

Apple-picking, Nova Scotia

The farm commodity produced in greatest abundance owing to the combined influence of climatic conditions, plant breeding programmes and an efficient grading system, is wheat. In 1967, the production of this grain was 593 million bushels. The general agency in Canada for the sale of all grains, including wheat, is the Canadian Wheat Board, a Crown corporation.

Livestock and dairy enterprises together yield 55 per cent of the farm cash receipts. Wheat accounts for 23 per cent. Ranching prevails in the West, and native grasslands sustain almost 4.6 million head of beef cattle.

The most important fruit grown in Canada is the apple. Commercial orchards are found primarily in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, Ontario's Niagara Peninsula and the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. The 1967 apple crop was estimated at 25 million bushels.

Next to apples, peaches are Canada's most important commercial fruit, with production fluctuating between 1.7 and three million bushels annually. Canning and processing industries have been developed in fruit-growing areas.

There are over 2,000 fur farms in Canada, producing mostly mink and chinchilla. Today the value of pelts taken from animals raised in captivity surpasses the value of wildlife pelts. Production of all furs in 1966 numbered 5.5 million pelts and was valued at close to \$46 million.

Experimental farms and agricultural colleges play important roles in the development of Canada's very diversified and specialized agricultural industry. Government departments of agriculture, agricultural colleges and science faculties in some universities provide many services to Canadian farms through research establishments, inspection and grading services, health protection for animals and the operation of production and marketing programmes.

