The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of the United Grain Growers Limited, April 8, 1918)

Oats—The general tone of last week's markets has been weaker. On Tuesday there was a sharp break in prices from which there was little reaction until Thursday. The daily markets have been rather featureless and our prices have been largely influenced by changes in the Chicago market. Our cash demand has been steady, although limited almost entirely to the buying of one firm who are probably acting on government orders. At the present time many members of the trade feel that the large reserve stocks of oats in the United States will be ample for all requirements and leave a big carry-over for next year. This does not seem to affect prices much and there is the opposing fact that stocks of other grains are low, so that an increased demand for oats may develop later.

Barley—A decline of five cents occurred in prices on Monday last for 3 C.W. and 4 C.W. Since that time there has been no change and offerings are steadily absorbed. Statements that barley flour was proving unsatisfactory for human consumption are now being contradicted and the demand for this flour is picking up again. Apparently the trouble was in the manner of preparation and a little experience will correct any such difficulties.

Flax—Values have worked a little lower. There have been only small fluctuations in prices during the week, and news from the Argentine has shown no special feature. Cash demand in the Winnipeg market is good and buyers are paying May price for 1 N.W.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	April 2	3	4	5	6	8	Week ago	Year ago
Oats—								
May	91¼	93¼	93¼	92¼	93	94¼	90¼	67
July	88¼	90¼	90¼	89¼	89¼	91¼	87¼	65¼
Flax—								
May	392¼	390¼	389¼	389	389	388¼	386	288
July	389¼	386¼	387¼	386	386	383¼	383¼	288

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, April 3, was as follows:—

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Saskatoon	Wheat	251,658	365,514	308,213
"	Oats	185,914	99,455	2,008,731
"	Barley	1,138	.....	57,218
"	Flax	5,701	7,438	25,658
Calgary	Wheat	37,643	4,648	231,739
"	Oats	93,430	49,747	1,016,874
"	Barley	1,278	403	83,183
"	Flax	.....	.....	2,034
Moose Jaw	Wheat	64,749	22,630	437,316
"	Oats	46,944	37,568	1,166,818
"	Barley	1,634	1,634	21,047
"	Flax	914	1,149	7,897

THE CASH TRADE

Minneapolis, April 6.

CORN—Dull; little doing. No. 5 yellow closed at $1.40 to $1.48.

OATS—Strong, but dull. Premiums a little better, with 5c over Minneapolis May the basis. No. 3 white closed at 89½c to 90½c. No. 4 white oats at 87c to 90c.

RYE—Quiet, little doing; unchanged. No. 2 rye closed at $1.91 to $1.92.

BARLEY—Slow; unchanged. Prices closed at $1.50 to $1.90. Receipts to-day 45 cars, last year 75 cars. Shipments to-day 55 cars, last year 80 cars. Chicago receipts to-day 13 cars. Milwaukee receipts to-day 13 cars.

FLAXSEED—Paid May price to 2c under. No. 1 closed at $4.11 to $4.14½, on spot and to arr. Shipments to-day 8 cars, last year none. Linseed oil shipments totaled 765,000 lbs; oil cake and meal shipments 514,761 pounds. Duluth and meal shipments 514,761 pounds. Duluth receipts to-day 2 cars, last year none. Winnipeg receipts to-day 26 cars, last year 2 cars.

FIXED WHEAT PRICES

	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	Tf1	Tf2	Tf3
Fixed	221	218	215	208	196	187	215	212	207
Year ago	208½	204	198	188½	69½	149½	..	..	..

The Livestock Market

WINNIPEG

The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited report that the run of cattle was not large during last week and that the demand was better than the previous week and prices were advanced from 25 cents to 50 cents per cwt. on all good butcher cattle. The best bring up to 11 cents per pound on all quality cattle for killing. The Stocker and Feeder trade about the same as last week, ranging from 9 cents to 10½ cents for the good grades according to weight and quality. Close-up springers are wanted at good prices. Some bringing up to $103.

The market for hogs has declined slightly finishing up the week at $10.75. Light hogs are in demand at from 19 cents to 20 cents.

