

# Census of Agriculture

## Provincial Profiles

### Alberta Farm Types - Highlights

---

#### Definitions

A **Census farm** is an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products that are intended for sale:

- **Crops**
  - Hay, field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, and seed.
- **Livestock**
  - Cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, game animals, and other livestock.
- **Poultry**
  - Hens, chickens, turkeys, chicks, game birds, and other poultry.
- **Animal Products**
  - Milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, and meat.
- **Other Agricultural Products**
  - Christmas trees, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod, honey, maple syrup products or cream, eggs, wool, furs, and meat.

#### Farm Classification:

The census classifies farms according to the predominant type of production using North American Industry Classification System.



This is done by estimating the potential receipts from the inventories of crops and livestock reported on the questionnaire and determining the product or group of products that make up the majority of the estimated receipts.

#### 2016 Statistics Canada Highlights

##### Key Highlights

On May 10, 2017, Statistics Canada released farm and farm operator data from the 2016 Census of Agriculture for Canada and the provinces. The following are some key highlights for Alberta farm types.



- ↓ Alberta had 40,638 census farms in 2016, a 6.0 per cent decline from 2011. Despite the decline the province continued to rank second behind Ontario.
- ↓ Nationally, farm numbers fell 5.9 per cent to 193,492. Farm numbers were down for all provinces. Alberta continued to account for 21.0 per cent of farms in Canada.
- ↑ In 2016, Alberta had the highest amount of cattle ranching farms in Canada with 12,693 farms, up 1.5 per cent from 2011.
- ↑ The number of oilseed and grain farms increased 6.0 per cent in 2016 to 13,451 farms, up from 12,692 farms in 2011. However, oilseed (except soybean) farms decreased 28.8 per cent to 3,735.
- ↑ Beef cattle ranching farms in Alberta increased 2.2 per cent in 2016 to 12,282 farms, and continued to be the largest in Canada.

-  Alberta represents over one third (34.1 per cent) of Canada's beef cattle ranching farms, up from 32.1 per cent in 2011.
-  Farms reporting horse and other equine production fell 20.5 per cent in 2016 to 3,177 farms, but Alberta remained the highest reporting province in Canada.
-  Alberta wheat farms increased 38.9 per cent in 2016 to 2,894 farms. Alberta continued to rank second, behind Saskatchewan.
-  Other grain farms in Alberta increased 19.7 per cent to 6,211 in 2016, up from 5,191 in 2011. Other grain farming excludes wheat, corn, rice (except wild), and sweet corn.
-  Alberta hay farms decreased 21.9 per cent in 2016, from 7,799 farms in 2011 to 6,094 farms in 2016.

## Alberta Farm Numbers

The number of census farms in Alberta fell 6.0 per cent in 2016, to 40,638 (43,234 in 2011). Farm numbers decreased across Canada, with all provinces showing a decline from 2011-2016. Nationally, farm numbers fell 5.9 per cent.

Alberta continued to rank second to Ontario (49,600 farms) in farm numbers. Rounding out the top five were: Saskatchewan (34,523 farms), Quebec (28,919 farms), and British Columbia (17,528 farms).

## Alberta Livestock Farms

In 2016, Alberta led the nation in cattle ranching farms with 12,693 farms, up 1.5 per cent from 2011.

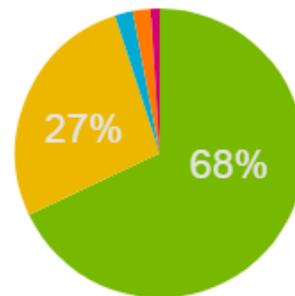
Beef cattle ranching farms increased 2.2 per cent in 2016 to 12,282 farms, and Alberta continued to rank first among provinces. Dairy cattle fell 15.3 per cent from 2011 to 411 farms in 2016.

In 2016, poultry and egg production farms increased by 10.0 per cent to 373 farms. This increase was primarily caused by a 35.2 per cent increase of chicken egg producing farms, to 173 farms. Alberta reported 166 hog and pig farms in 2016, down 14.0 per cent from 2011. The number of sheep and goat farms also fell 19.4 per cent, to 399 in 2016.

The number of Alberta's other animal production farms decreased by 20.0 per cent to 5,101 farms in 2016. Other animal production includes raising animals, such as: bees, horses and other equines, rabbits and other fur-bearing animals, llamas, deer, worms, crickets, and others.

### ALBERTA LIVESTOCK 2016 NUMBER OF FARMS

1. Cattle Ranching
2. Other Animal\*
3. Sheep and Goat
4. Poultry and Egg
5. Hog and Pig



Note\*: Includes raising animals, such as bees, horses and other equines, rabbits and other fur-bearing animals, llamas, deer, worms, crickets, and others.

The decrease in other animal production was due to fewer horse and equine production farms. The number of horse and equine farms in Alberta fell 20.5 per cent from 3,995 farms in 2011 to 3,177 farms in 2016.

Animal combination farms also decreased in 2016, 1,201 farms were reported, compared to 1,642 farms in 2011. However, apiculture farms in Alberta increased by 38.9 per cent in 2016, with 343 farms reported.

## Alberta Crop Farms

The number of oilseed and grain farms in Alberta continued to increase in 2016 as 13,451 farms were reported, up 6.0 per cent from 2011 (12,692 farms). However, oilseed (except soybean) farms decreased 28.8 per cent to 3,735.

Oilseed and grain farms have been on the rise since 2006, and continued to represent the highest proportion of farms in Alberta. Alberta has the third most oilseed and grain farms in Canada, behind Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Alberta reported 2,894 wheat farms in 2016, a 38.9 per cent increase from 2011 (2,083 farms). Alberta continued to record the second highest amount of wheat farms in Canada, behind Saskatchewan.

Other grain farms in Alberta increased 19.7 per cent to 6,211 in 2016, up from 5,191 in 2011. Other grain farming includes: feed grain, buckwheat, broomcorn, milo, oilseed and grain combination, and other grain for fodder; but excludes: wheat, corn, rice (except wild), and sweet corn. Dry pea and bean farms recorded the largest increase, with a 259.3 per cent increase from 2011 (162 farms) to 2016 (582 farms).

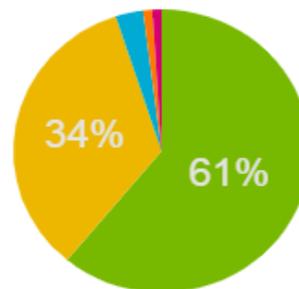
In 2016, Alberta recorded 299 vegetable and melon farms, a 7.9 per cent increase from 2011 (277 farms). Potato farms decreased 16.1 per cent in 2016, but other vegetable (except potato) and melon farms increased 35.9 per cent.

Fruit and tree-nut farms in Alberta decreased by 9.3 per cent in 2016, to 137 farms.

The number of greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production farms fell in 2016, as Alberta reported 605 farms.

### ALBERTA CROPS 2016 NUMBER OF FARMS

1. Oilseed/Grain
2. Other Crop\*
3. Greenhouse
4. Vegetable
5. Fruit/Tree Nut



Oilseed and Grain (61%) Other Crop (34%)  
Greenhouse (3%) Fruit and Tree-nut (1%)  
Vegetable and Melon (1%)

Note\*: Includes growing crops, such as tobacco, peanuts, sugarbeets, cotton, sugar-cane, hay, agave, herbs and spices, mint, hops, and hay and grass seeds. Combination crop farming and the gathering of maple sap are included in this industry group.

The decrease was due to less nursery and tree production farms (down 27.3 per cent to 389 farms in 2016), floriculture production farms (down 26.7 per cent to 159 farms in 2016), and other food crops grown under cover (down 23.9 per cent to 54 farms in 2016).

Alberta hay farms decreased 21.9 per cent in 2016, from 7,799 farms in 2011 to 6,094 farms in 2016. This led to a decrease in the number of other crop farms reported in Alberta in 2016 (7,414 farms), which fell 21.0 per cent from 2011 (9,385 farms).

## To Learn More:

For more detailed information, please visit the Statistics Canada website:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/ca2016>

Or contact:

Austin Leitch, Research Analyst  
 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
 Statistics and Data Development Section  
 Economics and Competitiveness Branch  
[Austin.leitch@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Austin.leitch@gov.ab.ca)

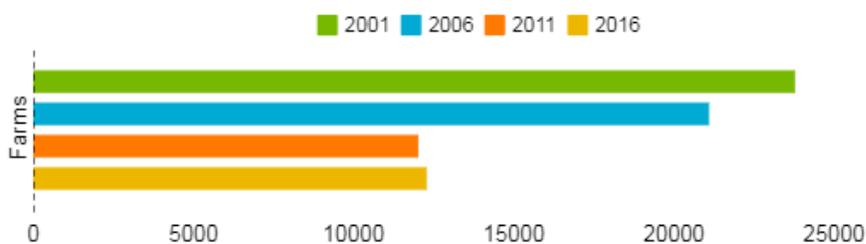
## SELECT ALBERTA FARMS BY NAICS



Note\*: Except soybean

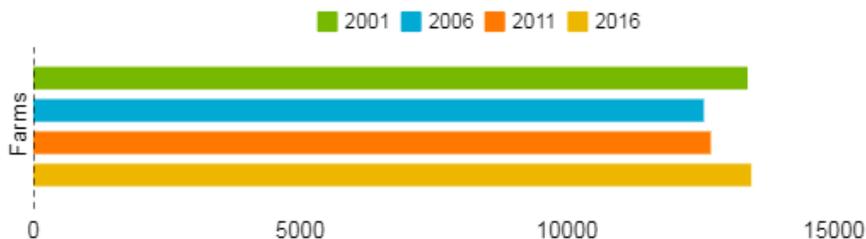
## BEEF CATTLE RANCHING AND FARMING, INCLUDING FEEDLOTS

2016/2011  
**2.2%**  
 INCREASE



## OILSEED AND GRAIN FARMING

2016/2011  
**6.0%**  
 INCREASE



Note: The census classifies farms according to the predominant type of production using North American Industry Classification System. This is done by estimating the potential receipts from the inventories of crops and livestock reported on the questionnaire and determining the product or group of products that make up the majority of the estimated receipts.