

## Census of Agriculture

**Statistics Canada** conducts the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Population for Canada every five years. The Alberta statistics presented here are highlights from the latest Census of Agriculture, conducted on May 10, 2016, with comparable statistics from the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Included is information on primary production, farm numbers, land use, operating arrangements, capital, operating expenses, and farm operators.

Since 1996, a **consus farm** has been defined as 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** are those persons responsible for the day-to-day management and/or financial decisions made in the operation of a farm or an agricultural operation. Up to three farm operators could be reported per farm, including owners, tenants or hired managers, if they are responsible for management decisions for particular aspects of the farm, such as planting and harvesting, capital purchases, and marketing.

## Census Farms and Land

	2011	2016
<b>Total Number of Farms</b> .....	<b>43,234</b>	<b>40,638</b>
<b>Number of Farms by Size</b>		
Under 130 Acres.....	7,547	7,544
130 - 239 Acres.....	7,917	7,334
240 - 399 Acres.....	5,395	4,918
400 - 559 Acres.....	3,653	3,257
560 - 759 Acres.....	3,258	2,947
760 - 1,119 Acres.....	3,997	3,565
1,120 - 1,599 Acres.....	3,335	3,012
1,600 - 2,239 Acres.....	2,694	2,529
2,240 - 2,879 Acres.....	1,575	1,497
2,880 Acres and Over .....	3,863	4,035

	Acres	
<b>Tenure of Farmland</b>		
Owned .....	30,233,516	29,291,562
Total Rented, Leased, Crop Shared, or Used <sup>(1)</sup> .....	22,690,880	23,417,222
Less Total Area Used by Others .....	2,425,562	2,458,601
<b>Total Area of Farms</b> <sup>(2)</sup> .....	<b>50,498,834</b>	<b>50,250,183</b>
Total Area in Crops.....	24,102,289	25,261,781
Total Area in Summerfallow.....	1,263,051	644,021
Total Area in Tame or Seeded Pasture .....	5,920,507	5,421,962
Total Natural Area for Pasture .....	15,903,273	15,861,059
All Other Land (incl. Christmas trees) .....	3,309,714	3,061,360
<b>Average Farm Size</b> .....	<b>1,168</b>	<b>1,237</b>

(1) Includes land used through other arrangements, such as land trading or rent free.

(2) The sum of all land tenures minus "Total Area Used by Others."

## Crops

	2011	2016
	Acres	
<b>Selected Field Crops Grown</b>		
<b>Grains</b> .....	<b>11,483,988</b>	<b>11,594,888</b>
Total Wheat .....	6,703,703	7,008,542
Spring Wheat (excl. Durum) .....	5,971,359	5,728,527
Durum Wheat .....	536,018	1,101,498
Winter Wheat .....	196,326	178,517
Oats for Grain.....	891,580	822,185
Barley .....	3,610,111	3,413,856
Mixed Grains.....	201,511	242,206
Corn for Grain .....	17,148	40,884
Total Rye.....	59,935	67,215
Fall Rye.....	50,616	62,089
Spring Rye.....	9,319	5,126
<b>Oilseeds</b> .....	<b>6,151,215</b>	<b>6,258,309</b>
Canola .....	6,071,744	6,165,746
Flaxseed .....	69,743	78,619
Soybeans.....	3,693	6,865
Sunflowers.....	6,035	7,079
<b>Hay and Fodder Crops</b> .....	<b>5,219,532</b>	<b>4,418,489</b>
Corn for Silage.....	95,861	200,267
Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures .....	3,657,114	3,056,701
All Other Tame Hay.....	1,466,557	1,161,521
<b>Other Field Crops</b> .....	<b>1,184,719</b>	<b>2,927,527</b>
Forage Seed .....	131,933	164,070
Potatoes .....	53,440	53,912
Mustard Seed.....	62,958	134,262
Sugar Beets .....	33,314	28,259
Triticale.....	40,762	50,440
Dry Field Peas.....	706,726	1,909,491
Total Dry Field Beans (incl. chickpeas).....	57,811	123,593
Lentils.....	97,775	463,500
<b>Total Vegetable Crops (excl. greenhouse)</b> .....	<b>10,716</b>	<b>10,108</b>
<b>Total Fruit, Nut and Berry (incl. non-producing)</b> .....	<b>2,610</b>	<b>2,164</b>
<b>Total Nursery Products</b> .....	<b>9,755</b>	<b>7,420</b>
<b>Total Sod Under Cultivation</b> .....	<b>10,063</b>	<b>10,116</b>
<b>Total Irrigated Crops</b> .....	<b>1,241,411</b>	<b>1,517,089</b>