With a light run of sheep, lambs and calves, prices were well maintained. Best veals run from 9 cents to 11 cents; sheep, 10 cents to 14 cents; lambs, 16 cents to 18 cents.

CALGARY

The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers reports this week's Alberta Stock Yard receipts as follows: Horses, 847; cattle, 1,371; hogs, 2,374; sheep, 119. The corresponding week a year ago: Horses, 789; cattle, 1,369; hogs, 3,138; sheep, 31.

The run of fat cattle was sufficient for the demand, but the yards were pretty well cleaned up by Friday. The market had a stronger tone and $11.00 to $11.25 could be obtained for real fat steers but the medium stuff was harder to dispose of. Fat cows and heifers were very scarce and what few were offered sold very readily at good prices. We quote choice heavy grain fed steers $11.75 to $11.25. Medium steers $11.00 to $11.50 and common steers $10.00 to $11.00, with some very common killers selling from $9.25 to $9.75. Extra choice cows and heifers will sell from $10.00 to $10.25 with the bulk of the good ones bringing $9.00 to $9.75; medium cows, $8.00 to $8.75, and common killing cows, $7.00 to $8.00. Canner and cutter cows from 4 cents up. Very few top bulls were on sale and $8.35 bought the best, with medium bulls $7.00 to $7.50, and common bologna $6.00 to $7.00. No oxen are arriving but the good fat kind would bring up to $9.50. Two and three-year-old steers sell from $8.75 to $9.35 and yearlings around $50.00 per head. Stock cows are selling from $75.00 to $85.00 for the best with from $65.00 to $75.00 for heifers and common cows. Veal calves 180 to 250 lbs. are worth 10 to 11 cents.

Top price on cattle a year ago, $9.85.

The hog market opened at $10.50 but we sold our Tuesdays receipts at $11.00. In spite of a decline at Winnipeg and eastern markets, keen competition here held Thursday's market steady and all our hogs of that day brought 71 cents. Friday's market continued strong and $11.15 was the ruling price.

Top price on hogs a year ago, $15.00.

Very few sheep are arriving. We quote choice fat lambs at $16.00 to $16.50. Fat wethers, $15.00 to $16.00 and fat ewes, $13.00 to $14.00.

The trade in fat cattle continues steady and we expect that all the real finished fat cattle will continue to command good prices and will be readily taken up by the buyers. The half finished stuff is much harder to dispose of and buyers are very indifferent on this class of stuff. Finish your cattle before selling if possible. There is a prospect that hogs will sell somewhat lower next week.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Saturday, April 6, were:—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
3 white oats	$0.90½	$0.89½-$0.90½
Barley	1.40-1.65	1.50 - 1.90
Flax, No. 1	3.89	4.11½ - 4.14½

Country Produce

The Winnipeg egg market has been easier under heavier receipts of improved quality. Local consumption good. Prices show a 2 cent drop at country points, and stocks are moving in a jobbing way at 35-37 cents, retailing at 40 cents. One car straight receipts moved East last week.

The situation in Western Canada is exceptional. Weather conditions during the latter half of March were almost ideal, and as a result the flush of egg production is earlier. Already a surplus over local consumptive demand is apparent, and car lot shipments from Winnipeg east and west are reported at 37 cents f.o.b. A car is also on the Vancouver market at 43-45 cents.

The question of the price at which eggs will be stored this season is being discussed freely in trade circles, but no one seems willing so far to predict what the price will be. A good many arguments are being put forward as to reasons why the prices should be lower than at present but it is questionable if they can go much lower without seriously affecting production. From some sections reports indicate production will be less than last year, no matter what prices are.

The general demand for poultry last week was abnormal, particularily was this the case for live birds which were wanted by the Jewish trade for the Passover festivities. Receipts were not by any means equal to the demand. Some remarkable prices are repotred to have been paid for certain varieties of live poultry of good quality. Fat hens were said to have brought one high as 40-41 cents in both Toronto and Montreal. Poultry was cleaned up as quickly as it arrived at full prices.

