

# Fewer People Raising Them But Lots More Livestock, Poultry In Canada Today

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## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

According to the 1971 Census of Agriculture, livestock and poultry are being raised on fewer farms in Canada but there are more of them per farm. In general, the number of farms reporting each class of livestock and poultry has declined faster than has the total number of farms, so that the proportion of farms reporting each class of livestock or poultry has declined from that shown in the 1966 Census. For Canada as a whole the only exceptions to this trend are geese and ducks. There were fewer farms reporting geese in 1971 than in 1966 although the proportion of farms with geese increased. There was an increase in the number of farms reporting ducks.

The numbers of livestock and poultry on census-farms at June 1, 1971 was higher than on census-farms at June 1, 1966 except for sheep which continued to decline.

## CATTLE INCREASE

Total cattle in Canada increased by 3.0 per cent from 12.9 million in 1966 to 13.3 million in 1971. At the same time a decline in cows and heifers, 2 years and over milking or to be milked declined by 15.7 per cent from 2.7 million in 1966 to 2.3 million in 1971. This reduction in the Canadian milking herd was more than offset by an increase of 17.6 per cent in the number of cows and heifers, two years and over, being raised for other purposes, presumably beef. The number of such cows and heifers increased from 3.0 million in 1966 to 3.5 million in 1971. This shift in emphasis from dairy to beef was reported in every province.

The number of cattle reported on feed as of January 1 increased from 1.8 million in 1966 to 2.1 million in 1971, a rise of 16.6 per cent. Increases in every province from Ontario westward more than offset reductions reported in provinces from Quebec eastward.

The number of cows milked on May 31st declined in every province from 1966 to 1971, with a reduction in number of cows milked for Canada as a whole of 18.4 per cent from 2.1 million in 1966 to 1.7 million in 1971. At the same time the milk production per cow increased in every province with the Canadian average for that day going up from 32.2 pounds in 1966 to 34.3 pounds per cow in 1971.

## PIG INCREASE

The number of pigs on farms at June 1 rose from 5.4 million in 1966 to 8.1 million in 1971, an increase of 49.9 per cent. The number of farms reporting pigs declined from 154 thousand in 1966 to 122 thousand in 1971, a reduction of 20.6 per cent. Thus the average number of pigs per farm reporting pigs has increased from 35 in 1966 to 66 in 1971. An increase in pig numbers was reported in every province. However, the number of farms reporting pigs increased only in Newfoundland

and British Columbia. The proportion of farms with pigs declined in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario but increased elsewhere.

## CONTINUE DECLINE

The number of sheep reported on farms continued to decline between 1966 and 1971 but at a slower rate than in the previous 5 years. In 1971 there were 861 thousand sheep reported, compared with 1.0 million in 1966, a decline of 15.6 per cent. In every province fewer farms reported sheep in 1971 than in 1966 and the proportion of farms reporting sheep declined everywhere except in British Columbia which was also the only province showing a reduction in the average number of sheep per farm reporting them. On a national basis, the average flock size increased from 47 to 61 sheep between 1966 and 1971.

## THE HORSE PICTURE

The number of horses on farms in Canada continued to decline between 1966 and 1971 but at a slower rate than in the previous 5 years. In Ontario and British Columbia the number of horses increased. All provinces showed an increase in the number of horses per farm reported and there was a continued increase in the total number of horses reported on farms in British Columbia. The total number of horses reported on farms in 1971 was 354 thousand compared with 387 thousand in 1966, a reduction of 8.5 per cent compared with a decline of 24.4 per cent between 1961 and 1966.

The number of goats reported in 1971 declined from 18 thousand on 4,519 farms, from the 1961 figures of 23 thousand on 7,765 farms. Farmers were not asked to report goat numbers in 1966.

## HENS AND CHICKENS

The number of hens and chickens reported on farms in Canada rose from 75.6 million in 1966 to 87.5 million in 1971, an increase of 15.7 per cent. This was an acceleration from the 8.7 per cent increase in the previous 5 years. Increased numbers of hens and chickens were reported in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta. The number of farms reporting hens and chickens dropped from 177 thousand in 1966 to 120 thousand in 1971, a reduction of 32.4 per cent. The trend to fewer and larger flocks which was evident from 1961 to 1966 thus continued at a faster rate. Average flock size for Canada in 1971 was 732 birds, compared with 428 in 1966 and 262 in 1961.

