

## 2006 Agriculture Profile - 1. Farms and the Land

	Birch Hills County	Alberta
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>3,290,350</b>
Urban Population	0	2,699,851
Rural Population	1,470	590,499
<i>Rural as % of Total Population</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>17.9</i>
<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>49,431</b>
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,818	1,055
<b>Average Per Reporting Farm</b>		
Net Farm Income (\$)	46,091	22,201
Farm Capital (\$)	1,276,485	1,452,150
Farm Operating Expenses (\$)	199,819	177,857
Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	245,909	200,058
Area in Crops (acres)	1,244	577
Seeded Area of Wheat (acres)	705	549
Number of Beef Cows (head)	x	79
Number of Pigs (head)	x	1,302

Farm Operating Arrangements	# Farms	% Distr.
Sole Proprietorship	149	55.6
Partnership	64	23.9
With Written Agreement	9	3.4
Without Written Agreement	55	20.5
Corporation	49	18.3
Family	44	16.4
Non-Family	5	1.9
Other*	6	2.2
<b>Total Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Farms by Total Farm Area	# Farms	% Distr.
Under 10 Acres	1	0.4
10 to 129 Acres	10	3.7
130 to 239 Acres	27	10.1
240 to 399 Acres	24	9.0
400 to 559 Acres	24	9.0
560 to 759 Acres	22	8.2
760 to 1,119 Acres	33	12.3
<b>1,120 Acres and Over</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>47.4</b>
1,120 to 1,599 Acres	31	11.6
1,600 to 2,239 Acres	31	11.6
2,240 to 2,879 Acres	20	7.5
2,880 to 3,519 Acres	15	5.6
3,520 Acres and Over	30	11.2
<b>Total Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Farms by Type**	# Farms	% Distr.
Dairy	1	0.4
Cattle (Beef)	74	28.2
Hog	1	0.4
Poultry and Egg	0	0.0
Wheat	22	8.4
Grain and Oilseed (except wheat)	113	43.1
Field Crop (except grain and oilseed)	30	11.5
Fruit	0	0.0
Vegetable	1	0.4
Miscellaneous Specialty	14	5.3
Livestock Combination	3	1.1
Other Combination	3	1.1
<b>Total Farms Classified</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100.0</b>

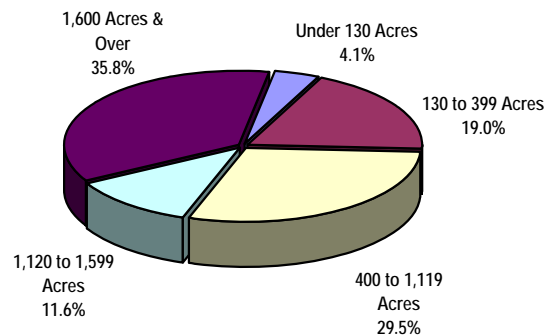
Land Tenure	# Farms	Acres	% Acres
Total Area Owned	254	298,008	61.1
Total Area Rented/Leased/Crop Shared	149	189,348	38.9
Rented/Leased from Government	50	97,262	20.0
Rented/Leased from Others	121	89,244	18.3
Crop Shared from Others	11	2,842	0.6
<b>Total Area of Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>487,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Farms by Use of Land	# Farms	Acres	% Acres
Total Land in Crops	250	310,938	63.8
Summerfallow	46	8,893	1.8
Total Pasture Land	...	119,533	24.5
Tame or Seeded Pasture	88	37,927	7.8
Natural Land for Pasture	79	81,606	16.7
All Other Land	215	47,992	9.8
<b>Total Area of Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>487,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>

