

Farm Prices And Markets

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The Department of Agriculture is doing everything possible to improve marketing conditions and improve the style, attractiveness, and quality of dairy products.

Eggs and Poultry

Egg production continues light and there are not enough eggs to fill the demand. The quality is good and the product is moving freely to consuming centres in the Maritimes.

Registered egg grading stations are quoting producers for ungraded eggs AL 32-33, AM 30-31, AP 20, B 20-21, C 15-16.

Wholesalers are quoting operators of grading stations for the graded pack f.o.b. station AL 37, AM 35, AP 24, B 25, and quoting retailers for the same pack AL 38, AM 37, AP 27, B 30.

Eggs are retailing to consumers AL 44-45, and in some cases as high as 47, AM 42-44, AP 37, B 36-40.

Nova Scotia quotations, it is noticed, are 34-35 to producer for ungraded AL, while the graded pack for the same grade is at 39. The spread in the retail market in the local field of from 12-15c between producer and consumer prices is substantial.

We are somewhat alarmed at the present demand, as a result no doubt of the conditions referred to, for day old chicks. About 80% of our hatcheries are operating and only at one-third capacity. It is stated that the demand in Ontario is one and one-half million chicks behind this same date of last year. If this

is true across the Dominion of Canada, and there is 40% less chicks sold from hatcheries what effect is this going to have on production next year.

"We might give some attention too, to the liquidation of old flocks. This undoubtedly has been taken into account it is possible that egg supplies next fall and winter may not fill Canadian requirements."

Poultry markets are, of course, uncertain in the Province at present, but nevertheless the market is steady at better prices than local quotations would indicate.

The following detail is offered with reference to feeds which are still maintained at fairly high levels. No. 1 feed oats is \$2.64 in bulk delivered and about \$2.85 bagged and retailed.

No. 1 feed barley rates at \$2.73 in bulk and the retail price is \$3.00 for whole barley and \$3.10 for bran at \$2.80 per hundred and shorts at \$3.00. Soybean meal is now on the market at \$4.65 retail or about \$5.50 in carlots delivered.

Some local oats is moving into the trade but not a very large quantity.

The hay market is not improved in price although there seems to be more general interest in demand. Some difficulties have been experienced by shippers in the quality and grade of hay delivered.

It is understood that some losses have taken place by the shippers. Apparently hay is being inspected at the delivery end and has been found of lower grade than expected.

In this connection Mr. Shaw pointed out that any shipper can secure inspection by application to the Seed Branch at Sackville.

The Department has had considerable inquiry regarding the supply of turnip seed, registered, and of the Laurentian variety. There is a scarcity of this commodity. A possible supply was contacted during the past week and any dealers or others who might be interested in securing registered seed are advised to correspond with the Department as soon as possible.

Our livestock prices for the week indicate an advance at both Moncton and Charlottetown of about 50c with sow prices remaining unchanged.

The following is the detail: Moncton—Hogs: Grade A 27.25, B1 26.85. No. 1 sows 16.00; No. 2

sows 15.00 hot dressed weight delivered.

Charlottetown—Hogs: F. O. B. country points. Grade A 26.25; B1 25.85. No. 1 sows 15.00; No. 2 sows 14.00.

Moncton—Cattle: F.O.B. country points. Steers and heifers: Choice 21.00; good 19.00; medium 18.50; fair 17.00; common 14.00. Cows: Good 13.50 to 14.50; medium 13.00; common 12.00; canners and outters 10.00 to 11.00. Bulls: Good 15.00; medium 14.00; common 12.00.

Charlottetown—Cattle: Delivered to plant, weighed on plant scales. Steers: Choice 20.00; good 19.00; medium 17.00 to 18.00; common 14.00 to 17.00. Heifers: Choice 19.50; good 19.00; medium 17.00 to 18.00; common 14.00 to 17.00. Cows: Good 18.50; medium 18.00; common 9.00 to 11.00; canners 9.00 to 11.00; outters 11.00. Bulls: Good butcher 14.00; bologna bulls 10.00 to 13.00.

Moncton—Calves: F.O.B. country points. Choice 20.00; good veal 18.00; medium 16.00; common 14.00; grassers 12.00 to 13.00.

Charlottetown—Calves: Delivered. Good and choice 18.00; common and medium 15.00 to 17.50; grassers 11.00 to 12.00.

