

*To Colonel the Honourable*  
WALTER STEWART OWEN, Q.C., LL.D.,  
*Lieutenant-Governor of the Province*  
*of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit for your  
consideration the Annual Report of  
the Department of Agriculture  
for the year 1974.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Stupich', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVID D. STUPICH  
*Minister of Agriculture*

*Department of Agriculture,*  
*Victoria, B.C.*



## **A Message From the Minister of Agriculture**

From its earliest beginnings the history of agriculture has been punctuated by what were long ago expressed in biblical terms as "fat" and "lean" years. Such references reflected variations in crop yields, commonly caused by the vagaries of weather during the growing season. Today, modern technology has overcome many long-standing production problems, but unfavourable weather can still wreak havoc with crop growth. The result can be severe, particularly in areas heavily dependent upon one major crop.

In British Columbia we may count ourselves fortunate in having so diversified an agriculture and, in the main, so moderate a climate that the risk of severe loss from such causes is minimal. We thus have never encountered the crippling losses that accompany such calamities as widespread flooding or prolonged drought.

There is a third force, however, that from time to time makes itself felt not only in this Province but over other parts of the world as well. It is essentially economic in nature and takes many forms, which exert pressures varying from unstable cost-price indices to actual human deprivation.

Price inflation continued to be an unsettling factor the world over in 1974. It was reflected in the unprecedented rise in basic energy and raw material costs and the equally sharp increase in agricultural commodity prices. These forces produced repercussions on the farm front everywhere, including British Columbia. In common with farmers elsewhere, our operators suddenly found that farm machinery and equipment not only cost more to buy but also to operate. Livestock, poultry, and egg producers learned that rising feed costs brought lowered net returns, and in some instances actual losses.

In addition there were other disturbing developments, including both higher costs and short supplies of such items as seeds and fertilizers.

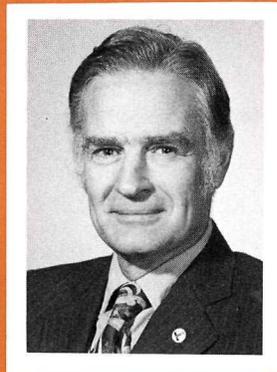
Fortunately, the diversity of British Columbia's agriculture inhibited the development of widespread economic distress. Nevertheless, for some British Columbia farmers, 1974 was a year of reckoning, with severe stresses beyond their control.

If there is a lesson to be learned from this, it is that British Columbia is not an island, instead it is a link in a chain of interdependent causes and effects that extends over many countries. Within our boundaries similar links bind all of us together in a common bond. If our Province is to prosper, then every sector of our economy, including agriculture, must also prosper.

If our farmers are expected to continue supplying food in the abundance and variety to which we have become accustomed, then society has a responsibility to ensure that our farmers' incomes rise in line with incomes in other industries. It must always be remembered that agriculture remains a basic industry, producing food, a basic necessity.



DAVID D. STUPICH  
*Minister of Agriculture*



## Report of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

*The Honourable David D. Stupich,  
Minister of Agriculture.*

DEAR SIR: It is my pleasure to present the Sixty-ninth Annual Report of the British Columbia Department of Agriculture for the 12 months ending December 31, 1974.

The Report highlights the Department's progress in implementing and managing the wide range of policies and programs within its jurisdiction. I commend your attention to the various branch reports for detailed information on Department activities.

In many ways 1974 marked a high point in the affairs of British Columbia agriculture. In economic terms the industry performed at record levels. Relations between the Department and the agriculture community achieved new levels of co-operation and communication.

I am pleased to advise that several of the newer legislative measures, including the *Land Commission Act*, the *Farm Income Assurance Act*, the *Agricultural Credit Act*, and the *Farm Products Industry Improvement Act*, received nation-wide attention in 1974. Department officials hosted several delegations from other provinces wishing to learn more about these legislative measures and there are indications some provinces will introduce similar measures.

The achievements of the Department are accomplished through the dedication and resourcefulness of the staff at all levels throughout the Province working as a team toward common objectives. In order to provide an increasing level of service to both producers and consumers and to accomplish implementation of new programs, several changes were made in Department organization and a number of new staff members were appointed in 1974.

The Department's Executive Committee, consisting of your Deputy Minister, the Associate Deputy Minister, and the Directors, met weekly throughout the year to advance implementation and administration of Department policies and programs. Executive

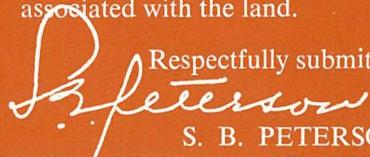
members also met many agricultural organizations during the year for the purpose of co-operatively resolving problems and reducing constraints to progress.

Early indications are that 1975 will present some unique challenges to British Columbia agriculture. Economic forecasts indicate a slowing in the rate of increase in farm product prices coinciding with accelerating farm input costs associated with continued inflationary pressures throughout the economy. Farmers will need to be especially cost-conscious in 1975 if net farm income levels are to be maintained.

Department activities in the coming year will focus mainly on further refinement of programs already in effect. Efforts will be sustained at providing further income stability measures to assist farmers toward the longer term goal of increased food production at the same time as encouraging continued improvements in production and marketing efficiency.

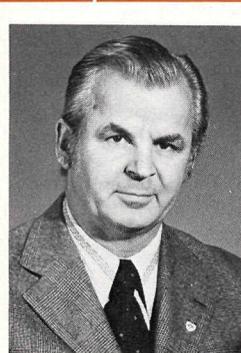
All agricultural land reserves are expected to be in place in 1975, thereby preserving British Columbia farmland for sustained food production. A longer term challenge facing the Department and the agricultural community will concern the question of how best to achieve full and efficient use of these land resources while providing for the economic and social needs of the valuable human resources associated with the land.

Respectfully submitted,



S. B. PETERSON

*Deputy Minister*



# Report of the British Columbia Department of Agriculture

## REVIEW

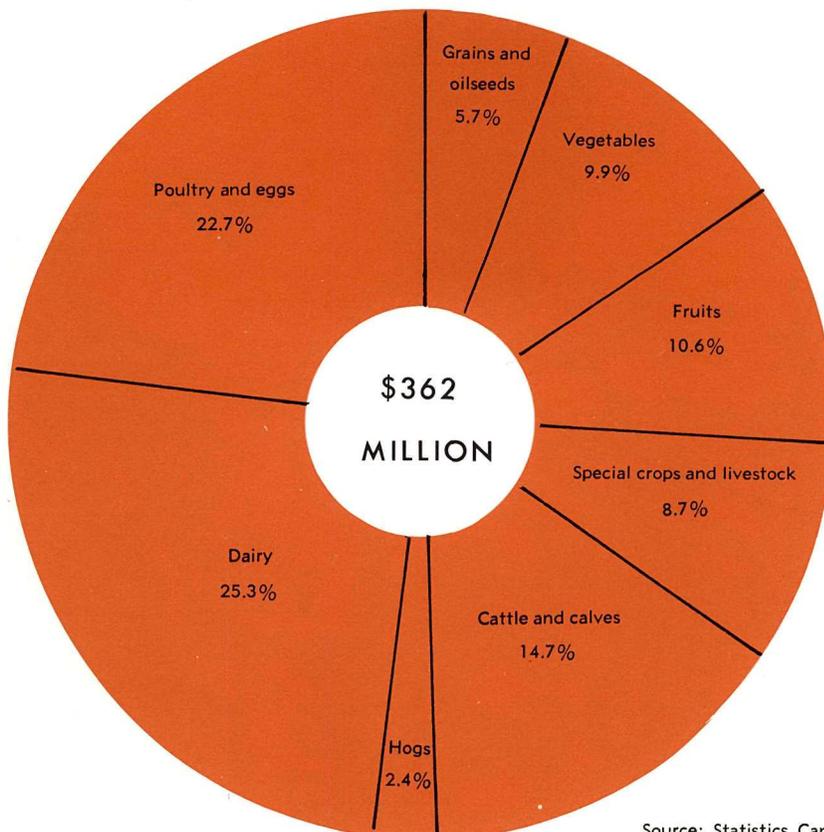
In a broad sense the primary objective of the Department of Agriculture is to encourage and assist the people engaged in the agricultural and food industry to achieve their economic and social goals, consistent with the preservation of agricultural resources. As part of this objective, Department staff are continually working with farmers to increase food production so that the Province may continue to supply a high proportion of its food needs.

## ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

British Columbia farm cash receipts increased by \$46 million in 1974 to a record \$362 million. This development was in line with trends in other parts of Canada reflecting the influence of high agricultural commodity prices associated with continuing international food shortages. Most sectors of British Columbia agriculture recorded gains, although cattle receipts were lower, reflecting lower farm prices. Chart I illustrates the general commodity areas in relation to each other and as a percentage of the total cash receipts, representing total production and commodity prices during 1974.

