

Canadian farm machinery at Australian fairs

The manufacturers in Canada of agricultural machinery and equipment were well represented at a number of trade fairs in Australia this summer.

Twenty-eight firms participated at the Canadian national stand at Ag Quip 84 in Gunnedah, New South Wales from August 21 to 23, while five other Canadian companies were represented independently. This was a record number of Canadian manufacturers of agricultural machinery and equipment participating at this annual agricultural trade fair in Australia where Canadian firms have been in attendance since 1979.

After Ag Quip, a number of the companies participated at Dowerin Field Days in Dowerin Western Australia on August 29 and 30 and at Farmfest 84 in Toowoomba, Queensland from September 4 to 6.

Some of the firms were also represented locally at Newdegate Field Days in Western Australia, September 5-6. A further five Canadian companies were represented in Dowerin and Newdegate by their Australian agents. A spokesman for the Canadian group said 1984 was the first time that Canada had participated in Newdegate.

Feature film

A Canadian-made film on soil conservation was a feature of all the agricultural trade fairs in which the companies from Canada



Aerial view of part of Ag Quip 84, Gunnedah, shows Canadian stand (second row foreground, striped tent near centre).

participated. In addition, Vancouver-based agricultural expert Glenn Downing gave seminars on "dryland" farming prior to presenting seminars in China on the subject over a three-month period.

Canadians are world leaders in dryland farming machinery and equipment which is particularly suited to Australia. The dryland technique is designed to conserve moisture and prevent soil erosion. Dryland farming methods are applied to rain-fed lands



Canadian High Commissioner in Australia Edward Schreyer inspects the cab of a Versatile Farm Equipment Company Model 1150 tractor at Ag Quip 84 in Gunnedah. The company was one of 33 Canadian firms exhibiting farm machinery and equipment at the fair attended by 130 000.

under minimum moisture conditions to enhance crop yields.

After the US, Australia is Canada's largest export market for farm machinery. The activities of some Canadian agricultural equipment companies in Australia date back to the early 1970s. Several companies established themselves in Australia with either their own marketing and distribution offices or through exclusive agency agreements.

Cattle range project in China

A potential overseas market for Alberta cattle has been created with the official opening of the Qiqihar range-improvement project in the northern Chinese province of Heilongjiang, reports *Canadian Scene*.

At the opening ceremony, Leroy Fjordbotten, Alberta's agriculture minister, said that the range project, a joint undertaking of Alberta Agriculture and the Heilongjiang agricultural authorities, "represents a major positive step in Alberta-China relations".

The project is an extensive program to upgrade available rangeland and improve range management in Heilongjiang, Alberta's sister province under a twinning agreement signed in 1981. The project is based at the Qiqihar animal breeding farm outside Harbin and is expected to play a major role in development of the Chinese province's cattle sector.

Upgrading efforts previously were hampered by lack of management expertise and insufficient pasturelands. Under the range project, research and extension directed at overcoming these difficulties is being carried out by specialists from Alberta Agriculture.

It is estimated the work will require between one and three years to complete and that potentially more than 40 million hectares of rangeland in northern China could be affected.

Successful completion of the project could yield substantial benefits for Alberta cattle breeders in the form of sales of live animals and frozen semen.

Mr. Fjordbotten cautioned, however, that "our success in this country will depend very much on whether or not Canada can come to a health agreement with the Chinese on the export of live animals. Present regulations are unworkable, and until an acceptable agreement has been reached, no sales of Alberta livestock can take place".

Canada and China have been negotiating a bilateral animal health agreement for more than two years and the Alberta minister said he hoped his presence in China would have "a positive effect on this situation".