

Canada is among the world's largest producers of grain. In 1976, production of the six major grains (wheat, barley, oats, rapeseed, rye and flaxseed) totalled 1,734 million bushels (40.6 million tonnes). Grain for export is produced mainly in the Prairie Provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba), which are ideally suited to the efficient production of bread grains, feed grains and oilseeds. Canada is the world's second-largest grain exporter.

There are about 86 million acres (35 million hectares) of cultivated land in the Prairie Provinces. In recent years, about 23 million acres (9 million hectares) have been planted to wheat and 11 million acres (4 million hectares) to barley. There have also been about 28 million acres (11 million hectares) of summer fallow and 13 million acres (5 million hectares) in tame hay or pasture.

Each year, before seeding, the Federal Government announces the guaranteed initial payment for wheat, oats and barley, and minimum delivery quotas for all grains for the coming crop year, in order to provide producers with the best available marketing information on which to plan their seeding for the season. (See Appendix I.)

## **Marketing**

The Canadian Wheat Board is the sole agency responsible for marketing Prairie wheat, barley and oats abroad, on behalf of the producers in the Prairie Provinces. Sales may be negotiated directly by the Wheat Board or by the private grain trade acting for the Board. The grain-handling and grain-exporting companies are, however, involved in all sales of grain, as the Board does not own any grain-handling, storage or transportation facilities. Rapeseed, rye, flaxseed, buckwheat and mustard are marketed by the private grain trade. In recent years, Canada has been the world's largest exporter of barley, rapeseed, flaxseed and mustard seed. About 20 million bushels (500,000 tonnes) of winter wheat grown annually in Ontario are marketed by the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board and by the private trade. In the 1975/76 crop year, exports of grain and grain products totalled about 730 million bushels (18.2 million