

Farm Prices & Market Report

Following are excerpts from the weekly marketing report of the provincial Department of Agriculture, prepared by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister:

Trading on the Montreal market this week was fairly active with Choice steers 21.00 to 22.50; Good cows 15.00 to 16.00, with a few at 16.50. Calves were one dollar lower, with Good to Choice vealers 20.00 to 22.00. Hogs were higher with Grade A sows 22.00.

On the Maritime markets hogs are up \$1.50, and sows are up \$1.00 at both Moncton and Charlottetown. The following are the details:

Hogs at Moncton: Grade A 30.00; Grade B1 29.60; No. 1 sows 22.00; No. 2 sows 21.00; hot dressed weight delivered.

Hogs at Charlottetown: F. O. B. country points: Grade A 28.00; Grade B1 28.60; No. 1 sows 21.00; No. 2 sows 20.00.

Cattle at Moncton: Delivered to plant: Steers: Choice 18.50 to 19.50; Good 17.75 to 18.50; Medium 16.50 to 17.00; Common 10.50 to 11.00. Heifers: Choice 18.00 to 19.00; Good 17.50 to 18.00; Medium 16.00 to 17.00; Common 11.50 to 12.00. Cows: Good 13.00; Medium 12.00 to 11.00; Common 9.00 to 8.50. Canners and Cutters 7.50 to 8.00. Bulls: Good 11.00 to 11.50; Medium 9.50 to 10.50; Common 8.50 to 9.00.

Cattle at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant: Steers: Choice 19.00; Good 18.00; Medium 16.00; Common 11.00 to 12.00. Heifers: Choice 18.50; Good 17.50; Medium 15.50; Common 10.00 to 11.00. Cows: Good 12.00; Medium 10.50 to 11.00; Common 9.00 to 10.00; Canners & Cutters 7.50 to 8.50. Bulls: Good 12.00; Medium 11.00; Common 9.00 to 10.00.

Calves at Moncton: Delivered to plant: Choice 20.00 to 21.00; Good 19.00 to 19.00; Medium 12.00 to 12.00; Common 11.00 to 12.00; Grassers 10.00 to 11.00.

Calves at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant: Good to Choice 21.00 to 22.00; Medium 17.00 to 19.00; Common 12.00 to 15.00; Grassers 10.00 to 12.00.

Lambs at Moncton: Delivered to plant: Live grade quotations, Good 17.00 to 18.00; Rail grade price for A's 41.00, up to 45 lbs.

Lambs at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant: Live grade quotations, 17.50 for good lambs. Rail grade prices for A's, 42.00, up to 48 lbs.

Sheep at Moncton: Delivered to plant: Live grade quotations, Good 7.00; Medium 5.00; Common 2.50; Rail grade prices for A's, 15.00, up to 70 lbs.

Sheep at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant: Live grade quotations, Good 7.00; Medium 5.00; Common 3.00. Rail grade price for A's, 16.00, up to 70 lbs.

Eggs and Poultry

The production of eggs in Prince Edward Island continues to increase. Receipts show production nearing its peak. Quality of the product is fair to good and demand is strong for the well graded, well packaged product. There is a slight decline in quality. Presumably due to flocks being allowed excessive range or being forced to pick up a greater portion of their feed from the range than heretofore. This does not make a quality product.

A few suggestions: Keep laying flocks housed until three or four weeks in the afternoon; keep laying mash before birds at all times; feed scratch feeds prior to allowing flocks on range; keep premises where poultry is housed, clean and well ventilated.

If all producers in Prince Edward Island would co-operate with above mentioned suggestions, the percentage of undergrade eggs would be practically nil. Bear in mind, a low quality product has no place on any markets.

Dealers have advanced their paying prices and are now quoting for ungraded eggs delivered: AL 45, AM 43, AS 35, B 35, C 20. And for the graded pack delivered: AL 53-4, AM 51-2, AS 42-3, B 42-3, C 28. And are quoting retailers in cartons: AL 60, AM 58, AS 49, B 49, C 33. Retail to consumer: AL 67-8, AM 65-6, AS 56, B 56, C 42.

Rural Stations quoting for ungraded eggs delivered: O'Leary: AL 43, AM 41, AS 26, B 28, C 18. Rodrique: AL 46, AM 43, AS 36, B 35, C 22. Vernon: AL 46, AM 44, AS 36, B 33, C 18. Montague: AL 46, AM 42, AS 32, B 32, C 20. Sydney Market as at April 27th, 1953:

Dealers paying loose: AL 57. Dealers selling loose: AL 61. Cartoned eggs 4c extra. Retail prices in cartons: AL 67-78.

Egg prices on this market are slightly stronger, origin 85 per cent Prince Edward Island, balance Nova Scotia. Receipts of Grade A eggs are sufficient to meet requirements with other grade off the market. The demand is good. Halifax Market as at April 28th, 1953:

To Producers: AL 51, AM 48, AS 44, B 37, C 26. To Retailers in cartons: AL 64, AM 62, AS 54, B 44. To Consumers in cartons: 67-72, 65-66. Spot Price: AL 56, AM 53, AS 51, B 40, C 31.

This egg market is steady to firm and paying prices have advanced slightly on all grades. Local receipts show some increase but dealers are relying on arrivals from outside the Province to meet requirements. Current stocks are ample for demand which is fair.

Receipts of dressed poultry are light and there is good demand reported for available supplies.

Feeds

There have been no changes in feed prices over the past two weeks, with the exception of barley which strengthened a bit during the past week. Millfeeds have remained steady and are still difficult to procure.

Olmeal has dropped in price and is now being retailed at \$4.99 in new jute.

Potatoes

Potato movement from this Province continues very good with 283 cars moving by rail for the week ended April 28th. Present indications are that approximately 1,300 cars will be shipped in the month of April which will be about 300 cars heavier than April 1952.

There is no great change in the price situation. A little stronger trend was evident a few days ago, but since then a weaker undertone has developed. Some parts of the Province still report substantial supplies available for shipment while some other districts are pretty well cleaned out. If the present movement level can be maintained for another month most of the remaining supplies should

be cleaned out. Reports are that New Brunswick holdings are somewhat heavier than in this Province, and the State of Maine is still an important factor as far as our prices are concerned.

There are some reports that even in the light of what has happened to potato markets this spring after one of the lowest production levels in recent years, acreages are still being increased. In fact, a well known potato bulletin stated quite recently that United States potato producers have already dug their own grave for next year, and if the trend already established in the southern half of the United States is followed in the Northern States and Eastern Canada, that will be the inevitable result.

It would be well for all Island producers to fully appraise these facts before they decide the acreages they are going to plant this

year.

The following are prices and market details at some centers on the Island as secured today:

Tignish: Moving some tablestock at 40c per bus. at the car. Fairly good movement in Mountain Seed at 50c per bus. Not much seed left.

O'Leary: Fairly dull. Tablestock moving at 40c per bus. at the car. Foundation Sebago Seed 50c per bus.

Wellington: Fairly steady movement of tablestock at 50c per 75 lbs. bag at the car. No seed moving.

Summerside: Very quiet, not much moving. Tablestock about 55c per bag at the car. No seed moving by rail but some going by truck.

Kensington: Tablestock movement very good, 50c per 75 lb. bag at the car. No seed moving.

Montague: Fairly good movement

in tablestock to Newfoundland. Paying 50c per bag delivered Montague.

Cardigan: Some tablestock and seed moved but price not available.

Vernon River: Fair movement in tablestock at 50c per 75 lbs. at the warehouse. No seed moving.

Morell: Some tablestock moving at 45c per bag delivered. Not much

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