The number of turkeys on farms in Canada increased from 9 million in 1966 to 9.5 million in 1971. In the same period the number of farms reporting turkeys declined from 21,309 to 13,414.

## GEESE INCREASE

There were 417 thousand geese reported by 14,021 farmers in 1971 compared with 340 thousand geese on 15,922 farms in 1966. The number of geese

on farms continued the increase reported between 1961 and 1966 as the number of farms reporting geese continued to decline. There were fewer geese in 1971 than in 1966 in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. The average flock size increased in every province except in British Columbia where the number of farms reporting geese increased from 803 in 1966 to 940 in 1971, reversing and more than offsetting the decline in number of farms reporting geese in that province which took place between 1961 and 1966.

The number of ducks reported on farms in Canada rose from 410 thousand in 1966 to 554 thousand in 1971, an increase of 35.1 per cent, compared with an increase of 3.1 per cent from 1961 to 1966. There was also an increase in the number of farms reporting ducks from 18,358 in 1966 to 19,376 in 1971. An increase in duck numbers was reported in all provinces except Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Average flock size increased in every province.

Data on mink and rabbits were not collected separately in the Censuses of 1961 or 1966. In 1971, there were 1,402,028 mink reported on 665 farms. At the same time 9,936 farms reported 235,368 rabbits on farms in Canada.

## 60 Years Ago

Final arrangements for the Old Boys Reunion and Firemens Demonstration are well under way to start Saturday August 3, Queen Street with its long string of colored electric lights is donning a festive appearance. The steam roller is puffing industriously at its job of macadamizing Queen Street which it is hoped will be finished before the Old Boys and Girls arrive.

Miss Irene Eedy is the guest of her friend Miss Olive Thomson, Owen Sound.

Miss Linda Moore and Miss Jessie Colquhoun left Wednesday for a two week outing at Centre Island, Toronto. While there they will be guests of Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Paynter.

Mr. Chandler has been appointed janitor of the Methodist church.

Be sure and sign the Old Boys register at the Journal-Argus.

During the absence of J.W. Graham, barrister his officer will be in charge of Mr. A.E. Parkinson of Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

Some well contested matches on the Queen St. Bowling green were played by N. Johnston, E. White, N. Brandon, Rev. Malott, A.H. Zurbrigg, W. Laidlaw, J. Martin, J.P. Rogers, F. Gunning, A.G. Stevenson, F.E. McLean, W. Dickson, H.B. Holden, H. M. Millar, G. Murray, E. Lancaster.

Messrs. Alfred Stone and Wilbert Kirkby spent Saturday and Sunday with friends in Stratford (Berrylands news)

## Kenneth Mills Retired Bank Manager Here



On Saturday, July 29, 1972, Kenneth Kirk Mills, Maiden Lane, St. Marys, died suddenly at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. A retired Province of Ontario Bank manager, he was well known in the community. Born on Concession 11, East Nissouri Township, July 3, 1910, he was the son of the late John Fairbairn and Christie Ann Kirk Mills. He and his family lived on a farm on the Medina Sideroad where he spent his childhood attending elementary school in the area and high school in Woodstock. He completed his education by attending Business College in Woodstock. After his graduation, he moved to Cornwall where he was employed by the Province of Ontario bank and was associated with the bank until his retirement a few years ago.

He married the former Helen Louise Agnew in Cornwall on June 28, 1933 where they resided until he was transferred in 1935 to the St. Marys branch of the bank and have been residents of this community since that time.

He is survived by his wife Helen of St. Marys, a son Donald Neil, daughter-in-law Giselle and three grandchildren Dianne, John and Janet of Fonthill and brother Frank of Mitchell. He also leaves to mourn his dear friends Ralph and Dianne Pike and three children John, Jodi and June of Stratford.

The funeral service was held at the L.A. Ball Funeral Chapel on Tuesday August 9 with Rev. Dr. A.F. Howick officiating. Interment was in St. Marys cemetery. Pallbearers were Bruce Graham, Jack Treanor, Lorne Hogg, Dennis Haight, Robert Hunter and Bruce Henderson.