	Square Feet	
<b>Total Greenhouse Area</b> .....	<b>12,986,416</b>	<b>12,676,835</b>
<b>Total Greenhouse Area In Use</b> .....	<b>12,861,869</b>	<b>12,647,517</b>
Flowers (cut, bedding plants, etc.).....	4,785,343	5,203,806
Vegetables .....	6,281,029	6,816,967
Other Greenhouse Products.....	1,795,497	626,744

## Livestock on Farms

	2011	2016
	Number	
<b>Total Cattle and Calves</b> .....	<b>5,104,605</b>	<b>5,206,999</b>
Total Cows .....	1,611,085	1,656,368
Dairy Cows .....	80,694	80,014
Beef Cows .....	1,530,391	1,576,354
Bulls - One Year and Over.....	90,813	94,913
Heifers for Dairy or Beef Herd Replacement .....	304,760	329,339
Heifers for Slaughter or Feeding.....	684,470	573,834
Steers - One Year and Over.....	819,409	902,839
Calves - Under One Year.....	1,594,068	1,649,706
<b>Total Pigs</b> .....	<b>1,397,534</b>	<b>1,462,247</b>
Boars.....	4,543	4,941
Sows and Gilts for Breeding .....	108,322	121,562
All Other Pigs .....	1,284,669	1,335,744
<b>Total Sheep and Lambs</b> .....	<b>202,903</b>	<b>195,511</b>
Ewes .....	92,427	90,281
Rams.....	4,995	4,772
Lambs .....	105,481	100,458
<b>Selected Livestock</b>		
Horses and Ponies .....	139,410	108,702
Bison (Buffalo).....	57,483	54,907
Goats.....	28,920	27,955
Deer and Elk.....	18,630	13,065
Llamas and Alpacas.....	11,740	5,807
<b>Colonies of Honey Bees</b> .....	<b>235,951</b>	<b>304,846</b>
<b>Gallons of Other Pollinating Bees</b> .....	<b>189,510</b>	<b>199,848</b>
<b>Total Hens and Chickens</b> .....	<b>11,956,949</b>	<b>14,125,401</b>
Broilers, Roasters and Cornish .....	8,717,694	10,168,167
Pullets, Under 19 Weeks, for Laying .....	823,934	1,095,046
Laying Hens, 19 Weeks and Over .....	1,896,008	2,211,606
Layer and Broiler Breeders .....	519,313	650,582
<b>Total Turkeys</b> .....	<b>706,902</b>	<b>768,529</b>
<b>Other Poultry</b> <sup>(3)</sup> .....	<b>204,148</b>	<b>170,757</b>
<b>Chicks and Poultry Hatched</b> <sup>(4)</sup> .....	<b>68,224,440</b>	<b>79,530,375</b>

	Kilograms	
<b>Poultry Production</b> <sup>(5)</sup>		
Broilers, Roasters and Cornish .....	124,468,680	136,914,883
Turkey.....	16,958,259	18,544,695

## Organic Production

	Number of Farms	
<b>Organic Products for Sale</b> .....	<b>326</b>	<b>424</b>
Certified Organic Products for Sale .....	290	354
Transitional Organic Products for Sale.....	42	97
<sup>(3)</sup> Includes geese, ducks, roosters, ostriches, emus, pheasants, quail, wild turkeys, etc.		
<sup>(4)</sup> Hatched in commercial poultry hatcheries in calendar year prior to the Census.		
<sup>(5)</sup> For calendar year prior to the Census.		

