

AGRICULTURE

Farming

Farming accounts for more than a quarter of Canada's economic activity. Canada is the world's fourth largest exporter of farm products — farm exports earn 20% of the country's foreign exchange. Over \$2.1 billion worth of agricultural goods were exported in 1972.

The Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) — sometimes referred to as the "bread-basket of the nation" — contain 80% of Canada's improved farm land, presently estimated at 108 million acres. Major prairie field crops are wheat, oats, barley, rapeseed, flaxseed and rye. Ranching is largely confined to the three Western provinces; native grasslands sustain some 1,025,000 head of beef cattle and 300,000 sheep. One ranch in British Columbia covers 2.5 million acres.

In Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, dairy and poultry farming predominate. The emphasis in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island farming is on potato growing. In Ontario and Quebec, farming is diversified and includes the production of several types of leaf tobacco and sugar beets.

In 1972, total cash farm receipts came to a record \$5.3 billion, of which cash receipts for cattle amounted to \$1.2 billion.

Milk is produced in every province. Estimates in 1970 put the number of milk-producing cows at 2.6 million, producing 18.3 billion pounds of milk.