

Licensed grain storage. Total grain storage capacity in Canada, licensed under the provisions of the Canada Grain Act by the Canadian Grain Commission, amounted to 685.4 million bu at December 1, 1971, compared with 699.5 million bu at the same date in 1970 (Table 11.38). On July 31, 1972, 54.7% of the licensed storage capacity was occupied as compared with 62.1% on the same date of 1971.

Production and exports of wheat flour. Production of wheat flour in the 1972-73 crop year amounted to 38.0 million cwt and wheat milled for flour totalled 86.4 million bu; both were below the corresponding totals for 1971-72. Of the wheat milled for flour, approximately 70.0 million bu were western Canadian spring wheat (other than durum) and the remainder was made up of 7.4 million bu of Ontario-grown winter wheat, 5.7 million bu of durum wheat and 3.2 million bu of other types. Utilization of milling capacity, based on a daily operating potential of some 166,000 cwt, averaged 76.0% in 1972-73 compared with 75.9% in the previous year. Figures for the crop years ended July 31, 1970-73, including exports of wheat flour, are given in Table 11.39.

11.7.2 Livestock marketings

Slaughter cattle and calves marketed at stockyards and shipped directly to packing plants amounted to 3.0 million head in 1973, down 6.6% from 3.2 million head in 1972. All provinces showed decreases except British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Pig marketings totalled 9.0 million in 1973, down 3.4% from 9.4 million in 1972. Decreases occurred in all provinces except Manitoba, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

Sheep and lambs marketed in 1973 totalled 258,785 compared to 243,691 in 1972. Increases in British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia more than offset decreases in the other provinces.

11.8 Government aid and controls

11.8.1 The role of government in the grains industry

Government's interest and involvement in the grains industry predates Confederation and is a record of policies relating to land use and settlement; transportation; grain elevators, storage, handling and forwarding; marketing methods and opportunities; income security; and the many ramifications of international competition and the search for international co-operation in the sale of grain. The federal government's role in the grains industry is carried out through the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and two semi-autonomous bodies which report to Parliament through Ministers of the Crown: the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board. The Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board is the Minister designated as being primarily responsible for federal government grains policy, at present the Minister of Justice.

Three other agricultural agencies also play integral roles in the Canadian grains industry: the Canadian International Grains Institute, the Canada Grains Council and the Special Advisory Group on Grains (Grains Group). The Canadian International Grains Institute contributes to the maintenance and expansion of markets for Canadian grains and oilseeds and their products in Canada and abroad. The Canada Grains Council provides a forum for co-ordination, consultation and consensus on industry recommendations to government. The Special Advisory Committee on Grains (Grains Group) is charged with co-ordinating, reviewing and recommending federal policies on grains.

11.8.1.1 Grains Group

In 1970 the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board organized the Special Advisory Group on Grains (known as the Grains Group) made up of policy advisers drawn from the Canada Department of Agriculture, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian Transport Commission and the railways. Under the Minister's direction the Grains Group examines the problems of the grains industry in the areas of production, transportation and handling, and marketing, proposes measures to adjust grains production to known and projected markets, identifies and develops market opportunities, and stimulates more efficient handling and transportation of grain of the types and quantities required to meet domestic and export market demands. It also co-ordinates, reviews and recommends federal policies for grains and grain production. Implementation of recommended policies subse-