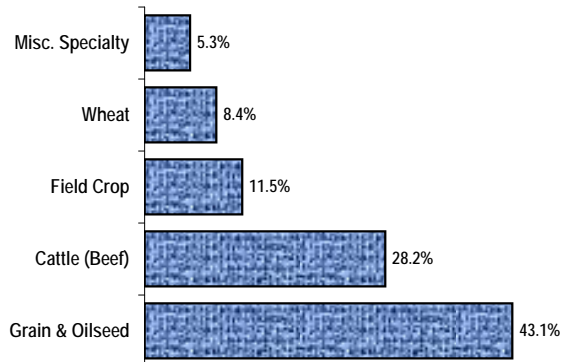
Paid Agricultural Labour	# Farms	# Weeks	% Weeks
Year Round	50	3,274	76.3
Seasonal or Temporary	73	1,018	23.7
<b>Total Paid Labour</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Use of Personal Computers for Farm Management	# Farms	% Farms
Number of Farms Reporting Use	124	46.3
Number of Farms Reporting Internet Use	97	36.2

**Per Cent Distribution of Farms by Size**



**Per Cent Distribution of Top Five Farm Types**



Note: Regional data do not include municipalities where confidentiality applies. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. x - confidential ... not available  
 \* Institutions, Community Pastures, etc. \*\* Farms reporting total gross farm receipts greater than \$2,500. # "Farms" refers to number of farms reporting.

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

Refer to census definitions and notes for more information.

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

**2006 Agriculture Profile - 2. Financial Characteristics**

	Birch Hills County	Alberta
<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>49,431</b>
<b>Average Per Reporting Farm</b>		
Net Farm Income (\$)	46,091	22,201
Farm Capital (\$)	1,276,485	1,452,150
Farm Operating Expenses (\$)	199,819	177,857
Farm Interest Expenses (\$)	15,162	14,607
Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	245,909	200,058

Farm Capital	# Farms	\$ '000	% Distr.
Machinery and Equipment	268	79,393	23.2
Livestock and Poultry	130	19,226	5.6
Land and Buildings	268	243,479	71.2
Owned	256	185,880	54.3
Rented or Leased from Others	149	57,599	16.8
<b>Total Farm Capital</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>342,098</b>	<b>100.0</b>

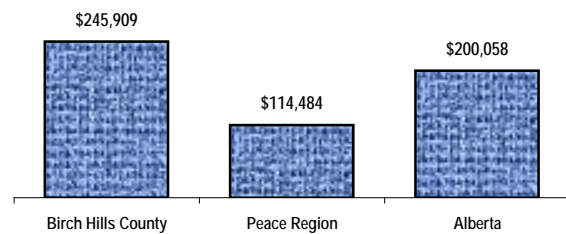
Farms Classified by Farm Capital	# Farms	% Distr.
Under \$50,000	0	0.0
\$50,000 - \$99,999	4	1.5
\$100,000 - \$199,999	13	4.9
\$200,000 - \$349,999	35	13.1
\$350,000 - \$499,999	32	11.9
\$500,000 - \$999,999	74	27.6
\$1,000,000 - \$1,499,999	40	14.9
\$1,500,000 - \$1,999,999	27	10.1
\$2,000,000 and Over	43	16.0
<b>Total Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Farm Operating Expenses	# Farms	\$ '000	% Distr.
Farm Interest Expenses	215	3,260	6.1
Custom and Contract Work	184	2,082	3.9
Rent/Leasing of Land and Buildings	145	2,116	4.0
Rent/Leasing of Mach./Equip./Vehicles	59	283	0.5
Wages and Salaries	108	2,593	4.8
Paid to Family Members	77	1,731	3.2
Paid to all Other Persons	62	862	1.6
All Fuel Expenses	257	5,200	9.7
Repairs/ Maint., Mach./Equip./Vehicles	255	4,202	7.8
Fertilizer and Lime Purchases	184	9,991	18.7
Herbicides/Insecticides/Fungicides	184	5,334	10.0
Seed/Seedling Purchases	171	3,079	5.7
Livestock and Poultry Purchases	61	4,071	7.6
Veterinary Services, Drugs, etc.	107	568	1.1
Feed and Supplement Purchases	109	3,421	6.4
Electricity/Telephone/Telecom.	249	1,276	2.4
Repairs/ Maint., Farm Bldgs. & Fences	186	653	1.2
All Other Expenses	256	5,421	10.1
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>53,551</b>	<b>100.0</b>

