

delivered during the spring of 1953 was also above that of a year earlier. Though the initial prices for specific grades were unchanged from the previous year, the higher grading resulted in a higher weighted average initial price. Total wheat participation payments in 1953 at \$125,400,000 were substantially below those of 1952. Final wheat payments, usually made before the end of the calendar year, were delayed until the closing of the 1952-53 pool on Jan. 30, 1954. Although prices of oats and barley were relatively unchanged in 1953, marketings were down.

The greatest reduction in receipts from the sale of field crops occurred in the receipts from potatoes. As a result of substantial reduction in potato prices from the unusually high levels of the previous year, income from this source was down by more than 50 p.c. A smaller crop and reduced prices combined to provide returns from tobacco of \$59,200,000 as against \$66,700,000 of the previous year.

Lower prices for all live stock except hogs, and smaller marketings of hogs and sheep combined to reduce income from the sale of live stock about 6 p.c. below the 1952 level. A substantial increase in cattle marketings during the year 1953 reflected the build-up of the cattle population which commenced in 1950 and continued during the period of restricted export movement arising out of the discovery of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan early in 1952. Support for cattle prices, which commenced in April 1952 as a result of the foot-and-mouth outbreak and the consequent imposition by the United States of an embargo on imports of Canadian cattle, was continued until the lifting of the import restrictions on Mar. 1, 1953. Prices of good steers, at Toronto, fluctuated around the support price of \$23 per 100 lb. during the first two months of 1953 and then declined by approximately three dollars to a level that was maintained fairly consistently during the remainder of the year.

Early in 1953, hog marketings began to decline from the 1952 level and, as the year progressed, the difference between the two periods became more apparent. This decline in hog marketings was recorded in all provinces except Alberta where increased marketings occurred. Prices for hogs in 1953 were well above the 1952 level. The weighted average price of all hogs sold in Canada was the third highest on record, being exceeded only by prices established in the years 1949 and 1951. This favourable price position for hogs in Canada during 1953 is attributable, in large part, to the strong market for hogs prevailing in the United States.

Income from the sale of poultry and eggs was about 5 p.c. higher than in 1952. Although income from poultry meat was below the 1952 level, this decline was more than offset by increased returns from the sale of eggs. While total marketings of eggs in 1953 were relatively unchanged from 1952, the average prices realized were substantially higher.

Income from the sale of dairy products at \$413,100,000 was approximately 4 p.c. above that of 1952. Lower prices were more than offset by increased production occasioned by a continued rise in numbers of milk cows during the year. Under the Federal Government price-support program, the Agricultural Prices Support Board purchased Canada First Grade creamery butter meeting its specifications at 58 cts. a pound, f.o.b. Montreal or Toronto, with appropriate differentials for other delivery points. This program, in effect for two years and due to expire at the end of April 1953, was renewed for a further two-year period.