

Census of Agriculture for Alberta, 2006

Table No.

- 104. Census of Agriculture, Farms and Land, Canada and Provinces, 1991-2006.....**
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Census of Agriculture - Notes

(1) Since 1996, a census farm has been defined as an agricultural operation producing at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops (field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed); livestock (cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, exotic animals); poultry (hens, chickens, turkeys, exotic birds); animal products (milk, cream, eggs, wool, furs, meats); or other agricultural products (greenhouse or nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, sod, honey and maple syrup). Farm operations producing only Christmas trees were included for the first time in the 1996 census.

(2) 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.

(3) A farm is classified according to the predominant commodity produced. This is done by estimating the potential gross farm receipts from the inventories of crops and livestock reported on the census questionnaire. The commodity or group of commodities which account for 51 percent or more of the total gross farm receipts determines the farm type. Farm type classification only includes farms with gross farm receipts of \$2,500 or more.

(4) In 1996, the name and definition of "Tame or Seeded Pasture" was changed from the previous census. In 1991, it was called "Improved Land for Pasture or Grazing". Consequently, some respondents may have reported differently in 1996 than in 1991, thereby affecting the comparability of 1996, 2001 and 2006 censuses with earlier censuses.

(5) The data for land management practices are reported for the year preceding the census year. Operators can apply insecticides and fungicides to the same land. Therefore, the sum of the responses to the two questions in 1996, 2001 and 2006 are not comparable to the response to the single 1991 question which asked for the total area on which insecticides or fungicides were used. The data, however, is still comparable to other years.

(6) This information is new for 2006.

(7) Since 1991, no distinction between oats for grain and oats for fodder has been made.

(8) The earlier census date in 1996 (May 14th), in 2001 (May 15th) and in 2006 (May 16) affect the comparability with previous censuses due to the lower percentage of calving that would have taken place at this time compared to the first week of June, when previous censuses were taken.

(9) Since individual or family holdings were being over-reported in previous censuses, the order and wording of the questions on operating expenses were changed in 1996. While previous censuses asked if the operation was an "individual or family holding", starting with the 1996 Census this question was replaced with one asking if the operation was a "sole proprietorship".

(10) Since 1991, there are two separate questions on the value of land and buildings - one on rented properties and one on owned properties. Consequently, the total reported value of land and buildings in following censuses increased compared with earlier censuses, where some respondents had failed to include rented land.

(11) In 1991, agricultural operators reported the value of farm machinery and equipment located on their operations on Census Day, regardless of ownership. Since the 1996 Census, operators have been asked to report the present market value of all farm machinery and equipment that they owned or leased on Census Day. This change in reporting limits comparability of these data.

(12) This refers to gross farm receipts of the operation in the preceding calendar year.

(13) This refers to the gross farm operating expenses of the operation in the preceding calendar year.

(14) In 2001, the name and definition of "Rent or Leasing Expenses" was changed to "Rental and Leasing of Land and Buildings". This change limits the comparability of data from the 2001 and 2006 censuses with previous censuses.

(15) In 2001, the name and definition of "Fuel, Oil and Lubricants for Machinery" was changed to "All Fuel Expenses". This change limits the comparability of data from the 2001 and 2006 censuses with previous censuses.

(16) In 2001, "Custom Work and Contract Work" and "Rental and Leasing of Farm Machinery, Equipment, and Vehicles" were classified as separate entities whereas in 1996, they were grouped together. This change limits the comparability of data from the 2001 and 2006 censuses with previous censuses.

(17) Farm operators are defined by Statistics Canada 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. Operators can be owners, tenants or hired managers of the agricultural operation. This can include those responsible for management decisions pertinent to particular aspects of the farm, such as planting and harvesting, capital purchases, and marketing. An agricultural operation may have more than one operator, e.g. husband and wife; father and son; two brothers; father, son and wife; etc. Since 1991, the census form has enabled farmers to report up to three operators for each farm, which is why there are more operators than farms. This is a count of distinct operators; hence, operators of two or more separate farms were included only once in the total.

(18) The application of the "random rounding" confidentiality procedure to data appearing in the farm operator tables, has resulted in the following data inconsistencies: Since the totals in a table are randomly rounded independently of their component cell values, some differences may exist between the rounded totals and the sum of their rounded components. Similarly, percentage distributions, which are calculated based on rounded cell values, do not necessarily add up to 100%. Averages, however, are calculated based on unrounded data. Random rounding can significantly distort results for variables with small cell counts. Individual data cells containing small numbers may lose their precision as a result. Finally, minor differences can be expected in corresponding totals and cell values appearing in different tables. For example, the total number of farm operators under 35 years of age in Canada in 2006 has been randomly rounded, which may result in slightly different totals occurring in the tables in which the variable appears.

(19) Due to changes to the question on average time contribution of non-farm work for 2001, caution should be used when comparing the data to 1996. The 1996 data exclude those operators who reported operating another business whereas 2001 and 2006 data include them.

Census of Agriculture for Alberta, 2006

Census Farms

The 2006 Census of Agriculture counted 49,431 farms in Alberta, a 7.9 per cent decline from 53,652 in 2001. Farm numbers were down in all provinces, and fell 7.1 per cent nationally to 229,373. Alberta had the second highest number of farms among the provinces behind Ontario (57,211), and accounted for 21.6 per cent of all farms in Canada.

Total area of agricultural land in Alberta was basically unchanged from 2001 at 52.1 million acres (marginally up 0.1 per cent) and represented 31.2 per cent of the Canadian total of 167.0 million acres. Average farm size in Alberta grew 8.8 per cent to 1,055 acres, from 970 acres in 2001. This compares with a 7.7 per cent increase nationally to 728 acres.

Area under crops in Alberta declined 1.1 per cent to 23.8 million acres, but still accounted for 26.8 per cent of Canada's total cropland in 2006. The province's tame/seeded pasture acreage increased 11.3 per cent to 6.1 million acres, while natural land for pasture decreased 2.2 per cent to 16.1 million acres. With the increase in tame pasture acreage, summerfallow area declined 26.6 per cent to 2.2 million acres.

Beef cattle farms were the most common farm type in Alberta in 2006, making up 41.5 per cent of census farms (42.9 per cent in 2001). Wheat, grain and oilseed farms accounted for another 25.2 per cent (24.6 per cent in 2001). The census classifies farms according to the predominant type of production. This is done by estimating the potential receipts from crop and livestock inventories and determining the product or group of products that make up 51 per cent or more of the estimated receipts.

The province's gross farm receipts from all sources (including market receipts, program payments and custom work) totaled \$9.9 billion, practically unchanged from 2001 (down 0.3 per cent), and was a close second to Ontario's \$10.3 billion. Government funded programs contributed 11.0 per cent of Alberta's gross farm receipts, up from 6.7 per cent five years earlier. The number of Alberta farms with gross receipts below \$250,000 declined 10.1 per cent to 41,934, while farms with gross receipts of \$250,000 or more increased 7.0 per cent to 7,497.

Alberta farmers spent a total of \$8.8 billion in farm operating expenses in the year preceding the 2006 Census, 1.3 per cent down from \$8.9 billion five years earlier. Producers spent an average of 89 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts, or about one cent less than five years earlier. Major expenses included livestock and poultry purchases (\$2.2 billion), feed (\$1.2 billion), and fertilizer and lime (\$613.4 million).

