

An animal industry branch encourages improvement and efficient production of livestock, and helps to improve the quality of dairy products through inspection, consultation, education and laboratory quality control.

A soils and crops branch encourages production and improvement of cereal, forage and special crops and horticulture, and promotes policies that encourage good field crop husbandry and weed control. An economics branch deals with educational and development programs in farm management and agricultural economics and carries out special studies. A marketing branch conducts market development research and analysis to establish long-term markets for farm products. A veterinary services branch operates a diagnostic laboratory for animal diseases, administers legislation, and co-operates with practising veterinarians.

A technical services branch provides programs in agricultural engineering, entomology and beekeeping. A community and family programs branch carries out education and development programs in 4-H and youth, agricultural manpower, community affairs and resource analysis. A communications branch provides services to mass media outlets and produces and distributes a wide range of instructional materials. The regional section includes five regions with 38 district offices, each staffed with agricultural representatives. The major role of this section is extension of educational programs and advice in agriculture and rural development.

A Manitoba marketing board supervises the operation of producer marketing boards responsible for the orderly marketing of hogs, milk, vegetables, eggs, broiler chickens, root crops, turkeys and honey.

An agricultural land and water division consolidates departmental efforts to develop water resources, sewer and water infrastructure for farms and rural communities and ensures better land utilization.

Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Agriculture has four main divisions: production and marketing, farm resources development, extension and rural development, and planning and special projects. The latter is responsible for policy and program development.

The production and marketing division administers legislation to improve production, handling, processing and marketing of farm products. It includes the following branches: plant industry, animal industry, veterinary services, and marketing and economics; and a milk control board, a crop insurance corporation, a hog marketing commission and sheep and wool marketing commission.

The extension and rural development division co-ordinates activities to help farm families maintain viable farm units. Its regional extension services branch has field staff throughout the province. The family farm improvement branch provides technical advice and services relating to farmstead mechanization. The irrigation branch, with headquarters at Outlook, is assisting development of a South Saskatchewan River irrigation project.

The extension and rural development division also co-ordinates activities of FarmStart Corporation which administers a credit and grant program for persons establishing or expanding livestock operations.

The farm resources development division is responsible for the development of land and water resources for agricultural uses, for construction for the South Saskatchewan River irrigation project and for development in community pastures. The conservation and land improvement branch provides engineering services in water management, including flood control, drainage and irrigation and is responsible for implementing Qu'Appelle conveyance and flood protection projects. The lands branch administers over 2.8 million hectares of provincial lands for agricultural use. More than 12,000 farmers and ranchers lease land as full units or as additions to their private holdings. The remaining 607 028 hectares are in provincial and co-operative pastures providing grazing for over 150,000 head of cattle belonging to more than 5,500 farmers.

Saskatchewan's land bank commission, agricultural implements board, and farm ownership board, are included in the farm resources development division. The land bank commission provides an alternative for farmers not wishing to commit themselves immediately to a heavy investment in land. It also provides Saskatchewan land-owners