

production capacity can be implemented in a relatively short period of time if warranted by market prospects. It is estimated that expansionary measures within existing plants could give us a total production capacity of 1 - 1.2 million MT annually, roughly at a 6:4 ratio of pellets and cubes, within a five-year span.

### **Canadian Dehydrators Association**

The Canadian Dehydrators Association (CDA) was established in 1984 due to a perceived need to have a collective voice address a number of important issues facing the industry at that time, particularly the inclusion of alfalfa products under WGTA. Its office was temporarily established at Tisdale, Saskatchewan primarily due to convenience, since a provincial industry office was already in existence. However, it has been recently relocated in Edmonton, Alberta under new management and support staff. Currently, there are 25 members representing approximately 90 percent of the industry's total production of pellets and cubes.

### **Industrial Development Constraints**

The pellet and cube industry has resolved most of its production related problems and is able to deal with those concerns as they arise. This segment of the industry is generally stable, and looks toward continued growth and expansion into existing and new markets by providing a consistent supply of high quality product.

Processors still need to gain a better understanding about the quality requirements in the marketplace, particularly in regards to the importance of a durable product that is minimal in fines. The consistency and green colour in suncured products (cubes and suncured pellets) continues to be somewhat of a problem, particularly when viewed in comparison with U.S. products where more favourable harvest conditions exist for the manufacture of suncured products.

A lack of demand for sun-cured alfalfa pellets (a by-product in the dehy pelleting industry) has been a problem in earlier years. This is currently partially resolved by the current short-term demand for the cheaper pelleted product by Korea. As Korean economic conditions improve, thereby allowing them to purchase higher quality alfalfa products, greater emphasis will be required to divert sun-dried forage into other types of products such as cubes, mini-cubes, etc.