

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 16, 2006, with comparable statistics from the 2001 Census of Agriculture.

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

Since 1996, a census 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 defined as 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	2001	2006
Total Number of Farms	53,652	49,431
Number of Farms by Size		
Under 10 Acres	1,118	1,063
10 - 69 Acres	4,098	4,593
70 - 129 Acres	3,041	3,262
130 - 239 Acres	10,333	8,778
240 - 399 Acres	7,299	6,386
400 - 559 Acres	4,986	4,209
560 - 759 Acres	4,600	3,979
760 - 1,119 Acres	5,625	4,807
1,120 - 1,599 Acres	4,382	3,924
1,600 Acres and Over	8,170	8,430

	Acres	
Tenure of Farmland		
Owned	30,701,572	30,033,280
Total Rented, Leased, Crop Shared, or Used ⁽¹⁾	21,357,326	22,094,577
Total Land Area of Farms	52,058,898	52,127,857
Total Land in Crops	24,038,861	23,775,509
Total Land in Summerfallow	3,053,214	2,239,633
Total Land in Tame or Seeded Pasture	5,512,654	6,137,362
Total Natural Land for Pasture	16,503,920	16,135,646
All Other Land ⁽²⁾	2,950,249	3,839,707
Average Farm Size	970	1,055

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

(2) Includes Christmas tree area

Crops

	2001	2006
	Acres	
Selected Field Crops Grown		
Grains	13,645,690	12,327,276
Total Wheat	6,852,596	6,467,628
Spring Wheat (excl. Durum)	5,809,275	5,768,705
Durum Wheat	962,906	570,771
Winter Wheat	80,415	128,152
Oats for Grain	1,364,674	1,269,229
Barley	4,902,090	4,094,689
Mixed Grains	404,174	373,005
Corn for Grain	5,018	4,326
Total Rye	117,138	118,399
Fall Rye	89,480	105,059
Spring Rye	27,658	13,340
Oilseeds	2,702,432	4,133,352
Canola	2,660,509	4,068,511
Flaxseed	40,219	60,372
Soybeans	88	2,677
Sunflowers	1,616	1,792
Hay and Fodder Crops	6,232,188	6,066,400
Corn for Silage	36,814	70,411
Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures	3,915,607	3,935,022
All Other Tame Hay	2,279,767	2,060,967
Other Field Crops	1,381,069	1,167,065
Forage Seed	409,251	244,615
Potatoes	58,341	54,759
Mustard Seed	57,116	62,538
Sugar Beets	29,726	38,803
Triticale	68,412	76,299
Dry Field Peas	608,217	587,263
Total Dry Field Beans (incl. chickpeas)	150,006	102,788
Total Vegetable Crops (excl. greenhouse)	14,194	13,193
Total Fruit, Nut and Berry (incl. non-producing)	2,517	2,934
Total Irrigated Crops	1,233,649	1,325,929
Irrigated Field Crops	–	902,105
Irrigated Hay and Pasture	–	406,257
Irrigated Vegetables	–	9,420
Irrigated Fruit	–	992
Other Irrigated Areas (nursery, sod, etc.)	–	7,155

	Square Feet	
Total Greenhouse Area	11,029,753	12,582,590
Total Greenhouse Area In Use	10,556,535	12,432,719
Flowers (cut, bedding plants, etc.)	5,030,590	5,794,901
Vegetables	3,644,696	4,729,622
Other Greenhouse Products	1,881,249	1,908,196
Total Growing Area for Mushrooms	470,020	497,304

