

Agriculture in Brief

Province of British Columbia



Approximately 70% of the annual gross farm receipts in BC are generated within the boundaries of municipal jurisdictions.



Jurisdictional Makeup: BC has 28 regional districts, the District of Stikine and 160 other local governments. All 28 regional districts and 116 of the others have at least some land in the ALR.

Population ¹ (2006)	#	4,113,487
Jurisdictional Area ²	ha	92,481,543
Population Increase (1971-2006)	#	1,946,680
Agricultural Land Reserve ³ (2008)	ha	4,622,415

		1996	2001	2006
Total Area Farmed	ha	2,529,060	2,587,118	2,835,458
Farmland Owned ⁴		62%	59%	56%
Farmland Leased ⁴		38%	41%	46%
Number of Farms ⁵ Reporting	#	21,835	20,290	19,844
Average Farm Size	ha	115.8	127.5	143

Farmland Use				
<i>Crops</i>	ha	565,738	617,545	586,238
<i>Summerfallow</i>	ha	39,017	36,765	25,581
<i>Pasture (managed)</i>	ha	240,236	233,044	245,793
<i>Pasture (unmanaged)</i>	ha	1,172,591	1,203,533	1,499,563
<i>Other</i> ⁶	ha	511,478	492,211	478,283
<i>Total</i>	ha	2,529,060	2,583,098	2,835,458

Crops				
<i>Field Crops</i> ⁷	ha	536,201	585,644	553,439
<i>Fruits, Berries & Nuts</i>	ha	18,316	19,558	19,822
<i>Vegetables</i>	ha	7,117	7,277	6,957
<i>Other</i> ⁸	ha	4,104	5,066	6,020
<i>Total</i>	ha	565,738	617,545	586,238

<i>Mushrooms (farms)</i>	#	98	91	59
<i>(area)</i>	m ²	243,909	228,579	226,658
<i>Greenhouses (farms)</i>	#	1,290	1,292	1,170
<i>(area)</i>	m ²	2,880,196	4,642,522	5,326,563
<i>Nursery Products</i>	ha	3,213	4,207	4,505
<i>Sod Grown for Sale</i>	ha	936	837	844
<i>Christmas Trees</i>	ha	9,453	6,018	3,565

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Livestock	1996		2001		2006	
	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Livestock</i>
<i>Hens & Chickens</i>	4,840	13,759,261	5,198	18,820,347	4,460	18,341,907
<i>Turkeys</i>	601	850,680	769	819,569	567	822,036
<i>Total Other Poultry</i>	1,883	485,162	1,497	847,617	952	538,524
<i>Cattle & Calves</i>	9,185	814,103	7,726	814,949	6,996	800,855
<i>Dairy Cows</i>	1,644	82,008	1,044	71,401	812	72,756
<i>Beef Cows</i>	6,182	273,217	5,365	279,927	5,004	276,897
<i>Pigs</i>	1,144	174,169	736	84,858	817	135,826
<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	1,913	71,603	1,865	83,307	1,652	61,033
<i>Horses & Ponies</i>	7,123	49,305	6,820	53,366	6,697	53,246
<i>Goats</i>	1,135	13,121	1,040	18,759	904	13,091
<i>Wild Boar</i>	na	na	1	x ⁹	12	x
<i>Mink</i>	23	248,602	17	266,065	13	261,948
<i>Fox</i>	10	1,241	8	x	0	0
<i>Bison</i>	57	6,246	98	8,964	121	12,656
<i>Deer</i>	na	na	41	6,263	35	5,894
<i>Llamas & Alpacas</i>	254	2,653	560	5,428	700	5,750
<i>Rabbits</i>	910	20,598	264	28,848	na	na
<i>Colonies of Bees for Honey</i>	595	35,088	521	28,848	576	30,249

		1996	2001	2006
Area Irrigated	ha	115,374	111,181	118,538

Total Farm Capital		\$ 13,822,212,532	\$ 15,831,578,331	\$ 24,904,712,511
Annual Gross Farm Receipts		\$ 1,839,216,758	\$ 2,307,697,089	\$ 2,651,963,167
Annual Cash Wages Paid		\$ 339,910,559	\$ 405,678,748	\$ 498,116,928

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census of Agriculture and, where applicable, Statistics Canada, customized tabulations, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census of Agriculture.

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¹ Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

² Source: www.statcan.ca/

³ ALR as of January 1, 2008 - Source: files of the Agricultural Land Commission

⁴ Source: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Adapted from Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census of Agriculture.

⁵ Over time, the official definition of "census farm" or "agricultural operation" has changed. An explanation of these changes can be found at: www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/95-629-XIE/2007000/terms.htm#farm. In 2006, an "agricultural operation" was described generally as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale or the intention of sale in the past 12 months. For a complete definition of "agricultural operation" and "agricultural products", refer to the Census glossary at: www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/glossary.htm#gt3.

⁶ "Other": includes 'Unimproved Land', 'Other Improved Land' and 'Woodland'

⁷ Field crop area does not include those crop areas not included for reasons of confidentiality.

⁸ "Other" Crops: also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

⁹ 'x' indicates that farms are reporting but further information not provided due to confidentiality.