

AGRICULTURE PRICE STABILIZATION

Mr. Douglas S. Harkness, Minister of Agriculture, has announced the first set of prices established under the Agricultural Stabilization Act. These include mandatory floor prices for six of the nine key commodities named in the act and guaranteed yearly prices for three commodities, butter, hogs and wool. Prices have been set by the Government following recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

Guaranteed yearly prices, which may be called the working support prices, include a Federal Government agreement to purchase Canada First Grade creamery butter at a price of 64 cents per pound effective May 1, 1958 basis delivery Montreal with appropriate price and market differentials for other markets and butterfat in other forms which the Board may specify. This is approximately 107 per cent of the base price, i.e. the average price for the last 10 years. The previous support price on butter was 58 cents.

The working price support for hogs to be in effect for the next year effective April 1, 1958, is \$25.00 per 100 lb. for warm dressed weight from Grade A carcasses basis Toronto with appropriate differentials for other public stockyards throughout Canada as may be established by the Board. This is approximately 84 per cent of the base price. The previous support price for hogs was 23 cents.

The price of wool will be supported by deficiency payment at the level of 60 cents per pound for wool grading Western Range Choice 58/60's, half blood staple, F.O.B. Toronto, and appropriate rates for all other grades except Rejects. This will be effective from April 1, 1958, to March 31, 1959, and is approximately 110 per cent of the base price of 54½ cents per pound for sheep's wool. In the past no support price was in effect for wool.

Mandatory floor prices established for six of the nine key commodities named in the Act are at 80 per cent of the base price, which is the average price during the last ten years. The base prices and the mandatory 80 per cent floor prices for these six commodities are shown in the accompanying table. They will be effective from April 1, 1958, to March 31, 1959.

Prices on other markets will be at appropriate differentials.

Mr. Harkness said that owing to the difficulty of securing sufficient statistical data the mandatory 80 per cent floor prices on wheat, oats and barley not coming under the Canadian Wheat Board will not be available until following the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to be held in the near future.

	Base Price 100%	Mandatory 80%
Cattle	\$21.80 cwt.	\$17.50 (Toronto)
Hogs (Grade A, dressed carcass)	29.70 "	23.75 (Toronto)
Butter (First Grade)	60 lb.	48 (Montreal)
Cheese (First Grade Cheddar)	31 "	25 (Ontario)
Eggs (A Grade Large)	52 doz.	42 (Montreal)
Lamb (Good)	24.45 cwt.	19.55 (Toronto)

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ENVOY TO ARGENTINA

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough, Secretary of State, has been appointed special ambassador for the inauguration of the President of Argentina, His Excellency Arturo Frondizi, on May 1 next. Ceremonies in connection with the installation of President Frondizi will take place in Buenos Aires between April 28 and May 3.

In announcing the appointment, Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker said that Mrs. Fairclough will carry with her his personal greetings and warm regards for President Frondizi and the good wishes of the Canadian people who will share in the happiness of the Argentine nation on this occasion. The Prime Minister said that Mrs. Fairclough's mission will serve to enhance and deepen the understanding and friendship already existing between the two countries.

In addition to Mrs. Fairclough, who will be accompanied by her husband, the Canadian special mission will include the Canadian Ambassador to Argentina, Mr. L. Philippe Picard, Q.C., and other members of the Canadian Embassy in Argentina.

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AT NATO MEETING

Defence Minister George R. Pearkes, V.C., is now in Paris attending a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers, April 15-17. He is accompanied by Gen. Charles Foulkes, Chairman Chiefs of Staff.

Following the NATO sessions, Mr. Pearkes will visit No. 1 RCAF Air Division Headquarters at Metz, France, and Fighter Wings of the Air Division at Grostenquin, France; Zweibrücken and Baden Soellingen, Germany. He will return to Ottawa on April 21.