

Nova Scotia.—The Department of Agriculture and Marketing endeavours to “help the people to help themselves” through strengthening member interest in such organizations as the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers’ Association, various agricultural co-operative organizations, credit unions and producer organizations. The Department is assisted by the Nova Scotia Advisory Committee on Agricultural Services which has been established to promote agricultural policies and projects of the federal and the provincial Departments of Agriculture. The Committee meets quarterly to determine how the work of these Departments may be co-ordinated and directed through integrated agricultural policies and with a minimum duplication of services.

New Brunswick.—Provincial government agricultural policy in New Brunswick is directed by the Department of Agriculture. The Department is headed by the Minister of Agriculture who is assisted by a Deputy Minister and the Directors of the following Branches: extension, livestock, dairy, veterinary, poultry, horticulture, field husbandry, potato and plant protection, agricultural engineering, home economics, credit union and co-operative, and agricultural education.

Quebec.—The Department of Agriculture of Quebec comprises 11 services: rural education, rural economy, extension, animal husbandry, horticulture, field husbandry, information and research, home economics, animal health, drainage, and the secretariat. Each service is divided into sections dealing with particular problems.

The Department also includes many other special organizations such as the Research Council, the Dairy Industry Commission, the Dairy School of St. Hyacinthe, the Provincial Extension Farm (Deschambault), the Fur Bearing Animals Extension Farm (St. Louis de Courville). The Farm Credit Bureau, the Quebec Sugar Refinery (St. Hilaire), the Provincial Veterinary School (St. Hyacinthe) and the Office of Rural Electrification are also under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture.

The annual competition for the Agricultural Merit Order, organized in 1890, is held successively in each of five regions. Each contest lasts five years and covers various farm enterprises; its objective is to ascertain the personal merit of the competitors who have most distinguished themselves in the agricultural field and can serve as examples. County Farm Improvement Contests have for 30 years promoted better methods of culture designed to increase farm income and 7,530 competitors have benefited from them.

The Drainage Service deals with soil improvement or land reclamation by renting equipment at very low rates to farmers who wish to improve their crop lands. The Department of Agriculture also gives assistance to such projects in the form of grants. Soil improvement measures include large drainage projects carried out by the Department and smaller projects carried out by groups of farmers with government help. In 1958, 44,209 farmers benefited from help given by this service.

Various forms of assistance are offered toward improvement of crops and livestock. An artificial insemination station operates at St. Hyacinthe for the benefit of breeders’ clubs, and plant breeding stations for cereal and forage crops, vegetables and small fruits are maintained in a number of localities. Trained specialists are employed in the work of controlling plant and animal pests and diseases; the main laboratories are situated at Quebec City and field laboratories are located in other districts.

Agricultural co-operation is widespread in Quebec. There are 508 co-operatives with 69,829 members and 89 agricultural societies with 28,452 members to serve local interests and organize county exhibitions. There are also 713 Cercles de Fermières (rural women’s clubs) in operation with a membership of 36,903; 425 farmer clubs with a membership of 20,182; and 316 junior farmer clubs in which 8,607 young boys and girls are working on numerous practical agricultural projects.

The Farm Credit Bureau was established in 1936. By December 1958 the Bureau had made 56,660 loans to farmers amounting to a total of \$165,427,000; 26,531 of these loans were for the establishment of young men on farms or for farm enlargement.