

The National Farm Products Marketing Council was established by the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act in 1972 to advise the Minister of Agriculture on all matters pertaining to the establishment of marketing agencies. It reviews their operations and assists them in promoting more effective marketing of farm products and co-ordinates related activities of the provincial governments as well as the efforts of producers to establish marketing plans. The first application for the establishment of a national agency was submitted by egg producers and the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency was created in December 1972 and was followed by the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency which was proclaimed in December 1973.

The Farm Improvement Loans Act, administered by the Department of Finance, is designed to facilitate the availability of credit by way of loans made by the chartered banks and other lenders designated by the Minister of Finance to assist in almost every conceivable purchase or project for the improvement or development of a farm. It includes the purchase of agricultural implements, the purchase of livestock, the purchase and installation of agricultural equipment or a farm electrical system, the major repair or overhaul of agricultural implements and equipment, the erection or construction of fencing or works for drainage on a farm, and the construction, repair or alteration of farm buildings including the family dwelling, and the purchase of additional land for the purpose of farming. Credit is provided on security related to the purchase or project and on terms suited to the individual borrower.

The legislation, originally operative for three years (1945-48), has been continued through extensions, usually for three-year periods. The current period is July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1977. The maximum repayment period for land purchase is 15 years, for vehicles three years, and for all other purposes 10 years. The interest rate is prescribed in the regulations and is adjustable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year to reflect changes in the levels of interest rates generally. The borrower is required to provide from 10% to 25% of the cost of his purchase or project, depending on the loan category to which it belongs. The federal government guarantees each lender against loss sustained in an amount equal to 90% of the first \$125,000 lent, 50% in excess of \$125,000 but not exceeding \$250,000, and 10% in excess of \$250,000 during a lending period. This guarantee does not apply to any loan made after the aggregate of all loans made by all banks in a given period reaches an amount fixed by statute. The current maximum stands at \$1.1 billion which may be lent by the chartered banks and Province of Alberta Treasury Branches and a limit of \$300 million which may be lent by other designated lenders. From inception of the program to September 30, 1974, 1.7 million loans amounting to about \$3,122 million were made. During the same period, payments were made to the banks under the guarantee provision in respect of 5,220 claims amounting to \$5.5 million, representing a loss ratio of less than one fifth of one percent. The maximum loan or amount that may be outstanding to a borrower at any one time is \$50,000.

The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act which came into force on November 25, 1957 (RSC 1970, c.P-18) and was subsequently amended, provides for interest-free advance payments to producers in western Canada for farm-stored threshed grain (wheat, oats and barley). The rate of advance payment a bushel for wheat, oats and barley is prescribed by regulation each year. The rate approximates two thirds of the initial payment on the grade of each grain which it is estimated will be delivered in the greatest volume by producers to country elevators during the crop year. The maximum total advance is governed by quota levels also prescribed by regulation and may not exceed \$6,000 for any individual producer for the crop year. The rate of repayment is the same as the rate of advance. Repayment is effected by deducting approximately two thirds of the initial payment for wheat, oats and barley delivered subsequent to the loan until the producer has discharged his advance.

The Act also contains provisions for special advance payments covering unharvested grain and the drying of grain. The maximum total advances receivable for these special advances are \$3,000 and \$600 respectively.

11.3 Provincial government services

11.3.1 Departments of agriculture

Newfoundland. Government agricultural services in Newfoundland are operated by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture. The Agriculture Division consists of six directors