

decentralized into seven branch offices, one for the Atlantic region and one for each of the other provinces. Field officers work out of 108 offices across Canada.

The Farm Credit Act, designed to meet long-term mortgage credit needs of Canadian farmers, provides three types of mortgage loans. Borrowers must be of legal age to enter into a mortgage agreement and loans are made only to Canadian citizens or those with landed immigrant status. All loans are repayable on an amortized basis within a period not exceeding 30 years. Funds for lending under the act are borrowed from the finance minister. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977 there were 4,465 loans for a total of \$301.4 million.

The Farm Syndicates Credit Act authorizes the corporation to make loans to syndicates of three or more farmers for machinery, equipment or buildings. Loans can be made to syndicates to a maximum of \$100,000 or \$15,000 per qualifying member, whichever is the lesser. Loans are repayable over a period not exceeding 15 years for building and permanently installed equipment and seven years for mobile machinery. In 1976-77, the corporation lent \$1.3 million to syndicates, representing 67 loans.

The small farm development program came into effect in September 1972. Under the land transfer plan of this program the corporation makes grants to owners of small farms who wish to sell for retirement or any other reason. During 1976-77 it approved \$2.3 million in vendor assistance grants to 736 farmers, and a total of \$568,600 was approved under the special credit provisions to help 32 farmers expand their operations.

**The Farm Improvement Loans Act**, administered by the finance department, is designed to facilitate credit by way of loans made by chartered banks and other lenders toward improvement or development of a farm. It includes purchase of implements and livestock; 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 purchase of additional farmland. 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, 1977 to June 30, 1980. Maximum repayment period for land purchase is 15 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 \$75,000. From inception of the program to December 31, 1977, loans amounting to about \$3,656 million were made. During the same period, payments were made to the banks under a guarantee provision in respect of 5,833 claims amounting to \$7.6 million, representing a loss ratio of 0.2%. In the first six months of 1977, 9,480 loans for \$67.2 million were made and 61 claims under the guarantee were made for a value of \$134,915.

## 11.3 Provincial government services

### 11.3.1 Departments of agriculture

**Newfoundland.** Government agricultural services in Newfoundland are provided by the forestry and agriculture department. Principal branches are: agriculture, lands and forestry. Programs are carried to the public by a regional services branch. Three regional supervisors, with agricultural representatives, each serve the public in a specified area known as an agriculture management unit.

Departmental policies in support of the agriculture industry include: a land clearing grant for private farmers, a capital assistance grant for purchase of buildings and equipment, subsidized provision of agricultural limestone, bonus payments for retention of quality breeding stock, grants-in-aid for construction of vegetable storage facilities, a subsidized regional pasture program, subsidized crop and livestock insurance programs, a subsidized veterinary services program, grants to agricultural societies, and technical information and farm management services.

Departmental assistance is also given under a provincial farm development loan board, a Newfoundland marketing board and a Newfoundland farm products