

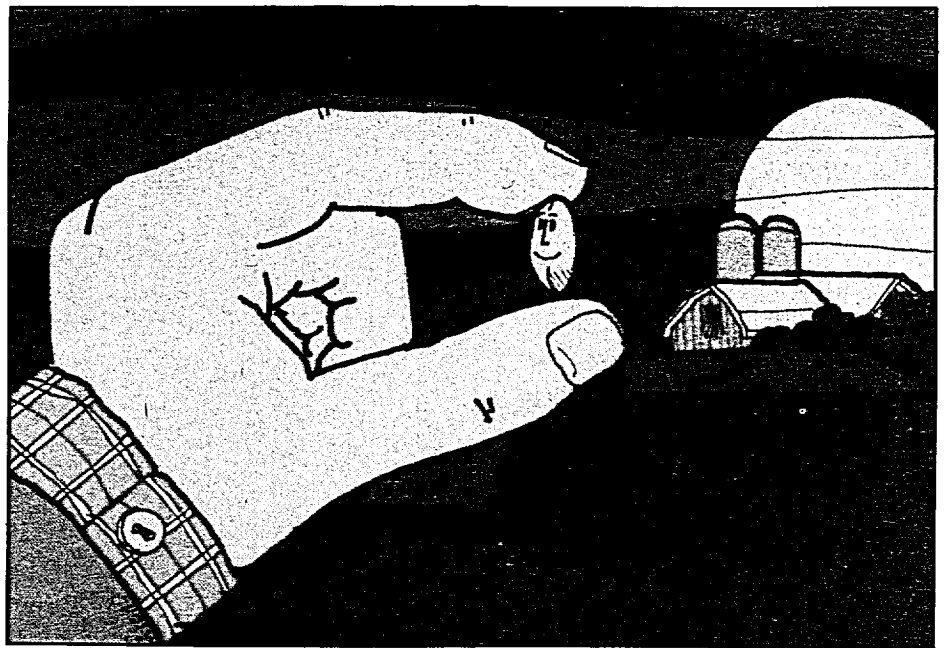
Farming is the principal occupation on Prince Edward Island. Potatoes are the leading crop and are recognized for their superior quality throughout the world. The Island's fertile land also supports mixed grains, dairying and other livestock enterprises. Small fruits and vegetables are produced as well.

In Newfoundland agriculture is of only local importance because of rough terrain. However, bogland offers some potential for reclaiming and vegetable farming.

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 relatively mild climate modified by the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, account for varied agricultural activity. Precipitation averages 760 to 1,140 millimetres a year. This is also the most densely populated part of the country, providing large markets for farm produce.

Well over half the commercial farms of Québec are now dairy farms. Large butter and cheese industries rely on these farms for primary products. Livestock farms, specializing in beef cattle, swine and sheep, and mixed farms are common, and poultry and egg production is increasing. Forage crops account for the largest cultivation and oats and corn are produced for feed. Fruits, particularly apples, and vegetables are becoming prime crops. Sugar beets and flue-cured tobacco are also grown and processed.



Ontario has specialized crops in more southerly regions and the largest number of commercial livestock farms, and is second in dairy farms. Forage crops are the largest cultivated crops; others are corn, mixed grains, winter wheat, oats and barley.

Dairy farms are concentrated in Middlesex, Oxford and Perth counties in southwestern Ontario, in the Bruce Peninsula and in the eastern counties. Beef is a specialty in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay areas. Sheep, poultry and swine production is widespread. Ontario is a major producer of apples and the Niagara Peninsula accounts for most of Canada's tender tree fruits and grapes. Vegetables are grown near most large centres. Maple syrup has traditionally been a major sideline for farmers in Ontario and Québec.

The Prairie Region

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain three-quarters of the farmland in Canada. Precipitation that averages only 330 to 510 millimetres a year and a climate of cold winters and short, hot summers favours the production of high quality hard red spring wheat, by far the largest

single crop produced here. Rangeland and pasture support a large number of cattle, and livestock rearing in general is a major industry.

Manitoba has the highest rainfall of the three provinces and an average of one hundred frost-free days, resulting in more varied farming. Wheat and other grains predominate but canola is also grown, and there is mixed farming with an emphasis on livestock. Vegetables, sugar beets and sunflowers are grown south of Winnipeg and processed locally. Dairy farms are common around Winnipeg; swine production and sheep farms are widespread and beef cattle are raised in the southwest.

Saskatchewan grows about two-thirds of all Canada's wheat and large quantities of other grains, aided by light spring rainfall and long sunny days. Canola is a popular crop and irrigation assists vegetables and forage crops. Mixed farming is common in the north where rainfall is higher, and turkey farming as well as egg and broiler chicken production is increasing. Swine and cattle are gaining in importance.