
Special Crops

Background

Farm Production

Pulses

Peas and lentils are typically Prairie crops (Manitoba and Saskatchewan, respectively) with an estimated farm value in 1986 of \$125.8 million. White pea beans are grown mainly in Ontario for a 1986 value of \$33.4 million, while coloured beans are grown in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta for a value of \$25 million. In 1986, Canada exported \$128 million worth of pulses and processed \$56 million worth for domestic consumption.

Forages

Forage production in Canada occupies 39.8 per cent of the 105 million hectares of land used for agriculture. Components include a forage seed industry valued at \$230 million and an export hay industry valued at \$13.5 million. The vast majority of forage production occurs within individual beef, dairy and other livestock operations. Stored feed is valued at \$3.1 billion and grazing at \$1 billion. An alfalfa processing industry with a value of \$47 million in 1985-86 also exists and is based mainly in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Exports of hay to the United States, Britain and Japan amount to some 79 000 tonnes, of which 51 per cent is from Quebec and 37 per cent from Ontario. In 1985-86, forage seed was produced on approximately 50 000 hectares centred in Manitoba and Alberta with exports of 27.5 million kilograms.

Tobacco

In 1986, Canada produced 66 800 tonnes of flue-cured tobacco grown on approximately 27 000 hectares, for a gross farm value of about \$242 million. Ontario produced 89 per cent, Quebec seven per cent and Prince Edward Island three per cent. Historically, 40 per cent of the crop has been exported to more than 60 countries, mainly Britain and the United States.

Sugar Beets

Sugar beet production is located in Alberta (60 per cent) and Manitoba (40 per cent). Production of refined sugar beets supplies about 10 per cent of Canadian domestic needs. In 1986, there were 610 sugar beet growers in Alberta and 375 in Manitoba, who produced 945 000 tonnes of beets having an approximate farmgate value of \$24 million. About 790 people are employed by the industry and \$20 million are spent in goods and services by the beet refineries.

Mustard

Mustard is produced in Saskatchewan (69 per cent), Alberta (18 per cent) and Manitoba (13 per cent). In 1986, some 233 600 tonnes were grown for a total farm value of \$58.4 million. Ninety per cent is exported, mainly to the United States, the European Community and Japan.