

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CN07-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the **Statistics and Data Development Unit** monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The **Agri-Food Statistics Update** is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

Please refer to the following website for a listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

For more information on the 2006 Census of Agriculture, please visit Statistics Canada's website at: <http://www.statcan.ca>

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2006 Census of Agriculture

On May 16, 2007, Statistics Canada released farm and farm operator data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture. The release is the first of Statistics Canada's planned data products relating to the Census of Agriculture. It will be followed in the fall of 2007 by the *Agricultural Community Profile*, which will provide free agricultural statistics on the Internet for census designated areas. Also, starting in the fall of 2007, Statistics Canada plans to release analytical articles on selected historical data at regular intervals on the Internet, and these will later be published in a book once all the reports are available.

The fourth and final release, scheduled for 2008, is the *Agriculture-Population linkage*, which matches operators with the information they provided on the 2006 Census of Population long-form questionnaires. This special database will allow the farm population to be compared with the general population for characteristics such as marital status, total household income, and level of schooling.

Statistics Canada conducts the Census of Agriculture to produce detailed, accurate and timely data on the agriculture industry in Canada and the provinces and territories. Canadian agriculture is constantly changing, and the census provides information on these changes. Data from the census are used by Statistics Canada to benchmark estimates of crop area, livestock inventories and financial numbers for the years between censuses. The census is also a unique source of data at the sub-provincial level of geography.

Most importantly, the Census of Agriculture provides a snapshot of Canadian agriculture every five years, as required by the Statistics Act of Canada. It uses a survey approach to capture data from all Canadian agricultural operations. The 2006 Census of Agriculture was conducted on May 16 of that year, and asked questions on a variety of topics, including farmland use, farm operator characteristics, crops, livestock, land management practices and paid agricultural labor. For the first time, in 2006, the census captured information on products that are organic but not certified, or are in transition to being certified, along with certified products and the names of certifying agencies. Also, notable among the new questions in 2006 were: a) farm-related injuries to anyone working on the farm (not just farm operators as previously reported), b) area of land irrigated by type of crop, and c) numbers of colonies of pollinating bees, in addition to honeybee colonies.

This special edition of the Agri-Food Statistics Update presents a detailed analysis of Statistics Canada's May 16, 2007 release, with a specific focus on the Alberta data.

General Farm Highlights

The 2006 Census of Agriculture counted 49,431 farms in Alberta, a 7.9% decline from 53,652 in 2001 (see Figure 1). Farm numbers were down in all provinces, and fell 7.1% nationally to 229,373. Alberta had the second highest number of farms among the provinces behind Ontario (57,211), and accounted for 21.6% of all farms in Canada.

Total area of agricultural land in Alberta was basically unchanged from 2001 at 52.1 million acres (marginally up 0.1%), and represented 31.2% of the Canadian total of 167.0 million acres. Average farm size in Alberta grew 8.8% to 1,055 acres, from 970 acres in 2001. This compares with a 7.7% increase nationally to 728 acres.

Area under crops in Alberta declined 1.1% to 23.8 million acres, but still accounted for 26.8% of Canada's total cropland in 2006. The province's tame/seeded pasture acreage increased 11.3% to 6.1 million acres, while natural land for pasture decreased 2.2% to 16.1 million acres. With the increase in tame pasture acreage, summerfallow area declined 26.6% to 2.2 million acres (see Table 1).

Beef cattle farms were the most common farm type in Alberta in 2006, making up 41.5% of census farms (42.9% in 2001). Wheat, grain and oilseed farms accounted for another 25.2% (24.6% in 2001). The census classifies farms according to the predominant type of production. This is done by estimating the potential receipts from crop and livestock inventories and determining the product or group of products that make up 51% or more of the estimated receipts.

