

are using land rental as an alternative to ownership at an increasing rate. Rented land accounted for 36.3% of total farm land in 1986, up from 30.0% in 1976.

Size of Census-farms. In 1986, the average size of Census-farms increased to 231.4 hectares (571.8 acres) from 213.5 hectares (527.6 acres) in 1981 and 202.1 hectares (499.4 acres) in 1976. The average size of farms has been growing since 1921.

Census results also show that 46.8% of Census-farms in Canada were comprised of less than 97.1 hectares (240 acres) in 1986 compared with 48.3% in 1976. In contrast, the proportion of farms equal to or greater than 307.6 hectares (760 acres) rose to 22.6% in 1986 from 18.9% in 1976. The proportion of farms from 97.1 hectares (240 acres) to less than 307.6 hectares (760 acres) declined marginally between 1986 and 1976. However, there were wide variations among provinces.

Fertilizer use. In 1985, fertilizer was applied to 66.1% of Census-farms. They utilized 4.1 million tonnes of commercial fertilizer on 23.1 million hectares (57.2 million acres) which is one-half of all improved land in Canada. For the first time in 1986, Census data were collected on the amount of fertilizer used by type including dry granular, pressurized liquid or gas (including anhydrous ammonia), non-pressurized liquid and suspensions.

Spraying and dusting. In 1985, 62.0% of Census-farms applied pesticides, an increase of 9.3% from 1980. Spraying and dusting of farm land went up by 63.2% to 27.6 million hectares (68.1 million acres) in the same five-year period.

Irrigation. The number of farms reporting irrigation in Canada increased by 19.9% in 1985 compared to 1980 while the area irrigated increased by 25.4%. The 1986 Census, for the first time, collected data on various irrigation systems across Canada. More detailed analysis of irrigation will now be possible.

Sub-surface drainage. For the first time, the Census of agriculture has collected data on sub-surface drainage, a technology employed most extensively in Eastern Canada. According to the 1986 Census, 38.7% of the improved farm land in Ontario and 28.5% in Quebec was sub-surface (or tile) drained.

Farm machinery. A total of 728,074 tractors were reported on farms according to the 1986 Census of agriculture, an increase of 10.7% from 1981. For the first time in the Census, respondents were asked to report two-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive tractors separately. Two-wheel-drive tractors accounted for 89.1% and four-wheel-drive, 10.9% of total tractors.

Other farm machine inventories in 1986 compared to 1981 were as follows: farm trucks, up 8.4%; grain combines, down 2.0%; swathers, down 1.4%; pick-up hay balers, down 2.6%; and forage crop harvesters, down 10.7%.

Hired agricultural labour. A total of 141,841 farms reported hired agricultural labour in 1985, an increase of 23.1% from 1980 and total weeks of hired agricultural labour increased 26.0%.

Sales class. According to the 1986 Census, the number of farms with sales of \$50,000 or over rose to 113,096, an increase of 24.3% from 1981. The bulk of the increase was in the \$100,000 or over sales class (59.8%) while the \$50,000 to \$99,999 sales class increased marginally (0.4%).

Conversely, the number of farms with less than \$50,000 sales declined to 179,993 in 1986, a decrease of 20.8% from 1981. The largest decrease was recorded in the under \$2,500 sales class (30.8%), followed by \$25,000 to \$49,999 (20.8%), \$2,500 to \$4,999 (19.6%), \$10,000 to \$24,999 (17.1%) and \$5,000 to \$9,999 (14.6%).

Product type. In 1986, farms with sales of \$2,500 or more were classified by product type. The proportion of small grains (excluding wheat farms) at the Canada level was recorded as 22.5% in 1986 which represents the largest increase (3.3%) from 1981. The second largest increase (1.3%) from 1981 was registered for miscellaneous specialty farms, followed by cattle, mixed farms, and fruits and vegetables.

The proportion of wheat farms in 1986 at the Canada level was 18.0%, representing the largest decline (2.6%) from 1981. The second largest decline (2.3%) was noted for dairy farms from 1981, which was followed by field crops (other than small grains) and poultry.

Farm capital. Farm capital is comprised of land and buildings, machinery and equipment, and livestock and poultry. Total capital value in 1986 was \$109,675.7 million, down 15.8% from 1981. Land and buildings declined in value by 22.5% and value of livestock and poultry decreased by 8.0% between 1981 and 1986. In contrast, the value of machinery and equipment increased by 19.0% during the same five-year period.

9.4 Trends in the 1980s

9.4.1 International influences

Canada's agriculture production relies to a great extent on foreign markets, therefore, events which affect its trading partners also affect the agriculture sector. The 1980-86 period was characterized by a number of major events which affected Canadian agriculture and, consequently, the incomes