

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

RURAL STATISTICS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY : 1956-57 SEASON

1. **RURAL HOLDINGS AND LAND UTILIZATION** - There were 223 rural holdings (a rural holding being defined as a piece of land of one acre or more in extent used for agricultural purposes or the raising of livestock) in the A.C.T. at 31st March, 1957 covering an area of 390,081 acres (i.e. an average of 1,749 acres per holding). The area used for grazing purposes was 369,639 acres or 95% of the occupied land. Further details, by districts, are shown in the following table.

TABLE I : A.C.T. RURAL HOLDINGS : NUMBER AND AREA, BY DISTRICTS, 1956-57 SEASON

District	Number of Holdings	Total Area of Holdings	Area used for Crops (a)	Land Lying Fallow during Season	Area under Sown Clovers and Grasses	Other Land used for Grazing	Balance of Holdings (b)
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Hall	13	11,305	20	165	2,337	8,783	-
Belconnen	25	26,924	417	163	8,458	16,420	1,466
Gungahlin and Kowen	22	33,515	169	120	5,154	28,072	-
Coree and Stromlo	14	34,676	68	170	11,268	19,582	3,588
Canberra City	60	19,918	1,904	302	5,488	10,321	1,903
Paddy's River	20	71,833	202	47	8,279	60,325	2,980
Woden	20	19,881	177	112	7,609	11,210	773
Tennent (c)	22	61,237	10	6	1,542	59,679	-
Lanyon	16	29,538	192	191	6,968	22,183	4
Booth and Mt. Clear	11	81,254	22	-	292	75,669	5,271
TOTAL:	223	390,081	3,181	1,276	57,395	312,244	15,985

(a) Excludes Sown Clovers and Grasses cut for Hay or Seed. (b) Land not being used for agricultural or pastoral purposes. (c) Includes Rendezvous Creek District.

2. **SHEEP AND LAMBS ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS** - The number of sheep and lambs on A.C.T. rural holdings at 31st March, 1957, was 266,900 compared with 257,900 at 31st March, 1956 (an increase of 3.5 per cent.) and was the highest since 31st March, 1944, when 274,600 were recorded.

When classified according to breed, Merino accounted for 91 per cent., Corriedale 4 per cent., Merino Comeback 3 per cent., and Crossbred 2 per cent. of the total number recorded.

Lambs marked during the 1956 season numbered 52,200 or 72.8 per cent. of ewes mated.

Further details relating to number of sheep on A.C.T. Holdings, breeds of sheep and lambing are shown below in Tables II, III and IV.

TABLE II : NUMBER OF SHEEP AND LAMBS ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS AT 31ST MARCH, 1953 TO 1957

Particulars	At 31st March -				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Rams, one year and over	1,500	1,514	1,456	1,609	1,673
Breeding Ewes (including intended matings)	70,100	65,563	66,920	78,520	81,224
Other Ewes one year and over	28,600	30,745	29,070	26,360	28,291
Wethers one year and over	110,800	115,652	107,692	108,730	108,479
Lambs and Hoggets under one year	35,800	38,192	40,362	42,682	47,229
Total all Sheep and Lambs:	246,800	251,666	245,500	257,901	266,896

TABLE III : BREEDS OF SHEEP ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS AT 31ST MARCH, 1957

Breed	Rams one year and over	All Other Sheep (incl. Lambs)	All Sheep	
			Number	Percentage to Total
Merino	1,249	240,581	241,830	90.6
Corriedale	149	11,527	11,676	4.4
Other Recognized Breeds (a)	243	420	663	0.2
Merino Comeback (finer than Halfbred)	-	6,680	6,680	2.5
Crossbred (Halfbred and Coarser)	32	6,015	6,047	2.3
Total:	1,673	265,223	266,896	100.0

TABLE IV : LAMING IN THE A.C.T. DURING SEASONS 1952 TO 1956

Particulars	Season				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of Breeding Ewes	66,870	70,100	65,563	66,920	78,520
Ewes Mated	56,300	61,057	58,024	59,731	71,685
Lambs Marked	39,900	44,865	41,708	43,182	52,197
Lambs Marked as Percentage of Ewes Mated	70.9	73.5	71.9	72.3	72.8

3. WOOL PRODUCTION IN THE A.C.T.

Total wool production for 1956-57 was 2,457,000 lb. which was 128,000 lb. (5.5 per cent.) higher than in 1955-56 and 225,000 lb. (10.1 per cent.) higher than in 1954-55. It was the highest wool production ever recorded for the A.C.T.

The average fleece weight (including crutchings) per sheep shorn in 1956-57 was 10.20 lb. which was 0.44 lb. heavier than in 1955-56 and 1.16 lb. heavier than in 1954-55. The average fleece weight for sheep and lambs shorn was 8.96 lb. in 1956-57 being 0.22 lb. heavier than in 1955-56.

Further details indicating wool production by Districts in the A.C.T. are shown for 1956-57 with comparative totals for the previous year in Table V below.