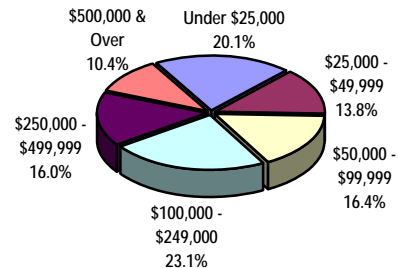
Farm Machinery (Owned & Leased)	# Farms	Total Number	Avg. Value \$/Farm
Total Tractors	251	1,033	82,300
Total Farm Trucks	251	1,061	50,700
Pick-ups and Cargo Vans	241	576	27,819
Other Farm Trucks	189	485	31,859
Cars/Passenger Vehicles	118	148	18,841
Swathers/Mower Cond.	203	287	26,284
Combines	186	270	82,162
Balers	115	141	14,415
Forage Harvesters	14	16	x
Tillage/Cultivation/Seeding Equip.	199	916	61,189
Irrigation Equipment	2	...	x
Other*	218	...	41,421

Total Gross Farm Receipts	\$ '000	% Alta.
<b>Total Gross Farm Receipts</b>	<b>65,904</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Farms by Gross Farm Receipts	# Farms	% Distr.
Under \$10,000	32	11.9
\$10,000 - \$24,999	22	8.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	37	13.8
\$50,000 - \$99,999	44	16.4
\$100,000 - \$249,999	62	23.1
\$250,000 - \$499,999	43	16.0
\$500,000 - \$999,999	16	6.0
\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	8	3.0
\$2,000,000 and Over	4	1.5
<b>Total Farms</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Average Gross Receipts Per Farm**



**Per Cent Distribution of Farms by Class of Gross Farm Receipts**



Note: Regional data do not include municipalities where confidentiality applies. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. x - confidential ... not available

"# Farms" refers to number of farms reporting. \* Other Machinery, Workshop and Office Equipment

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Refer to census definitions and notes for more information.

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## 2006 Agriculture Profile - 3. Livestock, Poultry and Farm Machinery

Cattle and Calves	# Farms	Head	% Alta.
Total Cows	88	9,853	0.5
Dairy Cows	3	x	x
Beef Cows	87	x	x
Heifers	57	2,172	0.2
Bulls	78	467	0.4
Steers	35	984	0.1
Calves	90	9,479	0.5
<b>Total Cattle and Calves</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>22,955</b>	<b>0.4</b>

Pigs	# Farms	Head	% Alta.
Boars	4	85	1.2
Sows and Gilts for Breeding	5	944	0.5
Nursing and Weaner Pigs	2	x	x
Grower and Finishing Pigs	4	x	x
<b>Total Pigs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>

Sheep and Lambs	# Farms	Head	% Alta.
Rams	5	22	0.4
Ewes	7	716	0.7
Lambs	5	690	0.6
<b>Total Sheep and Lambs</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Other Livestock	# Farms	Head	% Alta.
Horses and Ponies	67	642	0.4
Goats	2	x	x
Mink	0	0	x
Fox	0	0	0.0
Bison (Buffalo)	4	x	x
Deer (excluding wild deer)	0	0	0.0
Elk	4	x	x
Llamas and Alpacas	3	x	x
Wild Boars	0	0	0.0

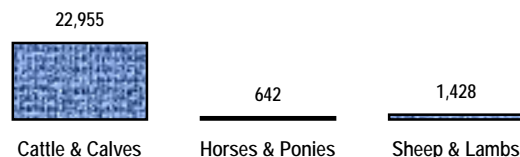
Bees	# Farms	Number	% Alta.
Colonies of Bees	3	x	x
Gallons of Other Pollinating Bees	1	x	x

Poultry Inventory	# Farms	Number	% Alta.
Total Hens and Chickens	12	x	x
Broilers, Roasters, Cornish	9	x	x
Pullets for Laying (under 19 wks.)	1	x	x
Laying Hens (19 wks and over)	9	x	x
Laying Hens (Hatchery Supply Flock)	0	0	0.0
Turkeys	2	x	x
Other Poultry	2	x	x

