

Canadian Enrollment, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine-1980

G. M. Jenkinson

Abstract

Undergraduate and graduate enrollment in agricultural colleges and two-year diploma programs in Canada for the period 1973 to 1979 was reported in the NACTA Journal, March 1980. Data for 1980 is presented following registration in September. Enrollment increased through the 1970's until 1978 when there was a distinct break in the upward trend that developed through the early and mid 1970's. Enrollment declined slightly at the baccalaureate level from 1978 to 1979 and has declined to a greater extent in 1980. Enrollment in two-year diploma programs remained stable from 1977 to 1980. Enrollment in graduate programs is also relatively stable, varying only two to three percent upwards or downwards in any given year from 1977 to 1980.

Undergraduate Enrollment

Enrollment in four-year undergraduate degree programs in the eight faculties of agriculture in Canada increased substantially through the 1970's, peaking in 1978. (1) Commencing in 1979 the number of undergraduate degree students declined by approximately two percent each year. Table 1 indicates enrollment during the 1977 to 1980 period in each of the faculties of agriculture in Canada. The decline from 1979 to 1980 occurred primarily at Laval University and Macdonald College. Enrollment declines are expected generally in the Canadian university system in the next few years, although most faculties of agriculture believe that their enrollment will not decline to the full extent due to the strong demand that continues for graduates in agricultural science.

The annual drop in enrollment in 1979 and again in 1980 is similar to the experience of the member institutions of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Declines of approximately three percent in each of the two years were experienced by those institutions (2).

Enrollment in two-year diploma programs in agriculture in Canada has fluctuated by less than two percent over the four year period. As in undergraduate degree programs, substantial increase in enrollment was experienced during the early and mid 1970's; from 1973 to 1977 the increase in diploma enrollment approximated 30 percent.

There has been no significant change in the enrollment of students at the various faculties of veterinary medicine in Canada during the four year period. Each of the colleges can admit a restricted number of students relative to the numbers who apply for admission, and there has been no change in the quotas established at any of the three veterinary faculties during the past four years.

Graduate Enrollment

The enrollment of graduate students increased modestly from 1977 to 1980 with a three percent increase in the number of master's students and no significant change in the number of Ph.D. students. As reported in last year's article on this subject (1) there is a continuing shortage in the supply of Ph.D. graduates in agriculture in Canada relative to the demand. Some preliminary studies done under the auspices of the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Canada have revealed that in some areas of agriculture, the supply of graduates approximates only one quarter or one third of the present and future demand over the next five to ten years. Further refinements are being made to these estimates, and it is likely that some detailed projections on supply and demand will be forthcoming within the next twelve months.

Jenkinson is associate professor in the Office of the Dean, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1.

Table 1. Undergraduate Enrollment Canadian Faculties of Agriculture 1977 - 1980.

	4-YR. DEGREE				2-YR. DIPLOMA			
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1977	1978	1979	1980
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	183	193	173	178	257	250	280	280
Laval University	977	1244	1148	1069				
Macdonald College	698	728	811	757	84	96	100	90
Ontario Agricultural College	2074	1996	1964	2003	336	336	351	394
University of Manitoba	587	688	554	560	286	265	259	245
University of Saskatchewan	462	501	515	515	297	282	242	240
University of Alberta	885	739	674	679				
University of British Columbia	378	389	414	428				
Total	6244	6478	6343	6189	1260	1229	1232	1249

Note: Laval includes students in Home Economics; Alberta includes students in Forestry; OAC includes Engineering and Landscape Architecture.

Table 2. Graduate Enrollment Canadian Faculties of Agriculture - September 1977 - 1980.

	1977		1978		1979		1980	
	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.
Laval University	94	11	105	12	119	16	121	23
Macdonald College	141	64	124	70	95	81	119	62
Ontario Agricultural College	239	65	242	73	257	65	284	70
University of Manitoba	165	70	164	65	168	62	166	54
University of Saskatchewan	88	34	74	38	67	40	68	35
University of Alberta	143	51	136	42	131	48	118	46
University of British Columbia	92	41	101	45	112	57	112	57
Total	962	336	946	345	949	369	988	347

Data obtained from that submitted to the annual meetings of the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. All data taken from September registration figures, full-time and part-time students.

Table 3. Canadian Veterinary Medicine Enrollment 1977 - 1980

	1977	1978	1979	1980
University of Montreal	281	276	273	269
Ontario Veterinary College	471	474	479	473
University of Saskatchewan	256	254	259	266

Total 1008 1004 1011 1008

Data obtained from that submitted to the annual meetings of the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. All data taken from September registration figures; full-time students only.

Summary

The downward trend in the number of students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs in agriculture in Canada continued in 1980. This trend became evident in 1979 and was reported in the **NACTA Journal** in March 1980. The increase in enrollment occurring throughout the 1970's up to and including 1978 is now over. Two successive years of decline plus the projections that in the early 1980's the population of high school graduates will decline further will result in contraction rather than growth for Canadian faculties of agriculture over the next five years. It is not expected that the decline will parallel the general high school population decline in totality. A strong demand for undergraduates continues and most faculties of agriculture are optimistic that the full effects of the general decline in high school graduates will not be felt in agricultural colleges. Enrollment of graduate students is moving upward very slowly at a rate less than the demand for graduates particularly at the Ph.D. level.

References

1. Jenkinson, G. M. March 1980. Canadian enrollment, agriculture and veterinary medicine - 1979. **NACTA Journal** 24:1.
2. June 1980. 1979 Fall agricultural enrollment, national association of state universities and land grant colleges. **NACTA Journal** 24:2.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES
AND TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE

Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge
June 7-10, 1981

Dr. Jack C. Everly, Editor
NACTA Journal
608 W. Vermont
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Jack:

I have visited by telephone with Howard Hesby and Russell Miller regarding Materials Exchange for the 1981 NACTA Conference. Howard and Bob Godke at LSU are planning a slide duplication capability.

Howard agreed to again request books from publishers for display as he already had the mailing list. I'm going to request other media for display such as film-loops, slides, etc. I had recently asked Jim Vorst to help me secure media of the materials reviewed in the **NACTA Journal** this year and Russ Miller was enthusiastic about this as well.

I would like to highlight two items for the March issue regarding the 1980 Conference: (1) Many individuals must bring slides to share for duplication, and (2) encourage individuals to bring laboratory manuals, course outlines and/or learning objectives, or other hand-out materials for display. These should be in a loose-leaf notebook or some kind of cover for best display.

The slide duplication was mentioned in the December 1980 issue and I would like to really stress it. Otherwise, it probably will not be successful. Perhaps a little block "ad" explaining that (1) duplicating equipment will be there, (2) film will be available at cost, and (3) so, all we need is members to bring slides. Could we encourage attendees to also bring slides of colleagues who are not attending?

Sincerely,
Gerry L. Posler, Chairman
NACTA Instructional Materials Exchange Board