



- **Jurisdictional Makeup:** Vancouver Island includes 6 Regional Districts, comprising 35 municipalities and 39 electoral areas.
- **Population¹** = 664,355 (2001)
1971 to 2001 population increase = 290,144
- **Area²** = 3,128,400 hectares
Vancouver Island is the 11th largest island in Canada.
- **Agricultural Land Reserve³** = 103,690 hectares

- REGIONAL DISTRICTS
- REGIONAL DISTRICT OF ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
 - CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
 - REGIONAL DISTRICT OF COMOX-STRATHCONA
 - COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
 - REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON
 - REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

The ALR accounts for about 3.3% of Vancouver Island's area. Since the designation of the ALR in 1974, there has been a net decrease of 12,273 ha. In the mid to late 1980's the Agricultural Land Commission and several Island local governments were engaged in an ALR "fine-tuning" program. This joint program saw 3,431 hectares were included into the ALR, and 8,357 excluded, thus accounting for 40% of the net decrease in the ALR since 1974. Since the completion of the fine-tuning review, the annual rate of exclusion has been considerably decreased.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
➤ Total Area Farmed⁴ (hectares)	54,604	57,820
➤ Percent of Farmland:		
Owned –	77%	81 %
Leased –	33%	19 %
➤ Number of Farms⁵ Reporting:	2,866	2,681
➤ Average Farm Size (hectares)	19.1	21.6
➤ Farmland Use: (hectares)		
• Crops	18,464	20,428
• Summerfallow	911 ⁺⁶	489 ⁺
• Pasture (managed)	5,026	5,775
• Pasture (unmanaged)	10,801	11,916
• <u>Other⁷</u>	<u>14,909⁺</u>	<u>17,640⁺</u>
Total	54,604	57,820

Provincially, in 2001, 59% of farmland was owned.



¹ Source: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>
² Source: *The Canadian Encyclopedia World Edition*, McClelland & Stewart
³ ALR as of January 1, 2001 – Source: files of the Agricultural Land Commission
⁴ Source of agricultural statistics – *Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia, 1996 and 2001.*
⁵ A census farm was defined (in 1996) as an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops, (field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed) livestock, (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, exotic animals, etc.) poultry, (hens, chickens, turkeys, exotic birds, etc.) animal products, (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs meat) or other agricultural products (greenhouse or nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, sod, honey and maple syrup products).
⁶ Where a "+" sign appears, in the case of one or more regional district the area or livestock figures are not provided for reasons of confidentiality. The actual area or livestock figure for Vancouver Island will, therefore, be larger.
⁷ "Other": includes 'Unimproved Land', 'Other Improved Land' and 'Woodland'

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➤ Crops: (hectares)	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
• Field Crops ⁸	15,916	18,325
• Fruits, Berries & Nuts	583	619
• Vegetables	828	562
• <u>Other</u> ⁹	<u>1,137</u>	<u>922</u>
Total	18,464	20,428
➤ Area Irrigated: (hectares)	7,654	6,397
➤ Greenhouse Production: (m ²)	285,505	245,321 ⁺
➤ Nursery Products: (hectares)	354 ⁺	405 ⁺
➤ Sod Grown for Sale: (hectares)	117	78
➤ Christmas Trees: (hectares)	728	537 ⁺
➤ Total Farm Capital	\$1,568,008,877	\$1,569,815,619
➤ Total Gross Farm Receipts	\$144,414,598	\$136,885,759
➤ Total Cash Wages Paid	\$31,698,638	\$30,691,040



	<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>
➤ Livestock	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Farms</u> <u>Livestock</u>
Hens & Chickens	1,097	1,338,996	1,096 1,194,629
Turkeys	116	1,107 ⁺	151 12,551 ⁺
Total Other Poultry	393	9,484 ⁺	313 7,513
Cattle & Calves ¹⁰	1,074	33,121	802 31,719
- Milk Cows	196	8,502 ⁺	124 8551
- Beef Cows	692	4,952 ⁺	506 5,598
Pigs	275	4,454 ⁺	159 1,631
Sheep & Lambs	525	13,176 ⁺	480 16,439 ⁺
Horses & Ponies	694	3,345	616 3,393
Goats	198	1,947	183 1,952
Mink	0	0	1 x ¹¹
Deer	19	2,519 ⁺	13 929 ⁺
Llamas & Alpacas	38	332	82 945
Rabbits	157	1,821 ⁺	31 1,138 ⁺
Colonies of Bees for Honey	146	9,057	159 5969

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⁸ Field crop area does not include those crop areas not included for reasons of confidentiality.

⁹ "Other" Crops: also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

¹⁰ Due to response errors in 1996, the number of dairy cows and the number of farms reporting dairy cows may have been overstated, whereas the number of beef cows and the number of farms reporting beef cows may have been understated. The total number of cattle and calves, however, was not affected. These errors limit the comparability of the data between 1996 and 2001. Response errors were more prevalent in provinces with a low proportion of dairy operations.

¹¹ 'x' indicates that farms are reporting but further information is not provided due to confidentiality.



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