



**Cattle in British Columbia.**

search includes controlling crop disease through the use of chemical treatments, resistant germ plasm and cultural practices. Modern research on epidemiology utilizes such tools as electronic data collection equipment and remote sensing. Pest oriented programs have integrated the use of pesticides with other, non-chemical control methods, such as using sex pheromones to attract insects. Studies of weed control focus on their ecological characteristics, biological control and the use of herbicides.

Provincial departments of agriculture assume responsibility for research concerning their particular interests. The eleven faculties of agriculture in Canadian universities conduct about 30 per cent of all research. Approximately 520 professional man-years are devoted to university-based research. While industry's involvement in agricultural research to date has been limited, it is gradually increasing through efforts by some governmental agencies to contract out needed research.

The National Research Council (NRC) pursues long-term research of special interest to agriculture, such as food research, nitrogen-fixation studies and research on environmental quality. The NRC also helps promote agricultural research in industry and supports such research in universities. The NRC's relationships with provincial research councils and foundations are important parts of Canada's total range of agricultural research services.

Advice and guidance in coordinating this diversity of agricultural research is provided by the Canadian Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee. Under the chairmanship of the federal deputy minister, this committee is composed of provincial deputy ministers of agriculture, deans of agriculture and veterinary medicine faculties at the universities, several senior federal officials and representatives of various national agricultural organizations.

## **SERVICING FARMERS**

Canadian farmers are most interested in income stabilization, which requires stable markets. Legislation and the creation of marketing boards by both the federal and provincial governments have responded to this need. For example, the Canadian Wheat Board, established in the 1930s, handles payments to Prairie farmers and allocates quotas and the export of grains. The Canadian Dairy Commission (a Crown corporation founded in the late 1960s) controls milk production and prices.

Government programs to protect producers against market instability have established floor prices for many products under the Agricultural Stabilization Act. The Agricultural Stabilization Board, which administers the act, seeks an equitable balance between the prices farmers receive and the cost of the goods and services they buy. The board supports prices by buying products at prescribed prices, granting deficiency payments and making direct payments to producers at a fixed rate. The board also provides funds for the dairy industry through the Canadian Dairy Commission. Such funds, along with other Agricultural Stabilization Act payments, amount to about \$300 million annually.

## **FOOD STRATEGY**

The federal government's "Food Strategy for Canada" focuses on basic principles by which all Canadians will be ensured adequate supplies of safe and nutritious food at prices that are reasonable to both producers and consumers. The strategy states that the government will actively pursue means to maintain or expand trade in agricultural food products while it continues to recognize the responsibility of Canada to provide food aid to the developing nations.