CHART I

Distribution of Farm Cash Receipts, British Columbia, 1974

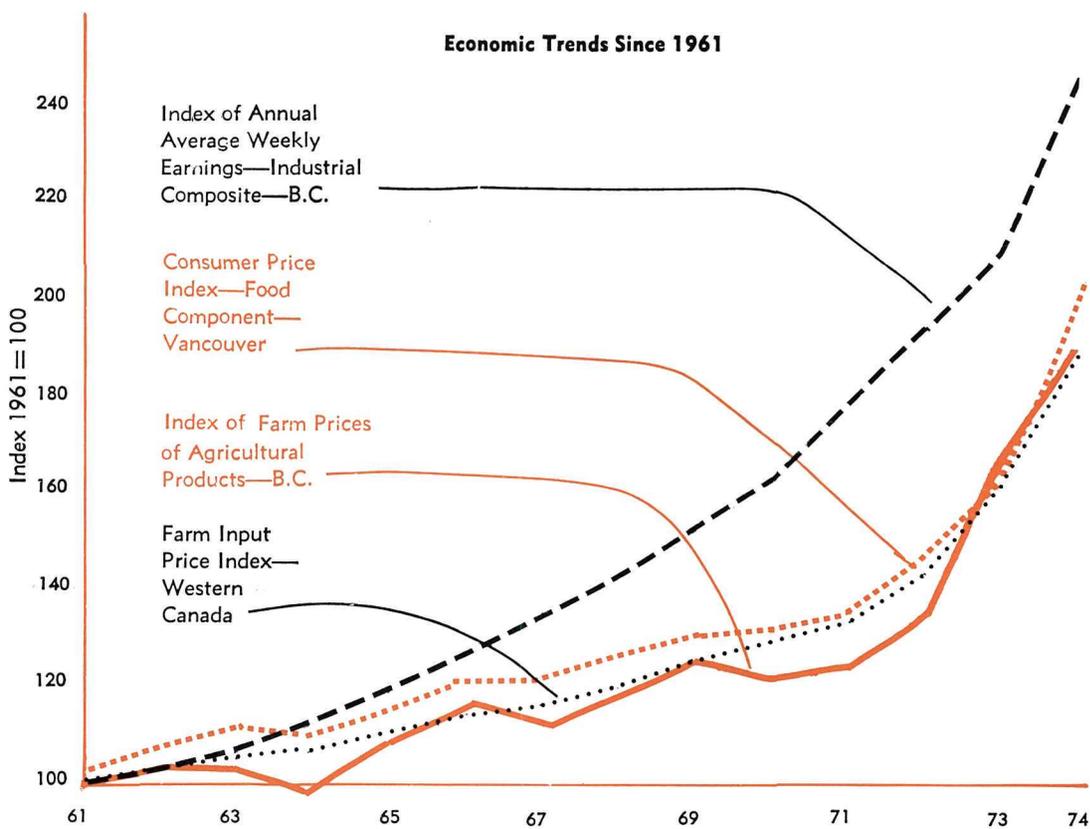


Source: Statistics Canada

Farm operating costs escalated sharply in 1974. The Farm Input Price Index for Western Canada stood at 190 (1961=100) in the third quarter of 1974—16.6 per cent higher than the 1973 average. At the same time the Farm Products Price Index for British Columbia registered 191.6 (1961=100) in September 1974—14.5 per cent above the average for 1973.

CHART II

Economic Trends Since 1961



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflationary pressure stimulated by sharply higher international prices for energy and raw materials continued to filter through the economy in 1974, affecting consumer prices and earnings. The retail price of food as reflected in the food component of the Consumer Price Index for Vancouver was no exception. The Index registered 201.7 (1961=100) in September 1974—22.9 per cent higher than the average for 1973. (See Chart II.)

The Index of Annual Average Weekly Earnings Industrial Composite for British Columbia recorded 246.3 (1961=100) in September 1974—17.4 per cent higher than the 1973 average. Even though the rate of increase in average earnings lagged slightly behind the rate of increase in food prices, the proportion of personal disposable income spent on food remained at about 16 per cent in 1974, having declined steadily from 18.6 per cent in 1961. The cost of food relative to personal disposable income is among the lowest in the world.

#### LEGISLATION

The following legislative measures concerning agriculture received approval in 1974:

- The *Farm Products Industry Improvement Act* was amended to allow the Minister of Agriculture to guarantee interest on a loan plus the costs of servicing a loan; to limit a loan, guarantee, or investment in respect to any one agricultural enterprise to a maximum of \$100,000, except with the prior approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council; and to allow the Minister of Agriculture to authorize approved lending agencies to process and administer loan applications.
- The *Agricultural Credit Act* was amended to increase the total amount of loan guarantees from \$5 million to \$15 million, and to allow loan

guarantees and reimbursement of interest and (or) principal on existing eligible agricultural loans.

- The *Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act* was amended to allow the Minister of Agriculture to directly undertake and pay for ARDA projects where satisfactory agreements with the Federal Government cannot be made, or cannot be made at an opportune time.
- The *Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act* was repealed and re-enacted to renew authority contained in the original legislation to provide for the establishment of marketing commissions by Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and to provide for the establishment and appointment of a Provincial Marketing Board to monitor the operations of agricultural commodity marketing boards and commissions and to hear and decide on appeals filed in regard to rulings of marketing boards and commissions.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During 1974, substantial progress was achieved in the implementation and management of Department programs and activities. Highlights include the following:

- The Department undertook further refinement of ongoing production, marketing, extension, and special service programs to serve better the needs of farmers and consumers.
- The Allotment Garden and Farm Vacation Programs were implemented to provide urban residents with greater opportunities for participation in food production and unique recreational experiences, and to provide for greater contact and communication between urban and rural citizens.

- The Farm Income Assurance Program became operational with the implementation of plans for dairy, tree fruits, field crop tomatoes, and hogs. Plans for a number of other commodities were in various stages of development.
- The Agricultural Credit Program became operational with the provision of Government loan guarantees to a number of farming enterprises and reimbursement of interest to producers on eligible agricultural loans.
- The Agricultural Land Development Program experienced a substantial increase in popularity among farmers through the provision of 4 per cent direct loans to encourage land development and improvement, including irrigation.
- The Farm Products Finance Program accelerated its activities with a number of agricultural enterprises receiving assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, or investment as incentives to expanded agricultural and food processing.
- The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Program expanded its activities with the initiation of plans to develop several new community pastures.
- The Program for the Demonstration of Applied Technology and Economics financed a wide range of projects aimed at demonstrating new and innovative techniques to the farm community.
- The British Columbia Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee and its six Science Committees were active in the co-ordination of research efforts and communication of research results among Government, industry, and university personnel.
- The British Columbia Food Council representing Government, producers, processors, and consumers met regularly throughout the year to deal with a number of food issues of common interest.
- The Land Commission continued with its program of establishing agricultural land reserves throughout the Province and of developing procedures to facilitate the preservation of agricultural land.
- The Property Management Program took on administration of the Tranquille and Colony Institutional Farms and initiated plans to administer a development and leasing policy respecting Provincial farms.

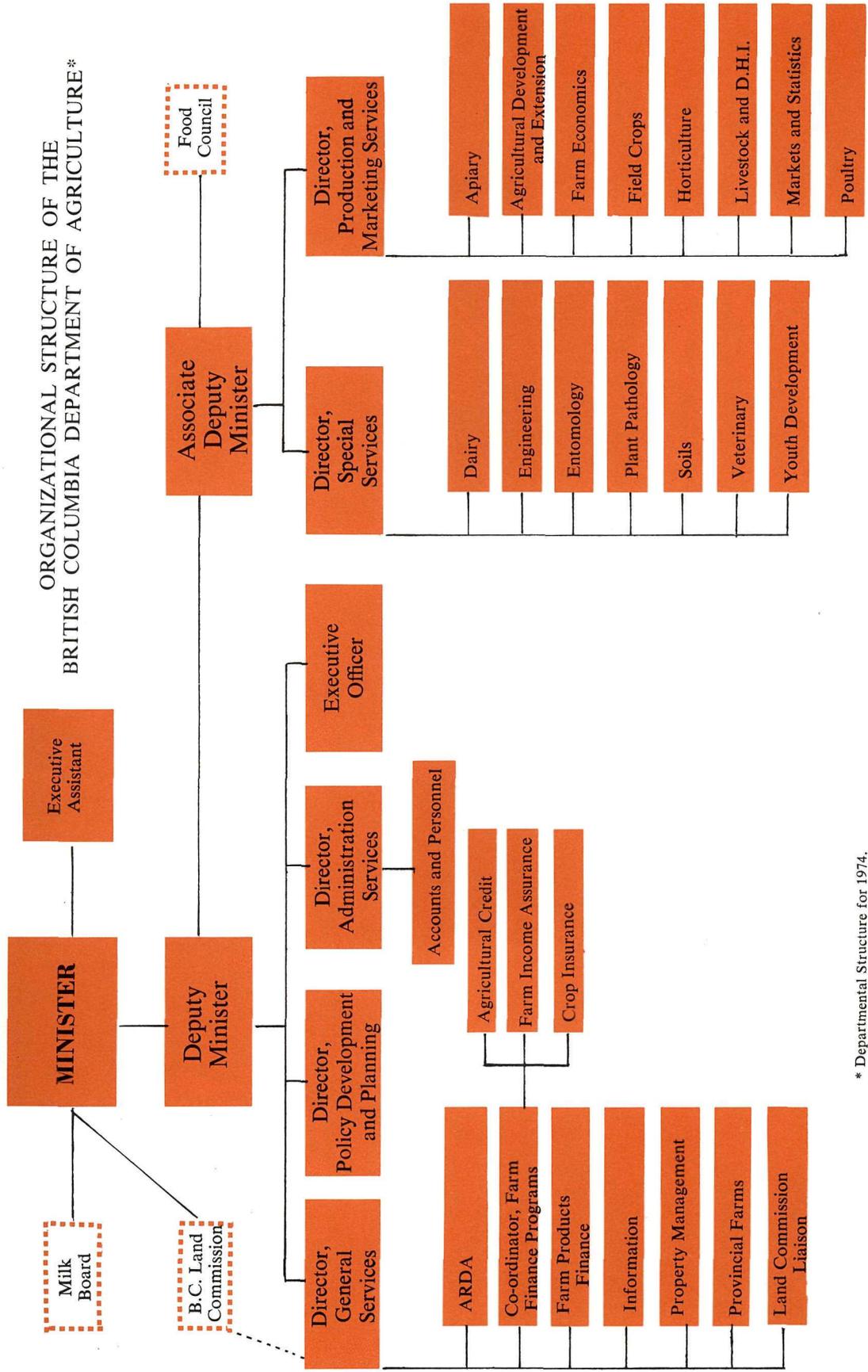
#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Executive Officer is responsible for the administration of fairs and exhibitions, pound districts, and Farmers' and Women's Institutes. The number of fairs/exhibitions totalled 58, and there were 271 pounds and 88 Farmers' Institutes registered in 1974.

