

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

BEEF AND DAIRY CATTLE - Total cattle are estimated at 17.7 million head for 1988, four percent less than 1987 due to social problems in rural areas. This figure includes beef, dual purpose, and dairy cattle. The latter group is estimated at 3.5 million head and is found in all three climatic regions of Colombia, but especially in the high plateaus where dairy farming is more advanced. Milk production is estimated at 3.6 million tons annually. About 3.7 million head of cattle were slaughtered in 1988, up five percent from 1987, because of low production incentives and extensive floods in the second half of the year.

■ Contraband exports to Ecuador amounted to 25,000 head in 1988, whereas legal exports decreased from 12,360 head in 1987 to 4,404 head in 1988, primarily to Peru, Venezuela and the Dutch Antilles. Imports, entirely of breeding stock, amounted to 3,011 head in 1988, 80 percent beef cattle (Simmenthal and Brahman) and 20 percent dairy cattle (Holstein and Jersey). Powdered milk imports totalled 5,300 tons in 1988, all from Belgium. By the second quarter of 1989, these imports created an excess of milk in the market which, it seems, compelled the government to export 1,500 tons of powdered milk later in the year.

SWINE - Raised in all regions of Colombia, swine numbers stood at 5.2 million head in 1988, three percent below 1987. Only 500,000 head are considered of a sufficient quality to justify investments in new production technology. Slaughter increased in 1988 to 2.0 million head and was expected to reach the same level in 1989.

■ Swine imports totalled 250 head in 1987, fell to 146 head (116 from Canada and 30 from the U.S.) in 1988, but was expected to rise to 500 head in 1989.

POULTRY - Egg production in 1988 totalled 4.8 billion units, up one percent from 1987. For 1989, a production of five billion eggs was forecast. Inputs increased substantially in 1988 resulting in a 29 percent increase in egg prices. The price per dozen eggs, AA type early 1989 was CDN \$1.24. Extensive egg smuggling from Venezuela affected domestic production costs but it was expected to decrease in 1989. Broiler meat production totalled 233,000 tons in 1988 versus 220,000 a year earlier, thanks to improved prices. For 1989, 240,000 tons were expected to be produced.