

Section 2.—The Marketing of Agricultural Products

A special article covering the general movement of farm-produced foods from producer to consumer, with the exception of the grain trade and livestock, appears in the 1956 Year Book, pp. 917-922. Grain and livestock marketings are dealt with in detail in Subsections 1 and 2 following.

Subsection 1.—Grain Trade

Marketing Problems and Policies, 1955-56

In 1955-56 production, marketings and exports of the five major Canadian grains combined were above the 1954-55 levels. Although the spring season was late, good weather conditions prevailed during most of the growing and harvesting periods and above-average yields were obtained for most crops. The higher level of production in 1955 was sufficient to offset by a considerable margin the decline that occurred in July-end carryover stocks. Marketings of wheat, oats and barley continued under the compulsory crop-year pools system of the Canadian Wheat Board. All grains in Eastern Canada and rye and flaxseed in Western Canada continued to be traded on the open market.

On July 19, 1955, the Canadian Wheat Board announced the delivery quota policy for the 1955-56 crop year. As in the preceding year, an initial quota of 100 units was to be effective at local delivery stations as announced (one unit being equivalent to three bushels of wheat, or five bushels of barley or rye, or eight bushels of oats). The initial quota was followed by general delivery quotas, based upon bushels per specified acre, the specified acreage consisting of the producer's acreage seeded to wheat (other than Durum), oats, barley and rye plus his acreage in summerfallow in 1955. Deliveries of Durum wheat and flaxseed were not subject to quota control. However, by July 31, 1955, some producers had not completed their deliveries under the final eight-bushel general quota established for the crop year 1954-55, and the Board extended this quota but with deliveries for the account of the 1955-56 pool. Eight-bushel general quotas at individual stations expired and initial delivery quotas for 1955-56 were established only after the Board was reasonably certain that deliveries under the eight-bushel general quota had been largely completed. By Sept. 2, initial unit quotas had been established at all delivery points. By the end of the crop year, delivery quotas varied between five bushels and eight bushels per specified acre.

Preliminary data indicate that total marketings of the five major grains in Western Canada in 1955-56 amounted to about 567,300,000 bu., representing an increase of 8 p.c. over the comparable 1954-55 total of 524,600,000 bu. and 2 p.c. over the ten-year (1945-46—1954-55) average of 556,300,000 bu. Combined exports of the same grains, including wheat flour, rolled oats and oatmeal, malt and pot and pearl barley in grain equivalent, amounted to 406,500,000 bu., exceeding both the 1954-55 total of 370,700,000 bu. and the ten-year (1946-55) average of 369,900,000 bu. Carryover stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all positions at July 31, 1956, were estimated at 827,400,000 bu., about 13 p.c. above the 1955 figure of 731,900,000 bu. and more than double the ten-year average of 399,600,000 bu.

20.—Supply and Disposition of Canadian Grain, Crop Years Ended July 31, 1955 and 1956

Note.—Data for wheat include final revisions based on the 1956 Census but data for other crops are subject to change pending completion of intercensal revisions.

(Millions of bushels)

Item	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
Crop Year 1954-55					
Carryover, Aug. 1, 1954.....	618.7	125.8	145.9	19.3	2.6
Production in 1954.....	332.0	306.8	175.5	14.2	11.2
Imports ¹	0.2	2	2	2	2
Totals, Supply	950.8	432.6	321.4	33.5	13.8

For footnotes, see end of table.