A total of 125 Orders in Council was processed, of which 50 pertained to the Land Commission and the establishment of agricultural land reserves. Acts amended included the Natural Products Marketing, Pharmacy, Farm Products Industry Improvement, Agricultural Credit, Contagious Diseases, and Agricultural and Rural Development.

The Executive Officer sat on eight committees, functioning as Secretary for the B.C. Fairs Association, B.C. Farmers' Institute Advisory Board, and senior staff meetings, and attended one short course and two seminars and was instrumental in establishing a Departmental reference library.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE\*



\* Departmental Structure for 1974.



**GENERAL  
SERVICES**



## **Agricultural and Rural Development Programs**

### **GENERAL ARDA AND SPECIAL ARDA 1974**

The *Agricultural and Rural Development Act* is jointly sponsored by the Federal and Provincial Governments and provides for projects for alternative land use, rural development projects, and soil and water conservation projects.

During 1974, 11 projects were approved for a total cost of \$8.1 million, with a Provincial share of \$2.6 million. Six projects totalling \$6.7 million were for rehabilitation of irrigation and farm water supply, the largest being Summerland Irrigation District, costing \$5.1 million and rehabilitating 3,900 acres of agricultural land.

Community pastures have been expanded in the Peace River and Central British Columbia with the addition of 15,140 acres. Development and improvements are continuing on 6,900 acres of pasture. Ranchers will lease the pasture on an animal-unit basis and co-operate with the Government to provide a manager to administer each pasture and supervise the livestock.

The Provincial *Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act* was amended in June 1974, giving the Branch much needed flexibility in developing ARDA programs. Several large blocks of land for community pasture have been purchased under these new provisions.

Discussions were held with various groups on all phases of ARDA; a challenging project for the disposal of chlorinated domestic sewage through an irrigation system is proposed from Vernon.

Special ARDA has provided 1,235 jobs with an estimated capital expenditure of \$30 million. The Special ARDA Program is designed primarily for the social development of people of Native ancestry, especially those living in the more remote areas of the Province.

Future planning of the Branch includes introduction of programs for farm drainage-outlet assistance, capital grants for on-farm water management, farm enlargement, and land consolidation and rural mobility and adjustment.

## **Agricultural Credit**

The Agricultural Credit Branch was established during the year to administer the *Agricultural Credit Act* and to assume the responsibility for the administration of the *Agricultural Land Development Act (ALDA)*, formerly under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Engineering Branch. A head for the Branch was appointed and during the balance of the year staffing was completed. Regulations to the *Agricultural Credit Act* were completed and the Branch commenced processing applications after July 1, 1974. The Agricultural Credit Program provides assistance in three distinct ways.

The first way is to provide a guarantee for loans arranged by applicants through chartered banks and credit unions for applicants who are unable to meet the guidelines of the lending agency.

The second form of assistance provides for a partial reimbursement of the interest paid by an applicant on a farm loan made through chartered banks, credit unions, Industrial Development Bank, Farm Credit Corporation, and *Veterans' Land Act*. In 1974, farm loans that were not guaranteed by the Province were reimbursed to approximately

8 per cent, while those receiving a Provincial guarantee were reimbursed to about 8½ per cent effective interest rate.



The third facet to the Agricultural Credit Program provides an opportunity to offer special credit assistance programs to either alleviate a regional hardship or to encourage the development of a commodity.

In 1974 a special credit assistance program was made available to livestock producers in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako who had suffered a severe forage-crop loss. A special credit incentive program was prepared and offered to livestock producers in the Peace River-Liard Regional District to encourage a greater diversification from grain production to livestock.

Slightly more than \$2 million in loan guarantees to 36 farm enterprises were approved during 1974.

The amended *Agricultural Land Development Act* stimulated activity, resulting in 592 contracts valued at \$3.5 million issued for clearing or improving 10,500 acres of land.

## Crop Insurance

The Crop Insurance Branch continued to administer four crop insurance programs which offer insurance coverage to tree fruit and grape-growers in the Okanagan, berry-growers in the Fraser Valley, and grain-farmers in the Peace River District. Some preliminary study was given to the setting-up of a program to insure stands of alfalfa against winter injury. It may prove feasible to have this in operation for next winter.

The period of transition started in 1973, continued in 1974, when the Crop Insurance Branch first took over the administration of both the grain and the berry programs. In 1974 the tree-fruit and grape programs were administered by the Branch for the first time. These added programs, plus additional coverages on existing programs, necessitated more staff

and therefore more time to train the new people.

The Crop Insurance Branch is a sales-oriented organization requiring a special level of training. Our personnel could not be fitted into any appropriate classification and therefore a reclassification of all our personnel was undertaken early in the year.

Participation in the tree-fruit program increased in 1974 with a similar increase indicated for the 1975 crop year. The cold spring weather in 1974 provided poor conditions for fruit set. This, coupled with the heavy crops in 1973, reduced apple yields considerably. In addition, the frequent showers during cherry harvest caused considerable rain split on cherries. As a result of these adverse factors,

indemnities will considerably exceed premium income.

Cranberry and blueberry crops suffered from disease and poor set as a result of the cold, wet spring weather and indemnities for these two crops exceeded premium income. On the other hand, losses for raspberries and strawberries were at a low level.

The grape program enjoyed a good year without any losses.

## **Farm Income Assurance**

The Farm Income Assurance Branch was formed during the year. A branch head, an administrative officer, and support staff were appointed late in the summer. Programs for dairy, tree fruit, swine, and field tomato producers are in place. Programs for producers of greenhouse vegetable crops, eggs, broiler hatching eggs, and beef are being negotiated. Requests for programs for sheep and blueberries have been received.

Each commodity program is based on the insurance principle. Premiums are paid into a fund by the producers and by Government. Indemnities are paid out to participating producers when market returns fall below the basic cost of production as calculated for an efficient and well-run farm unit model.

Special incentive features are incorporated into each program to ensure that the producers strive for continued efficiency and aggressive marketing. The programs are expected to have a stabilizing effect over the years that should benefit both the producer and consumer.

Spring was late in the Peace River area and there was some doubt as to whether much acreage would be seeded by the various deadlines. Crops matured slowly, but the fine harvest weather in the fall enabled farmers to complete harvesting without much hindrance. For only the second time the grain program had sufficient premium income to cover the indemnities.

The benefits of the Dairy Income Assurance Plan were clearly demonstrated in 1974 with British Columbia milk production increasing 3.8 per cent over 1973. This performance is contrasted with other provinces where milk production fell in 1974.



## **Farm Products Finance**

The Farm Products Finance Branch was established April 1, 1974, to administer the *Farm Products Industry Improvement Act*. The purpose of this

Act, which was passed in the fall of 1973, is to encourage and assist in the continued development and expansion of the agricultural industry of the Province.

Some 40 specific proposals received consideration and seven projects involving approximately \$10 million in loan guarantees, direct loans, and share acquisitions have been approved by Orders in Council. Projects approved have included food processing, poultry products processing, livestock feed, tree-fruit storage, and fruit and vegetable processing. Ten additional projects have been recommended for assistance and are awaiting approval by Order in Council. Six proposals were rejected due to lack of financial

viability or indicated beneficial impact on the agricultural industry.

Special programs were developed to provide financial assistance for the construction of veterinary clinics in outlying areas and for the construction or upgrading of abattoirs.

Financial assistance was also provided to a number of feasibility studies, including a study of the marketing and transportation of alfalfa pellets and a proposal to restructure the tree-fruit packing-house industry.

## **Information Branch**

The year 1974 marked the first completed year of existence of the Branch. During the year the Branch continued to broaden its scope in the areas of printed material preparation and design.

In March an Agricultural Communications Specialist was appointed to co-ordinate and expedite the publishing of Departmental technical publications and information pieces.

Sixty-three agricultural publications, brochures, or information packages were processed and completed. An additional 12 were prepared for printing in late 1974 for completion in early 1975. Contemporary design formats were stressed on publications and advertisements, resulting in national recognition given to a brochure describing a new program initiated by the Department in 1974.

A total of 135 press releases for print and electronic media was issued dealing with agricultural topics of interest to the general public, production information for farmers, and background to legislation. A Departmental fact sheet to dispense timely production information to farmers was designed and will be operable early in 1975. In this area of communication the Branch recognizes and emphasizes the importance of

effective dispensation of usable information prepared by specialists for the benefit of farmers and (or) consumers alike.

The 1974 radio tape service known as "Grassroots" was broadcast each week from 18 radio stations and 26 satellite points throughout British Columbia. Each station received three programs per week covering agricultural subjects designed for farmers and urban listeners. A number of radio features were completed and distributed to the stations during the year. Consideration is being given to expansion of this type of service in 1975.

The television unit at Kelowna produced 16 television programs, each of one-half hour length. The programs are also called "Grassroots" and were aired on 11 stations throughout British Columbia. During 1974 the staff filmed for the 1975 series which it is hoped will be televised by the CBC network beginning in June 1975. This development will greatly expand program coverage and will amplify urban awareness of British Columbia agriculture.

The acquisition of modern audio visual equipment has enabled the Branch to expand its services to field staff for the preparation of educational

material for meetings, projects, or short courses. During the summer of 1974, numerous photographs were taken with the intention of establishing an extensive photographic library for the Department's use.

The Branch has and will continue to accentuate its educational role in disseminating agricultural information to the food producers and general public of the Province.

## **Property Management**

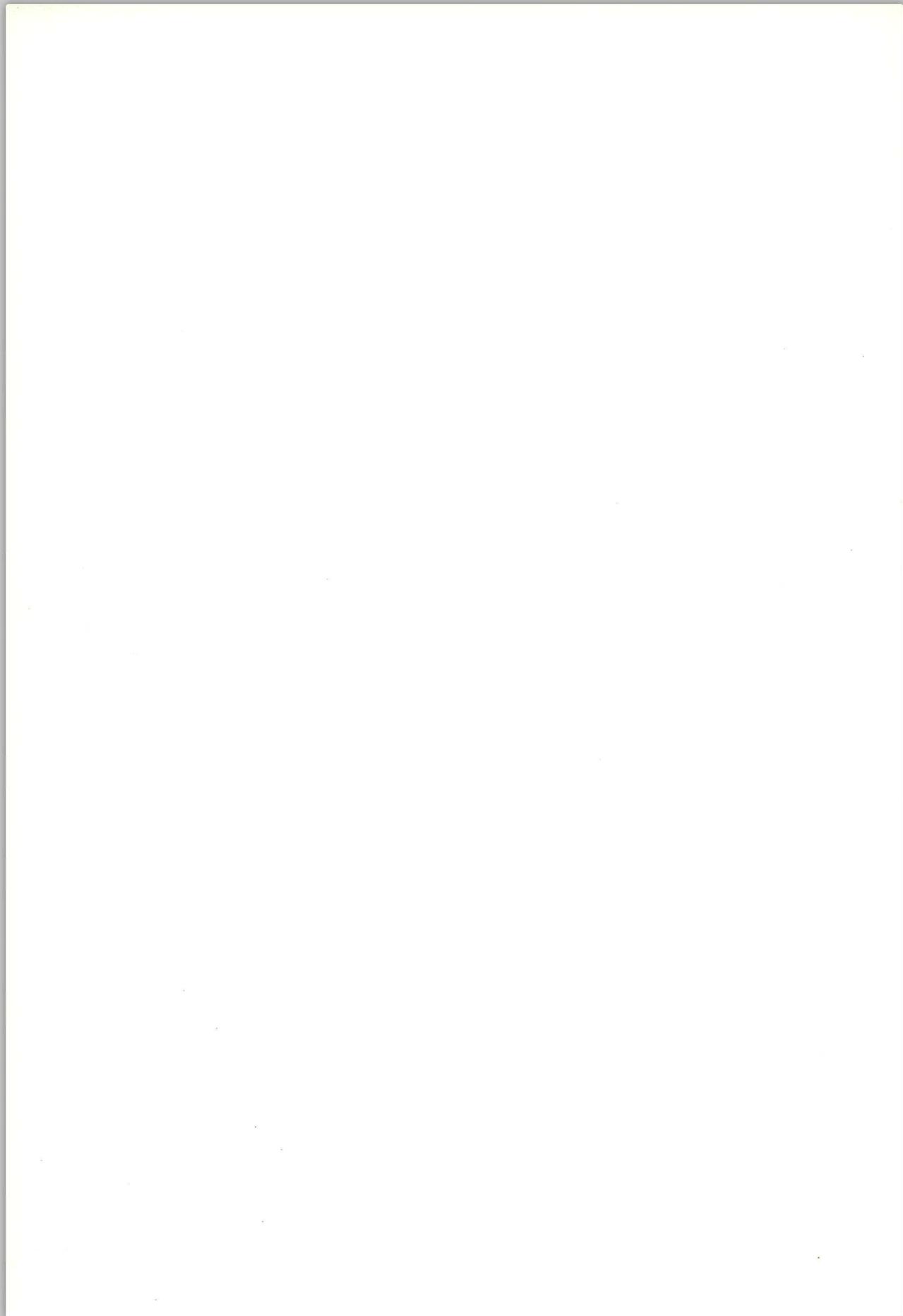
The Property Management Branch was formed and the Provincial Farms Branch amalgamated with it in July 1974 with the Head of the Branch and the administrative organization located in Victoria.

The Assistant Head supervising the field staff is located in a branch office in Langley. He also is responsible for the operation of the Colony Farm and Tranquille Farm.

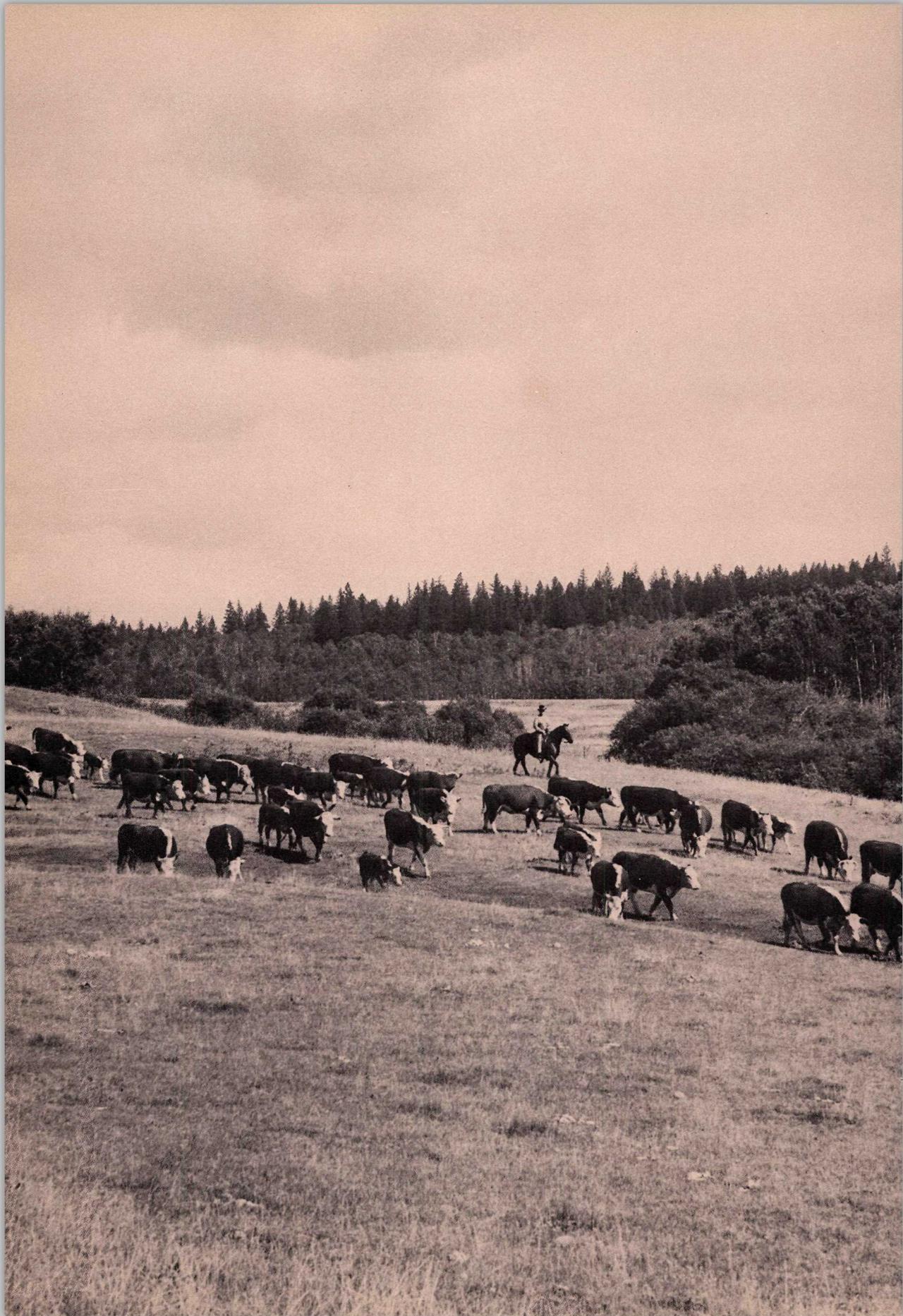
The main responsibility of the Property Management Branch will be to select suitable lessees and to administer all agricultural land, farms, and orchards purchased by the Land Commission. Agricultural land acquired by other Provincial Government agencies will also be managed by this Branch.

A very close liaison will be maintained with the Land Commission in order to establish a co-ordinated management plan for all agricultural land.

Both the Colony Farm near Essondale and the Tranquille Farm near Tranquille, B.C., are managed as self-supporting entities using contemporary farming practices. The Colony Farm has 650 cultivated acres and is primarily involved in dairying and potato and vegetable production. The Tranquille Farm has about 350 cultivated acres, largely for forage production to support the commercial beef herd operation. The B.C. Beef Cattle Test Station is located on the farm.



**PRODUCTION**  
*and*  
**MARKETING**  
**SERVICES**



## **Agricultural Development and Extension**

In 1974 the Development and Extension Branch, through its district offices, responded to a heavy demand upon its services. District Agriculturists continue to act as the key reference points for the Department of Agriculture in 17 agricultural districts located throughout the Province. An increase in the number of inquiries for information and advice on production information and Departmental programs and policies was reported by all district offices.



