

Imports of pork zoom as Canada lifts ban

Trade in pork and pork products is a two-way street between Canada and the United States, but north-bound traffic on it exceeded the south-bound by a wide margin last year.

Although the total of 49.9 million pounds of pork cuts exported to the U.S. in 1962 was virtually unchanged from previous years, the volume of imported cuts skyrocketed to 79.2 million pounds from 28.3 million in 1962. The imports amounted to nine per cent of Canadian production compared to 3.7 per cent a year earlier.

Why the sudden spurt?
Canada Department of Agriculture economists D.W. Warr and W.W. Yorgason have taken a look at the situation.

BAN LIFTED
Writing in the Current Review of Agricultural Conditions, they say the upsurge can be attributed to the resumption of a two-way market with the lifting of a ban on imported uncured pork and pork products in 1960 and a decline in Canadian pork production since that time.

The ban, imposed in 1952 in the wake of a severe outbreak of vesicular exanthema in the U.S., also served to shelter Canadian producers from the full effects of large supplies and low prices south of the border.

Lifting the embargo signalled the resumption of a two-way flow of pork across the border, which in turn tended to equate prices in both countries. Last year's dramatic upturn in imports, the economists explain, was basically the result of high prices and smaller output in Canada, increased marketings

and lower prices in the United States.

PORK ACCEPTED
But coupled with the price-supply factor is another one—a growing acceptance of American pork by the Canadian meat trade.

Fresh and frozen pork cuts accounted for 87 per cent of the 79.4 million pounds entering Canada last year, with processed pork making up the balance. Bulk of the imports went to Quebec, Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces, and Manitoba.

As to exports, the picture has shown a high degree of stability for the past three years, with the volume amounting to a fairly consistent six per cent of Canada's annual pork production. Last year, fresh pork cuts accounted for 68 per cent of the exports.

Although the monthly volume of exports varied from a low 3.4 million to a high 5.1 million pounds last year, the variation was small compared with that of pork production. The latter ranged from 57.8 million pounds to 84.9 million.

VOLUME STABLE
Moreover, the monthly volume of exports has displayed considerable stability over the three-year period. This, say economists Yorgason and Warr, indicates a steady demand for Canada's higher quality pork, and the possibility of developing a larger market in the U.S.

But, they add, the Canadian industry must achieve greater stability in production if it is to make further inroads on the American market.

What of the future?

Last year was the turning point for Canadian hog producers who, no longer isolated from the United States, will be forced to compete more closely, economists believe.

"With the advent of the large packer into the import trade in pork, the cheapest source of any particular cut of a given quality will be the one that is patronized."

In years when production is heavy in Canada and fairly light in the United States, exports of the more expensive cuts—hams, loins and backs—will increase in almost direct proportion to the increase in Canadian production.

At the same time, imports will decline, although the decrease will be neither sudden nor marked, they point out.

CHEAP CUTS
"Cheap cuts of pork have a considerable market in Canada."

Now that marketing channels for these cuts have been established, it will be difficult to break them down."

In times when the production picture is reversed (light in Canada, heavy in the U.S.), where the seasonal production pattern is more even, the inflow of American pork will be heavy, tending to moderate upward movements in Canadian prices.

As for 1964 itself, the economist foresees greater pork production in Canada and a decrease in the United States.

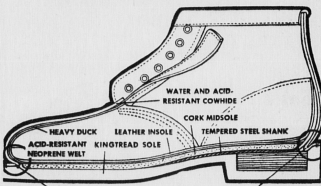
"As a result, imports of pork cuts into Canada will decline and exports will increase. Because of the new trading patterns that have developed, however, imports probably will be as great as exports—somewhere between 30 million and 40 million pounds," they predict.

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Columbia River hearing goes slowly; tempers short

BY ARCH MacKENZIE
OTTAWA (CP) — Another gale of words flowed into the Columbia River record Thursday as the Commons external affairs committee completed its 13th day on the huge project with no end in sight.

Tempers flared periodically in the five-hour sittings. The power and flood-control agreement with the United States, said G. L. McNeil, the chief critic, said he would rather have no development at all than accept the proposed scheme.

Consulting engineer J. K. Seaton resisted support for the treaty and protocol negotiated by the federal and British Columbia governments.

Consulting engineer C. N. Simpson agreed—adamantly on the basis of a quick look using available information, which he said is so meagre in nature.

Conservative MP Lawrence E. Kidd, from Vancouver, a doctor of economics, got Gen. McNaughton's speech agreement that a "very great danger exists" under the treaty of floods being blamed for U.S. Gen. McNaughton, as a key government adviser, before being retired from the International Joint Commission as age 75 two years ago, was pressed on one 1960 episode.

He said he couldn't recall having said—as former justice minister Davie Fulton contends he did—that he wouldn't oppose the treaty.

Mr. Fulton, then chief Canadian negotiator and now Conservative leader in B.C., will testify May 11-12.

Finally, the New Democratic Party again expressed strong opposition to the pace of committee hearings. There were three sittings Thursday and two other two are scheduled today, the fifth day of hearings is the week.

The deadline for ratification of the treaty and protocol is before Oct. 1—when the U.S. is scheduled to hand over \$274,800,000 B.C. in advance payment for power sales over 30 years.

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Prevention is important to growers

Many vegetable growers rely too heavily on chemicals to reduce damage done to their crops by insects and pests. Satisfactory control of pests is often impossible using only these last-ditch efforts.

H.R. Boyce of the ODA's Harrow, Ontario, Research Station says it is essential for growers to use all available means to prevent early infestation and reinfestation of a crop.

"An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure," he comments. "This means using good sanitary practices and other established preventive measures as well as chemicals."

And, he emphasizes, "It is extremely important to make sure all plants are free from pests before they are transplanted to another greenhouse or the field."

PROMPT MEASURES
Early infestations may be transferred unnoticed to the growing area. If protective measures are not taken, heavy infestation may occur soon after planting. This is especially true if the grower isn't familiar with the kinds of pests that may affect his crop.

It is vital, says Mr. Boyce, to be on the alert for pests and take prompt control measures when they are discovered.

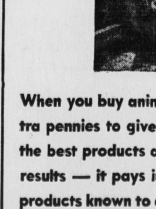
The area around the outside of shading and ventilation greenhouses should be kept free of plant growth. If this is impossible, it should be treated regularly with an insecticide and a mite killer. Chemicals different from those used inside the greenhouse should be applied to reduce the possibility of the pests developing resistance.

If transplants become infested, they should be treated before being set in the production greenhouse or in the field.

When a clean crop is established in the greenhouse, a close watch should be kept for new infestations from other sources. As an example, the two-spotted spider mite is often brought in on bedding and mulching material. By watching the plants near the hives or the lower leaves near the mulch, new infestations can be caught early and eliminated by spot or overall treatments.

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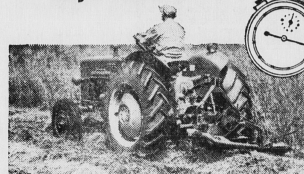
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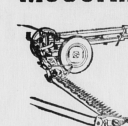
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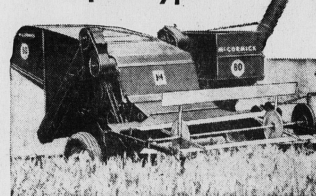
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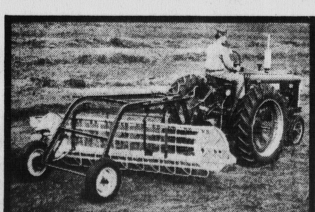
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