Moncton—Sheep: Alive F. O. B. country points. Good 8.00; common 3.00; Rail Grade 19.00 for Grade A delivered.

Charlottetown—Sheep: Delivered. Good 7.00; common 3.00; Rail Grade 15.00 Grade A.

Moncton—Lambs: Alive - Good spring lambs 20.00 f.o.b. Rail Grade 44.00 Grade A delivered.

Charlottetown—Lambs: Delivered - Good and Choice alive 19.50. Rail Grade 45.00 Grade A. Lambs alive f.o.b. country points 19.00 for Good and Choice.

Montreal prices show Choice heavy steers 24.75; medium 22.00-23.00; good 23.25 to 24.25. Good cows 17.00 to 18.00; medium cows 15.00 to 16.00. Good bulls 18.50 to 20.00. Common bulls 17.50 down.

Hogs 27.50 for Grade A.

POTATOES The potato situation is extremely weak although quite a substantial quantity are still going forward to market, Mr. Staw states.

Prices in Toronto and Montreal are down about 20c per bag during the past month. A lot of New Brunswick potatoes are going in and our prices have to adjust themselves to that competition.

The United States situation is still uncertain but it is noted that orders have been going through from the United States to Portugal and to Spain and negotiations are going on with other countries. One big contract has been signed with a firm at Philadelphia for all surplus potatoes that the Government will buy in Western New York, Pennsylvania, Long Island and New Jersey. These potatoes are going into the manufacture of alcohol.

We may safely assume that the Pennsylvania area and Upper New York are now practically out of the market for competition in the South will no longer exist. There is however, a big surplus supply of potatoes in Maine and if our competition is confined to Maine our

position really should improve. All things taken together the stocks of potatoes on hand in the United States, according to their estimates, are the second largest in their history, being exceeded only in 1947.

The whole situation has combined to create a very dull market and there does not seem to be prospects of an immediate pick-up. The seed demand, which normally develops about this time of year, has not materialized but may begin to assert itself shortly.

In the meantime however, it is desirable that potatoes should be kept on the move if any reasonable price level exists. F.E.I. supplies are large and our prices are around the 40-45c level at the present time. One firm has completed an export contract for the Palestine area of 80 cars. It is unfortunate that exchange difficulties have limited demand there to that level.

There is a great potential market in the Palestine area for our seed if dollars were available for purchase. Mr. Shewstates. Another shipload is to be ready to sail from St. John and one from Halifax for Southern ports.

The present situation at various stations is outlined as follows, and it will be noted that there is a uniformity in price quotations and a slow, dull movement.

Tignish—Seed - Mountains 45c per bus. at the car. Light movement. Tablestock—45c per bus. with a light movement.

O'Leary—Seed—No price. Tablestock—45c per bus. at the warehouse.

Wellington—Seed 70c per bus. at the car. Tablestock—60c per bag at the car. Slow movement.

Summerside—Seed - Sebago 45c per bus. Cobler 70c per bus. Tablestock—40c per bus. at the car. Fair movement in tablestock with slow demand for seed.

Charlottetown—Seed - Mountains, Katahdin, and Sebago 50c per bus. at the car. Light movement. Cobblers 72c-75c per bus. at the car. Fair movement first of week. Tablestock—52c-55c per bag at the car. Light movement. Market weak.

Vernon River—Slow movement of both seed and tablestock. Sebago Seed 45c per bus. at the car. No price on tablestock.

Morell—Seed—Cobblers Foundation and Foundation A firsts and seconds 72c per bus. at car. No price on other seed. Tablestock—None moving.

Kensington—Seed—Cobblers 70c per bus. Light movement. Other varieties static. Tablestock - All varieties 55c per bag. Fair movement.

TURNIPS The turnip market is being maintained at about the usual level with the prices approximately 60c to the producer. Even with an apparent shortage of supplies the Boston market is more or less unresponsive. It would appear to me as if our contacts in the turnip trade must be developed outside of the Boston area. Turnips loaded at Charlottetown are bringing a price of 70c to dealers which would work out at about 60c to our farmers.

A Feature For Every Friday Among The Farmers Federation Of Agriculture News

District Meeting Tuesday

Island farmers right across the Province will be attending a special Federation meeting in their school district next Tuesday evening.