Livestock on Farms

	2001	2006
	Number	
Total Cattle and Calves	6,615,201	6,369,116
Total Cows	2,183,332	2,114,716
Dairy Cows	84,044	78,875
Beef Cows	2,099,288	2,035,841
Total Heifers (beef, dairy, sltr.)	1,159,329	1,119,315
Bulls – One Year and Over	111,379	109,753
Steers – One Year and Over	991,554	974,559
Calves – Under One Year	2,169,607	2,050,773
Total Pigs	2,027,533	2,052,067
Boars	9,324	7,101
Sows and Gilts for Breeding	200,478	188,703
All Other Pigs	1,817,731	1,856,263
Total Sheep and Lambs	307,302	222,340
Ewes	131,077	103,603
Rams	6,621	5,134
Lambs	169,604	113,603
Selected Livestock		
Horses and Ponies	159,962	155,533
Bison (Buffalo)	79,731	97,366
Deer and Elk	39,635	42,748
Llamas and Alpacas	12,894	14,734
Colonies of Honey Bees	209,821	230,894
Gallons of Other Pollinating Bees	–	89,580
Total Hens and Chickens	12,175,246	11,757,860
Broilers, Roasters and Cornish	8,791,995	8,546,758
Pullets, Under 19 Weeks, for Laying	1,067,503	983,648
Laying Hens, 19 Weeks and Over	2,315,748	2,227,454
Total Turkeys	864,438	703,462
Other Poultry ⁽³⁾	219,923	211,749
Chicks and Poultry Hatched ⁽⁴⁾	71,319,860	63,625,470

	Kilograms	
Poultry Production ⁽⁵⁾		
Broilers, Roasters and Cornish	105,387,692	115,766,269
Turkey	15,068,034	16,054,282

Organic Production

	Number of Farms	
Total Farms Reporting Organic Production	–	2,629
Certified Organic Production	197	230
Fruits, Vegetables or Greenhouse Products	21	31
Animal or Animal Products (milk, eggs, etc.)	60	84
Hay or Field Crops	142	193
Other Organic Products	30	13
Transitional Organic Production	–	26
Uncertified Organic Production	–	2,405

(3) Includes geese, ducks, roosters, ostriches, emus, pheasants, quail, wild turkeys, etc.

(4) Hatched in commercial poultry hatcheries in calendar year prior to the Census

(5) For calendar year prior to the Census

Land Practices and Features

	% of Total Farms	
Soil Conservation		
Crop Rotation	58.2	59.3
Winter Cover Crops	2.3	3.9
Windbreaks or Shelterbelts	18.2	50.2
Green Manure Crops for Plough-down	2.9	5.7
Rotational Grazing for Soil Conservation	–	43.7
Buffer Zones Around Water Bodies	–	18.5

	Acres	
Land Management Practices ⁽⁶⁾		
Commercial Fertilizer	16,556,173	17,211,462
Lime	–	29,942
Herbicides	16,368,127	15,858,085
Insecticides and Fungicides	2,186,122	2,832,747
Irrigation	1,233,649	1,325,929
Tillage Incorporating Crop Residue	6,847,096	4,589,714
Tillage Retaining Crop Residue on Surface	6,550,489	5,185,594
No-till or Zero-till Seeding	5,068,199	8,950,836

Farm Operating Arrangements	Number of Farms	
Sole Proprietorship	30,409	27,815
Partnership With Written Agreement	2,135	1,458
Partnership Without Written Agreement	14,012	12,462
Corporation – Family	6,124	6,714
Corporation – Non-Family	733	697
Other (institution, community pasture, etc.)	239	285

Farm Capital

	Millions of Dollars	
Total Farm Capital (market value)	55,256.4	71,781.2
Farm Machinery and Equipment	8,684.2	9,680.1
Livestock and Poultry	7,699.7	4,999.7
Land and Buildings	38,872.5	57,101.3
Owned	28,522.7	41,405.9
Rented or Leased	10,349.8	15,695.5

