

Licensed grain storage. Total grain storage capacity in Canada, licensed under the provisions of the Canada Grain Act by the Canadian Grain Commission, amounted to 667.4 million bu at December 1, 1972, compared with 685.4 million bu at the same date in 1971 (Table 11.38). On July 31, 1973, 52.6% of the licensed storage capacity was occupied as compared with 54.7% on the same date of 1972.

Production and exports of wheat flour. Production of wheat flour in the 1973-74 crop year amounted to 37.4 million cwt and wheat milled for flour totalled 84.7 million bu; both were below the corresponding totals for 1972-73. Of the wheat milled for flour, approximately 68.6 million bu were western Canadian spring wheat (other than durum) and the remainder was made up of 6.9 million bu of Ontario-grown winter wheat, 5.2 million bu of durum wheat and 3.9 million bu of other types. Utilization of milling capacity, based on a daily operating potential of some 167,000 cwt, averaged 74.4% in 1973-74 compared with 76.0% in the previous year. Figures for the crop years ended July 31, 1971-74, including exports of wheat flour, are given in Table 11.39.

11.7.2 Livestock slaughter

Cattle slaughtered at federally inspected packing plants amounted to 2,975,833 head in 1974, up 3.4% from 2,878,016 head in 1973. All provinces showed increases except Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Calves slaughtered at federally inspected packing plants amounted to 392,811 head in 1974, up 34.7% from 291,524 head in 1973. Increases occurred in all provinces.

Federally inspected pig slaughtering totalled 9,269,491 in 1974, up 2.5% from 9,041,220 in 1973. Increases occurred in all provinces except Manitoba, Alberta and the Atlantic provinces.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1974 totalled 185,077 compared to 234,206 in 1973. Decreases occurred in all provinces except the Atlantic provinces.

11.8 Government aid and controls

11.8.1 The role of government in the grains industry

Government's interest and involvement in the grains industry predates Confederation and is a record of policies relating to land use and settlement; transportation; grain elevators, storage, handling and forwarding; marketing methods and opportunities; income security; and the many ramifications of international competition and the search for international co-operation in the sale of grain. The federal government's role in the grains industry is carried out by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and two semi-autonomous bodies which report to Parliament through Ministers of the Crown: the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board. The Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board is the Minister designated as being primarily responsible for federal government grains policy, at present the Minister of Justice.

Three other agricultural agencies also play integral roles in the Canadian grains industry: the Canadian International Grains Institute, the Canada Grains Council and the Special Advisory Group on Grains (Grains Group). The Canadian International Grains Institute contributes to the maintenance and expansion of markets for Canadian grains and oilseeds and their products in Canada and abroad. The Canada Grains Council provides a forum for co-ordination, consultation and consensus on industry recommendations to government. The Special Advisory Committee on Grains (Grains Group) is charged with co-ordinating, reviewing and recommending federal policies on grains.

11.8.1.1 Grains Group

In 1970 the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board organized the Special Advisory Group on Grains (known as the Grains Group) made up of policy advisers representing the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Ministry of Transport. Under the Minister's direction the Grains Group examines the problems of the grains industry in the areas of production, transportation and handling, and marketing. It proposes measures to adjust grains production to known and projected markets, identifies and develops market opportunities, and stimulates more efficient handling and transportation of grain of the types and quantities required to meet domestic and