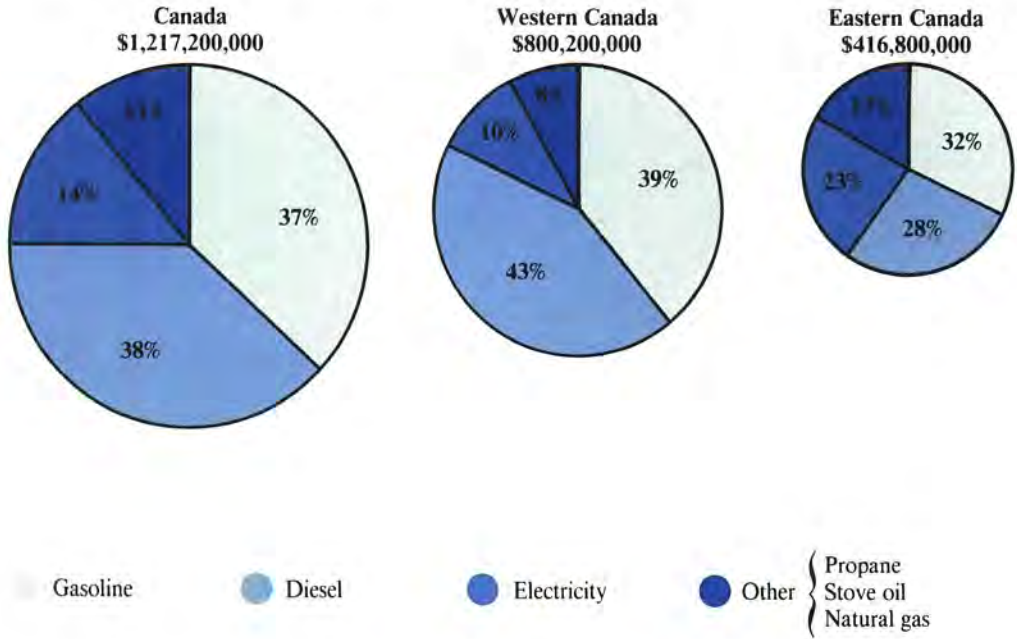


Chart 9.4
Energy expenditures on farms, 1981



result of prices which are measured by a Statistics Canada farm input price index.

9.6 Other federal services

9.6.1 Agriculture Canada

Responsibilities of the federal department cover three broad areas: research, promotional and regulatory services and assistance programs. Research aims at solving practical farm problems by applying scientific research to soil management, agricultural engineering, and crop and animal production. Promotional and regulatory services apply to market development, crop and livestock improvement, inspection and grading of agricultural products, control of insect pests and diseases of plants and livestock, and registration of pesticides and fertilizers. Assistance programs provide for price stabilization, compensation, and income security in the event of a crop failure.

9.6.2 Grains industry

Government involvement in the grains industry predates Confederation and is a record of policies relating to land use and settlement; transportation; grain storage, handling and forwarding; marketing methods and opportunities; income security; and the many ramifications of international competition and the search for international co-operation in the sale of

grain. The federal government's role in the grains industry is carried out by Agriculture Canada, External Affairs Canada and two semi-autonomous bodies which report to Parliament through federal ministers: the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Canadian International Grains Institute contributes to the maintenance and expansion of markets for Canadian grains and oilseeds and their products. The Canada Grains Council provides a forum for co-ordination, consultation and consensus on industry recommendations to government. Organized in 1970 the Grains Group represents the departments of agriculture, external affairs and transport. The group examines problems in production, transportation and handling, and marketing. It co-ordinates, reviews and recommends federal policies for the grains industry.

Production. Agriculture Canada conducts research in plant breeding and production methods to improve varieties, yields and quality of marketable grains. An annual feature has been the provision each March, well in advance of spring planting, of information on anticipated market conditions and on recommended seeded areas for grains in the coming crop year. These are announced by the minister responsible for the wheat board.