

The Extension Branch of the Agricultural Extension and Colleges Division operates 51 offices and employs 69 district agriculturists and 28 district home economists who supply information and guidance to farm families and promote progressive agricultural and home-making policies and programs. Their work is co-ordinated by seven regional agriculturists and is complemented by an expanding staff of regional specialists in livestock, plant industry, economics, engineering, and home economics. The field staff directly supervise the program for 526 4-H clubs with 1,917 adult leaders. Five broadcasts are conducted each week over ten radio stations and weekly and daily press material is issued to radio, TV and the press; publications are supplied to the rural public and visual aids are provided for department staff members. Agricultural and vocational colleges are operated at Olds, Vermilion and Fairview, all three offering five courses in agriculture—a general course, or majors in plant science, animal science, agricultural mechanics, and farm management. They also offer a complete business course and a short course in land appraisal and assessment. Special courses include horticulture, fashion and design, and irrigation technology at Olds; home economics and AI technician training at Vermilion; and motor mechanics and welding at Fairview.

The Agricultural Economics Division provides extension information on farm management, credit and marketing to aid farmers in instituting good business practices on the farm; collects, analyses and disseminates agricultural statistics in collaboration with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; conducts studies on farm production costs and returns, marketing, and resource and rural development; and provides advisory assistance on economic matters to government departments, the agricultural industry and farm groups. Credit is made available to farmers for the purchase of land under the Farm Purchase Credit Act and for home improvements under the Farm Home Improvement Act.

The Water Resources Division administers legislation involving the use of water by individuals and organizations within Alberta. Division engineers construct drainage, irrigation, water supply, river control and erosion control projects when it is in the public interest to do so. Staff agrolgists are concerned with land levelling for irrigation purposes and assist in land development planning and on farm utilization of water resources. Alberta's large-scale water conservation and utilization program is a direct responsibility of the Division and includes general groundwater inventories and exploration for groundwater supplies for community use. The Prairie Rivers Improvement and Management Evaluation (PRIME) embodies major water diversion and storage areas and is the most recent and largest of the long-term water conservation projects undertaken by the Division.

The Program Development Division administers the provincial ARDA program, the lands and forest land utilization program, research liaison with the University of Alberta, agricultural liaison on water resource development, trusteeship of the Lethbridge Northern and United Irrigation Districts, provides agricultural representation on the Highways Traffic Board, etc. The Agricultural Products Marketing Council establishes and regulates marketing boards and commissions which assist in the marketing of agricultural products. The Division assists with the development and organization of agricultural programs by local government and is developing a new policy for the administration, operation, maintenance and reconstruction of irrigation projects and districts in the province.

British Columbia.—The Department of Agriculture comprises three Divisions—General Administration, General Services, and Production and Special Services. General Administration is responsible for the direction of policies affecting farmers' institutes, institutional farms, personnel and publications. The General Services Division includes the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA), Crop Insurance, Farm Economics, and Markets and Statistics Branches. The Production and Special Services Division includes all other Branches—Agricultural Development and Extension, Apiary, Dairy, Entomology and Pest Control, Field Crops and Soil Testing, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Poultry, Soil Survey, and Veterinary and Livestock.