



news release

Date July 17, 1990.

No. 150

For release

YOUNG POLISH FARMERS BENEFIT FROM CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Don Mazankowski, announced today that 20 young Polish farmers, aged between 19 and 36, will be trained in Canadian farm management and herd reproduction techniques at the International Livestock Management Schools (ILMS), a division of Semex Canada, starting today.

"I am very pleased that we can help these young men and women gain the skills they need to be leaders in farm management. This is an example of the kind of practical help we can provide that is geared to Poland's needs. When these young farmers return home, they will help to create a modern and viable agricultural sector in Poland," stated Mr. Clark.

Funds to cover the training program costs are drawn from a special Economic Development Fund for Poland which was part of the \$42 million package of assistance for Poland and Hungary announced by the Government last October. This agriculture training program is one of several projects announced by Mr. Mazankowski last April during his mission to Poland. The projects were designed to strengthen the management and operation of Polish farms and farmers.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Canada to share its agricultural strengths with young Polish farmers," Mr. Mazankowski said. "The federal government supports Poland's new market economy and the possibilities it represents for a long-term trading relationship with our country."

The 20 Polish farmers, comprising five women and fifteen men, are the first contingent of a total of 107 who will receive a wide range of agricultural training in Canada over the next two years. This initial group will undergo a sixteen-week farm apprenticeship on family-operated dairy farms.

Two other groups of Poles will arrive later in the summer and begin programs related to Dairy/Beef Cattle Management and Herd Reproduction and Health Management. In total six provinces will participate in the training of the Polish farmers: British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

The program is run by Semex Canada, a co-operative of six breeding centres across Canada. In 1986 Semex established its practical "how-to-do" training in all facets of livestock production. The ILMS is headquartered at Kemptville, Ontario about 50 kilometres south of Ottawa, but ILMS programs are implemented across Canada.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874

Fred Matuk
International Programs Branch
Agriculture Canada
(613) 993-6671