

produced honey is rated among the best in the world, averaging nine million kilograms each year, or 40 per cent of annual Canadian production.

The trend in Alberta is to larger, more efficient farms, achieved largely by consolidating existing operations. Average farm size has increased from 220 hectares to 320 hectares in the past 20 years.

Alberta maintains the largest livestock population of Canada's western provinces, accounting for 48 per cent of cattle and calves, 46 per cent of the hogs and 55 per cent of sheep and lambs.

Vegetable crops such as carrots, turnips, potatoes, green peppers and tomatoes and related industrial opportunities have been developed in southern Alberta where the high summer temperatures, a long growing season and irrigation contribute to a productive growing season.

Manufacturing

Alberta's vast potential for manufacturing is just starting to be realized. Factory shipments between January and October 1979 were \$7 billion.

By order of importance, the manufacturing sectors are: agriculture and food processing, petroleum refining, the petrochemical industries, the metal fabricating industries,

the wood industries, transportation equipment and machinery.

The development of a petrochemical industry in Alberta began in the early 1940s with the construction of Canada's first ammonia plant. The second wave of petrochemical development occurred in the early 1950s and followed the discovery in Alberta of the large reserves of crude oil and natural gas. The next stage occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s and was characterized by the intermittent establishment of ammonia-based fertilizer plants, certain specialty chemicals and the establishment of inorganic chemical manufacturing facilities.

In the past few years renewed interest has been shown in Alberta as a petrochemical location. The Alberta government has actively promoted the development of a petrochemical base to upgrade the province's resources. Ethylene, ammonia, urea and methanol are now produced locally.

Forest products

Forests cover 60 per cent of the province, a proportion that has changed little since 1869, when the Hudson's Bay Company territories were acquired by the Government of Canada.