

Food Department. This agency provided a government guarantee covering 25% of the principal amount on loans to feeder associations for the purchase of feeder heifers and steers. Eligibility for the guarantees was limited to feeder associations with at least 20 members over the age of 18 who were not active in other feeder associations. One hundred and sixteen associations received guarantees on loans that were outstanding during the period of investigation. Because eligibility was limited to feeder associations, the program was found to be specific. The total subsidy from the program was found to be 0.01%.

8.3.2.5 Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Community Pasture Program (PFRA)

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration was created in the 1930s to rehabilitate drought and soil-drifting areas in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The PFRA established the Community Pasture Program to facilitate improved land use through rehabilitation, conservation and management. The goal of the Community Pasture Program was to utilize the resource primarily for the summer grazing of cattle to encourage long-term production of high-quality cattle.

In pursuit of its objectives, the PFRA operated 87 separate pastures covering approximately 2.2 million acres. At these pastures, the PFRA offered grazing privileges and optional breeding services for fees established by it. The fees were based upon recovery of the costs associated with the grazing and breeding services. Because use of Community Pastures was limited to Canadian farmers involved in grazing livestock, Commerce determined that the program was specific. As a result, the provision of public pasture services was a countervailable subsidy at 0.02%.

8.3.2.6 Saskatchewan Crown Lands Program

Agricultural crown land managed by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) was made available to all Saskatchewan agricultural producers for lease. Activities carried out on the land included grazing, cultivation, community pastures and additional multiple-use activities. Leases ranged from 1- to 33-year terms. Beginning in 1997, SAF set rental rates using a formula that took account of the average price of cattle marketed in the previous years. Lessees were responsible for paying taxes, developing and maintaining water facilities and fences, and providing for public access to the land. Because the cattle industry was a predominant user of the Saskatchewan Crown Lands Program, it was found to be specific and thus, to provide a countervailable subsidy at the rate 0.02%.

8.3.2.7 Manitoba Crown Lands Program

Agricultural crown land was managed by Manitoba Agriculture Crown Lands (MACL), whose primary objective was to administer the disposition of crown lands and to improve the lands' productivity. Crown agricultural land was made