Regional extension programs were developed, based on identified needs in agriculture and were planned in association with all segments of the agricultural industry. A major emphasis was placed on increasing the quality and quantity of forage produced. Specific projects were directed toward the growing, management, and utilization of alfalfa and silage corn.

Programs were initiated to increase productivity of native ranges, pastures, and wet meadows. A program was initiated to demonstrate the handling and utilization of alfalfa cubes in the dairy industry in the Fraser Valley. A high priority was placed on the development of community pastures in the Peace River, Central British Columbia, and the Kootenays. Special extension programs were directed toward the dairy industry through the Fraser Valley Dairy Education Committee and the newly formed Dairy Extension Advisory Committee in the Okanagan.

Fifteen students were hired under the Careers '74 Program to carry out special projects such as the collecting of various native range grass species throughout the Province to determine their seasonal nutritional value and to demonstrate the effects of fertilizer application on forage crop production.

The Branch worked co-operatively on various programs with other branches and Agriculture Canada. The Farm Business Management Program continued to receive high priority in emphasizing the interpretations of farm records and their application to production-economic decisions. Due to many inquiries, the Branch provided information on new Departmental programs such as Farm Income Assurance, Agricultural Credit, Agricultural Land Development, Agricultural Land Reserves, Hay Freight Subsidy, and Land Use Planning.

Numerous special projects were undertaken during 1974, ranging from community pasture development to planning assistance in the event of emergency floods.

## Apiary

Throughout all of the major honey-producing areas of the Province, cool wet weather was a factor in reducing the 1974 honey crop. In the Peace River district and the fireweed areas of Vancouver Island, the honey crop was reduced by as much as 50 to 70 per cent.

Active beekeepers in the Province number 2,802, a gain of 984 new producers since 1973. Number of colonies increased from 33,030 in 1973 to 41,175 in 1974.

The total honey crop during 1974 was 3,274,500 pounds, 65,160 pounds less than the 1973 crop of 3,339,660 pounds.

It is estimated the inclement weather conditions resulted in a reduction of the Provincial crop by at least two million pounds of honey.

British Columbians consume 5,300,000 pounds of honey annually. This means that during 1974 we were 2,025,500 pounds of honey short of our own requirements.

The wholesale market for honey remained generally slow although retail sales were generally good.

The price of No. 1 white honey in bulk (660-pound barrels) has ranged between 46 cents and 55 cents per pound f.o.b. Honey in bulk (barrels) shipped to the co-operatives and other packing plants in 1973 brought a return to the producer of 46 cents per pound (final payment). The on-farm price for honey has

ranged as high as \$1 per pound, with an average of 80 cents per pound. The cost of new equipment and labour to establish one complete hive has increased from \$68.45 in 1973 to \$75 in 1974. Sugar, a very important commodity used for bee feed, has increased in wholesale price by over 100 per cent.

A new threat to bulk-honey industrial markets is a recently developed foreign patent for a synthetic product having qualities similar to honey. This appears to be eroding the honey market in the bakery and other trades.

Bee diseases were significantly lower in 1974 compared with 1973. Colonies inspected numbered 9,666, compared with 7,980 during 1973. The incidence of diseases such as American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood, and others were much lower in 1974.

Producer demand continues strong for honeybees to pollinate tree fruits, small fruits, vegetable seed crops, and white Dutch clover. DATE funds have been allocated to study the effects on crop production of honeybee pollination versus natural pollination and the overwintering of honeybees in a controlled environment.

The year 1974 saw a very large increase in the number of beekeepers throughout the Province. Over 2,000 information packages were mailed to interested persons requesting beekeeping advice.

## Farm Economics

During the year the Branch was strengthened with the addition of two regional farm economist positions and six farm business management technician positions.

Farm managers registered on the Farm Business Management record-keeping and business analysis program in 1974 totalled 292, compared to 280 in 1973. The number

of participants in this program is expected to climb substantially in 1975 as the impact of additional staff becomes evident.

The publication *Taxation and the B.C. Farmer* was finalized in late 1974 and will be released early in 1975 for farm use.

During 1974 the Farm Economics Branch continued staff training with opportunities in farm business management. The following sessions were held:

- (1) Three-week course on interpretation of farm records attended by six District Agriculturists, four Assistant District Agriculturists, four District Horticulturists, five Small Farm Development personnel, and one poultry specialist.
- (2) Two separate one-week sessions for farm business management technicians as an introduction to the farm record systems endorsed by the B.C. Department of Agriculture.
- (3) One-week session for Small Farm Development officers to assess job needs and outline

priorities in view of the inactivity in the Land Transfer Plan portion of the Small Farm Development Program.

Response to the land transfer portion of the Small Farm Development Program remained limited. The seconded staff under the program made over 350 contacts with farm clients during the year. At year-end about 75 clients were receiving continuing counselling on credit, financial planning, budgeting, accounting, retirement, and other matters.

A study into the cost of producing creeping red fescue seed in the Peace River area was undertaken in co-operation with the Alberta Department of Agriculture. A number of cost data sheets were compiled in 1974.

The significance of well-kept farm records is being realized by an increasing number of farmers.

Interpretation of these data forms the basis to assist farmers in making sound management decisions. It is the role of the Farm Economics Branch to provide farmers with accurate interpretation and suggest productive techniques.

## **Field Crops**

In contrast to 1973, forage yields were much improved in most areas of the Province. The late spring and the wet, cool, early summer delayed planting of annual crops such as cereals, corn, and potatoes. Fortunately, all areas of British Columbia were favoured with warm, dry conditions in the late summer and fall, resulting in very favourable harvesting conditions.

In the Peace River area, virtually all cereals and oilseeds were harvested, though in many instances with a high moisture content. In the southern Interior, favourable soil moisture and

above-average temperatures in the spring combined to provide good grassland range production. Further north in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, lower fall and winter precipitation and low spring temperatures were responsible for poor range production this year. In the Vanderhoof-Burns Lake area, a severe hay shortage developed for similar reasons.

Under the B.C. Forage Transportation Assistance Policy, which applied to hay of Canadian origin only, and which was in effect from June 1, 1973, to March 31, 1974, the sum of

\$1,461,360.59 was paid to farmers and ranchers on 106,763 tons of hay. Most of this hay originated in Alberta, but 19,637 tons came from our Peace River District. In addition, some 65,000 tons of alfalfa were imported from the United States.

The importance of increasing forage production in British Columbia cannot be over-emphasized. The South Peace Dehy Products plant at Dawson Creek was completed during the year but, due to delays in construction and acquisition of equipment, production did not start until late summer. The plant produces bite-size alfalfa cubes from locally grown alfalfa that is chopped and trucked to the plant. The cubes are easily transported to areas in the Province where hay supplies are short of maintaining livestock feed requirements.

An alfalfa study, co-ordinated by the Branch, has produced useful information relative to production problems.

Corn silage production increased to approximately 19,000 acres in 1974. In co-operation with District Agriculturists and Agriculture Canada research stations, variety trials and demonstrations were conducted on 20 sites.

The new *Weed Control Act* has generally been well received. Regional districts now have authority to raise funds for weed control through property taxation. Our policy of assisting municipalities and regional districts on a 50:50 basis on approved programs has led to a considerable amount of interest. Considerable testing was carried out on the suitability of various herbicides for weed control in crops. More than 50 herbicide efficacy trials were conducted and evaluated.

The Soil, Feed, and Tissue Testing Laboratory at Kelowna processed 9,325 soil samples with nine routine determinations per sample, plus a

number of special tests for a total of 87,000 determinations. In addition, 1,241 feed and forage samples and 904 tissue samples were processed for a total of 11,556 determinations. Total revenue was \$21,290.

There was a very light movement of lime in the areas eligible for subsidy. Total unsubsidized movement of lime in the Fraser Valley remained fairly heavy despite the record consumption in 1972/73, the last year the subsidy applied to the Fraser Valley.

A Fertilizer Review Panel consisting of two representatives from each of the four western provinces was formed to monitor availability and prices of fertilizer. The panel was successful in establishing a working relationship with the fertilizer industry. A record 1,543,830 tons of fertilizer have been allocated to Western Canada for 1975. Prices in Western Canada are considerably lower than those prevailing in the United States.

In the Peace River district, barley and rapeseed acreages increased substantially. For the first time, rapeseed acreage exceeded the wheat acreage. Rapeseed is well adapted to the area and the value of the crop this year was estimated at nearly \$6 million.



Although creeping red fescue declined both in yield and price, the total value of field crop production in the Peace River was close to \$4 million.

Range-improvement projects received a considerable amount of attention again this year. The knapweed control program was again carried on in the Kamloops and Williams Lake districts as in the East Kootenays. Several DATE projects concerned with range management have produced very promising results.

For example, a project demonstrating control of knapweed showed that aerial spraying ranges with the herbicide Tordon 22K, and subsequent

reseeding with adapted grasses, greatly improves otherwise poor areas. In one case, a 22-fold increase in grass production resulted.

Potato acreage increased from 7,500 acres in 1973 to 9,000 acres in 1974. The increase was mainly due to a 1,000-acre increase at Creston where a processing plant is being planned. Movement of British Columbia potatoes to the Vancouver market has been very strong this year, accounting for 57½ per cent of the total fresh market as compared to 42 per cent in 1973. Regional variety trials and fertility trials were conducted in a number of districts.