News of Herds and Flocks

McGREGOR'S IMPORTATION

James D. McGregor, of Glencarnock Stock Farms, Brandon, Man., has just arranged for one of the largest importations of Aberdeen-Angus cattle that was ever brought into Canada. This importation comprises 100 head of cows from 3 to 6 years old with calves at foot, or due to calve soon, and 20 bulls from 15 to 20 months old; or 120 head in all. These were purchased directly by the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association and were selected from the best herds of Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. One car load of cows having been purchased from Ohio Government Experiment Station, and are said to be a remarkably fine lot of big, robust, useful cows.

This is certainly a great opportunity for the breeders of Western Canada to secure some foundation Aberdeen-Angus cattle at moderate prices, and at a time of the year when they go right out on the grass and turn into a lot of money. About half the cows will have calves at foot at the time of arrival and the rest will be due right away. In a good many cases the calves will pay for the cows by fall, all of course being sired by outstanding bulls of United States herds. These cattle are all government tested and are guaranteed producers.

The 20 bulls Mr. McGregor has brought up will supply the demand from now until July 1. They are said to be as fine a lot of young bulls as was ever shipped out to any one man. They are all of good age, strong, and have never been pampered; all of them having been fed in the open this winter. Anybody desiring a good bull for this year's us should write at once to Mr. McGregr and have him reserve one of these good ones. They are priced at $325 to $400 each and as stated above, everyone is guaranteed a breeder.

ALFALFA AS A FORAGE CROP

With special reference to increased production in the forage crop line, the question is: "What forage crop is, under present conditions likely to produce the heaviest returns and, at the same time, the highest quality of feed for all-round purposes?"

In our opinion there is no forage crop that better answers this purpose than alfalfa. It can be grown to advantage under a diversity of soil and climatic conditions and has, generally speaking, a wider geographical range of usefulness in Canada than any other forage crop. Alfalfa is a choice food for all kinds of farm animals and produces more economical feed per acre than does any other hay or pasture crop. It, furthermore, requires comparatively little labor. Once well established, it continues to yield heavy returns. On account of its lasting character a good deal of money and labor is saved annually, as no re-seeding is necessary for years, and for this reason, if for no other, alfalfa should command special attention just now from any farmer handicapped by scarcity of labor.

It may be objected, though, that just now, when an immediate increase in farm production is so urgently needed, alfalfa may not be the most commendable forage crop, in spite of all its merits, because it takes a year to get it established as a paying crop.

It is true that there is an urgent need for the greatest possible production to meet the immediate demands of Canada and the Allies and that therefore every ounce of energy should be mobilized to relieve the situation as quickly as possible. But, Canada will be called upon to produce record crops not only this year, but for many years to come, peace or no peace. The mere ending of the war will not bring about a relaxation of the efforts in farm production. On the contrary, with the return of peace, the necessity of making the utmost out of the soil will likely be felt more keenly than ever before. In view of this it would seem to be a good policy to prepare for the future now and, as far as forage crops are concerned, special attention should be paid to alfalfa as a crop that, better than any other, is likely to fill the bill as the crop of the future.—Experimental Farm Note.

PREFERS HOE DRILL

I used a hoe drill the first three crops I grew out West. Then I sold it and got a disc drill. In the year 1914 and 1915, 80 acres of summerfallow that was in good condition for crop was sown with the disc drill. The seed came up very unevenly, caused by the dry dirt running down beside the disc and mixing with some of the wheat.

The dry weather continued so the wheat did not all come up for nearly a month. In 1916 the summerfallow was sown with a hoe drill and came up evenly, as it is all put in an even depth and has a space over an inch wide to scatter on. There is a better chance for the young plants to get a start, and all the seed falls on the moist ground.

That year all the summerfallow around here was packed hard and a disc drill would not put the seed in till it was cultivated. The hoe drill worked well from the start and the wind did not blow out any of the seed; on the piece sown with the hoe drill the wheat went 35 bushels per acre, No. 1, and on every other field of summerfallow in the neighborhood wheat went from No. 3 to No. 6 Northern on the same kind of land.

Some farmers in the older-settled districts are using hoe drills after using the disc drill for years.—J. A., Sask.

There are several things that can be done to lessen the blowing of the soil. Straw or manure scattered on the land is one of the best measures. Cultivating strips, three to four feet wide, at intervals of two or three rods and at right angles to the direction of the prevailing winds, are helpful. The Corn Cultivator can be used. Leave the soil rough. Furrows made with the plow will be still more effective.—N.D.A.C.

