

scheme; marketing boards, producers, associations and co-operatives are common. Tobacco is controlled by marketing boards in Ontario and Quebec, soya beans by a board in Ontario and sugar beets by contracts with refineries in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

Farmers' co-operatives are usually organized to handle or market producers' crops or livestock, or to supply the goods and services needed in farming, or both. Co-operative pooling arrangements for farm products guarantee farmers cash advances on their deliveries whether the products are sold immediately or not.

The marketing of seed in Canada is carried on by private seed companies, farmer-owned co-operatives and seed growers. Seed grades established by federal government regulation provide the user with information on the relative utility of different lots of seed. Pedigree seed is produced by members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association under conditions that ensure the purity of the variety.

Farm machinery, building materials, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and other supplies are obtained through commercial and co-operative outlets.

11.1.5 Trends and highlights, 1974

Early in the year it was announced that agricultural exports in 1973 accounted for 12% of Canada's total exports and 44% of total farm cash receipts. Grain, traditionally a major export, accounted for about half the farm exports but meat and livestock sales are of growing importance.

In 1974 purebred stock were exported to several countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Bulgaria, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Britain and the United States. Czechoslovakia imported 1,105 head of Canadian polled Herefords and Cuba 2,500 purebred dairy cows. Exports of frozen semen from Canadian bulls were valued at \$8.9 million. Powdered milk exported to Mexico in February 1974 was valued at \$34 million.

In April 1974 the industrial milk subsidy was increased to provide a target support price of \$8.50 a cwt. In August 1974 the support price was raised by 91¢, with 30% of the increase coming from federal government funds and the remainder from increased dairy product prices. Stabilization plans establishing support prices for beef and hogs were introduced; beef cattle exports were restricted to the five-year average level. A program of assistance for cow-calf operators was also initiated to avoid heavy sales of brood cows anticipated because of record high feed grain prices.

The Fruit and Vegetable Storage Assistance Program paid \$1.56 million in grants in four provinces. Two grants were awarded under the new \$1-million Crop Development Fund established in July; the feasibility of growing utility wheats and peanuts is to be studied.

More than \$77 million was paid to Canadian wheat-growers under the two-price wheat agreement which provides millers with wheat at a fixed price of \$3.25 a bu and pays producers the differences between that price and a maximum of \$5 a bu. The Farm Credit Act was amended to increase the maximum loan for farmers under 35 years of age to \$150,000 from \$100,000 and to allow young farmers to go into full-time farming over a period of five years.

11.2 Federal government services

11.2.1 Canada Department of Agriculture

Responsibilities of the Canada Department of Agriculture cover three broad areas: research, promotional and regulatory services and assistance programs. Research aims at solving practical farm problems by applying fundamental scientific research to all aspects of soil management, agricultural engineering, and crop and animal production (see Chapter 9). Promotional and regulatory services attempt to control and eradicate crop and livestock pests and register chemicals and other materials used for these purposes. Also included are inspection and grading of agricultural products and the establishment of crop and livestock improvement policies. Assistance programs cover some of the sphere of price stability, emergency relief, crop insurance, compensation, and income security in the event of crop failure. Further details can be found in the *1974 Canada Year Book* pp 414-417.

11.2.2 Farm assistance programs

Basic to the concept of Canada's national agricultural policy is the premise that a stable agriculture is in the interests of the national economy and that farmers as a group are entitled