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FEED SUPPLIES FOR 1939-40

Summary

Supplies of feed grains in Canada for 1939-40 are somewhat greater than a year ago and the most evenly distributed in a number of years. Increased production together with larger stocks has resulted in a supply of 11.8 million tons compared with a supply of 10.9 million tons at the beginning of last season. These are the largest supplies recorded since the 1930-31 season. Although the number of grain-consuming animals is higher than a year ago, the increase in supplies of feed grains has been greater. Supplies per grain-consuming animal for 1939-40 are estimated at 0.74 tons compared with 0.72 tons in 1938-39.

Any increase in flour production during 1939-40 will make available larger supplies of millfeeds. The output of millfeeds in 1938-39 was the largest since 1930-31. For 1939-40, prospects point to at least as large an output as in 1938-39.

While the 1939 production of hay and clover fell below 1938, increases in production of other fodder crops partly offset this decline. Fodder supplies per hay-consuming animal for 1939-40 are estimated at 2.02 tons compared with 2.07 tons in 1938. Fodder production in the Western Provinces in 1939 was greater than in 1938, but lower yields of hay and clover were obtained in the Central and Maritime Provinces.

Feed prices advanced sharply in the first two weeks of September but lately have shown a tendency to decline. In September, feed prices averaged 32 per cent higher than in August. While the advance in live-stock prices has not been as great, rising only 12 per cent from August to September, the relationship between live stock and feed grain prices is still relatively favourable to the live-stock producer.

FEED GRAINS

Production

Production of feed grains in Canada this season is estimated at 10.6 million tons as compared with 10.4 million tons in 1938. This is the largest production of feed grains since 1930 and the most uniformly distributed for some years. With the exception of local areas in south-eastern Saskatchewan and south-western Manitoba, yields were generally satisfactory. Production of oats in 1939 was greater than in 1938, while the barley crop was about 3 million bushels smaller. Rye production was about 5.5 million bushels greater.

Stocks

At July 31, 1939, stocks of oats, barley and rye totalled 1,194,000 tons, more than double the stocks of 514,000 tons at July 31, 1938. These are the largest stocks recorded at July 31 since 1931. Most of the increase in feed grain stocks occurred in storage on farms.

Total Supplies

Total supplies of feed grains in Canada for the 1939-40 season, that is, 1939 production added to stocks at July 31, amounted to 11.8 million tons compared with 10.9 million tons for the 1938-39 season and an average of 10.8 million tons for the five seasons, 1930-31 to 1934-35. The supplies are the largest recorded since 1930-31, when 13.7 million tons were available.

Supplies in Relation to Grain-Consuming Animals

Numbers of grain-consuming animals on farms during the 1939-40 feeding season will be considerably greater than a year ago. At June 1, 1939 the number of grain-consuming animals was over 5 per cent higher than at June 1, 1938. Hog and poultry production expanded greatly during the past twelve months and some further expansion will likely occur during the 1939-40 season. The supply of feed grains per grain-consuming animal during the 1939-40 season is estimated at 0.74 tons as compared with 0.72 tons last year. The 1939-40 supply of 0.74 tons compares with an average supply of 0.65 tons during the ten-year period 1929-30 to 1938-39.

Exports and Imports

Exports of feed grains during the 1938-39 season amounted to 615,000 tons. Of this total, barley accounted for 396,000 tons and oats 163,000 tons. Exports in the 1938-39 season were 90,000 tons higher than in the 1937-38 season. The increase in supplies in 1938-39 over the previous season did not result in an appreciable increase in exports, but rather in a large increase in stocks carried over into the 1939-40 season. In view of sufficient supplies of feed grains in most countries, it is not expected that exports during the present season will be greatly increased.

Imports of feed grains during the 1938-39 season amounted to 298,000 tons which was less than half the imports of the previous season. Reductions in the importation of oats and corn accounted for the smaller amount of feed imported during last season. In view of the availability of adequate supplies in Canada, importations during 1939-40 are expected to show a further decline.

