

23-D-02
Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER

Minister of Trade and Commerce
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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MAR 1940
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LIVE STOCK SURVEY - DECEMBER 1, 1939

Ottawa, March 13, 1940.- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day a second report on the December survey of live stock and poultry dealing with the reports received on cattle, sheep, hens and chickens and turkeys. The estimates are compiled from the card schedules returned by farmers and are prepared in cooperation with the provincial departments of agriculture.

CATTLE

Numbers of cattle on farms at December 1, 1939 were reported at 8,224,100, an increase of 1.6 per cent over the total of 8,091,100 on farms at December 1, 1938. Increases in numbers occurred in New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Numbers of cattle on farms declined sharply from the peak reached in 1934 to a low point in 1937. Although there was a very slight increase in December 1938, the 1939 increase provides a more definite indication of the reversal of the downward trend in the cattle population. Numbers of cattle on farms at June 1, 1939 were slightly below those of 1938, but in view of the increase in numbers at December 1, 1939, the June 1940 figures are expected to continue the rising trend.

While total numbers of cattle at December 1, 1939 were higher than at the same date a year ago, numbers of milk cows dropped slightly. The decline in numbers of milk cows was more than offset by the increase in other cattle.

Intentions to market and farm-slaughter cattle in the period December 1939 to May 1940 were reported as 3.3 per cent higher than for the same period 1938-39. Increases were shown for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Numbers of cows expected to calve from December 1939 to May 1940 were reported as 1 per cent greater than in the same period of 1938-39.

SHEEP

A slight decline was shown in the number of sheep on farms at December 1, 1939 as compared with the sheep population at December 1, 1938. Increases in numbers occurred in only two provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The greatest decline occurred in Quebec where numbers dropped from 504,500 to 488,100 and in Ontario where the decline was from 550,700 to 528,300. Numbers of sheep on farms at December 1 have been declining for the past two years. Except in 1935 and 1936, numbers at December 1, 1939 were the lowest recorded since the December survey was commenced in 1931.

Intentions to market and farm-slaughter sheep and lambs during the six months December 1939 to May 1940 showed a decline of 5.4 per cent from the intentions for the corresponding period in 1938-39.

POULTRY

Numbers of hens and chickens on farms at December 1 were 6.8 per cent higher than in 1938 and at the highest level since 1935. The turkey population was 18 per cent greater than in 1938 with large increases being shown in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

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Table 1

Cattle: Numbers on Farms at June 1 and December 1
1931 and 1939

	June 1	December 1
	Thousands	
1931	7,973	7,864
1932	8,530	8,092
1933	8,917	8,503
1934	9,012	8,539
1935	8,897	8,499
1936	8,841	8,337
1937	8,840	8,080
1938	8,511	8,091
1939	8,474	8,224

Table 2

Cattle: Numbers on Farms at December 1, 1938 and 1939

	1938			1939			1939 Total % of 1938 Total
	Milk Cows No.	Other Cattle No.	Total No.	Milk Cows No.	Other Cattle No.	Total No.	
P. E. Island	44,500	47,600	92,100	43,400	45,100	88,500	96.1
Nova Scotia	122,000	118,000	240,000	122,000	116,600	238,600	99.4
New Brunswick	123,300	97,700	221,000	124,400	98,100	222,500	100.7
Quebec	1,026,700	644,300	1,671,000	1,045,400	659,200	1,704,600	102.0
Ontario	1,218,000	1,337,900	2,555,900	1,187,500	1,332,700	2,520,200	98.6
Manitoba	367,100	381,900	749,000	356,200	374,900	731,100	97.6
Saskatchewan	520,700	498,000	1,018,700	527,000	596,200	1,123,200	110.3
Alberta	408,300	803,100	1,211,400	397,400	863,000	1,260,400	104.0
British Columbia	130,700	201,300	332,000	130,000	205,000	335,000	100.9
Total - Canada	3,961,300	4,129,800	8,091,100	3,933,300	4,290,800	8,224,100	101.6

Table 3

Cattle: Numbers Intended for Farm Slaughter and Market
December to May, 1938-39 and 1939-40