The province's gross farm receipts from all sources (including market receipts, program payments and custom work), totalled \$9.9 billion, practically unchanged from 2001 (down 0.3%), and was a close second to Ontario's \$10.3 billion. Government funded programs contributed 11.0% of Alberta's gross farm receipts, up from 6.7% five years earlier. The number of Alberta farms with gross receipts below \$250,000 declined 10.1% to 41,934, while farms with gross receipts of \$250,000 or more increased 7.0% to 7,497. Figure 2 shows the distribution of farms by gross farm receipts in 2006.

Alberta farmers spent a total of \$8.8 billion in farm operating expenses in the year preceding the 2006 Census, 1.3% down from \$8.9 billion five years earlier. Producers spent an average of 89 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts, or about one cent less than five years earlier. Major expenses included livestock and poultry purchases (\$2.2 billion), feed (\$1.2 billion), and fertilizer and lime (\$613.4 million).

Environmentally friendly practices (no-till seeding and conservation tillage) were used on 75.5% of the land prepared for seeding in 2006, continuing an upward trend from 62.9% in 2001, 43% in 1996, and 27% in 1991. These practices were used on 14.1 million acres, up markedly from 11.6 million acres in 2001. Application of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides was virtually unchanged at roughly 19 million acres.

The proportion of Alberta farms reporting use of computers as a management tool was 47.4% in 2006, slightly higher than the 46.4% reported nationally. Computers were commonly used for bookkeeping, payroll or tax preparation (reported by 17,222 farms), Internet access (reported by 17,195 farms), word processing (reported by 16,486 farms), and e-mail (reported by 16,130 farms).

In 2006, 5.3% or 2,629 of Alberta farms were engaged in organic production, slightly lower than the 6.8% reported for Canada. Of the Alberta farms reporting organic products, 8.7% produced certified organic products, 1.0% were in transition to becoming certified, and 91.5% were not certified. Hay and field crops were reported on 60.5% of the province's organic farms, while livestock were reported on 58.7% of the farms.

The number of Alberta family corporations increased markedly by 9.6% in 2006 to 6,714 farms or 13.6% of all farms in the province, compared with 11.4% in 2001 (see Table 2). Non-family corporations constituted 1.4% of farms both in 2006 and 2001, while farms operating as sole proprietorships accounted for 56.3% of all farms in 2006 (56.7% in 2001). The remainder of farms (28.7% in 2006 and 30.5% in 2001) were either partnerships with or without written agreements, or other farm types such as community pastures and institutional farms.

The total market value of Alberta farm capital climbed 29.9% in 2006 to \$71.8 billion, from \$55.3 billion in 2001, while average capital value per farm jumped 41.0% to nearly \$1.5 billion, from \$1.0 billion in 2001 (see Table 3). For Canada, total capital value increased 26.1% to \$248.3 billion and average capital value rose 35.8% to \$1.1 billion. The total value of livestock and poultry was down 35.1% to \$5.0 billion, while machinery and equipment value increased 11.5% to \$9.7 billion and the value of land and buildings

Figure 1. Total Number of Alberta Census Farms

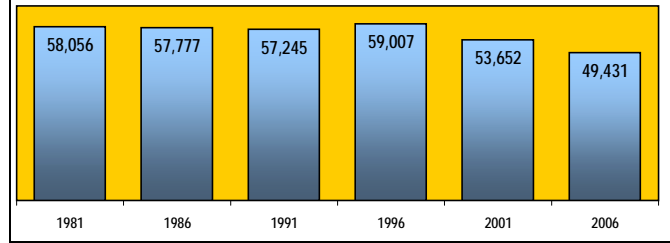


Table 1. Alberta Farms Classified by Land Use

	1996		2001		2006	
	Thousands of Acres					
Land in Crops	23,590	45.4%	24,039	46.2%	23,776	45.6%
Tame or Seeded pasture	4,731	9.1%	5,513	10.6%	6,137	11.8%
Natural Land for Pasture	16,347	31.5%	16,504	31.7%	16,136	31.0%
Summerfallow Land	3,550	6.8%	3,053	5.9%	2,240	4.3%
All Other Land	3,746	7.2%	2,950	5.7%	3,840	7.4%
Total Area of Farms	51,964	100.0%	52,059	100.0%	52,128	100.0%
<i>Per Cent of Canada</i>	30.9%		31.2%		31.2%	