Prices

Feed grain prices, after declining sharply in the summer of 1938, remained low during the 1938-39 season. The situation was favourable for the live stock producer and increases in dairy, hog and poultry production took place. Upon the outbreak of war, prices of feed grains advanced rapidly. No. 1 Feed barley, quoted at 31 cents per bushel (Fort William basis) on August 15, closed at 48 3/8 cents per bushel on September 13. No. 2 C.W. oats rose from 23 7/8 cents per bushel to 35 5/8 cents per bushel during the same period. Prices have declined during the latter part of September and early October. For September 1939, feed prices averaged 71.2 per cent of the 1926 level, in comparison with 53.8 per cent in August. Prices of live stock and live-stock products in August were 75.6 per cent of the 1926 level. The rise in live-stock prices in September averaged about 12 per cent for all classes. In relation to feed prices, live-stock prices are still relatively favourable. Hog prices in relation to barley prices during the 1938-39 season were high both at Winnipeg and Toronto. While hog prices rose in September, the advance in barley prices was greater and the average ratio at Winnipeg dropped from 31.1 in August to 22.3 in September. At Toronto, the hog-barley ratio averaged 14.6 in September 1939, compared with 16.0 in August and 18.8 for August 1938.

Supplies in Other Countries

United States:-Total supplies of feed grains according to September 1 conditions, will approximate 112 million tons for 1939-40, compared with 111 million tons in 1938-39. Supplies per grain-consuming animal are 0.83 tons compared with 0.88 tons last year and an average of 0.78 tons from 1928 to 1932. The 1939 corn and barley crops were above the 1928-32 average, but oat production was lower than last year and about 18 per cent below the 1923-32 average.

Europe:-Feed grain production in Europe for 1939 is about 8 per cent greater than in 1938. Increases of over 11 per cent in barley production, nearly 10 per cent in corn and over 4 per cent in oat production have occurred. The effects of the disruption of normal trading channels for feed grains among European countries are difficult to anticipate. There may be some increase in importations from the Western Hemisphere by countries cut off from their normal sources of supply.

MILLFEEDS

Total production of bran, shorts and middlings during the twelve months ended July 1939 amounted to 558,000 tons compared with 445,000 tons in 1937-38. Output of millfeeds last season was the highest since 1930-31. For 1939-40 it is expected that output will be at least equal to last season. Exports during 1938-39 totalled 173,000 tons as compared with 48,000 tons in the previous season. Prices of millfeeds declined during the summer months, but rose sharply in September. For August 1939 the price of shorts averaged $21.44 per ton at Montreal, and in September 1939, the average price had advanced to $27.93 per ton. Lately millfeed prices have shown a tendency to decline.

HAY AND FODDER CROPS

Production

Total production of hay and fodder crops in 1939 is estimated at 21,395,000 tons compared with 21,946,000 tons in 1938 and an average production of 20,651,000 tons from 1931 to 1935. Total production of hay and clover in 1939 is less than in 1938. Heavier hay crops were harvested in the Western Provinces, but crops were light in the Central and Maritime Provinces. Alfalfa production in 1939 was the greatest recorded.

Hay and fodder production for 1939 amounted to 2.02 tons per hay-consuming animal which is slightly lower than the average of 2.07 tons per animal for 1938. With the exception of last year, production per hay-consuming animal is the highest since 1931.

Exports

Hay exports during the 1938-39 season totalled 88,000 tons of which over 40,000 tons went to the United Kingdom and 33,000 tons to the United States. In 1937-38, total exports were only 53,000 tons. Because of a short hay crop on the eastern seaboard, exports to the United States during 1939-40 may be somewhat greater. Use of shipping space for more essential supplies may result in some decline in exports to the United Kingdom.

PASTURES

Prices

Little change has occurred in hay prices during the past six months. Prices of Prairie hay tended to decline as a result of larger supplies and quotations at Prairie points dropped from $1.00 to $1.50 per ton. While a slight decline in prices was recorded at Toronto, prices of baled hay at Montreal in September were $1.00 per ton higher than in May. In view of the lower production of fodder in the Central Provinces in 1939 hay prices may tend to rise during the winter and spring. With adequate supplies available in Western Canada, Western hay prices are only likely to increase as a result of a general rise in prices.

