

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

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NUMBERS OF LIVE STOCK ON FARMS
JUNE 1, 1938

Ottawa, October 22, 1938, 1 p.m. -The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today a report on the numbers of live stock on farms at June 1, 1938. The estimates have been compiled from reports returned by farmers in the annual June Survey.

Total numbers of all species of live stock on Canadian farms on June 1, 1938 showed a marked decline as compared with June 1, 1937. The total number of animal units was 3.7 per cent less, with the principal decreases occurring in cattle and hogs. While a downward trend in the total live stock population was anticipated, the decline has been accelerated by the feed shortages in the Prairie Province in 1936 and 1937. Although the decline will be arrested by the much improved feed situation this year, the downward trend in total numbers probably will be carried over into 1940.

Total Number of Animal Units on Farms^(x) at June 1
1931 to 1938
Thousands

1931	12,545	1935	12,948
1932	13,049	1936	13,037
1933	13,104	1937	12,993
1934	13,106	1938	12,517

(x) The numbers of each species of live stock were converted to animal units on the following basis: horses 1; cattle 1; hogs 5; sheep 7.

HORSES

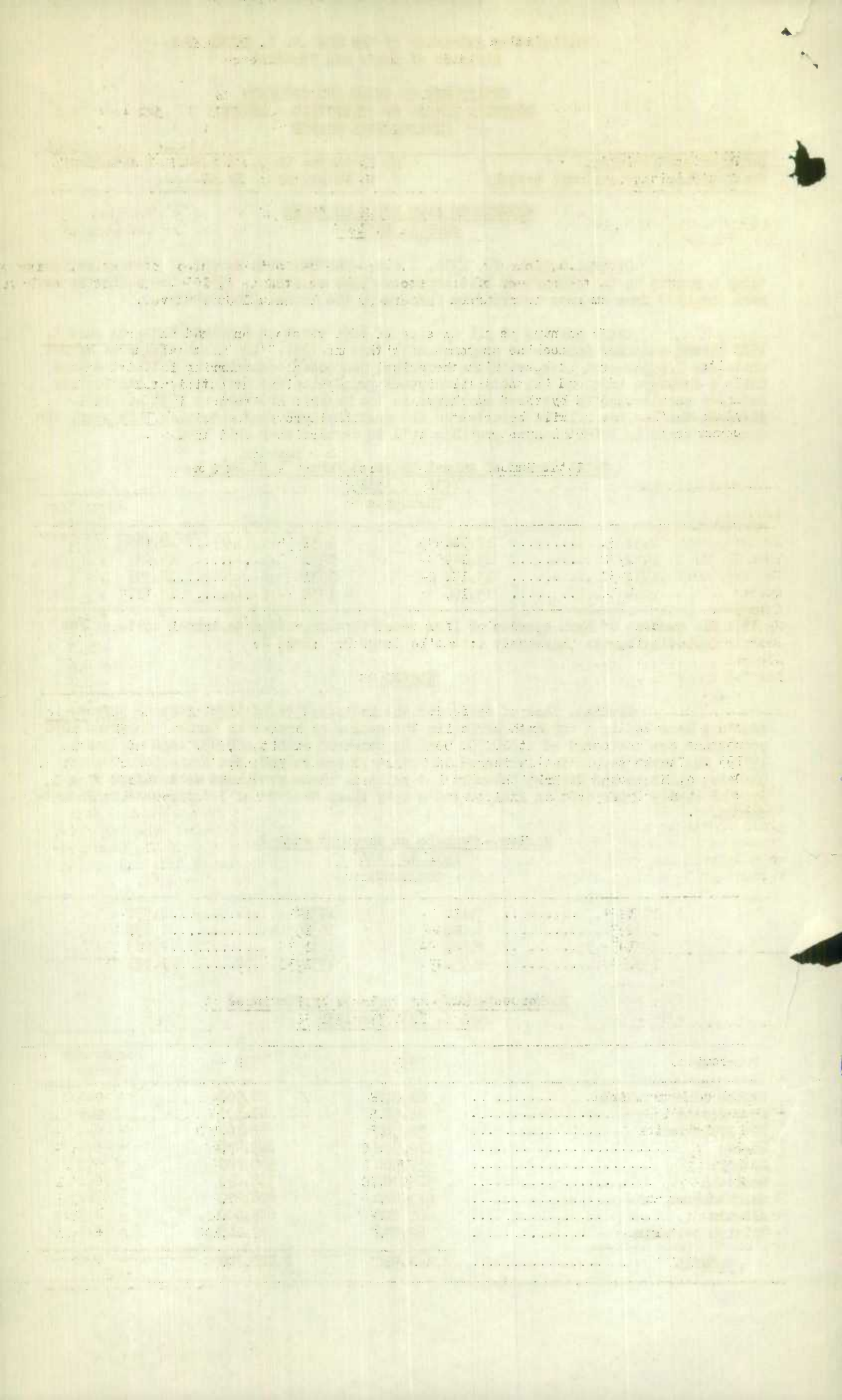
Disease, lack of feed, and the introduction of light general purpose tractors have led to a further decline in the number of horses on farms. The June 1938 population was estimated at 2,820,700 head as compared with 2,882,990 head at June 1, 1937. The horse population increased in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia but gains in these provinces were offset by a drop of nearly 2 per cent in Alberta and a very sharp decline of 7.7 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Horses - Numbers on Farms at June 1
1931 to 1938
Thousands

