

probably fewer than 30 commercial farms in the region. Dairy products, beef cattle, forage crops, feed grains and vegetables are produced for the small local market.

Farm ownership and labour

11.1.4

Most farms in Canada are owned by the farmers who operate them, but as individual farms increase in size more land is being rented. By 1971, 26% of Canadian farmers rented some of the land they farmed; 5% rented all their land. Payment is usually cash or a share of crops or receipts.

Farm families provide most of the labour required on farms, although experienced workers are often employed on dairy farms and seasonal workers are required for harvests. In the west, operators of combine harvesters often move their machinery with the harvest, starting in the US and moving into Canada later in the season. Potato harvesters follow the same pattern in the east. Farmers often assist each other when necessary and the Department of Manpower and Immigration operates farm labour pools in areas of high demand.

Transportation

11.1.5

Railways have been the traditional method of transporting agricultural products to large markets and ports. The Prairie provinces in particular rely on trains to move wheat and livestock to Canadian markets and to elevators in Vancouver, Churchill and Thunder Bay for shipment to foreign ports. Bulky products like sugar beets are usually shipped by rail.

Many products are now being shipped by road. Although the railways have retained their importance on the Prairies many branch lines have been abandoned in other areas and most farmers now ship their produce at least part way in their own trucks. Eggs, poultry, cream, fruits and vegetables go to local markets by road and milk is generally collected at farms by tank trucks. Commercial farms and cooperatives use trucks for marketing and distributing agricultural products and in delivering supplies to farms.

Water routes supplement these means. The Great Lakes have long been used to ship grain from Thunder Bay to eastern Canada during the shipping season and since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 the lakes have been open to ocean-going vessels. Churchill is another seasonal port for Prairie grains, and Vancouver and Halifax are year-round ports.

Marketing and supplies

11.1.6

The marketing of Canada's farm products is a blend of private trading, public sales and auctions, and sales under contract and through cooperatives or marketing boards. Methods vary with the type of product, the region and the preference of producers. Most products, except western grains and a few special crops, are marketed in more than one way.

Canada's principal livestock markets are at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton, but there are many other outlets that vary from large stockyards to country collection points. Most cattle and calves are marketed by auction at public stockyards; the remainder go directly to packing plants or are exported. Most hogs, sheep and lambs are sold directly to packing houses; sales of hogs are usually handled by marketing boards.

Egg sales in Canada are regulated by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency performs similar services for turkey producers. Chickens raised for meat are marketed through provincial marketing boards which have the authority to allocate producer quotas, set producer prices and collect levies.

The marketing of fluid milk is a provincial responsibility and quality, prices, and deliveries are regulated by provincial marketing agencies which estimate market requirements and assign producers a share of the market. A marketing plan under which individual producers are allocated a share of the Canadian