

Further substantial increases in hog production were indicated by farmers' reports of numbers of sows expected to farrow during the fall months of 1943. An increase of almost 38% was revealed for Canada as a whole.

Canadian farmers in 1943 marketed through inspected packing plants 11 hogs for every five they sold before the war. Hog marketings in 1943 totalled 7,147,546 or 120% greater than those of 1938.

Most of this increased production has taken place in the western provinces where hog marketings in 1943 were more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ times those of 1938.

Slaughtering of livestock during the first four weeks of 1944 were substantially greater than during the same period in 1943:

	Slaughtering First Four Weeks of 1944	Slaughtering First Four Weeks of 1943	Increase
Hogs	901,767	501,332	80%
Cattle	86,991	52,279	66%
Sheep and lambs	65,169	44,318	47%
Calves	24,795	19,066	30%

The transportation situation is complicating the shipment of this increased meat production overseas. Agriculture Minister Gardiner told the House of Commons on February 9, 1944, that all available meat storage facilities in Canada are now being used for storage and all production over and above what can be stored is placed in cure for current shipment. Storage stocks at January 1, 1944, as compared with January 1, 1943, were:

	January 1, 1944 (pounds)	January 1, 1943 (pounds)
Frozen beef (bone in)	14,615	15,498
Frozen beef (boneless)	10,108	4,498
Veal	5,475	2,308
Mutton and Lamb	9,419	5,038
Fresh frozen pork (including approximately 18,000 pounds of bacon, stored for later shipment)	36,029	22,142

Mr. Gardiner pointed out that despite what might be considered a surplus of meat, the United Kingdom desires all the meat that Canada can provide. What happens to be a surplus at the moment is due to lack of shipping facilities.

During wartime the government encounters many problems which complicate the storage and shipment of commodities. Recently three ships which were intended to be used for the shipment of meat damaged to such an extent that it was impossible for them to take meat out until repairs were made. This, of course, resulted in a bottleneck in storage facilities which passed all the way back along the line to the Meat Board's buying of livestock.

Steps have been taken to divert additional ships to Canadian ports, not only to handle additional bacon stocks but also to lift surplus stocks of beef and mutton.

In the first quarter of 1944, output of livestock and livestock products reached exceedingly high levels. Combined slaughtering of all meat animals were the highest ever recorded, due principally to an increase of 75 per cent or 1,200,000 head over 1943 in the case of hogs. However, slaughtering of beef cattle also were up 39 per cent, sheep and lambs 40 per cent, and veal calves 6 per cent.