

The Livestock Division administers the Livestock Pedigree Act, Record of Performance for dairy cattle, beef cattle and swine, supervision of race track betting, the grading of meat, wool and fur and the compiling and interpreting of market information.

The Poultry Division carries out the policies of the National Poultry Breeding Program, including Record of Performance for poultry and hatchery inspection, and administers the regulations for the grading of poultry products.

The Fruit and Vegetable Division administers legislation having to do with the grading of fruit and vegetables in both fresh and processed form.

The Dairy Products Division is responsible for the administration of legislation covering grades and standards of dairy products, including butter, cheese, dried milk and ice cream.

The Plant Products Division administers acts and regulations respecting seeds, feed-stuffs, fertilizers and pest control products and conducts field inspection and maintains regional testing laboratories.

The Plant Protection Division is responsible under the Destructive Insect and Pests Act for safeguarding against the introduction of serious plant insects or diseases into Canada or their spread in Canada, for certifying freedom from disease and pests in plant exports, and for seed potato certification.

The Consumer Section helps to promote proper use of Canadian agricultural food products through experimental work carried on by its home economists on cooking foods and preserving perishables.

The Transportation and Storage Section administers the Cold Storage Act dealing with the payment of subsidies for the construction of public cold storage. Cargo inspectors at the main Canadian ports check the handling of goods moving to export.

Agricultural Stabilization Board.—The Agricultural Stabilization Board, consisting of three members, administers the Agricultural Stabilization Act which came into effect in March 1958, replacing the Agricultural Prices Support Act. There is also an advisory committee of ten farmers or farm organization representatives. The new Act requires mandatory support for nine commodities—cattle, hogs, sheep, cheese, butter, eggs, wheat, oats and barley—the last three covering only the cereals produced outside the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Stabilization assistance may be provided by purchase of the commodity at the prescribed price level, by deficiency payment to make up the difference between the average market price and the prescribed price, or by other payment for the benefit of producers to maintain a prescribed price. Mandatory stabilization prices must be at least 80 p.c. of the average market prices for the ten previous years. Any natural or processed product may be designated and support prices for designated commodities may have any percentage of the base price used in establishing the level of support. Local conditions and cost of production are taken into account in the support price which stands for a period of 12 months.

The total net costs of the Agricultural Prices Support Board up to the end of March 1958 amounted to \$100,073,260. The extensive buying and selling by the Government after the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1952 resulted in a United States embargo on Canadian hogs and cattle, and accounted for a loss of \$70,000,000. The remaining \$30,000,000 resulted from costs of various programs since 1946 in support of apples, potatoes, dried white beans, extracted honey, dry skimmed milk, cheddar cheese, creamery butter, shell eggs and fowl. The new Board took over storage stocks of 68,000,000 lb. of poultry and dairy products and 88,754 cases of eggs.

The Board was authorized to support Canada First Grade creamery butter from May 1, 1958, for a period of 12 months on the basis of 64 cents per lb. Montreal, approximately 107 p.c. of the ten-year average base price. On Oct. 10 stocks were approximately 88,000,000 lb. compared with 34,000,000 lb. a year earlier. Cheese was similarly supported at a higher level than the ten-year average price. On May 1 the Government offered 33½ cents