## Horticulture

It is unusual to begin a Branch report with an account of urban horticulture, but the allotment gardens were such an outstanding success that they should lead off this summary of horticultural activities.

The Allotment Garden Program was inaugurated in February 1974. It provided an opportunity for people in apartments or homes without suitable land to grow a large proportion of their own vegetable requirements. There were 378 plot-holders in the initial trial, with 160 in Victoria and 218 in the Vancouver area. For the participants it proved to be a pleasant experience to grow their own food. In some instances it was their first endeavour to do so. Plans are well along to expand substantially the number of allotments available in 1975.

Growers in most of the commercial horticulture sector encountered difficulty in the marketing of their early crops. The abnormally wet and cool spring weather in 1974 delayed planting and crop growth. However, many of those with fall crops experienced improved economic conditions and beautiful harvest weather.

In the tree-fruit industry there were significant happenings in 1974. The relaxation of the B.C. Fruit Board regulations that controlled the movement of tree fruits within the Province changed the marketing picture somewhat. The new Income Assurance Program had a stabilizing effect on the returns to the industry, giving a more optimistic future for tree fruits.

Berry producers had a difficult year with markets and weather. Strawberries from Mexico are landed below local cost of production. In addition, sugar is reported to be much cheaper to the foreign processors. The raspberry and blueberry market deteriorated. Along with market problems came wet weather, which resulted in fruit rot and an increasing scarcity of berry-pickers. Mechanization within these crops for harvesting and favourable weather are needed for 1975 to provide greater economic stability.

A record grape crop of excellent vintage was produced in the Okanagan and Similkameen in 1974. The value of the crop exceeds \$3 million on a survey total of 3,066 acres. Grape prices were negotiated quickly and at a

level comparable with similar varieties in Ontario and New York. The one mechanical harvester working in Oliver was very successful and further mechanization can be expected.

Vegetable producers were hampered by unfavourable weather in the first half of 1974. Land preparation and seeding was difficult and late. However, the clear warm summer and fall averted what could have been a disastrous year.



Lettuce producers had their second best year in terms of volume and price. Beans were harvested by new multi-row harvesters. In the Interior, field tomatoes came under Income Assurance, a move that could be a great help for the future.

In October a successful vegetable seminar was conducted to identify the constraints limiting vegetable production. A report covering the 21 recommendations has been published.

Nursery stock demand is strong and supplies are increasing. Certification of stocks of pines is under way, other stock will follow. Nursery certification is getting closer.

There has been a rapid expansion of the greenhouse vegetable industry on the Lower Mainland. Costs of production are up sharply, particularly heating-oil prices. Some delay in expansion may occur in this area unless their economic picture improves.

Applied research programs on many horticultural crops are under way in the Province. Extensive use of radio, television, and meetings is being made in the Branch extension programs.

The outlook is brighter for many of the producers of horticultural crops. International factors will be critical for a number of producers, especially those in berries, greenhouse, and nursery crops.

## Livestock

Two new Acts, the *Beef Grading Act* and the *Domestic Animal Protection Act*, were proclaimed with regulations during the year. Administration of the *Domestic Animal Protection Act* was facilitated by the appointment of a new staff member.

The number of herds enrolled under the Beef ROP Program increased, but numbers of cattle were increased only slightly. In 1973 there were 170 herds with 8,289 cattle on test; in 1974 there were 197 herds with 8,654

animals on test. Entries to the Bull Test Station at Tranquille were the largest on record, with 33 contributors consigning 138 bulls of seven different breeds.

Beef cattlemen in British Columbia are, along with those in the rest of Canada, experiencing a year of low prices and high costs. The most significant development to come from the industry within British Columbia was their request for establishment of an Income Assurance Program.

The Dairy Herd Improvement Division continues to expand. At the year-end there were 34,496 cows in 626 herds being tested under the scheme, an increase of 3,036 cows over a year ago. The British Columbia Federation of Agriculture has requested that the British Columbia Department of Agriculture expedite the effort to have the DHIA records made acceptable under the ROP Program.

The dairy industry in the Province is in good condition. British Columbia was the only province in Canada reporting an increase in cows milked during 1974 as compared to the year previous. The Dairy Income Assurance Program has been instrumental in creating this optimism.

Sheep flocks continue a slow decline within the Province. The most encouraging development occurred late in the year when an industry consensus was reached to form a Sheep Industry Council. The B.C. Federation of Agriculture is assisting the industry

in organizing to meet its new objectives, among which is the establishment of an Income Assurance Program. Statistics also indicate a slight drop in numbers enrolled in the ROP Program during the year, with 11 flocks and 611 lambs on test, as compared to 13 producers with 774 lambs in 1973.

The hog industry has embarked on an expansionary production program in response to the newly established Swine Income Assurance Program. Producer optimism is evident with further requests for increased services from the Department being received from the B.C. Swine Breeders' Association.

The beef industry is concerned not only with the current short-term price problem but also with the longer term question of Crown land tenure.

Generally, however, there is a measure of optimism in the livestock industry in the Province, generated to a degree by favourable legislation proclaimed during the past two years.

## Markets and Statistics

The year 1974 was marked by the emergence of two significant developments in the marketing sector—the extensive amending of the *Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act*, and the difficulties encountered by the egg and turkey industries, which led to their serving of notices of withdrawal from their respective national marketing plans.

The *Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act* was amended to produce far-reaching changes to certain aspects of the application of the original orderly marketing concept. Chief among these was the provision for a widely expanded role for the British Columbia Marketing Board, to include close supervision of all commodity marketing boards and the authority to hear appeals against their orders or

other actions. Provision was also made for the establishment of marketing commissions.

There was renewed interest in marketing regulation on the part of the beef, hog, sheep, and forage-seed producers. The Branch's involvement in studies on export market potentials for a number of farm products combined with this renewed interest to stimulate new avenues of activity during the year.

As in all areas of the economy, the issue of continuing monetary inflation exerted an overshadowing effect on every facet of the production and marketing pattern. While such factors as the introduction of income assurance for certain crops tended to offset to a degree the full impact of inflationary pressures, the over-all effect was not overcome. This, in turn, brought into sharper

focus the demand for current statistical data for use in the framing of new programs designed to sustain and strengthen the industry.

With the acquisition of a Public Information Officer and a second food-demonstration trailer, the Branch's Food Promotion Program was placed in a better balanced position. The former made possible a more efficient administrative function, while the second trailer enabled coverage of 65 communities throughout the Province. The program embodied continued use of press, radio, and television facilities as well as display and point-of-sale material.

On the balance then, the general trend of events might be said to have placed the Branch's main activities in a holding pattern, since any tangible results of the shifts in legislative and administrative measures will not become apparent until 1975 and later.

The Branch played a minor advisory role in the formulation of this amending legislation and in the provision of the order required to authorize the B.C. Egg Marketing Board to fulfil its obligations under the national egg marketing plan. A similar order on behalf of the B.C. Turkey Marketing Board was drawn up in its entirety by the Branch, as was the provision for celery to be added to those vegetables subject to marketing regulation by the B.C. Coast Vegetable Marketing Board.

In co-operation with Statistics Canada, statistical data were provided again during the year, some of which were developed in consultation with the Branch. In return, the Branch provided regular telegraphic reports to Ottawa on general crop conditions during the growing season.

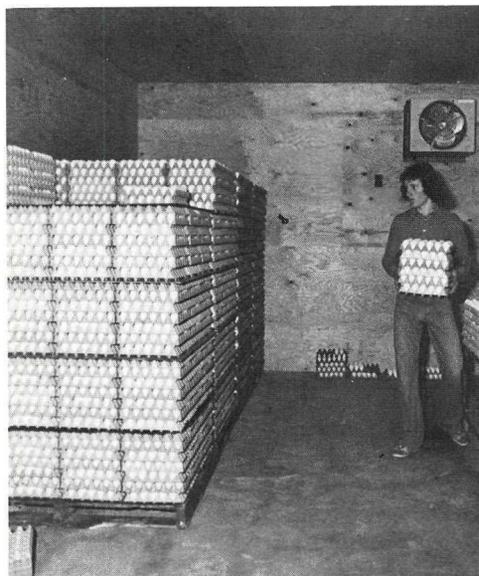
## Poultry

The year 1974 was notable for the problems and difficulties that plagued all sections of the industry, mainly in the marketing area. The issues were largely related to the involvement of

the Egg and Turkey Marketing Boards under the national plan. Egg marketing was particularly contentious under the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) and received very wide publicity in the national press.

Producers of eggs, chicken, and turkey meat encountered sharply increased costs of production during the year. Feed costs in particular remained high. In order to remain profitable, the consumer price also rose sharply and probably caused some market resistance, resulting in lower sales volume. Egg prices to producers advanced about 14 cents per dozen in 1974 over 1973, and broiler prices rose about 5 cents per pound. Turkey prices remained at about 1973 levels.

The staff of the Poultry Branch planned and supervised many projects at the Poultry Test Station to demonstrate and obtain information pertinent to poultry production in British Columbia.



Commercial feeds produced by several companies in British Columbia were compared to a known formulated ration. Strain tests of broilers and turkeys were conducted to ensure that British Columbia producers were using the most satisfactory strains obtainable. Heated concrete floors were installed to test their suitability for broiler and pullet production. Several other projects were conducted.