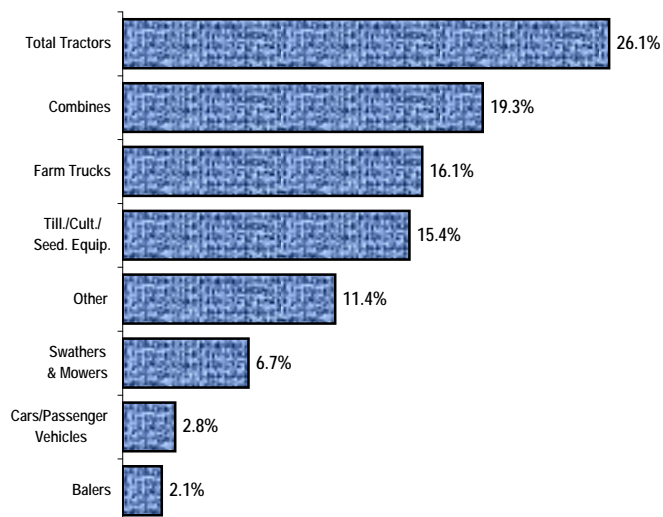
Poultry Production	# Farms	Kilograms	% Alta.
Broilers/Roasters/Cornish Production	1	x	x
Turkey Production	0	0	0.0
	# Farms	Number	% Alta.
Chicks or Other Poultry Hatched	0	0	x

Market Value of Farm Machinery and Equipment			
	# Farms	Number	\$ '000
Total Tractors	251	1,033	20,657
Total Farm Trucks	251	1,061	12,726
Pick-ups and Cargo Vans	241	576	6,704
Other Farm Trucks	189	485	6,021
Cars and Other Passenger Vehicles	118	148	2,223
Swathers and Mower Conditioners	203	287	5,336
Combines	186	270	15,282
Balers	115	141	1,658
Forage Harvesters	14	16	x
Tillage/Cultivation/Seeding Equip.	199	916	12,177
Irrigation Equipment	2	...	x
Other*	218	...	9,030

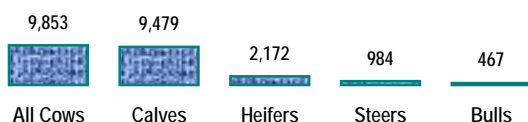
**Livestock Inventory, May 16, 2006  
(Number of Head)**



**Per Cent Distribution of Total Market Value of Machinery and Equipment**



**Cattle Inventory, May 16, 2006  
(Number of Head)**



Note: Regional data do not include municipalities where confidentiality applies. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. x - confidential ... not available  
 "# Farms" refers to number of farms reporting. \* Other Machinery, Workshop and Office Equipment

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Refer to census definitions and notes for more information.

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**2006 Agriculture Profile - 4. Crops and Organic Production**

Grains*	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Total Wheat	127	89,549	1.4
Spring Wheat (excluding Durum)	124	87,886	1.5
Durum Wheat	2	x	x
Winter Wheat	3	x	x
Oats	54	10,544	0.8
Barley	76	29,007	0.7
Mixed Grains	1	x	x
Corn for Grain	0	0	0.0
Buckwheat	0	0	0.0
Total Rye	2	x	x
Fall Rye	2	x	x
Spring Rye	0	0	0.0

Oilseeds*	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Canola	125	112,608	2.8
Flaxseed	3	315	0.5
Soybeans	0	0	0.0
Mustard Seed	0	0	0.0
Sunflowers	0	0	0.0

Other Field Crops*	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Potatoes	2	x	x
Dry Field Peas	18	3,899	0.7
Lentils	0	0	0.0
Dry White Beans	0	0	0.0
Chick Peas	0	0	0.0
Other Dry Beans	0	0	0.0
Canary Seed	0	0	0.0
Sugar Beets	0	0	0.0
Caraway Seed	1	x	x
Triticale	0	0	0.0
Forage Seed for Seed	43	14,038	5.7
All Other Field Crops	0	0	0.0

Hay and Fodder Crops*	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Corn for Silage	1	x	x
Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures	119	40,335	1.0
All Other Tame Hay/Fodder Crops	43	10,305	0.5

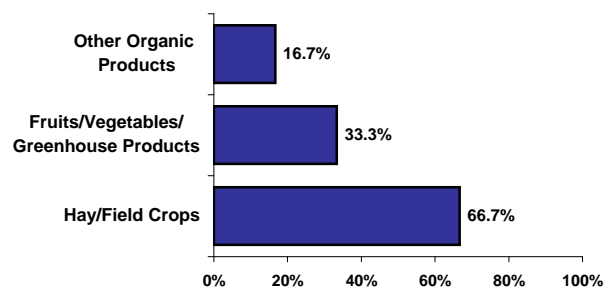
Selected Vegetables Grown for Sale	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Sweet Corn	1	x	x
Tomatoes	0	0	0.0
Cucumbers	1	x	x
Green Peas	0	0	0.0
Green or Wax Beans	0	0	0.0
Cabbage	0	0	0.0
Cauliflower	0	0	0.0
Broccoli	0	0	0.0
Carrots	0	0	0.0
Rutabagas and Turnips	0	0	0.0
Beets	0	0	0.0
Radishes	0	0	0.0
Dry Onions	0	0	0.0
Shallots, Green or Seed Onions	0	0	0.0
Lettuce	0	0	0.0
Celery	0	0	0.0
Pumpkins, Squash and Zucchini	0	0	0.0

Fruits, Berries and Nuts Grown For Sale	# Farms	Acres	% Alta.
Total Fruits/Berries/Nuts	0	0	0.0
Saskatoons	0	0	0.0
Strawberries	0	0	0.0
Raspberries	0	0	0.0
Area of Nursery Products	0	0	0.0
Area of Christmas Trees for Sale	0	0	0.0
Sod Grown for Sale	0	0	0.0
	# Farms	Dollars	% Alta.
Sales of Forest Products	2	x	x

Greenhouse Products	# Farms	Sq. Feet	% Alta.
Total Area Under Protection	1	x	x
Area in Use on May 16, 2006	1	x	x
Flowers	1	x	x
Vegetables	1	x	x
Other Greenhouse Products	0	0	0.0
Mushroom House Growing Area	0	0	0.0

Organic Production (Certified and Not Certified)	# Farms	% Total Farms
Total Farms Reporting Organic Production	6	100.0
Total Hay or Field Crops	4	66.7
Total Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse Products	2	33.3
Total Animals or Animal Products	0	0.0
Total Other Organic Products	1	16.7
Farms Reporting Certified Organic Production	2	33.3
Hay or Field Crops	2	33.3
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse Products	0	0.0
Animals or Animal Products	0	0.0
Other Organic Products	1	16.7
Farms Reporting Transitional Organic Products	2	33.3
Hay or Field Crops	2	33.3
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse Products	0	0.0
Animals or Animal Products	0	0.0
Other Organic Products	0	0.0
Farms Reporting Not Certified Organic Products	4	66.7
Hay or Field Crops	2	33.3
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse Products	2	33.3
Animals or Animal Products	0	0.0
Other Organic Products	0	0.0

**Per Cent of All Organic Farms Reporting Types of Organic Production**



Note: Regional data do not include municipalities where confidentiality applies. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. \* seeded acreage x - confidential  
 "# Farms" refers to number of farms reporting. "% Total Farms" refers to % of total farms reporting organic products.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Refer to census definitions and notes for more information.

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

**2006 Agriculture Profile - 5. Land Management and Farm Operators**

Land Management	# Farms	Acres	% Area
Farms Reporting	268	487,356	100.0
Use of Irrigation	1	x	x
Use of Commercial Fertilizer	181	235,092	48.2
Use of Herbicides	168	220,240	45.2
Use of Insecticides	59	46,227	9.5
Use of Fungicides	21	20,118	4.1

Tillage Practices	# Farms	Acres	% Distr.
Total Area Prepared for Seeding	215	261,407	100.0
Incorporating Most Residue into Soil	87	54,948	22.7
Retaining Most Residue on Surface	99	127,662	26.9
No Tillage Prior to Seeding	47	78,797	50.3

Manure Application	# Farms	% Farms
Farms Producing or Using Manure	100	37.3
Farms Applying Manure	46	17.2

Type of Application and Use of Land	# Farms	Acres	% Area
Composted Manure Incorporated	17	1,371	0.3
Field Crop Land	9	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	10	...	...
Other Land	0	...	...
Composted Manure Not Incorporated	8	542	0.1
Field Crop Land	0	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	7	...	...
Other Land	1	...	...
Solid Manure Incorporated	14	1,310	0.3
Field Crop Land	9	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	5	...	...
Other Land	0	...	...
Solid Manure Not Incorporated/Injected	9	481	0.1
Field Crop Land	2	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	7	...	...
Other Land	1	...	...
Liquid Manure Incorporated/Injected	2	x	x
Field Crop Land	2	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	0	...	...
Other Land	0	...	...
Liquid Manure Not Incorporated/Injected	0	0	0.0
Field Crop Land	0	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	0	...	...
Other Land	0	...	...
Liquid Manure Applied by Irrigation	0	0	0.0
Field Crop Land	0	...	...
Hay and Pasture Land	0	...	...
Other Land	0	...	...

Weed Control on Summerfallow	# Farms	Acres	% Distr.
Total Summerfallow Land	46	8,893	100.0
Chemical Only	8	1,386	15.6
Tillage Only	22	4,132	46.5
Tillage and Chemical Combination	19	3,375	38.0

Farms Reporting Soil Conservation Practices	# Farms	% Farms
Crop Rotation	216	80.6
Rotational Grazing	65	24.3
Winter Cover Crops	11	4.1
Buffer Zones Around Water Bodies	63	23.5
Windbreaks or Shelterbelts	167	62.3
Green Manure Crops for Plough-Down	30	11.2

Farm Operators*	Number	% Alta.
Total Operators	390	0.5
Total Operators:		% Distr.
On Farms with One Operator	155	40.8
On Farms with Two or More Operators	225	59.2
Total Male Operators	280	71.8
Total Female Operators	105	26.9

Average Age of Farm Operators	Age in Years
All Operators	50.1
On Farms with One Operator	51.0
On Farms with Two Operators	49.5

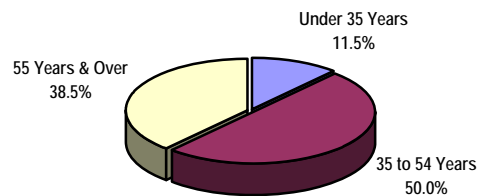
Farm Operators by Age Class	Number	% Distr.
Under 35 Years	45	11.5
35 - 54 Years	195	50.0
55 Years and Over	150	38.5

Farm Work and Non-Farm Work	Number	% Distr.
Operators Reporting No Paid Non-Farm Work	205	53.2
Operators Reporting Paid Non-Farm Work	180	46.8

Average Hours of Farm Work per Week		
Less than 20 Hours	80	20.5
20 - 40 Hours	95	24.4
More than 40 Hours	215	55.1

Average Hours of Non-Farm Work per Week		
Less than 20 Hours	40	22.2
20 - 40 Hours	55	30.6
More than 40 Hours	85	47.2

**Per Cent Distribution of Farm Operators by Age**



Note: Regional data do not include municipalities where confidentiality applies. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. x - confidential ... not available  
 "# Farms" refers to number of farms reporting. "% Area" refers to per cent of total farm land area. \* Farm Operator data has been randomly rounded, therefore differences may exist between the rounded totals and the sum of their rounded components.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Refer to census definitions and notes for more information.

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