125.7			
September	81.1	55.6	145.9			
October	81.0	55.6	145.7			
November	82.1	54.2	151.5			
December	82.8	54.5	151.9			

Feed prices in February 1939 stood at 58.4 per cent of the 1926 level compared with an index of 96.4 for February 1938 and 104.7 for February 1937. Prices of live stock products for February 1939 were 81.5 per cent of 1926, compared with 81.1 in February 1938 and 82.6 in February 1937. Feed prices declined from a level of 96.4 in February 1938 to 54.2 last November. During the same period an increase of one point occurred in the index of prices of live stock and live stock products.

HOG - BARLEY RATIO

NUMBER OF BUSHELS OF BARLEY EQUIVALENT IN PRICE
TO 100 POUNDS OF BACON HOG AT WINNIPEG.
LONG TIME AVERAGE 17.2.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
January	23.8	17.3	28.7	10.0	15.1	29.4
February	26.5	18.5	28.7	10.2	15.1	31.1
March	25.0	19.8	26.5	10.9	18.6	
April	24.7	19.7	26.8	12.4	19.8	
May	24.9	23.5	27.1	12.6	20.9	
June	22.6	28.3	28.0	14.6	23.2	
July	21.2	29.6	20.3	14.4	29.6	
August	15.5	33.9	17.1	19.5	31.1	
September	14.7	29.2	15.6	17.9	34.1	
October	15.9	29.3	13.5	14.5	26.9	
November	15.1	27.5	12.7	15.0	28.9	
December	14.8	27.5	10.7	16.1	29.5	

The hog-barley ratio for the month of February, 1939 stood at 31.1 compared with 15.1 in February 1938 and 10.2 in February 1937. The hog-barley ratio during the past eight months has been the most favourable to increasing hog production since 1931 and its effects will be shown in increased hog marketings during the latter part of 1939 and through 1940.