

plants in 1978 totalled 97,583 compared to 132,585 in 1977 and 187,674 in 1976. Imports of live animals decreased from 66,807 in 1976 to 43,177 in 1977. Imports of mutton and lamb decreased from 15.2 million kilograms in 1976 to 13.6 million.

Wool. Estimates of production of shorn wool in 1978 at 0.88 million kilograms were 6% lower than in 1977. Average farm price per kilogram was 115.7 cents in 1978 compared to 100.3 cents a kg in 1977.

Poultry and eggs. Estimated number of laying hens on farms at July 1, 1978 was 23.1 million compared to 24.0 million at July 1, 1977. Production and consumption of poultry meat are shown in Table 11.8.

Table 11.18 shows production and value of farm eggs by province. The farm selling price of eggs averaged 64 cents a dozen compared with 65 cents a dozen in 1977. The Atlantic provinces produced 7.6% of all eggs in 1978, Quebec 16.1%, Ontario 39.3%, the Prairie provinces 24.4% and British Columbia 12.7%.

11.4.4 Dairying

The number of dairy cows in Canada at July 1, 1978 was 1,909,000 head, the lowest in recent times. In 1978 milk production stood at 7 614.8 million kilograms compared to 7 742.8 million in 1977. Production is concentrated in Central Canada with Quebec and Ontario together accounting for 74% of Canadian production.

Production of creamery butter in 1978 was 102.5 million kilograms, compared with the 1977 output of 113.3 million. Quebec accounted for 50.5% of butter production and Ontario 29.6%.

Total production of factory cheese for 1978 was 139.8 million kilograms, some 4% above production in 1977; Quebec accounted for 45.2% and Ontario 40.8%.

Total production of concentrated whole milk products, including condensed milk, evaporated milk, whole milk powder, partly skimmed evaporated milk and others, increased 12.8% over 1977. Production of concentrated milk byproducts, including condensed skim milk, evaporated skim milk, skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, whey powder, casein and others, decreased 2.5%.

11.4.5 Horticultural crops

Fruits and vegetables. The fruit and vegetable industry represents an important part of the agricultural and food distribution sectors of the economy. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables account for more than 40% in quantity of all food consumed in Canada. Over 30 fruit and vegetable crops are grown commercially with an annual farm value of almost \$650 million.

The most important fruit grown in Canada is the apple. Commercial apple orchards are found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Southern Quebec, much of Ontario, and the interior of British Columbia, particularly in the Okanagan Valley. Tender tree fruits — pears, peaches, cherries, plums — are also grown in Ontario, with the most important commercial operations located in the Niagara Peninsula and in Essex County. These fruits, as well as apricots, are also grown on a large scale in the southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

Strawberries and raspberries are cultivated commercially in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Some fruit growers in British Columbia also produce small quantities of loganberries commercially in the lower mainland area and on Vancouver Island. Grapes are grown in the Niagara district of Ontario and on a smaller scale in British Columbia. The native blueberry is found wild over large areas in Canada and is harvested in commercial quantities in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario. A cultivated crop is grown in British Columbia. Commercial cranberry operations are located in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Table 11.13 shows commercial production and farm value of fruit grown in 1975-78.

In terms of production and value, potatoes are the most important vegetable produced in Canada. The Maritime provinces comprise the major growing region of the country. Each year a significant volume of the potato crop is processed into chips, flakes or French fries.