

Section 5.—Agricultural Statistics of the Census*

Census of Agriculture statistics relating to farms, farm operators, mechanization, electrification and area are included in this Section. Data relating to crops and live stock for 1951 are given in Section 4. Newfoundland data are excluded from historical tables as no comparable data for previous years are available.

Number of Occupied Farms.—The number of occupied farms in Canada at June 1, 1951, was 623,091, or 619,465 excluding Newfoundland. This compares with 732,858 farms in 1941. The apparent decrease of 113,393 farms since 1941 is, however, not a true indication of the change in number of farms in Canada because of the changes made in the definition of a farm for census purposes. In the 1951 Census, a farm was defined as a holding on which agricultural operations are carried out. The holding may consist of a single tract of land or of a number of separate tracts held under different tenures. It must be (a) three acres or more in size or (b) from 1 to 3 acres in size with agricultural production in 1950 valued at \$250 or more. Where the farm was made up of several parts located in different municipalities, the 1951 Census reported the complete farm as one unit in the municipality where the headquarters was located.

The 1941 Census counted as farms all holdings one acre or more in size if the 1940 production were valued at \$50 or more. Unlike the 1951 Census, it counted as separate farms those parts of farms lying outside the municipality in which the farm headquarters was located although the farm area was counted only once.

Allowing for these changes in definition it would seem that the decrease in number of farms (exclusive of Newfoundland) between 1941 and 1951 would be of the order of 58,000 or about 8.6 p.c. instead of 113,393 or 15.5 p.c.

In British Columbia the number of farms, under the 1951 definition, was 21.1 p.c. greater in 1951 than in 1941, but all other provinces showed decreases, ranging from 3.7 p.c. for Manitoba to 15.7 p.c. for Nova Scotia.

* Prepared in the Agriculture Section of the Census Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

45.—Number of Occupied Farms, by Province, 1941 and 1951

Province or Territory	1941	1951	Percentage Change 1941-51	Estimated Farms in 1941 on Basis of 1951 Definition	
				Number	Percentage Change
	No.	No.	p.c.		
Newfoundland.....		3,626
Prince Edward Island.....	12,230	10,137	-17.1	11,400	-11.1
Nova Scotia.....	32,977	23,515	-28.7	27,900	-15.7
New Brunswick.....	31,889	26,431	-17.1	29,800	-11.3
Quebec.....	154,669	134,336	-13.1	144,900	-7.3
Ontario.....	178,204	149,920	-15.9	167,200	-10.3
Manitoba.....	58,024	52,383	-9.7	54,400	-3.7
Saskatchewan.....	138,713	112,018	-19.2	126,900	-11.7
Alberta.....	99,732	84,315	-15.5	93,200	-9.5
British Columbia.....	26,394	26,406	+0.05	21,800	+21.1
Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	26	4	-84.6
Canada.....	732,858¹	623,091	-15.5¹	677,500¹	-8.6¹

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland.