

History of agriculture in Strathcona County:

Animal care and markets

Research conducted by J. Ross and Associates for Strathcona County in 2011

Introduction

Built in a rural setting by an early settler and serving for decades as a farm homestead, Bremner House offers a window into the evolving role of agriculture in the surrounding region and beyond. This section of the Bremner House website covers the following topics.

Early farming	Animal care and markets	Advances in agriculture
<p>Farming in the 1880s, when the first settlers arrived to the area around Bremner House, was quite different from today. Changing governance, equipment, techniques and global forces all combined to make agriculture in what is now Strathcona County a shifting landscape.</p>	<p>Many early settlers raised a variety of livestock as a hedge against downturn or disease in any one commodity. Both farmers and government experts took steps to improve herd quality in hope of opening doors to export markets.</p>	<p>From earliest days, farm men and women formed organizations to improve their buying power, enhance their advocacy and learn new techniques. The stakes became higher in recent decades as farms became larger and less diversified, evolving into agribusinesses.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soils Jurisdiction Reserve lands Early farms Hay Threshing Tractors War and the Depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poultry Swine Sheep Horses Cattle, beef and dairy Creameries Herd improvement programs Apiculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in agribusiness Farm organizations 4-H Club Farm Women’s Union of Alberta Edmonton Agricultural Society Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Agricultural colleges Farm Journals Insurance

Research Disclaimer: This material is historical in nature and as such cannot be considered exhaustive. While researchers were diligent and attentive to detail, Strathcona County does not warrant that all the information in this document is completely accurate and/or suitable for any particular purpose. This information is not intended to replace the users’ own research of the primary records. Should you notice any errors or have any questions or comments, please call 780-416-6762.



Poultry

The Bremner district was an excellent place to grow poultry, thanks in part to the area’s clear, dry air.

Poultry, general history. Farmers expanded their flocks during hard times so they could supplement their income by selling eggs and chickens.

Poultry, government flock improvement program. Government support for poultry production included plans for chicken coops and a breeding station to supply purebred birds.

Poultry diseases. Fowl pox, pullorum and bronchial pneumonia were some of the diseases of concern for poultry growers.

Poultry, hatcheries. A tug-of-war between Dominion and provincial approaches to hatchery regulations came to a head in 1942, with Alberta feeling under-served in the drive to upgrade poultry herds.

Poultry, general history			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1908	“The clear, dry air makes a splendid climate for poultry. ...A few hundred chickens will yield a good income. ...In 1908, the Provincial Government established a poultry breeding station for the purpose of distributing purebred birds and eggs among the farmers and poultry raisers.”	Unknown publication of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, p. 46
Edmonton and district	No date	“The folks usually took along eggs and homemade butter when they went to Strathcona to get groceries. They traded at Douglas Bros. store, McDonalds, Richard Bros. and later the Farmers’ Supply and Trading Company. For many years, the eggs were stored at home in boxes of grain before egg cartons and crates were available. The eggs went to the store in boxes of grain. The grain kept them at an even temperature and prevented any breakage.”	Interview, Robert Briggs February 26, 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Cooking Lake	1910s	While the Grand Trunk Pacific was being built, farmers sold their eggs and butter to the surveyors and construction camps. Later, farmers sold their vegetables and dairy products to cottagers on North Cooking Lake.	Interview, James Dey by Roger Parker 12 May 1983, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1932	During the Depression, local egg producers sold their eggs directly to retail stores because they can get a few cents more for the eggs. The Alberta Wheat Pool, that occasionally handled other agricultural and non-agricultural products, saw its egg business decline from 30 or 40 cases a day to almost nothing.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 176 memorandum from G.M. Cormiel Poultry Commissioner to H.A. Craig Deputy Minister of Agriculture January 3, 1933

Poultry, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1938	“With the successive crop failures there was quite a noticeable poultry increase in some of the areas affected and undoubtedly many families during the past two years have been enabled to keep off relief because of this. The betterment of the markets the last two years has been a contributing factor.”	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 177 Position of the Poultry Industry
Edmonton	1943	Ella Ottewell bought chicks from the Edwards Poultry Farm and Hatchery located as 80 Avenue and 81 Street in Edmonton.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Edwards Poultry Farm and Hatchery 24 March 1943, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1943	“The poultry industry of Alberta has increased in value from five million dollars in 1932 to fifteen million dollars in 1942 and by the end of 1943 will show an increase of approximately another three million dollars. While the tremendous export and domestic demands for Alberta poultry products and higher war time prices has been a contributing factor to this increase, the industry itself was showing very definite progress as far as quantity and quality of poultry products were concerned for three years before the war demand became a factor.”	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Strathcona County	1950-1960s	Ken and Tory Allan raised 100 ducks, geese and chickens. Through the summer to late fall, they killed and de-feathered 15 to 20 ducks and geese each Friday to take to an auction at either Clover Bar or Bremner. They used the feathers for their own pillows. They sold the chickens privately; they were raised for their meat. They did not keep laying hens.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, 8 June 2011

Poultry, government flock improvement programs

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1943	By now if not before, the Department of Agriculture had building plans for brooder houses, range houses and single and double deck plans. "These plans are up to date in every respect, complete in every detail ..."	Alberta, Dept. of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C. W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 27 August 1943
	No date	"The [chicken] house should face the south."	Swindlehurst, p. 43
Alberta	1943	The provincial egg and poultry marketing service was closed at the end of March 1943.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179, memorandum from C. W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 27 August 1943
Alberta	1943	The Commercial Egg and Poultry Producers Co-op Association "were also told that we believed with the compulsory grading under a Special Area in Edmonton that all eggs sold by producers on the Edmonton market or direct to stores, restaurants, etc. by licensed producers should be stamped with the producer's license number." The department also preferred that eggs were sold in cartons.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister to Hon. D.B. MacMillan, Minister of Agriculture July 28, 1943
Edmonton	1943	There were nine egg grading stations in Edmonton, and none from surrounding area.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to Hon. D. B. MacMillan, Minister of Agriculture August 31, 1943

Poultry diseases

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1942	By this date, Alberta had been free from fowl pox for eight years while B.C. and other prairie provinces had had outbreaks of the disease.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 letter from O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister to Dr. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 3 November 1942
Alberta	1943	In B.C. it was not necessary for hatchery men to test for pullorum disease. With importation of cross-bred, hybrid chicks into Alberta, the department was very concerned.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to Hon. D. B. MacMillan, Minister of Agriculture 20 April 1943
Alberta	1944	An outbreak of bronchial pneumonia among poultry resulted in heavy losses. In 1929 another outbreak in Clover Bar district and Mr. Van Drunne lost 50 or 60 birds in one weekend.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 180 Registered Egg Grading Stations ___at March 1, 1944
Canada	1944	By 1944, all provinces with the exception of B.C., Ontario and Quebec had adopted the federal Hatchery Approval Regulations. A point of contention between the feds and Alberta was Alberta's insistence on whole blood test. Ottawa was nervous that not fully qualified people were administering the test. The tests were done to Strathcona County farmers' flocks for pullorum disease.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 180 Regulations and Administration for the Poultry Industry

Poultry, hatcheries

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1935	The Department of Agriculture brought in hatchery regulations for commercial hatcheries. Included in the regulations were compulsory inspections and blood testing of all flocks, elimination of poor flocks that used to supply hatcheries. The department shipped hatching eggs to farmers on a voluntary basis and the Dominion Inspection service started to carry out regular inspections of hatcheries from Dominion Hatchery Approval regulations, but in 1935 this was ruled <i>ultra vires</i> so meetings were held between the feds and hatchery men across Canada to bring in compulsory hatchery approval regulations. The three Prairie provinces accepted hatchery approval and put in the necessary regulations. "Since the 1936 hatchery season, tremendous progress has been made in the hatchery business. In fact, it has increased 172%." Dominion representative in each province "acted as ex-officio members of the staff for the purpose of inspection. This gave uniform regulations throughout Canada and was especially desirable for interprovincial and export inspections which were entirely Federal in their standing."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 4 September 1942. Also, <i>ibid</i> , file 176, Report of the Poultry Commissioner G.M. Cormie 1935; <i>ibid</i> , file 177, memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to D.B. Mullen, Minister of Agriculture June 27, 1938
Canada, Alberta	1938-1940	The licensing regulations were created "at the request of the Dominion Department early in 1938 and since then were administered fairly well for a couple of years by the Dominion Department. In 1940 we were requested to pass Dominion Egg Regulations and Mr. J.R. Sweeney, then Deputy Minister, refused to pass these regulations until we had had a showdown on Hatchery Approval Regulations, particularly on the method of blood testing." C.W. Traves wanted co-ordination between the province and Dominion inspectors.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture May 27, 1943

Poultry, hatcheries

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada, Alberta	1941	The federal Department of Agriculture had amended the regulations regarding the licensing and bonding of dealers in poultry products so that the federal government had full power to organize country grading stations, license graders, and administer regulations. There were, though, staff shortages in the federal department and the Alberta Department of Agriculture, poultry division, felt that it was deliberately discriminated against by Ottawa and demanded the same treatment as per inspections as was given to Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The federal regulations overruled the already established provincial regulations due to the war. By May 1943, the federal government had one inspector for 21 flocks, three of them Government institution flocks and they are expecting to put on another man. The province has three permanent men in the field, with four temporary men during the blood test season. These men are expected to test and supervise 450 to 500 flocks, do other service work throughout their territory, attend poultry meetings, organize field days, demonstrations etc." Alberta was the only western province that had a permanent staff of poultry fieldmen in addition to the Poultry Commissioner. The fieldmen held field days "that has been of great value."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C. W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 5 March 1943. Also, <i>ibid</i> , memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 27 May 1943; <i>ibid</i> , memorandum from C.W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 27 August 1943
Alberta	1941	Only approved commercial hatcheries were able to sell chicks in Alberta. "These hatcheries obtain their hatching egg supply from Alberta Approved Flocks. Every bird in these flocks are blood tested for disease by fieldmen of the Department and every poultry premises and individual bird must come up to the standard of quality set. From 1937 to 1943 the sale of Alberta Approved Chicks has increased from approximately one and one quarter million chicks to three and one half millions."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C. W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 27 August 1943

Poultry, hatcheries

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada, Alberta	Pre-1942	<p>“Hatchery Approval Regulations recognized three grades of chicks only: “Approved”, “R.O.P. Sired” and “R.O.P.”. Hatchery men have developed a large number of trade names, mostly designed to get extra prices out of the buying public without giving anything for the extra price. ... The Dominion have [<i>sic</i>] certain Hatchery forms to be filled in, and some of the hatchery men are not filling them in properly or are refusing to fill them in at all. Some of them also are flatly refusing to give to this Department any information requested.” Alberta did not allow any hatchery not complying 100 per cent to approved regulations to ship hatching eggs or chicks out of province. Alberta also received chicks from B.C. that were not a 100 per cent, and Alberta had no way of checking the source of B.C. eggs. This problem came to a head in 1942.</p> <p>In those provinces not following the regulations 100 per cent, hatcheries were producing hybrids which Alberta Department of Agriculture was very much against.</p>	<p>Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 179 memorandum from C. W. Traves, Poultry Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 4 September 1942</p>

Swine

Swine complemented dairy herds, as they could eat dairy waste. As a result, many area settlers included hogs in their production mix. In later years swine production declined markedly, and by 2011 Strathcona County had few if any hog farms.

Topics covered:

Swine, general history. Hogs were a common part of the area’s mixed farms. Local outlets for pork included stockyards, packing plants and annual sales. Later, as acreages developed alongside farms, complaints about smell accelerated a decline in hog production.

Swine breeds. U.S. breeders seeking to infiltrate Canada with Chester White and Palouse were resisted by Dominion and provincial agriculture departments due to quality concerns and evidence of a swindle. Farmers were urged to buy their breeding stock from veterinary inspected sales in Edmonton and Calgary.

Swine diseases. Diseases of note included swine cholera among Chester Whites in 1928, avian tuberculosis in 1933, rhinitis during the Second World War, anaemia among newborns, virus pneumonia and Glasser’s disease.

Swine markets. In 1922, farmers and experts agreed to grade all hogs sold at stockyards and abattoirs, and to sell high grades at a premium. This approach complicated sales to Britain after the First World War; fortunately, home markets continued to grow.

Government improvement policy for swine. With Alberta swine quality below the norm, the province embarked on a swine improvement program that included help with buying shared boars and on-farm inspections and support.

Decline in swine production. Some larger swine operations shut down in the 1960s, with farmers concentrating on grain production. By 2011, the county had no hog farmers, in part due to smell complaints from acreage owners.

Swine, general history			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Clover Bar area	1880s-~1900	Local farmers sold pork to the Hudson’s Bay Company that shipped meat to posts in the north and east.	Berry, “Clover Bar in the Making” p. 8
Clover Bar area	No date	A.J. Ottewell was president of the Provincial Swine Breeders Association.	Berry, “Clover Bar in the Making” p. 9
Alberta	1918	Hogs feed on barley, with dairy waste and possibly some roots and could be raised cheaply. Some farmers kept their hogs for only six months by which point they were over 200 pounds. Local meat packing plants, P. Burns and Co being one, and stockyards ensured a market for the hogs.	Edmonton Board of Trade, p. 23-24
Alberta	1920-1950s	Most farmers had a few hogs for home use so a family usually had home-cured hams and bacon on hand. “In the summer they were wrapped and stored in a bin of grain and usually came through with very little wastage.”	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Swine, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Clover Bar area	1939	Roy Marler built a new farrowing barn for his purebred Yorkshire sows in 1939 at a cost of \$250. He kept 15 sows “and liked to have some of them give birth in early January, this was to have six month [sic] old pigs to enter in the under six month classes at the different summer fairs that he would show at, this way with the proper feed and care his pigs would be as large as the other exhibitor pigs at that age for those classes.”	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
Clover Bar area	1930s	Roy C. Marler had 150 purebred hogs that he showed around the province. He fed them buttermilk. Later, Reg Marler tried to raise pigs but was not feeding them buttermilk because he was shipping all his milk into Edmonton City Dairy and as a consequence, his pigs did poorly. So he got out of raising pigs and went instead into market hogs. Marler grew mainly barley to feed to the pigs. During the Second World War, a disease swept through the swine population and “a lot of good herds went down.”	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Canada	No date	For those farmers on the federal R.O.P. program, the Department offered a service to grade the pigs. Government agents visited the farms to weigh the young piglets. When they were two months old, they were sent to the R.O.P. to be “put on test”. This entailed recording the amount of feed they ate, how much gain they made, the loin measurement and the length of the pig. After butchering the agents checked for the amount of fat on the back. After the federal agents slaughtered the pigs, they sent the farmer a grade for his herd.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Alberta	Late 1940-early 1950s	A new design for pig barns had a slatted floor and an underground pit for manure but pumping out the manure was difficult and farmers had problems with the design.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Alberta	1959	Hog production was becoming more specialized in the 1950s.	<i>Alberta Farm Guide</i> 1959, p. 121
Alberta	1960s	Hog raising goes hand-in-hand with dairying, with the skim milk being fed to the hogs.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, This is Alberta in 1963, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Swine, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1960	There were four major hog sales each autumn, one in Calgary, Edmonton and twice in Camrose. Sales were also held at Sangudo, Vermilion and Lacombe.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9, Minutes of the annual meeting Alberta Provincial Swine Breeders' Association, 9 December 1960

Swine breeds

Location	Date	Details	Source
USA	1928	At least two American firms, the Live Stock Improvement Association out of De Smet, South Dakota, and the Central United States Swine Company of Spokane, Washington, were promoting Chester Whites in a buy-back agreement throughout the mid-West and western States beginning in 1923. By the late 1920s, they were trying to move into western Canada, but Canada slapped a duty on this breed (other breeds were duty-free). Chesters were deemed to be too thick and fat for bacon. Their importation would ruin the market in Britain.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 news clipping "Chester White Hogs are not desirable Type"
Alberta	1928	When some American firms were moving into southern Alberta converting farmers there to Chester White hogs, the provincial and federal Departments of Agriculture reacted strongly against the Americans. There was at the time a "temporary demand for an ordinary type of hog in the Western Coast American Cities. ... large numbers of hogs have been going from the Southern part of the Province to Seattle and Portland during the past couple of years. No regular premium is paid for bacon hogs on these markets, and as a result the producers are not so much interested in producing the bacon type of hog. This makes the situation somewhat difficult to handle at the present time."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 173 letter from Deputy Minister [Alberta] to Mrs. Marian Green-Ellis, Western Editor, <i>The Family Herald and Weekly Star</i> 29 March 1928

Swine breeds

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1928	The province sought legal advice on this matter since the American firms had registered in Alberta under the Foreign Companies Act and got names of Alberta buyers so could track progeny. The companies could also apply for a federal licence and if got, they could then sell across Canada.	Alberta, Dept. of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 173 memorandum from Attorney General's Department to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 2 April 1928
Alberta	1928-1933	Telegrams flew between provinces and Ottawa, and Ottawa and United States trying to find out the particulars of these companies. Telegrams flew from fieldmen back to Edmonton reporting on the high pressured salesmen's move northward from Cardston and the department mounted a vigorous campaign to alert Alberta farmers to the scam. Bankers were notified as well as the RNWMP; poster campaign, radio warnings, articles in farm magazines etc.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 173 <i>passim</i>
USA	1945	"The Palouse breed of pigs was developed in 1945 at Washington Agricultural Experimental Station at Pullman, Washington. Landrace boars, from the A.S. Department of Agriculture Research Centre at Beltsville, Maryland, were crossed with Chester White sows. The purpose was to produce a 'meat type' hog." The Palouse breed was not registered in Canada and there was "no knowledge of their ability to meet Canadian market standards." The Palouse Swine Farms Ltd. was contacting farmers in the name of Alberta Royal Farm Sales Ltd. and then they registered as above. "The principal shareholder in this company is John McBride who was also associated with the Bog L. Ranching Company of which we still receive complaints from people who made deposits for Lacombe pigs but did not receive any. One farmer's report to a District Agriculturalist that the company is anxious to sell pigs on the story that they have pigs in quarantine at Coutts, the holding conditions are not too good and the desire to move them is urgent." The department checked and there were no pigs in quarantine and had not been for six weeks or more. Quarantine period was 30 days.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19 "Beware of an Unknown Quantity"

Swine breeds

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1960	The main breeds were Yorkshire (the most numerous), Lacombe, Tamworth and Landrace.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9 Minutes of the annual meeting Alberta Provincial Swine Breeder's Association, 9 December 1960
Alberta	1960	The department advised that the best place "to purchase breeding stock would be at the recognized and veterinary inspected sales at Calgary and Edmonton. Top breeders bring their best quality animals to these sales..." Sales were usually in March.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19 letter from A.J. Charnetski, Live Stock Supervisor to B. Hughes 13 February 1961

Swine diseases

Location	Date	Details	Source
Southern Alberta	1928	By June 1928, there was an outbreak of swine cholera in Chester White hogs imported from the U.S. on a swindle scheme.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 174 Report re: Central US Swine Co and Hog Cholera by E. Bavin, Inspector, commanding C Division, Alberta Provincial Police

Swine diseases

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1933	Swift Canadian Company reported some hogs infected with avian TB to the Live Stock Commissioner for Alberta. As the province had no policy to deal with avian TB, it fell to Swift to do due diligence when buying stock.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 184 letter from Swift Canadian Co. Ltd to S.G. Carlyle, Live Stock Commissioner 6 May 1933
Alberta	1939-1945	Rhinitis disease swept through the province's swine population. The disease disfigured the hogs so that they could no longer be shown at fairs, but did not affect the meat.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Alberta	1960	Among newborn pigs, anaemia was responsible for 15-20 per cent of loses. Other diseases were TB, rhinitis, virus pneumonia and Glasser's disease.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9, <i>passim</i>
Alberta	No date	As with sheep, horses, etc., swine were prone to complications due to inbreeding whereby farmers, in trying too hard to produce the perfect animal, forgot the basics of lineage.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011

Swine markets

Location	Date	Details	Source
Britain, Europe, Canada	1918-1934	After the First World War, Britain was only country that did not put up tariffs because with a population of 40 million she needed all the food she could import. Meanwhile, Denmark, Holland, Poland, Sweden and the Balkans, protected by their country's high tariffs, got into raising hogs in a big way. Britain was their market and Canada was frozen out. When the Depression set in, the flood of European bacon in Britain sent prices crashing. British hog producers went broke. Canadians, because they could not export, consumed more pork than ever. Finally, an agreement was set between Britain and Canada whereby Britain would take up to 280 million pounds of bacon for each of five years, provided that the bacon was of good quality: the Bacon Quota, the first ever agreement.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 Address given by Mr. F.M. Baker of the Canadian Meta Packers at Wetaskiwin January 11 1934 re: Wiltshire Sides

Alberta	1922	Following a meeting of breeders, producers, packers and government officials in Ottawa in November, everyone agreed that all “hogs must be bought and sold on a graded basis and that a substantial premium must be paid for select bacon hogs. Once Canada reached a surplus of bacon-type hogs it was agreed that the surplus could be sold on the “unlimited” British market. “With the lowering prices of grain, it is evident that hog production affords a medium through which to make the best use of grain. In all probability, this condition will continue for a number of years, in which case the production of hogs will materially increase from year to year.” The packers agreed to pay 10 per cent more for select hogs than the next grade. All hogs were to be bought and sold on a graded basis at public stock yards and at abattoirs and that official graders be provided by the Dominion Department of Agriculture at all public stock yards and abattoirs.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 untitled address
Britain, Canada	1927	Canadian packers were having difficulty in marketing their hog sides in Britain as Britain was buying from European countries. There was a flood of bacon into Britain with the resultant price squeeze. Canadian packers, committed to paying a certain amount for select hogs, found themselves forced to sell these hogs at a loss on the British market. Too, the Americans were paying the same for “thick smooths” as for “selects”. Packers, then, requested a change in the grading and buying policy.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 letter from J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, to Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture, Alberta, 16 March 1927
British Columbia	1928	Another lucrative market was the west coast with the mining and lumbering camps in B.C. and the growth of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster. There was a decided preference for Peace River hogs since they were closest to what British immigrants in B.C. expected.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 letter from H.E.G.H. Scholefield to George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture 21 July 1928
Britain, Canada	1929	Denmark furnished an astonishing 60 per cent of Britain’s demand for bacon and the USA supplied almost 82 per cent of imported hams. The percentage of Canadian bacon and ham being imported into Britain was on a downward slide in the late 1920s.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 Imports of Bacon and Hams, no date

Swine markets

Location	Date	Details	Source
Britain, Europe, Canada	1918- 1934	After the First World War, Britain was only country that did not put up tariffs because with a population of 40 million she needed all the food she could import. Meanwhile, Denmark, Holland, Poland, Sweden and the Balkans, protected by their country's high tariffs, got into raising hogs in a big way. Britain was their market and Canada was frozen out. When the Depression set in, the flood of European bacon in Britain sent prices crashing. British hog producers went broke. Canadians, because they could not export, consumed more pork than ever. Finally, an agreement was set between Britain and Canada whereby Britain would take up to 280 million pounds of bacon for each of five years, provided that the bacon was of good quality: the Bacon Quota, the first ever agreement.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 Address given by Mr. F.M. Baker of the Canadian Meta Packers at Wetaskiwin January 11 1934 re: Wiltshire Sides
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Britain	1933	By now the Danes have the British market sewn up with a superior Wiltshire hog.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 memorandum from H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister, to George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture 11 October 1933

Government improvement policy for swine

Location	Date	Details	Source
Saskatchewan, Alberta	1937	Saskatchewan, in an effort to improve the quality of swine herds, brought in a boar policy whereby a municipal district would purchase, with the help of the province, a good Yorkshire boar to stand for only \$.25 so to encourage local farmers to take advantage of better breeding. Alberta was enquiring into the particulars of the policy since the Canadian Meat Packers pointed out to the department that not all Alberta hogs were of good quality.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 letter from F. M. Baker, western representative, Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton, 16 June 1937
Alberta	1939	The Department of Agriculture introduced a Swine Improvement Policy that established a list of those breeders who qualified for the Record of Performance program. Initially, it was restricted to a boar exchange but was expanded to introduce better sows.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9, <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1939	"Over thirty percent of live hogs marketed were graded as select and over forty percent are in the bacon class."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 memorandum from G.S. Black, Sheep and Swine Promoter to C.A. Lyndon, Livestock Commissioner 13 March 1939
Alberta	1939	The province set up a Swine Production Committee composed of Dominion, Provincial, University and farmer representatives; Roy Marler represented farmers on this committee. The purpose of this committee is to act in an advisory capacity on swine production policies.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 letter from J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister to J. H. Evans Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 8 November 1939

Government improvement policy for swine

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1930s-1945	<p>"A farmer would state he wanted a sow on test, say Bremner 21S. (Bremner was Dad [sic] herd name, 21 was the sow number and represented [sic] the year she was born letter p would represent [sic] the next year letter, just before the piglets were 2 months old a government fieldman [sic] would come out to record the litter weight, ear tattoo numbers and mother's number At 2 months of age the 4 best piglets would be taken to the RP station and the amount of feed they ate would be recorded and the pigs weight [sic] periodical [sic] until 200 lb and then slaughtered measurement of size of ... lion [sic] , backfat and length of loin were tabulated and a percentage given out 100% in the area like 79% would be credited to the mother or father of the piglets.[sic] Some farmers would pay a premium for ROP stock but not everyone would so you never ROP all your breeding stock, only the best. ... Dad kept about 75 boars during the war years thinking they all good due to the war ending the demand for young boars went flat and we had to neutered about 35 and sell to packing plant."</p>	<p>Notes, Reg Marler Collection</p> <p>(*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)</p>
Alberta	1941	<p>A Swine Improvement Policy encouraged farmers raising hogs on a commercial basis to buy boars from the province's Live Stock Branch. The farmers had to fill out a form where they were asked which breed they wanted, the age of the boar they wanted and the amount of money he was willing to pay. Once he took delivery of the government-approved boar, the farmer had to destroy his original boar.</p>	<p>Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 Swine Improvement Policy</p>
Alberta	1942	<p>"At the beginning this was an exchange policy calling for the sale of an aged inferior boar in return for a pure bred sire supplied by the Department. However, due to the nature of the swine business it was not practical to continue as an exchanged policy. ... Regulations were changed and at the present time any bona fide farmer can purchase a boar through the Swine Improvement Policy at the prevailing cost. Transportation to be paid by the Department to the farmers' nearest shipment point. The number placed to date under this policy is 1021 (357 in 1942). These have all been Yorkshire and Tamworth breeding."</p>	<p>Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 Swine Assistance</p>
Alberta	1959	<p>In 1959 the Department of Agriculture was still unhappy with the quality of bacon hogs. "Alberta produces the lowest percentage of grade A and the highest percentage of grade C hogs in Canada. The average price differential of \$6.50 between a grade A and C hog can easily represent the difference between profit and loss."</p>	<p><i>Alberta Farm Guide</i> 1959, p. 121</p>

Government improvement policy for swine

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1960	The Policy allowed for farmers to apply for a rebate of \$10 on purebred boars that cost \$50 or more, or \$5 for boars costing less than \$50. Bonuses were paid on Yorkshire, Tamworth, Landrace and Lacombe boars that were registered with the Canadian National Live Stock Records. The farmers, then, received a certificate of pedigree from the Canadian Swine Breeders Association.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9, <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1960	The price of market pigs went up so breeders were now asking \$85-\$100 for boars. At the sales in the autumn of 1959, no boars sold under \$50 so the \$5 rebate was meaningless. Hog breeders complained that the market hog farmers were trying to drive down the price. There were also complaints that boars sold at auction were substandard and yet were eligible for the rebate. In 1960 the average price for a Yorkshire boar was \$98. Some criticized the \$10 rebate as being of little use and there were charges that the Department bought boars from the breeders at 19 per cent below market value. When the Policy was first introduced in 1939, the Swine Breeders produced a yearbook saying who the Department was buying its boars from. But by 1960, this was not the case and the farmer has no idea from whom and where the department was acquiring stock for sale.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9 letter from A.J. Chernetzki, Live Stock Supervisor to N.G. Valleau 22 December 1960. Also, <i>ibid</i> Minutes of the annual meeting Alberta Provincial Swine Breeders' Association, 9 December 1960
Alberta	1960	<p>The Department of Agriculture also had a policy whereby qualifying sows were bonused. Sows had to be qualified under advanced registry. Some criticized the policy saying that the money paid out in bonuses was nullified by the implementation of various phases of the policy. The policy only bonused those sows that were registered in the Advance Registry.</p> <p>The program was administered by the Veterinary Services Branch assisted by a Certified Health Herd Program Committee for Purebred Breeders made up of two representative from the Alberta Swine Breeders Association, two from the Alberta Provincial Swine Breeders Association, two representatives from the R.O.P. Swine Breeders Association and one representative from the Alberta Landrace Association with the Director of Veterinary Services acting as Chair for committee meetings. The department was to defray the cost of tuberculin tests, provide a minimum of 45 veterinary clinical inspections annually, provide herd health record books and inspection forms, and issue a certificate to qualifying herds.</p> <p>The breeder had to keep a complete set of records for all pigs, recording births, deaths, sickness, preventative medicine, treatments, sales with sales slips kept for one year. There was a probationary period of one year before a herd qualified for the program.</p>	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19 Certified Health Herd Program for Alberta Purebred Swine Breeders

Government improvement policy for swine

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1961	Farmers sent in a cheque for \$80 or \$110 to the department with a request to purchase a boar. Sometimes the department was unable to fill the request due to shortage of livestock, and the farmers then bought locally.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #9 letter from J. Phil Leclerc to Mr. Charnetski, Livestock Branch 17 January 1961
Alberta	1961	The policy was amended in February so that the department contributed \$10 toward the purchase price of boars with a selling price of \$70 or more. The payment of \$5 was discontinued.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19, Certified Health Herd Program for Alberta Purebred Swine Breeders

Decline in swine production

Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	mid-1960s	Some of the larger hog operations closed down, the farmers preferring to go strictly into grain farming.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Strathcona County	2011	No swine are being raised in the County since acreage owners complain and force the operator to shut down his hogs even if they build their acreages next to a known hog farm.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011

Sheep

Experts saw sheep as a good investment for farmers. Besides keeping down weeds, sheep were easy to keep and profitable for wool and mutton. The provincial improvement program for sheep included low-cost purebred rams.

Sheep			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	No date	Sheep were considered a good investment for farmers. They do not require expensive accommodation; very little work was required to look after them; they cleared off all the weeds and helped kill brush; and their wool sold for enough to pay for their care and feed. "Don't be an 'in-and-outer' – those make money from their sheep are those who stay with the game and take the good seasons with the bad."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 167 Eleventh Annual Co-Operative Wool Sale
Alberta	1910s	Alfalfa was perhaps the best known roughage for sheep fattening. "This with a combination of crushed oats and barley will make an excellent ration."	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> pp. 38-39
Prairie provinces	1910s	"...mutton is of more importance than wool in the west, therefore size is an important consideration."	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> p. 39
Alberta	1918	Sheep were still important after the First World War. A.B. Campbell near Fort Saskatchewan raised 600 sheep that suffered no foot rot, grubs or stomach worms.	Edmonton Board of Trade, p. 26
Clover Bar area	No date	George Ball was president of the Provincial Sheep Breeder's Association and of the Dominion Sheep Breeders Association.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making" p. 9
Alberta	1915	Markets: The Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeder's Association held its first annual "wool pool" as a way to market fleece. In districts where buyer could get a carload lot, the farmers got good prices; otherwise, prices were rather low. The average price in 1924 was \$.31 per pound, better than even during the First World War when prices, due to the war, were considered high.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 167 Eleventh Annual Co-Operative Wool Sale 1925
Alberta	No date	Flock improvement program: The provincial government had a program to improve the flocks of sheep by supplying farmers, other than a purebred sheep breeder, with a purebred approved ram at low cost and by paying the freight charges on the purebred ram to the farmers' nearest shipping point.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 167 poster

Horses

The use of horses in farming, construction, mining, war, deliveries and other enterprises evolved markedly in the early 1900s as mechanized vehicles rose to the fore. Significant shifts in demand and prices occurred as a result. Government efforts to upgrade horse stocks included crossbreeding for use in war and a cooperative purchasing plan for purebred stallions.

Horses			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1902	The Alberta Horse Breeder's Association was formed.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 166 Address to the members of the Alberta Horse Breeders' Association, March 30, 1942
Alberta	1913	The price of horses dropped markedly due to financial stringency by the province re: the drop in demand for horses for construction and municipal improvements, and the increased use of motor vehicles and tractors.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , p. 36-37
Edmonton area	1919	The Edmonton Exhibition Association and the Alberta Provincial Horse Breeder's Association held sales of purebred horses at the Stock Pavilion on Edmonton's Exhibition Grounds every April. Charles May represented the Exhibition Association on the Management Committee that oversaw the sales. Only horses that were purebred, accompanied by certificates of registration, signed transfers and had been owned in Alberta since 1 January were eligible for the sale. There was an entry fee of \$5 per head and a commission of 3 per cent on all animals sold. All horses entered in the sale were subject to a reserve bid which the owner or agent handed to the auctioneer at the time the horse is put up for sale.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 163 Application for entry Second Annual Auction Sale of Pure-Bred Horses
Canada	1911	"...the Dominion Government had several Thoroughbred [light horses] distributed throughout Alberta, for the purpose of crossing them with our native mares, in order to see if we could develop a class of horse suitable for army purposes. This work apparently fell through some years later but about six years ago [1923], through the efforts of the Alberta Thoroughbred Horse Breeders' Association, assistance was given by the Federal Government to subsidize five Thoroughbred stallions in the vicinity of Calgary."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 164 letter from Dr. P.R. Talbot to Hon. Mr. Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture 28 March 1929

Horses			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	Pre-1939	Heavy draught horses were needed in the mining and lumbering camps in Alberta and BC. A heavy draught team sold for \$400 or more, while lighter teams sold for \$300.	<i>Land and Agriculture in Alberta</i> , p. 40
Alberta	1914	The price of farm teams dropped by \$250-\$350 yet there was a strong demand for horses by the Allies during the First World War. The Canadian and British needed horses for transport and artillery and the French needed horses for their cavalry. The total number in 1915 of Alberta horses that were sold for the war effort was 4000.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , p. 39
Alberta	1914-1918	Many ranchers raised grade horses for the war effort as the military was a ready market. However, draught horses for farm work were in short supply, forcing the cost up to at least \$250.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 625
Alberta, Europe	1942	The dairy companies provided a ready market for Coach or hackney horses for their delivery wagons; this did not go out of fashion until the 1960s. Another potential market was seen to be Europe after the end of the war where there would be a need to restock European farms.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 166 letter from T.M. Carlyle, Union Milk Company Ltd. To Hon. D.B. MacMillan, Minister of Agriculture 13 May 1942. Also, <i>ibid.</i> memo from Dr. P.R. Talbot, Provincial Veterinarian 4 October 1943
Europe	1945	Indeed, the Dutch government needed 5000 and France 35,000 draught horses. The price would be about \$100 per head. Provincial field staff were responsible to assemble the horses at central points so that the Dominion Government buyer could purchase them.	Alberta, Dept. of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 166 memorandum from R.M. Putnam, Director, Extension Service to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Agriculture 29 June 1945
	1918	Diseases: Fly larvae attacked a horse's stomach and the horses had to be "botted". Owners starved the horse for a day with lots of water to drink. Then the horse was fed raw potatoes and later about two gallons of water.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 677

Horses, Co-operative Stallion Purchasing Policy, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada, Alberta	1919	To improve the standard of horses, the Dominion Government aided in the hiring of stallions. Horse breeders associations approved as did provincial governments. Part of the problem, especially in the eastern part of Alberta, were stallions running loose. The Alberta Department of Agriculture was in communication with a Clydesdale breeder in Scotland for his stallion Signet.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 164 Resolution of the Western Canada Live Stock Union 27 January 1919
Alberta, Strathcona County	1930s	The Co-operative Stallion Purchasing Plan for purebred stallions fostered a number of groups around the province: 15 in 1933; 18 in 1936 and 25 more for a total of 58 by 1938 and a total of 155 by March 1940. At Clover Bar, W. Schroter was the Secretary of one such group. The idea was that a group of farmers jointly purchase a stallion, the price dependent on the number of mares to be bred. The stallion was purchased from the Department of Agriculture. The government paid the freight from the seller's home to that of the purchaser. Each group appointed a committee of three to select and purchase a suitable stallion. Each member of a group had to pay a service fee for each mare, with the idea that this money went to the purchase of a stallion. This was for a three-year period. The stallion was placed in the care of a groom selected by the executive. The groom became the owner of the stallion at the end of the three-year period.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 166 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to Andrew M. Montgomery 10 October 1919. Also, <i>ibid</i> , file 165, Co-operative Purchasing Plan for Pure-Bred Stallions

Creameries

The rise of dairy farming in Bremner and the surrounding region spurred the growth of creameries to process and package milk and milk products.

Creameries, background and history. Federal and provincial governments promoted, supported and even owned dairies for a time in an effort to stimulate the growth of dairy in the west.

Creameries, Edmonton and district. Numerous creameries opened and closed in the region, including a government creamery in Beaver Hills (1905 to 1907), a farmer-operated creamery at Hortonburg (1900 to 1915) and the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool. Production of creamery butter in Alberta peaked in 1924.

Government involvement in creameries. In the decade around 1900, the federal government briefly operated creameries as one of several initiatives to promote dairy farming.

Dairy markets and prices. Amid volatile dairy markets, government efforts to regulate supply and demand and to ensure export quality have included licensing, grading, certification, price setting, export sales (e.g., shipping butter to Britain at key points) and a quota system for production. In the mid-1930s, Alberta addressed market volatility by naming milk a public utility.

Creameries, background and history			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Western Canada	1890	Ottawa was keen to stimulate the dairy industry so it sent a “traveling dairy” to the West in 1894. The outfit consisted of a churn, a butter worker, a hand-powered cream separator and a Babcock milk test. The “traveling dairy” gave demonstrations and talks on various processes. Daily and weekly press and agricultural journals promoted dairy industry. Private creameries in the territories were in financial difficulties and in 1896/97 a new federal policy regarding assistance to creameries was announced. “Both old and new creameries were to receive loans to cover the cost of machinery and equipment. A new creamery was established at Edmonton. New creamery shareholders were required to provide the site and necessary building. The government undertook to operate the creameries, market the butter and charge \$.04 per pound on all butter manufactured. A further levy of \$.01 per pound on all butter was to be applied to repayment of the loans.” The number of creameries and the total production of butter showed a steady increase through to 1905, the year that the Dominion Government withdrew from the creamery business.	Innis, <i>The Dairy Industry in Canada</i> pp. 103-104

Creameries, background and history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Calgary	1906	A board of directors headed up the cooperative creamery associations. "For this purpose, the Provincial Government maintains at Calgary the largest and most important dairy station in western Canada. At the end of every month each patron is credited with the butter-equivalent of his cream and is advanced 20 cents per pound. When the total output of the season has been disposed of by the government the patrons receive the balance due for the summer's product of butter." Calgary had the cold storage facilities where butter can be held until market price favourable.	Unknown publication of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, p. 47
	1924	Alberta reached its peak production of creamery butter in 1924 when 89 creameries churned out 22,339,857 pounds of butter.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 "Dairy" Address by H.A. Craig, 1925

Creameries, Edmonton and district

Location	Date	Details	Source
Bremner	1900	A creamery was established by local farmers at Hortonburg. A butter maker, Joe Mason, was brought out from Ontario to run the creamery. It closed in 1915 when W.W. Prevey, who bought up all the milk in the district, forced the closure of the creamery. Harry Horton bought the building and moved it to his property south of the store. "It became known as the 'Chophouse' as he did custom grain crushing there. The upstairs of this building was turned into a hall and served as the Orange Lodge Room. ... Later, dances were also held in the old building." The whole complex, store, etc. burned in 1923.	"Bremner Family History: A Timeline" as quoted from Redekop and Gilchrist, p. 72. Also, <i>Cherished Memories</i> , pp. 678, 680
Edmonton	1906-1923	W.W. Prevey, an American from Wisconsin, arrived in Edmonton 1905. He purchased the buildings of the Edmonton government creamery and the pasteurizing and bottling equipment and began delivering milk 8 May 1906. With equipment purchased in Chicago, his was the first bottled and pasteurized milk and cream sold in Edmonton. He named his company the Edmonton City Dairy in 1909. Later, the company branched out into butter, poultry and eggs as well as cream, milk and cheese. By 1923 Edmonton City Dairy was the largest butter manufacturer in Canada with 100 buying stations in northern Alberta and 23 branch creameries and cheese factories, employing 450 men.	<i>The Story of the Edmonton City Dairy</i> pp. 19-22. Also, Innis, <i>Dairy Industry in Canada</i> , pp. 76-77

Creameries, Edmonton and district

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton	1908	Woodland Dairy had a small 8' x 12' building and an open corral where they milked 18 cows. The dairy incorporated 1912.	<i>Woodland Dairy Ltd. Silver Jubilee 1912-1937</i>
Edmonton	1908	Edmonton City Dairy began operation this year but closed in 1924. In 1905 a government creamery had started up in Beaver Hills but it closed in 1907.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11, "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"
Edmonton	1910	The Alberta Central Creamery under W.B. Podmore opened. The creamery closed 1915.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11, "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"
North Cooking Lake	1910s	After the railway came through, some delivered their cream cans to North Cooking Lake station where the railway crew would pick up the cans for delivery in Edmonton.	Interview, Alex Bennett January 12, 1983, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton	1912	Edmonton City Dairy sent a letter soliciting cream suppliers offering \$2.20 per 100 pounds of milk delivered at Edmonton.	Letter, Edmonton City Dairy July 10, 1912
Edmonton	1917-1919	Swift opened a creamery and dairy in town in 1917. Pat Burns of Calgary opened a creamery in Edmonton in 1919.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11 "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"

Creameries, Edmonton and district

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton	1920	Farmers could buy shares in Woodland Dairy Ltd.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3 Correspondence 1920-1946, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton	1922-1925	In 1922 United Dairies opened in Edmonton, only to close in 1925. Farmer Dairies opened that year but closed the next year.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11 "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"
Edmonton	1924	Edmonton City Dairy sold its butter and cheese business to P. Burns Company to concentrate on producing bottled milk.	<i>The Story of the Edmonton City Dairy</i> , p. 23
North-central Alberta	1924	The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool began operation this year.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11 "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"
Alberta	1927	Cream carriers were paid a set price by dairies and creameries to cover transportation costs relative to their distance from the closest post office. The price ranged from \$.15 for a five-gallon can within a 10-mile radius to \$.50 for an eight-gallon can delivered 50 miles away.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 Ministerial Order April 13, 1927
North-central Alberta	1928	This source says that the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool started up in May with the purchase of equipment and business of the Edmonton Pure Butter Company.	<i>The NADP Story</i> , p. 3
Clover Bar	1929	W. J. Jackson was involved in the formation of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool.	Interview, Don and Helen Jackson August 14, 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Creameries, Edmonton and district

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton	1929	Edmonton City Dairy changed its name to The Pioneer Dairy Company Limited, which handled the disbursement of final dividends to the shareholders as it wound up the business affairs of the Edmonton City Dairy.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Pioneer Dairy Company Limited to Syd Ottewell, April 24, 1929, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton	1936	There were eight creameries and cheese factories in Edmonton: Burns and Co., Edmonton City Dairy; Woodland Dairy; Swift Canadian Company; Northern Alberta Dairy Pool; University of Alberta; South Edmonton Creamery Company; and Jasper Dairy. Only Edmonton City Dairy was both a creamery and milk plant. The number of cheese factories and dairies held constant during the early 1930s. This is different from the Canadian totals that show a decrease in the number of dairies and a decrease in production levels.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 76.21, file 11 Annual Report 1933
Edmonton area	No date	The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool customers painted the top of their milk cans blue to distinguish them from those of the Edmonton City Dairies that had no paint.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
North-central Alberta	1945	The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool had expanded to 29 plants including a cold storage and selling agency in Vancouver. When Burns and Co decided to quit the creamery business, they sold most of their plants to the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool. The Company manufactured butter, cheese, ice cream, skim milk powder and buttermilk powder. Also, it delivered milk to Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Dawson Creek consumers, and handled eggs. Members paid \$.50 a year and no dividends were paid to consumers. The price of milk was set by the Public Utilities Commissioners.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 letter from F.J. Fitzpatrick, Supervisor Cooperatives and Credit Unions, Department of Trade and Industry to A.C. Conway, Toronto 2 August 1945

Government involvement in creameries

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1912-1913	The Provincial Government established three grades of butter: First, Second and Off-grade. In 1913 an additional butter grade called "Special" was established.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 203 "Development of the Dairy Industry in Western Canada" 15 and 16 January 1929
Alberta	1917	Only butter manufactured from pasteurized cream received government Certificates.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 203 "Development of the Dairy Industry in Western Canada" 15 and 16 January 1929
Alberta	1926	Competition reigned among creameries, some offering \$.01 more per pound of milk. "Swifts paid a reputed \$.75 per can as a commission to the cream haulers. Swifts paid a straight commission of \$.65 per can plus a deduction from the cream producer of \$.20 on a 5 and \$.25 on an 8 making the total commission they would pay \$.85 on a 5 gallon can and \$.90 on an 8 gallon can."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 letter from E.T. Love, Manager Woodland Dairy Ltd., to George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture 26 August 1926
Alberta	1927	The Department of Agriculture with the U. of A. offered a three-week Creamery Short Course at the university.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 Announcement of Creamery Short Course 9 December 1927

Government involvement in creameries

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada, Alberta	1935	The federal and provincial governments brought down a joint policy to grade butter despite the anger of a small number of dairymen. The grading system would: give recognition to those who have met the legal requirements to produce clean milk; any milk from non-compliant farms would be graded lower; the consuming public will be empowered; and it would raise the overall quality of milk. An argument for the grading of milk and butter was that of public health as malnutrition of children, and increased numbers in sanitoriums, of nervous disease and mental hospitals was seen as consequences of unclassified milk and milk products. Milk could be pasteurized or unpasturized and each was graded within its own class. The grades were displayed on the bottle cap.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 letter from R.B. Jenkins, Medical Officer of Health to John C. Buckley, M.L.A. 16 March 1934
Alberta	1939-1940	The department had an Advisory Licensing Board composed of the Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Provincial Treasurer, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and the Dairy Commissioner. The Board reviewed all requests for new creamery and cheese factory licenses.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1940	The government had not granted a new creamery license since 1933 in order to have control over the milk trade. In 1940 there were nine creameries in Calgary, six in Edmonton.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 letter from M. Cristall to D.B. Mullen, Minister of Agriculture April 25, 1940
Alberta	1960s	There were more than 125 licensed dairy manufacturing plants in Alberta.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, This is Alberta in 1963, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Dairy markets and prices

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1924	The best market for Alberta's best grade butter was seen to be Britain. Keen to break into the British market, the government, as a marketing test, sent 2,600 pounds of butter to Britain in 1923. The butter was shipped via the Panama Canal to reduce costs. In 1924 almost 14,000 pounds were shipped. These shipments came from Central Creameries, P. Burns and Co. and Woodland Dairy.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 "Dairy" Address by H.A. Craig, 1925
Canada, Alberta	1926	New Zealand, Australia and Argentina aggressively marketed their butter overseas. These countries had year-round dairying operations that pushed down their prices. This was bad for Alberta when its butter surplus went for export in June to October.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 letter from C.P. Marker, Dairy Commissioner to George Hoadley Minister of Agriculture 25 January 1926
Alberta	1925-1926	"The average price of Alberta creamery butter in 1925 was 35.45 cents per pound at the factory, whereas, in 1926, the figure was to be around 33 cents per pound or a decrease of about 7%". Prices were depressed due to a coal miners' strike in Great Britain and a seaman's strike.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 Dairying 1926
Canada	1930	The Depression led to price wars on certain commodities such as butter. New Zealand and Australia both produced large surpluses and were dumping them on the Canadian market for \$.28 a pound. Alberta butter sold for \$.36 pound. The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce asked the government to slap on a \$.04 tariff on New Zealand butter to even the playing field.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 Resolution of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce re: Situation Created by Importation of New Zealand Butter" 16 April 1930
Alberta	1932-1933	New Zealand and Denmark were able to undersell Alberta and Canadian butter due to their increase in production. Too, there were cost inefficiencies in the Canadian and Alberta manufacturing of cheese and butter.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 Recommendation of the National Dairy Conference Ottawa 11-12 April 1932

Dairy markets and prices

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1933	Telegrams flew from dairy pools to the government when New Zealand shipments of butter arrived in Vancouver for distribution. "New Zealand butter arriving Pacific coast January 27th Stop. Understand Burns and Co heaviest purchasers Stop. Situation for Alberta Dairy farmers getting very serious. Dairy companies making strong effort to reduce cream prices. We have emphatically resisted this for some time. Price reduction now would deprive dairy farmers of their only income to seek relief. Stop.... Quick action imperative to prevent disturbing present price level before beginning of April when export surplus may begin to appear."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 telegram from Central Alberta Dairy Pool Ltd. To Hon George Hoadley Minister of Agriculture 11 January 1933
Canada	1933	Problems in the dairy industry ranged from the lack of production controls that led to huge surpluses with the resultant fears of price reductions for the butter; cheese production plummeted and Australia and New Zealand were picking up the slack; chain stores were cutting the price of butter and selling it, in some cases, below cost; an unfavourable dollar meant that Canadian producers were losing \$.02-\$.05 per pound on butter and cheese exports. These problems spurred the organization of a national dairy conference in Ottawa 19-21 April 1933.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 A Call for a Dominion Conference of Dairy Farmers
Alberta	1933	When producers were notified that the price per 100 pounds of fluid milk was to drop from \$1.75 to \$1.35 and then another drop shortly afterwards, particularly in Edmonton and Calgary, the producers appealed to the government. They organized a conference to find ways to stabilize prices. They petitioned the government to amend the Public Utilities Act to include milk as a public utility. This was done. Prior to this, producers had no say in or control over the price that they received as the distributors set the price. Once milk was declared a public utility, the price jumped from \$1.15 to \$1.45 per 100 pounds "giving back to the producer in Edmonton 10¢ of the spread that he had lost." Then the question arose over surplus milk that was not covered by the above and the distributors made most of their profit on surplus milk. The Public Utilities Board then set the price of butterfat and table cream at \$.27 per pound in March 1934, an increase. The Public Utility Board was under the chairmanship of Judge Carpenter.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 208 Memorandum giving a short history of the work and accomplishments of the Alberta Provincial Milk and Inspected Cream Producers' Association in co-operation with the Utility Board and the Health Department of the city and province 9 November 1935

Dairy markets and prices

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1933	Alberta shipped 672,000 pounds of butter to Britain or 12,000 boxes before New Zealand and Australian butter came into competition in the autumn. There was a need to export the surplus butter so as not to depress prices at home. The potential of the British market was often quoted in department correspondence. In 1932 Britain imported 717.5 million pounds of butter from 30 Empire and foreign countries. Canada's share of the imports dropped each year from 2.5 per cent in 1924 to far below 1 per cent in subsequent years.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 228 letter from District Agriculturalist to D.B. Millen, Minister of Agriculture 24 November 1938
Alberta	1934	Creameries were complaining in 1934 over the wildly fluctuating prices for cream. The F.O.B. basis of payment meant that the same price was paid for the same grade of cream, whether the cream came 50 feet or 50 miles from the creamery. This was deemed by the dairy pools to be fair, while buying cream on a delivered basis "leaves plenty of scope for the unscrupulous buyer to discriminate as to how much transportation he will deduct..."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 207 letter from Central Alberta Dairy Pool Limited to H. L. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 23 May 1934
Alberta	1934	By the summer of 1934, everyone was unhappy with the fact that some creameries were operating on the F.O.B. basis while others chose to pay on a delivery basis. The price spread was \$.02 a pound.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 207 letter from the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Limited to Hon. Mr. Grisdale, Minister of Agriculture 3 August 1934
Canada	1940	The British Ministry of Food asked for 78 million pounds of cheese from Canada. The request intimated that milk could be diverted from creameries to cheese factories. Canada responded saying that all cheese above domestic markets would be shipped to Britain, in other words, taking care of home markets first. Also, cheese from the western provinces was not considered for export due to freight rates from the shipping points to Montreal.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211, letter from Jos. Burgess, Acting Associate Director of Marketing Service, Dairy Products, to J. R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, 4 July 1940

Dairy markets and prices

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1941	The Wartime Prices and Trade Board fixed butter prices.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.3.07, file 212 Bulletin No. 3 Ontario Creamery Association 15 January 1941
Alberta	1942	After complaints that the subsidies paid to creameries was below that paid to cheese factories, the federal government increased the rate to \$.06/pound of butterfat going into creamery production, "the aim being to stimulate increased production to creamery butter without increasing its cost to consumers above the present 35-cent price ceiling."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 letter from AM. Shaw, Chairman to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton 3 July 1942
Alberta	1959	The Public Utilities Act empowered the Board of Commissioners to inquire into any matter relating to the production supply, distribution or sale of milk; to prescribe the area which shall be regulated or affected by order; to prohibit anyone from engaging in the production or distribution of milk unless authorized by the board; to prescribe the terms and conditions upon which milk may be produced or sold; to approve and establish from time to time schedules of minimum rates at which milk shall be supplied.	<i>Alberta Farm Guide</i> 1959, p. 126
Clover Bar area	1966	William Christie sold 60 pounds of Palm Dairies Ltd. daily milk quota to another person for \$5 per pound.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 13, William Christie dairy herd files, Bill of Sale, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Cattle, beef and dairy

Beef and dairy herds in and around Bremner expanded through the early decades of settlement. For a time, the region was part of Alberta's most intensive dairying zone. In later years, most farmers opted to sell their herds and concentrate on growing grain.

Topics covered:

Beef cattle, general history. Farmers formed and joined organized associations, including cooperatives, to build the quality of their herds and to advocate for fair prices.

Government improvement programs. Under the provincial Cattle Improvement Policy, for several decades farmers could get support to purchase purebred bulls at reduced cost.

Dairy cattle, general history. In the early 1900s, Clover Bar saw a dramatic increase in dairy production as farmers took advantage of their proximity to growing population to earn a regular income with relatively little input cost. Dairy herds grew even during the 1930s as a way to sidestep depressed grain and livestock prices. The resulting oversupply, coupled with lagging quality, led the province to place the production and distribution of milk under the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utility and to take other steps to encourage improvements in herds, milking conditions and delivery systems. In later decades, the number of dairy cows in the region began trending downward as farmers chose to sell their herds rather than upgrading their equipment to meet increasingly stringent standards.

Dairy barns. Dairy barns and equipment became more specialized, mechanized and sanitary over the decades.

Cattle diseases. A tuberculosis outbreak in 1924 prompted debate about whether to slaughter all infected cows and whether to require testing and use of a new vaccine. In 1938, the provincial government began working toward creating TB-free zones, starting by testing cattle in Clover Bar and Strathcona. By 1945, all dairy cows had to be tested regularly.

Government dairy policies. Federal efforts to support dairy farmers and ensure quality control included the Babcock milk test (introduced in 1891), financing and operation of dairies (approved by parliament in 1895), systematic cow testing and record keeping (initiated in 1904 but not followed long term), free monthly newsletters (begun in 1919), official graders in creameries (enacted 1922), mandatory grading of export butter and cheese (passed in 1923). Provincial efforts included how-to pamphlets (1930), licensing and record-keeping requirements (1934, revived in 1941), competitions, production reports on each cow registered in the Cow Testing Service (1950s and 1960s, perhaps other times as well), Dairy Herd Improvement News and honour rolls (1955 to 1966).



Interesting tidbit—

In the late 1930s, the area around Bremner House was part of Alberta's most intensive dairying region, which ran from Edmonton to Red Deer and east to Vegreville.

Beef cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Western Canada	1896	Western Stock Growers was an organization to promote and protect the interest of the ranching industry in western Canada.	Carroll, p. xiv
Clover Bar	1926	Syd Ottewell was a member of the Clover Bar Livestock Co-operative Marketing Association Limited.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Alberta Co-Operative Livestock Producers Limited to Sidney Ottewell, May 31, 1926, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Canada	1918-1940	When a farmer purchased purebred cattle they received a certificate of pedigree if they were members of the Canadian National Live Stock Records.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 163. Also, Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, certificate from the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada to George Ottewell, 21 July 1940, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1940s	“When the municipalities of Clover Bar and Strathcona were amalgamated into the County [Municipal District] of Strathcona we named the purebred livestock [Yorkshire and Shorthorn cattle] under the name Barscona, combining the two municipalities.” Howard Byers got into the Shorthorns at an auction when he was a teen when he bought a roan yearling for \$45 “I then later borrowed money on my insurance and went down to Mr. Crane and bought a heifer in 1933. Greenbank Sylvie the Fourteenth was her name and she went on to be the establishment of our herd at Clover Bar. We went back a couple of years later and bought another bull from Mr. Crane and another heifer and things just went from there.” The Byers showed at various fairs in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Byers had their herd 51 years.	Interview, Howard and Helen Byers July 30, 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Beef cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1960s-1970s	Prices for beef cattle were good until mid-1970s when market dropped out. Some farmers went into a calf/cow operation 'feeding them out for sale' whereby the calves were fattened and then sold.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross, 7 June 2011
Strathcona County	1960s	Each farmer/rancher had an Edmonton Artificial Breeding Association herd breeding record, a large sheet, where cow number, name of sire, date of heat etc. were recorded.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 4, file 2, Shorthorn Breeders Association Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Cattle Improvement Policy, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1931	The province had a policy to give assistance to farmers in the purchasing of purebred bulls if they could pay part cash. An agreement with the Dominion Department of Agriculture saw that Dominion vets test pure bred bulls, which the province had purchased out of accredited herds, for TB.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 28 December 1931
Alberta	1958-1963	The Department of Agriculture had a Cattle Improvement Policy that was revised in 1958. Under Section A, a farmer could obtain a bull by either having the Live Stock Branch purchase one for him after supplying the age, breed and price, or the farmer could purchase one himself. After the bull was checked and approved by the department, the applicant took delivery and the department paid the breeder. Approvals always took place at the breeders'. "Due to the receding eligibility factor involved, applications fell off to the point where administration costs were too high in relation to the number of bulls that were moving under the Policy after the listings were made. As a result, this clause in Section A of the Policy was withdrawn as of January 1st, 1963." Section A was continued but only for those orders placed with the department. Section B that had applied to approve bull sales was continued.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agriculture Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon, Live Stock Supervisor to Peter Diachuk 2 February 1965

Cattle Improvement Policy, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1931	The province had a policy to give assistance to farmers in the purchasing of purebred bulls if they could pay part cash. An agreement with the Dominion Department of Agriculture saw that Dominion vets test pure bred bulls, which the province had purchased out of accredited herds, for TB.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 28 December 1931
Alberta	1962	The Department of Agriculture's policy covering farm-to-farm sale of bulls was discontinued 31 December 1962.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agriculture Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon, Live Stock Supervisor to Geo R.F. Johnson 4 May 1964
Alberta	1964	The Department of Agriculture assisted farmers to 10 per cent of the purchase price of a bull, up to \$50. An applicant could apply twice, beginning in 1958 but there had to be two years between applications. Purebred breeders were not eligible. Bulls supplied through the Policy were 12 to 60 months old.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agricultural Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from J.J. Kallal to Sam Dzus 23 October 1964
Alberta	1964	The department also provided farmers, if asked, with the name of cattle breeders and the specific names of the bull.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agricultural Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from J.J. Kallal, Live Stock Fieldman to Leslie Haglund 16 June 1964

Cattle Improvement Policy, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1931	The province had a policy to give assistance to farmers in the purchasing of purebred bulls if they could pay part cash. An agreement with the Dominion Department of Agriculture saw that Dominion vets test pure bred bulls, which the province had purchased out of accredited herds, for TB.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 28 December 1931
Alberta	1964	The department's Cattle Improvement Policy was open to individuals, partnerships or corporation who are commercial cattle producers on two bulls only calculated from January 1st 1958. It can be used on one bull at a time with two or more breeding seasons between the applications. Partnerships and corporations were treated as though an individual.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agricultural Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon, Live Stock Supervisor to Emma Lindeman 7 July 1964
Alberta	1964	Farmers east of Edmonton could contact Mr. Yule in the Smoky Lake District Agricultural office if they wanted to buy a bull through the department.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agricultural Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon, Live Stock Supervisor to Bill Tomasky 20 August 1964

Cattle Improvement Policy, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1931	The province had a policy to give assistance to farmers in the purchasing of purebred bulls if they could pay part cash. An agreement with the Dominion Department of Agriculture saw that Dominion vets test pure bred bulls, which the province had purchased out of accredited herds, for TB.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 28 December 1931
Alberta	1964	The Department of Agriculture did not have any farms except those attached to the Schools of Agriculture. These had just enough livestock for classroom needs but not enough for sales.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, file 33 Agricultural Extension Service, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon, Live Stock Supervisor to W.L. Voice 2 September 1964

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Clover Bar area	1900-1920s	In the early settlement years, the land was sparsely populated. By the 1920s, most arable land had been taken up. The dramatic increase in population was the one reason for the equally dramatic growth in the dairy industry, for dairy products are a necessity and not a luxury.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Characteristics of the Dairy Cow"
Clover Bar area	1900s	Many settlers raised Shorthorn cattle because they were good beef cattle but also gave some milk and that is how many got into the dairy business. Later, those who wanted to go into dairy bought grade Holsteins at first, later upgrading to purebreds.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21 file 9 "Characteristics of the Dairy Cow"
Clover Bar area	1900s	"I went into the purebred Shorthorn business and was in that for ten years and then I sold out and at that time we got into the dairy business then and so on. ... we got into the cattle business, then the dairy business and that saved the day."	Interview, Cyrus Wilkinson by Robert Briggs 6 July 1979, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1909	Dairy breeds are Ayrshires, Jerseys, Holsteins and Guernseys. A growing home market in B.C. made dairy farming one of the safest and most remunerative farming ventures.	Unknown publication of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, pp. 46-47
Edmonton	1912	Edmonton City Dairy sent several hundred letters to farmers asking that they sell their milk to them as the company needed to secure its winter supply of milk. The year before it paid \$2.20 per 100 lbs of milk "and indications point to even higher prices this winter."	Ottewell Family fonds, Box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, letter from The Edmonton City Dairy Limited to Syd Ottewell 10 July 1912, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton	1912	Starting on July 15, the Edmonton City Dairy paid \$.24 per pound butter fat for churn cream and \$.32 per pound butter fat "which reaches us sweet."	Ottewell Family fonds, Box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, letter from The Edmonton City Dairy Limited to Syd Ottewell 10 July 1912, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1915	Some farmers began to deliver whole milk to Edmonton City Dairy in 1915. The dairy was located on the south side of the river by the Low Level Bridge. The milk had to be delivered every day. The dairy supplied the dairy farmers with eight-gallon cans. Every shipper was given a tag number to identify the milk cans.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	No date	Farmers had a double set of milk cans. When the hauler arrived at a farm every morning, he dropped off the steam cleaned cans from the day before, and picked up full cans for delivery.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
SE 3-53-23 W4	1916	W.R. Mills' testimonial: "This is the best dairy country I know. My 30 [grade Holsteins] cows bring me in a cheque from the creamery every month running anywhere from \$300 to \$600 according to the season, the total for the year running close to the five thousand mark, or about \$160 per cow. I produce this milk at small cost, as the pasture is always good throughout a long season and I never have to feed my cows until late in the fall. My winter feed is very cheaply raised, as I am always sure of a big crop of green oats. Since I built the silo three years ago, I have raised a few acres of fodder corn each year, which I have found very satisfactory...There is no trouble about markets. I believe that Edmonton is the best market town in Canada. Practically anything that a farmer ever has to sell, whether milk, cream, horses, cattle, hogs, hay, potatoes or poultry products, is sure of a ready market at a good price."	Edmonton Board of Trade, p. 22
Fultonvale	1916	Farmers who had extra milk, cream and eggs sold them to cottagers at Cooking Lakes. They would also sell ice in the winter and wood as well.	Interview, Adam Donaldson by Louise Hicks 16 May 1984, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	1918	Green oats are grown for dairy feed. Oats have a high yield and could be relied on so made an excellent feed at very low cost. Some farmers erected silos for corn, alfalfa and green oats. Also, farmers within easy hauling distance of railway stations had a ready market with big dairy enterprises in Edmonton. During the First World War, the lowest price paid to farmers for milk was \$1.60 per 100 pounds and winter price was \$2.40. The price for sweet cream ranged from \$.28-\$.40 per pound. Mr. Leon Abbott of Clover Bar milked 16 cows that fetched him \$135.50 in 1915.	Edmonton Board of Trade, pp. 19-21
Strathcona County	1926	D.J. Christie of Edmonton South was vice-president of the Alberta Dairymen's Association.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 Program of the Twenty-first Provincial Dairy Convention Alberta.
Alberta	1920s - 1930s	Dairying fluctuated in relation to grain prices, declining with a rise in price and increasing with a fall in price; and expanded in relation to the demands of urban centres. In the 1920s wheat production expanded as a result of railway construction; development of new routes to the Pacific via the Panama Canal; improved methods including the use of fertilizer and dry farming; the development of new breeds of wheat; and the use of gasoline in machinery, tractors and trucks. There is a decline in the rate of expansion of wheat production and the Depression [of the 1930s] accentuated the importance of dairying and the livestock industries. "Butter production in the Prairie Provinces increased from 26 million pounds in 1920 to 47 million pounds in 1930, and 73 million pounds in 1936." "The livestock industry of Alberta under the stimulus of low prices of grain competes with that of British Columbia and compels the province to specialize on dairy production."	Innis, <i>The Dairy Industry in Canada</i> p. 264
Alberta	1929	A good herd of cows that were efficient milk producers required good breeding and constant culling, good feed and good care. The average cow in western Canada produces only 120 pounds of butterfat a year. With proper feeding, she ought to be able to produce 200+ pounds.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Feeding the Dairy Herd-Alliance Team 1929"

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1929	It was easy to get satisfactory milk production during the early summer when pastures are at their best. A good dairyman, then, tried to maintain early summer conditions. Failure to provide adequate feed during the winter was one of the common failings of dairymen. Cows needed succulent rations of roots, silage and grass as well as adequate protein. A mixture of three grains, oats, bran and barley, or oats, bran and linseed meal were good. Grain was fed before milking, and hay and silage were fed after milking. Special care had to be given to a cow following calving. General rules: feed all the roughage (alfalfa, soybean, sweet clover, oats and pea hay) as the cow will eat. The amount should be in relation to the amount of milk she produces.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Feeding the Dairy Herd-Alliance Team 1929"
Alberta	No date	Dairy farming was a business like any other business, and its success or failure depended on the financial return the owner received. Therefore, it behooved the dairyman to know his breeds, how much milk to expect and to feed accordingly. Holstein cows weighed 1,200-1,300 pounds.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Characteristics of the Dairy Cow"
Alberta	No date	"Dairy herds near cities were continually inspected by sanitary officers of the Health Department for absolute sanitary conditions." This fed into a "high class trade", improvements in the industry and increased consumer confidence. Therefore, "sanitary equipment, including stables, utensils, and rapid and proper cooling of the milk is absolutely necessary ..."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Characteristics of the Dairy Cow"
Alberta	1920s	By the late 1920s, the dairy cow must supply milk for 10 months "in such quantity and quality to return a fair margin of profit to her owner."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Judging Dairy Cattle"
Alberta	1920s	Alberta produced 17,716,744 pounds of butter for a price of \$.28, the lowest in Canada.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 11 Butter and Cheese production statistics.

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1920s	Dairy farmers were contract signers of a dairy pool, the Alberta Co-operative Dairy Producers Ltd.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Alberta Co-Operative Dairy Producers Ltd. to Syd Ottewell, 23 November 1925, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1920-1930s	Radio stations carried addresses and talks on a variety of farm issues, one being the maintaining quality in milk and cream during the summer by George W. Scott.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Radio Talk by George W. Scott
Strathcona County	1930s	Roy C. Marler had a Holstein herd of 40 or 50, 30 of which were cows.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Strathcona County	1930s	Farmers often hired husband-wife team to take care of a particular part of the farm operation, be it the dairy herd or the hogs.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Alberta	Mid-1920s	The Department of Animal Husbandry of the U. of A. conducted a series of experiments (at least 62) in the mid-1920s regarding feeding and raising of dairy cattle in which they looked at average daily gain in weight, average daily feed, cost of feed, total cost per steer, selling price per cwt and profit/loss. The biggest profit (\$2.663) was in yearlings fed prairie hay, oat silage and grain. Prairie hay in 1925 cost \$14 per ton, oat silage \$4 per ton, oats \$.50 per ton, barley \$.75 per ton, linseed oilmeal \$50.50 per ton and salt \$1.38 per cwt (hundredweight).	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Experiment 62"

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1930s	The Depression affected prices and markets of all agricultural products. And “farmers seeking relief from low grain and livestock returns turned to the production and distribution of milk as a partial solution.” However, this created a glut of milk on the market so the provincial government in 1933 passed an amendment to the Public Utilities Act that placed the production and distribution of milk under the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners. Its jurisdiction was limited by federal legislation affecting the control of milk.	<i>An Administrative History of the Province of Alberta 1905-2005</i> p. 62
Alberta	1931	The number of dairy cows in Alberta increased by nearly 30,000, “the largest increase recorded in any one of the past ten years.” This is because wheat and grain prices were low so farmers turned to dairy. Milk production was up 16 per cent due to an increase in the number of cows, a mild winter 1930-31 and ample feed and slightly better prices. However, a surplus of butter in the province forced the export of butter, leaving it open to world market prices which were at the lowest level in 25 or 30 years.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 The Dairy Industry 28 January 1932
Alberta	1931-1932	The Department looked at the question of how long it would take 10 milk cows to pay the taxes on a quarter-section. Average taxes were \$56.72. Looking at the average amount of butterfat and milk per cow, the department determined that it would take eight weeks to meet the tax bill if the produce was sold as butterfat. If sold as fluid milk it would take 26.5 days.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 203 How long would it take 10 Alberta milk cows to pay the taxes on a ¼ section farm in 1932
North-central Alberta	1930s	Shorthorn cattle gave way to Holsteins in order to get more milk.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
High River	1932-1933	The Lyndon farm near High River estimated the cost and return on his 32 dairy cows. His net cost per cwt was \$1 while his cash return per cwt was \$.91, a loss of \$.09 per cwt. The government asked six other dairymen in the Calgary area and most had a gross cost per cwt of milk ranging from a low of \$1.23 to a high of \$1.80 and a gross return per cwt ranging from \$1.13 to \$1.68. The average total cost of the seven farms visited was \$1.40, not including milk haulage charge of \$.15 per cwt. The average cash return of milk produced was \$1.10 and \$1.18 for milk sold. The average gross return was \$1.25 per cwt of milk produced. The average dairy herd was 29 cows.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 Attachment to letter from C.A. Lyndon, Department of Agriculture to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 7 June 1933
Alberta	1933	The trucking of cream to different creameries caused major problems among the creameries. "... the hard times and the competition between creameries has developed the situation which now I think is almost out of control. In some section of the country, some farm, or farmer's son, or storekeeper will get hold of an old truck and then go to his neighbours and solicit their cream with the understanding that he will haul it for them for nothing. ... Out of sympathy for this man and not thoroughly understanding just what is going on, these farmers agree. ... He gathers up ten, fifteen or twenty cans, comes into Calgary to some creamery and asks what the creamery is going to pay him for this cream and demands probably thirty, forty, or fifty cents for haulage and a commission of probably fifteen cents per can for himself. If he does not get what he thinks he ought, he will drive that load of cream away with him to some other creamery to see what he can do there. You can just imagine the effect of this on a hot summer day on cream that has already been trucked 50 to 75 miles." Part of the problem was that these people were neither producer or buyer but a newly created middle man. "... the whole principle of creameries paying haulage charges is wrong. You do not seek packing houses sending trucks out in the country to gather up livestock; nor do you see grain elevators going out to the farmers' homes to get wheat. ..."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 letter from the General Manager, Central Creameries Ltd. to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 3 February 1933

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1933	Problems in the dairy industry ranged from the lack of production controls that led to huge surpluses with the resultant fears of price reductions for the butter; the drop in cheese production; and the slack being picked up by Australia and New Zealand; the cutting of the price of butter by chain stores, in some cases, below cost; an unfavourable dollar that meant that Canadian producers were losing \$.02-\$.05 per pound on butter and cheese exports. These problems spurred the organization of a national dairy conference in Ottawa 19-21 April 1933.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 A Call for a Dominion Conference of Dairy Farmers
Canada	1933	Governments, dairy pools and producers from across Canada met to establish a plan for a national campaign to increase the efficiency of the industry since dairymen and creameries were being forced out of business. The conference admitted that governments could only do so much and that the remedy lay with the producers. Since a surplus on the world market was keeping prices low, the conference tackled the issue of increasing efficiencies and production numbers. Suggestions included an advertising campaign, an appeal to eliminate "scrub" cows", low producers, eliminating some creameries to cut overhead costs of fuel bills, trucking costs, salaries, etc.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 A National Efficiency Campaign to Improve the Canadian Dairy Industry
Alberta	1935	A severe winter and shortages of feed was followed by a late spring and cows came through in a below-normal condition. Milk production, then, was low the first six months, but picked up in the latter part of the year. With lower production, prices rose. Half of surplus butter was sold in B.C. Other markets were eastern Canada and Britain. Exports were handled under the Federal Butter Stabilization Export Board.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 199 Report of the Dairy Commissioner (J.R. Sweeney), no date

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1935	<p>“Cream haulers have rendered a useful service in collecting cream more frequently and by calling into the farm yard to pick up the cream; they have possibly helped to increase the output of creamery butter by collecting from farmers who would not bother delivering or shipping their own cream at present prices. However, in the absence of licenses and fixed carrying charges duplication and abuses have crept in. ...Aside entirely from the influence which cream haulers have exerted on the diversion of cream from one district to another, they have presumed to deliver the patrons’ cream to creameries not chosen by the shipper.” So, the government licensed cream haulers annually; established definite routes for haulers; limited the number of licenses allowed on any one route; fixed trucking charges “on a basis allowing for distance and considering present express charges”; disallowed haulers from carrying livestock; demanded that haulers cover the cream cans with a tarp; placed limits on the length of cream routes so that cream could be delivered in a timely fashion to the designated creamery. It was only at the end of March 1935 that the Minister requested that a Bill be drafted regarding the above.</p>	<p>Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 208 memorandum from J.R. Sweeney, Dairy Commissioner to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 3 January 1935. Also, <i>ibid</i>, file 208 memorandum from H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister to R.A. Smith, Legislative Counsel 25 March 1935</p>
Alberta	1935	<p>The Health Boards worked with the milk producers and the Department of Health. The Health Boards exerted some restrictions on the production of milk to those whose herds qualified and whose buildings were suitable “with the result that there developed a group of producers supplying all the needs of the consumers in the cities mentioned, these producers being protected by license from the Health Department and Utility Board ...” No new licenses were being issued. The herd had to be tested for TB. The milk of these producers had to be year-round, meet their daily quota or be penalized, and delivered to the dairy by 11:00 a.m. “There is no business that exacts so much from the producer as that of producing milk in fluid form for consumer use.”</p>	<p>Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 208 Memorandum giving a short history of the work and accomplishments of the Alberta Provincial Milk and Inspected Cream Producers’ Association in co-operation with the Utility Board and the Health Department of the city and province 9 November 1935</p>

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1935	To receive a dairy license or to receive grade "B" rating at the farm, farmers had to install a wash and rinse vat. Farms were inspected for the purpose of grading in November.	Van Camp Family fonds box 1, file 7, letter from the Edmonton District Milk and Cream Producer's Association 7 November 1935, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton area	1935	By 1935 at least, the fluid milk shippers in the Edmonton area had organized themselves into the Edmonton District Milk and Cream Producer's Association.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 208 letter from Jas. Ritchie, Secretary Edmonton District Milk and Cream Producer's Association to Hon. Wm. Aberhart, Premier
Edmonton district	1935	The Edmonton District Milk and Cream Producer's Association was composed of all milk shippers and a number of table cream shippers to the Edmonton City Dairy and to Woodland Dairy. The other local organization of milk producers was the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Shipper's Organization.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 208 memorandum from C.A. Lyndon, Milk Supervisor to Hon. W.N. Chant, Minister of Agriculture 6 November 1935
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939	The most intensive dairying region is the Edmonton-Red Deer corridor and east to Vegreville. The Dairy Commissioner reiterated that due to the lack of cow testing associations, interested farmers could ship, free of charge, samples for testing. The commissioner also wanted someone at creameries and cheese factories to test and be paid for it. The herd owner had to weigh and record twice daily the milk of each cow, take samples once every two months and send samples to the testing centre.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum from D.H. McCallum, Dairy Commissioner to J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister 24 March 1939

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1930s	Those herd owners who discontinued testing did so for financial reasons (Depression), poor prices, sold cows, labour shortage, poor feed.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum from D.H. McCallum, Dairy Commissioner to J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister 24 March 1939
Alberta	1939	Some 60 per cent of Alberta butter was surplus and was exported. This put Alberta dairymen in stiff competition with other dairy countries. In Denmark the average yield of butterfat per cow was 272 pounds per annum and 250 pounds for a New Zealand cow. Alberta's average was a dismal 155 pounds except those cows under test; they averaged 263 pounds. However only .1 per cent of Alberta cows were under test as compared with over 40 per cent in Denmark. To improve herds and production, there was the suggestion to hire fieldmen to disseminate information on feeding, selection, housing, keeping proper records and breeding. Those cow testing associations that had been formed withered due to a number of reasons and fieldmen were seen as keeping these associations intact and functioning.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum from D.H. McCallum, Dairy Commissioner to J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister 24 March 1939
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939	The need for a survey of the dairy farm management in Alberta was recognized by both federal and provincial Departments of Agriculture. A joint survey was announced in the spring 1939.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 letter from the Minister of Agriculture (Alberta) to Fred Turnbull, Secretary-Treasurer, Edmonton District Table Cream Producer's Association 2 May 1939

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939	The survey was supervised by Dr. Stewart of the U. of A. Ottawa was to supply one man for one year and a second person for five or six months. Alberta was to hire one person for a year and at the end of the survey, hire secretary to tabulate the results.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum from the Deputy Minister to Hon. D.B. Mullen, Minister of Agriculture 12 May 1939
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939	The survey was conducted jointly by Alberta and the Public Utilities Commission in co-operation with the Dominion Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the U. of A.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum from D.H. McCallum to J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister 26 May 1939
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939	The survey included four classes of producers: whole milk, inspected cream, churning cream and cheese milk. All farmers not contacted by the fieldmen to take part in the survey were, nevertheless, invited to do so via a circular letter.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 memorandum re dairy study as at December 31st, 1939
Edmonton-Wetaskiwin area	1939	The survey was designed to indicate costs of milk and butterfat production and factors affecting these costs. Milk producers had asked for help in setting up a cost accounting system on a number of farms. The federal Department of Agriculture had been conducting a similar study in Ontario. A fieldman was hired and Dr. F.A. Stewart, U. of A, Political Economy, was to direct and supervise the work. The committee favoured the plan of setting up account books in the Edmonton-Wetaskiwin area. 302 producers co-operated. "These were made up of 67 fluid milk, 67 inspected cream, 123 churning cream and 45 cheese milk farms."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 "The Alberta Dairy Farm Study", no date

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1939-1941	In the survey, the cost of production included hidden costs such as depreciation on buildings and equipment, unpaid family labour and interest on investment. Criteria used to determine production costs were concentrate feed; dry roughage feed; other feeds including pasture, labour, use of buildings, hauling and "other". Hogs and dairying were the two main types of farming done in the Edmonton area. Those who had no hogs had better incomes than those who had from one to 10 animal units of hogs or from five to 40 hogs marketed.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 Edmonton District Farms. A Preliminary Report on an Economic Survey of Farms Producing Dairy Products for Sale in North Central Alberta from June 1, 1939 to May 31, 1941
Edmonton-Red Deer corridor	1941	The survey ran over two years, terminating on 31 May 1941. The whole milk shipper's problem was having to ship a quota to the creamery each day.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210 Edmonton District Farms. A Preliminary Report on an Economic Survey of Farms Producing Dairy Products for Sale in North Central Alberta from June 1, 1939 to May 31, 1941
Strathcona County	1939	Strathcona and Clover Bar dairymen signed petitions to have their district declared TB-free. Petitions were sent to Ottawa. Other districts "covering almost the whole of the drought area north of the Red Deer River" also petitioned.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 210, memorandum from D.H. McCallum to J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister 26 May 1939
Strathcona County	1939-1945	Milking machines became popular during the Second World War due to the shortage of labour. Unfamiliarity with the machines was sometimes blamed for the spread of mastitis disease, a chronic infection of dairy cattle.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1952 - 1953	<p>“Trends in milk production, by provinces, are reflected by the number of dairy cows. “The dairy cow population in the Prairie Provinces, as a group, was down over 3% in 1952 as compared with 1951 ... No doubt high grain and beef prices in the Prairies have been instrumental in bringing about this decrease and should grain prices follow the recent downward trend in beef prices, the Prairie farmer will again emphasize milk production as a means of supplementing income. ... Dairying, more than any other farming enterprise, is resorted to during periods of depression as a means of meeting current expenses and maintaining the level of farm income.”</p> <p>During the Depression “cash income from dairy products was as high as 22.5% of all farm cash income. Canada’s population was growing at a rate of 1,150 people per day [displaced persons from Europe largely]. This places a demand on the industry for an additional half billion pounds of milk in each succeeding year, if imports are to be avoided.” Also, a demographic shift from rural to urban increased the demand for milk in the form of fluid sales, and milk production not keeping pace. Then in 1952, the British market for Canadian cheese was lost and the USA put a quota on the import of Canadian cheese; increased domestic demand made up at least some of the shortfall.</p>	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 A Review of Canadian Dairying, 1952 and Government Butter Marketing
Clover Bar area	1955 - 1966	<p>The dairy herds in the Clover Bar area were not all large herds. William Christie had 18 cows in the mid-1950s that grew to 23 a decade later, and he chose to be part of the Provincial Cow Testing program. He, like all the farmers on the program, paid: \$10 a year for 10 cows or less; \$15 per annum for 11 to 20 cows; and \$20 for more than 20 cows.</p>	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 11, William Christie dairy herd files, Cow Testing Service Records 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Clover Bar area	1950s	<p>Reg Marler had a small herd of 20 cows. Where he lived, there were seven dairy farms in a four-mile stretch. He and his brother were on the provincial government production program; it helped to sell your cows if you could show good production numbers. But as the department was conducting barn inspections and their barn was built in 1907 and would not pass the inspector’s reports, Marler decided to get out of dairy farming in the mid-1960s.</p>	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	No date	The Boddells had a milking herd of about 20 Holsteins. When artificial insemination was introduced, their herd improved dramatically. They had a few Jerseys to raise the amount of butterfat, but when the Dairy Board with its quota system came in, each farmer was paid for a certain percentage of butterfat and now there was no advantage to having Jerseys.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross, 7 June 2011
Clover Bar area	1950-1971	The Allans had a dairy farm of 20 to 25 Holstein milking cows plus young stock. They had their own bull for many years but then went into artificial breeding. Their milking parlour was part of an old BA garage that Ken moved onto the property. The other part of the garage was used as a garage. They shipped fluid milk. The milk tanks had to be cleaned and sterilized so the barn had running water although the house did not. Ken had a milking machine. They did not enroll in the province's cow testing service. Jim Thompson did. The Allans sold their herd in 1971 when they sold the farm to developers who were developing the subdivision of Glen Allan.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, 8 June 2011
Clover Bar area	No date	Don Jackson went to Ontario and bought 22 Holstein heifers.	Source unknown
Alberta	1955	The Dairymen's Act stipulated that: Infected milk could not be sold for human consumption. Dairy barns, milking parlours, etc. had to be sprayed with a residual insecticide to keep flies and insect populations down and had to be kept clean and well drained. The milk house had to have a concrete floor; it was where the milk and cream were kept cool and stored and where equipment was sanitized. Farm bulk tanks had to be approved.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 13, William Christie dairy herd files, Regulations for the Installation and Maintenance of Farm Bulk Tanks Under the Dairymen's Act – Chapter 74, R.S.A., 1955, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1957	By the late 1950s, the dairy industry was emerging from a period of upheaval – expanded markets during the war years, loss of markets after the end of the war, and re-introduction of margarine. The most badly hit producers were those supplying whole milk for manufacturing purposes – cheese, concentrated and powder milk. "On these farms the milk is taken from the farm in whole form and no by-product is left on the farm as is the case when milk is skimmed and the cream shipped to the creamery." Since the end of the war, butter was subsidized, a great stabilizing fact especially considering that one-third of the butter market was lost to margarine.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Address to the Alberta Dairyman's Association's 36th Annual Convention. Calgary, Alberta February 7, 1957

Dairy cattle, general history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	1959	Dick and Jack Bailey had one of largest registered Holstein herds in province. They built up their herd from cows purchased in Ontario.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 10 William Christie dairy herd files, letter from R.P. Dixon, Supervisor, Dairy Cattle Improvement 26 March 1959, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1960	The Alberta Dairymen's Association held conventions and workshops where experts from Canada and the USA were invited to speak.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1960, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1963	Despite the drift to monoculture in farming, this book still boasts of the strength of diversity in farming. Dairy cattle were touted as an important adjunct to a mixed farm. By the 1960s, dairying was confined to areas around large urban centres. It was a \$52-million business with some 55,000 farmers engaged in dairying at some level. There were 275,000 milk cows in Alberta that provided 1.5 billion pounds of milk annually. The average annual yield per cow was 5,616 pounds of milk.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, This is Alberta in 1963, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1969	The Milk Control Act of 1966 was amended in 1969 to replace the Commissioners with the Alberta Milk Control Board.	<i>An Administrative History of the Province of Alberta 1905-2005</i> , p. 62
Strathcona County	No date	Orville and Jeanie Ball hand milked 10 cows and later expanded their herd to 45 Holsteins. They continued in the dairy farming business until 1981. Some years they cut hay as far away as Rainbow Valley in Edmonton. The cattle drive to summer grazing at North Cooking Lake involved many in the community.	Ball Family fonds, Box 1, file 3, Series 2: Miscellany, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Dairy barns			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Western Canada	1912	The Beatty Brothers of Brandon, Manitoba, built a dairy barn and stable fittings. The company sent Syd Ottewell a booklet "How to Build a Dairy Barn" and its catalogue on Sanitary Stalls and Stanchions. But once the stables are built, they could not be altered without "a great outlay of money". The company also sold equipment – alignment stanchions, self-cleaning mangers, sure stop device and double curve partitions.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, letter from Beatty Bros. to Syd Ottewell 27 August 1912, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1929	Farmers milking about 26 cows needed a barn 36' x 60'. The standard dairy barn had the cows in two rows, back to back with an aisle between them.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011
Alberta	1949	The Department of Agriculture produced plans for the ideal dairy barn that included a maternity pen, a calf pen, feed room, a wash room, a milk room, the milking alley and feeding area. The barn was 92' x32' with hay loft above.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 8
Alberta	1952	The government's new booklet did not include a milk room but a separate milk house connected to the barn. There were two types of dairy barns, stall-type and loose housing barns. The shortage of labour aroused interest in loose housing barns. These barns had been in the USA for a number of years but only appeared in Alberta in 1948. Their advantage was that much less labour was needed in milking and cleaning. Cows also ate more roughage and less concentrate that translated into lower feed costs. The cows were not kept in stalls but together in a common area in the barn. The size of the barn depended on the size of the herd; each cow needed 80 square feet of space. Hay was not in a loft but adjacent to the manger. Manure was kept on the floor but covered with bedding straw. The manure helped to warm the barn.	MacHardy, <i>Dairy Barns for Alberta</i> as found in Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 273

Cattle diseases			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1924	An outbreak of TB in cattle in 1924 had beef cattlemen protesting the slaughter of those animals that tested positive since for the most part the meat from an infected carcass is of no harm to human consumption. Dairymen agreed that since TB can be transmitted to children from infected cow's milk that infected cattle needed to be slaughtered.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182, untitled paper
Western Canada	1924	The convention of the Western Canada Livestock Union held in Calgary in December had Manitoba producers pitted against <p>“a handful of prominent Albertans who were opposed to the T.B. [sic] test, and all its works, but prudent enough to cloak their objections under innocent looking resolutions which, if made the basis for future action, would seriously impede progress. Between these two camps was another group, standing behind the principle of testing, but genuinely in search of improvements in the regulations.”</p> <p>Only accredited herd cattle were allowed into the USA, a major market and the province knew it could not ask for a relaxation in the regulations.</p>	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 <i>The Grain Grower's Guide</i> 24 December 1924
Europe, Alberta	1925-1928	A new vaccine, the Calmette vaccine, was created in France to eradicate TB in cattle. There was a hot debate in Canada over the effectiveness of this vaccine. Canada was interested in eradication of the disease, while in Europe, TB in cattle was so widespread that to eradicate it would be to destroy the livestock populations throughout Europe. By 1928 a committee headed by Dr. Henry Marshall Tory of U. of A. and president of the National Research Council of Canada had experimented with the “BCG” vaccine (Calmette) with promising results.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, files 182 and 184 <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1925	In reaction to the outbreak of bovine TB, Alberta set up the Alberta Committee on Tuberculosis to investigate the disease using about 100 head of cattle vaccinated with Calmette vaccine.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 182 letter from the Minister of Agriculture to C.G.F. Grant, Sydney Australia 2 April 1932

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Canada	1933	"The Federal Department of Agriculture looks after the contagious diseases in the province and tuberculosis comes under their jurisdiction."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 184 memorandum from Dr. P.R. Talbot, Provincial Veterinarian to H.A. Craig, Duty Minister of Agriculture 17 May 1933
Alberta	1934	"Our experience has been that vaccination with Calmette's attenuated culture had a tendency to retard the development of tuberculosis lesions during the first year or two of life but that on reaching sexual maturity the lesions found in the treated animals were quite as extensive as those found in the untreated controls of similar age."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 184 letter from R.C. Duthie, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, to F.S. Grisdale, Minister of Agriculture, Edmonton, 15 November 1934
Clover Bar district	1938	Early in 1938, the provincial government established Restricted Areas for cattle testing to establish TB-free zones. "This Department picked out a number of municipalities in the Edmonton district in which we wished to establish the first block of Restricted Municipalities and it was our plan to gradually add to these in a southward direction where the cattle population is heavy..." The starting point for herd testing was Clover Bar and Strathcona. The reasons for the department to choose the Clover Bar-Strathcona area were not given.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 184 letter from J.R. Sweeney, Deputy Minister to Dr. F.H. Auld Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Regina, 15 May 1941

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Edmonton district	1943	The department wanted to test municipal districts along the more heavily populated C and E Railway line and around Edmonton and not east and southeast of Edmonton where cattle were free range in semi-arid conditions. Of the 6,004 cattle tested in Clover Bar M.D., only 71 cattle showed a reaction to the TB test. A strip south of Edmonton through Camrose, Buffalo Lake, Stettler to Rowley was declared TB free, as was M.D. #517 Strathcona County.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 184 memorandum from O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister to D.B. MacMillan, Minister of Agriculture 4 August 1943
Alberta	1945	The Public Health Act required that owners of dairy herds have their cows tested annually. The Local Boards of Health i.e. municipal councils were the enforcers. The testing could be done through the Dominion government or through a local veterinarian.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 200 letter from O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister to Warren Connelly 27 July 1945
Alberta	1940-1980	Once every three or four years, a government veterinarian tested dairy herds for TB. The herd would be tested more frequently if there was an outbreak of TB in the area.	Interview, Robert and Lois Schroter by Jane Ross, 25 June 2011

Government dairy policies

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Canada	1895	Money was voted by Parliament to finance and operate creameries in the North-West Territories “on a plan which provided for repayment of the loans by an annual assessment on the butter manufactured.” Twenty-nine creameries started by this plan in the territories.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Canada	1904	The federal Minister of Agriculture adopted a policy covering a systematic attempt to encourage herd improvement by the keeping of records of individual cows known as “cow testing”. But this plan largely failed.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Canada	1919	The federal Department of Agriculture began a monthly dairy newsletter that was sent free to all creameries and any person interested. It contained monthly figures of the grading of butter and cheese, the exports and imports of dairy produce, cold storage holdings, etc.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner

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Alberta	1922	Legislation was enacted early in 1922 to close cream stations by 1 May 1922 and to establish direct patron-to-creamery shipment of cream. As well, the government had official graders placed in the creameries. Every creamery sent to the Dairy Commissioner copies of their cream sheets for inspection purposes. Records were kept for three months at the creameries where patrons and inspectors could see them.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 "Dairy" address by H.A. Craig, 1925
Alberta	1922	In addition to closing all the cream buying stations, new regulations established cream graders in creameries, the cost of which had to be borne by the industry.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 203 "Development of the Dairy Industry in Western Canada" 15 and 16 January 1929
Canada	1923	Grading of butter and cheese for export was now mandatory, through an Act of Parliament. It was not a popular policy at first.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Alberta	1927	The Provincial Butter Grading Service was transferred to Ottawa at the end of May 1927 when the federal government established the Federal Dairy Produce Graders at Edmonton and Calgary.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 201 letter from C.P. Marker, Dairy Commissioner, 27 May 1927

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Alberta	1930	The provincial government put out a series of pamphlets, "The Building up of a Dairy Herd" and "Silos in Alberta" being two of them.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 198 letter from H.C. Hansen, Manager United Dairies Ltd. to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 10 February 1930
Alberta, North-central Alberta	1931	Both the Department of Agriculture and the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool sought advice on various matters from a number of different sources such as the B.C., Manitoba and Saskatchewan governments, and dairy pools as well as those states in the Pacific Northwest region.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 204 <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1934	All milk and cream producers had to be licensed by the Board of Public Utility Commission. Another license was needed to distribute fluid milk and cream. Each farmer was sent an application whereby he recorded the number of cows in a herd, the average production per cow and average daily shipment, as well as farm location, etc.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 207 Memorandum relating to Licensing of Producers and Distributors of Milk and Cream under Orders Nos. 7265 and 7266 of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners and Application for a Milk Producer's License

Government dairy policies

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Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Alberta	1937	At first, the new Social Credit government continued with the United Farmers of Alberta policies towards dairy producers and the licensing of creameries. By 1937 the situation had changed and J.R. Sweeney, Dairy Commissioner, was alarmed that the number of herds under test had decreased drastically. Sweeney wanted the Herd Record revived and a fieldman assigned to the Edmonton-Leduc-Millet area.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 209 <i>passim</i> . Also, <i>ibid</i> , file 209 memorandum from Dairy Commissioner to H.A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture 28 July 1937
Alberta	1941	The Dairy Branch revised the basis for issuing Certificates of Milk and Butterfat Production for herd owners adopting the cow testing service of the province. Certificates as of April 1941 also took into consideration the age of the cow and its butterfat production. Minimum butterfat production requirements were set for two-, three- and four-year old cows with farmers receiving a gold, red or blue seal.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 <i>passim</i>
Alberta	1941-1942	The Greater Average Butterfat Production and the Herd Improvement Competitions are being continued on practically the same basis as announced during 1941. Competitions sponsored by the Producers Section of the Alberta Dairymen's Association and the Dairy Branch. All members of the Provincial Cow Testing Service including Junior Dairy Calf Club members were automatically entered. All cows in the herd had to be under test and at least five cows had to have completed a lactation period 1 November 1941 and 31 October 1942. The Silver Challenge Trophy donated by the department was awarded to the owner of the highest producing herd, plus cash prizes donated by the Dairymen's Association.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 Competitions for Dairy Herd Owners

Government dairy policies

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Alberta	1945	“This trophy would be known as “The Department of Agriculture Challenge Trophy” and a small replica would be presented annually to the winner. If any herd owner should win it three times, not necessarily in succession, it would become the permanent property of the herd owner.” D.C. Jones of Leduc won outright the Department’s Trophy for the Greater Average Butterfat Production.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 211 memorandum from D.H. McCallum, Dairy Commissioner to O.S. Longman, Deputy Minister 10 May 1945
Alberta	1955 - 1959	The provincial Department of Agriculture gave out to dairy farmers a Calculated Record of Milk and Butterfat Production for every milk cow. On the form, the farmer listed name of the cow (Dolly, Jewel, Bonnie, etc.), its owner and address, date of her birth, age, date of calving, number of days in milk, with annual pounds of milk and butterfat, and average percentage of fat listed at bottom. The farmer furnished samples and weights monthly to the department. A cow testing supervisor verified the statements and the butterfat tests were done by the Dairy Branch. The minimum butterfat production requirements for mature cows was 300 pounds for 100 per cent, a four-year old was 264 pounds for 88 per cent; a three-year old was 231 pounds for 77 per cent and a two-year old was 201 pounds for 67 per cent. The Calculated Record had one of three seals attached. A gold seal indicated that the cow, if mature, gave 525 pounds of butterfat, a four-year-old 462 pounds, a three-year-old 404 pounds and a two-year-old 368 pounds. A red seal indicated that the cow, if mature, had to have given a minimum of 375 pounds of butterfat, 330 pounds is a four-year-old, 289 pounds if a three-year-old and 263 if a two-year- old. A blue seal indicated that a mature cows had to have produced a minimum of 250 pounds of butterfat, 220 pounds if a four-year-old, 193 pounds if a three-year-old, and 175 pounds if a two-year-old.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 1, file 8, William Christie dairy herd files, milk and butterfat production records 1955-1959, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Government dairy policies

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Alberta	1955 - 1966	Each year the department prepared for each herd owner a report on the Cow Testing Service for those herd owners who have their herds on the Provincial Cow Testing Service in order to compare their herd average with the provincial average. The averages were based on the total milk and butterfat produced as well as the total number of cows under test from 1 November to 31 October of the following year. The department recognized that each cow was a separate production unit and the report was aimed at helping the farmer make decisions in regard to culling, breeding and feeding.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 10, William Christie dairy her files, Provincial Cow testing summaries 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1955 - 1966	The number of cows registered in the department's program increased significantly in the mid-1950s. In 1954 there were 3,790 cows in the province; in 1955 there were 5,283; in 1956 there were 6,279; in 1957 there were 7,040 cows; in 1958 there were 8,709 cows in the province; in 1959 10,276; in 1960 11,694; in 1962 14,486; in 1963, 15,333; in 1964 17,004 cows and in 1965 there were 18,838 cows in the province.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 10, William Christie dairy herd files, Provincial Cow testing summaries 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1955 - 1966	Each participant in the program got a Statement of Calculated Monthly Milk and Butterfat Production for the Dairy Herd booklet. The monthly statement was made in duplicate with the department getting the white copy. It was sent to the department along with the test samples.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 10, William Christie dairy herd files, Provincial Cow testing summaries 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Government dairy policies

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Alberta	1955 - 1966	The sample was to be from two successive regular milkings. After completing and weighing the milk of each cow, the farmer had to pour the milk from one pail into another at least twice. During this process, he was to withdraw a sample that was half the capacity of the sample container provided by the department.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 11, William Christie dairy herd files, Cow Testing Service Records 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1955 - 1966	Each month the herd owner recorded the name of the cow, the weight of the milk both morning and afternoon and the percentage and weight in pounds of butterfat. The monthly sheet was signed, dated by both the herd owner and the government tester.	Christie Family fonds, box 1, file 11, William Christie dairy herd files, Cow Testing Service Records 1955-1966, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1955- 1966	The Department of Agriculture sent out an annual "Dairy Herd Improvement News" to registered dairy producers. In 1956 there were 29 herds (355 cows) in the Edmonton area. It also included an "Honour Roll" of herds on the Provincial Cow Testing Service that had an average of 300 pounds or more of butterfat. It had articles on safeguarding milk from radioactive iodine, diseases, gopher control, etc.	Christie Family fonds, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Government dairy policies

Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1890	In February Jas. W. Robertson, professor of dairying at OAC, Guelph, was appointed Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The next year saw the introduction of the Babcock milk test into Canada. The Dairy Branch (federal) introduced winter butter making at two creameries in Ontario.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Forty One Years in the Dominion Dairy Branch by Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner
Canada	1933	By the Depression years, dairies produced condensed milk, ice cream, evaporated and dried milks. Creamery butter production increased in the early 1930s even as prices dropped. "The decline in prices brought in forced selling which caused a further weakening [in prices]." In the spring of 1932, Canada exported 3 million pounds of butter and that dictated the price of the entire butter production during the period of exportation. During 1931 the four western provinces produced a surplus of butter. It was considered more suitable for export than Eastern Canada butter (Ontario and PQ produced about 96 per cent of Canada's cheese).	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 The Canadian Creamery Industry and Trade
Alberta	1934	Alberta had a surplus of 13.5 million pounds of butter.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 The Canadian Dairying Industry and Trade during 1934, an address by J.F. Singleton, Dominion Dairy Commissioner

Government improvement programs

The provincial Department of Agriculture urged farmers to upgrade their herds and instituted programs to support that effort. The programs were fueled in part by a desire to ensure that Alberta livestock met export quality standards.

Government improvement programs			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	No date	There were two systems for farmers who wished to upgrade their herds and know the production history of their herd. The Record of Production (R.O.P.) was the federal system for registered herds only. A federal inspector visited each registered herd once a month. The Record of Production gave a three-generation pedigree of a cow along with a record of its milk and butterfat production. Bulls had a three-generation record as well. This was invaluable to a potential buyer who wished to upgrade his herd. A grader also visited each registered herd, once a year, and assigned a grade (Excellent, Very Good, Good Plus, Poor). This showed up on the pedigree sheet for each cow. Alberta had a similar program for grade cattle but since record keeping and testing were done by the farmers themselves, its usefulness was controversial.	Interview, Helen and Don Jackson by Jane Ross, 13 June 2011
Alberta	1929	Changes to the hog grading regulations were drawn up by the federal Department of Agriculture through consultation with the provinces.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 Suggested Amendments to Hog Grading Regulations under the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act.
Alberta	1939	There were 86 herds enrolled in the Cow Testing Service in 1939. By enrolling in the program, dairymen received assistance in eliminating low producers which would thereby increase the returns from their herds. "The Provincial Cow Testing Plan was designed to assist the owners of grade herds not eligible to participate in the R.O.P. policy being conducted by the Federal Government. The Province has two plans for such assistance: one is the Cow Testing Association where samples are tested locally; the other was the mailing plan where samples were tested at the Dairy Laboratory."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 200 Provincial Cow Testing Service 4 September 1940

Government improvement programs

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1960	District Agriculturists, with the approval of the Live Stock Supervisor, held various Field Days at farms where there were a large number of livestock for judging and demonstration purposes. With swine it was recommended that there be two groups of sows and one group of market pigs. There were discussions on feeding, management, and pasture requirement. Two members from the department's headquarters as well as the local District Agriculturists were in attendance.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19, Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, letter from A.J. Charnetski, Live Stock Supervisor to H.B Jeffery, District Agriculturist, Mayerthorpe 23 June 1960
	1960	The federal government increased the bonus on Grade A hogs to \$3 and removed the bonus from Grade B animals in an attempt to meet highly competitive demand in domestic and foreign markets. Alberta breeders were urged to upgrade their herds. In 1959 only 22.3 per cent of Alberta hogs were Grade A, 49.3 per cent were Bs and 13.8 per cent were Cs.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, Shannon file #19 "Improvement in Hog Quality Imperative"

Apiculture

Apiculture, early history. The first beehives in Alberta date back at least to 1887, and the first commercial apiary to 1910. Most beekeepers lived south of Red Deer, although some expansion occurred further north after 1926.

Apiculture, challenges. The difficulty of procuring stock that could withstand Alberta winters prompted research on new strains. Bee diseases include foulbrood, chalk brood, NOSEMA and sacbrood.

Apiculture, markets. Besides aiding in pollinization, bees produce wax (which has many potential uses) as well as honey.

Apiculture, Department of Agriculture. As early as the 1920s, agriculture agents promoted beekeeping to help meet local demand for honey. In 1930, the province hired its first apiarist. By 1959, the department had an apiary branch and required all beehives to be registered. The province also did inspections and research, held short courses in commercial beekeeping and offered market development grants.

Apiculture, early history			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1887 - 1910	Charles Henderson from Ontario purchased his first bees in 1887; they were brought by stage from Calgary. His largest crop of honey was 5,200 pound in 1896 when he had 36 colonies. W.S.S. Kerr obtained his first two colonies from Manitoba in 1907, and in 1910 he established Alberta's first commercial apiary.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 attachment to memorandum from S.O. Hillerud Provincial Apiarist to W.N. Chant, Minister of Agriculture 21 October 193
Alberta	No date	Pollination by wind, rain, birds or insects such as bees was required to "set the seed" of many crops. Land breaking and the use of insecticides increased the number of native pollinators.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1936	"While bees sip from many flowers, commercial production is definitely tied up with three plants, Sweet Clover, Alfalfa and fireweed. Only where Sweet Clover is present in abundance has commercial beekeeping proven successful."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 addendum to memorandum from S.O. Hillerud, Provincial Apiarist to W.N. Chant, Minister of Agriculture 21 October 1936

Apiculture, early history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	No date	Gatricks who were from Ontario “brought bees with them which they wintered over. I can recall my very first taste of honey from their hives and it had the honeycomb floating in it. It was many years later before bee-keeping became at all popular.”	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1915-1922	Commercial beekeeping was confined to the irrigated areas until about 1930 when there was a marked increase in beekeeping north of Red Deer. Between 1926 and 1936, there was an increase of over 1,000 per cent in the numbers of beekeepers in central Alberta.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from the Deputy Minister to D.B. Mullen, Minister of Agriculture 3 March 1939
Southern Alberta	1923	There were 200 beekeepers in Alberta by now, most from southern Alberta. They formed the Alberta Beekeeper’s Association.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from Assistant Publicity Commissioner to Mr. Craig, 5 February 1923
Edmonton district	1923	Duncan Chalmers of the White Mud district and Wm. Wensel of Strathcona kept bees.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from Asst. Publicity Commissioner to Mr. Craig, 5 February 1923

Apiculture, early history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Irma, Alberta	1925- 1940	It was only in the latter part of the 19th century when a practical hive with movable frames (permitting beekeepers to remove each comb from the hive for inspection) was developed, that honey production developed as a commercial industry. The first to keep bees and to sell honey on a commercial basis was Harry Love in Irma. Among other things, he was the first commercial honey packer in western Canada and the first commercial Alberta beekeeper to use a large Hodgson radial extractor in 1928. In 1932 during the Depression, he advertised his honey widely in stores by using observation hives. In 1940 he was the first to ship a full railway carload of Alberta honey to Vancouver for overseas sales.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton	1930- 1945	By 1930 honey sales so good that the Love family moved to Edmonton during the winter to pack and sell honey. By 1936 he had his own glass jars with Love's name embossed in the glass. At this time, the firm also got into the beekeeping supplies business. They manufactured most items themselves although some were produced by other companies such as Hodgson Bee Supplies. Harry Love retired 1945.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1932	"The Alberta honey crop is estimated at 550,000 pounds for 1932, a decrease of 365,000 pounds as compared with last year. Weather, particularly dry weather is blamed for a condition ..."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 1932 Report by S.O. Hillerud Provincial Apiarist
Alberta	1932	Expectations for the honey crop were half of the previous year. "In the northern part of the Province conditions were patchy but in the majority of places the crop was a failure. ... The early part of the season was very promising, and their can orders were increased; in most cases they have used less than a quarter of the cans and the future of the commercial men lies very much in the hands of the Canning companies."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 letter from S.O. Hillerud Provincial Apiarist to J. Andrew, Asst. Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture 8 Sept 1932

Apiculture, early history

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1934-1935	In 1934 there was a surplus of 1,500,000 pounds of honey valued at \$150,000. In 1935 these numbers dropped to 1,100,000 for \$99,000. Yet the industry was expanding with many beginners entering the field.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 Report of the Provincial Apiarist (S.O. Hillerud) 1935
Alberta	1940	The 1940 season was very poor as per hive average was lower by almost one-third yet the crop was below normal by only 10 per cent.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 Some Facts about Beekeeping in Alberta and the Work of the Apiculture Branch

Apiculture, challenges

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1922	The greatest impediment was overwintering and procuring foundation stock. "Experiments are going on this winter at Lethbridge, Lacombe and Brooks, which may solve the question of keeping the bees over our winters. Beekeeping is carried on with success in Manitoba, and if the industry will stand the Manitoba winter climate, Alberta winters should not prove too severe."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from Assistant Publicity Commissioner to Mr. Craig, February 5, 1923
Alberta	No date	Beekeepers got their stock from the USA that did not always suit the Alberta climate. The Canada Agriculture Research Station at Beaverlodge worked on new strains of honey bees for this purpose. There was a defined need to be able to overwinter bee populations. Otherwise, apiculturalists bought their packages of bees from California. In 1982-83 there was a high rate of survival due to adequate winter stores of high quality, a young queen, a large population of young fall bees, and proper insulation. Winter wraps were to be removed only after the spring brood had hatched to replenish the aging winter population. In Alberta in 1983, wraps could have been left on until mid-May.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Apiculture, challenges

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton district	1980	Because of the mild winter, there was excellent winter survival. June was the most common month when hives died from starvation due to a maximum amount of brood rearing and apiculturalists were told to feed the hive with a sugar syrup.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	No date	There are numerous diseases that can affect a hive: foulbrood, chalk brood, NOSEMA, sacbrood. If disease occurred in a hive, one had to remove the infected combs and dispose of them by melting for wax retrieval or by burning. Then antibiotics could be used.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Apiculture, markets

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1932	Use of bees was to ensure pollinization of fruit and cucurbits with honey as a welcome sideline.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 1932 Report by S.O. Hillerud Provincial Apiarist
Alberta	1933	Bees wax was used for candles, beehive combs, modelling by sculptors, adhesives, cosmetics, crayons and pastels, dentistry, electrical equipment, candy and gum, pharmaceuticals, textiles, etc.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1934	Honey from southern Alberta was graded Extra White.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 letter from S.O. Hillerud Provincial Apiarist to J.F. Andrew Assistant Deputy Minister September 16, 1933

Apiculture, markets

Location	Date	Details	Source
Lacombe	1923	The Lacombe Experimental Farm produced 500 pounds of honey, all of which was marketed locally for \$.25 a pound.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from Assistant Publicity Commissioner to Mr. Craig, 5 February 1923
Alberta	1934	Less than 15 per cent of honey production was exported. Ninety per cent of that was sent to Britain, followed by Belgium, France and other European countries. Honey was for domestic consumption, chemists, confectioners and bakers, and the catering trades.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 Export Markets for Honey, 17 November 1934

Apiculture, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
	1920s	In the 1920s, the Dominion Experimental Farms were at Lacombe, Lethbridge, Beaver Lodge and Grouard. Schools of Agriculture were in Vermilion, Olds, Claresholm and Raymond. Demonstration Farms were in Sedgewick, Gleichen, Athabasca, Stony Plain, Ponoka and agricultural agents were interested in honey industry since "tons of honey are shipped into the province each year".	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 memorandum from Assistant Publicity Commissioner to Mr. Craig, February 5, 1923
Alberta	1930	Early in 1930, the provincial Department of Agriculture hired S.O. Hillerud as Provincial Apiarist. The Alberta Beekeeper's Association had been asking for such an appointment since 1926.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 181 letter from the Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture to the Beekeepers of Alberta 10 April 1930
Alberta	1959	Everyone keeping bees was required by law to register the number of colonies and the legal land description with the Apiary Branch of the Department of Agriculture.	<i>Alberta Farm Guide</i> 1959, p. 152
Alberta	1970-	In the late 1970s, the Alberta government announced	Stiansen Family

Apiculture, Department of Agriculture

Location	Date	Details	Source
	1980	\$10 million to be spent on agricultural research over a period of several years.	fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	No date	The provincial government offered the Agricultural Food Products Market Development Assistance Program, a grant program to sustain growth for the sale of Canadian Agricultural food products in export and domestic markets. The Alberta government had 14 apiary inspectors, five of whom were stationed in the Edmonton-Sherwood Park area. Commercial beekeeping short courses were held at Olds and Fairview College in February.	Stiansen Family fonds, Series 2 Family Business Records, Strathcona County Museum and Archives