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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Ottawa, October 9, 1937.

SUMMARY

Canadian feed supplies for 1937-38 are larger than those of last year. With the exception of Saskatchewan, where the drought has been the most severe yet experienced, most parts of the Dominion will have sufficient feed grains and fodder. With numbers of live stock on farms somewhat less than a year ago, and supplies greater, feed prices have shown a downward trend. The larger supplies in the United States have eased the situation on this continent. The outlook for 1937-38 for live stock producers is much more favourable than a year ago.

FEED GRAINS

Production

The total production of feed grains in Canada for 1937 is estimated at 8,670,000 tons. This production is 14 per cent larger than the very low production of 7,637,000 tons in 1936. It is a little more than 4 per cent below the average production from 1931 to 1935.

The increase in production over 1936 was contributed largely by the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. Saskatchewan's feed production has been drastically reduced below the very small output of 1936.

The 1937 oat crop in Canada is over 10 million bushels greater than last year's crop of 271,778,000 bushels. Production is quite reduced in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec but higher in Ontario, and very much greater in Manitoba and Alberta. The 1937 barley crop is almost 16 million bushels greater than the 1936 production of 71,922,000 bushels. The crop of 38 million bushels in Manitoba is double last year's production in that province. Saskatchewan's crop of 6.5 million bushels is 10.1 million bushels less than the small harvest of 16.6 million bushels in 1936. The total rye crop is 41 per cent larger than a year ago. The production of husked corn in Ontario will be somewhat greater than the harvest of 1936.

Stocks

Stocks of oats, barley and rye in Canada at July 31, 1937 totalled 427,000 tons. This is only 42 per cent of the amount reported at July 31, 1936 and 37 per cent of the average stocks for the period 1931 to 1935.

Total Supply

Adding current production to stocks on hand at July 31, 1937 gives a total supply of 9,097,000 tons for 1937-38, which is 448,000 tons or 5 per cent greater than a year ago. Since grain consuming animal units on farms are less than those of a year ago, feed supplies per grain consuming animal unit are estimated at .70 tons compared with .64 tons in 1936.

Prices

Prices of feed grains registered a very sharp increase during the latter part of 1936. This advance continued into the spring of 1937. Since April of this year the trend of feed grain prices has been downward, with the exception of July when crop scares in North America caused a temporary rise in the market. The behaviour of feed prices during the past twelve months parallels the experience after the 1934 drought. The recent increase in live-stock prices, coupled with a decline in feed grain prices, will place live-stock producers in a much more favourable position than was the case a year ago. The ratio of hog prices to barley prices in September 1937 was 17.9 This ratio has increased sharply to a favourable relationship since July of this year. Premiums for malting barley are now much lower than a year ago, and will permit diversion of barley from malting purposes to use as feed.

Feed Grain Supplies in Other Countries

While Canadian feed grain supplies are not large, the greater production in 1937 in the United States reverses the total supply situation on this continent from that of a year ago. Total feed grain supplies in the United States are estimated at 104 million tons for 1937-38. This is slightly less than the average of 108 million tons harvested from 1928 to 1932 but is 32 million tons greater than the outturn in 1936. With grain consuming animal units considerably lower than from 1928 to 1932, feed supplies are large per animal unit.

During the 1936-37 season, 15 million bushels of barley were exported from Canada to the United States. Most of this barley was of malting grades. The 1937-38 barley crop in the United States is 80 million bushels greater than the crop of 147 million bushels harvested last year.

The barley crop of 1937 in Europe is 38 million bushels less than the crop of 182 million bushels harvested last year, and 25 million bushels less than the average production from 1931 to 1935. Exports of Canadian barley to the United Kingdom in 1936-37 totalled 2.3 million bushels, compared with 6.4 million bushels in 1935-36.

The small Canadian feed supplies of 1936-37 were augmented by heavy importations of corn amounting to 20.6 million bushels compared with 5.9 million bushels the previous year. Most of this corn originated in Argentina.

The 1937 oat crop in the United States is 43 per cent larger than the 1936 crop. European oat production is estimated at about the same as last year and 5 per cent less than the average from 1931 to 1935. In 1936-37, Canada exported 6 million bushels of oats compared with 12 million bushels the previous year. Four and a half million bushels were consigned to the United Kingdom.

FODDER CROPS

Production

The total production of fodder crops in Canada in 1937 is estimated at 20,121,000 tons, compared with a production of 19,907,000 tons in 1936, and an average of 20,651,000 tons from 1931 to 1935. Fodder production per hay consuming animal unit in 1937 is estimated at 1.90 tons compared with 1.83 tons in 1936.

While the production of hay and clover is lower this year, higher yields of alfalfa and fodder corn offset this decrease. Fodder production in the Maritime Provinces is not as heavy as last year. The very small crops of fodder harvested in Saskatchewan make that province largely dependent on outside supplies.

