

head. Milk cows two years and over were estimated at 1.9 million head, down 1.0% from July 1, 1976. Beef cows two years and over were estimated at 4.2 million head, down from 4.3 million head at July 1, 1976.

Exports of cattle and calves in 1976 totalled 477,794, up from 223,603 in 1975. Imports, at 199,247 head were up from 129,501. Beef exports, cold dressed carcass weight equivalent, increased from 20 million kilograms in 1975 to 59 million kg in 1976. Beef imports increased from 89 million kg in 1975 to 144 million kg in 1976.

Agriculture Canada reported that the weighted average price of A1 and A2 steers over 453.6 kg at Toronto for 1976 was \$92.35.

Livestock slaughter. Cattle slaughtered at federally inspected packing plants amounted to 3,761,419 head in 1977, up 2.3% from 3,676,284 head in 1976.

Calves slaughtered at federally inspected packing plants amounted to 645,591 head in 1977, down 1.5% from 655,443 head in 1976.

The July 1, 1977 estimate for total number of pigs in Canada excluding Newfoundland was 6.2 million, up from 5.8 million in 1976. Pigs slaughtered in federally inspected and approved plants in 1977 numbered 8.0 million, up from 7.5 million in 1976 as reported by Agriculture Canada. The weighted average price at Toronto (for index 100 hogs, dressed) in 1976 was \$1,413/tonne compared to \$1,482/tonne in 1975 and \$1,038/tonne for the 1971-75 average.

The number of sheep and lambs on farms at July 1, 1977 was estimated at 532,500, down from 562,600 at July 1, 1976. (In Newfoundland on July 1, 1976 there were 9,159 sheep.) Sheep and lambs slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in 1977 totalled 132,585 compared to 187,674 in 1976 and 186,566 in 1975. Imports of live animals increased from 57,601 in 1975 to 66,807 in 1976. Imports of mutton and lamb decreased from 20.2 million kg in 1975 to 17.4 million kg.

Wool. Estimates of production of shorn wool in 1976 at 1.2 million kilograms were 12.0% lower than in 1975. Average farm price per kilogram was 81.3 cents in 1976 compared to 66.1 cents a kg in 1975.

Poultry and eggs. Estimated number of laying hens on farms at July 1, 1976 was 22.3 million compared to 23.6 million at June 1, 1975. Production and consumption of poultry meat are shown in Table 11.8.

Table 11.18 shows production and value of farm eggs by province. Egg production totalled 455.6 million dozen in 1977, compared to 437.9 million dozen in 1976. The rate of lay per 100 layers rose to 22,139 from 21,975 in 1976 and the farm selling price of eggs averaged 65.0 cents a dozen compared with 64.0 cents a dozen in 1976. The Atlantic provinces produced 7.9% of all eggs in 1977, Quebec 16.3%, Ontario 38.8%, the Prairie provinces 24.1% and British Columbia 12.8%.

11.4.4 Dairying

Previous to 1975, milk production figures were derived by converting dairy products back to their milk equivalent. Beginning in 1975, published figures represent milk production sold off farms to first receivers, usually the marketing boards in each province. Therefore, data on milk production for the years 1975 and 1976 are not comparable to earlier years.

Total farm cash receipts have been adjusted for levies collected by provincial authorities in all provinces on manufacturing milk and cream shipments. Levies by category of milk are not available and therefore farm cash receipts may not add.

Number of dairy cows in Canada at July 1, 1977 was 1,975,000 head, the lowest in recent times. In 1977 milk production stood at 7 743.2 million kilograms compared to 7 685.2 million kg in 1976. Production is concentrated in Central Canada with Quebec and Ontario together accounting for 74.6% of Canadian production in 1977.

Production of creamery butter in 1977 was 113.3 million kg, compared with the 1976 output of 114.1 million kg. Quebec accounted for 51.8% of butter production and Ontario 29.3%.

Total production of factory cheese for 1977 was 134.3 million kg, some 7.1% above production in 1976; Quebec accounted for 43.8% of the output and Ontario 42.7%.