Figure 2. Alberta Farms Classified by Gross Farm Receipts, 2006 (Based on Constant 2005 Dollars)

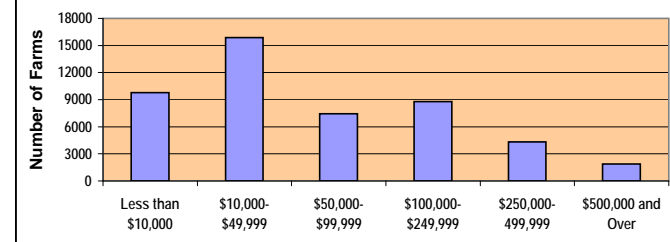


Table 2. Alberta Farms Classified by Operating Arrangement

	1996		2001		2006	
	Number of Farms					
Family Corporations	5,248	8.9%	6,124	11.4%	6,714	13.6%
Non-Family Corporations	961	1.6%	733	1.4%	697	1.4%
Sole Proprietorships	35,938	60.9%	30,409	56.7%	27,815	56.3%
Partnerships With Written Agreement	2,664	4.5%	2,135	4.0%	1,458	2.9%
Partnerships Without Written Agreement	14,008	23.7%	14,012	26.1%	12,462	25.2%
Other Operating Arrangements	188	0.3%	239	0.4%	285	0.6%
Total Number of Farms	59,007	100.0%	53,652	100.0%	49,431	100.0%

Table 3. Alberta Farm Capital by Category

	1996		2001		2006	
	Millions of Dollars					
Machinery and Equipment	7,467	18.6%	8,684.1	15.7%	9,680.1	13.5%
Livestock and Poultry	3,950	9.8%	7,699.7	13.9%	4,999.7	7.0%
Land and Buildings	28,734	71.6%	38,872.5	70.3%	57,101.3	79.5%
- owned	21,661	54.0%	28,522.7	51.6%	41,405.9	57.7%
- rented or leased	7,072	17.6%	10,349.8	18.7%	15,965.5	22.2%
Total Value of Farm Capital	40,150	100.0%	55,256.4	100.0%	71,781.2	100.0%
<i>Average Capital Value (\$'000)</i>	680		1,030		1,452	

Data Source: Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada

jumped 46.9% in 2006 to \$57.1 billion (79.5% of total farm capital). A total of 19,482 farms (39.4% of all farms) had capital values of \$1 million or more in 2006, compared with 15,505 or 28.9% in 2001.

In 2006, Alberta farms reported paying a total of \$537.1 million in wages and salaries, an increase of 9.8% from \$489.3 million in 2001. By comparison, \$3.9 billion was paid in wages and salaries nationally, up 16.1% from \$3.3 billion in 2001.

The total area of farmland rented, leased or crop shared was 22.1 million acres in 2006, up 3.5% from 2001. Of this total, the area leased from governments slipped 1.7% to 10.0 million acres, and area under crop share declined 29.3% to 1.6 million acres. As well, area owned decreased 2.2% to 30.0 million acres.

Livestock

Compared to 2001, the 2006 Census results showed that there were lower inventories of cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, hens and chickens, and turkeys in Alberta. At the same time, however, inventories of pigs and some non-traditional species such as bison, deer and elk were up.

The number of cattle and calves in the province fell 3.7% between 2001 and 2006 to 6.4 million head, while farms reporting were down 9.5% to 28,751. As a result, the average number of animals per farm increased 6.4% to 222 head, from 208 in 2001 (see Table 4). Across Canada, cattle and calf numbers rose slightly by 1.4% to 15.8 million, while farms reporting declined 10.0% to 109,901 and average herd size increased 13.4% to 144 head. Alberta remains the leading producer of cattle and calves among the provinces with a 40.4% share of the national herd.

