

The Live Stock Branch aids in maintaining the quality of herds and flocks by assisting farmers in securing purebred herd sires and assists artificial breeding associations in the breeding of dairy cattle. The Branch also supervises livestock feeder associations and administers legislation relating to stock inspection, brands, domestic animals and the sale of horned cattle.

The Dairy Branch administers the Dairymen's Act and the Frozen Food Locker Act. Grading and purchasing of raw produce by all dairy plants are under regulation, as are standards of construction, manufacture, processing, sanitation, and temperature control for dairies and frozen-food lockers. A regular cow-testing service is available to dairy producers and the Branch laboratory conducts chemical and bacteriological analyses needed for industrial directives. Yearly cost studies and dairy farm management services are in operation in the principal milk-producing areas.

The Poultry Branch carries on programs for the improvement of poultry husbandry and supervises flock approval for the control of pullorum disease. The Branch issues hatchery, wholesale, first receiver and trucker licences for the handling of poultry products.

The Veterinary Services Branch provides scientific diagnoses of livestock and poultry diseases through its laboratory; conducts investigations of disease conditions; lectures in veterinary science at the University of Alberta, Schools of Agriculture, and many meetings; and promotes government policies aimed at reducing losses throughout the province.

The Agricultural Extension Service operates 44 offices and employs the services of 61 district agriculturists and 21 district home economists. The district agriculturists assist farmers with their problems and advance departmental policies designed to improve the standard of agricultural practices. The district home economists provide a similar service for farm women. Bulletins are prepared dealing with agricultural and home economics topics. The Branch is responsible for the supervision of agricultural societies and, in co-operation with the federal Department of Labour, is concerned with recruitment and placement of farm labour.

The Fur Farms Branch administers the licensing and exporting of live animals and pelts, and assists fur farmers in care, management and stock improvement; the Radio and Information Branch conducts five broadcasts a week over seven radio stations and issues weekly bulletins to press and radio; the Water Resources Branch deals with water rights, drainage, irrigation, and water power development; the Lands and Forests Utilization Committee (composed of representatives from the Department of Lands and Forests, Power Commission, Department of Municipal Affairs, University of Alberta and Department of Agriculture) deals with the proper use of submarginal agricultural land; and the Farm Economics Branch, formed Jan. 1, 1961, studies various economic farm problems and advises farmers on management techniques.

Credit is made available to young farmers for the purchase of farm lands under the Farm Purchase Credit Act and the Farm Home Improvement Act. Schools of Agriculture and Home Economics are operated at Olds, Fairview and Vermilion (see p. 432).

British Columbia.—The Department of Agriculture has four main branches. The Administrative Branch is responsible for the general direction of agricultural policies, the administration of legislation affecting agriculture and the compilation of reports and publications. This Branch also maintains direct supervision of the Field Crops, Soil Survey, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Apiary, Markets and Statistics, Farmers' Institutes and Women's Institutes Branches.

The Livestock Branch engages in the promotion and supervision of the livestock industry and provides veterinary services affecting disease control regulations; its work also includes supervision of stock brands, inspection of dairy and fur farm premises, and inspection of beef grading. In addition, the Branch supervises the operations of the Dairy Branch in the inspection of commercial dairy premises. Officials are stationed at 11 centres throughout the province.