

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 Acts, policies and programs concerned with disease control, animal care and sale of livestock medicines.

The Live Stock Branch supervises numerous livestock improvement programs, and administers the Artificial Insemination of Live Stock 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, the Warble Fly Control Act and the Live Stock and Live Stock Products 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 Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, a Branch of the Ministry, provides insurance against weather, insect and disease damage to winter wheat, spring grain, hay, corn (both silage and grain), soya beans, white beans, tomatoes for processing, green peas for processing, sweet corn for processing, red beets, apples, peaches, grapes, sweet and sour cherries, pears, set onions, seed onions, coloured beans, new seeding and flue-cured tobacco. The total cost of administration is paid by the Ontario government and 50% of the premium is paid by the federal government.

The Milk Commission of Ontario is an administrative tribunal to which dairy producers, processors and others may appeal. The Commission co-operates with the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Ontario Dairy Council in dairy policy planning and development.

The Milk Industry Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was established in 1973. It assumes responsibility for all regulative and administrative work under the Milk Act, the Oleomargarine Act, and the Edible Oil Products Act. The Branch also administers the milk quality, fluid milk, milk products, plant record audit and central milk testing programs. Included in these programs are the operation of infra-red analyzing of milk for butterfat, protein and lactose, the licensing of processors and distributors, certification of butter and cheese makers, graders and testers as well as inspection of farm premises and plants.

The Farm Products Inspection Branch inspects fruit and vegetables for grade, and 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, 20 producer boards market 40 commodities with a total market value of approximately \$900 million annually.

The Ontario Food Council Branch has the broad responsibility of finding methods to better co-ordinate marketing of Ontario agricultural and food products in Ontario, other Canadian provinces and abroad. The Council includes representatives of producers, processors, wholesalers, distributors and consumers. Market development, import replacement, and expansion of food information and consumer affairs services are major areas of the Council's work. The Ontario Food Terminal, operating under the Ontario Food Terminal Act, offers farmers the services of one of the largest volume wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in Canada.

Research and education are administered by the Education and Research Division. An advisory body, the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, reviews current programs of