Farms reporting beef cows in Alberta were down 10.0% from 2001 to 25,665, while across Canada the number fell 7.8% to 83,000. The number of farms reporting dairy cows has also declined. In 2006, these farms numbered 1,107, down 22.2% from 1,422 in 2001. Despite these declines, milk production has remained fairly steady due to increased cow productivity and larger farm sizes. The average number of dairy cows per farm rose 20.3% in 2006 to 71 head, from 59 in 2001.

Alberta's pig population increased 1.2% in 2006 to an all-time census high of nearly 2.1 million head, or 13.6% of the national total. At the same time, farm numbers fell 41.1% to 1,576 or 13.7% of Canada, and resulted in the average number of pigs per farm jumping 71.9% to 1,302 head, from 757 in 2001 (see Table 5).

In 2006, the number of sheep and lambs in Alberta totalled 222,340 head, down 27.6% from 307,302 in 2001. As well, farm numbers were down, falling 27.0% to 2,181 (see Table 6). Nationally, the number of sheep and lambs and farms reporting also declined, by 9.5% and 16.6%, respectively. Alberta's share of the national flock (19.5%) was exceeded only by Ontario (27.2%) and Quebec (26.8%).

There were 3.4% fewer hens and chickens on Alberta farms in 2006 than in 2001, with the number of farms falling 22.2%. Since farm numbers were first reported in 1951, the number of birds per farm has climbed from 139 to the 2006 average of 2,988. The number of farms reporting turkeys has also slipped, to 652, a decline of 31.0% from 2001. Compared to 2001, Alberta's turkey population in 2006 was down 18.6% to 703,462, while average flock size increased 17.9% to 1,079 per farm.

Chicken production in Alberta (broilers, roasters and Cornish hens) was up 9.8% from 2001 to 115.8 million kilograms, and turkey production increased 6.5% to 16.1 million kilograms. These respectively constituted 9.8% and 8.5% of total Canadian production. As well, the 2006 Census showed that 63.6 million birds were hatched in 11 Alberta hatcheries, down from 71.3 million birds in 15 hatcheries five years earlier.

Non-traditional (or alternate) livestock farming continues to grow in Alberta. After more than tripling between 1996 and 2001, the bison herd increased 22.1% in 2006 to 97,366 head (see Table 8). This was the largest herd among the provinces, and made up close to one-half (49.7%) of the Canadian total. Other noteworthy inventory increases included elk (up 7.9% to 33,783 or 48.8% of Canada), llamas and alpacas (up 14.3% to 14,734 or 46.5% of Canada), and deer (up 7.6% to 8,965 or 19.2% of Canada).

Crops

Alberta's spring wheat area (excluding durum) declined marginally (down 0.7%) between 2001 and 2006 to 5.8 million acres or 30.8% of spring wheat area in Canada (see Table 9). The reduction in acreage was a reflection of the trend toward oilseed, hay and specialty crop production.

Table 4. Alberta Farms Reporting Cattle and Calves, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006	2006 vs 2001 (% Change)
	Number		
Bulls, 1 Year Plus	24,299	22,014	-9.4
Beef Cows	28,510	25,665	-10.0
Dairy Cows	1,422	1,107	-22.2
Heifers*	20,126	17,757	-11.8
Steers, 1 Year Plus	9,975	7,698	-22.8
Calves, Under 1 Year	29,298	26,033	-11.1
Total Cattle and Calves	31,774	28,751	-9.5
<i>Cattle & Calves (Number of Head)</i>	<i>6,615,201</i>	<i>6,369,116</i>	<i>-3.7</i>
<i>Average per Farm</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>6.4</i>

