

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUTRITION SOCIETY

EIGHTY-THIRD SCIENTIFIC MEETING—THIRTY-EIGHTH  
SCOTTISH MEETING  
NORTHERN HOTEL, ABERDEEN AND ROWETT RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE, BUCKSBURN, ABERDEENSHIRE

1 and 2 OCTOBER 1953

## PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING RATIONS FOR BRITAIN'S LIVESTOCK

1 October, *First Session*

*Chairman*: PROFESSOR R. G. BASKETT, O.B.E., *Ministry of Agriculture,  
Northern Ireland, and the Queen's University of Belfast*

### Chairman's Opening Remarks

By R. G. BASKETT, *Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, and the Queen's  
University of Belfast*

The subject which has been chosen for discussion at our meeting is, I think, well-timed for we have just emerged from a period of feeding-stuff control that has extended over more than 12 years. At the beginning of this period we experienced a very rapid diminution of supplies which remained low during the war years. At the end of the war supplies became relatively more plentiful only to fall away again and then be built up to the quantities available at the present time.

Any form of control is irksome, but those responsible for distribution often had a difficult task in meeting a fairly rigid demand under a scheme of rationing from supplies that varied enormously and sometimes did not even materialize despite careful planning ahead. There is no doubt that good use was made of the available feeding-stuffs during the period of control and we must congratulate those concerned with both allocation and distribution.

But now we are moving into a new phase, and we do so against a very different background from that in 1939. Not only has the pattern of world supplies of feeding-stuffs changed but so have our practices in husbandry. The frontier of our knowledge of the nutrition of farm animals has been pushed forward and we have come to treat grass as a crop. There are two other significant changes. The first is the greater use of fertilizers, which has contributed to increased yields of crops and pastures to such an extent that we have become much more self-sufficient so far as feeding-stuffs are concerned. The second is the growing realization by many farmers that, from an economic point of view, it is necessary to examine the returns from their farming operations as a whole and so gain an appreciation of the effect that one particular enterprise has on others on the farm. The lesson to be learned

from such an examination often leads to better planning and better returns. The fact that animal feeding-stuffs may now be bought freely on an open market will allow new plans to be put into practice.

This meeting gives us the opportunity of hearing about some aspects of the problem that lies ahead of us in providing rations for our livestock and to examine the ways in which our new knowledge can be translated into farming practice.

### The Changing World Supply of Animal Feeding-stuffs

By H. R. HUMPHRIES, *Animal Feeding Stuffs Division, Ministry of Food, Dean Bradley House, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1*

The total supply of feeding-stuffs in the world to-day is similar to, or possibly greater than, that in 1938-9, but this fact is only part of the picture. Most pronounced changes have occurred in the location of these supplies and particularly in the quantities entering into international trade.

The prewar tonnage of feeding-stuffs available in the United Kingdom was 9,400,000 tons exclusive of any home-grown grain. The details are given in Table 1, from which it should be noted that about 6,000,000 tons were imported and 3,400,000

Table 1. *Average prewar (1934-8 average) supply of concentrated feeding-stuffs excluding home-grown grain*  
(tons  $\times 10^3$ )

Feeding-stuff	Imported	Home-produced	Total
Maize and maize meal	2975*	—	2975
Oats	82†	—‡	82
Barley	639§	—‡	639
Wheat, feeding	140	—‡	140
Wheat offals	647	1650	2297
Maize by-products	56	38	94
Brewer's, distiller's and maltster's grain	68	116	184
Rice bran	296	10	306
Oilcakes and meals	592	1080	1672
Animal proteins	34	130	164
Locust beans	45	—	45
Molasses (cane)	256	—	256
Peas and beans	47	102	149
Sugar-beet pulp (including 61 for molasses)	—	295	295
Miscellaneous	111	—	111
Total	5988	3421	9409

\* Maize imports totalled 3395, of which some 420 were used for breakfast foods, starch, glucose and distilling.

† Oats imported were 118 of which 36 were for milling.

‡ No figure included as these were partly consumed on farm.

§ Barley imports amounted to 889 of which 250 went for brewing and similar purposes.