

Ontario has specialized crops in its more southerly regions, but it also has by far the largest number of commercial livestock farms and is second to Quebec in the number of dairy farms. Again forage crops are the largest cultivated crops; others are corn, mixed grains, winter wheat, oats and barley.

Dairy farms are concentrated in Middlesex, Oxford and Perth counties in southwestern Ontario, in the Bruce Peninsula and in the eastern counties. Beef is a specialty in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay areas where pasture is ample. Sheep, poultry and hog production are widespread. Ontario is a major producer of apples and the Niagara Peninsula accounts for most of Canada's tender tree fruits and grapes. Vegetables are grown near most large centres. Maple syrup is a major sideline for farmers in Ontario and Quebec.

**The Prairie region.** Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain 75% of the farm land in Canada. Precipitation that averages only 342.9 to 508 millimetres a year and a climate of bitter winters and short hot summers favour the production of high quality hard red spring wheat, by far the largest single crop in all three provinces. Rangeland and pasture also support a large cattle population and the rearing of livestock in general is a major industry.

Manitoba has the highest rainfall of the three provinces and an average of 100 frost-free days, resulting in more varied farming. Wheat and other grains predominate but rapeseed is also grown, and mixed farming with an emphasis on livestock is common. Vegetables, sugar beets and sunflowers are grown south of Winnipeg and processed locally. Dairy farms are common around Winnipeg; hog production and sheep farms are widespread and beef cattle are found in the southwest. There are also some poultry farms of local importance.

Saskatchewan grows about two thirds of all Canada's wheat and large quantities of other grains, aided by light spring rainfall and long sunny days. Rapeseed is a popular crop and irrigation assists vegetable and forage crops. Mixed farming is common in the north where rainfall is higher, and turkey farming as well as egg and broiler chicken production are increasing. Hogs and beef cattle are gaining in importance. Some commercial flocks of sheep exist.

Alberta is second to Saskatchewan in grain production but has more beef cattle than any other province. These are concentrated in large ranches in the south and in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Cattle-feeding operations are expanding and Alberta is a leading producer of hogs and sheep. Irrigation in the south aids in producing canning crops, sugar beets and forage crops. Dairy and poultry products are prominent in the mixed-farm economy of the province. In the northwest the Peace River district produces significant quantities of grain and livestock.

**The Pacific region.** The most westerly region of the country, British Columbia, is occupied largely by mountains and forests. Only 2% of the area is agricultural. There is no single regional climate: the Pacific Coast has mild temperatures and high rainfall, the interior has moderate temperatures with parts of it as dry as the prairies, and the central interior, although a little cooler, has fairly high precipitation. Farms tend to be small and highly productive and are concentrated in the south-central mainland and southern Vancouver Island.

Livestock and dairying account for the greatest part of BC's agricultural production. Hogs and beef cattle are raised on many farms, beef particularly in the central and southern interior areas. Dairying and poultry meat and egg production are concentrated in the lower Fraser Valley where the population is large. Mixed farming is scattered throughout the province.

British Columbia is Canada's largest producer of apples. The Okanagan Valley is also noted for tree fruits like peaches, plums and cherries. Raspberries and strawberries are grown largely in the Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island along with other horticultural crops — apricots, grapes, tomatoes, sweet corn and potatoes. The processing industry is also well developed. Vancouver Island's mild climate also produces flowering bulbs.

**The northern region.** The agricultural region north of latitude 55° consists of parts of northern British Columbia, the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie River valley in the Northwest Territories. Agricultural settlement in the area is not encouraged by the harsh climate and small population. Precipitation varies from light in the northern Yukon to heavy on the mountainous coast of BC. Frosts can occur in any month of the year, but crops grown on northern slopes escape some damage. The North is estimated to have 3 million acres of potentially arable land and thousands of acres of grazing land, but at present there are probably