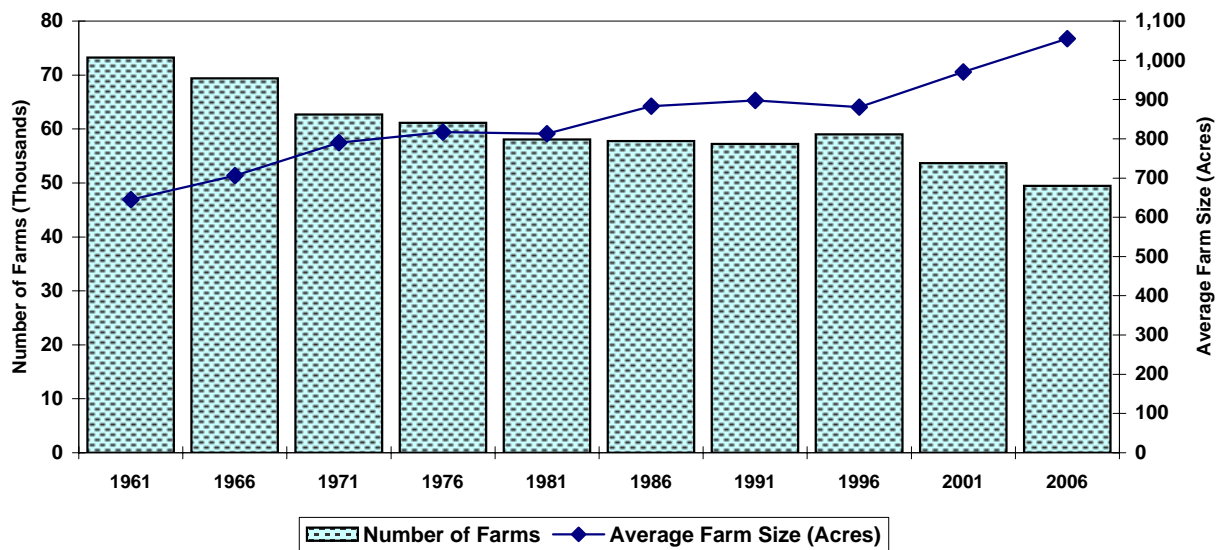


Fig. 35 Number and Average Size of Alberta Farms, 1961-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1961-2006

The number of census farms in Alberta has trended downwards over the years, while average farm size has trended upwards. Between 1961 and 2006, farm numbers fell 32.5 per cent, from 73,212 to 49,431. During the same period, average farm size increased 63.6 per cent, from 645 acres to 1,055 acres. Along with the growth in average farm size, the total area of Alberta farmland increased 10.4 per cent, from 47.2 million acres to 52.1 million acres.

TOP TEN CROPS GROWN IN ALBERTA, 2006

	Acres
1. All Wheat	6,467,628
2. Hay and Fodder Crops	6,066,400
3. Barley	4,094,689
4. Canola	4,068,511
5. Oats	1,269,229
6. Dry Field Peas	587,263
7. Mixed Grains	373,005
8. Total Rye (Fall and Spring)	118,399
9. Mustard Seed	62,538
10. Flaxseed	60,372
Total (Top Ten Crops)	23,168,034
TOTAL (ALL CROPS)	23,775,509

In 2006, the top ten crops grown in Alberta accounted for 97.4 per cent of the total area of land in crops. Wheat remains the province's leading crop, with 11,791 farms reporting nearly 6.5 million acres seeded to spring, durum and winter wheat. The 2006 Census showed evidence of diversification, with increased acreage reported for such specialty crops as sugar beets, flaxseed, mustard seed, and triticale, compared to 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006