1931	3,114	1935	2,931
1932	3,089	1936	2,892
1933	2,984	1937	2,883
1934	2,934	1938	2,821

Horses - Numbers on Farms by Provinces at
June 1, 1937 and 1938

Province	1937	1938	Percentage Change
Prince Edward Island	28,800	28,900	+ 0.3
Nova Scotia	42,500	42,500	0.0
New Brunswick	52,300	52,100	- 0.4
Quebec	279,900	289,400	+ 3.4
Ontario	557,900	560,700	+ 0.5
Manitoba	324,700	325,000	+ 0.1
Saskatchewan	873,600	806,200	- 7.7
Alberta	661,200	648,800	- 1.9
British Columbia	62,090	67,100	+ 8.1
TOTAL	2,882,990	2,820,700	- 2.2



CATTLE

Total numbers of cattle in Canada at June 1, 1938 were 329,300 less than at June 1, 1937. This represents a decline of 3.7 per cent, of which a decrease of 312,500 head occurred in Saskatchewan where an almost complete crop failure necessitated liquidation of herds. Cattle numbers in Alberta decreased 6.6 per cent, and smaller declines were shown in British Columbia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.

Total cattle numbers increased gradually from 1928 to 1934 when they reached a peak of 8,951,900. Since 1934 they have been decreasing and are now back to the 1932 level.

Cattle - Numbers on Farms at June 1
1931 to 1938
Thousands

1931	7,973	1935	8,821
1932	8,511	1936	8,841
1933	8,876	1937	8,840
1934	8,952	1938	8,511

Cattle - Numbers on Farms by Provinces at
June 1, 1937 and 1938

Province	1937	1938	Percentage Change
Prince Edward Island	99,500	99,400	- 0.1
Nova Scotia	228,900	236,100	+ 3.1
New Brunswick	214,500	216,900	+ 1.1
Quebec	1,764,100	1,809,400	+ 2.6
Ontario	2,454,200	2,492,300	+ 1.6
Manitoba	847,000	842,000	- 0.6
Saskatchewan	1,441,200	1,128,700	-21.7
Alberta	1,457,300	1,361,600	- 6.6
British Columbia	338,800	324,800	- 2.7
TOTAL	8,840,500	8,511,200	- 3.7

HOGS

A 12 per cent decrease was shown in the number of hogs on farms at June 1, 1938 as compared with June 1, 1937. With the exception of Prince Edward Island, the decline was common to all provinces, but was particularly heavy in Saskatchewan. Feed grain shortages in 1936 and 1937, and an unfavourable hog-feed ratio have been the chief causes of a downward trend in numbers since June 1936. With a more favourable relationship between hog prices and feed prices now obtaining, some increase in fall and spring farrowings is anticipated, and numbers at June 1, 1939 may show some increase.

Hogs - Numbers on Farms at June 1
1931 to 1938
Thousands

1931	4,700	1935	3,549
1932	4,639	1936	4,145
1933	3,801	1937	3,963
1934	3,654	1938	3,487

Hogs - Numbers on Farms by Provinces at
June 1, 1937 and 1938

Province	1937	1938	Percentage Change
Prince Edward Island	43,900	44,200	+ 0.7
Nova Scotia	50,000	43,800	-12.4
New Brunswick	95,200	82,200	-13.7
Quebec	773,900	644,900	-16.7
Ontario	1,487,900	1,430,300	- 3.9
Manitoba	228,900	219,000	- 4.3
Saskatchewan	454,100	267,600	-41.1
Alberta	773,700	707,000	- 8.6
British Columbia	55,700	47,900	-14.0
TOTAL	3,963,300	3,486,900	-12.0

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- 3 -

SHEEP

There were 3,415,000 sheep on farms at June 1, 1938 compared with 3,339,900 at June 1, 1937. Increases in numbers were recorded in six provinces, and decreases were shown in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. Numbers of sheep in Alberta increased by 8.5 per cent and in Manitoba by 6.8 per cent.

Sheep - Numbers on Farms at June 1
1931 to 1938
Thousands

1931	3,627	1935	3,399
1932	3,644	1936	3,327
1933	3,386	1937	3,340
1934	3,421	1938	3,415

Sheep - Numbers on Farms by Provinces at
June 1, 1937 and 1938

Province	1937	1938	Percentage Change
Prince Edward Island	49,600	48,700	- 1.8
Nova Scotia	137,600	146,200	+ 6.2
New Brunswick	107,100	110,400	+ 3.1
Quebec	658,000	669,500	+ 1.7
Ontario	874,700	858,300	- 1.9
Manitoba	216,200	231,000	+ 6.8
Saskatchewan	345,000	336,900	- 2.3
Alberta	768,500	833,800	+ 8.5
British Columbia	183,200	180,200	- 1.7
TOTAL	3,339,900	3,415,000	+ 2.2



1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general description of the situation in the country, and to a summary of the main results of the survey. It is followed by a detailed analysis of the results, which is divided into two main parts: a description of the situation in the country, and a summary of the main results of the survey.

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