

The Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, a Branch of the Ministry, provides insurance against weather, insect and disease damage to winter wheat, spring grain, forage crops, grain corn, soybeans and white beans. The cost of administration is shared equally by the federal and Ontario governments and the premium rates are further subsidized to the extent of 25% by the federal government and 25% by the Ontario government.

The Soils and Crops Branch conducts programs of applied research to provide farmers with specific recommendations for their areas. Soils and crops specialists frequently work with local branches of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association to relay this information to the farmers. Specialists also supervise county inspectors who enforce the Weed Control Act and provide specialized advice to producers of horticultural crops in Ontario.

The programs of the Veterinary Services Branch fall into the categories of service and regulation and are administered by three sections: the laboratory section, through six veterinary services laboratories, provides diagnostic, investigational, consultation and extension services to veterinarians and livestock and poultry producers, and also administers the Fur Farms Act; the meat inspection section administers the Meat Inspection Act which provides for meat inspection in slaughtering plants in Ontario that are not under federal inspection; and the regulatory and communicable diseases section administers the following Acts, policies and programs concerned with disease control, animal care and animal health extension: the Brucellosis Act, the Pregnant Mare Urine Farms Act, the Riding Horse Establishments Act, the Livestock Community Sales Act, the Dead Animal Disposal Act, the Animals for Research Act, Veterinary Assistance Policy for Designated Areas, Certified Herd Policy for Swine, Rabies Indemnification Program, Cattle and Swine Health Programs, Veterinary Extension, and Disease Reporting Programs.

The Live Stock Branch supervises numerous livestock improvement programs, and administers the Artificial Insemination Act, the Beef Cattle Marketing Act, the Dog Licensing and Live Stock and Poultry Protection Act, the Hunter Damage Compensation Act, the Live Stock Branding Act, the Protection of Cattle Act, the Provincial Auctioneers Act, and the Warble Fly Control Act. Livestock improvement programs include dairy herd improvement; beef cattle, sheep and swine performance testing; bull and ram premium policies; the federal-provincial sheep transportation assistance policy; and northern Ontario livestock assistance. The Branch makes grants available to regional livestock clubs that hold sales and livestock shows, and sponsors exhibits of livestock outside the province. A staff of livestock specialists is available to provide feeding and management advice to livestock producers.

The Ontario Stock Yards Board, which operates under the federal Livestock and Livestock Products Act, was established to provide a marketing service for Ontario livestock producers and to protect their bargaining power.

The Ontario Milk Commission, a Branch of the Ministry, is responsible for dairy programs. Under the Milk Act, and through the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Ontario Cream Producers' Marketing Board, the Commission is responsible for all producer-marketing of milk and cream in the province. The Ontario Milk Marketing Board directs milk from farm to plant and establishes prices. The Commission administers the Farm Products Payments Act, the Oleomargarine Act, and the Edible Oil Products Act. It also carries out the milk quality program, audits plant records, and supervises the fluid milk, milk products and central milk testing programs. The Infra Red Milk Analyzer (IRMA) is the recognized method for determining milk fat content in Ontario. The Commission licenses processors and distributors, carries on extension work with producers, operates milk-testing laboratories for the purpose of calculating producer returns, certifies butter and cheese makers, graders and testers, and does inspection work on farm and in plant.

The Farm Products Inspection Branch promotes improved methods of disease control, grading, packaging, marketing, handling, storing and transporting Ontario farm produce. This is provided for under the Farm Products Grades and Sales Act and Regulations, the Plant Diseases Act, the Containers Act, the Abandoned Orchards Act, and the Seed Potatoes Act. Under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 18 producer boards market 37 commodities with a total market value of approximately \$500 million annually.

The Ontario Food Council Branch has the broad responsibility of finding methods to better co-ordinate marketing of Ontario farm products in Ontario, other Canadian provinces and abroad. The Council includes representatives of producers, processors, wholesalers,