

from widespread leaf rust infection and hot weather before maturity. Outbreaks of grasshoppers and cutworms were also widespread, but the application of effective control measures reduced the losses from this source. In Eastern Canada temperatures tended to be below normal during the spring months and extremely variable in the late season and rainfall was deficient in many areas of Ontario and in parts of Quebec and New Brunswick. These conditions reduced yields of most spring-sown crops, especially corn, soybeans, oats and mixed grains. Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, however, experienced good growing weather. Harvesting conditions in most of Canada were satisfactory.

Canada's 1963 wheat crop amounted to a record 723,400,000 bu., surpassing the previous peak of 702,000,000 bu. harvested in 1952 and exceeding the 1962 outturn of 565,600,000 bu. by 28 p.c. The acreage seeded to all classes of wheat at 27,600,000 was surpassed only in 1940 when 28,700,000 acres were sown, while the average yield per acre at 26.2 bu. was exceeded only by the 1952 crop which averaged 26.8 bu. per acre. The quality of the 1963 crop was generally excellent and the average protein content of hard red spring wheat was 14.3 p.c., the third highest level on record.

Production of grains used principally for livestock feeding purposes (oats, barley, mixed grains, corn and buckwheat) totalled 15,300,000 tons compared with 14,700,000 tons in 1962 and contrasted sharply with the 9,600,000 tons produced in 1961, when drought cut back production in the Prairie Provinces. On a national basis, feed grain supplies in 1963 were generous in relation to livestock numbers, even though many areas in Eastern Canada experienced reduced average yields. Average yields in the prairie region were well above normal. Canadian supplies of tame hay and fodder corn were also large, the former crop establishing a new production record.

Reflecting the generally satisfactory growing conditions in the Prairie Provinces as well as acreage increases, production of flaxseed, rapeseed, sunflower seed and mustard seed all registered sharp increases over the previous season. In contrast, soybean production in Ontario declined markedly as a result of unfavourable weather. The potato crop was large, with average yields per acre only moderately below the record established in 1962. Sugar beet outturns of 13.5 tons per acre compared with 13.1 tons in 1962 and production of this crop was only slightly smaller than the record set in 1958.

Early estimates indicate that the total gross farm value of 1963 field crops will exceed the 1962 value and the 1955-59 average value by a wide margin. Average farm prices for major cereal crops, after remaining relatively stable during the 1955-59 period, rose moderately during 1960-61 as large carryover stocks which had accumulated during the mid-1950's were drawn down. The severe drought which struck the Prairie Provinces in 1961 raised the possibility of shortages and prices responded accordingly. The average farm price for all classes of wheat during the 1961-62 crop year reached \$1.72 per bu., which was the highest level since the record \$2.37 per bu. attained during the 1919-20 crop year. Although average farm prices for wheat declined to \$1.66 during the 1962-63 crop year, production was double that of the preceding year and gross farm value of the crop was nearly twice as large.

Wheat continues to be the major Canadian field crop in terms of gross farm value and is the major cash crop. The gross farm value of all crops in 1962 amounted to \$2,118,804,000 and wheat contributed \$941,436,000 or 44 p.c. to this total. In Saskatchewan alone the 1962 wheat crop was valued at \$591,180,000, making up more than a quarter of the gross farm value of all Canadian field crops. With the exception of rapeseed, sunflower seed and dry peas, the gross farm value of each crop was larger in 1962 than in the preceding year although, when compared with the 1955-59 average, barley, dry peas, buckwheat, flaxseed, mustard seed, potatoes and field roots all registered decreases.