

TABLE I
Provincial Shares of Cattle Population, 1976

Province	Total Cattle	Beef Cows	Steers 1 yr or over	Dairy Cows
	%	%	%	%
British Columbia	4.4	5.2	3.4	4.0
Alberta	30.8	36.9	33.1	7.9
Saskatchewan	20.9	28.3	17.1	3.8
Manitoba	9.4	11.4	9.3	4.6
Ontario	20.8	11.5	32.4	33.5
Quebec	11.4	5.3	2.7	41.4
New Brunswick	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.5
Nova Scotia	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.9
Prince Edward Island	0.7	0.3	1.0	1.3
Newfoundland	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.1
Total Number	14,969,641	4,295,579	2,323,661	1,979,077

Source: Statistics Canada, *1976 Census of Canada, Agriculture, Livestock and Poultry on Census-Farms*, (Ottawa, 1977)

Canada to Southern Ontario. Even so, the feeders on the Prairies finished 59 per cent of the steer population.

The structural changes long apparent in Canadian agriculture in general, such as the trend towards the consolidation of farms into larger units, have had their effects upon the beef industry as well. Between 1971 and 1976 there has been an upward shift in the size of the average beef herd. In 1971, 93 per cent of beef cows were in herds of 62 or less, but in 1976 only 60 per cent of cows were in herds of this size. Cows in herds of 122 cows or less represented 81 per cent of the total. In the feeding of beef steers and heifers, there have also been changes since 1971 when 90 per cent of cattle were fed in lots of fifty or less. At the last census, 29 per cent were fed in lots of 178 or more, representing the increasing trend to large scale or commercial feedlots in Southern Alberta and Western Ontario. However, even in these areas the remaining 71 per cent, fed in lots of 177 or less, were mostly finished in farm sized feeding operations. In some areas the scale of operations is smaller, for example, in 1976, 75 per cent of the steers in Saskatchewan, with the second largest cattle population, were fed in lots of 77 or less.

Even with the trends towards larger herd sizes for both breeding and finishing and the development of the intensive large scale feeding