

Quebec, soybeans by a board in Ontario and sugar beets by contracts with refineries in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

Farmers' co-operatives are usually organized to handle or market producers' crops or livestock, to supply goods and services needed in farming, or both. Co-operative pooling arrangements for farm products guarantee farmers cash advances on deliveries whether products are sold immediately or not.

Marketing of seed in Canada is carried on by private seed companies, farmer-owned co-operatives and seed growers. Seed grades are established by federal regulation. Pedigree seed is produced by members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association under conditions that ensure purity of the variety.

Farm machinery, building materials, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and other supplies are obtained through commercial and co-operative outlets. Statistics on farm implement and equipment sales appear in Chapter 18, Merchandising and trade, and on manufacturing of agricultural implements in Chapter 17, Manufacturing.

## 11.2 Federal government services

### 11.2.1 Canada Department of Agriculture

Responsibilities of the department cover three broad areas: research, promotional and regulatory services and assistance programs. Research aims at solving practical farm problems by applying fundamental scientific research to soil management, agricultural engineering, and crop and animal production. Promotional and regulatory services attempt to control and eradicate crop and livestock pests and register chemicals and other materials used for these purposes. Also included are inspection and grading of agricultural products and setting up crop and livestock improvement policies. Assistance programs include price stabilization, compensation, and income security in the event of crop failure.

### 11.2.2 Government and 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 agriculture department, the industry, trade and commerce department and two semi-autonomous bodies which report to Parliament through federal ministers: the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board.

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

**Grains Group.** In 1970 the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board organized the special advisory group made up of policy advisers representing the departments of agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, and transport. The group examines problems of the grains industry in production, transportation and handling, and marketing. It co-ordinates, reviews and recommends federal policies for these areas. Policies subsequently adopted are implemented through government departments or other agencies concerned with the grains industry.

**Production.** The Canada Department of Agriculture conducts a research program in plant breeding and production methods to improve varieties, yields and quality of grains for which there is a domestic and export demand. An innovation has been the provision each March, well in advance of spring planting, of information on initial prices to be