

Estimated Yield and Value of Agricultural Products and Live Stock, 1918.

	Acres	Bushels	Yield per acre	Price	Revenue
Spring wheat	3,848,424	23,090,544	6 bu.	\$ 2.00 bu.	\$46,181,088.00
Winter wheat	44,065	771,137½	17½ bu.	2.00 bu.	1,542,275.00
Oats	2,651,548	62,974,265	23¾ bu.	.90 bu.	56,676,838.50
Barley	470,073	8,461,314	18 bu.	1.25 bu.	10,576,642.50
Flax	95,920	479,600	5 bu.	3.25 bu.	1,558,700.00
Rye	47,877	873,755	18¾ bu.	1.50 bu.	1,295,632.50
Mixed grains	27,989	139,945	5 bu.	1.00 bu.	139,945.00
Hay	469,000	234,500	½ tn.	20.00 tn.	4,690,000.00
Alfalfa	31,390	31,390	1 tn.	23.00 tn.	721,970.00
Potatoes	30,000	3,750,000	125 bu.	1.10 bu.	4,125,000.00
Turnips	7,416	1,483,200	200 bu.	.40 bu.	593,280.00
Mangolds	1,538	307,600	200 bu.	.40 bu.	123,040.00
Other roots	2,552	710,400	200 bu.	.50 bu.	355,200.00
Animals slaughtered and sold					50,000,000.00
Dairy products					27,500,000.00
Wool clip (2,500,000 pounds)					1,625,000.00
Game and furs					2,250,000.00
Horticultural					200,000.00
Poultry and products					4,000,000.00
Total					\$214,154,611.50
Total acres (grain), 1918	7,727,792				
Live Stock					
Horses		791,246		\$100.00	\$79,124,600.00
Swine		601,534		20.00	12,030,680.00
Sheep		332,179		12.00	3,986,148.00
Dairy cows		328,702		80.00	26,296,160.00
Calves		397,670		15.00	5,965,050.00
Steers		195,035		100.00	19,503,500.00
Other cattle		730,949		50.00	36,547,450.00
Bulls		39,226		100.00	3,922,600.00
Total live stock		3,417,141			\$187,376,188.00

prolonged harvest weather a lot of it that was sown for green feed was allowed to ripen for grain.

Feed for Stock Sufficient.

It might be expected that the drought would be especially disastrous to feed interests but in this connection it must be remembered that there are vast areas of natural hay in the province which had never been requisitioned for stock feeding purposes until last year. These are principally in the northern part of the province but to some extent in the central also. Thousands of tons of this hay were cut last year in the north country and baled and shipped to southern Alberta. This work was made possible by the co-operation of the great transportation companies and the Dominion Department of Agriculture with the Alberta Department of Agriculture by which the railways reduced the rate of transportation for both hay and stock by a half and the Federal Government absorbed the other half, which made a free rate for the movement of stock and feed from the south and north respectively.

The special work of the Provincial Government was facilitating the movement of stock and feed. The whole of the north country was cruised by special agricultural representatives of the Department and the condition of stock in the south was carefully inventoried by departmental officials. Arrangements for the movement of both stock and feed were facilitated through the offices of the Department of Agriculture. Cattle to the number of 30,000 and sheep 65,000 were moved from the range country to north of the Red Deer River last season. Some of these were finished on the pastures and marketed. Some were grazed through the fall season and were shipped back. Some will be wintered in the north and centre on hay and green feed that has been put up and a few enterprises will become established on these heavier feed areas, and considerable relief to the short range was secured by moving stock into the forest reserves.

Live Stock Preserved.

The total result of adjustments through the co-operation of official and private activity has been that the live stock industry of the province has been conserved and the people with live stock have been saved from discouragement and loss. Prompt action by the Department checked an incipient movement to unload a great proportion of the southern live stock as stockers in Chicago. An appreciation of the advantages of the live stock side of farm work which has always been very strong in the province together with timely help from official sources prevented what would have been a great catastrophe in our agricultural development.

It is the progressive dominance of live stock in our agricultural work which has neutralized the unfavorable seasonal conditions with respect to grain. A convenient summary of values expressed in concrete figures is as follows:—

Grain and other products, 1917	\$261,081,954.00
Live stock, 1917	134,071,088.00
Total	\$395,153,042.00
Grain and other products, 1918	\$214,154,611.50
Live stock, 1918	187,376,188.00
Total	\$401,530,799.50
Increase in 1918	\$6,377,757.50

The large increase represented in the value of live stock in these figures is due to a considerable extent to high prices for meat animals but is partly due to a decided increase in all kinds of breeding enterprises in all classes of stock. Pure-bred interests have made satisfactory progress, more particularly with respect to cattle. Dairy products have increased in spite of high labor and high prices for concentrated feed. Wool has increased in quantity not less than 25 per cent. Such feed crops as potatoes have increased in acreage but last year decreased in yield. The potato crop will scarcely be sufficient for local needs. The total figures relative to various agricultural interests for the past year are given in the table at top of page.

Steps Taken to Meet Labor Shortage.

There has been practically no difficulty in meeting the demand for labor. Farmers have been more or less prepared for shortages in labor during the whole period of the war and with the operation of conscription it might have been expected that conditions would be extremely bad last year. Individual cases were rather hard but a considerable introduction of tractors in parts of the province helped to some extent to meet the scarcity of men. The haying and harvest were not as heavy as usual and much grain that had been sown to reap was cut for green feed after being frosted and much of it in the south was never cut at all but was used for pasture. Consequently the labor required for harvesting and thrashing was not as great as usual. The harvesting weather was likewise highly favorable. The operation of the Central Labor Bureau in five branches made the movement of labor fairly simple.

The Dominion Dairy Conference, which met in Ottawa, decided to memorialize the government to release as soon as possible all soldiers in any way connected with the dairy industry, owing to the shortage of labor in this particular industry, and a resolution was unanimously adopted urging the government to rescind the order permitting the sale of or manufacture of oleomargarine in Canada.