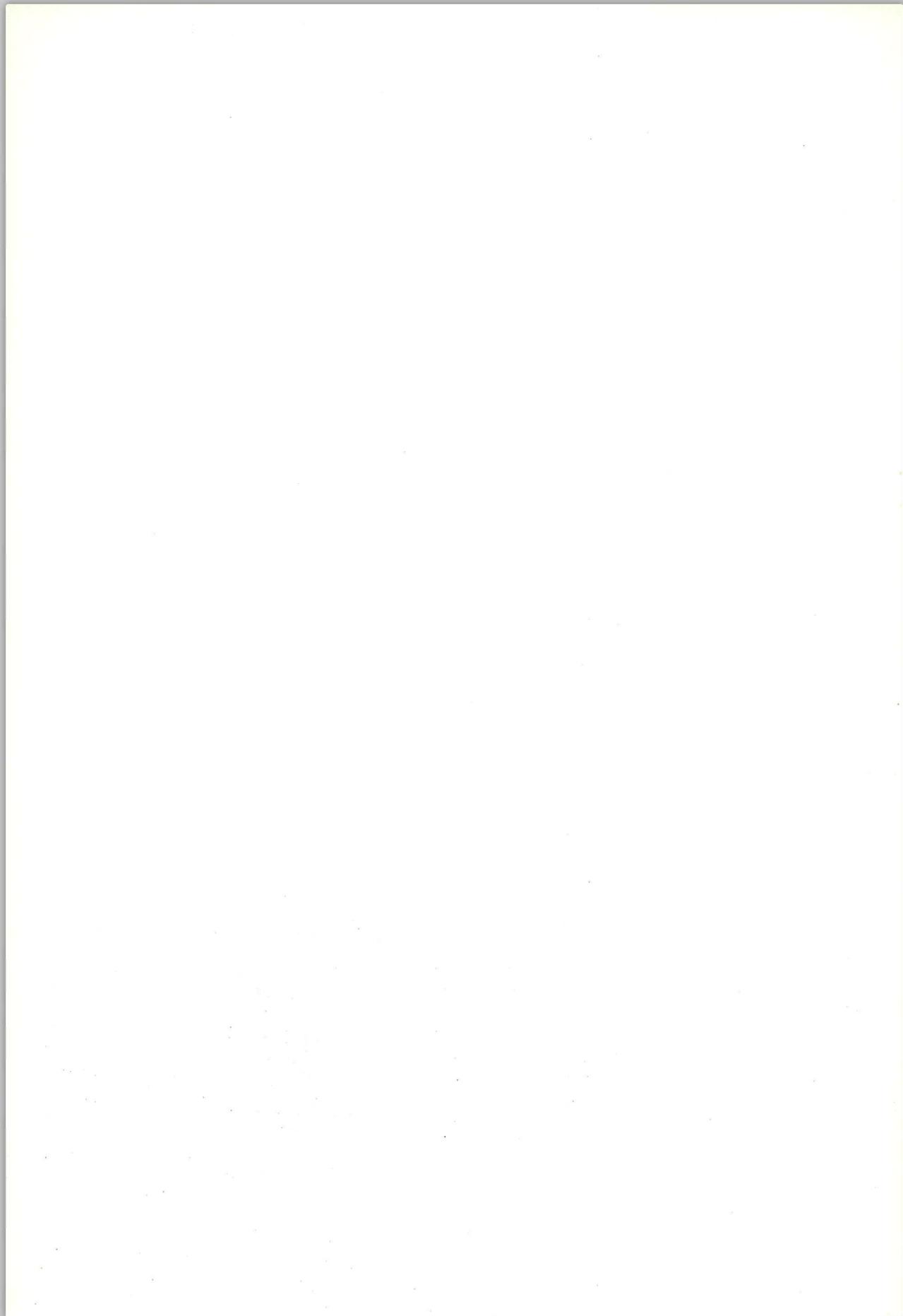
The Poultry Test Station has proved to be a valuable asset to the work of the extension staff of the Poultry Branch. It provides a means for the examination of problems associated with the industry without excessive cost to Government. The Test Station, in the period December 1, 1973, to December 1, 1974, returned \$84,437, less operating costs to general revenue.

The Poultry Branch staff organized a B.C. Poultry Conference in October as in past years. Over 225 poultry producers and representatives of the

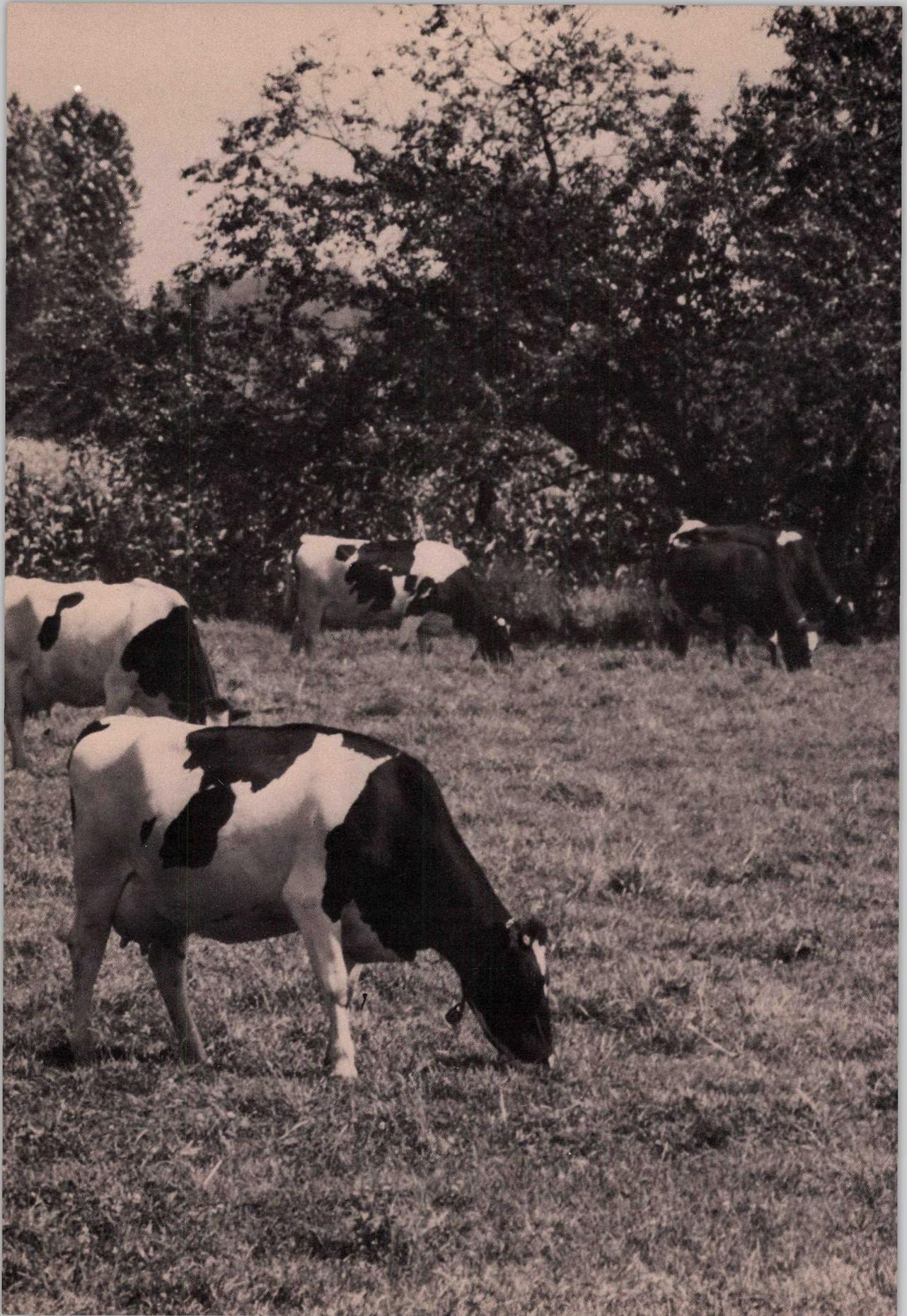
industry heard speakers discuss various subjects of interest to all phases of the industry.

Disease problems of commercial poultry are always a major production factor in the Lower Mainland because of the high concentration of poultry farms in the relatively small area. The Poultry Branch staff worked closely with the Veterinary Laboratory in establishing programs for combating disease outbreaks. Infectious laryngotracheitis, a troublesome respiratory disease, was brought under some control by the development of new vaccination procedures.

The Poultry Branch staff attends meetings of producer organizations and works with various committees on problems within the industry. They also attempt to maintain a liaison with the various boards in order that the staff is aware at all times of developments within the industry.



**SPECIAL  
SERVICES**



## Agricultural Engineering

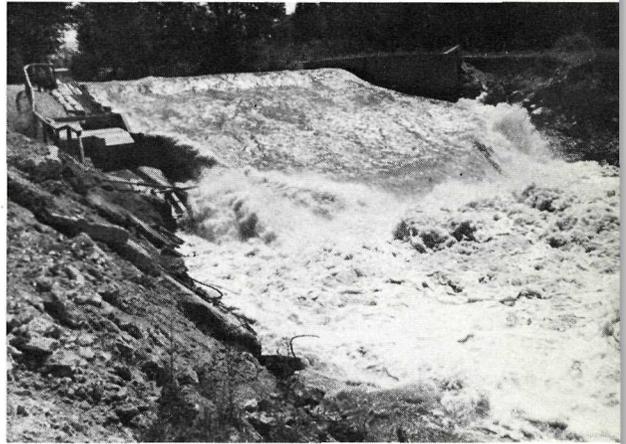
The Engineering Branch continued to provide an advisory service to British Columbia ranchers and farmers on most aspects of engineering related to agricultural production. Requests for engineering services increased substantially in all categories in 1974, particularly in farm structures, due to establishment of farm income assurance programs.

