The Animal Research Institute covers the fields of genetics and breeding, nutrition, physiology, biochemistry and management, and tackles problems in the production of milk, beef, lamb, pork, poultry, eggs, wool and fur. Studies are carried out at the Plant Research Institute in taxonomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, agrometeorology, weeds, and fruit and vegetable processing and storage. Cytological and genetic studies on cereal, forage, tobacco and horticultural plants are made by the Genetics and Plant Breeding Research Institute with special reference to problems encountered in the breeding programs and the assessment of quality characteristics. The Soils Research Institute studies genesis and classification, fertility, mineralogy and the organic, physiochemical and physical aspects of soils. This Institute gives leadership to the federal-provincial soil survey program through classification studies and by developing and standardizing analytical methods. It also provides a national soil-mapping service. A major section of the Entomology Research Institute deals with taxonomy, other assignments being in the fields of genetics, physiology, nematology and apiculture. The Institute assembles and maintains the national collection of insects. The Microbiology Research Institute is concerned mainly with metabolism, nutrition and genetics of bacteria of agricultural significance. The Food Research Institute conducts basic research on the characteristics of plant and animal products affecting food quality. The development of new principles of food processing and studies related to dairy technology are of major interest.

The Research Institute at London examines chemicals used or intended to be used for insect, disease or weed control and investigates the reason for and the nature of the biological activity of the chemical. The Research Institute at Belleville is concerned with efforts to control destructive insect pests and noxious weeds with parasitic and predaceous insects, and with insect disease organisms. It is also the principal importing centre for beneficial insects and for some disease organisms from foreign countries.

The Regional Research Stations and Laboratories cope with primary problems in various regions in all provinces. Other units have undertaken projects assisting in the exploitation of peat bogs, reclamation of marshland for pasture, prevention of soil erosion, dryland agriculture, the growing of special crops such as tobacco, and livestock breeding.

Health of Animals Branch.—This Branch administers the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, the Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Slaughter of Food Animals Act, and operates laboratories for the study of animal diseases. Contagious diseases of animals are controlled through preventive measures of inspection and quarantine of imported livestock and restricted commodities such as meat, farm products and other possible sources of infection; through conducting disease eradication programs, notably of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and Johne's disease; through the control and eradication of serious animal diseases when outbreaks occur; and through inspection and certification as to health of livestock for export. The Branch conducts ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered at packing plants that market their meat products outside of the province in which they operate and also ensures that, in these plants, the animals are slaughtered in a humane manner. Animal pathology laboratories across the country, in addition to their research function, manufacture disgnostic reagents and biological products and provide analytical and diagnostic services for diseases of domestic and wild animals and for determination of the soundness of meat food products.

Production and Marketing Branch.—The Production and Marketing Branch conducts the promotional and regulatory functions of the Department. Six Divisions administer legislation and policies in the production and marketing of livestock, poultry, fruits and vegetables, dairy products and plant products, and policies in connection with the control of disease in plants. Three Sections are concerned with markets information, consumer interests and with cold storage facilities and general services.

The Livestock Division administers legislation dealing with the grading of meat, wool and fur, with the registration of livestock pedigrees, with performance testing of cattle