## Land Practices and Features

	2011	2016
	% of Total Farms	
Winter Cover Crops .....	2.7	3.4
Windbreaks or Shelterbelts .....	39.3	50.7
Plowing Down Green Crops.....	5.4	3.3
Rotational Grazing .....	35.1	33.3
In-field Winter Grazing or Feeding .....	25.7	27.5
Farms Producing or Using Manure <sup>(5)</sup> .....	56.6	25.0

	Acres	
<b>Land Management Practices</b>		
Commercial Fertilizer <sup>(5)</sup> .....	17,571,243	19,389,984
Lime <sup>(5)</sup> .....	25,757	54,217
Herbicides <sup>(5)</sup> .....	17,658,829	19,666,602
Insecticides and Fungicides <sup>(5)</sup> .....	4,480,268	7,041,170
Trace Minerals and Nutrients <sup>(5)</sup> .....	–	1,962,676
Tillage Incorporating Crop Residue Into Soil .....	2,543,229	2,539,408
Tillage Retaining Crop Residue on Surface.....	4,477,959	4,193,223
No-till or Zero-till Seeding .....	12,924,625	15,176,949
Crop Residue Baled <sup>(5)</sup> .....	2,236,814	2,761,430

## Farm Operating Arrangements

	Number of Farms	
Sole Proprietorship.....	24,459	21,328
Partnership With Written Agreement .....	1,239	1,177
Partnership Without Written Agreement .....	9,708	7,838
Corporation - Family .....	6,821	9,287
Corporation - Non-Family .....	771	803
Other (institution, community pasture, etc.) .....	236	205

## Farm Capital

	Millions of Dollars	
<b>Total Farm Capital (market value)</b> .....	<b>95,571.9</b>	<b>143,927.5</b>
Farm Machinery and Equipment .....	10,933.2	14,604.7
Livestock and Poultry .....	4,267.6	11,036.5
Land and Buildings.....	80,371.1	118,286.3
Owned.....	57,050.5	81,864.1
Rented or Leased.....	23,320.6	36,422.2

## Number of Farms

	Number of Farms	
<b>Farms Classified by Total Farm Capital</b>		
Under \$100,000.....	361	417
\$100,000 - \$199,999 .....	1,032	718
\$200,000 - \$349,999 .....	3,101	1,780
\$350,000 - \$499,999 .....	4,203	2,605
\$500,000 - \$999,999 .....	11,966	9,461
\$1,000,000- \$1,499,999 .....	6,459	5,567
\$1,500,000 - \$1,999,999 .....	3,762	3,720
\$2,000,000 - \$3,499,999 .....	5,894	5,981
\$3,500,000 and Over .....	6,456	10,389

(5) For calendar year prior to the Census.

# 2016 Census of Agriculture for Alberta

## Provincial Highlights



### Gross Farm Receipts <sup>(5)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Total Gross Farm Receipts <sup>(6)</sup></b>	<b>11,436.2</b>	<b>17,730.0</b>

Millions of Dollars

Number of Farms

### Farms Classified by Gross Farm Receipts

	2011	2016
Under \$50,000	21,620	16,953
\$50,000 - \$99,999	5,934	5,516
\$100,000 - \$249,999	7,015	7,065
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4,211	4,503
\$500,000 - \$999,999	2,494	3,356
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	1,175	1,909
\$2,000,000 and Over	785	1,336

### Farm Business Operating Expenses <sup>(5)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Total Farm Operating Expenses</b>	<b>9,710.7</b>	<b>14,969.0</b>

Millions of Dollars

### Paid Agricultural Labour

	2011	2016
<b>Total Farms Reporting Paid Labour</b>	<b>12,798</b>	<b>9,565</b>
Year Round Paid Labour (full or part-time)	6,467	6,728
Seasonal or Temporary Paid Labour	8,687	6,093

Number of Farms

### Succession Planning

	2011	2016
<b>Total Farms Reporting a Succession Plan</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,440</b>
Successor(s) - Family Member(s)	—	3,335
Successor(s) - Non-Family Member(s)	—	112

Number of Farms

### Farm Direct Marketing <sup>(5)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Total Farms Reporting Direct Sales</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,062</b>
Unprocessed Agricultural Products Sold	—	1,986
Using Farm Gate Sales, Stands, Kiosks, U-pick	—	1,761
Using Farmers' Markets	—	425
Value-added Products Sold	—	197
Using Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	—	119
Using Other Methods	—	94

Number of Farms

### Use of Technology <sup>(5)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Use of Technologies for Farm Management</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Computers/laptops for Farm Management	—	23,725
Smartphones/tablets for Farm Management	—	19,093
GPS Technology	—	13,684
Automated Steering (auto-steer)	—	10,462
GIS Mapping (e.g., soil mapping)	—	2,589

Number of Farms

(5) For calendar year prior to the Census.

