

Census of Agriculture Provincial Profiles

Alberta Livestock Farms - 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 livestock farms.



- In 2016, nearly one half of Alberta farms (19,914) reported cattle and calves, a 9.0 per cent decrease from 2011.



- Alberta accounted for 41.6 per cent of the national cattle and calf herd in 2016, up from 39.9 per cent in 2011.



- Farms reporting pigs increased 41.3 per cent to 1,211 in 2016, from 857 in 2011. Alberta represented 14.4 per cent of the national total in 2016, up from 11.6 per cent in 2011.



- The number of farms reporting hens and chickens in the province increased 27.1 per cent, from 3,045 in 2011 to 3,869 in 2016.



- Alberta farms reporting turkeys increased 15.8 per cent to 1,140 in 2016, from 979 farms in 2011.



- In 2016, 1,677 Alberta farms reported sheep and lamb, a 4.0 per cent decrease from the 1,747 farms in 2011.



- Farms reporting colonies of honeybees jumped 83.4 per cent to 708 in 2016, from 386 in 2011. Alberta represented 14.5 per cent of the national total in 2016, up from 11.8 per cent in 2011.



- The number of farms reporting horses and ponies in the province decreased 14.6 per cent in 2016 to 12,808 farms, from 15,001 in 2011.

Alberta Livestock Farms

In 2016, 19,914 Alberta farms reported cattle and calves, a 9.0 per cent decrease from 2011; however, of those farms, 5.2 million animals were reported, an increase of 2.0 per cent from 2011 to 2016. Alberta farms accounted for 41.6 per cent of the national total of cattle and calves in 2016, up from 39.9 per cent in 2011.

In terms of Alberta farms reporting cattle and calves in 2016 (compared to 2011):

- **Calves, under 1 year**
 - Farms reporting were down 8.5 per cent to 17,523 farms, while animals reported increased 3.5 per cent to 1.6 million head.
- **Steers, 1 year and over**
 - Farms reporting fell 14.73 per cent to 6,299 farms, and animals reported increased 10.2 per cent to 902,839 head.
- **Total heifers, 1 year and over**
 - Farms reporting were down 2.9 per cent to 13,340 farms, and animals reported decreased 8.7 per cent to 903,173 head.
- **Beef cows**
 - Farms reporting were down 8.6 per cent to 17,022 farms, and animals reported increased 3.0 per cent to 1.6 million head.
- **Dairy cows**
 - Farms reporting were down 12.6 per cent to 828 farms, and animals reported decreased 0.8 per cent to 80,014 head.

- **Bulls, 1 year and over**

- Farms reporting were down 10.2 per cent to 14,779 farms, and animals reported increased 4.5 per cent to 94,913 head.

Farms reporting pigs increased 41.3 per cent to 1,211 in 2016, from 857 in 2011. Alberta represented 14.4 per cent of the national total in 2016, up from 11.6 per cent in 2011. The number of pigs reported also increased, from 1.4 million in 2011, to 1.5 million in 2016, up 4.6 per cent.

The number of farms reporting hens and chickens in the province increased 27.1 per cent in 2016, from 3,045 in 2011 to 3,869 in 2016. In Alberta, 14.1 million birds were reported in 2016, an 18.1 per cent increase from the 12.0 million birds reported in 2011.

Alberta farms reporting turkeys increased 15.8 per cent to 1,140 in 2016, from 979 farms reporting in 2011. Of those farms, 768,529 birds were reported in 2016, an 8.7 per cent increase from 2011.

In 2016, 1,677 Alberta farms reported sheep and lamb, a 4.0 per cent decrease from the 1,747 farms in 2011. Alberta represented 17.9 per cent of the national number of farms reporting sheep and lamb in 2016, up from 17.3 per cent in 2011.

Of those farms reporting sheep and lamb, 195,511 animals were reported, a decrease of 3.6 per cent from the 202,903 animals reported in 2011.

Farms reporting colonies of honeybees increased 83.4 per cent to 708 in 2016, from 386 in 2011. Alberta represented 14.5 per cent of the national total in 2016, up from 11.8 per cent in 2011. In 2016, 304,846 colonies of honeybees were reported, up 29.2 per cent from the 235,951 reported in 2011.

Farms reporting gallons of other pollinating bees in Alberta increased 37.8 per cent to 153 farms in 2016, up from 111 in 2011. Those farms reported 199,848 gallons of other pollinating bees in 2016, an increase of 5.5 per cent from 2011.

The number of farms reporting horses and ponies in the province decreased 14.6 per cent in 2016 to 12,808 farms, from 15,001 in 2011. The number of animals reported in the province also decreased, from 139,410 animals in 2011, to 108,702 animals in 2016.

In 2016, 963 farms in Alberta reported goats, a 3.2 per cent increase from the 933 farms reported in 2011. Of those farms, 27,955 animals were reported, down 3.3 per cent from 2011.

In terms of Alberta farms reporting other livestock in 2016 (compared to 2011):

- **Llamas and Alpacas**
 - Farms reporting were down 31.1 per cent to 948 farms, and animals reported decreased 50.5 per cent to 5,807 animals.
- **Rabbits**
 - Farms reporting were up 5.6 per cent to 470 farms, and animals reported decreased 39.5 per cent to 4,917 animals.
- **Bison (buffalo)**
 - Farms reporting were down 22.1 per cent to 445 farms, and animals reported decreased 4.5 per cent to 54,907 animals.
- **Elk**
 - Farms reporting were down 38.5 per cent to 150 farms, and animals reported decreased 26.9 per cent to 11,904 animals.
- **Deer (excluding wild deer)**
 - Farms reporting were down 41.9 per cent to 25 farms, and animals reported decreased 50.5 per cent to 1,161 animals.
- **Mink**
 - Farms reporting were up 66.7 per cent to 5 farms, and 148 animals were reported (data was suppressed in 2011).

Farm Capital - Alberta Livestock

In 2016, 27,331 farms reported their value of livestock and poultry, a decrease of 7.9 per cent from the 29,666 farms reporting in 2011; however, at \$11.0 billion reported in 2016, the value of livestock and poultry was a jump of 158.6 per cent from the \$4.3 billion in 2011.

Alberta's value of livestock and poultry represented 7.7 per cent of total farm capital in 2016, compared to 4.5 per cent in 2011, and represented 39.5 per cent of the national value of livestock and poultry in 2016, up from 32.4 per cent of the national value of livestock and poultry in 2011.

To Learn More:

For more detailed information, please visit the Statistics Canada website:
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/ca2016>

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