The details of the plan have been distributed to the Federation leaders in each school district who were appointed at recent meetings. They will have all the necessary information including membership forms, delegates' cards, copies of the Federation Handbook and By-laws, also the official envelope for returning the ballots and a list for recording the names of the farmers who voted.

A meeting was held in Moncton on Tuesday between representatives of the potato producers in each province, the three Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture from New Brunswick and other marketing experts to discuss the potato marketing problem in the Maritimes and decide on what course of action to take.

It was revealed at that meeting that even at the present time there were possibilities of moving large quantities of potatoes to foreign countries if there was some central agency in each province embracing the whole industry which the Dominion Government and those foreign exporters could deal with to negotiate such barter deals.

However, because of past experiences with price-cutting and other unethical practices in such

deals, the trade officials cannot make adequate arrangements.

The Government is hesitating to establish price supports because of excess speculation. At the same time they will not, and rightly so, have civil servants take over and market potatoes or other products for farmers. The farmers, as food producers have been challenged to organize as any other industry and establish marketing boards to regulate prices and trade and to be ready to comply with any provisions of the Prices Support Act in moving surpluses or other emergency goods.

This is the main reason for the proposed marketing board scheme. At the present time the matter of a floor price rests with the Government. The Federation has done everything possible to acquaint them with the necessity for some relief for the ordinary farmers.

At the present time we are appealing to the farmers to do something for themselves. A 100 per cent turnout of all farmers is desirable at those meetings. The need of an overall potato marketing scheme for the Maritime Province was discussed at the meeting in Moncton and the other provinces unanimously agreed to take similar action if Prince Edward Island producers will support the proposal. This program is not designed to shut out legitimate dealers but, to take all phases, producers, private dealers and co-operatives into a plan where all can work together under legislation designed for the betterment of the whole industry.

It is gratifying to find how many of the large and conscientious dealers, who have always done a good job, are supporting the farmers in this plan.

Hannam To Reply On Farm Forum at 8:30 Monday night our president, Mr. H. H. Hannam will reply to the many recent criticisms of Federation policies. There will also be a review of Forum activities across Canada.

Delegate To Sweden The 1950 annual meeting of the International Federation of Agriculture will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in June. At the annual meeting of the Maritime Federation in January our Deputy Minister, W. R. Spaw, was unanimously selected to represent the Maritime Provinces. It is gratifying to note where the Provincial Government are sending Mr. Spaw to this conference. He will undoubtedly bring a great deal of information back to our farmers

HOW TO KEEP CHICKS ALIVE AND HEALTHY

Every year countless chicks die because of faulty management. Many others manage to stay alive but they will never, because of poor health, be profit makers for their owners. Successful poultry farming demands the type of good management outlined below. Check to see if a neglect of any basic rule is costing you money.

Brooder House, Ventilation, Selection of Litter, Changing Litter, Brooder Temperature, Ogilvie Miracle Chick Starter. Includes illustrations of chicks and a product image.

DIABETICS When COUGHS COLDS strike take BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE It's SUGAR FREE

RHEUMATISM FREE DOCTOR'S BOOKLET JERSEY CITY, U.S.A.—An interesting booklet has just been published on Rheumatism and Arthritis containing reliable information on diet, bathing, exercise, heat therapy and treatment.

ATTENTION FARMERS

On Tuesday evening, February 28th at 8 o'clock every farmer in Prince Edward Island is invited to attend a school District Meeting to seriously consider and take action on the critical marketing situation in this Province. Get the facts about your organization and the proposed Marketing Board Plan. As Food Producers we have been challenged to organize like any other Industry and protect our own interests. We must establish some control over our own business before we can expect sympathetic support particularly in surplus periods.

Are we going to accept this challenge ?

100% turnout of all farmers is desirable if we are to make a successful start.

It's Up To You!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS P. E. I. FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

OUR AIMS Highest Quality Products Fair and Uniform Prices Long Term Food Contracts To Be Prepared for Emergencies.

SPECIAL BROADCASTS MONDAY NIGHT: CBA 8:30—H. H. Hannam, replying to recent criticisms of Federation policies. CFCY 10:00—Review of local marketing and meeting plans.

OUR POLICY A United Front to help ourselves and protect our basic industry — not to harm any other person or group.