Turnips and other root crops show a slightly smaller production in 1937 as compared with 1936. The production of sugar beets is estimated to be 162,000 tons less than last year.

Prices

While hay prices did not follow the sharp upward trend of feed grain prices in 1936-37, they increased during the early part of 1937. The greatest increases in hay prices are shown in markets in the Prairie Provinces. The price of prairie hay at Saskatoon was $13.50 a ton in September of this year compared with $11.50 a ton in September 1936. For the same period, prairie hay at Edmonton had increased by $3 a ton. No. 2 timothy at Toronto and Montreal showed an increase in price of 50 cents per ton.

PASTURES

Pasture conditions in Canada at the end of September 1937 were reported as 95 per cent of normal as compared with 90 per cent at the end of August. Pasture conditions this fall are better in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia but poorer in the Maritimes where dry weather has been experienced during the latter part of the summer.

PASTURE CONDITIONS
Per Cent of Normal

	August 31, 1936	August 31, 1937	September 30, 1937
Prince Edward Island	106	72	69
Nova Scotia	100	83	90
New Brunswick	101	85	85
Quebec	96	97	100
Ontario	58	98	104
Manitoba	54	86	90
Saskatchewan	47	29	45
Alberta	65	83	88
British Columbia	87	96	93
CANADA	79	90	95

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES IN CANADA
1920 to 1937

	Supply of Feed Grains(1) Thousand Tons	Grain Consuming Animal Units(2) Thousands	Supply per Grain Consuming Animal Unit Tons
1920	12,515	12,365	1.01
1921	11,342	12,736	0.89
1922	12,713	12,756	1.00
1923	14,002	13,005	1.08
1924	11,586	13,685	0.85
1925	11,324	13,033	0.87
1926	11,555	13,136	0.88
1927	12,113	13,147	0.92
1928	13,369	12,934	1.03
1929	10,042	12,785	0.79
1930	13,719	12,529	1.09
1931	10,784	13,514	0.80
1932	10,932	13,795	0.79
1933	9,144	13,181	0.69
1934	9,326	13,119	0.71
1935	11,005	12,921	0.85
1936	8,649	13,459	0.64
1937	9,097(3)	13,000(4)	0.70

(1) Including the production of oats, barley, rye, corn, peas, buckwheat, and mixed grains, and stocks of oats, barley and rye at July 31.
(2) Horses, cattle, hogs and sheep on farms at June 1.
(3) Subject to revision when final estimates available.
(4) Estimated.

HOG-BARLEY RATIO (1)
AT WINNIPEG

	1934	1935	1936	1937
January	23.8	17.3	28.7	10.0
February	26.5	18.5	28.7	10.2
March	25.0	19.8	26.5	10.9
April	24.7	19.7	26.8	12.4
May	24.9	23.5	27.1	12.6
June	22.6	28.3	28.0	14.6
July	21.2	29.6	20.3	14.4
August	15.5	33.9	17.1	19.4
September	14.7	29.2	15.6	17.9
October	15.9	29.3	13.5	
November	15.1	27.5	12.7	
December	14.8	27.5	10.7	

(1) Price of bacon hogs at Winnipeg divided by the price of 3 C.W. barley, Fort William, less freight, Winnipeg to Fort William. Average 1912 to 1935 = 18.0 bushels.

FODDER SUPPLIES IN CANADA

	Fodder Production(1) Thousand Tons	Hay Consuming Animal Units(2) Thousands	Supplies per Hay Consuming Animal Unit Tons
1920	19,701(3)	10,648	1.85
1921	18,545(3)	10,885	1.70
1922	22,757	10,684	2.13
1923	25,531	10,429	2.45
1924	26,941	10,584	2.55
1925	25,672	10,393	2.47
1926	25,372	10,465	2.42
1927	26,968	10,198	2.64
1928	26,212	10,057	2.61
1929	23,089	10,107	2.28
1930	24,672	10,177	2.42
1931	22,424	10,378	2.16
1932	21,522	10,793	1.99
1933	19,166	10,971	1.75
1934	18,119	11,024	1.64
1935	22,024	10,902	2.02
1936	19,907	10,906	1.83
1937	20,121(4)	10,600(5)	1.90

(1) Including the production of hay and clover, alfalfa, fodder corn and grain hay.
(2) Horses, cattle and sheep on farms at June 1.
(3) Incomplete estimates of grain hay production.
(4) Subject to revision when final estimates available.
(5) Estimated.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE FEED PRICES AND PRICES OF LIVE STOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

1926 = 100

	Feed Prices	Live Stock and Animal Products
1936 August	89.8	71.9
September	90.2	74.7
October	90.0	76.2
November	91.6	79.5
December	101.0	80.8
1937 January	105.3	82.1
February	104.7	82.6
March	107.5	84.2
April	107.8	86.3
May	102.8	85.7
June	99.2	81.4
July	107.1	83.9
August	90.9	85.5
September	91.3	88.4

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