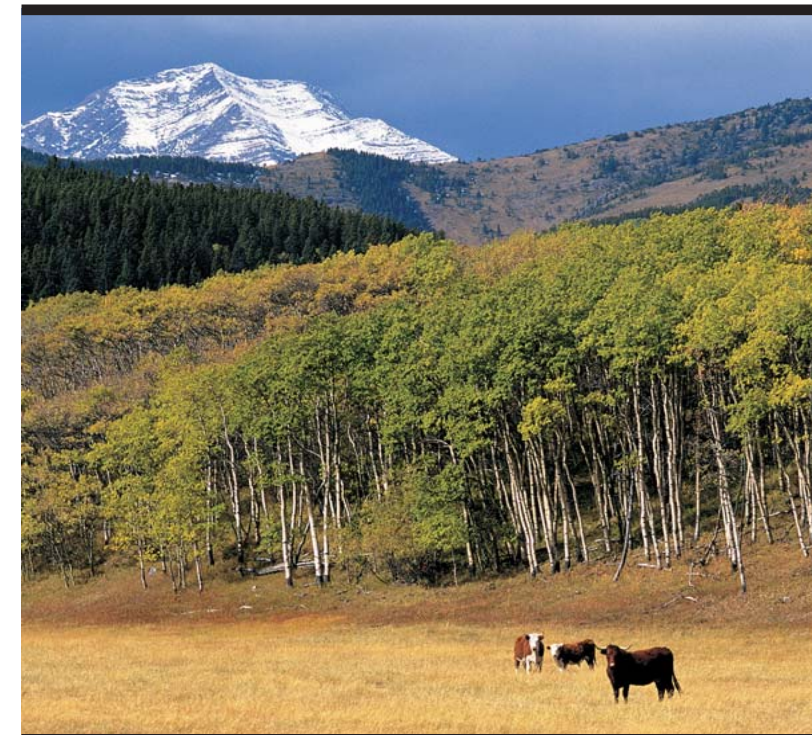
Farms Classified by Total Farm Capital

	Number of Farms	
Under \$50,000	320	164
\$50,000 - \$99,999	1,050	429
\$100,000 - \$199,999	5,107	2,326
\$200,000 - \$349,999	10,192	6,615
\$350,000 - \$499,999	7,704	6,639
\$500,000 - \$999,999	13,774	13,776
\$1,000,000 - \$1,499,999	6,316	6,666
\$1,500,000 - \$1,999,999	3,213	3,810
\$2,000,000 - \$3,499,999	3,843	5,135
\$3,500,000 and Over	2,133	3,871

(6) For calendar year prior to the Census

2006 Census of Agriculture for Alberta

Provincial Highlights



Gross Farm Receipts⁽⁵⁾

	2001	2006
Millions of Dollars		
Total Gross Farm Receipts⁽⁶⁾	9,919.5	9,889.0
Number of Farms		
Farms Classified by Gross Farm Receipts		
Under \$50,000	27,989	25,681
\$50,000 - \$99,999	8,526	7,448
\$100,000 - \$249,999	10,131	8,805
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4,230	4,333
\$500,000 - \$999,999	1,628	1,871
\$1,000,000 and Over	1,148	1,293

Farm Business Operating Expenses⁽⁵⁾

	2001	2006
Millions of Dollars		
Total Farm Operating Expenses	8,908.5	8,791.6
Farm Interest Expenses	507.0	441.2
Electricity and All Telecommunications	168.1	211.7
Rental and Leasing:		
Land and Buildings	194.2	260.8
Machinery, Equipment, Vehicles	68.7	65.1
Total Wages and Salaries	489.3	537.1
Paid to Family Members	264.1	263.2
Paid to All Other Persons	225.2	273.9
Custom and Contract Work	300.4	446.1
Repairs and Maintenance:		
Machinery, Equipment, Vehicles	435.4	479.5
Buildings and Fences	149.3	154.6
All Fuel (machinery, vehicle and heating)	437.0	566.7
Fertilizer and Lime	513.2	613.4
Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides, etc.	330.6	384.0
Seed and Plant Purchases (not for resale)	161.2	202.8
Livestock and Poultry Purchases	3,099.4	2,235.3
Total Feed and Supplement Purchases	1,254.3	1,260.8
Commercial Feed and Supplement Purchases	859.8	887.3
Veterinary Services (incl. semen, breeding fees)	140.4	147.0
All Other Expenses ⁽⁷⁾	660.0	785.5