* Dairy, beef and slaughter heifers

Table 5. Alberta Farms Reporting Pigs, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006	2006 vs 2001 (% Change)
	Number		
Sows and Bred Gilts	1,613	913	-43.4
Boars, 6 Months Plus	1,398	789	-43.6
Nursing and Weaner Pigs	1,328	778	-41.4
Grower and Finishing Pigs	2,083	1,245	-40.2
Total Pigs	2,677	1,576	-41.1
<i>Pigs (Number of Head)</i>	<i>2,027,533</i>	<i>2,052,067</i>	<i>1.2</i>
<i>Average per Farm</i>	<i>757</i>	<i>1,302</i>	<i>71.9</i>

Table 6. Alberta Farms Reporting Sheep and Lambs, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006	2006 vs 2001 (% Change)
	Number		
Rams	2,112	1,533	-27.4
Ewes	2,781	2,030	-27.0
Lambs*	2,492	1,689	-32.2
Total Sheep and Lambs	2,987	2,181	-27.0
<i>Sheep & Lambs (Number of Head)</i>	<i>307,302</i>	<i>222,340</i>	<i>-27.6</i>
<i>Average per Farm</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>-0.9</i>

* Replacement and slaughter lambs

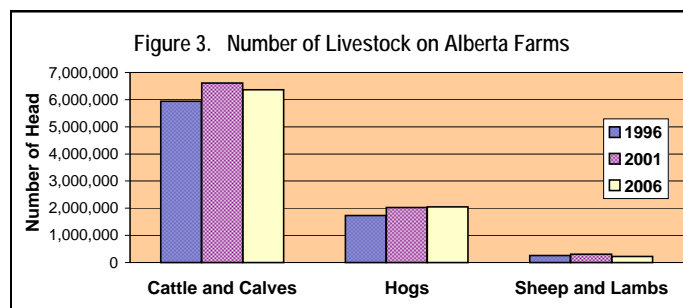


Table 7. Hens, Chickens and Turkeys on Alberta Farms, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006	2006 vs 2001 (% Change)
	Number		
Hens and Chickens	12,175,246	11,757,860	-3.4
Turkeys	864,438	703,462	-18.6
Farms Reporting Hens/Chickens	5,055	3,935	-22.2
Farms Reporting Turkeys	945	652	-31.0
<i>Hens & Chickens/Farm (Average)</i>	<i>2,409</i>	<i>2,988</i>	<i>24.1</i>
<i>Turkeys/Farm (Average)</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>1,079</i>	<i>17.9</i>

Table 8. Alternate Livestock Species on Alberta Farms, 2001 and 2006

	Head		No. of Farms		Average/Farm	
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
Bison	79,731	97,366	950	869	84	112
Elk	31,304	33,783	467	352	67	96
Llama and Alpaca	12,894	14,734	1,356	1,680	10	9
Horses and Ponies	159,962	155,532	17,807	17,219	9	9

Data Source: Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada

Durum wheat area also declined between 2001 and 2006, falling 40.7% to 570,771 acres (14.9% of Canada). As well, Alberta's barley area was down 16.5% to nearly 4.1 million acres (44.9% of Canada), although the province continued to lead Canada in the production of this grain.

While the acreages of wheat and other cereal crops declined, oilseeds and specialty crops acreages in Alberta rose between 2001 and 2006, in response to increased demand and better overall market conditions. Canola acreage climbed 52.9% to a census record 4.1 million acres (32.7% or roughly one-third of Canada). Similarly, flaxseed area jumped 50.1% to 60,372 acres or 3.0% of Canada.

With respect to the specialty crops, some of the notable increases in acreage between 2001 and 2006 were: dry beans (up 37.2% to 54,423 acres or 20.8% of Canada), mustard seed (up 9.5% to 62,538 acres or 18.6% of Canada) and sugar beets (up 30.5% to 38,803 acres or 80.6% of Canada). Also, soybean area increased to 2,677 acres, from 88 acres in 2001.

