

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited operates on a national basis. It has handled almost 70 per cent of the wool going through government-registered stations during the past ten years.

Co-operative wholesales -- Nearly all of the co-operatives that purchase farm supplies and consumer goods for their members are affiliated with one or more of the eight co-operative wholesales in Canada. The wholesales provide the affiliated co-operatives with a wide range of goods, but they do not supply all their requirements. Some of the wholesales are also central marketing agencies for farm products. The total assets of the eight wholesales and those of the Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited (a wholesaler for the wholesales) amounted to \$176 million in 1966. Sales of \$465 million were almost 2½ times those of 1956.

Over 87 per cent of the total business of the regional wholesales was reported by the three largest: La Coopérative Fédérée de Québec, United Co-operatives of Ontario and Federated Co-operatives Limited in the Prairie Provinces.

La Coopérative Fédérée, with a turnover exceeding \$150 million annually, is one of the mainstays of agriculture in Quebec. It operates a number of abattoirs, and through contract arrangements with poultry and hog producers has established an integrated program of production. It is a major supplier of agricultural feeds, fertilizers, petroleum products and some types of machinery.

In addition to distributing farm supplies, petroleum and equipment, United Co-operatives of Ontario manufactures feeds and fertilizers. It also markets livestock and grain. Formerly, UCO marketed dairy and poultry products, but most of this type of business was transferred to a new co-operative, the United Dairy and Poultry Co-operative Limited, organized in 1958. Nevertheless, UCO operates a poultry-processing plant and contracts with producers for its supply of broilers and turkeys.

In 1964, UCO embarked on a program of amalgamation with local co-operatives to provide co-operative members with the benefits and efficiencies of an integrated wholesale-retail system for the distribution of goods and services. In the first three years of the program, 44 local co-operatives merged with the wholesale.

Federated Co-operatives Limited provides consumer goods, petroleum products, fertilizers and other farm supplies to local co-operatives throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and part of northwestern Ontario. This co-operative was originally formed by amalgamation of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Wholesale Society and Consumers Co-operative Refineries Ltd. It has spread from Saskatchewan to other provinces by amalgamation with the co-operative wholesales serving those areas.

The provincial and regional wholesales in 1940 formed Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited. This central agency co-ordinates the purchasing of certain food products, household appliances and farm supplies by consolidating