TABLE V : WOOL PRODUCTION IN THE A.C.T. BY DISTRICTS - 1956-57

District	Sheep Shorn	Lambs Shorn	Sheep's Wool (including crutchings)	Lambs' Wool	Dead and Skin Wool	Total Wool Production
	'000	'000	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	'000 lb.
Hall	13	4	123	6	2	131
Belconnen	27	4	283	5	3	291
Gungahlin and Kowen	26	6	268	8	4	280
Coree and Stromlo	30	7	323	14	3	340
Canberra City	17	4	182	4	3	189
Paddy's River	39	4	358	6	6	370
Woden	22	6	239	11	3	253
Tennent & Rendezvous Creek	13	1	114	1	1	116
Lanyon	31	2	344	3	4	351
Booth and Mt. Clear	14	1	133	1	2	136
TOTAL, 1956-57 Season:	232	39	2,367	59	31	2,457
TOTAL, 1955-56 Season:	232	32	2,262	43	24	2,329

4. CATTLE ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS

The total number of cattle on A.C.T. rural holdings at 31st March, 1957, was 10,596 or 1,197 (12.7 per cent.) higher than that for the previous season. Prior to 1956 there was a steady decline in cattle numbers. The decline in the proportion of beef cattle of recent years was also reversed in 1956 and there was a further increase in 1957. Beef cattle comprised 68.8% of total cattle at the 31st March, 1957 compared with 66.4% at the 31st March, 1956.

The table below indicates cattle numbers in the A.C.T. at 31st March in the years 1953 to 1957.

TABLE VI : NUMBER OF CATTLE ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS AT 31ST MARCH, 1953 TO 1957

Particulars	At 31st March				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
DAIRY CATTLE					
Dairy Cows (in milk)	1,246	1,387	1,354	1,337	1,383
Dairy Cows (dry)	884	964	915	911	897
Heifers, one year and over	522	303	304	311	365
Calves under one year	768	712	600	554	615
Bulls one year and over	53	55	49	44	50
Total Dairy Cattle:	3,473	3,421	3,222	3,157	3,310
BEEF CATTLE					
Cows, including Heifers, one year and over	2,890	3,172	2,748	3,370	4,029
Calves under one year	1,431	1,732	1,680	1,638	2,031
Bulls one year and over	125	132	116	104	140
Other (a)	1,786	937	734	1,130	1,086
Total Beef Cattle:	6,232	5,973	5,278	6,242	7,286
TOTAL ALL CATTLE:	9,705	9,394	8,500	9,399	10,596

(a) Includes Bullocks, Steers and Spayed Cows.

5. PRODUCTION OF MILK IN THE A.C.T.

Total production of milk for all purposes at 957,000 gallons in 1956-57 season, was a record for the A.C.T. being 73,000 gallons (8.3 per cent.) higher than the previous record in 1955-56. Annual yield per Dairy Cow, at 423 gallons was the highest since 434 gallons recorded in the 1934-35 Season. Further details appear in the following table.

TABLE VII : PRODUCTION OF MILK AND YIELD PER DAIRY COW IN THE A.C.T.

Particulars	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Production of Milk for all purposes ('000 gals.)	688	743	725	884	957
Annual Yield per Dairy Cow (gals.)	308	332	314	391	423

6. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND PRODUCTION OF MEAT IN THE A.C.T.

In 1956-57 slaughtering of Cattle and Calves at 9,871, the highest recorded for the A.C.T., were 12.2 per cent. higher than in the previous year. However, the number of Sheep and Lambs slaughtered declined by 8.6 per cent. and Pigs by 10.1 per cent.

The total production of meat in 1956-57 at 3,304 tons, was 28 tons (0.8 per cent.) lower than the record production of the previous year. Production of Beef and Veal was a record for the A.C.T.

The table following gives further details.

TABLE VIII : LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND PRODUCTION OF MEAT IN THE A.C.T.

Particulars		1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Livestock Slaughtered						
Cattle and Calves	No.	7,529	8,207	8,211	8,797	9,871
Sheep and Lambs	No.	68,829	63,634	74,103	72,725	66,463
Pigs	No.	3,121	3,166	4,393	4,904	4,410
Meat Produced (Bone-in weight)						
Beef and Veal	Tons	1,464	1,656	1,616	1,795	1,906
Mutton and Lamb	"	1,230	1,086	1,259	1,333	1,198
Pork	"	132	146	192	204	200
Total Meat Production:		2,826	2,888	3,067	3,332	3,304

7. PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK IN A.C.T. DISTRICTS

The main concentration of Dairy Cattle is on the river flats in the Canberra City District where 72.5 per cent. of the total are found. Proportions of the total Beef Cattle in the main Districts are 22.8 per cent. in Paddy's River District, 16.4 per cent. in Booth and Mt. Clear and 12.0 per cent. in Coree and Stromlo.

Sheep are most numerous in the northern half of the Territory, proportions of the total sheep in the main districts being Paddy's River District, 15.4 per cent., Coree and Stromlo 15.1 per cent., Lanyon 12.0 per cent., Belconnen, 11.3 per cent. and Gungahlin and Kowen, 11.1 per cent.

Livestock other than sheep and cattle are few, there being only about 750 horses and 140 pigs distributed throughout the A.C.T.

