

The Farm Syndicates Credit Act authorizes the Farm Credit Corporation to make loans to syndicates of three or more farmers with respect to joint purchase and use of machinery, equipment or buildings. Amounts owing by the corporation on this account may not exceed \$25 million, and loans are repayable over a period not exceeding 15 years for building and permanently installed equipment and seven years for mobile machinery. In 1975-76, the FCC lent \$4,542,422 to syndicates, representing 231 loans.

The Small Farm Development Program came into effect in September 1972. Under the Land Transfer Plan of this program the FCC makes assistance available in the form of a grant to owners of small farms who wish to sell for retirement or any other reason. During 1975-76 the FCC approved \$4,568,474 in vendor assistance grants to 1,475 farmers, and a total of \$1,783,000 was approved under the special credit provisions to help 104 farmers expand their operations.

The National Farm Products Marketing Council (NFPMC) was established by the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act in 1972 to advise the Minister of Agriculture on all matters pertaining to the establishment of marketing agencies. It reviews their operations, assists them in promoting more effective marketing of farm products, and coordinates related activities of provincial governments as well as the efforts of producers to establish marketing plans. The first application for the establishment of a national agency was submitted by egg producers. The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency was created in December 1972 and was followed by the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency, proclaimed in December 1973.

Membership of the NFPMC was expanded in July 1975 to include representatives of consumer, labour and business interests. In July 1976 the need for supplemental and temporary agreements was eliminated by a permanent egg marketing agreement between the provinces and the federal government.

The operation of the national turkey and egg marketing agencies has led to a great deal of interest on the part of producers of other commodities to establish such organizations. The NFPMC has been approached by representatives of producers of corn, tobacco, pregnant mares' urine and various fruits and vegetables. Proposals to establish a national marketing agency were received from the Canadian Broiler Council, representing broiler chicken producers. These various groups have indicated support for the concept of supply management being applied at the national level.

The Farm Improvement Loans Act, administered by the Department of Finance, is designed to facilitate credit by way of loans made by the chartered banks and other lenders toward the improvement or development of a farm. It includes the purchase of implements and livestock; the purchase and installation of agricultural equipment or a farm electrical system; major repairs or overhaul of agricultural implements and equipment; fencing or works for drainage on a farm; construction, repair or alteration of farm buildings including the family dwelling; and the purchase of additional farm land. Credit is provided on security related to the purchase or project and on terms suited to the individual borrower.

The legislation has been continued through extensions since 1945, usually for three-year periods, the latest from July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1977. The maximum repayment period for land purchase is 15 years, for vehicles three years, and for all other purposes 10 years. The maximum loan or amount that may be outstanding to a borrower at any one time is \$50,000. From inception of the program to December 31, 1975, loans amounting to about \$3,362 million were made. During the same period, payments were made to the banks under a guarantee provision in respect of 5,715 claims amounting to \$6.6 million, representing a loss ratio of one fifth of one percent. In the first six months of 1976, a total of 11,275 loans amounting to some \$58.7 million were made and 42 claims under the guarantee were made for a value of \$97,000.

The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act which came into force on November 25, 1957 and was subsequently amended, provides for interest-free advance