

Canadian Enrollment, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine-1979

G. M. Jenkinson

Abstract

Undergraduate and graduate enrollment in agricultural colleges and two-year diploma programs in Canada for the period 1973 to 1978, as reported in the April 1979 issue of the NACTA Journal³, has been updated following the completion of registration for the fall term 1979.

Although enrollment increased rapidly from 1973 to 1977, the numbers of students at many institutions in the past two years has begun to level off, if not decline slightly. A distinct break in the ever-upward pattern established in the 1970's was observed in 1978. Many universities are now 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. In 1979 there was a decline of 2 percent in total undergraduate enrollment in Canada.

The levelling off of enrollment in 1978 and the decline in 1979 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. In 1978 undergraduate enrollment dropped back to the 1975 level³.

Enrollment in two-year diploma programs actually declined 2.5 percent in 1978 as compared to 1977; there was no significant change in 1979 as compared to 1978.

The 1978 decline followed an increase of 31 percent in the 1973-77 period⁴ and marked the first actual decline in student enrollment in many years.

Enrollment in veterinary medicine has not changed from 1977 to 1979. 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 presently planned.

Graduate Enrollment

The total enrollment of graduate students has not changed significantly from 1977 to 1979. There was a slight decrease (1.4 percent) in the number of M.Sc. students and a 7 percent increase in Ph.D. students over the two-year period. The number of Ph.D. graduates available for employment in agricultural research continues to be significantly below the demand^{4 5}. 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. The strong demand for undergraduates in the job market has made graduates in recent years reluctant to "gamble" on a research career.

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 and 1979 decreased 2 percent at the diploma level and was unchanged in veterinary medicine. Ph.D. enrollment increased 7 percent from 1977 to 1979, following a period of no change in the previous 4 years. Undergraduate degree enrollment increased 4 percent from 1977 to 1978 but then declined 2

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

	4-YR. DEGREE			2-YR. DIPLOMA				
	1973	1977	1978	1979	1973	1977	1978	1979
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	168	183	193	173	207	257	250	280
Laval University	451	977	1244	1148				
Macdonald College	376	698	728	811	58	84	96	100
Ontario Agricultural College	1556	2074	1996	1964	285	336	336	351
University of Manitoba	475	587	688	554	202	286	265	259
Univ. of Saskatchewan	311	462	501	515	212	297	282	242
Univ. of Alberta	700	885	739	674				
Univ. of British Columbia	306	378	389	414				
Total	4343	6244	6478	6343	964	1260	1229	1232

Note: Laval includes students in Home Economics; Alberta includes students in Forestry.

TABLE 2. Graduate Enrollment Canadian Faculties of Agriculture - September 1979

	1973		1977		1978		1979	
	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.
Laval University	85	17	94	11	105	12	119	16
Macdonald College	80	58	141	64	124	70	95	81
Ontario Agricultural College	202	69	239	65	242	73	257	65
University of Manitoba	126	77	165	70	164	65	168	62
University of Saskatchewan	66	25	88	34	74	38	67	40
University of Alberta	100	49	143	51	136	42	131	48
University of British Columbia	79	37	92	41	101	45	112	57
Total	738	332	962	336	946	345	949	369

1973-77 data obtained from the National Statement by the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Canadian universities. 1978-79 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

	1973	1977	1978	1979
University of Montreal	230	281	276	273
Ontario Veterinary College	402	471	474	479
University of Saskatchewan	242	256	254	259
Total	874	1008	1004	1011

1973-77 data obtained from the National Statement by the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Canadian universities. 1978-79 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.

percent from 1978 to 1979. This downward trend is expected to continue into the next decade and follow the pattern established in the U.S. by one or two years. The days of increasing undergraduate enrollment are over. The challenges of the 1980's will center on declining enrollment, declining resources, and learning to live with "negative growth."

References

1. December 1976. 1976 Fall Agricultural Enrollment. National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Member Institutions. *NACTA Journal*, 20:4.
2. December 1977. 1977 Fall Agricultural Enrollment. National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Member Institutions. *NACTA Journal*, 21:4.
3. June 1979. 1978 Fall Agricultural Enrollment. National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Member Institutions. *NACTA Journal*, 23:2.
4. Jenkinson, G.M. March 1979. Canadian Enrollment in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. *NACTA Journal*, 23:1.
5. Jenkinson, G.M. January 1977. Manpower for Research and Education. *Agrologist*, 6:1.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

For any NACTA member that participates in the "Idea Sharing and Discussion session at the NACTA 26th Annual Conference to be held on the New Mexico State University campus June 15-18. The title of your presentation must be turned in at the time of your pre-registration, so you can get on the program. You will have 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions and answers. Bring 200 copies of your paper to the Conference to share with others. All appropriate presentations will be published in the September NACTA Journal. Plan now to make a contribution in this vital conference session.

I'M PLANNING ON NACTA IN New Mexico '80

* 26th Annual NACTA
Conference

* June 15-18, 1980

* New Mexico State
University Campus -
Las Cruces

* For further information, con-
tact:

Lewis A. Holland
Associate Dean
College of Agriculture
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(505-646-1806)