

The Marketing Sector serves both agriculture and the consumer and includes a Marketing Branch and its three divisions: economic studies, marketing and technical assistance to the food industry. The Inspection Branch groups the following divisions: crop products, dairy products and meat products. The assistant deputy minister in charge of marketing is responsible for quality control, the chemical foods laboratory and fraud prevention and suppression.

Ontario. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food conducts a variety of programs to develop a sound agricultural industry. Most assistance is given through self-help programs which benefit the individual farmer. The ministry administers 48 separate legislative acts, some of which are regulatory, on an industry-wide basis. The ministry has 54 county and district offices.

Under the Federal-Provincial Rural Development Agreement, 1975-77, the province shares equally with the Government of Canada the cost of certain rural development programs. In Ontario, ARDA is committed to programs of farm enlargement and adjustment, rural resource development and assistance to rural industries to increase employment opportunities for rural people.

Agricultural Manpower Services Branch, in cooperation with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, assists in the identification, development and implementation of Agricultural Manpower Training programs.

Under the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Manpower Agreement, financial assistance is provided to Ontario fruit, field grown vegetable and tobacco growers for the construction and renovation of accommodation for seasonal farm workers.

The branch assists in the recruitment and placement of full-time agricultural workers for Ontario farmers. Also, in conjunction with this, the branch cooperates with other countries in providing international programs for young agriculturists.

The Soils and Crops Branch conducts programs of applied research to provide farmers with specific recommendations for their areas. Soil and crop specialists work with local branches of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and supervise county inspectors who enforce the Weed Control Act. Extension horticulturists provide specialized advice to producers of fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, greenhouse crops and flowers.

The programs of the Veterinary Services Branch are administered by three sections. The laboratory section, through six veterinary services laboratories, provides diagnostic, investigational, consultation and extension services and administers the Fur Farms Act. The meat inspection section administers the Meat Inspection Act. The regulatory and communicable diseases section administers acts, policies and programs concerned with disease control, animal care and sale of livestock medicines.

The Live Stock Branch supervises numerous livestock improvement programs and administers a number of laws adopted by the provincial legislature relating to livestock in general. Livestock improvement programs include dairy herd improvement; beef cattle, sheep and swine performance testing; ram premium policy; the federal-provincial sheep transportation assistance policy; the testing of feed samples, a computerized ration formulation program; and northern Ontario livestock assistance. The branch makes grants to regional livestock clubs that hold sales and livestock shows, and sponsors exhibits of livestock outside the province. A staff of specialists provides feeding and management advice to livestock producers.

The Ontario Stock Yards Board, which operates under the federal Livestock and Livestock Products Act, was established to provide a marketing service for Ontario livestock producers and to protect their bargaining power.

The Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, a branch of the ministry, offers contributory insurance against weather, insect and disease damage to winter wheat, spring grain, hay, corn (both silage and grain); soybeans, white beans; tomatoes, green peas, green and wax beans, lima beans and sweet corn for