

**The Canadian International Grains Institute** was incorporated in July 1972. It operates in affiliation with the wheat board and the grain commission. Financial responsibility is shared by the federal government and the wheat board. The institute is designed to help maintain and enlarge markets at home and abroad for Canadian grains, oilseeds and their products. It offers instructional programs to participants from countries purchasing these commodities and to Canadians associated with the grain industry. Courses are offered in grain handling, transportation, marketing, flour milling, bread baking and macaroni manufacturing, and lectures and practical training are given in analytical methods used in processing and using grains and oilseeds. Located in the Canadian Grain Commission Building in Winnipeg, the institute includes classrooms, conference rooms, offices, library, laboratories, an 8.16 tonne, 24-hour-capacity flour mill and a pilot bakery.

**The Canada Grains Council** was established in 1969 to improve co-ordination within the industry on recommendations to government. Its principal aim is to co-ordinate activities directed at increasing Canada's share of world markets for grains and grain products and effecting their efficient use in Canada. Membership is open to all non-governmental organizations and associations whose members are engaged in grain production, processing, handling, transportation or marketing.

Administrative costs of the council are shared by federal government and industry members. The council currently has 29 member organizations representing thousands of individuals. At least two general meetings are held each year; the board of directors meets about 10 times a year. The council is served by a small secretariat.

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Of more than 300,000 farms in Canada, about 20% are classified as wheat farms. Wheat is the most valuable grain crop produced, but cattle and calves are the highest category among commodities sold, accounting for \$2.9 billion of the total \$11.8 billion for farm cash receipts in 1978.

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**The Western Grain Stabilization Act** became effective in April 1976. Its objective is to protect producers against a large unexpected decline in either world grain prices or in sales of Canadian grain, increases in the cash costs of producing that grain or in any combination of those factors. The support given prevents the net cash flow, the difference between total receipts from the production and sale of cereals and oilseeds and the cash costs of production, in each calendar year, from falling below the average of net cash flow in the previous five calendar years. Payments totalling \$115 million were issued from the fund in 1977.

Under this voluntary program, participating grain producers contribute a levy of 2% of their grain sales up to a maximum of \$25,000 a year to the western grain stabilization fund. The federal government contributes an equal amount to double the participating farmers' contributions. Detailed literature on the program is available from the Western Grain Stabilization Administration in Winnipeg.

### **Federal farm assistance programs**

### **11.2.5**

The basic objective of federal farm assistance programs is to help ensure stability of the country's agriculture industry and stability in the supply of food for Canadians. Price-support programs help producers to secure a fair return for their labour and management, provide stability of income, and enable producers to remain in business during times of depressed prices. Crop insurance, available through provincially operated programs to which the federal government contributes financially, enables farmers to protect themselves against crop losses caused by natural forces such as hail, drought and insects. Availability of credit is important for farmers to improve or expand their operations. Among other assistance programs are those for marketing and feed grain. The assistance programs, and the special measures that may be established to