Altogether, in 2006, Alberta's total tame hay and fodder crops acreage decreased 3.2% from 2001 to 6.0 million acres. This total consisted of 3.9 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures (up marginally by 0.5%), and nearly 2.1 million acres of other tame hay and fodder crops (down 9.6%). Summerfallow area totalled 2.2 million acres in 2006, down 26.6% from nearly 3.1 million acres in 2001.

Compared to 2001, total Alberta potato acreage was down 6.1% in 2006 to 54,759 acres. However, average potato farm size increased to 136.2 acres, from 134.4 acres in 2001. Alberta was fourth behind Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and New Brunswick in total potato acreage.

Farm Operators

The number of farm operators in Alberta declined 6.0% in 2006 to 71,660 (from 76,195 in 2001), in line with the corresponding 7.9% decrease in the province's Census farm numbers (see Table 10). Across Canada, lower operator numbers were reported for all provinces, with the exception of Nova Scotia which reported a marginal increase of 0.4%. Farm operator numbers declined nationally by 5.5% to 327,060.

Of the 71,660 Alberta farm operators in 2006, 28,045 or 39.1% were on single-operator farms and the remaining 60.9% were on farms with two or more operators. By comparison, in 2001, 42.0% of operators were on single-operator farms while 58.0% were on multiple-operator farms. There were 21,470 (30.0%) female and 50,190 (70.0%) male Alberta farm operators in 2006, compared with 21,635 (28.4%) and 54,565 (71.6%), respectively, in 2001. For Canada, 27.8% of farm operators in 2006 were female, up from 26.3% in 2001. Among the provinces, Alberta had the second highest proportion of female to male operators in 2006, behind British Columbia.

The average age of Alberta farm operators in the 2006 Census was 52.2 years, up from 49.9 years in 2001. This was consistent across Canada, with operators averaging 52.0 years in 2006, up from 49.9 years in 2001. With respect to age distribution (illustrated in Figure 4), 8.8% of Alberta operators were under 35 years of age (11.7% in 2001), 50.1% were in the 35-54 age category (53.1% in 2001), and 41.1% were 55 years of age or older (35.3% in 2001). Nationally, the distribution was similar at 9.1% (11.5% in 2001), 50.2% (53.6% in 2001) and 40.7% (34.9% in 2001).

The 2006 Census revealed that 43.6% of Alberta farm operators worked longer than 40 hours per week on their farms, down from 46.3% in 2001. On the other hand, 27.9% of operators worked between 20 and 40 hours on their farms, down from 28.8% in 2001. The proportion of operators with less than 20 hours of farm work per week increased to 28.6%, from 24.9% in 2001. For Canada, 46.7% of operators were in the over 40 hours category (47.7% in 2001), 26.2% were in the 20 to 40 hours category (26.9% in 2001), and 27.2% were in the under 20 hours category (25.4% in 2001).

In 2006, over one-half (39,100 or 54.6%) of Alberta farm operators reported paid non-farm work in the calendar year prior to the census (37,475 or 49.2% in 2001). Of these operators with non-farm income, 7,560 or 19.3% worked less than 20 hours per week off the farm (7,380 or 19.7% in 2001), 14,190 or 36.3% worked between 20 and 40 hours (14,750 or 39.4% in 2001), and 17,355 or 44.4% worked more than 40 hours (15,345 or 40.9% in 2001). Nationally, a total of 158,260 (48.4%) farm operators reported non-farm income in the 2006 Census, up from 154,225 (44.5%) in 2001.