Paid Agricultural Labour

	2001	2006
Number of Farms		
Total Farms Reporting Paid Labour	21,218	17,195
Year Round Paid Labour	10,641	8,754
<i>Total Number of Weeks</i>	<i>805,212</i>	<i>709,025</i>
Seasonal or Temporary Paid Labour	13,587	10,872
<i>Total Number of Weeks</i>	<i>279,640</i>	<i>250,206</i>

(5) For calendar year prior to the Census

(6) Excluding sales of forest products

(7) Excluding depreciation and capital cost allowance

Use of Personal Computers

	2001	2006
Number of Farms		
Total Farms Using Computers for Farm Mgmt.	21,813	23,410
Bookkeeping, Payroll or Tax Preparation	17,039	17,222
Livestock or Crop Record Keeping	10,035	9,640
Word Processing	15,062	16,486
Internet	15,658	17,195
E-mail	14,468	16,130
Banking	—	10,357

Types of Farms⁽⁸⁾

	2001	2006
Number of Farms		
Classified by Gross Farm Receipts		
Dairy	776	627
Cattle (beef)	22,939	20,474
Hog	848	565
Poultry and Egg	446	375
Wheat	3,718	2,733
Grain and Oilseed (excluding wheat)	9,327	9,568
Field Crop (excluding grain and oilseed)	4,725	3,923
Fruit	73	136
Vegetable	70	96
Miscellaneous Specialty	5,495	6,403
Livestock Combination	1,165	1,019
Other Combination	998	627

Farm Operators⁽⁹⁾

	2001	2006
Number of Operators		
Total Farm Operators	76,195	71,660
<i>Per cent of Canada</i>	<i>22.0%</i>	<i>21.9%</i>
Total Farms Reporting	53,652	49,431
<i>Per cent of Canada</i>	<i>30.9%</i>	<i>31.2%</i>

Farm Operators by Sex

	2001	2006
Number of Operators		
Male	54,565	50,190
Female	21,635	21,470
On Farms With One Operator	32,025	28,045
Male	29,530	25,670
Female	2,490	2,370
On Farms With Two or More Operators	44,170	43,620
Male	25,040	24,525
Female	19,135	19,095

Average Age of Farm Operators

	2001	2006
Age in Years		
All Farm Operators	49.9	52.2
On Farms with One Operator	51.7	53.8
On Farms with Two or More Operators	48.6	51.2

(8) Historical classification of farms reporting gross receipts of \$2,500 or more, classified by the commodity or group of commodities that accounts for 51% or more of the total receipts

(9) 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.

Farm Operators by Age

	2001	2006
Number of Operators		
All Farm Operators		
Under 35 Years	8,900	6,290
35 - 54 Years	40,430	35,935
55 Years and Over	26,875	29,440
Farms with One Operator		
Under 35 Years	3,070	2,045
35 - 54 Years	16,130	13,335
55 Years and Over	12,815	12,665
Farms with Two or More Operators		
Under 35 Years	5,825	4,245
35 - 54 Years	24,295	22,605
55 Years and Over	14,050	16,780

Farm Operator Labour

	2001	2006
Number of Operators		
Farm Operators by Hours of Farm Work⁽¹⁰⁾		
Less Than 20 Hours per Week	18,965	20,465
20 - 40 Hours per Week	21,935	19,970
More Than 40 Hours per Week	35,290	31,225
Farm Operators Reporting Paid Non-Farm Work	37,475	39,105
Less Than 20 Hours per Week	7,380	7,560
20 - 40 Hours per Week	14,750	14,190
More Than 40 Hours per Week	15,345	17,355

Farm-Related Injuries

	2001	2006
Number of Farms		
Total Farms Reporting Farm-Related Injuries	—	3,170
To the Operator	—	2,851
To Other Family Members	—	472
To Other Persons	—	176

(10) 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 2001 Census form**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 and 2006

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For more Census information, visit the Statistics Canada website at: www.statcan.ca