Farm drainage plans were completed for 2,460 acres during 1974. Major construction and installation of equipment was completed at the four Fraser Valley sites of the \$174,000 ARDA Drainage Research Project, designed to improve farm drainage techniques and cost-benefit information.

Irrigation feasibility studies were carried out for 87 individual farmers and 167 plans for funding under the ALDA Program were reviewed. Irrigation instruction sessions were attended by 18 farmers representing 9,330 acres of land and equipment expenditures of \$1,360,000.

The Farm Structures Planning Service handled over 300 designs in 1974 at a potential value of \$7,000,000. Three

of these designs were for 300-cow dairy operations, each representing an expenditure of over \$200,000. Plans and guidelines were prepared for upgrading animal-waste management systems.



Considerable time was devoted to the problems of farm machinery spare parts, service, and development and to several demonstration projects designed to encourage producers to adopt more efficient techniques.

## Dairy

While total Canadian milk production in 1974 was down by an estimated 1.5 per cent, the dairy farmers of British Columbia increased production by 4.8 per cent, which topped for the first time the one-billion-pound mark at 1,024,318,000 pounds. Production of cheddar cheese and butter increased by 9.2 and 5.5 per cent respectively, while ice cream mix was up 7.6 per cent at 3,914,000 gallons. Increases were attributed to the implementation of the B.C. Dairy Income Assurance Program.

Significantly higher production costs were evident in all sectors of the industry. Farm cash gross receipts were estimated at just over \$92.1 million compared to \$68.7 million in 1973. The Provincial dairy herd increased by 3,000 cows to a total of 83,000.

Less milk was available for powder and condensed milk, in view of increased fluid milk sales, resulting in operating problems in that sector of the industry.

### 5-year Production and Fluid Utilization Summary

Year	Production (Approximate Million Pounds)	Fluid Sales (Approximate Million Pounds)
1970.....	949.4	562.9 <sup>1</sup>
1971.....	972.2	579.7
1972.....	976.9	603.1
1973.....	986.1	626.1
1974 (est.).....	1,024.3 <sup>2</sup>	657.4 <sup>3 4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 59 per cent of production.

<sup>2</sup> 8 per cent increase over 1970 production figure.

<sup>3</sup> 17 per cent increase over 1970 fluid sales figure.

<sup>4</sup> 64 per cent of production.

Dairy farm and dairy plant inspections contributed to the high standards of milk quality. The Provincial

dairy plant inspection program was centralized and the Federal industrial milk standards were adopted to provide a uniform nation-wide inspection service.

Dairy Laboratory service was improved to assist producers with quality problems. There were only 17 suspensions resulting from noncompliance with bacterial standards. The suspension period was reduced from seven to four days.

The Infra-red Milk Analysis Program at the laboratory continued to provide information for milk payments and for over-all herd improvement purposes.

## DATE Program

In 1973 the B.C. Department of Agriculture initiated a program to stimulate staff-supervised projects aimed at increasing the net income of farmers in British Columbia. This program, called DATE (Demonstration of Applied Technology and Economics), produced dramatic results in 1974.

In a province where there are hundreds of thousands of acres of rangeland, an *Agricultural Land Development Act* for financing range improvement, range-management expertise, and a market for ranch finished beef, the 800-per-cent increase in grass production demonstrated in one project was viewed as the starting point for a major range-improvement program. In another project, significant increases in legume production were obtained in the Interior through the application of sulphur.

Frost, long recognized as a hazard to tree-fruit production, was controlled through the use of a wind-machine installation in the Okanagan.

In Creston, new fungicides were found for controlling apple scab

and information was collected that will minimize the amount of spraying required for codling moth control.

Another DATE project reported that apples and pears from the Okanagan should not be restricted by the export market for fireblight disease reasons.

In the Peace River area, an investigation was funded to document those areas growing high-quality grain.

To answer the many questions asked by farmers relative to taxation, a special study was funded to investigate impacts on income for farmers considering incorporation. Two publications will be available from this study early in 1975.

For nurserymen, a technique for propagating woody ornamentals was demonstrated, thus reducing the need for importing stock from outside the Province.

In the Cariboo, ranchers were shown how to utilize sawdust to regulate the grain supplement intake by cattle.

In the Fraser Valley, a study concluded that the most economic method of transporting alfalfa hay cubes from the Peace River was by piggyback rail transport. At the same time, trials were planned to demonstrate the

use of cubes on dairy farms in anticipation of reducing the dependence of farmers on hay supplies coming from south of the border.

In summary, 32 projects were funded under the DATE Program.

## Entomology

The Branch provided advisory services in the area of insect and pest control and continued to enforce policies designed to curtail any irresponsible sale or application of pesticides. Branch personnel provided the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Use of Pesticides and Herbicides with considerable information concerned with the safe use of pesticides. Also, service was provided to the Interdepartmental Pesticide Committee that handled 189 proposed pesticide applications.

Six licences for handling pesticides were suspended and 32 fines were imposed for violations as a result of over 2,500 inspections. A record number of residue samples were analysed at the Pesticide Laboratory.

No unusual outbreaks of tree-fruit insects occurred in 1974. Integrated mite control using commercial mite-counting services proved popular. Experiments with sex pheromones for controlling codling moths were not as productive as in 1972. The foundation was laid for a major program of insect biological control for codling moths.



The mosquito problem was severe in many areas due to high water. A full-time agrologist was hired to handle mosquito advisory and applied research work.

Numerous requests for insect identification and control were handled routinely. Many courses were presented throughout the Province for those engaged in the sale and use of pesticides.

## Farm Vacation Program

The Department introduced a "Family Farm Vacation" Program in 1974. The Youth Development Branch was given the co-ordinating responsibility.

Eighteen farm and ranches throughout the Province participated as hosts to

urban vacationers. A promotional brochure was published and distributed to travel centres, creating public awareness of the program. From inquiries received near the end of the season a large number of farm vacationers are expected in 1975.

## Plant Pathology

There were an abundance of moisture-associated diseases in the spring and early summer of 1974 connected with the wet, cool temperatures



which prevailed earlier in the year. In excess of 1,000 plant disease specimens were examined and diagnosed.

A wide array of plant diseases occurred in 1974, including two new diseases for British Columbia—these were anthracnose of ash and anthracnose of the common privet hedge (a widely used ornamental). Field and vegetable crop diseases were at a moderate level during the cool, wet spring weather but tapered off as the summer became warmer and drier.

A total of 627 cherry trees, infected with little cherry disease, was removed to control the spread of a disease that could have ended the Okanagan cherry industry. There was a significant increase in the number of cherry trees infected with a relatively new disease called target spot.

Fourteen research and extension projects were undertaken in a wide variety of field, vegetable, and fruit crops.

## Soils

Reconnaissance surveys, to provide information for resource planning and management, continued with special emphasis centred on the Omineca-Parsnip, Vancouver Island, and Northwest Project areas. In 1974, 12,269,000 acres were surveyed for use in resource planning and management. Capability for agriculture ratings were applied to 12,484,000 acres and forestry ratings to 11,999,000 acres during the year.

Assistance was provided to the B.C. Land Commission in the production of agricultural land reserve maps, the processing of appeals, and on-site inspections.

Requests for advisory assistance in soils, irrigation, drainage, and related problems continued to increase in 1974.

Major publications produced were *Illustrated Key to the Gymnosperms of B.C.* and the *Nechako-François Lake Soils Report*.



## Veterinary

The general incidence of disease continued low in the livestock population in British Columbia.

A historic event occurred when the distribution of brucella strain 19 vaccine was turned over to the Health of Animals Branch, Agriculture Canada, on July 1, 1974, as this ended the Federal-Provincial Brucellosis Control Program which commenced July 15, 1950. Calves inoculated under the program totalled 812,882. This calfhood vaccination program was the foundation on which the Province was finally declared free of brucellosis in 1970. Eradication of this disease removed a serious financial burden from farmers and the potential threat of undulant fever to humans.

Veterinary inspection of livestock was provided at public sale yards in the Lower Fraser Valley area. In the fall months, veterinary inspection commenced at sale yards located at Cranbrook, Vernon, Merritt, Kamloops, Okanagan Falls, Williams Lake, Salmon Arm, and Prince George. A total of 232,271 livestock went through all sale yards, 4,198 head fewer than the previous year.

The Veterinary Laboratory continued to provide a vital service to the livestock and poultry industry.

Brand inspection service, to curtail rustling, continued. The B.C. Cattlemen's Association expressed some interest in accepting responsibility for this service in the future.



## Youth Development

4-H is an informal educational and recreational program which has as its over-all objective the personal development of young people. Membership in 4-H is open to young people from 9 to 19 years of age. Clubs are formed around a wide variety of projects, with leadership provided by volunteer adults. The Youth Development Branch enrolled 4,284 members and 771 leaders in 269 4-H Clubs in 1974.

Members participated in a wide variety of travel and exchange programs and experienced an increased awareness of Canada and the Federal Government, the Canadian legal system, the environment, and 4-H on a national and international level.

A three-day Provincial 4-H Leaders Conference was initiated in 1974. Twenty-four volunteer leaders participated in the event, which was held at Naramata, B.C.. The conference focused on leadership skills and working with young people. This innovative program proved very successful and will be continued as an annual event.

The approval of four new professional positions for the Youth Development Branch in 1974 will greatly improve the level of service provided to the 4-H leaders and members throughout the Province.

Through activities such as camps, conferences, activities at fairs, travel programs, and club and project work, the 4-H program is helping to produce top-quality young people with positive attitudes and definite goals.

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