

raising and finishing of beef cattle and hogs; poultry production for meat and eggs; and dairy cattle for the production of milk and other dairy products. Grain farms produce such crops as wheat, barley, corn, oats, flax and canola/rapeseed. Mixed farms produce both grain and livestock. Special crop farms produce vegetables, fruits, potatoes or other root crops, tobacco or forest products. Each region has its specialties, but none is limited to one type of farming.

**The Atlantic region** includes Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Gaspé district of Quebec. It is hilly, with a covering of relatively fertile soil developed under forest cover. The climate is modified by the sea, but also affected by cold currents from the coast of Labrador and by northern winds. Precipitation averages from 760 to 1 500 mm (millimetres) annually. Mixed farming is general and forage crops support a healthy livestock industry. Small farmers may combine farming with some form of partial employment, including lumbering and fishing.

Newfoundland and the Labrador Coast are isolated from the Maritimes and there is a scarcity of good soil. The region produces all of its egg requirements and a large percentage of other commodities. There are development opportunities in dairy and horticulture.

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 the soil is fertile and the number of frost-free days provides a long growing season. Dairy farms are very common and there is general and widespread hog, poultry, beef and vegetable production. Strawberry production is increasingly important and Nova Scotia has become the leading province in lowbush blueberry production. The Annapolis Valley is famous for fruit, mainly apples. Several hundred farmers specialize in mink and fox production in the region around Yarmouth, making this area a major source of North American supplies.

New Brunswick produces potatoes and livestock in the upper Saint John River Valley. Special crop farming is predominant in the coastal and central areas of the province. Dairy operations, which are concentrated in southern New Brunswick, and potato farming constitute the majority of commercial farms in the province.

**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 from 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 the largest and most diverse agriculture sector, with many specialized crops in southerly regions. It has the largest number of commercial livestock farms and is second in dairy farms. Forage crops account for the largest cultivated area, followed by grain corn, soybeans, mixed grains, winter wheat and barley.

Dairy farms are concentrated in southwestern Ontario, the Bruce Peninsula and eastern Ontario. Beef and hog production are specialties in western Ontario. Poultry and egg production is concentrated in southwestern Ontario while sheep are raised throughout the province. Ontario is a major producer of apples and the Niagara Peninsula grows most of Canada's tender fruit and grapes. Vegetables are grown near most large centres and in the extreme southwest of the province. Maple syrup is a major sideline for some Ontario farmers.

**The Prairie region.** Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain 80% of the farmland in Canada. Long sunny summer days coupled with sufficient precipitation ensure strong healthy growth of high quality grain such as hard red spring wheat — the largest single cereal crop — barley, canola/rapeseed and other grain and oilseed crops. The large beef cattle industry is supported by the native grasslands and by the production of cultivated forage crops and feed grains.

Manitoba, with the highest Prairie rainfall and over 100 frost-free days, has more varied farming. Wheat and other grains predominate but canola/rapeseed and flax are also grown extensively. There is considerable mixed farming, with emphasis on beef cattle. Vegetables, sugar beets and sunflowers are grown in south-central Manitoba and processed locally. Dairy farms are