

West, combine operators often move their machinery with the harvest, starting in the US and moving into Canada later in the season. Potato harvesters follow the same pattern in the East.

### **Transportation**

#### **11.1.4**

Railways have been the traditional method of transporting agricultural products to large markets and ports. The Prairie provinces in particular rely on trains to move wheat and livestock to Canadian markets and to elevators in Vancouver, Churchill and Thunder Bay for shipment abroad. Bulky products such as sugar beets are usually shipped by rail.

Many products are now shipped by road. Although railways have retained their importance on the Prairies, many branch lines have been abandoned in other areas and most farmers now ship their produce at least part way in their own trucks. Eggs, poultry, cream, fruits and vegetables go to local markets by road, and milk is generally collected at farms by tank trucks. Commercial farms and co-operatives use trucks for marketing and distributing agricultural products and in delivering supplies to farms.

Water routes supplement these means. The Great Lakes have long been used to ship grain from Thunder Bay to Eastern Canada and since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 the lakes have been open to ocean-going vessels. Churchill is another seasonal port for Prairie grains. Vancouver and Halifax are year-round ports.

### **Marketing and supplies**

#### **11.1.5**

Marketing of Canada's farm products is a blend of private trading, public sales and auctions, and sales under contract and through co-operatives or marketing boards. Methods vary with type of product, region and preference of producers.

Canada's principal livestock markets are at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton, but other outlets vary from large stockyards to country collection points. Most cattle and calves are marketed by auction at public stockyards; the rest go directly to packing plants or are exported. Most hogs, sheep and lambs are sold directly to packing houses; sales of hogs are usually handled by marketing boards.

Marketing eggs is regulated by the Canadian egg marketing agency; a turkey marketing agency serves turkey producers. In early 1979, the new Canadian chicken marketing agency began setting national production targets.

Marketing fluid milk is a provincial responsibility. Quality, prices and deliveries are regulated by provincial marketing agencies which estimate market requirements. A marketing plan allocates producers a share of the Canadian market for milk used for manufacturing. It is in effect in all provinces except Newfoundland. Market shares are administered by provincial marketing agencies under the direction of the Canadian Dairy Commission.

Most grain marketed in Canada is grown in the Prairie provinces. The Canadian Wheat Board is responsible for various aspects of marketing wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax and rapeseed in Western Canada. In Ontario all wheat grown is sold through the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board.

Fruit and vegetables are distributed through fresh and frozen food markets, canneries and other processors. Most produce is grown under a contract or a pre-arranged marketing scheme; marketing boards, producers' associations and co-operatives are common. Tobacco is controlled by marketing boards in Ontario and 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