

marketing concerns, market stabilization is generally taken in lieu of action under the *Agricultural Stabilization Act*.

Eligible agricultural commodities include: livestock and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, milk and milk products, vegetable and vegetable products, fruit and fruit products, honey, maple syrup, tobacco, fibre and fodder crops, as well as any agricultural product designated by the Governor in Council.

6. The Advance Payments for Crops Act

The *Advance Payments for Crops Act* of 1977, administered by Agriculture Canada, facilitates the marketing of storable crops by providing eligible producer groups with guaranteed, interest-free loans to make advance payments to their members between harvest and sale of the product. All crops that can be stored in their natural, unprocessed state, except wheat, oats and barley grown in Canadian Wheat Board areas, are eligible; thus, for eligible areas, crops include grains, oilseeds, root crops, field-grown crops as prescribed, honey and maple syrup.

The Act, in addition to providing interest-free loans, also guarantees repayment of 98% of the amount borrowed by a producer organization from a bank, credit union, caisse populaire, trust company or a Province of Alberta Treasury Branch. It also allows government payment of the interest on money borrowed if advances are made according to the Act, designates the rate of advance per unit of crop, determines the maximum guarantee, and allows for the audit of the producer organizations' records and the approval of their monthly interest and default claims.

The amount of an advance payment cannot exceed 50% of the expected per unit market price for the crop in that crop year. Individual producers may each receive a maximum advance of \$30,000 for all crops each year, while the maximum for two partners or shareholders is \$60,000; three or more partners or shareholders may receive an advance of up to \$90,000.

7. The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act

Under the *Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act*, administered by the Canadian Wheat Board, eligible holders of Canadian Wheat Board permit books who have wheat, oats or barley in farm storage can receive cash advance payments to ease the effects of the quota