

consistent price differentials. Export price benchmarks, actual versus bid or offer prices, using Lethbridge as domestic pricing points—all these were valid instruments in determining whether in fact Canadian barley prices were artificially low.

Based on price comparisons, Commerce determined that CWB operations did not provide a benefit to producers of live cattle and thus did not provide an indirect countervailable subsidy.

8.4.2 Provincial Programs Providing Goods or Services

8.4.2.1 Saskatchewan Pasture Program

The Saskatchewan Pasture Program had been in place since 1922. It was designed to provide supplemental grazing to Saskatchewan livestock producers, and to maintain grazing and other fragile lands in permanent cover in order to promote soil stability. Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food offered grazing, breeding and health services for fees that it established. Fees were based upon recovery of the costs associated with the grazing and breeding services of each pasture. Commerce found no subsidy.

8.4.2.2 Alberta Grazing Reserve Program

Alberta developed community pastures (reserves) on which multiple ranchers' herds could graze. Grazing reserves also provided multiple-use opportunities to other users. As of April 1, 1999, Alberta ceased to perform management activities on 32 of its 37 grazing reserves as a result of a privatization initiative. Under the initiative, livestock management responsibilities were shifted to grazing associations and new fees were negotiated.

However, during the period of investigation, the Alberta government operated 20 reserves. Commerce determined that the government was adequately remunerated for its provision of land to the privatized reserves. As for the petitioners' request to calculate five separate full-service public pasture rates, it was rejected on the basis that rates for public pastures were all lower than the private pasturing rate provided by Alberta. Thus no countervailable subsidy existed.

8.4.2.3 Canada-Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund (CABIDF)

Established by the federal and Alberta governments in April 1997, CABIDF supported research, development and related activities connected to the beef industry in Alberta. To receive funding through this program, applicants had to submit a series of research proposals, which were evaluated on the basis of the project's relationship to the Fund's research priorities, its scientific merits, and the direct or indirect usefulness of the results to the beef industry. Final proposals were evaluated for technical merit by a scientific committee consisting of industry experts and scientists, and were then approved or rejected based on the evalua-