Further details are given in the following table.

TABLE IX : NUMBERS OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK IN THE A.C.T. BY DISTRICTS AT 31ST MARCH, 1957

District	Horses	Dairy Cattle	Beef Cattle	Sheep
Hall	49	75	97	15,763
Belconnen	76	77	796	30,278
Gungahlin and Kowen	97	128	514	29,605
Coree and Stromlo	78	116	873	40,312
Canberra City	121	2,399	403	18,993
Paddy's River	91	131	1,663	41,187
Woden	68	160	533	26,258
Tennent and Rendezvous Creek	41	71	438	16,000
Lanyon	85	117	771	31,950
Booth and Mt. Clear	39	36	1,198	16,550
TOTAL:	745	3,310	7,286	266,896

8. AGRICULTURE

The total area under crop is only a very small proportion of the occupied area of the A.C.T. During the 1956-57 season 3,213 acres of crops (including area double-cropped) were sown compared with a total of 5,780 acres in the 1955-56 season (a decrease of 44.4 per cent.).

Yields for all crops except potatoes showed a decline as compared with the previous season. There was a significant decrease in acreage of hay crops, though total hay production in 1956-57 at 5,749 tons was the second highest ever recorded for the A.C.T. It was 4,087 tons (41.6 per cent.) lower than the record production in 1955-56.

Details of the area, production and yield per acre of principal crops are shown in Table X following.

TABLE X : AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD PER ACRE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN THE A.C.T. - 1955-56 AND 1956-57 SEASONS

Particulars	1955-56 Season			1956-57 Season		
	Area Sown	Production	Yield per Acre	Area Sown	Production	Yield per Acre
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
Cereals for Grain -						
Wheat	739	18,867	25.5	65	723	11.1
Oats	313	5,364	17.1	144	1,794	12.5
Hay		Tons	Tons		Tons	Tons
Wheaten	191	349	1.83	47	52	1.11
Oaten	1,922	3,293	1.71	448	492	1.10
Lucerne	1,306	3,569	2.73	1,375	3,526	2.56
Other (a)	1,308	2,625	2.01	1,298	1,679	1.29
Total Hay:	4,727	9,836	2.08	3,168	5,749	1.81
Green Fodder	970	-	-	772	-	-
		Tons	Tons		Tons	Tons
Potatoes	74	439	5.93	100	601	6.01
Other Vegetables	116	-	-	127	-	-

(a) Sown Clovers and Grasses out for Hay.

9. CLOVERS AND GRASSES

The total area of sown clovers and grasses in 1956-57 was 11.8 per cent. higher than the record acreage of the previous year. The area under Improved Native Pastures decreased by 5.4 per cent. compared with that of the previous year. Details are shown in Table XI on the following page.

TABLE XI : AREA UNDER CLOVERS AND GRASSES (OTHER THAN NATIVE) IN THE A.C.T.

1955-56 AND 1956-57

Particulars	1955-56 Season		1956-57 Season	
	Area Sown	Total Production	Area Sown	Total Production
	Acres	Tons	Acres	Tons
Clovers and Grasses cut for Hay	1,308	2,625 lb.	1,298	1,679 lb.
Clovers cut for seed	-	-	-	-
Grasses cut for seed (principally Phalaris)	95	1,930	84	2,600
Clovers and Grasses for Silage or for Grazing	50,468	-	56,625	-
<u>TOTAL AREA OF SOWN CLOVERS AND GRASSES</u>	51,871	-	58,007	-
Area Under Improved Native Pastures	23,884	-	22,599	-

10. ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

During 1956-57, there was a general decrease in the use of Fertilizers in the A.C.T., compared with the previous season, particularly in their use on Wheat and Fruit crops (see Table XII below).

TABLE XII : ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS USED IN THE A.C.T. - 1955-56 AND 1956-57

Artificial Fertilizers used on	1955-56 Season			1956-57 Season		
	Area Fertilized	Super-phosphate	Other Artificial Fertilizers	Area Fertilized	Super-phosphate	Other Artificial Fertilizers
	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.
Wheat	800	801	-	103	103	-
Vegetables	125	517	398	200	733	460
Fruit & Vines	68	87	23	17	20	12
Other Crops	3,469	4,631	207	1,533	2,373	13
Sown Pasture	33,220	36,259	1,045	32,592	38,005	1,873
Native Pasture	16,487	15,679	-	11,424	12,499	-

11. FARM MACHINERY

The table below sets out the principal types of farm machinery on A.C.T. holdings during the five years from 1953 to 1957.

TABLE XIII : FARM MACHINERY ON A.C.T. HOLDINGS AT 31st MARCH, 1953 TO 1957

Type of Machinery	At 31st March -				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Ploughs (all types)	308	311	333	359	347
Rotary Hoes (all types)	40	47	45	55	52
Fertilizer Distributors and Broadcasters	101	119	126	126	138
Shearing Machines (No. of Stands)	273	279	273	270	277
Milking Machines (No. of Stands)	67	69	77	85	87
Tractors - Wheeled	158	163	172	193	191
Crawler or Track	8	7	9	9	8

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

26TH NOVEMBER, 1957