

on hand at close of the period, as well as marketing losses and industrial uses. All calculations are made at the retail level of distribution, except for meats for which the figures are worked out at the wholesale stage. The amount of food actually eaten would be somewhat lower than indicated because of losses and waste occurring after the products reach the consumer.

All basic foods are classified under 14 main commodity groups. The total for each group is computed using a common denominator, for example: milk solids (dry weight) for the dairy products group; fat content for fats and oils; and fresh equivalent for fruits. Most foods are included in their basic form, that is, as flour, fat, sugar, etc., rather than in more highly manufactured forms.

The series in Table 11.25 represents the official estimates of yearly supplies of food moving into consumption, expressed in lb. per capita, for the years 1966-70 as an average for comparison with the years 1971 and 1972. Production of meats from slaughter in Canada, total supply, distribution and per capita disappearance of meats and lard are shown in Table 11.26. All estimates are on a cold carcass-weight basis except canned meats, which are in terms of product.

11.5 1971 Census of Agriculture

This Section presents a limited amount of information from the 1971 Census of Agriculture; details are contained in Volume IV — Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the 1971 Census of Canada. A list of the special and advance census reports that have been released is available on request.

Number of census-farms. For both census years, 1971 and 1966, a census-farm was defined as a holding of one acre or more with sales of agricultural products valued at \$50 or more during the 12 months prior to the census. The number of census-farms in Canada declined 15% to 366,128 in 1971 from 430,522 in 1966, indicating an acceleration of the trend since 1941 toward an ever-decreasing number of census-farms (Table 11.27).

Farm areas. The total area of census-farms in 1971 was 169,668,614 acres, a 2.6% decrease from the 174,124,828 acres recorded in 1966 (Table 11.28). The Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario all reported significant decreases in farm acreage. Only Newfoundland, Alberta and British Columbia showed an increase, the increase in Newfoundland being due to the establishment of new community pastures. The Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories recorded a slight increase in acreage. For Canada as a whole, the 108,148,877 acres of improved land for 1971 was virtually unchanged from the area recorded in 1966. A 4.3% increase in summerfallow to 26,740,727 acres from 25,631,683 acres in 1966 nearly offset small decreases in cropland, improved pasture and other improved land. The area of unimproved land decreased 6.8% to 61,519,737 acres in 1971 from 65,970,451 acres in 1966. Woodland, decreasing by 18.8%, accounted for the majority of this loss, while other improved land decreased 3.4%.

Economic classification of census-farms. Census-farms were divided into 12 economic classes according to the total value of products sold during the past calendar year (Table 11.29). Such a classification serves as a measure of the productive size of census-farms in Canada. The former division of census-farms into "commercial" and "small-scale" farms has been dropped, since what may be felt to be a commercial farm in one region might be considered small-scale in another. The group classified as "institutional farms, etc." includes experimental farms, community pastures and institutional-type farms regardless of the amount of sales of agricultural products.

Type of farm. Table 11.30 shows that, with the exception of farms classified as "institutional farms, etc.", all census-farms with sales of \$2,500 or more were classified as one of 10 major product types. A criterion of 51% or more of total sales was used for this classification. For example, a census-farm was typed as a poultry farm if 51% or more of the total agricultural sales for the farm was obtained from the sale of poultry products. However, it was classed as a dairy-type farm if 40% to 50% of total sales was obtained from dairy products, provided the sale of dairy products together with the sale of cattle and calves amounted to 51% or more of the total sales. Under these criteria, it was possible for a farm to qualify for more than one product type. To prevent this possibility, the 10 product types were given a priority rating in the order listed in Table 11.30.