

scientific research to all aspects of soil management and crop and animal production. Promotional and regulatory services are directed toward the prevention or eradication of crop and livestock pests and the registration of chemicals and other materials used to achieve that end and toward the inspection and grading of agricultural products and the establishment of sound policies for crop and livestock improvement. Assistance programs cover some of the sphere of soil and water conservation, price stability, provision of credit, rural rehabilitation and development, and crop insurance and income security in the event of crop failure.

The Department has four main Branches—Research, Health of Animals, Economics, and Production and Marketing—and its organization includes a number of smaller units—the Agricultural Stabilization Board (see p. 461), the Agricultural Products Board, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (p. 446), Crop Insurance (p. 462), the Information Division and Departmental Administration. Agencies closely allied with the Department and responsible to the Minister of Agriculture are the Farm Credit Corporation (p. 464) and the Board of Grain Commissioners (see Part II of Chapter XXI).

The work of the Research Branch and the research activities of the Health of Animals and Economics Branches are outlined in the special article "Contribution of the Canada Department of Agriculture to Modern Agricultural Science", on pp. 457–461. Other functions of the Health of Animals and Economics Branches and the activities of the Production and Marketing Branch, the Information Division and Departmental Administration are as follows.

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 Meat Inspection Division conducts ante-mortem and continuous post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered at packing plants that market their meat products outside of the province in which they operate, ensures maintenance of sanitary standards during processing of the products, accurate labelling, and proper kind and use of ingredients and preservatives. The Division ensures, also, in these plants that the animals are slaughtered in a humane manner. Animal pathology laboratories across the country, in addition to their research function (see p. 458), manufacture diagnostic 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.

Economics Branch.—This Branch collects, analyses and interprets economic information needed to formulate and administer departmental programs and policies and does intelligence and research work (see p. 458) designed to increase efficiency in agricultural production and marketing and to guide farmers in making needed adjustments in farm organization and operation. It acts as an economic and statistical research agency for the Agricultural Stabilization Board, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and other bodies, and assists in any economic undertakings with which the Department is concerned. The Branch is also closely associated with the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the UN/FAO World Food Program, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Directorate of Agriculture of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Production and Marketing Branch.—The Production and Marketing Branch conducts many of the promotional and regulatory functions of the Department. Six specialized divisions administer legislation and policies in the production and marketing of