Pasture Conditions

The condition of pastures at September 30, 1939 was 89 per cent of normal compared with 98 per cent at the same date a year ago. Since the end of August there have been substantial declines in conditions in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, while improvement occurred in Ontario and the Western Provinces. Pasture conditions in the Maritime Provinces are considerably below normal.

Table 1

Feed Grains: Production, Stocks, Total Supply and Supply per Grain-Consuming Animal, 1914-15 to Date

Crop Years	Production(1)	Stooks(2)	Total Supply	Grain-Consuming Animal Units	Supply per Grain-Consuming Animal Unit
	000-Tons	000-Tons	000-Tons	000	Tons
1914-15	7,314	(3)	-	13,108	-
1915-16	10,360	(3)	-	13,315	-
1916-17	8,705	(3)	-	13,664	-
1917-18	9,124	(3)	-	13,645	-
1918-19	10,943	297	11,240	14,452	.78
1919-20	9,800	420	10,220	14,782	.69
1920-21	12,311	214	12,525	14,051	.89
1921-22	10,479	819	11,298	14,687	.77
1922-23	12,320	352	12,672	14,929	.85
1923-24	13,458	499	13,957	15,273	.91
1924-25	10,845	969	11,814	16,028	.74
1925-26	10,582	700	11,282	15,384	.73
1926-27	10,556	1,000	11,556	15,532	.74
1927-28	11,549	541	12,090	15,581	.78
1928-29	12,736	628	13,364	15,528	.86
1929-30	8,893	1,150	10,043	15,647	.64
1930-31	12,546	1,173	13,719	15,415	.89
1931-32	8,594	2,189	10,783	16,434	.66
1932-33	10,100	832	10,932	16,702	.65
1933-34	7,994	1,150	9,144	15,877	.58
1934-35	8,419	906	9,325	15,850	.59
1935-36	10,334	671	11,005	15,558	.71
1936-37	7,637	1,010	8,647	16,117	.54
1937-38	7,906	426	8,332	15,895	.52
1938-39	10,382	514	10,896	15,202	.72
1939-40 (4)	10,566	1,194	11,760	16,000 (;	.74

(1) Including Oats, Barley, Rye, Corn, Buckwheat, Peas, Mixed Grains.

(2) Including Oats, Barley, Rye.

(3) Not available.

(4) Preliminary.

Table 2

Feed Grains: Exports and Imports

000 Tons

Year	Exports (1)	Imports (2)
1914-15	938	321
1915-16	474	268
1916-17	648	356
1917-18	1,468	223
1918-19	1,185	310
1919-20	489	338
1920-21	676	290
1921-22	897	445
1922-23	943	309
1923-24	1,073	266
1924-25	1,323	244
1925-26	1,533	325
1926-27	1,629	459
1927-28	1,318	479
1928-29	1,210	484
1929-30	1,411	480
1930-31	148	266
1931-32	683	269
1932-33	908	247
1933-34	477	185
1934-35	280	266
1935-36	712	173
1936-37	527	584
1937-38	701	605
1938-39	525	298

(1) Fiscal years ending March 31, 1914-15 to 1919-20.
Crop years ending July 31, 1920-21 to date.

(2) Fiscal years 1913-14 and 1914-15.
Crop years 1915-16 to date.