Environmentally friendly practices (no-till seeding and conservation tillage) were used on 75.5 per cent of the land prepared for seeding in 2006, continuing an upward trend from 62.9 per cent in 2001, 43 per cent in 1996, and 27 per cent in 1991. These practices were used on 14.1 million acres, up markedly from 11.6 million acres in 2001. Application of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides was virtually unchanged at roughly 19 million acres.

The proportion of Alberta farms reporting use of computers as a management tool was 47.4 per cent in 2006, slightly higher than the 46.4 per cent reported nationally. Computers were commonly used for bookkeeping, payroll or tax preparation (reported by 17,222 farms), Internet access (reported by 17,195 farms), word processing (reported by 16,486 farms), and e-mail (reported by 16,130 farms).

In 2006, 5.3 per cent or 2,629 of Alberta farms were engaged in organic production, slightly lower than the 6.8 per cent reported for Canada. Of the Alberta farms reporting organic products, 8.7 per cent produced certified organic products, 1.0 per cent were in transition to becoming certified, and 91.5 per cent were not certified. Hay and field crops were reported on 60.5 per cent of the province's organic farms, while livestock were reported on 58.7 per cent of the farms.

The number of Alberta family corporations increased markedly by 9.6 per cent in 2006 to 6,714 farms or 13.6 per cent of all farms in the province, compared with 11.4 per cent in 2001. Non-family corporations constituted 1.4 per cent of farms both in 2006 and 2001, while farms operating as sole proprietorships accounted for 56.3 per cent of all farms in 2006 (56.7 per cent in 2001). The remainder of farms (28.7 per cent in 2006 and 30.5 per cent in 2001) were either partnerships with or without written agreements, or other farm types such as community pastures and institutional farms.

The total market value of Alberta farm capital climbed 29.9 per cent in 2006 to \$71.8 billion, from \$55.3 billion in 2001, while average capital value per farm jumped 41.0 per cent to nearly \$1.5 million, from \$1.0 million in 2001. For Canada, total capital value increased 26.1 per cent to \$248.3 billion and average capital value rose 35.8 per cent to \$1.1 million. The total value of livestock and poultry was down 35.1 per cent to \$5.0 billion, while machinery and equipment value increased 11.5 per cent to \$9.7 billion and the value of land and buildings jumped 46.9 per cent in 2006 to \$57.1 billion (79.5 per cent of total farm capital). A total of 19,482 farms (39.4 per cent of all farms) had capital values of \$1 million or more in 2006, compared with 15,505 or 28.9 per cent in 2001.

In 2006, Alberta farms reported paying a total of \$537.1 million in wages and salaries, an increase of 9.8 per cent from \$489.3 million in 2001. Nationally, \$3.9 billion was paid in wages and salaries, up 16.1 per cent from \$3.3 billion in 2001.

The total area of farmland rented, leased or crop shared was 22.1 million acres in 2006, up 3.5 per cent from 2001. Of this total, the area leased from governments slipped 1.7 per cent to 10.0 million acres, and area under crop share declined 29.3 per cent to 1.6 million acres. As well, area owned decreased 2.2 per cent to 30.0 million acres.

Farm Operators

The number of farm operators in Alberta declined 6.0 per cent in 2006 to 71,660 (from 76,195 in 2001), in line with the corresponding 7.9 per cent decrease in the province's Census farm numbers. Across Canada, lower operator numbers were reported for all provinces, with the exception of Nova Scotia, which reported a marginal increase of 0.4 per cent. Farm operator numbers declined nationally by 5.5 per cent to 327,060.

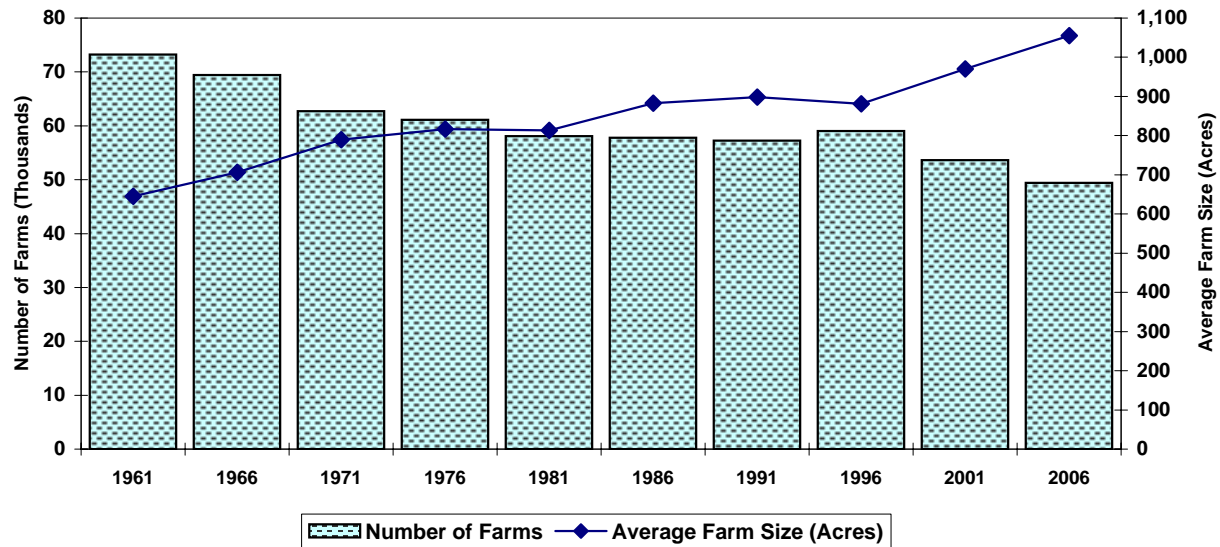
Of the 71,660 Alberta farm operators in 2006, 28,045 or 39.1 per cent were on single-operator farms and the remaining 60.9 per cent were on farms with two or more operators. By comparison, in 2001, 42.0 per cent of operators were on single-operator farms while 58.0 per cent were on multiple-operator farms. There were 21,470 (30.0 per cent) female and 50,190 (70.0 per cent) male Alberta farm operators in 2006, compared with 21,635 (28.4 per cent) and 54,565 (71.6 per cent), respectively, in 2001. For Canada, 27.8 per cent of farm operators in 2006 were female, up from 26.3 per cent in 2001. Among the provinces, Alberta had the second highest proportion of female to male operators in 2006, behind British Columbia.

The average age of Alberta farm operators in the 2006 Census was 52.2 years, up from 49.9 years in 2001. This was consistent across Canada, with operators averaging 52.0 years in 2006, up from 49.9 years in 2001. With respect to age distribution, 8.8 per cent of Alberta operators were under 35 years of age (11.7 per cent in 2001), 50.1 per cent were in the 35-54 age category (53.1 per cent in 2001), and 41.1 per cent were 55 years of age or older (35.3 per cent in 2001). Nationally, the distribution was similar at 9.1 per cent (11.5 per cent in 2001), 50.2 per cent (53.6 per cent in 2001) and 40.7 per cent (34.9 per cent in 2001).

The 2006 Census revealed that 43.6 per cent of Alberta farm operators worked longer than 40 hours per week on their farms, down from 46.3 per cent in 2001. In addition, 27.9 per cent of operators worked between 20 and 40 hours on their farms, down from 28.8 per cent in 2001. The proportion of operators with less than 20 hours of farm work per week increased to 28.6 per cent, from 24.9 per cent in 2001. For Canada, 46.7 per cent of operators were in the over 40 hours category (47.7 per cent in 2001), 26.2 per cent were in the 20 to 40 hours category (26.9 per cent in 2001), and 27.2 per cent were in the under 20 hours category (25.4 per cent in 2001).

In 2006, over one-half (39,105 or 54.6 per cent) of Alberta farm operators reported paid non-farm work in the calendar year prior to the census (37,475 or 49.2 per cent in 2001). Of these operators with non-farm income, 7,560 or 19.3 per cent worked less than 20 hours per week off the farm (7,380 or 19.7 per cent in 2001), 14,190 or 36.3 per cent worked between 20 and 40 hours (14,750 or 39.4 per cent in 2001), and 17,355 or 44.4 per cent worked more than 40 hours (15,345 or 40.9 per cent in 2001). Nationally, a total of 158,260 (48.4 per cent) farm operators reported non-farm income in the 2006 Census, up from 154,225 (44.5 per cent) in 2001.

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.

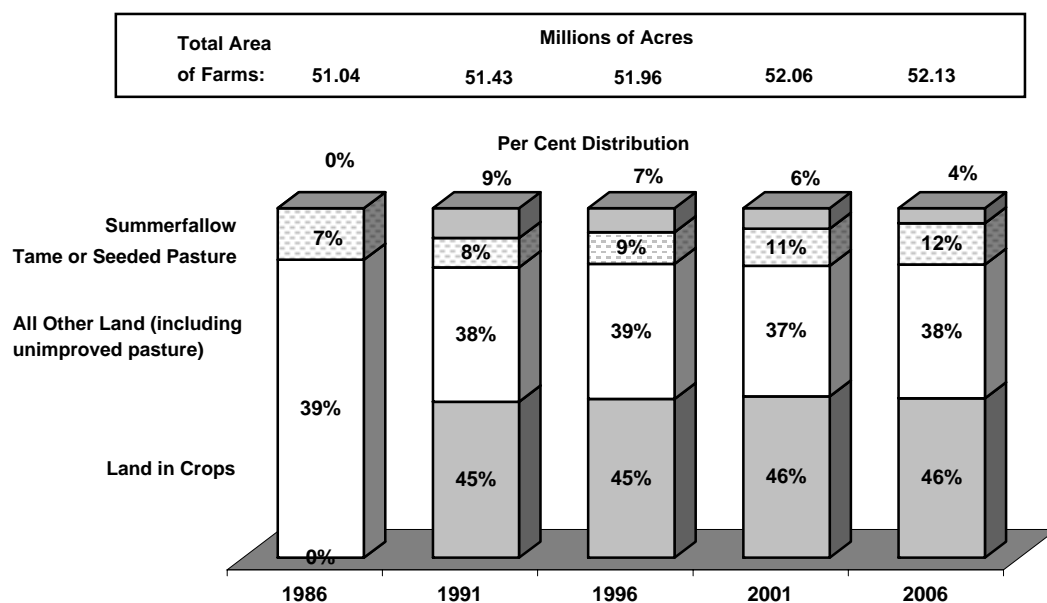
TOP TEN CROPS GROWN IN ALBERTA, 2006

	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

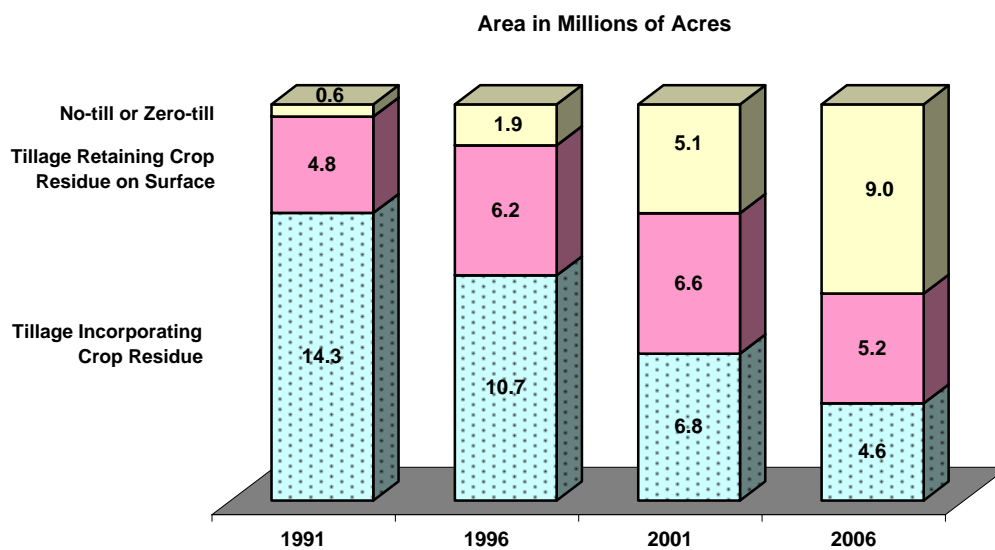
Fig. 36 Total Area of Alberta Farms and Land Use Distribution, 1986-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1986-2006

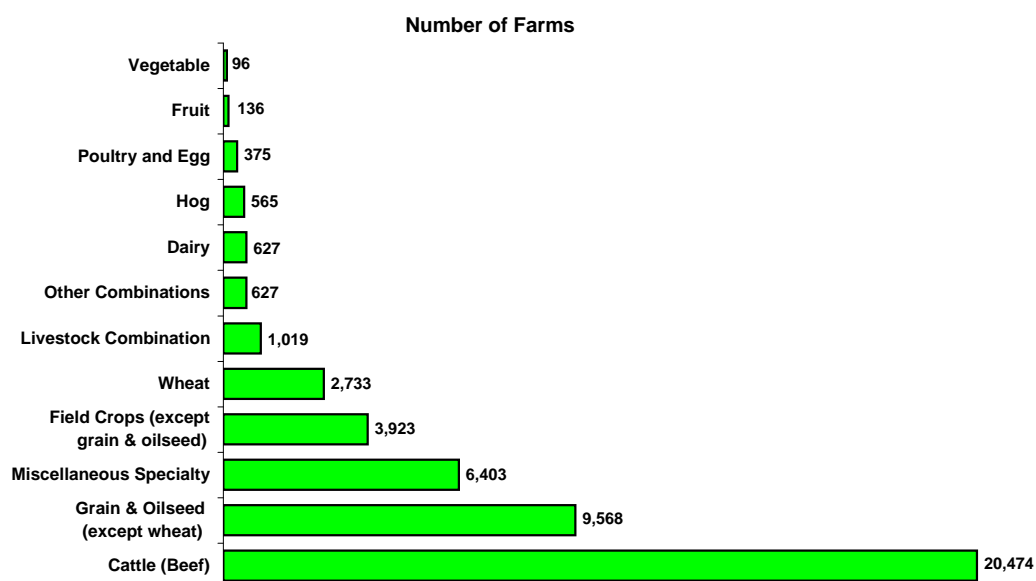
While total land in crops has remained fairly steady at around 45 per cent of Alberta's farmland area, the use of conservation tillage practices has increased. In the 1991 Census, farm operators reported using no-till or zero-till on less than three per cent or 0.6 million acres of cropland. In 2006, this method of cultivation was used on nearly 40 per cent, or 9.0 million acres, of cropland.

Fig. 37 Tillage Practices on Alberta Farms, 1991-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1991 - 2006

Fig. 38 Alberta Farms Classified by Type, 2006



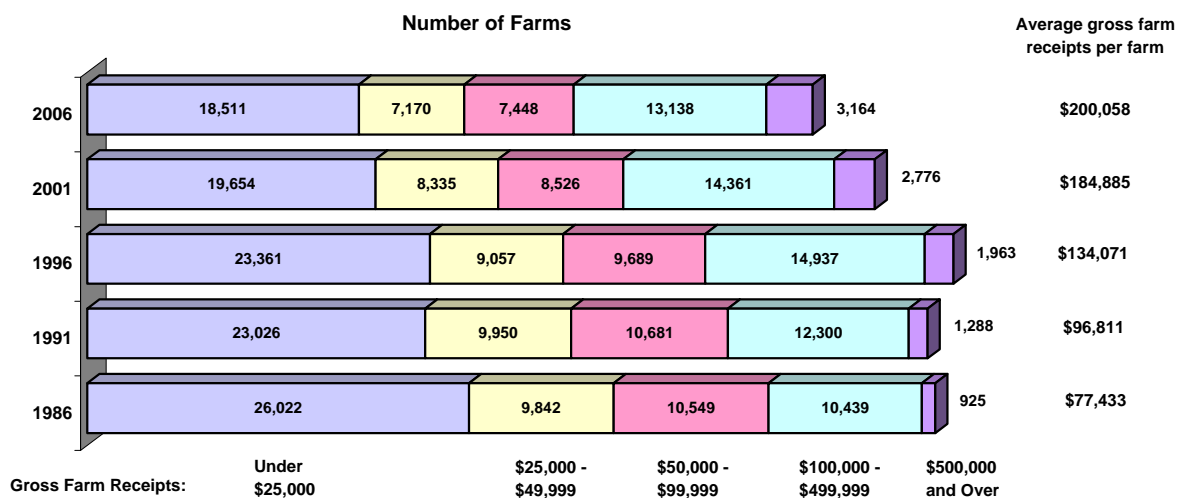
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006

Farm type classification is based on farms with gross farm receipts of \$2,500 or more. The commodity or group of commodities which accounts for 51 per cent or more of gross farm receipts determines the farm type.

Beef cattle farms are the most common farm type in Alberta. In 2006, 44.0 per cent or 20,474 of the province's census farms were beef cattle farms (45.4 per cent in 2001). Farm types showing significant growth between 2001 and 2006 included fruit farms (up 86.3 per cent to 136), vegetable farms (up 37.1 per cent to 96), and miscellaneous specialty farms (up 16.5 per cent to 6,403).

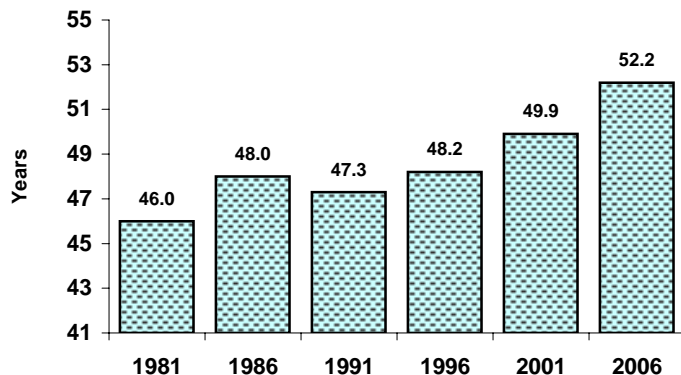
In the 2006 Census, Alberta gross farm receipts averaged \$200,058 per farm, or 8.2 per cent higher than in 2001. Roughly two-fifths (37.4 per cent) of farms reported gross receipts of under \$25,000 (36.6 per cent in 2001). By comparison, 6.4 per cent of farms reported gross receipts of \$500,000 and over (5.2 per cent in 2001). The former group contributed 1.9 per cent of provincial gross farm receipts (2.0 per cent in 2001), while the latter group contributed 61.0 per cent (58.3 per cent in 2001).

Fig. 39 Alberta Farms Classified by Gross Farm Receipts, 1986-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1986-2006

Fig. 40 Average Age of Alberta Farm Operators, 1981-2006



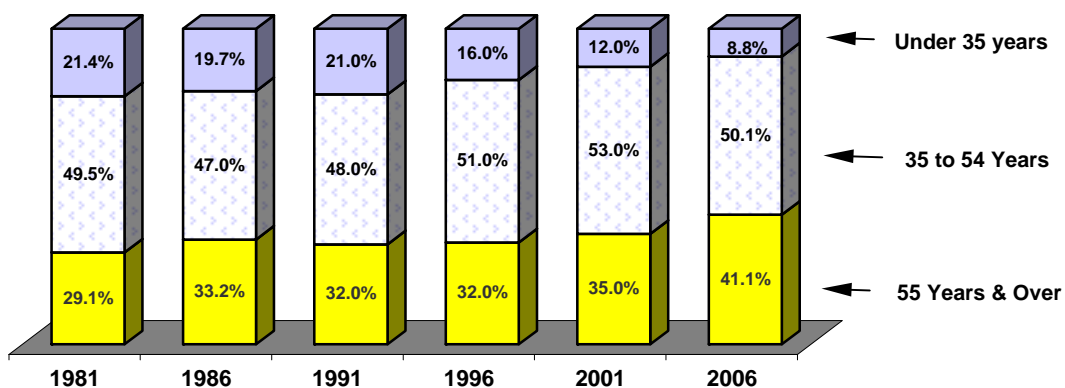
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1981-2006

Census data show the average age of farm operators rising in recent years. In 2006, Alberta's 71,660 farm operators averaged 52.2 years in age, up from 49.9 years in 2001. This trend was consistent across Canada, as average farm operator age rose in every province. Nationally, the average age of the 327,060 farm operators in 2006 was 52.0 years, compared with 49.9 years in 2001.

There were 6,290 farm operators in Alberta under 35 years of age in 2006, down from 8,900 in 2001. This compares with 35,935 operators aged between 35 and 54 years (40,430 in 2001), and 29,440 operators aged 55 years and over (26,875 in 2001).

The distribution of operators by age class shows that the percentages under 35 years and 35 to 54 years were lower in 2006 than in 2001, while the percentage 55 years and over was higher.

Fig. 41 Per Cent Distribution of Alberta Farm Operators by Age Class, 1981-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1981-2006

Table 104: Census of Agriculture, Farms and Land, Canada and Provinces, 1991-2006

	Nfld.			N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
Total Number of Farms (1)											
1991.....	725	2,361	3,980	3,252	38,076	68,633	25,706	60,840	57,245	19,225	280,043
1996.....	742	2,217	4,453	3,405	35,991	67,520	24,383	56,995	59,007	21,835	276,548
2001.....	643	1,845		3,034	32,139	59,728	21,071	50,598	53,652	20,290	246,923
2006.....	558	1,700		2,776	30,675	57,211	19,054	44,329	49,431	19,844	229,373
% Change											
'96/'91	2.3	-6.1	11.9	4.7	-5.5	-1.6	-5.1	-6.3	3.1	13.6	-1.2
'01/'96	-13.3	-16.8	#VALUE!	-10.9	-10.7	-11.5	-13.6	-11.2	-9.1	-7.1	-10.7
'06/'01	-13.2	-7.9	#VALUE!	-8.5	-4.6	-4.2	-9.6	-12.4	-7.9	-2.2	-7.1
% Share of Canada											
1991.....	0.3	0.8	1.4	1.2	13.6	24.5	9.2	21.7	20.4	6.9	100.0
1996.....	0.3	0.8	1.6	1.2	13.0	24.4	8.8	20.6	21.3	7.9	100.0
2001.....	0.3	0.7	#VALUE!	1.2	13.0	24.2	8.5	20.5	21.7	8.2	100.0
2006.....	0.2	0.7	#VALUE!	1.2	13.4	24.9	8.3	19.3	21.6	8.7	100.0
Total Land Area of Farms (Acres)											
1991.....	117,011	639,693	981,086	928,205	8,474,751	13,470,653	19,088,868	66,386,074	51,425,111	5,911,605	167,423,057
1996.....	108,320	655,365	1,055,941	953,873	8,540,488	13,879,565	19,106,531	65,653,588	51,964,360	6,249,444	168,167,475
2001.....	100,271	646,137	1,005,833	958,899	8,443,656	13,507,357	18,784,407	64,903,830	52,058,898	6,392,909	166,802,197
2006.....	89,441	619,885	995,943	976,629	8,557,101	13,310,216	19,073,005	64,253,845	52,127,857	7,006,569	167,010,491
% Change											
'96/'91	-7.4	2.4	7.6	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-1.1	1.0	5.7	0.4
'01/'96	-13.2	-1.4	-4.7	0.5	-1.1	-2.7	-1.7	-1.1	0.2	2.3	-0.8
'06/'01	-10.8	-4.1	-1.0	1.8	1.3	-1.5	1.5	-1.0	0.1	9.6	0.1
% Share of Canada											
1991.....	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	5.1	8.0	11.4	39.7	30.7	3.5	100.0
1996.....	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	5.1	8.3	11.4	39.0	30.9	3.7	100.0
2001.....	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	5.1	8.1	11.3	38.9	31.2	3.8	100.0
2006.....	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	5.1	8.0	11.4	38.5	31.2	4.2	100.0
Average Farm Size (Acres)											
1991.....	161	271	247	285	223	196	743	1,091	898	307	598
1996.....	146	296	237	280	237	206	784	1,152	881	286	608
2001.....	156	350	#VALUE!	316	263	226	891	1,283	970	315	676
2006.....	160	365	#VALUE!	352	279	233	1,001	1,449	1,055	353	728
Number of Farms (1,120 Acres or Larger)											
1991.....	14	59	69	68	310	727	5,139	21,243	12,605	1,045	41,279
1996.....	12	77	85	92	418	967	5,424	21,399	12,513	1,071	42,058
2001.....	15	104	81	106	585	1,154	5,480	20,091	12,552	1,139	41,307
2006.....	12	108	90	128	840	1,403	5,599	19,025	12,354	1,231	40,790
% Change											
'96/'91	-14.3	30.5	23.2	35.3	34.8	33.0	5.5	0.7	-0.7	2.5	1.9
'01/'96	25.0	35.1	-4.7	15.2	40.0	19.3	1.0	-6.1	0.3	6.3	-1.8
'06/'01	-20.0	3.8	11.1	20.8	43.6	21.6	2.2	-5.3	-1.6	8.1	-1.3
Farms 1,120 Acres or Larger as a % of Total Number of Farms											
1991.....	1.9	2.5	1.7	2.1	0.8	1.1	20.0	34.9	22.0	5.4	14.7
1996.....	1.6	3.5	1.9	2.7	1.2	1.4	22.2	37.5	21.2	4.9	15.2
2001.....	2.3	5.6	#VALUE!	3.5	1.8	1.9	26.0	39.7	23.4	5.6	16.7
2006.....	2.2	6.4	#VALUE!	4.6	2.7	2.5	29.4	42.9	25.0	6.2	17.8
Total Land in Crops (Acres)											
1991.....	15,503	380,796	262,503	302,079	4,048,706	8,430,414	11,764,813	33,257,706	22,961,142	1,375,873	82,799,535
1996.....	17,742	420,971	277,658	333,611	4,296,697	8,759,707	11,611,844	35,579,845	23,590,033	1,397,970	86,286,078
2001.....	20,843	433,641	294,596	367,898	4,571,296	9,035,915	11,650,599	37,994,752	24,038,861	1,525,986	89,934,387
2006.....	22,671	423,281	288,146	375,590	4,777,225	9,046,383	11,616,450	36,967,225	23,775,509	1,448,626	88,741,106
% Change											
'96/'91	14.4	10.6	5.8	10.4	6.1	3.9	-1.3	7.0	2.7	1.6	4.2
'01/'96	17.5	3.0	6.1	10.3	6.4	3.2	0.3	6.8	1.9	9.2	4.2
'06/'01	8.8	-2.4	-2.2	2.1	4.5	0.1	-0.3	-2.7	-1.1	-5.1	-1.3
% Share of Canada											
1991.....	0.02	0.5	0.3	0.4	4.9	10.2	14.2	40.2	27.7	1.7	100.0
1996.....	0.02	0.5	0.3	0.4	5.0	10.2	13.5	41.2	27.3	1.6	100.0
2001.....	0.02	0.5	0.3	0.4	5.1	10.0	13.0	42.2	26.7	1.7	100.0
2006.....	0.03	0.5	0.3	0.4	5.4	10.2	13.1	41.7	26.8	1.6	100.0

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca

Table 105: Census of Agriculture, Profile for Alberta, 1986-2006

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	% of Total	% Chg. '06/'01
	<i>Number</i>					<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Population of Alberta.....	2,365,830	2,545,555	2,696,826	2,974,807	3,290,350	100.0	10.6
Rural Population.....	488,070	514,660	554,011	569,647	590,499	17.9	3.7
Urban.....	1,877,760	2,030,895	2,142,815	2,405,160	2,699,851	82.1	12.3
Total	57,777	57,245	59,007	53,652	49,431	...	-7.9
Total Census Farm Operators (2)	-	-	82,455	76,195	71,660	...	-6.0
	<i>Acres</i>					<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Average Farm Size.....	883	898	881	970	1,055	...	8.8
	<i>Number</i>					<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Distribution of Farms by Size							
Under 10 Acres.....	1,031	1,008	1,511	1,118	1,063	2.2	-4.9
10 - 69 Acres.....	3,365	3,420	4,458	4,098	4,593	9.3	12.1
70 - 239 Acres.....	12,588	13,268	14,724	13,374	12,040	24.4	-10.0
240 - 399 Acres.....	8,726	8,536	8,420	7,299	6,386	12.9	-12.5
400 - 559 Acres.....	6,267	5,911	5,594	4,986	4,209	8.5	-15.6
560 - 759 Acres.....	6,103	5,672	5,363	4,600	3,979	8.0	-13.5
760 - 1,119 Acres.....	7,341	6,825	6,424	5,625	4,807	9.7	-14.5
1,120 Acres and Over.....	12,356	12,605	12,513	12,552	12,354	25.0	-1.6
1,120 - 1,599 Acres.....	5,164	5,188	4,845	4,382	3,924	7.9	-10.5
1,600 acres and over.....	7,192	7,417	7,668	8,170	8,430	17.1	3.2
Total Farms.....	57,777	57,245	59,007	53,652	49,431	100.0	-7.9
Farms Reporting Gross Farm Receipts of \$2,500 or More by Type (3)							
Dairy.....	1,828	1,379	1,418	776	627	1.3	-19.2
Cattle (Beef).....	17,110	22,143	24,718	22,939	20,474	44.0	-10.7
Hog.....	1,635	1,653	1,149	848	565	1.2	-33.4
Poultry and Egg.....	533	412	527	446	375	0.8	-15.9
Wheat.....	8,504	6,015	5,243	3,718	2,733	5.9	-26.5
Grain and Oilseed (except wheat).....	15,403	12,659	10,343	9,327	9,568	20.6	2.6
Field Crops (except grain and oilseed).....	1,187	2,540	3,825	4,725	3,923	8.4	-17.0
Fruit.....	14	62	95	73	136	0.3	86.3
Vegetable.....	105	80	68	70	96	0.2	37.1
Miscellaneous Specialty.....	1,944	3,730	4,794	5,495	6,403	13.8	16.5
Livestock Combination.....	1,399	1,775	1,448	1,165	1,019	2.2	-12.5
Other Combinations.....	2,081	995	998	998	627	1.3	-37.2
Total Farms Classified.....	51,743	53,443	54,626	50,580	46,546	100.0	-8.0
Use of Land	<i>Acres</i>					<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Total Area of Farms.....	51,040,463	51,425,111	51,964,360	52,058,898	52,127,857	100.0	0.1
Total Land in Crops.....	22,641,092	22,961,142	23,590,033	24,038,861	23,775,509	45.6	-1.1
Summerfallow.....	5,255,965	4,377,212	3,550,265	3,053,214	2,239,633	4.3	-26.6
Tame or Seeded Pasture (4).....	3,402,183	4,305,760	4,731,087	5,512,654	6,137,362	11.8	11.3
Unimproved Land.....	19,148,947	16,492,059	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Land for Pasture.....	-	-	16,347,251	16,503,920	16,135,646	31.0	-2.2
All Other Land.....	592,276	3,288,938	3,745,724	2,950,249	3,839,707	7.4	30.1
Christmas Tree Area, Woodland and Wetland.....	-	-	-	-	2,849,415	5.5	-
All Other Land.....	-	-	-	-	990,292	1.9	-
Farm Land Classified by Tenure							
Total Area of Farms.....	51,040,463	51,425,111	51,964,360	52,058,898	52,127,857	100.0	0.1
Area Owned.....	29,785,690	30,467,667	31,344,893	30,701,572	30,033,280	57.6	-2.2
% of Total Area of Farms.....	58.4	59.2	60.3	59.0	57.6	...	...
Area Rented or Leased From Others.....	21,254,773	20,957,444	20,619,467	21,357,326	22,094,577	42.4	3.5
% of Total Area of Farms.....	41.6	40.8	39.7	41.0	42.4	...	...

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca

Table 105 (Cont'd.): Census of Agriculture, Profile for Alberta, 1986-2006

		1991	1996	2001	2006	% of Total	% Chg. '06/'01
						%	%
Land Management Practices (5)							
Commercial Fertilizer.....	16,938,768	15,690,907	17,375,043	16,556,173	17,211,462	...	4.0
Lime.....	-	-	-	-	29,942	...	-
Herbicides.....	14,012,340	14,949,086	16,368,127	15,858,085	...	-3.1	
Insecticides or Fungicides.....	1,367,186	2,082,940	2,186,122	2,832,747	...	29.6	
Irrigation.....	1,150,936	1,132,086	1,276,535	1,233,649	1,325,929	100.0	7.5
Irrigated Field Crops (6).....	-	-	-	-	902,105	68.0	-
Irrigated Hay and Pasture 6).....	-	-	-	-	406,257	30.6	-
Irrigated Vegetables (6).....	-	-	-	-	9,420	0.7	-
Irrigated Fruit (6).....	-	-	-	-	992	0.1	-
Other Irrigated Areas (nursery, sod, etc.) (6).....	-	-	-	-	7,155	0.5	-
Tillage Incorporating Crop Residue.....	-	14,291,324	10,657,824	6,847,096	4,589,714	...	-33.0
Tillage Retaining Crop Reside on Surface.....	-	4,779,955	6,166,922	6,550,489	5,185,594	...	-20.8
No-till or Zero-till Seeding.....	-	614,109	1,936,370	5,068,199	8,950,836	...	76.6
Soil Conservation Practices and Features							
		% of Farms				%	%
Crop Rotation.....	-	38.5	55.7	58.2	59.3	...	...
Winter Cover Crops	-	5.8	3.0	2.3	3.9	...	...
Windbreaks or Shelterbelts	-	15.6	18.7	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				%	%
Total Land in Crops	22,641,092	22,961,142	23,590,033	24,038,861	23,775,509	100.0	-1.1
% Change From Previous Census Year.....	8.5	1.4	2.7	1.9	-1.1	...	...
Selected Field Crops Grown							
Grains.....	15,021,037	14,935,426	14,818,647	13,645,690	12,327,276	51.8	-9.7
Total Wheat.....	7,601,700	7,714,992	7,324,846	6,852,596	6,467,628	27.2	-5.6
Spring Wheat (excluding durum).....	6,516,630	6,885,763	6,448,110	5,809,275	5,768,705	24.3	-0.7
Durum Wheat.....	638,807	745,179	781,627	962,906	570,771	2.4	-40.7
Winter Wheat.....	446,263	84,050	95,109	80,415	128,152	0.5	59.4
Oats (7)	1,183,426	1,285,430	1,386,179	1,364,674	1,269,229	5.3	-7.0
Barley	5,892,677	5,404,324	5,775,824	4,902,090	4,094,689	17.2	-16.5
Mixed Grains.....	122,398	360,757	226,374	404,174	373,005	1.6	-7.7
Corn for Grain.....	7,235	8,670	2,559	5,018	4,326	0.0	-13.8
Rye Total.....	213,601	161,253	102,865	117,138	118,399	0.5	1.1
Fall Rye.....	168,709	126,007	80,701	89,480	105,059	0.4	17.4
Spring Rye.....	44,892	35,246	22,164	27,658	13,340	0.1	-51.8
Oilseeds.....	2,891,727	3,056,282	3,188,142	2,702,432	4,133,352	17.4	52.9
Canola.....	2,802,720	2,982,130	3,151,296	2,660,509	4,068,511	17.1	52.9
Flaxseed.....	84,572	70,506	34,082	40,219	60,372	0.3	50.1
Soybeans.....	x	797	1,059	88	2,677	0.0	2,942.0
Sunflowers.....	4,435	2,849	1,705	1,616	1,792	0.0	10.9
Hay and Fodder Crops.....	4,330,864	4,357,124	4,765,965	6,232,188	6,066,400	25.5	-2.7
Corn for Silage.....	21,769	20,768	12,800	36,814	70,411	0.3	91.3
Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures.....	-	2,502,024	2,997,653	3,915,607	3,935,022	16.6	0.5
All Other Tame Hay and Fodder Crops.....	4,309,095	1,834,332	1,755,512	2,279,767	2,060,967	8.7	-9.6
Other Field Crops							
Forage Seed.....	-	230,609	236,974	409,251	244,615	1.0	-40.2
Potatoes.....	22,450	28,339	31,488	58,341	54,759	0.2	-6.1
Mustard Seed.....	69,268	59,872	91,909	57,116	62,538	0.3	9.5
Sugar Beets.....	29,668	35,075	36,231	29,726	38,803	0.2	30.5
Triticale.....	6,674	7,618	25,675	68,412	76,299	0.3	11.5
Dry Field Peas.....	14,630	167,056	286,037	608,217	587,263	2.5	-3.4
Total Dry Field Beans.....	13,054	29,352	28,416	150,006	102,788	0.4	-31.5
Vegetables Grown for Sale (excluding greenhouse)	8,895	11,536	13,743	14,194	13,193	0.1	-7.1

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca

Table 105 (Cont'd.): Census of Agriculture, Profile for Alberta, 1986-2006

		1991	1996	2001	2006	% of Total	% Chg. '06/'01
						%	%
Greenhouse Area in Use.....	5,588,482	5,744,516	7,959,527	10,556,535	12,432,719	100.0	17.8
Flowers (cut, bedding plants, etc.).....	3,369,112	3,458,812	4,257,565	5,030,590	5,794,901	46.6	15.2
Vegetables.....		2,163,808	2,752,860	3,644,696	4,729,622	38.0	29.8
Other Greenhouse Products.....		121,896	949,102	1,881,249	1,908,196	15.3	1.4
Growing Area for Mushrooms.....		391,644	497,304	470,020	497,304	100.0	5.8
		Number				%	%
Total Farms Reporting Organic Production.....	-	-	-	-	2,629	100.0	-
Certified Organic Production.....	-	-	-	197	230	8.7	16.8
Hay or Field Crops.....	-	-	-	142	193	7.3	35.9
Fruits, Vegetables or Greenhouse Products.....	-	-	-	21	31	1.2	47.6
Animals or Animal Products.....	-	-	-	60	84	3.2	40.0
Other Organic Products.....	-	-	-	30	13	0.5	-56.7
Transitional Organic Production (6).....	-	-	-	-	26	1.0	-
Uncertified Organic Production (6).....	-	-	-	-	2,405	91.5	-
Livestock and Poultry on Farms at May 16, 2006							
Total Cattle and Calves (8).....	3,827,143	4,756,365	5,942,257	6,615,201	6,369,116	100.0	-3.7
Total Cows.....	1,445,760	1,741,632	2,119,719	2,183,332	2,114,716	33.2	-3.1
Dairy Cows.....	124,204	105,905	102,830	84,044	78,875	1.2	-6.2
Beef Cows.....	1,321,556	1,635,727	2,016,889	2,099,288	2,035,841	32.0	-3.0
Total Heifers.....	571,158	733,665	952,563	1,159,329	1,119,315	17.6	-3.5
Bulls - One Year and Over.....	78,996	95,525	118,600	111,379	109,753	1.7	-1.5
Steers - One Year and Over.....	478,147	626,350	892,696	991,554	974,559	15.3	-1.7
Calves - Under One Year.....	1,253,082	1,559,193	1,858,679	2,169,607	2,050,773	32.2	-5.5
Other Livestock and Poultry							
Pigs.....	1,454,824	1,729,870	1,729,810	2,027,533	2,052,067	...	1.2
Sheep and Lambs.....	179,123	305,642	259,817	307,302	222,340	...	-27.6
Horses and Ponies.....	135,025	109,237	149,960	159,962	155,533	...	-2.8
Bison (Buffalo).....	-	-	22,782	79,731	97,366	...	22.1
Deer and Elk.....	-	-	10,687	39,635	42,748	...	7.9
Total Hens and Chickens.....	8,852,415	8,702,434	9,485,635	12,175,246	11,757,860	...	-3.4
Total Turkeys.....	763,485	812,849	842,798	864,438	703,462	...	-18.6
Chicks and Poults Hatched in Commercial Hatcheries	-	-	58,452,442	71,319,860	63,625,470	...	-10.8
Colonies of Honey Bees.....	-	147,706	170,288	209,821	230,894	...	10.0
Gallons of Other Pollinating Bees (6).....	-	-	-	-	89,580	...	-
Poultry Production		kilograms				%	%
Broilers, Roasters and Cornish.....	-	-	72,660,726	105,387,692	115,766,269	...	9.8
Turkey.....	-	-	12,984,255	15,068,034	16,054,282	...	6.5
Operating Arrangements of Farms (9)							
		Number of Farms				%	%
Sole Proprietorship.....	47,862	35,875	35,938	30,409	27,815	56.3	-8.5
Total Partnership.....	6,448	16,742	16,672	16,147	13,920	28.2	-13.8
Partnership With a Written Agreement.....	1,654	2,455	2,664	2,135	1,458	2.9	-31.7
Partnership With No Written Agreement.....	4,794	14,287	14,008	14,012	12,462	25.2	-11.1
Total Corporation.....	3,063	4,307	6,209	7,096	7,696	15.6	8.5
Family Corporation.....	2,864	3,663	5,248	6,124	6,714	13.6	9.6
Non-Family Corporation.....	199	644	961	733	697	1.4	-4.9
Other Types.....	404	321	188	239	285	0.6	19.2
Total Farms.....	57,777	57,245	59,007	53,652	49,431	100.0	-7.9
Value of Farm Capital							
Total Capital (\$'000).....	28,623,414	30,806,123	40,150,414	55,256,378	71,781,210	100.0	29.9
Land and Buildings (\$'000) (10).....	20,773,519	21,291,475	28,733,732	38,872,514	57,101,345	79.5	46.9
Farm Machinery and Equipment (\$'000) (11).....	5,382,302	6,079,438	7,466,999	8,684,163	9,680,138	13.5	11.5
Livestock and Poultry (\$'000).....	2,467,592	3,435,210	3,949,683	7,699,701	4,999,727	7.0	-35.1
Average Per Reporting Farm (\$).	495,412	538,145	680,435	1,029,903	1,452,150	...	41.0

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca

Table 105 (Cont'd.): Census of Agriculture, Profile for Alberta, 1986-2006

						% of Total	% Chg. '06/'01
	1991	1996	2001	2006			
Gross Farm Receipts (12)						%	%
Total Receipts (\$'000).....	4,473,871	5,541,937	7,911,131	9,919,447	9,889,045	...	-0.3
Average Per Reporting Farm (\$)	77,433	96,811	134,071	184,885	200,058	...	8.2
Farms by Class of Gross Farm Receipts						%	%
Under \$2,500.....		3,802	4,381	3,072	2,885	5.8	-6.1
\$2,500 - \$4,999.....	4,047	3,159	3,218	2,630	2,584	5.2	-1.7
\$5,000 - \$9,999.....	5,697	4,810	5,296	4,387	4,322	8.7	-1.5
\$10,000 - \$24,999.....	10,244	11,255	10,466	9,565	8,720	17.6	-8.8
Under \$25,000.....	26,022	23,026	23,361	19,654	18,511	37.4	-5.8
\$25,000 - \$49,999.....	9,842	9,950	9,057	8,335	7,170	14.5	-14.0
\$50,000 - \$99,999.....	10,549	10,681	9,689	8,526	7,448	15.1	-12.6
Over \$100,000.....	11,364	13,588	16,900	17,137	16,302	33.0	-4.9
\$100,000 - \$249,999.....	8,550	9,744	11,126	10,131	8,805	17.8	-13.1
\$250,000 - \$499,999.....	1,889	2,556	3,811	4,230	4,333	8.8	2.4
\$500,000 and Over.....	925	1,288	1,963	2,776	3,164	6.4	14.0
\$500,000 - \$999,999.....	-	-	-	1,628	1,871	3.8	14.9
\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999.....	-	-	-	625	688	1.4	10.1
\$2,000,000 and over.....	-	-	-	523	605	1.2	15.7
Total Farms Classified.....	57,777	57,245	59,007	53,652	49,431	100.0	-7.9
Farm Operating Expenses (13)	Current Dollars					%	%
Total Expenses (\$'000).....	3,943,193	4,653,484	6,669,475	8,908,533	8,791,632	...	-1.3
Average Per Reporting Farm.....	68,248	81,291	113,029	166,043	177,857	...	7.1
Selected Average Farm Operating Expenses Per Reporting Farm (\$)							
Rent or Leasing Expenses (14).....	7,309	7,587	9,837	9,825	13,508	...	37.5
Wages and Salaries.....	10,207	13,513	17,037	23,058	31,237	...	35.5
Fuel, Oil and Lubricants for Machinery (15).....	5,827	5,339	5,797	-	-	...	-
All Fuel Expenses (diesel, gasoline, oil, wood, nat. gas, etc.)	-	-	-	8,440	12,017	...	42.4
Fertilizer and Lime.....	8,949	8,410	13,825	16,251	23,580	...	45.1
Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides.....	4,294	5,180	7,801	12,138	16,124	...	32.8
Feed and Supplements.....	15,217	14,656	22,830	34,438	40,413	...	17.3
Custom Work, Contract Work and Machine Rental (16).....	3,350	4,703	7,564	-	-	...	-
Custom Work and Contract Work.....	-	-	-	9,944	15,024	...	51.1
Machine Rental or Leasing.....	-	-	-	6,313	7,180	...	13.7
Use of a Personal Computer for Farm Management	Number of Farms					%	%
Total Farms Reporting	1,739	7,011	13,491	21,813	23,410	...	7.3
% of Census Farms.....	3.0	12.2	22.9	40.7	47.4	...	...
Type of Use							
Bookkeeping, Payroll or Tax Preparation.....	-	-	-	17,039	17,222	73.6	1.1
Livestock or Crop Record Keeping.....	-	-	-	10,035	9,640	41.2	-3.9
Word Processing.....	-	-	-	15,062	16,486	70.4	9.5
Internet.....	-	-	-	15,658	17,195	73.5	9.8
E-Mail.....	-	-	-	14,468	16,130	68.9	11.5
Desktop Publishing (6).....	-	-	-	-	3,737	16.0	-
Banking (6).....	-	-	-	-	10,357	44.2	-
Other Applications.....	-	-	-	141	38	0.2	-73.0
Paid Agricultural Labour							
Total Farms Reporting.....	24,978	22,483	23,890	21,218	17,195	...	-19.0
	Number of Weeks					%	%
Paid Labour.....	867,535	784,665	1,008,064	1,084,852	959,231	...	-11.6
Average Per Reporting Farm.....	35	35	42	51	56	...	9.4

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca

Table 106: Census of Agriculture, Alberta Farm Operators, 1996-2006

	2001		2006	% of Total	% Chg. '06/'01
				%	%
Total Census Farms.....	59,005	53,652	49,431	100.0	-7.9
Total Farm Operators (17) (18).....	76,195	71,660		100.0	-6.0
Total Operators on Farms with One Operator.....	32,025	28,045		39.1	-12.4
Total Operators on Farms with Two or More Operators.....	44,170	43,620		60.9	-1.2
Average Age of Farm Operators	Years			%	%
All Farm Operators.....	48.2	49.9	52.2	...	4.6
On Farms With One Operator.....	50.2	51.7	53.8	...	4.1
On Farms With Two or More Operators.....	46.7	48.6	51.2	...	5.3
	Number			%	%
Total Operators on All Farms	82,455	76,195	71,660	100.0	-6.0
Male.....	60,585	54,565	50,190	70.0	-8.0
Female.....	21,870	21,635	21,470	30.0	-0.8
Total Operators on Farms With One Operator	35,435	32,025	28,045	100.0	-12.4
Male.....	33,110	29,530	25,670	91.5	-13.1
Female.....	2,320	2,490	2,370	8.5	-4.8
Total Operators on Farms With Two or More Operators	47,020	44,170	43,620	100.0	-1.2
Male.....	27,470	25,040	24,525	56.2	-2.1
Female.....	19,550	19,135	19,095	43.8	-0.2
Operators by Age on All Farms	82,455	76,195	71,660	100.0	-6.0
Under 35 years.....	13,485	8,900	6,290	8.8	-29.3
35 to 54 years.....	42,315	40,430	35,935	50.1	-11.1
55 years and over.....	26,655	26,875	29,440	41.1	9.5
Operators by Age on Farms With One Operator	35,435	32,025	28,045	100.0	-12.4
Under 35 years.....	4,830	3,070	2,045	7.3	-33.4
35 to 54 years.....	17,055	16,130	13,335	47.5	-17.3
55 years and over.....	13,550	12,815	12,665	45.2	-1.2
Operators by Age on Farms With Two or More Operators	47,020	44,170	43,620	100.0	-1.2
Under 35 years.....	8,650	5,825	4,245	9.7	-27.1
35 to 54 years.....	25,265	24,295	22,605	51.8	-7.0
55 years and over.....	13,105	14,050	16,780	38.5	19.4
Average Hours Per Week Worked for the Agricultural Operation					
Less than 20 hours.....	19,675	18,965	20,465	28.6	7.9
20 to 40 hours.....	21,825	21,935	19,970	27.9	-9.0
More than 40 hours.....	40,960	35,290	31,225	43.6	-11.5
Operators Reporting Paid Non-Farm Work (19)					
None.....	56,230	38,720	32,560	45.4	-15.9
Less than 20 hours per week.....	6,500	7,380	7,560	10.5	2.4
20 to 40 hours per week.....	10,915	14,750	14,190	19.8	-3.8
More than 40 hours per week.....	8,805	15,345	17,355	24.2	13.1
Total Farms Reporting Farm-Related Injuries	-	-	3,170	...	-
To the Operator.....	-	-	2,851	...	-
To Other Family Members (6).....	-	-	472	...	-
To Other Persons (6).....	-	-	176	...	-

See Census of Agriculture - Notes

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture. For more information visit the Statistics Canada web site at: www.statcan.ca