

Size of census-farms. In 1971, 49% of the census-farms in Canada contained less than 240 acres compared with 53% in 1966 (Table 11.32). This decrease in the number of small holdings again indicates the trend toward consolidation of farms into larger holdings. However, the wide variation in the distribution of farms by size between provinces continues. In the Atlantic Provinces 71.8% of the census-farms were under 240 acres in size; in Quebec and Ontario 78.4% were under 240 acres; in the Prairie Provinces only 17.9% fell below 240 acres; and in British Columbia the percentage was 78.5 (Table 11.31).

Age of census-farm operators. The proportion of census-farm operators under 35 remained at approximately 15% of the total. Similarly, the number of operators in the middle age groups, 35-54, remained at 52% and those in the older age groups, 55 and over, remained at 33% (Table 11.32).

Farm machinery. Table 11.33 indicates that between 1966 and 1971 farm trucks increased by 7.3%, swathers 12.6%, pick-up hay balers 11.6% and forage crop harvesters 17.3%. Decreases were reported for automobiles, 8.9%, tractors, 0.3% and combines, 4.4%.

11.6 International crop statistics

Tables 11.34 and 11.35 are based on estimates published by the Foreign Agricultural Service, US Department of Agriculture, and give the acreages and production of wheat and the production of oats and barley for the harvests of 1972 and 1973 with averages for the years 1967-71, in the leading grain-producing countries of the world.

11.7 The marketing of agricultural products

11.7.1 The grain trade

Further modifications were made in delivery quota policies for the 1971-72 crop year. However, the general framework of the quota system introduced the previous crop year remained unchanged. The modifications to the system were designed to give producers greater flexibility and to make their deliveries more responsive to market requirements. The Wheat Board continued to authorize quotas for specific grains, and, if necessary, grades of grain during the 1971-72 crop year. Producers were again able to select one alternate delivery point and delivery quotas were again based on the acreages assigned by producers to the delivery of particular grains. For additional details regarding delivery quota policies see Statistics Canada publication *Grain trade of Canada* (Catalogue No. 22-201). Supply and disposition of Canadian grain for the crop years ending July 31, 1971 and July 31, 1972 are shown in Table 11.36.

11.7.1.1 The 1971-72 crop year

Estimated domestic supplies of wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed and rapeseed totalled 2,687 million bu in the crop year 1971-72, an increase of 3% over the 1970-71 total of 2,616 million bu. Marketings of these grains in the Prairie Provinces amounted to 952.2 million bu, 21% over the 1970-71 level of 785.3 million bu and 46% more than the 10-year (1960-61-1969-70) average of 652.1 million bu. Marketings of wheat during the 1971-72 crop year, at 517.5 million bu, were up 35% and accounted for 54% of total deliveries. Marketings of the other major grains (totals for 1970-71 and 10-year averages, respectively, in parentheses) in millions of bushels were: oats, 32.3 (58.3, 42.9); barley, 295.5 (235.9, 93.9); rye, 15.5 (11.6, 7.5); flaxseed, 21.6 (33.7, 16.7); and rapeseed 69.8 (61.5, 14.7).

Wheat. Domestic supplies of wheat in 1971-72 amounted to 1,263.7 million bu, 6% below the 1970-71 total of 1,340.3 million bu. The 1971 production of wheat was 529.6 million bu in contrast to 331.6 million bu in 1970, and carryover stocks were 734.2 million bu compared with 1,008.7 million bu the previous year. Exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat during the 1971-72 crop year, at 503.8 million bu, were 16% above the 435.3 million bu exported in 1970-71, 56% higher than the long-term average of 322.6 million bu and 22% more than the 10-year average of 412.5 million bu.

During the crop year 1971-72, marketing of western Canadian wheat was again conducted by the Canadian Wheat Board on a one-year Pool basis, the initial payment being \$1.46 per bu basis No. 1 C.W. Red Spring in store Thunder Bay or Vancouver. On February 13, 1973 the Board announced that a final payment involving the distribution of \$62.6 million would be made on wheat delivered by producers during the 1971-72 crop year.