

## Canadian farming this year

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Rising prices have brought welcome relief to hard-pressed beef and pork producers in New Brunswick but again the relief may be temporary. Hog production in the province is expected to rise this year to 125 000 from 47 000 in 1976.

In Nova Scotia, livestock producers have also experienced a sharp increase in beef prices. Curtailment of pork imports from Denmark has helped to raise Nova Scotia pork prices. The trend towards higher red meat prices in the province is expected to last until fall.

Industry officials also predict higher prices for Canadian lamb this year. A marketing agreement between lamb producers and Sobeys Stores Limited of Stellarton, Nova Scotia, may put lamb more in the mainstream of consumer meat purchases.

### News briefs

Queen Elizabeth II has appointed Victor Chapman of Vancouver as her assistant press secretary. It has been a longstanding practice for the post of assistant press secretary in London to be filled by appointees from various Commonwealth countries. Mr. Chapman, a former public relations consultant, has been federal media co-ordinator for members of the Royal family during their visits to Canada. In 1977, Mr. Chapman was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order by the Queen.

The federal Fisheries Prices Support Board will buy \$2.5-million worth of canned mackerel which will be donated to developing countries. The mackerel will be bought from Atlantic and Quebec processors and will be distributed mainly in South America by the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Food Program. Canada contributed nearly \$2-million worth of food to developing countries in 1981-82 — more than double that of the year before.

The Ontario government is providing eight southern Ontario businesses with export support loans totalling \$2.9 million. The loans will assist in financing annual exports worth over \$15.5 million and help create an estimated 375 new jobs over the next five years.

Scholarships totalling \$1.3 million have been offered by Canada Mortgage

and Housing Corporation for graduate studies in housing to 75 students from across Canada. These scholarships are awarded to students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in the social, economic, technical, environmental, physical and management aspects of housing in regular university programs during the 1982-83 academic year.

In the prairie provinces, producers expect beef prices to remain strong for the foreseeable future because of herd reduction in the past two years. Garth Larson, a director of the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission, said the outlook for producers appears reasonably good, with prices hovering near 90 cents, 10 cents above cost.

The high prices are encouraging British Columbia meat producers to believe the poor years of 1980 and 1981 are behind them. Pork marketing climbed to 333 000 last year from 262 000 in 1980 and 149 000 in 1979.

In Quebec, a drop in feed costs and cutbacks in both pork and beef supply are expected to help stabilize pork prices. Although the provincial government strongly supports beef and lamb producers with grants and stabilization programs, they are not yet major factors in the province's red meat industry.

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### Corrigendum

An article on the oil and gas industry in *Canada Weekly*, May 26, 1982, contained inaccurate information; paragraph three of the article on Page 6 should read as follows:

Royalty reductions for conventional crude oil (to 36 per cent) and on natural gas (to 34 per cent) and a royalty holiday for certain gas wells are expected to generate \$3.7 billion. In addition, the province is offering special short-term financial measures including an increase in the royalty tax credit to small producers to 75 per cent of royalties, the expansion of the natural gas royalty holiday for certain wells to three years from one year, and a \$250-million grant program for some well service and maintenance work. These special short-term measures are estimated at \$1.18 billion in 1982-83 with other measures for 1984-86 estimated at \$555 million.

The Export Development Corporation has announced an additional allocation of \$50.2 million (Cdn.) under a line of credit to Banque Algérienne de Développement (BAD) to support an expansion of a project in Algeria awarded to Lavalin International Incorporated of Montreal. The signing brings to \$97.8 million (Cdn.) the agreement to support a sale by Lavalin of Canadian goods and services valued at \$115 million (Cdn.) for the construction of a national memorial and museum marking the twentieth anniversary of Algeria's independence and for development of related public facilities.

Some 31 Canadian firms displayed their products and services in a consolidated national exhibit at the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, Texas, May 3-6, 1982. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Marc Lalonde represented the federal government and addressed the conference. Last year, on-site business generated by the 56 participating Canadian firms totalled some \$44.2 million, the largest such sales recorded by Canadian exhibitors since the first conference in 1974.

The Quebec government has announced that it will spend \$170 million over the next year to create jobs in the province. The money will go to help farmers hire labourers, to encourage municipalities to hire maintenance workers and road crews, and to help other departments to create short-term clerical and manual jobs.

Mitel Corporation of Kanata has landed a \$10-million contract to supply telephone switching systems to Sidcom of Milan, Italy. The agreement covers an unspecified number of SX-200, SX-20, Super 10 and SX-2 systems. Mitel's delivery of the SX-200 switch will begin immediately and will be completed by June 1983, the company said.

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