

FARM NEWS

Hog Market Analysis Shows Quality Important

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In attempting to discuss the hog situation one must of necessity review the marketings of the past year. Our hog marketings in 1952 showed an increase of 36.8 per cent over 1951 — being the third highest in the history of Canada. In round figures our marketings in 1952 totalled nearly 6,700,000 hogs in comparison to approximately 7,150,000 in 1943 and 8,883,000 in 1944. In short the marketings of hogs in 1943 and 1944 were the highest in the history of Canada. It should be recalled however, that in 1943 we exported nearly 630 million lbs. of bacon, ham and pork products, practically all to Great Britain. In 1944 our bacon exports were something over 718 million lbs. Last year we exported no pork products to Great Britain and our total exports of the commodity were less than 26½ million lbs., chiefly canned ham and almost entirely to U.S.

In those figures is revealed the reason why our markets and storages have for the most part been filled to capacity during the past twelve months.

Our marketings in 1952 showed an increase in every part of Canada from a 14 per cent increase in the Maritimes to nearly 49 per cent increase in Western Canada. Ontario hog marketings reached an all time high of some 2,587,000 hogs, or an increase of 26.8 per cent over 1951, which marks the sharpest variation for any year in the past ten. The percentage increase was greater in the west than in the east, being 48.7 per cent in the former area as compared with 31 per cent in the latter. Even so, Eastern Canada produced 64.3 per cent of the total marketings.

To present the picture in another way, our marketings averaged 128,820 hogs per week, a figure which exceeds our domestic requirements by approximately 35,000 hogs

per week. On the other hand, our exports of pork products were the lowest for any year in the past 20 years and provided an outlet for a very small percentage of surplus. This resulted in the excess over domestic requirements being stored in cans.

Our big surplus in 1952 was only made possible by the big frozen wheat crop of 1952. In other words, we diverted a large volume of grain normally grown and sold for human food into livestock production and came up with a 27 per cent surplus of hogs. Needless to add the outbreak of foot and mouth disease made this really serious.

Along with the sharp increase in our marketings in 1952 has gone a decrease in the quality of our hogs right across Canada. Here in Halton our percentage of A's has dropped from 41 per cent in 1951 to 36.7 per cent in 1952; in Ontario from 35.3 in 1951 to 33.2 in 1952 and in Canada from 31.3 in 1951 to 28.51. As a matter of fact it would seem that ever since we dropped out of the British market, our producers have lost interest in quality. In our opinion this is bad reasoning on the part of our producers. Since the domestic market has become the most important

if not the only outlet, quality should be stressed if pork is to hold its position in competing with other classes of meat. In 1952, pork sold at a much lower price than beef. Now that the price of these two meats bears a closer relationship to one another, it should be obvious that if our domestic market is to continue to absorb 90,000 hogs or more per week, quality must not only be maintained but improved. Too much finish is largely responsible for the drop in quality. Ontario and Canadian swine producers as a whole apparently fail to realize that while the last 10 or 15 lbs. can be put on very



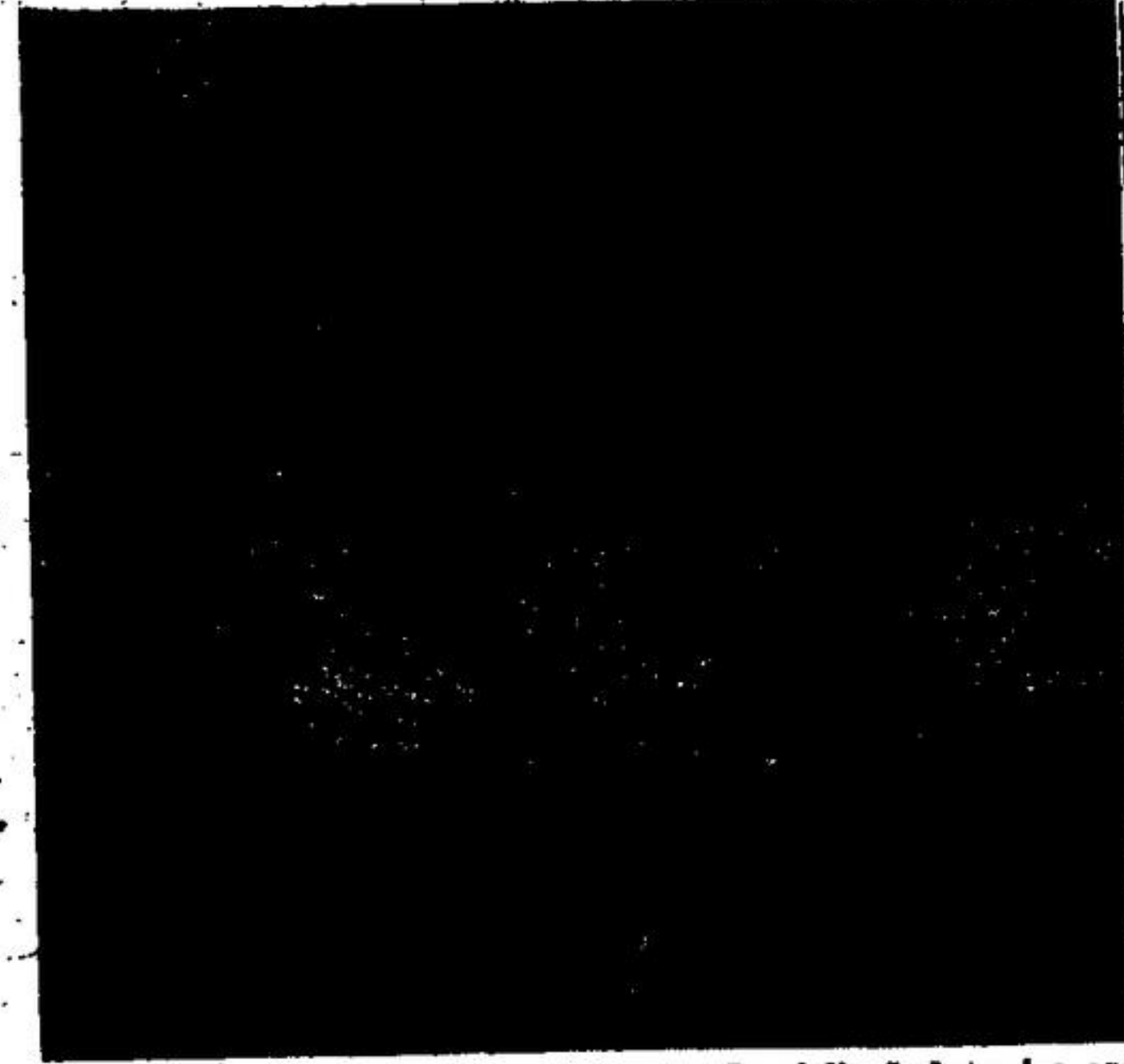
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Haitian Expert Benefits from U.N. Fellowship



