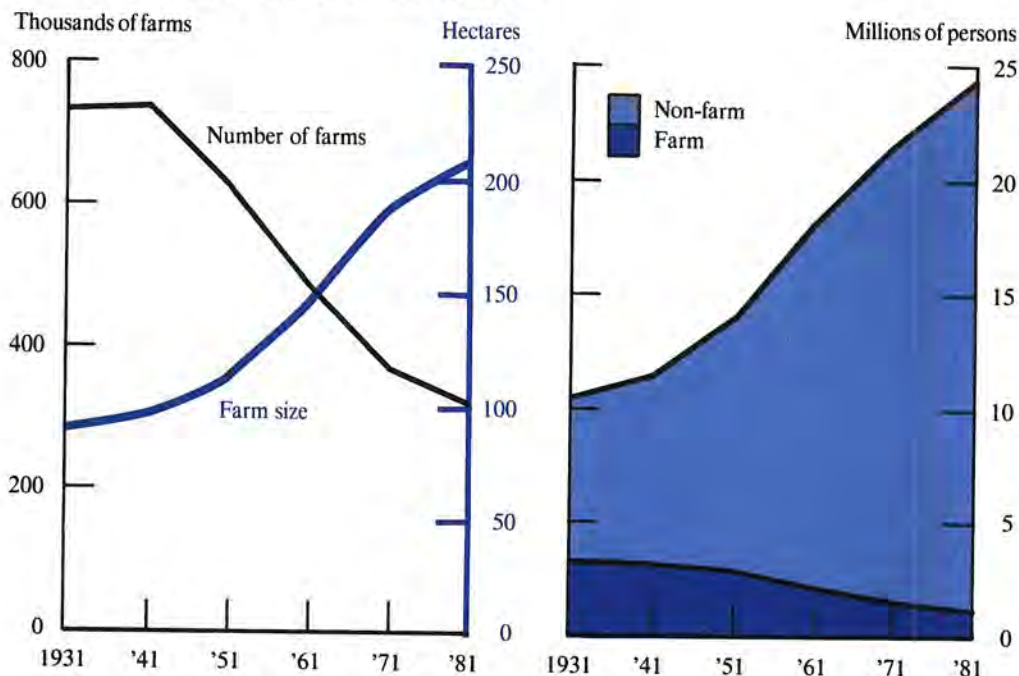


Chart 9.1

Trends in farm size and population, 1931-81

Farming is the leading industry on Prince Edward Island. Potatoes are the major crop but the land also supports mixed grains, dairying and other livestock enterprises. Small fruits and vegetables are produced.

Nova Scotia's main agricultural areas surround the Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Strait where they are protected from Atlantic gales. Dairying and poultry production are common and beef farming is increasing. The Annapolis Valley is famous for fruit, mainly apples, but strawberries and blueberries are coming to the fore. New Brunswick produces potatoes and livestock in the Saint John River Valley and there is mixed farming in the northwest. More than a third of the commercial farms in the province are dairy farms.

The central region. This lowland area bordering the St. Lawrence River includes the Ottawa Valley and extends through Southern Ontario to Lake Huron. Fertile soils, mostly formed by glacial drift and lake sediment developed under deciduous forest cover, and a mild climate modified by the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, allow varied farming. Precipitation averages 760 to 1 140 mm a year. This most densely populated part of the country provides large markets for farm produce.

Well over half of Quebec commercial farms are now dairy farms and supply large butter and cheese

industries. Livestock farms, specializing in beef cattle, hogs, poultry and egg production, and mixed farms are common. Forage crops account for the largest cultivation and oats and corn are produced for feed. Fruits and vegetables are becoming prime crops. Sugar beets and flue-cured tobacco are also grown and processed.

Ontario has specialized crops in southerly regions, the largest number of commercial livestock farms, and is second in dairy farms. Forage crops are the largest cultivated crops; others are corn, mixed grains, winter wheat, oats and barley.

Dairy farms are concentrated in southwestern Ontario, in the Bruce Peninsula and in the eastern counties. Beef is a specialty in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay areas. Sheep, poultry and hog production is widespread. Ontario is a major producer of apples and the Niagara Peninsula grows most of Canada's tender tree fruits and grapes. Vegetables are grown near most large centres. Maple syrup is a major sideline for Ontario and Quebec farmers.

The Prairie region. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain 80% of the farmland in Canada. Long sunny summer days coupled with sufficient precipitation ensures strong healthy growth of high quality grain such as hard red spring wheat, by far the