

Agricultural Products Board (1951) is empowered to buy, sell, or import agricultural products; to store, transport, and process such products; to sell agricultural products to any country and to make arrangements for their purchase and delivery; or to purchase agricultural products on behalf of any government or agency. The board can only sell products at a loss when specifically authorized by the Governor-in-Council. Programs may also be taken in support of market stabilization of agricultural commodities in lieu of action under the Agricultural Stabilization Act.

Agricultural Stabilization Board (1958) stabilizes prices of agricultural products to help the industry get fair returns for labour and investment, and to maintain a fair relationship between prices received by farmers and their costs of goods and services. Commodities included are slaughter cattle, hogs and sheep, industrial milk and cream, corn and soybeans, and oats and barley produced outside designated areas defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The Governor-in-Council may designate other commodities for support. The board may stabilize the price of any product by offer to purchase, or by making deficiency payments for the benefit of producers. Stabilizing prices by means of assistance payments has helped balance production and demand.

The board's operations are financed by parliamentary appropriations for that purpose.

The Crop Insurance Act (1959) provides that the federal government helps the provinces in making all-risk crop insurance available to farmers on a shared-cost basis. Crop insurance can protect the farmer against unforeseen losses. Initiative for establishing crop insurance rests with the provinces. Programs are developed to meet provincial requirements. The federal government shares the risk by providing loans or reinsurance when indemnities greatly exceed premiums and reserves. Farmers pay 50% of total premiums required to make the programs self-sustaining. The remainder is contributed by the federal government if the province elects to pay all administrative costs. Otherwise the provincial and federal government share administrative costs and the remaining premium equally.

Canadian Livestock Feed Board (1966) is a Crown agency with four main objectives: availability of feed grain to meet the needs of livestock feeders, adequate storage space in Eastern Canada for feed grain needed by livestock feeders, a reasonably stable price of feed grain in Eastern Canada and in British Columbia, and fair equalization of feed grain prices in the domestic market.

The board may make payments related to the cost of feed grain storage and transportation, the latter payments having been made since 1941. Since April 1967 the freight subsidy has been administered by the Livestock Feed Board. Initially, it was applied

only to feed grains produced in the Prairie provinces and designated for domestic livestock consumption in Eastern Canada, British Columbia, and Yukon and Northwest Territories. It was extended to the movement of Ontario corn and wheat to the Atlantic provinces and Quebec.

The board monitors transportation costs for feed grain and protein ingredients and plays a major role in freight rate negotiations and freight rate structure in co-operation with farm organizations, trade associations and the railways. Members and staff of the board meet with producer associations and industry organizations to deal with problems of the feed grain-livestock sector of Canadian agriculture. Research activities focus primarily on economic aspects of animal feed production, utilization, feed grain marketing, transportation and current and potential problem areas.

Farm Credit Corporation administers the Farm Credit Act and the Farm Syndicates Credit Act. Lending decisions and operations are decentralized into seven regional offices, one for the Atlantic region and one for each of the other provinces. Field officers work out of 104 offices across Canada.

The Farm Credit Act, designed to meet long-term mortgage credit needs of Canadian farmers, provides two types of mortgage loans. Borrowers must be of legal age to enter into a mortgage agreement and loans are made only to Canadian citizens or permanent residents. All loans are repayable on an amortized basis within a period not exceeding 30 years.

The Farm Syndicates Credit Act authorizes loans to syndicates of three or more farmers for machinery, equipment or buildings. Loans can be made to syndicates to a maximum of \$100,000 or \$15,000 per qualifying member, whichever is the lesser. Loans are repayable over a period not exceeding 15 years for buildings and permanently installed equipment and seven years for mobile machinery.

New crop development fund. Agriculture Canada is helping the private sector and universities in their efforts to broaden Canada's agricultural base. The objective is to help stimulate the development and acceptance of new crops and varieties, new uses for crops grown in Canada, and new more efficient production methods. It plays a prominent role in bridging the gap between basic research and commercial production.

Examples of complete and ongoing projects financed in part by the fund can be found in all regions in Canada. For example, in British Columbia, a five-year project examined the introduction of German grape varieties in the Okanagan Valley. The University of Guelph in Ontario studied the feasibility of establishing a commercial peanut industry.