(6) Excluding sales of forest products.

### Types of Farms <sup>(7)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Classified by Gross Farm Receipts</b>		
Dairy	485	411
Cattle (beef, incl. feedlots)	12,022	12,282
Hog	193	166
Poultry and Egg	339	373
Sheep and Goat	490	399
Other Animals	6,374	5,101
Grain and Oilseed	12,692	13,451
Soybean	4	4
Oilseed (except soybean)	5,243	3,735
Dry Pea and Bean	162	582
Wheat	2,083	2,894
Corn	9	25
Other Grain Farming	5,191	6,211
Fruit and Tree Nut	151	137
Vegetable and Melon	277	299
Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture	826	605
Other Crop Farming	9,385	7,414

Number of Farms

### Paid Agricultural Employees

	2011	2016
<b>Total Number of Agricultural Employees</b>	<b>37,852</b>	<b>33,498</b>
Year Round Employees (full or part-time)	15,598	16,661
Seasonal or Temporary Employees	22,254	16,837

Number of Employees

### Farm Operators <sup>(8)</sup>

	2011	2016
<b>Total Farm Operators</b>	<b>62,050</b>	<b>57,605</b>
Per cent of Canada	21.1%	21.2%
<b>Total Farms Reporting</b>	<b>43,234</b>	<b>40,638</b>
Per cent of Canada	21.0%	21.0%

Number of Operators

### Farm Operators by Sex

	2011	2016
<b>Male</b>	<b>44,075</b>	<b>39,845</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>17,975</b>	<b>17,760</b>
<b>On Farms With One Operator</b>	<b>25,155</b>	<b>23,225</b>
Male	23,010	20,410
Female	2,145	2,805
<b>On Farms With Two or More Operators</b>	<b>36,890</b>	<b>34,380</b>
Male	21,065	19,435
Female	15,830	14,955

Number of Operators

(7) Farms classified by the commodity or group of commodities that make up the majority of total receipts; based on the North American Industry Classification System.

(8) Up to three operators can be reported per farm. As this is a count of distinct operators, operators of two or more separate farms are included only once.

### Average Age of Farm Operators

	2011	2016
<b>All Farm Operators</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>55.7</b>
On Farms With One Operator	56.2	56.6
On Farms With Two or More Operators	53.3	55.0

Years

### Farm Operators by Age Group

	2011	2016
<b>All Farm Operators</b>		
Under 35 Years	4,550	4,910
35 - 54 Years	26,720	20,155
55 Years and Over	30,785	32,535
<b>Farms With One Operator</b>		
Under 35 Years	1,370	1,890
35 - 54 Years	10,125	7,630
55 Years and Over	13,665	13,700
<b>Farms With Two or More Operators</b>		
Under 35 Years	3,180	3,020
35 - 54 Years	16,595	12,525
55 Years and Over	17,120	18,835

Number of Operators

### Farm Operator Labour

	2011	2016
<b>Farm Operators by Hours of Farm Work <sup>(9)</sup></b>		
Less Than 20 Hours per Week	19,660	18,905
20 - 40 Hours per Week	18,905	18,370
More Than 40 Hours per Week	23,480	20,325
<b>Farm Operators Reporting Paid Non-Farm Work</b>	<b>32,245</b>	<b>27,245</b>
Less Than 20 Hours per Week	5,860	5,360
20 - 40 Hours per Week	13,520	12,050
More Than 40 Hours per Week	12,865	9,835

Number of Operators

(9) Average number of hours per week worked for the agricultural operation.

**Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding**

— **Figures not comparable or questions not asked on 2011 Census of Agriculture questionnaire**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011 and 2016

**This Factsheet was prepared by:**

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**For more Census information visit the Statistics Canada website at [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)**