This year, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies are offering more than 2500 fellowships, scholarships and other opportunities for international training. Above, Pierre Milord, of Haiti, who learned modern irrigation methods in Algeria under the U.N. Fellowship Program is shown putting his newly acquired knowledge to use in the major Arbonite Valley drainage and irrigation project. The island Republic will thus obtain more land for cultivation.

rapidly it nevertheless costs more per pound to put on, than at any other time in the feeding period.

This summary would not be complete without some reference to our stocks of meat and poultry in stor-

	Jan. 1, 1953 000 lb.	Dec. 1, 1952 000 lb.	Jan. 1, 1952 000 lb.
Pork, frozen	44,234	plus 21,692	plus 25,420
Beef, frozen	20,533	plus 2,753	plus 8,376
Veal, frozen	3,159	minus 464	minus 561
Mutton & lamb, frozen	3,857	minus 41	plus 595
Poultry, frozen	23,052	minus 613	min. 11,906

The heavy into-storage movement of pork during December was, of course, associated with the speed-up in marketings to meet the support price change.

The substantial reduction in poultry stocks over a year ago reflects the brisk trade in poultry, particularly turkeys, which moved at lower prices this year.

Were it not for the substantial quantity (75 to 80 million lbs.) of canned pork still on hand, the year end stock position could be considered relatively satisfactory.

In U.S. on January 1st, the USDA report shows the number of cattle as 16 per cent higher than a year ago and the largest on record — 5.8 million head compared to 5.0 million last year, and a 1947-1951 average of 4.3 million.

Their pork stocks at January 1st 1953 totalled 508 million lbs. — up 188 million over December but down 40 million lbs. from last year.

Eastern Hog Market Level
Although the support price for

hogs was lowered by \$3.00 per cwt. on January 1st, hog prices have in the main remained well above the support price. When one studies the marketings in recent weeks, the evidence would indicate that supply and demand are still the basic factors influencing any market price.

Our marketings here in Ontario from January 1st to Feb. 7th totalled 172,863 against 244,902 for the same period in 1952. In Quebec the comparative figures are 89,049 hogs in 1953 against 172,178 in 1952.

The estimate of the Federal Department of Agriculture for the first three months of 1953, represents an increase of approximately 5 per cent for the west and a decrease of 3.6 per cent in the east. For all of Canada the estimate forecasts a decrease of .6 per cent in hog marketings for this three month period. Certainly if their estimates are anywhere nearly correct that would indicate heavy marketings during the month of March.

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All Officers Re-elected County Baseball Executive

The annual meeting of the Halton County Baseball Association was held at Hawthorne Lodge, Milton, on Saturday, February 14 with President Pete McMullen presiding.

The meeting was representative with delegates present from Milton, Waterdown, Georgetown, Oakville and Campbellville. Also present were Tommy Rowden, St. Catharines, who is the secretary-treasurer of the OABA and Fred Young of Chippawa who is past president of the OABA. Also Clarence Riddle of Milton on the senior executive of the OABA and several past presidents of the Halton County Assoc.

At the business meeting a motion was passed that the membership fee of \$50.00 from Acton and Fergus be returned to these clubs as they are no longer in the Halton County Association and had asked for the return of their deposit.

The election of officers for 1953

was carried through with despatch as they were all re-elected. The slate is: President, Pete McMullen; Vice President, Bob Lane; Secretary, James Waldie; Assistant Secretary, Bob Brush. Executive one delegate from each team to be named later. The year ended with a good financial report.

Following the meeting a social hour was spent then followed by a grand dinner, served by the Hawthorne Lodge.

Delegates present from Georgetown were Bob Lane, Corey Herdington and Robert (Pop) Holmes. It is anticipated that the Georgetown Club will carry on again this year, though they suffered financial reverses this past season. The annual meeting for the local club will be called in March when plans will be discussed and put under way for 1953.

U.N. Assembly President Opens Meeting



Lester B. Pearson of Canada, President of the seventh U.N. General Assembly, presides over the first session held in its new home at U.N. Headquarters in New York. Mr. Pearson (center) is shown at the podium in the plenary hall with United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie (left) and Mr. Lie's Executive Assistant, Andrew W. Cordier (right) before the opening of a meeting.