

vided costs do not rise.

Newfoundland's poultry producers are experiencing some financial difficulties as they claim that prices are far below costs.

Quebec's poultry and egg industry is expected to post slower gains this year. Producers will benefit from some respite in feed and energy costs.

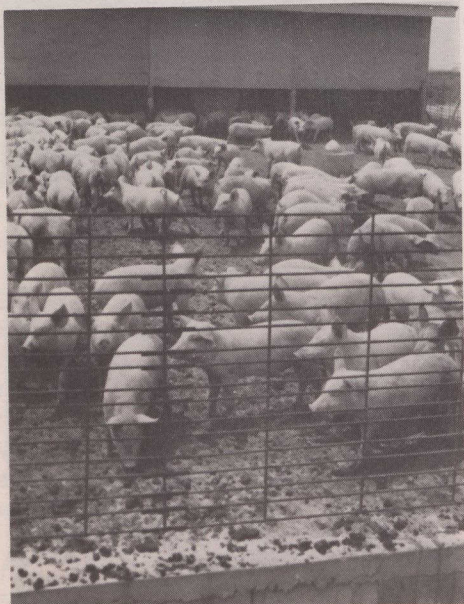
#### Record levels expected

Barring poor climatic conditions, such as a shortage of rainfall, this year's harvest of most fruits and vegetables across the country is expected to be excellent.

British Columbia producers hope for substantially better crops of small fruits and vegetables but may experience reduced yields in the big tree-fruit sector. The strawberry crop, harvested in June, looks good and raspberries promise an adequate yield in July.

Ontario's 12 000 fruit and vegetable growers will probably have a good harvest and slightly higher prices after a spring of almost ideal conditions. Tomatoes were planted later to minimize rising costs of energy for greenhouse production, and many growers have shifted to cucumbers. Prospects are also good for the major fruit crops — apples, peaches, plums and grapes. Last year, Ontario apples and peaches were in poor supply after a winterkill.

Potatoes, the province's major vegetable crop, have been almost completely sold out for some time with considerable quantities exported to Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Michigan in the United States. This year's plantings were delayed but the plants are already showing excellent growth.



*Nova Scotia's pork prices have risen.*



*Potatoes, Ontario's major vegetable crop, have been sold out for some time.*

In Nova Scotia, orchard acreage increased in the Annapolis Valley and the apple harvest is expected to reach record levels. Strawberry and blueberry production is also expected to rise dramatically.

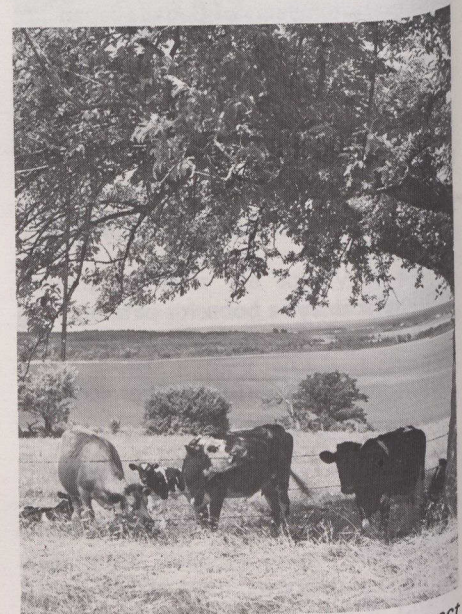
New Brunswick potato farmers are reducing acreages because of an anticipated drop in price. A North American glut has reduced prices from a high of \$7.30 a hundredweight in the 1980 crop year to less than \$4.30. Apple and strawberry output are both expected to rise.

Poor weather conditions in May delayed planting of Prince Edward Island's potato crop. Last year's crop produced record yields, but there were sharp price drops late last year because of high inventories and poor markets. Prices early this year were off as much as 42 per cent from those of the year before. However, marketing prospects appear brighter for this year's crop.

Newfoundland farmers, who produced more than 9 million kilograms of rutabagas last year, can expect stable prices. Newfoundland produced about 14.5 million kilograms of potatoes and 4.5 million kilograms of cabbage in 1981. Prices for blueberries, the only cash export crop, are expected to be favourable.

Crops in all three prairie provinces are looking very good at the moment. In Saskatchewan, pea acreage has been increased about 35 per cent from 9 700 hectares last year. Lentil acreage is up 30 per cent. Manitoba potato farmers have good prospects for an ample harvest this year. The provincial crop is worth about \$30 million a year.

With the exception of apple growers, Quebec's fruit and vegetable industry



*In the prairies, beef producers expect prices to remain strong.*

expects a good year, with higher prices and good production levels. The apple producers expect only 65 per cent of their normal harvest, because of severe frost last spring. Fruit and vegetable growers in Quebec had sales last year of \$104 million, compared with \$97 million in 1980.

#### Meat price recovery aids producers

In Ontario, the higher price trend for pork began in January this year and prices for beef have risen about 20 per cent since early April bringing some benefit to the producers. The trend is not expected to continue, however, and beef prices are expected to decline this summer.

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