

the growth of wheat increases 55 per cent. annually.

“	“	oats	“	50	“	“
“	“	peas	“	46	“	“
“	“	barley	“	34	“	“
“	“	potatoes	“	34	“	“

It will also be interesting to notice the average of the earliest and latest sowings and harvestings, as also the highest and lowest average produce on entire farms, with the average produce generally. The most recent returns of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture enable this to be done with every confidence.

Crop.	Seeding,		Harvest.		Average on One Farm.		Average of all Farms
	Began.	Ended.	Began.	Ended.	Highest.	Lowest.	
Wheat...	April 22	May 15	Aug. 28	Sep. 19	Bush. 40	Bush. 15	Bush. 23.7
Oats.....	“ 25	“ 23	“ 28	“ 21	70	15	44.
Barley...	May 8	“ 30	“ 19	“ 8	55	15	30.
Potatoes.	“ 14	“ 31			425	100	234.

In reference to the results given above, showing the farm averages of various kinds of grain, it is desirable that they should be clearly understood. In the case quoted showing the highest produce it represents that on the farm referred to, the entire growth of wheat averaged 40 bushels per acre, and that on another farm the entire growth of oats averaged 70 bushels per acre, and so on with the other instances named. When we speak of the average of all farms, it must not be forgotten that inexperienced and unsuccessful farmers pull down the average greatly. A good farmer having an average yield of 40 bushels of wheat, may have two neighbors producing an average of 16 and 15 bushels respectively, and this would reduce their general average to about 23 bushels as in the above table.

In all newly settled districts which are favourable for the growth of wheat, oats, and barley, these naturally command the first attention, because their cultivation gives the quickest return for the capital expended. As those settlers accumulate additional capital they naturally supplement this tillage work by stock-keeping. Some who can command sufficient capital, commence with a system of mixed husbandry. Manitoba has been no exception to this general rule, and here we find a remarkable increase taking place in the live stock of the province, and following rapidly upon the successful growth of grain. We have a large number of very useful Horses and Cattle reared in Manitoba, and some of these are bred from the richest gems which England and Scotland have produced. Pigs are being very extensively introduced, and although there are very few pig breeding establishments on the American system, pigs are still largely produced by many farmers who keep from four to ten sows each. Sheep thrive well in most parts of Manitoba, and the number is steadily increasing, for the soil and climate are very suitable. Difficulty has been experienced in some neighbourhoods where the "Spear-grass" (*Stipa spartea*) is abundant. This is sometimes also known as the oat-grass, and as the wild oat. The seed of this grass is shaped like a spear, and it has the power of working itself through the fleece, and it can penetrate the skin of sheep, causing them much suffering and loss of condition. Breeders find that by keeping their sheep for three or four weeks in the early autumn, upon land which has been mown, or in fields which are free from this grass, they are able to avoid all trouble from it. If by any means the sheep can be protected whilst the ripening seed is being separated from the seed stem, all difficulty is overcome, for the seed soon works its way down into the soil, and there it is safe. This plant yields one of the earliest and sweetest grasses on the prairie, and it is in consequence very highly valued as food. On small farms this grass is easily held under control, and the sheep breeders can make use of it with safety. The real difficulty is felt when sheep are kept on ranches, but even here it is being successfully overcome by care and attention.