	1938-39	1939-40	1939-40 % of 1938-39
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	18,600	17,500	94.1
Nova Scotia	34,200	34,500	100.9
New Brunswick	26,500	31,800	120.0
Quebec	230,400	261,200	113.4
Ontario	572,900	541,400	94.5
Manitoba	88,400	82,800	93.7
Saskatchewan	136,000	158,200	116.3
Alberta	222,000	241,900	109.0
British Columbia	31,400	36,500	116.2
Total - Canada	1,360,400	1,405,800	103.3

Table 4

Cows: Numbers Bred to Calve, December to May, 1938-39 and 1939-40

	1938-39	1939-40	1939-40 % of 1938-39
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	40,300	37,800	93.8
Nova Scotia	90,000	84,100	93.4
New Brunswick	105,800	103,800	98.1
Quebec	1,033,300	1,043,400	101.0
Ontario	821,500	806,100	98.1
Manitoba	252,400	242,600	96.1
Saskatchewan	375,800	397,600	105.8
Alberta	471,900	506,600	107.4
British Columbia	107,800	109,900	101.9
Total - Canada	3,298,800	3,331,900	101.0

Table 5

Sheep: Numbers on Farms at June 1 and December 1
1931 to 1939

	June 1	December 1
	Thousands	
1931	3,627	2,762
1932	3,644	2,812
1933	3,386	2,738
1934	3,421	2,738
1935	3,399	2,628
1936	3,327	2,626
1937	3,340	2,674
1938	3,415	2,672
1939	3,366	2,653

Table 6

Sheep: Numbers on Farms at December 1, 1938 and 1939

	1938	1939	1939 % of 1938
	No.	No.	%
Prince Edward Island	37,600	35,300	93.9
Nova Scotia	112,500	104,600	93.0
New Brunswick	84,700	84,500	99.8
Quebec	504,500	488,100	96.7
Ontario	550,700	528,300	95.9
Manitoba	134,700	134,600	99.9
Saskatchewan	318,800	348,300	109.3
Alberta	773,700	782,000	101.1
British Columbia	154,400	147,300	95.4
Total - Canada	2,671,600	2,653,000	99.3

Table 7

Sheep: Numbers Intended for Farm Slaughter and Market
December to May, 1938-39 and 1939-40

	1938-39	1939-40	1939-40 % of 1938-39
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	2,900	3,400	117.2
Nova Scotia	18,900	15,900	84.1
New Brunswick	10,000	13,300	133.0
Quebec	82,900	83,400	100.6
Ontario	70,000	45,200	64.6
Manitoba	9,400	9,700	103.2
Saskatchewan	20,000	23,700	118.5
Alberta	137,700	133,900	97.2
British Columbia	37,400	39,600	105.9
Total - Canada	389,200	368,100	94.6

Table 8

Hens and Chickens: Numbers on Farms at June 1 and December 1
1931 to 1939
Thousands

	June 1	December 1
1931	61,277	50,615
1932	59,843	49,226
1933	54,943	46,643
1934	55,430	46,487
1935	53,063	44,199
1936	55,769	43,492
1937	53,983	39,564
1938	53,775	40,753
1939	58,510	43,527

Table 9

Hens and Chickens: Numbers on Farms at December 1, 1938 and 1939

	1938	1939	1939 % of 1938
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	721,200	690,800	95.8
Nova Scotia	800,200	831,500	103.9
New Brunswick	951,900	947,600	99.5
Quebec	6,367,300	7,033,100	110.5
Ontario	14,289,700	14,155,000	99.1
Manitoba	3,419,100	3,830,800	112.0
Saskatchewan	6,936,200	8,116,000	117.0
Alberta	5,381,200	5,865,200	109.0
British Columbia	1,885,900	2,056,600	109.1
Total - Canada	40,752,700	43,526,600	106.8

Table 10

Turkeys: Numbers on Farms at December 1, 1938 and 1939

	1938	1939	1939 % of 1938
	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island	5,500	4,300	78.2
Nova Scotia	24,700	25,000	101.2
New Brunswick	41,600	43,800	105.3
Quebec	178,100	207,300	116.4
Ontario	476,600	458,400	96.2
Manitoba	368,400	468,400	127.1
Saskatchewan	622,900	880,300	141.3
Alberta	482,600	527,200	109.2
British Columbia	40,700	27,100	66.6
Total - Canada	2,241,100	2,641,800	117.9



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