

than among purebreds. A pilot project of "back fat probing" as a supplementary means of assessing hog quality is under development. These projects are carried on in two ways—either on initiation of the Livestock Division or in co-operation with provincial committees dealing with a particular phase of livestock production.

Investigations have been carried on in co-operation with the Demonstration Farm Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture with respect to the feasibility of establishing an ROP program for sheep. At present the major activity in the field of sheep promotion and improvement is the financial assistance provided in the movement of commercial ewes and ewe lambs to areas where there is a lack of sheep for breeding purposes. Lamb and wool production in Canada have declined steadily but CDA continues its efforts to promote development of the industry. Canada would need 9,000,000 sheep to eliminate wool imports but the national flock in 1966 numbered just over 1,000,000.

### Livestock Grading

Hog grading came into effect in Canada in 1922, beef carcass grading in 1929 and carcass grade standards for lamb and veal carcasses in subsequent years. In 1958, after consultation with the industry, regulations covering grades for beef and veal, hogs, lamb and mutton were written into the Canada Agricultural Products Standards Act. The new standards were more specific and permitted greater uniformity of application. To maintain this uniformity, Livestock Division staff constantly check grades at the national, regional and local levels in 79 inspected and 77 approved packing plants operating throughout the country.

The Federal Government began paying hog quality premiums in 1944—\$2 for a Grade A and \$1 for a Grade B carcass. In 1963, the premium to producers was changed to \$3 for Grade A and the premium for Grade B was removed. The lamb premium policy was begun in 1961 with \$2 for Choice and \$1 for Good carcasses weighing 36-51 lb. Since 1962, premiums have also been paid for Choice and Good carcasses of 52-56 lb. warm dressed weight.

Grading classifies units of a commodity into groups according to established and generally accepted criteria, thereby providing an efficient basis for the pricing and marketing of carcasses of different quality levels. Grading is utilized by the producer as a basis of sale, by the packer as a guide in buying and selling, and by the retailer in providing for his customers a uniform supply of the type and quality of meats desired. At the retail level grading is concerned with quality, condition and packaging. Grading provides the necessary vehicle by which consumer preferences are transmitted back to the producer, it facilitates trading between buyers and sellers and it provides a standard by which consumers are assisted in selecting the quality most desired. Because better grades bring better prices, grading is both a guide and an incentive in the improvement of livestock.

### Fairs and Exhibitions

The Federal Government has been making grants to fairs and exhibitions since 1903. Twelve Dominion exhibitions held between 1902 and 1914 received grants totalling \$658,000 through that period. In 1915 it was decided to help all of the larger fairs and to provide half of the prize money paid out on utility classes of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. At a Fairs Conference in 1923 "A" and "B" fair classifications were adopted, one to three "A" fairs being allotted to each province. The grant to "A" fairs was \$5,000 and to "B" fairs, \$1,500. Grants for junior activities and of judging fees were added in 1936. From 1912 to 1940, there were 101 fairs held in 92 districts of the then nine provinces.

After World War II, the Department made available building agreements and grants covering one third of the cost of construction, the annual grant being limited to \$10,000 and the total to \$100,000. In the past 15 years, the Department has paid \$7,000,000 in major capital grants, which accounted for about 30 p.c. of the total cost of buildings constructed under this assistance. Exhibition Grants Regulations were amended in 1957 to include grants to agricultural museums.