



Province of British Columbia

Agriculture in Brief

- **Jurisdictional Makeup:** BC has 27 regional districts, the District of Stikine and 154 municipalities. All 27 regional districts and 107 municipalities have at least some land in the ALR.

- **Population¹** = 3,907,738 (2001)

Population increase: 1971 to 2001 = 1,740,931

- **Jurisdictional Land Area²** = 92,973,00 hectares

- **Agricultural Land Reserve³** = 4,724,300 hectares

The ALR accounts for about 5 % of the land area of British Columbia.



It is estimated that close to 70% of the annual gross farm receipts in BC are generated within the boundaries of municipal jurisdictions.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
➤ Total Area Farmed⁴ (hectares)	2,529,060	2,587,118
➤ Percentage of Farmland: Owned -	62%	59%
Leased -	38%	41%
➤ Number of Farms⁵ Reporting	21,835	20,290
➤ Average Farm Size (hectares)	115.8	127.5
➤ Total Farm Capital	\$13,822,212,532	\$15,831,578,331
➤ Annual Gross Farm Receipts	\$1,839,216,758	\$2,307,697,089
➤ Annual Cash Wages Paid	\$339,910,599	\$405,678,748
➤ Farmland Use (hectares)		
• Crops	565,738	617,545
• Summerfallow	39,017	36,765
• Pasture (managed)	240,236	233,044
• Pasture (unmanaged)	1,172,591	1,203,533
• <u>Other⁶</u>	<u>511,478</u>	<u>492,211</u>
Total	2,529,060	2,587,118



¹ Source: <http://www.statcan.ca/>

² Source: <http://www.marh.gov.bc.ca/MUNFIN/#statistics>

³ ALR as of January 1, 2001 - Source: files of the Agricultural Land Commission

⁴ Source of agricultural statistics – *Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture Profile Data – British Columbia, 1996 and 2001*

⁵ A census farm was defined (in 1996) as an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended crops, (field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed) livestock, (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, exotic animals, etc.) poultry, (hens, chickens, turkeys, exotic birds, etc.) animal products, (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs meat) or other agricultural products (greenhouse or nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, sod, honey and maple syrup products.

⁶ "Other": includes 'Unimproved Land', 'Other Improved Land' and 'Woodland'

British Columbia – Agriculture in Brief – 1996 & 2001

➤ Crops (hectares)	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>
• Field Crops ⁷	536,201	585,644
• Fruits, Berries & Nuts	18,316	19,558
• Vegetables	7,117	7,277
• <u>Other</u> ⁸	<u>4,104</u>	<u>5,066</u>
Total	565,738	617,545
➤ Area Irrigated (hectares)	115,374	111,181
➤ Mushroom Growing Area: farms -	98	91
m ² -	243,909	228,579
➤ Greenhouse Production: farms -	1,290	1,292
m ² -	2,880,196	4,642,522
➤ Nursery Products (hectares)	3,213	4,207
➤ Sod Grown for Sale (hectares)	936	837
➤ Christmas Trees (hectares)	9,453	6,018

	<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>	
➤ Livestock	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>
Hens & Chickens	4,840	13,759,261	5,198	18,820,347
Turkeys	601	850,680	769	819,569
Total Other Poultry	1,883	485,162	1,497	847,617
Cattle & Calves	9,185	814,103	7,726	814,949
- Dairy Cows	1,644	82,008	1,044	71,401
- Beef Cows	6,182	273,217	5,365	279,927
Pigs	1,144	174,169	736	84,858
Sheep & Lambs	1,913	71,603	1,865	83,307
Horses & Ponies	7,123	49,305	6,820	53,366
Goats	1,135	13,121	1,040	18,759
Wild Boar	-	-	1	x ⁹
Mink	23	248,602	17	266,065
Fox	10	1,241	8	x
Bison	57	6,246	98	8,964
Deer ¹⁰	81	19,506	41	6,263
Elk	-	-	7	341
Llamas & Alpacas	254	2,653	560	5,428
Rabbits	910	20,598	264	28,848
Colonies of Bees for Honey	595	35,088	521	28,848



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⁷ Field crop area does not include those crop areas not included for reasons of confidentiality.

⁸ "Other" Crops: also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

⁹ 'x' indicates that farms reporting but further information not provided due to confidentiality.

¹⁰ In 1996, Deer and Elk figures were combined but separated in 2001.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries