

Prices for hogs and finished cattle have not been depressed, and all good butcher cattle have remained well above floor prices. The Meat Board has recently been able to increase its acceptance of beef which has resulted in an upward swing in cow prices.

As a result of the overall meat position there has been a decline in sheep and lamb prices. There is no floor price for mutton, but there is for lamb as a result of the Meat Board operations in buying freshly slaughtered lamb for export.

BACON

At the outbreak of the war it was quickly recognized that Canada's chief contribution to the meat supply of the United Kingdom would be in the form of pork products, chiefly cured Wiltshire sides. For several years Canada had carried out a program to develop hog production on a sound basis. This, coupled with the fact that hog production is flexible and adapted to relatively rapid adjustment of volume of output, enabled overseas shipments to be increased sharply almost as soon as the United Kingdom entered the war.

For 1935 to 1939 total imports of bacon and hams into the United Kingdom from all sources amounted to about 850,000,000 pounds annually, of which about 25% was supplied by Commonwealth countries, principally Canada. Of the remaining 75%, Denmark furnished nearly two-thirds, while the balance was obtained from the United States, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and smaller amounts from several other European countries. During this period British agricultural policies had been designed to increase the pig population at home, and a considerable amount of expanding requirements was being met from domestic production. Within a few months of the outbreak of the war, however, continental sources of food supply had been cut off from the United Kingdom. At the same time shortage of feedstuffs for livestock in the United Kingdom forced a curtailment in the numbers of pigs and poultry being raised in order to make feedstuffs available to maintain dairy production at an essential level.

Also, as the Canadian minister of agriculture pointed out in the House of Commons, under emergency conditions a man can live just as long on a pound of grain as on a pound of meat, and it takes eight pounds of grain as feed to produce one pound of beef, and five pounds of grain to produce one pound of pork. In other words, said Mr. Gardiner:

"You can keep a man eight times as long on grain as you can keep him on beef fed from the grain, and five times as long on grain as you can on pork fed from the grain, in an emergency."

A comparison of the five bacon agreements made by Canada with the British Ministry of Food follows:

	First agreement 1939-40	Second agreement 1940-41	Third agreement 1941-42	Fourth agreement 1942-43	Fifth agreement 1944-45
Term of agreement beginning	Nov. 1, 1939	Nov. 1, 1940	Oct. 12, 1941	Nov. 21, 1942	Jan. 1, 1944 to Dec. 31, 1944 and Jan. 1, 1945 to
End	Oct. 31, 1940	Oct. 11, 1941	Nov. 20, 1942	Dec. 31, 1943	Dec. 31, 1945
Quantity contracted for Total-million lbs.	291.0	425.6	600.0	675.0	450.0 for each of the two years
Weekly - million lbs.	5.6	8.2	11.5	13.0	6.7