

Canada makes dramatic move to improve world wheat situation

The Canadian Government will spend up to \$100,000,000 to encourage its western farmers not to plant wheat, the nation's top dollar export and the traditional base of Canada's foreign trade.

Growers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia will be paid to take up to 22,000,000 of 24,500,000 acres out of wheat production. The new plan is the most ambitious and expensive ever undertaken to aid the Prairie wheat farmers, who are now storing millions of bushels of surplus wheat they cannot sell. The Canadian Wheat Board estimates a current surplus of 950,000,000 bushels—a two-year supply for normal domestic and foreign requirements.

Under Operation Lift, the Government will pay \$6 an acre to farmers willing to fallow in 1970.

A farmer choosing to plant for forage pasture will be eligible for another \$4 an acre. If the Federal plan is fully subscribed, more than 90 per cent of the Prairie wheat land will be idle or in grass.

Canada's decision was commended by U.S. Agricultural Secretary Hardin as a "gigantic contribution to solution of the world wheat glut."

"I cannot recall an action by any country, including the United States, which aimed at such a large cutback in wheat acreage in a single year," Secretary Hardin said. The 1970 U.S. wheat allotment is 45,500,000 acres.

Canada is one of the world's five largest wheat exporters, including the European Common Market, Australia, Argentina and the United States.

World wheat trade is declining because of increased productivity, often in countries which formerly were major importers which now benefit from the new high-yield wheat varieties that are part of the "green revolution."


"Our major initiative in reducing wheat stocks provides a unique opportunity for moving toward a co-ordinated global program of production policies for grains," said Otto Lang, Canadian minister responsible for wheat matters, in announcing the plan.

The benefits from the new Canadian program will extend well beyond Canada to the world wheat economy. Other exporting governments are simi-



No wheat this year on the Canadian Prairies? It's as if Detroit stopped making cars.

larly preoccupied with the problems of surplus production; some have programs in place or are examining new ones designed to minimize the problem. This Canadian initiative, which

represents a new and much stronger attack on the problems of surplus production, should add impetus to international efforts to stabilize the world grain economy. 

Coming: 'high rise' kids

Canadian children of the not-too-distant future will grow up in buildings 50 storeys high and see the ground only on rare occasions, such as for a Sunday outing.

This is the view of two Canadian sociologists who have recently delivered papers on the world that will face the next generation of Canadians in urban centers.

They also predict that the present generation of Canadians will lack compassion for the poor and elderly and will be almost solely concerned with

gratification of their own needs and desires.

However, the sociologists feel that the oldsters of 20 years from now will be better off financially than their present day counterparts and thus be better able to take care of themselves.

The two sociologists predicting the "high rise" generation are Dr. Albert Rose, director of the school of social work at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Daniel Cappon, a York University, Toronto environmental studies professor.

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