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur, April 2 to April 6, inclusive

Date	Feed Wheat	OATS 2CW	OATS 3 CW	OATS Ex 1 Fd	OATS 1 Fd	OATS 2 Fd	BARLEY 3 CW	BARLEY 4 CW	BARLEY Rej.	BARLEY Feed	FLAX 1 NW	FLAX 2 CW	FLAX 3 CW
Apr 2	77	92½	88½	86½	85½	81½	165	160	145	140	91½	385½	379½
3	77	94½	90½	89½	87½	83	165	160	145	140	88½	383½	364
4	7	94½	90½	89½	87½	83½	165	160	145	140	389	383½	364
5	177	94½	90½	89½	87½	84	165	160	145	140	389	383	364
6	77	94½	90½	89½	87½	84	165	160	145	140	389	383	364
8	8	96½	92½	91½	89½	85½	165	160	145	140	390½	82½	364
Week ago	7	91½	87½	86½	84½	80½	170	160	45	40	384	79	61
Year ago	108	67½	66	66	65	64	112	106	91	91	283	279	266

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg April 6	Winnipeg Year ago	Toronto Apr. 4	Calgary Apr. 6	Chicago Apr. 4	St. Paul Apr. 3
Cattle	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Choice steers	11.00-12.00	9.50-10.50	12.00-12.90	11.75-12.25	12.75-15.00	12.00-14.00
Best butcher steers	9.00-11.00	9.25-9.75	11.25-12.00	11.00-11.50	10.50-12.75	9.50-12.50
Fair to good butcher steers	7.75-9.00	8.25-9.00	10.25-11.00	9.25-10.50	9.50-10.25	7.00-9.50
Good to choice fat cows	9.50-10.50	7.50-8.50	9.75-10.50	10.00-10.25	11.00-12.00	8.50-10.00
Medium to good cows	9.00-9.50	6.00-7.00	9.00-9.50	9.00-9.75	8.00-10.00	8.00-8.50
Common cows	7.50-9.00	4.00-5.50	6.75-7.50	8.00-8.75	7.00-7.50	7.25-8.00
Canners	5.00-6.50	3.75-4.25	6.00-6.25	5.00-8.00	6.25-7.00	6.50-6.75
Good to choice heifers	10.00-11.00	8.50-9.50	11.00-12.00	8.50-11.50	9.50-12.50	8.00-10.00
Fair to good heifers	8.50-9.50	7.00-8.00	8.75-11.00	6.00-8.50	7.50-9.50	6.50-8.00
Best oxen	8.00-9.50	7.50-8.00	.....	7.50-7.50	.....	.....
Best butcher bulls	8.00-8.50	7.00-8.00	10.25-10.75	8.00-8.85	9.00-11.50	8.00-9.50
Common to bologna bulls	6.50-7.75	5.50-6.50	7.25-8.25	5.50-8.00	7.50-9.00	7.50-8.00
Fair to good feeder steers	9.50-10.25	6.50-7.75	9.50-10.25	8.75-9.35	9.25-11.25	8.00-11.00
Fair to good stocker steers	8.00-9.25	6.50-7.50	8.00-9.75	8.00-9.25	8.00-8.75	7.50-10.00
Best milkers and springers (each)	$75-$100	$65-$90	$100-$135	$75-$90	.....	.....
Fair milkers and springers (each)	$60-$70	$45-$55	$65-$90	$70-$80	.....	.....
Hogs						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	20.25	$15.75	21.00	20.90	17.00-18.00	16.90-17.00
Light hogs	18.00	12.00-13.00	.....	.....	16.00-17.50	.....
Heavy sows	17.00	10.00	.....	.....	15.00-15.75	.....
Stags	11.00-14.00	6.00-7.00	.....	.....	16.75-17.40	.....
Sheep and Lambs						
Choice lambs	16.00-18.00	11.75-12.25	19.50-20.70	16.50-16.50	16.25-18.50	15.00-17.25
Best killing sheep	9.00-14.00	8.50-9.25	11.50-14.50	13.50-16.00	8.50-16.75	7.00-13.50

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