

economic characteristics of farm operators and their households have been cross-classified with the agricultural characteristics of farming operations for all 1971 census-farms.

Number of census-farms. For both census years, 1971 and 1966, a census-farm was defined as a holding of one acre or more with sales of agricultural products valued at \$50 or more during the 12 months prior to the census. The number of census-farms in Canada declined 15% to 366,128 in 1971 from 430,522 in 1966, indicating an acceleration of the trend since 1941 toward an ever-decreasing number of census-farms (Table 11.27).

Farm areas. The total area of census-farms in 1971 was 169,668,614 acres, a 2.6% decrease from the 174,124,828 acres recorded in 1966 (Table 11.28). The Maritime provinces, Quebec and Ontario all reported significant decreases in farm acreage. Only Newfoundland, Alberta and British Columbia showed an increase, the increase in Newfoundland being due to the establishment of new community pastures. For Canada as a whole, the 108,148,877 acres of improved land for 1971 was virtually unchanged from the area recorded in 1966. The area of unimproved land decreased 6.8% to 61,519,737 acres in 1971 from 65,970,451 acres in 1966. Woodland, decreasing by 18.8%, accounted for the majority of this loss, while other improved land decreased 3.4%.

Economic classification of census-farms. Census-farms were divided into 12 economic classes according to the total value of products sold during the past calendar year (Table 11.29). Such a classification serves as a measure of the productive size of census-farms in Canada. The former division of census-farms into "commercial" and "small-scale" farms has been dropped, since what may be felt to be a commercial farm in one region might be considered small-scale in another. The group classified as "institutional farms, etc." includes experimental farms, community pastures and institutional-type farms regardless of the amount of sales of agricultural products.

Type of farm. Table 11.30 shows that, with the exception of farms classified as "institutional farms, etc.", all census-farms with sales of \$2,500 or more were classified as one of 10 major product types. A criterion of 51% or more of total sales was used for this classification. For example, a census-farm was typed as a poultry farm if 51% or more of the total agricultural sales for the farm was obtained from the sale of poultry products. However, it was classed as a dairy-type farm if 40% to 50% of total sales was obtained from dairy products, provided the sale of dairy products together with the sale of cattle and calves amounted to 51% or more of the total sales. Under these criteria, it was possible for a farm to qualify for more than one product type. To prevent this possibility, the 10 product types were given a priority rating in the order listed in Table 11.30.

Size of census-farms. In 1971, 49% of the census-farms in Canada contained less than 240 acres compared with 53% in 1966. This decrease in the number of small holdings again indicates the trend toward consolidation of farms into larger holdings. However, the wide variation in the distribution of farms by size between provinces continues. In the Atlantic provinces 71.8% of the census-farms were under 240 acres in size; in Quebec and Ontario 78.4% were under 240 acres; in the Prairie provinces only 17.9% fell below 240 acres; and in British Columbia the percentage was 78.5 (Table 11.31).

Age of census-farm operators. The proportion of census-farm operators under 35 remained at approximately 15% of the total. Similarly, the number of operators in the middle age groups, 35-54, remained at 52% and those in the older age groups, 55 and over, remained at 33% (Table 11.32).

Farm machinery. Table 11.33 indicates that between 1966 and 1971 farm trucks increased by 7.3%, swathers 12.6%, pick-up hay balers 11.6% and forage crop harvesters 17.3%. Decreases were reported for automobiles, 8.9%, tractors, 0.3% and combines, 4.4%.

11.6 International crop statistics

Tables 11.34 and 11.35 are based on estimates published by the Foreign Agricultural Service, US Department of Agriculture, and give the acreages and production of wheat and the production of oats and barley for the harvests of 1973 and 1974 with averages for the years 1968-72, in the leading grain-producing countries of the world.