Livestock survey shows Canadian transactions up 11 percent

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Although the volume of Canadian livestock transactions last year rose 11 percent over 1979, the value of the 1980 marketings was virtually unchanged from 1979, according to an annual study done for Livestock Marketing Association

The volume of Canadian marketing transactions last year—including cattle, calves, sheep, lambs, hogs and pigs—was 22.4 million head compared with 20.2 million head in 1979.

The value of those transactions, however, was $5.65 billion, down slightly from 1979's $5.74 billion. The figures are in Canadian dollars.

Coupled with previously announced U.S. figures, the volume total for both countries last year was 260.9 million head, up sharply from the 1979 figure of 249.6 million head.

After adjusting for the Canadian currency difference, the 1980 transaction value for the two countries was $58.7 billion, down from the 1979 total of $61.1 billion. These are totals in U.S. dollars.

LMA officials said the survey is unique in that it measures the livestock merchandising transaction, defined as each time there is a transfer of title on one head of livestock. By surveying marketing transactions, the volume and value survey provides a more realistic picture of commerce in an industry where livestock change ownership frequently, than by using traditional slaughter or inventory figures.

Animals sold more than once during the year are included as more than one transaction, and the value is the dollar total of all transactions.

Other highlights from the Canadian survey (value amounts are in Canadian dollars):

—Although the volume of cattle and calves stayed the same in 1979 and 1980, 7.4 million head, their value in 1980 dropped to $4.34 billion, down from the 1979 figure of $4.47 billion.

—Hog and pig volume jumped 17 percent in 1980, to 14.8 million head, from 12.6 million head in 1979. The value of those transactions, however, rose only slightly to $1.28 billion from 1979's $1.25 billion.

—The unchanged volume of sheep and lamb transactions, 200,000 head in both 1979 and 1980, was coupled with an increase in their 1980 value to $17 million, from $15 million in 1979.

The study is done for LMA by Allen Enterprises, Topeka, Kan.

LMA provides industry representation and commercial services to 1,700 subscriber businesses in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Profits increase with insecticides

UNIVERSITY PARK — Practically all of some 3,000 Pennsylvania dairy and beef cattle producers in a recent survey indicated that insecticides increased their profits when used to control animal pests.

The farmers responded through a mail survey distributed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at The Pennsylvania State University. The study was carried out to aid U. S. Department of Agriculture personnel evaluate the benefits and safety factors of insecticides used on livestock.

Both dairy and livestock farmers considered horn and face flies as the most difficult to control in pastures and the ones causing the most losses in weight gain and carcass quality as well as milk production. Thus, horn and face fly treatments were used most frequently, followed by insecticides for stable and house flies. However, where dairy cattle were confined in barns or sheds, stable and house flies were a serious problem.

In general, sprays were the most popular form of treatment. For horn and face flies, the primary insecticides were pyrethrins and dichlorvos (Vapona an example). These insecticides were also used widely as mist sprays on dairy farms. Beef producers used methoxychlor and malathion most often as sprays.

Most farmers felt that using a few different insecticides, applied by various methods, gave the best results—compared to one insecticide applied by a single method.

Backrubbers were used as well as sprays in treating horn flies. On dairy farms, backrubbers most often contained malathion, dichlorvos (Vapona an example), Ciovap, or ronnel (Korlan). Beef producers used backrubbers treated with ronnel, toxaphone, methoxychlor, or crotoxyphos (Ciodrin an example).

Holly W. Barr of Washington, Pa., graduate assistant in animal industry developed the survey. Faculty members involved were Drs. Harold W. Harpster and Lowell L. Wilson in animal science and Drs. Charles W. Pitts and Clarence H. Collison in entomology.

Most dairy and beef cattle producers in the study applied insecticides to animals or housing when insect pests were numerous or when animal discomfort was noticed. Very few of the farmers found any harmful effects from insecticides on animals being treated or on workers applying the insecticides.

"Costs of all insecticides were quite minor for both beef and dairy herds in comparison to other production costs," declared Dr. Lowell Wilson, professor of animal science.

Although the farmers indicated that insecticides were a necessary part of their management programs, manure removal and cleanliness were also cited as essential for adequate pest control. Clipping of grass and weeds around animal housing facilities and in pastures also helped reduce pest problems.

Dairymen used dichlorvos and phrethrins most often to control house, stable and horse flies. Beef producers, however, preferred malathion, Ciovap and pyrethrins. The residual spray used most frequently on housing was dimethoate (Cygon an example).

Cattle grubs, a frequent problem with beef cattle, were treated most often with famphur (Warbex an example), or with coumaphos (Co-Ral). Cattlemen were finding that grub treatment should be done in late summer or early fall.

For additional information on the study, or other aspects of controlling pests on livestock, get in touch with Clarence H. Collison, 106 Patterson Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

Cheese prices affect all dairy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cheese prices reflect expanding production and consumption in the industry, increasing domination by fewer firms, and substantial governmental regulation.

The demand for cheese and resulting prices affect milk supplies and, in turn, the supplies and prices of all dairy products. Cheese prices doubled in the seventies. Increased prices for all dairy products were partly a result of the rising demand for cheese.

U.S. cheese production more than tripled to 3.7 billion pounds between 1950 and 1979, resulting in cheese utilizing 25 percent of all milk production by 1979—up from 10 percent 30 years ago. Per capita consumption more than doubled.

The nationwide price of domestic and imported cheese is based on prices established at the National Cheese Exchange in Green Bay, Wisconsin, although it handles only about 1 percent of cheese production. Prices set at the exchange are closely followed by other major markets. Cheese prices strongly influence farm level manufacturing and fluid grade milk prices.

Dairy farmers receive about 48 cents of each retail dollar spent on cheese. Processing, packaging, and transportation account for the remaining 52 cents. Retailers receive a higher profit from cheese than from other dairy products.