

management of animal wastes which has been in effect since July 25, 1988. This program applies to the construction or improvement of structures for storing solid or liquid manure. Quebec operates two agro-food technology institutes, two food analysis laboratories, two chemistry laboratories, three animal pathology laboratories and six research stations devoted to various types of agro-food production.

In addition to numerous financial assistance programs designed to provide economic stability for Ontario's food producers and processors, the agriculture ministry encourages wise soil and water management through land stewardship and pesticide reduction programs. Laboratories offer a variety of services, ranging from veterinary services for producers and veterinarians to fruit and vegetable grading and inspecting. Ontario offers education and research programs at five agricultural technology colleges.

The Prairie provinces all conduct substantial market development activities, and programs to assist farm families. In Saskatchewan, a broad range of programs and services are provided to the province's rural community of approximately 63,000 farms. Similar programs and services are provided to Manitoba's 27,000 farms. Numerous assistance programs in Saskatchewan include drought assistance programs, fuel rebates, live-stock cash advances and tax credits, and incentives for agricultural diversification. In 1988, the Saskatchewan government initiated the establishment of 52 rural service centres throughout Saskatchewan to provide up-to-date agricultural, business and diversification information.

In Alberta, support is provided to farmers through loan programs, stabilization programs, fuel rebates, input cost reduction and disaster assistance programs. Other longer term government initiatives include research and technology transfer; diversification within Alberta's primary production and food and beverage processing sectors; and soil and water conservation. The Alberta government supports research at various locations: field crops research at Lacombe; special crops and horticultural research at Brooks; environmental studies at Vegreville; irrigation and special crops research at Lethbridge; and food processing research at Leduc.

In British Columbia, the majority of ministry programs are delivered through development and extension, and financial assistance programs. Front line staff work directly with farmers and agri-business in three agricultural regions — North/Central, Southern Interior and South Coastal. They provide advisory and demonstration

services with support from seven ministry specialist branches: Crop Protection, Field and Special Crops, Soils, Animal Industry, Veterinary, Engineering, and Rural Organizations and Services.

9.7 Product and marketing controls

Numerous measures have been enacted by both federal and provincial governments over the years to encourage a productive agricultural sector. Originally emphasis was on production increases and control of pests and diseases. As production and farm specialization increased, problems in marketing began to emerge.

Grading procedures and standards were established to ensure quality but periodic price collapses were caused by bumper crops and intensified by the general inability of producers to bargain on an equitable basis with far fewer buyers.

Voluntary marketing co-operatives were organized to provide bargaining power to producers. All provinces eventually passed legislation for incorporating co-operatives, and most of them provided assistance. Federally, the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act provided price guarantees to producers willing to market their crops on a pooling-of-returns basis. More information on co-operative organizations is given in Chapter 17.

Co-operative marketing was initially successful, but the voluntary aspect was a weakness. In good times, many members dropped out to make their own deals. Marketing organizations, with the legal power to control all producer output of certain products in certain areas, were a necessity. As a result, marketing control legislation was adopted, providing for various types of boards, agencies and commissions.

9.7.1 Product standards

Federal and provincial departments of agriculture co-operate in enforcing quality standards for various foods. Agriculture Canada has some control over size and types of containers used and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs enforces regulations on weights and measures.

Standards related to health and sanitation in food handling are developed at all levels of government. Examples are provincial and municipal laws pertaining to milk pasteurization, slaughter house inspection and sanitary standards in restaurants. Federal inspection of all meat carcasses traded interprovincially is required by the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Health and Welfare has wide responsibility for food