Table 3

Index Numbers of

Feed Prices and Prices of Live Stock and Live Stock Products

by Months

1934-1939

1926-100

	1934		1935		1936		1937		1938		1939	
	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal	Feed	Animal
January	66.6	68.4	84.8	71.0	62.3	77.5	105.3	82.1	94.2	82.2	57.2	81.7
February	70.7	72.2	80.9	72.5	61.0	77.8	104.7	82.6	96.4	81.1	58.4	81.5
March	71.0	68.8	79.6	73.3	62.1	76.0	107.5	84.2	93.1	81.7	59.0	82.1
April	68.3	67.4	82.4	72.9	61.8	73.8	107.8	86.3	88.4	81.2	61.6	81.3
May	67.1	66.8	80.5	74.4	60.6	73.0	102.8	85.7	85.8	81.8	63.6	80.7
June	75.9	66.0	76.0	72.0	61.7	70.4	99.2	81.4	81.2	80.5	59.1	76.1
July	78.5	63.7	72.6	71.1	76.5	71.6	107.1	83.9	74.0	80.8	54.3	75.5
August	86.0	62.9	68.4	72.4	89.8	71.9	90.9	85.5	63.4	79.7	53.8	75.6
September	85.6	65.0	64.9	75.5	90.2	74.7	91.3	88.8	55.6	81.1	71.2	(1)
October	80.4	70.3	63.9	76.7	90.0	76.2	91.5	86.9	55.6	81.0		
November	84.4	70.4	63.3	77.1	91.6	79.5	87.3	87.4	54.2	82.1		
December	86.7	70.8	62.9	77.9	101.0	80.8	88.4	84.6	54.5	82.8		

(1) Not available.

Table 4

Millfeeds: Production of Bran, Shorts and Middlings

1920-21 to Date

Years ending July 31	Total Tons
1920-21	348,885
1921-22	541,015
1922-23	656,893
1923-24	709,685
1924-25	631,855
1925-26	654,087
1926-27	620,320
1927-28	685,242
1928-29	758,366
1929-30	561,665
1930-31	562,932
1931-32	502,377
1932-33	510,028
1933-34	512,725
1934-35	491,040
1935-36	544,296
1936-37	525,006
1937-38	444,586
1938-39	557,912

Table 5

Pastures: Condition at August 31 and September 30

1938 and 1939

Province	August 31		September 30	
	1938	1939	1938	1939
Prince Edward Island	105	80	110	62
Nova Scotia	102	88	107	75
New Brunswick	105	90	104	81
Quebec	102	101	99	98
Ontario	95	88	98	90
Manitoba	85	70	72	89
Saskatchewan	78	73	92	81
Alberta	94	68	97	80
British Columbia	72	84	83	88
Canada	97	90	98	89

Table 6

Hay and Fodder: Total Production in Canada and Production per Hay-Consuming Animal Unit, 1914-15 to Date

	Hay and Fodder Production (1)	Hay Consuming Animal Units	Production per Hay-Consuming Animal Unit
	000-Tons	000	Tons
1914-15	13,728 (2)	9,149	1.50
1915-16	14,256 (2)	9,517	1.50
1916-17	16,722 (2)	9,792	1.71
1917-18	16,637 (2)	10,084	1.65
1918-19	20,006 (2)	10,575	1.89
1919-20	21,936 (3)	10,912	2.01
1920-21	19,701 (3)	10,646	1.85
1921-22	19,679 (3)	10,885	1.81
1922-23	22,798 (3)	10,683	2.13
1923-24	25,530	10,429	2.45
1924-25	26,941	10,584	2.55
1925-26	25,674	10,392	2.47
1926-27	25,372	10,466	2.42
1927-28	26,968	10,197	2.64
1928-29	26,212	10,057	2.61
1929-30	23,089	10,108	2.28
1930-31	24,672	10,177	2.42
1931-32	22,424	10,372	2.16
1932-33	21,522	10,824	1.99
1933-34	19,166	11,004	1.74
1934-35	18,119	11,075	1.64
1935-36	22,024	10,981	2.01
1936-37	19,907	10,892	1.83
1937-38	20,832	10,899	1.91
1938-39	21,946	10,583	2.07
1939-40	21,395 (4)	10,580 (4)	2.02

(1) Including Hay and Clover, Fodder Corn, Alfalfa and Grain Hay.

(2) Grain Hay not included.

(3) Incomplete estimates of Grain Hay.

(4) Preliminary.