

The number of sheep and lambs on farms at June 1, 1974 was estimated at 783,500, down from 832,500 at June 1, 1973. (Newfoundland figures for 1971 were 9,384 sheep.) Sheep and lambs slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in 1974 totalled 185,077 down from 234,206 in 1973. Imports of live animals also increased from 44,016 in 1972 to 61,083 in 1973 due to higher imports from the United States. Imports of mutton and lamb, on the other hand, decreased from 81.5 million lb. in 1972 to 59.3 million lb. in 1973.

The estimated number of laying hens on farms at June 1, 1974 was 25.3 million compared to 25.7 million at June 1, 1973. Production and consumption of poultry meat are shown in Table 11.9.

#### 11.4.4 Dairying

The number of dairy cows on farms in Canada has been declining gradually for several years. In spite of rising production per cow, total milk production fell by 4.48% to 16,885 million lb. in 1973 and by a further 1.27% to 16,670 million lb. in 1974 (Table 11.10). Production is concentrated in central Canada; Quebec and Ontario accounted for 74% of total production in 1974.

Table 11.11 shows that the farm value of milk production in Canada for 1974 was \$1,155.9 million, an increase of approximately 26.8% over 1973. The value of milk used in factories in 1974 was \$562.9 million (49% of total production) and fluid milk sales amounted to \$536.7 million (46% of total production).

Production of creamery butter, which in 1974 amounted to 232.1 million lb. and required 33% of the total national milk output, represents a decline of 8.0% from the 1973 figure (Table 11.12). Quebec accounted for almost half of the total output, followed by Ontario with 32%. Per capita consumption, shown in Table 11.13, was 12.9 lb., slightly lower than in 1973.

The total production of factory cheese (Table 11.12) for 1974 was 272.0 million lb. compared with 248.9 million lb. for 1973, and per capita consumption (Table 11.13) of all varieties of cheese, excluding cottage cheese, was 15.2 lb. compared with 14.4 lb. for 1973. Ontario accounted for 37% of the output and Quebec 52%.

Total production of concentrated whole milk products, which includes condensed milk, evaporated milk, whole milk powder, partly skimmed evaporated milk and others, decreased 5.4% from the previous year. Total production of concentrated milk by-products, which includes condensed skim milk, evaporated skim milk, skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, whey powder, casein and others, decreased 0.5% from 1973.

#### 11.4.5 Horticultural crops

**Fruits and vegetables.** The fruit and vegetable industry is an important part of the agricultural and food distribution sectors of the economy. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables account for more than one third of the quantity of all food consumed in Canada. There are over 25 fruit and vegetable crops (potatoes excluded) grown commercially in Canada with an annual farm value of over \$200 million.

The most important fruit grown in Canada is still the apple. Commercial apple orchards are found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, southern Quebec, much of Ontario, and the interior of British Columbia, particularly in the Okanagan Valley. Tender tree fruits — pears, peaches, cherries, plums — are also grown in Ontario, with the most important concentrations in the Niagara Peninsula and in Essex County. These fruits, as well as apricots, are also grown on a large scale in the southern part of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

Strawberries and raspberries are cultivated commercially in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. British Columbia fruit growers also produce loganberries commercially in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. Grapes also are grown in the Niagara district of Ontario and on a smaller scale in British Columbia. The native blueberry is found wild over large areas in Canada and is harvested in commercial quantities in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario. A cultivated crop is grown in British Columbia. Table 11.14 shows the estimated commercial production and farm value of fruit grown in 1972-74. The production of field-grown vegetables in Canada is seasonal. During the winter when no domestic vegetables are being harvested, except in greenhouses, supplies of most fresh vegetables are imported from the United States. During the growing season a large percentage