Table 9. Alberta's Top Five Field Crops as Per Cent of Canada, 2006

	Alberta	Canada	Alberta as % of Canada
	Millions of Acres		
Spring Wheat (excluding durum)	5.8	18.7	30.8
Barley	4.1	9.1	44.9
Canola (Rapeseed)	4.1	12.4	32.7
Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures	3.9	12.5	31.4
All Other Tame Hay & Fodder	2.1	7.2	28.8

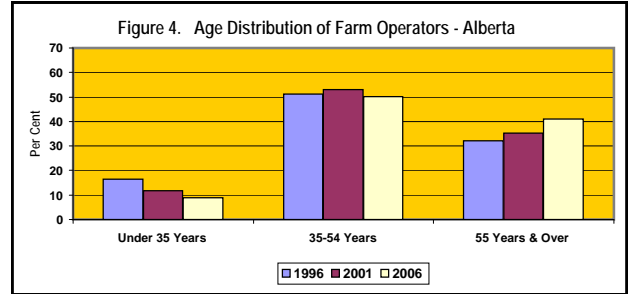


Table 10. Selected Statistics, 2001 and 2006 Census of Agriculture - Alberta

	2001	2006	Change (%)
Total Number of Farms	53,652	49,431	-7.9
Total Number of Farm Operators	76,195	71,660	-6.0
Female Farm Operators	21,635	21,470	-0.8
Male Farm Operators	54,565	50,190	-8.0
Operators Working 40+ Hours per Week	35,290	31,225	-11.5
Operators Reporting Paid Non-Farm Work	37,475	39,100	4.3
Total Number of Farms Reporting Injuries	---	3,170	---
Total Land on Farms (Acres)	52,058,896	52,127,857	0.1
Average Farm Size (Acres)	970	1,055	8.8
Land in Crops (Acres)	24,038,861	23,775,505	-1.1
Total Wheat Area (Acres)	6,852,596	6,467,628	-5.6
Total Barley Area (Acres)	4,902,090	4,094,685	-16.5
Total Canola Area (Acres)	2,660,505	4,068,511	52.9
Total Corn for Silage Area (Acres)	36,814	70,411	91.3
Total Flaxseed Area (Acres)	40,219	60,372	50.1
Total Sugar Beets Area (Acres)	29,726	38,803	30.5
Total Soybean Area (Acres)	88	2,677	---
No-Till Seeding (Acres)	5,068,195	8,950,836	76.6
Conservation Tillage Area (Acres)	6,550,485	5,185,594	-20.8
Conventional Tillage Area (Acres)	6,847,096	4,589,714	-33.0
Number of Farms Reporting Organic Production	---	2,629	---
Total Number of Cattle and Calves	6,615,201	6,369,114	-3.7
Total Number of Beef Cows	2,099,288	2,035,841	-3.0
Total Number of Dairy Cows	84,044	78,875	-6.2
Total Number of Bison	79,731	97,366	22.1
Total Number of Pigs	2,027,533	2,052,067	1.2
Total Number of Sheep and Lamb	307,302	222,340	-27.6
Total Number of Hens and Chicken	12,175,246	11,757,866	-3.4
Total Number of Turkey	864,438	703,462	-18.6
Total Gross Farm Receipts (\$'000)	9,919,447	9,889,045	-0.3
Total Farm Operating Expenses (\$'000)	8,908,533	8,791,632	-1.3
Total Farm Capital Value (\$'000)	55,256,376	71,781,210	29.9
Average Capital Value per Farm (\$'000)	1,030	1,452	41.0
Total Number of Farms Using Computer	21,813	23,410	7.3

--- Not available or suppress

Definitions:

Census farm: an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops (hay, field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed); livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, game animals, other livestock); poultry (hens, chickens, turkeys, chicks, game birds, other poultry); animal products (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat); or other agricultural products (Christmas trees, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod, honey, maple syrup products).

Farm operators: those persons responsible for the day-to-day management and/or financial decisions made in the operation of a farm or an agricultural operation. Operators can be owners, tenants or hired managers of the agricultural operation. This can include those responsible for management decisions pertinent to particular aspects of the farm, such as planting and harvesting, capital purchases, and marketing. An agricultural operation may have more than one operator, e.g. husband and wife, father and son; two brothers, father, son and wife, etc. Since 1991, the census form has enabled farmers to report up to three operators for each farm, which is why there are more operators than farms.

Data Source: Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada