

## Census Definitions and Notes

### General Notes

#### Conversion Factors

1 acre = 0.404 685 6 hectares  
1 hectare = 2.471 05 acres  
1 square foot = 0.092 903 04 square meters  
1 square meter = 10.763 91 square feet  
1 kilogram = 2.204 622 6 pounds  
1 pound = 0.453 592 4 kilograms

#### Rounding

Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to the use of conversion factors or the rounding of fractions to whole numbers. The "random rounding" procedure was applied to all data appearing in the farm operator tables. Employing this technique, all figures, including totals, were randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of 5.

#### Geographic Amalgamations

Due to confidentiality constraints, agricultural data for subdivisions with very few farms were combined with data from adjacent areas. Following are the amalgamations for the 2006 Census of Agriculture:

Census Division	2006 I.D.	Amalgamations & Components
<b>C.D. No. 5</b>	<b>482005031</b>	<b>Starland County</b>
	482005031	Starland County
	482005026	Drumheller
<b>C.D. No. 12</b>	<b>486012005</b>	<b>Lakeland County</b>
	486012005	Lakeland County
	4816	Wood Buffalo (Division # 16)
<b>C.D. No. 15</b>	<b>483015045</b>	<b>Ranchland No. 66</b>
	483015045	Ranchland No. 66
	483015013	Kananaskis
	483015032	Improvement District No. 9
	483015037	Improvement District No. 12
<b>C.D. No. 17</b>	<b>487017033</b>	<b>Lesser Slave River No. 124</b>
	487017033	Lesser Slave River No. 124
	487017031	Opportunity No. 17

#### Data are not available for:

(due to minimal or no agricultural activity)

- Improvement District No. 4 (Waterton Park)
- Improvement District No. 13 (Elk Island)
- Improvement District No. 25 (Willmore Wilderness Park)
- Jasper Improvement District

#### Headquarters Rule

Many agricultural operations in Canada are composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations. These different locations are often situated in several geographic areas (such as townships or counties). In these situations, the "headquarters rule" assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the geographic area where the farm headquarters is located.

### Incomplete Enumeration of Indian Reserves and Indian Settlements

On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2006 Census, enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed. Moreover, for some Indian reserves and Indian settlements, the quality of the enumeration was considered inadequate. These geographic areas are called incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.

Data for census farms located on these incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements are therefore not available. The impact of the missing data is very small for higher-level geographic areas (Canada, provinces, and census agricultural regions). However, the impact is more significant for those smaller areas (census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions) in which the affected reserves and settlements are located.

For a listing of the names and locations of the incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, please refer to the Statistics Canada web site at <http://www.statcan.ca>.

### *What's new for 2006?*

Although no topics on the 2006 Census of Agriculture questionnaire are entirely new, several questions have been added or changed. Most notable are:

#### Bees

Selling bees and their pollination services is a growing agricultural activity. Leafcutter bees, as well as other varieties, are becoming increasingly important for pollinating crops such as alfalfa and blueberries, as well as in greenhouses. In 2006, the question on bees asked about numbers of colonies of honeybees as well as numbers of other bees used exclusively for pollination. Pollinating bees are reported in "gallons".

#### Conservation Practices and Features

In 2006, *Permanent grass cover*, *Contour cultivation*, *Grassed waterways*, *Strip-cropping* and *Mechanical or hand weeding of crops* were dropped. *Rotational grazing for soil conservation* and *Buffer zones around water bodies* were added to this category.

#### Fruits, Berries and Nuts

The *Producing area* column that had been added for all fruit trees and nuts in 2001 was dropped for 2006.

#### Hay and Field Crops

Triticale was again added as a variable in 2006, after having been reported under other field crops in 2001.

#### Injuries

In past censuses, farm-related injuries could only be reported for the farm operator. For 2006, this section was expanded to include farm-related injuries to anyone working on the farm.

## Irrigation

In 2006, farm operators could report the use of an irrigation system, as well as the land that was irrigated. In 2001, irrigation was one of many possible land management practices.

## Land Tenure

In 2006, the category *Other areas USED by the operation, (Examples: land trading, rent free, etc.)* was added to the question on *area sharecropped, rented or leased from others* as well as to the question on *area sharecropped, rented or leased to others*.

## Land Use

For 2006, reporting for *All Other Land* is further broken down to *Area in Christmas trees, woodlands and wetlands*, and *All other land*.

## Manure

In 2001, the only question asked was if manure was applied. For 2006, an initial question asked whether manure was produced or used on the operation. If the answer to either was 'yes', several options were listed to indicate how it was used. A third question determined the method of manure application, the area on which each method was used, and how the land on which the manure was applied was used.

## Organic Production

In 2001, operators could only report their certified-organic products produced for sale. For 2006, producers could report products for sale that were organic but not certified, or were in transition to becoming certified. Space was also provided to identify the certifying agency if certified or transitional products were produced.

## Use of Computer

*Desktop publishing* and *Banking applications used* were added to the choice of computer applications used in 2006.

## Value of Farm Machinery and Equipment

The 2001 questions *Number Owned*, and *Number Leased* were consolidated into *Number owned and leased* in 2006.

The 2001 category *Tractors Under 100hp* was split to *Tractors under 60hp* and *Tractors 60-90hp* in 2006.

## Vegetables Grown for Sale

In 2006, pumpkins are reported separately from squash and zucchini. *Rhubarb* has been removed as a separate variable and is reported under *Other vegetables* in 2006.

## Deleted Topics

### Capital Purchases

Beginning with the 2001 Census of Agriculture, the entire topic was excluded now more complete information is available through the Farm Financial Survey, which is conducted annually.

## Definitions

### All Other Land

All other land includes land on which farm buildings, barnyards, lanes, home gardens, greenhouses and mushroom houses are located; idle land; woodlots; sugarbush; tree windbreaks; bogs; marshes; sloughs; etc. Since 1996, "All Other Land" also includes Christmas tree area.

### Buffer Zones Around Water Bodies

Areas along natural watercourses left with natural vegetation (unfarmed) and designed to prevent erosion, especially in stream channels that become wider and shallower, to preserve wildlife habitat and fish stocks, and protect water quality for livestock and people. Also referred to as riparian areas, i.e., land bordering a stream or body of water.

### Corn for Silage

Corn in which the entire plant, including the cob, is chopped up and stored in upright silos, bunker silos or plastic bags, and used for animal feed.

### Corporation

An incorporated business registered with a provincial or federal agency as a legal entity separate from the owner. **Family corporation:** an incorporated business operation where an individual or members of a family own the majority of the corporation shares. **Non-family corporation:** an incorporated business operation where a group of unrelated individuals owns the majority of the corporation shares.

### Crop Rotation

Changing the type of crop grown on the same land from year to year or periodically to control weeds, insects, disease, and replenish soil nutrients or reduce erosion.

### Crop Share

An agreement between the landowner and the person operating the land (the share cropper), in which the crop is shared, rather than cash rent being paid. Cropping expenses may or may not be shared. The person who does not own the land but operates it reports any areas being crop-shared.

### Custom Work

Work done somewhere other than on the agricultural operator's operation using his/her equipment in return for money or other payment. Includes custom plowing or combining, trucking, drying grain, cleaning seed, spreading fertilizer, spraying crops, cleaning feedlots, etc.

### Farm (Census Farm)

Over time, the definition of a farm has changed. In 1971 and 1976, a farm was defined as an agricultural holding of one acre or more with sales of agricultural products of \$50 or more. In 1981 and 1986, the minimum sales requirement was increased to \$250. In 1991, a farm was referred to as a census farm, ranch or other agricultural holding which produces at least one of the following products intended for sale (no minimum sales requirement): crops, livestock, poultry, animal products, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod or honey.

The 1996 definition was expanded to include commercial poultry hatcheries and operations that produced only Christmas trees.

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, commercial poultry hatcheries); 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 Capital

Farm capital includes the value of all farmland, buildings, farm machinery and equipment (including passenger vehicles used in the farm business) and livestock and poultry. Respondents report the value of their land, buildings, farm machinery and equipment as of Census Day. Values for livestock and poultry inventories reported in the census are calculated using data on average farm prices for the various types of livestock and poultry. Farm capital does not include the value of crops in the field or in storage, or farm inputs on hand, such as fertilizer and seed.

## Farm Operators

Since 1991 farm operators have been 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. This is a count of distinct operators; hence, operators of two or more separate farms are included only once in the total. Prior to the 1991 Census of Agriculture, the farm operator referred to only one person responsible for the day-to-day decisions made in running an agricultural operation.

## Farm Operating Expenses

Any cost associated with producing crops or livestock, except the purchase of land, buildings or equipment. Includes the cost of seed, feed, fuel, fertilizers, etc.

Refers to gross operating expenses of the operation in the previous calendar year, or for the last complete accounting (fiscal) year, and excludes depreciation and capital cost allowance.

## Farm Type

For this publication, each census farm is classified according to the predominant type of production. 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. The commodity or group of commodities that account for 51 per cent or more of the total potential receipts determines the farm type. This farm type classification, referred to as "historical," is based on the Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC).

**Grain and Oilseed** farm type includes the following farm types: oilseed, corn for grain, dry field pea and bean, and other small grain.

**Field Crops** farm type includes hay and fodder crops, forage seed for seed, tobacco, potato and other field crops, excluding grains and oilseeds.

**Miscellaneous Specialty** farm type includes the following farm types: sheep and lamb, goat, horse and pony, fur, other livestock specialty, mushroom, greenhouse products, nursery products and sod, maple, and Christmas tree.

**Livestock combination** farm type includes cattle and hog farms, cattle, hog and sheep farms, and other livestock combination farms.

**Other Combination** farm type includes other field crop combination farms, fruit and vegetable combination farms, and all other types of farms.

For 2006 and 2001, a new farm type classification, based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), has been included by Statistics Canada, in addition to the historical classification used in previous censuses. For farm types classified by NAICS, please visit the Statistics Canada website at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

## Field Crops

Includes hay, alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, wheat (spring, durum, winter), oats, barley, mixed grains, corn (grain and silage), rye (fall and spring), canola, soybeans, flaxseed, dry field peas, chick peas, lentils, beans (dry white and other beans), forage seed, potatoes, mustard seed, sunflowers, canary seed, tobacco, ginseng, buckwheat, sugar beets, caraway seed, triticale, and other field crops such as solin, safflower, coriander and other spices, etc.

## Fodder Crops

Includes alfalfa, barley, clover, corn and sorghum and any other crops in which the whole plant is used to feed cattle, sheep and other ruminants.

## Forage Seed

Seed from fodder crops grown commercially for seed. Includes timothy, fescue, clover, alfalfa, wheat grass, and turf grass seed.

## Fungicide

A chemical used to control, suppress or kill fungi that severely interrupt normal plant growth.

## Green Manure Crops for Plough Down

Young green plants, such as buckwheat and red clover, incorporated into the soil to improve fertility. Usually grown only to improve the soil. Plowing down green crops: when a crop such as winter wheat, fall rye, buckwheat or red clover is planted but "plowed under" before it can be harvested.

## Gross Farm Receipts

Farm receipts measure the gross revenue generated by agricultural holdings. They are not a direct measure of profit since operating expenses have not been deducted. The data for receipts were collected for the previous calendar year, or for the last complete accounting (fiscal) year.

Gross Receipts include:

- receipts from all agricultural products sold
- marketing board payments received
- program and rebate payments received
- GST refunds received
- dividends received from co-operatives
- receipts from maple syrup and Christmas tree sales
- custom work and all other farm receipts

Gross Receipts do not include:

- receipts from the sale of capital items (e.g. land, buildings or machinery)
- receipts from the sale of goods bought only for retail sales
- receipts from the sale of forest products (firewood, pulpwood, logs, fence posts, pilings and standing timber)

NOTE: Farm receipts data from the Census of Agriculture are not directly comparable with the similarly named series derived on an annual basis by Statistics Canada (published in Catalogue No. 21-603, "Agriculture Economic Statistics"). Census data includes inter-farm transactions, i.e., the value of agricultural products (livestock and poultry, seed and seedlings and feed) sold from one farm to another within the same province. The annual series excludes inter-farm sales.

### Herbicide

A chemical used to control, suppress, or kill plants or severely interrupt their normal growth.

### Hired Paid Labour

Paid farm work done on the operation during the previous calendar year, either on a year-round, or seasonal or temporary basis. This includes work done by family members who were paid a salary or wage. The total value of wages and salaries paid are included in Farm Operating Expenses.

### Insecticide

A substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel or minimize the effect of any insects that may be present.

### Interest Expenses

Refers to interest on operating debt and on all other debts (e.g., machinery or mortgage debt) for the previous calendar year or for the last complete accounting (fiscal) year. Interest expenses do not include payment of principal or amount of debt outstanding. Interest expenses as a percent of total expenses is used as a proxy for debt since actual debt levels are not reported in the census.

### Land Use

The sum of the following classifications of land use is equal to the total land area of Alberta farms:

**Total Land in Crops:** all areas reported for field crops, including grains and oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, nursery products and sod.

**Summerfallow:** land on which no crops will be grown during the year but on which weeds will be controlled by cultivation or application of chemicals.

**Tame or Seeded Pasture:** land that has been cultivated and seeded, or drained, irrigated, fertilized or controlled for brush or

weeds; does not include areas to be harvested for hay, silage or seed.

**Natural Land for Pasture:** areas used for pasture that have not been cultivated and seeded, drained, irrigated or fertilized.

**All other land:** land on which farm buildings, barnyards, lanes, home gardens, greenhouses and mushroom houses are located; idle land; woodlots; sugarbush; tree windbreaks; bogs; marshes; sloughs; woodland; wetland; etc. The total for All Other Land includes Christmas tree area.

### Livestock Inventory

Includes all animals on the farm, regardless of ownership, and any animals owned but pastured on a community pasture, grazing co-op or public land. Livestock on farms exclude animals owned but kept on a farm, ranch, or feedlot operated by someone else.

Livestock data from the census are used as the basis for annual estimates and for estimating inventories, production and future supplies of animals and animal products for domestic consumption and export. Farmers use census estimates to make production and marketing decisions while government departments, private companies and farm media use census information in market analysis and formulation of agricultural outlooks.

### Natural Land for Pasture

Areas used for pasture that have not been cultivated and seeded, or drained, irrigated or fertilized. Includes native pasture/hay (indigenous grass suitable as feed for livestock and game); rangeland (land with natural plant cover, principally native grasses or shrubs valuable for forage); grazeable bush (forest land and bushy areas used for grazing, not land cultivated for crops or with dense forest), etc.

### Non-workable land

Includes land such as natural pastureland, woodland, wetlands, ponds, bogs, sloughs, barnyards, lanes, and land on which farm buildings are located.

### Organic Certifying Agency

This is a co-operative association or incorporated entity with the authority to give accreditation to organic agricultural operators. Organic certification is based on the Organic Agriculture Standard put out by the Canadian General Standards Board.

### Organic Products

Products from farm operations operated according to a set of organic production principles.

**Certified organic product:** an agricultural product that meets organic standards at each production/processing stage and is certified by a recognized certifying agency.

**Organic but not certified:** an agricultural commodity produced and processed using organic practices but not officially certified. Operations that opt not to go through the certification process may consider themselves organic but not certified.

**Transitional:** commonly used by certifying agencies to indicate fields in transition to becoming certified organic. It means the operator is actively adopting practices that comply with organic standards. Certification can take up to four years.

### **Paid on a Year-Round Basis**

An employee who is paid on a year-round basis is employed either part time or full time twelve months of the year.

### **Paid on a Seasonal or Temporary Basis**

An employee who is paid on a seasonal or temporary basis is employed part time or full time for only part of the year.

### **Partnership With or Without a Written Agreement**

A partnership with or without a written agreement is an agricultural operation where the business is owned and operated jointly by two or more persons with or without a written agreement and where risks and profits are shared. The partners may or may not own the land, buildings, machinery, etc.

### **Pesticide**

Any chemical used for controlling, suppressing or killing insects, weeds or fungi. Includes fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides.

### **Present Market Value**

The present market value is the amount of money a property should bring in if it were sold in today's market.

### **Rotational Grazing**

A practice allowing forages to recover after each grazing period. Includes alternating two or more pastures at regular intervals or using temporary fences within pastures to prevent overgrazing.

### **Silage**

A crop, such as corn and sorghum or other green crops with sufficient moisture, that has been preserved by partial fermentation in a silo, pit, stack, plastic bag or wrap for animal feed, and is usually chopped. Often called "hay crop silage" or "haylage" when made from forage crops such as hay or alfalfa. This is also referred to as ensilage and baleage.

### **Sole Proprietorship Operation**

A sole proprietorship operation is an agricultural operation where one person owns the non-incorporated business. The person who owns the business may or may not own the land, buildings, machinery, etc. There may be multiple operators (persons responsible for the day-to-day management decisions) such as husband and wife, father and son, etc.

### **Summerfallow Land**

Involves keeping normally cultivated land free of vegetation throughout one growing season by cultivating (plowing, discing, etc.) and/or applying chemicals to destroy weeds, insects and soil-borne diseases and allow a buildup of soil moisture reserves for the next crop year. Includes chemfallow, tillage, and/or a combination of chemical and tillage weed control on the same land.

### **Tame or Seeded Pasture**

Grazeable land that has been improved from its natural state by seeding, draining, irrigating, fertilizing or weed control. Does not include areas of land harvested for hay, silage or seed.

### **Tillage**

Tillage is the practice of working the soil for the purpose of bringing about the more favourable conditions for plant growth. **Conventional tillage** incorporates most of the crop residue into the soil while **minimum-till** retains most of the crop residue on the surface. **No-till or zero-till** includes direct seeding into stubble or sod.

### **Value of Farm Land and Buildings**

Refers to the present market value of land and buildings on the operation on Census Day. It includes the value of all houses that are part of the operation; the value of fixed equipment/machinery such as bulk tanks, farrowing pens, etc., found in farm buildings on the operation. It includes land and buildings that are rented or leased from others, but does not include the value of any land and buildings rented or leased to others.

### **Value of Farm Machinery and Equipment**

Refers to the present market value of all farm machinery and equipment that was owned or leased on Census Day.

### **Windbreaks or Shelterbelts**

Rows of natural or planted trees or hedges along field edges that stop prevailing winds from eroding the soil. Used more frequently in Western Canada where farmland is more susceptible to wind action and where trapping snow for moisture is important.

### **Winter Cover Crops**

A crop, such as red clover, fall rye, etc., seeded in the fall to protect the soil from water and wind erosion during the winter and from heavy rains and run-off in the spring.

### **Woodlands and Wetlands**

Woodlands include non-workable land such as woodlots, sugarbushes, tree windbreaks and bush that is not used for grazing. Wetlands include ponds, bogs, marshes, sloughs, etc.

### **Workable Land**

All arable or cleared lands including area in hay, crops, summerfallow, and tame or seeded pasture land.

## **Notes on 2006 Census Data**

### **Wheat**

Spring Wheat (including utility and prairie spring wheats).

### **Winter Wheat/Fall Rye**

Winter wheat or fall rye to be harvested in 2006.

### **Vegetables Grown for Sale**

Excludes greenhouse vegetables.

### **Livestock**

*Chicks and poultry hatched* refers to those hatched in commercial poultry hatcheries in the calendar year prior to the census.

*Poultry production* (broilers, roasters and Cornish) refers to production for the calendar year prior to the census.

*Other poultry* includes geese, ducks, roosters, ostriches, emus, pheasants, quail, wild turkey, etc.

### **Honey and Other Pollinating Bees**

As in previous censuses, some undercoverage, primarily of smaller operations with honeybees occurred in 2006. However, the data are comparable with previous censuses. Other pollinating bees is new for 2006, hence no comparison is available.

### **Herbicide/Insecticide/Fungicide Use**

The area of land that has been treated with herbicides, insecticides and fungicides is under-reported. However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

### **Manure Application**

New questions were asked for 2006; therefore comparison with 2001 is not possible.

The total number of farms reporting does not equal the sum of the parts because a farm could report more than one category.

### **Tenure**

Includes land **used** through arrangements other than renting, leasing or crop sharing, such as land trading or rent free.

**Source:** *Statistics Canada*  
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/index.htm>

**Prepared by:** *Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development  
Economics and Competitiveness Division  
Statistics and Data Development Branch*