

Canadian Enrollment Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine — 1978

G. M. Jenkinson

Abstract

Undergraduate and graduate enrollment statistics for agricultural colleges and two-year diploma programs in Canada for the period 1973 to 1977, as reported in the March 1978 issue of the NACTA Journal³, have been updated following the completion of registration for the fall term 1978.

Although enrollment increased rapidly during the 1973 to 1977 period, it is evident that the number of students at many institutions is beginning to level off. This year (1978) marks a distinct break in the ever-upward pattern established in the 1970's. Many universities are projecting actual declines in student enrollment over the next five to ten years.

Undergraduate Enrollment

Enrollment in four-year undergraduate programs in agricultural science in Canada increased 44 percent during the period 1973 to 1977 (Table 1). Enrollment increased again in 1978, but the magnitude of increase declined from an average of 11 percent per annum to less than 4 percent. Although Laval University increased more than 25 percent, slight declines were experienced at two of the three largest faculties, namely the Ontario Agricultural College and the University of Alberta.

Admission restrictions that had been in effect at the Ontario Agricultural College from 1975 to 1977 were no longer in effect in 1978 and provision was made to accept all qualified applicants. The enrollment decline at O.A.C. was caused by several factors, including a 4 percent decrease in the enrollment of freshmen and the effect of the severe restriction placed on freshman enroll-

ment in 1975. As students find increasing difficulty in obtaining financial assistance and summer employment, a higher proportion of in-course students are questioning the reasons for attending the university. Some of these students eventually decide to suspend or terminate their studies, resulting in a lower "return rate" of in-course students.

The enrollment decline at the University of Alberta was a result of restrictions placed on admission, rather than a lack of qualified applicants.

The levelling off of enrollment in 1978 follows the trend established by NASULGC institutions. In 1976 these institutions experienced a 6.5 percent increase in enrollment as compared with the previous year¹. In 1977 the increase was reduced to 1 percent².

Enrollment in two-year diploma programs actually declined 2.5 percent in 1978 as compared to 1977. This decline followed an increase of 31 percent in the 1973-77 period³ and marks the first actual decline in student enrollment in many years. Changes in actual enrollment at any particular institution were minimal in 1978 as compared with 1977.

Enrollment in veterinary medicine was unchanged in 1978 as compared with 1977. No substantive changes were expected as each of the three colleges operates at full capacity and no additions to physical facilities have been made or are planned in the next few years.

Graduate Enrollment

The total enrollment of graduate students was unchanged in 1978 as compared with 1977. There was a slight decrease in the number of M.Sc. students, with a few more Ph.D. and post graduate diploma students.

Table 1. Undergraduate Enrollment Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Agriculture.

	September 1973		September 1977		September 1978	
	2 Year Diploma	4 Year Degree	2 Year Diploma	4 Year Degree	2 Year Diploma	4 Year Degree
Nova Scotia						
Agricultural	207	168	257	183	250	193
Laval University ¹	--	451	--	977	--	1244
Macdonald College	58	376	84	698	96	728
Ontario Agricultural College	285	1556	336	2074	336	1996
University of Manitoba	202	475	286	587	265	688
University of Saskatchewan	212	311	297	462	282	501
University of Alberta ²	--	700	--	885	--	739
University of British Columbia	--	306	--	378	--	389
Total	964	4343	1260	6244	1229	6478

1. Laval enrollment includes students in Home Economics

2. Alberta enrollment includes students in Forestry

Table 2. Canadian Veterinary Medicine Enrollment

	September 1973 ¹	September 1977 ¹	September 1978 ²
University of Montreal	230	281	276
Ontario Veterinary College	402	471	474
University of Saskatchewan	242	256	254
Total	874	1008	1004

1. 1973-77 data obtained from the National Statement by the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Canadian universities.

2. 1978 data obtained from that submitted to the meeting of the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Winnipeg, October 1978.

The number of Ph.D. graduates available for employment in agricultural research continues to be significantly below the demand.^{3 4} Increasing numbers of undergraduate students must be encouraged to go on for graduate education if Canada is to have an adequate supply of agricultural researchers in the next decade.

Summary

Data presented in the *NACTA Journal*, March 1978, showed increases in enrollment of 31 percent in two-year diploma programs, 44 percent in four-year degree programs and 30 percent at the M.Sc. level during the 1973-77 period. Enrollment in 1978 decreased 2.5 percent at the diploma level, increased 3 percent at the degree level and was unchanged in veterinary medicine and at the graduate level.

This author considers the much lower rate of increase in enrollment expressed in 1978 to be the beginning of enrollment declines that will become evident in the

next several years. There are 3 percent fewer students in Ontario universities as compared with last year! Faculties of agriculture will inevitably follow this trend that has begun initially in arts and science programs.

References

1. 1976 Fall Agricultural Enrollment. December 1976. National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Member Institutions. *NACTA Journal*, 20:4.

2. 1977 Fall Agricultural Enrollment. December 1977. National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Member Institutions. *NACTA Journal*, 21:4.

3. Jenkinson, G.M. March 1978. Canadian Enrollment in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. *NACTA Journal*, 22:1.

4. Jenkinson, G.M. January 1977. Manpower for Research and Education. *Agrologist*, 6:1.

Table 3. Graduate Enrollment Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Agriculture.

	September 1973 ¹			September 1977 ¹			September 1978 ²		
	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	Diploma	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	Diploma	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	Diploma
Laval University	85	17	--	94	11	--	105	12	--
Macdonald College	80	58	--	141	64	--	124	70	--
Ontario Agricultural College	202	69	--	239	65	--	242	73	--
University of Manitoba	126	77	--	165	70	--	164	65	--
University of Saskatchewan	66	25	2	88	34	3	74	38	10
University of Alberta	100	49	--	143	51	8	136	42	7
University of British Columbia	79	37	--	92	41	--	101	45	--
Total	738	332	2	962	336	11	946	345	17
	Veterinary Medicine								
University of Montreal	13	--	4	16	--	6	20	--	7
Ontario Veterinary College	32	18	16	42	22	19	31	22	23
University of Saskatchewan	9	10	15	30	18	2	32	12	7
Total	54	28	31	88	40	27	83	34	37

1. 1973-77 data obtained from the National Statement by the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Canadian universities.

2. 1978 data obtained from that submitted to the meeting of the Deans of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Winnipeg, October 1978.