

The Food Land Development Branch provides an agricultural perspective to land use planning activities. Staff contribute to and comment on official plans, amendments to plans and subdivision applications as well as project plans for hydro, highways, pipelines and other facilities. Interim management of government-owned agricultural lands is accomplished through a land lease program. The branch administers the Drainage Act and the Tile Drainage Act to provide loans for draining agricultural lands. Staff also provide policy recommendations on alternative land use programs.

Manitoba. The Department of Agriculture serves Manitoba through four divisions: Marketing and Production; Rural Development; Regional; and Management and Operations. Within these divisions are the following branches.

The Animal Industry Branch develops and administers programs that encourage the improvement and efficient production of all classes of livestock, including poultry. It is also involved in helping to improve the quality of dairy products at the producer and processor level by means of inspection, consultation, education and laboratory quality control. In cooperation with federal departments the branch administers several acts that provide consumer protection and ensure a supply of high quality livestock products.

The Soils and Crops Branch encourages the development, production and improvement of cereal, forage and special crops and horticulture, and promotes proper land use through policies that encourage good field crop husbandry, soil conservation, land development and weed control. The Economics Branch deals with educational and development programs in farm management and agricultural economics, carries out special studies and supervises the farm diversification program. The Marketing Branch performs a market development, research and analysis function aimed at establishing long-term markets for agricultural products. Market intelligence is provided to the various branches of the department, to producers and to agribusiness. The Veterinary Services Branch operates a diagnostic laboratory for animal diseases, administers the Veterinary Services District Act and the Veterinary Scholarship Fund Act, and works in cooperation with practising veterinarians and the federal Health of Animals Branch in the control of livestock and poultry diseases.

The Technical Services Branch provides programs in agricultural engineering, entomology and beekeeping and offers technical assistance to rural residents installing modern farm water systems. The Community and Family Programs Branch carries out educational and developmental programs in 4-H and youth, agricultural manpower, community affairs, rural counselling and resource analysis. It also administers the Agricultural Extension Centre at Brandon for adult education programs. The Communications Services provides press, radio and television services to all mass media outlets and produces and distributes over 570,000 booklets, leaflets and circulars each year. The Regional Division includes five regions with 38 district offices, each staffed with agricultural representatives. The major role of this division is extension of educational programs and advisory information in agriculture and rural development.

Separate from the divisions and reporting directly to the minister is the Manitoba Marketing Board which supervises the operation of producer marketing boards responsible for the orderly marketing of hogs, milk, vegetables, eggs, broiler chickens, root crops, turkeys and honey. Also reporting to the minister is the Manitoba Agricultural Products' Marketing Commission established in May 1975. The commission assists in marketing regulated agricultural products outside the control of producer boards. In addition, bi-weekly reports on feed grain prices are prepared.

Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Agriculture is composed of three main divisions: the Production and Marketing Division, the Farm Resources Development Division and the Extension and Rural Development Division. In addition, the department includes Support Services and a Planning and Research Secretariat.