

11.4.3 Livestock and poultry

The total number of cattle and calves in Canada, excluding Newfoundland, at June 1, 1973 was estimated at 14.1 million head, compared to 13.7 million head at June 1, 1972, a record for this time of year. (The 1971 Census counted 7,138 cattle in Newfoundland.) Milk cows (two years and over) were estimated at 2.2 million head, down 3% from June 1, 1972, continuing the trend toward reduced dairy herds that began about 20 years ago. Total numbers of cattle in Canada have been increasing since 1958, reflecting the growing importance of beef production. Cattle slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in 1973 amounted to 2.9 million head, unchanged from 1972. Calf slaughter, at 291,524, decreased by 28% from 1972, again underlining the trend toward beef production as more calves are fed out and veal production consequently declines (Table 11.8).

Exports of cattle and calves in 1973 were 426,350, up from 299,625 in 1972. Imports, at 229,505 head (228,221 from the United States), were up by 213%. Beef exports (cold dressed carcass weight equivalent) increased slightly from 164 million lb. in 1972 to 167 million lb. in 1973. Beef imports, however, decreased from 215 million lb. in 1972 to 208 million lb. in 1973.

Agriculture Canada reported that the weighted average price of A1 and A2 steers at Toronto for 1973 was \$46.56 compared to \$37.20 in 1972 and \$32.66 for the 1969-73 average.

The June 1, 1973 estimate for the total number of pigs in Canada was just over 7.0 million, a slight increase over the previous year. (The 1971 Census estimates the number of pigs in Newfoundland at 14,639.) Pigs slaughtered in federally inspected plants in 1973 numbered 9.0 million compared to 9.4 million in 1972 as reported by Agriculture Canada, a decrease of 3.3%. The weighted average price at Toronto (dollars per cwt for index 100 pigs, dressed) in 1973 was \$54.66, compared to \$37.40 in 1972 and \$32.38 for the 1969-73 average.

The number of sheep and lambs on farms at June 1, 1973 was estimated at 832,500, a decrease of 1% from 845,000 at June 1, 1972. (Newfoundland figures for 1971 were 9,384 sheep.) Sheep and lambs slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in 1973 totalled 234,206, up 9.1% from 1972. Imports of live animals also increased from 44,016 in 1972 to 61,083 in 1973 due to higher imports from the United States. Imports of mutton and lamb, on the other hand, decreased from 81.5 million lb. in 1972 to 59.3 million lb. in 1973.

The estimated number of laying hens on farms at June 1, 1973 was 25.1 million compared to 25.9 million at June 1, 1972 a decrease of 3.1%. Production and consumption of poultry meat are shown in Table 11.9.

11.4.4 Dairying

The number of dairy cattle on farms has been declining gradually for many years. Despite the over-all decrease in numbers, total milk production in Canada had remained fairly constant by an increase in output per cow until 1971 when it declined 556 million lb. from the previous year (Table 11.10). In 1972 production increased slightly to 17,676 million lb. and dropped again in 1973 to 16,886 million lb. Production is concentrated in central Canada; Quebec and Ontario account for about 73% of the total quantity.

Table 11.11 shows that the farm value of milk production in Canada for 1973 was \$911.5 million, an increase of approximately 9.4% over 1972. The value of milk used in factories in 1973 was \$446.9 million (49% of total production) and fluid milk sales amounted to \$410.8 million (45% of total production).

Production of creamery butter, which in 1973 amounted to 252.3 million lb. and required 35% of the total national milk output, represents a decline of 13.2% from the 1972 figure (Table 11.12). Quebec accounted for almost half of the total output, followed by Ontario with 29%. Per capita consumption, shown in Table 11.13, was 13.3 lb., slightly lower than in 1972.

The total production of factory cheese (Table 11.12) for 1973 was 248.3 million lb. compared with 249.5 million lb. for 1972, and per capita consumption (Table 11.13) of all varieties of cheese, excluding cottage cheese, was 14.4 lb. compared with 13.2 lb. for 1972. Ontario accounted for 41% of the output and Quebec 48%.

Total production of concentrated whole milk products, which includes condensed milk, evaporated milk, whole milk powder, partly skimmed evaporated milk and others, decreased 1.1% from the previous year. Total production of concentrated milk by-products, which include condensed skim milk, evaporated skim milk, skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, whey powder, casein and others, decreased 7.9% from 1972.