

Provincial trends

More larger farms in Newfoundland and Labrador

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at [2010](#) constant prices) of 2010 [gross farm receipts](#) increased by 4.3% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 declined by 9.8%. There were 48 of these larger farms in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2011, and while they represented 9.4% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 80.4% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Newfoundland and Labrador's gross farm receipts in 2010, the year prior to the census, increased 11.5% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$137.6 million, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 86 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, the same as in 2005.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 510 [census farms](#) in Newfoundland and Labrador, an 8.6% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Farm operators

Newfoundland and Labrador reported 665 [farm operators](#) in 2011, 6.3% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 23.3% of Newfoundland and Labrador farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2011 was 55.0 years compared with 52.3 years in 2006. Nationally the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 43.6% of all Newfoundland and Labrador farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 51.4% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 46.6% of all Newfoundland and Labrador farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 45.1% in 2005. At the national level the comparable percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, 21.4% of Newfoundland and Labrador operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 27.9% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 13.7% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Newfoundland and Labrador decreased 13.5% between 2006 and 2011 to 77,349 acres. Farms in Newfoundland and Labrador averaged 152 acres in 2011, down from 160 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2011, 26.7% was cropland. Farmers reported 20,618 acres of cropland in 2011, down 9.1% from 2006. Cropland is the total area used in hay, field crops, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland*	
	2011	2006
Field crops	7.9	12.6
Hay	76.2	69.8
Fruits	6.9	9.7
Sod and Nursery	4.6	3.2
Vegetables	4.3	4.7

* Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

The majority of cropland (84.1%) was reported as hay and field crops (Table 1). The proportion of hay increased from 69.8% in 2006 to 76.2% in 2011. Field crops represented 7.9% of cropland in 2011, down from 12.6% in 2006. The decrease in field crops area was mainly due to the decrease in corn for silage from 1,698 acres in 2006 to 803 in 2011. Total fruit area accounted for another 6.9% of the province's cropland and vegetables for 4.3% in 2011.

Total fruit area decreased 35.3%, from 2,204 acres in 2006 to 1,426 acres in 2011. The largest fruit areas in Newfoundland and Labrador were blueberries, cranberries and strawberries.

Total field vegetable area decreased 17.0%, from 1,067 acres in 2006 to 886 acres in 2011. The largest vegetable crop areas in Newfoundland and Labrador were rutabagas and turnips, carrots, and cabbage.

Pasture land (tame or seeded pasture and natural land for pasture), accounted for about a third of total farm area in Newfoundland and Labrador. Pasture land decreased 19.2% from 31,222 acres in 2006 to 25,240 in 2011.

Other agricultural highlights in Newfoundland & Labrador

- Cranberry area increased 850.0% to 190 acres in 2011, up from 20 acres in 2006.
- Blueberry area decreased 44.6% to 1,062 acres in 2011, down from 1,918 acres in 2006. Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province in Atlantic Canada to see a decrease in blueberry area from 2006.
- Strawberry area decreased by 27.8% to 114 acres in 2011, down from 158 acres in 2006.
- Sod area increased 28.6% since 2006 to 845 acres in 2011 and nursery area increased 48.6% to 110 acres.
- Rutabaga and turnip area decreased 25.8% since 2006 to 253 acres in 2011.
- The total number of dairy cows in the province decreased 1.7% since 2006 to 6,153 head in 2011.

- There were 72,870 mink breeding stock reported in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2011.
- The number of sheep in the province decreased 47.2% since 2006 to 2,449 head in 2011.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, no-till methods were used on 4.5% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, down from 5.7% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 85.7% of land prepared for seeding, from 88.3% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 9.8% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 6.0% in 2006.
- There were five farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 45.3% of the province's farms, slightly above the national average of 44.8%.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador 51.8% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 1,395 paid employees, of whom 33.4% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 66.6% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Newfoundland and Labrador for their participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Prince Edward Island continued to lead in potato area

In 2011, Prince Edward Island continued to report the largest area of potatoes in the country with 86,560 acres. However, the area decreased by 11.3% since 2006.

Soybean area in Prince Edward Island increased 351.6% since 2006 to 51,116 acres in 2011, making it one of the major field crops in the province. Prince Edward Island accounted for 72.5% of the Maritime province's total in 2011. In the Maritimes, soybean area increased 352.8% since 2006 to 70,492 acres in 2011.

Blueberry area increased

Blueberry area increased 25.5% in Prince Edward Island to 12,304 acres in 2011, up from 9,803 acres in 2006. In Atlantic Canada, only New Brunswick had a higher percentage increase in blueberry area from 2006 to 2011.

Gross farm receipts decreased

Prince Edward Island's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, decreased 14.6% (2010 constant prices) to \$447.4 million, from 2005. Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick were the only provinces to report a decrease in gross farm receipts.

Operators spent an average of 85 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about four cents less than they spent in 2005.

Potato farm and dairy [farm types](#) accounted for 56.9% and 18.0% of 2010 gross farm receipts, respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 1,495 [census farms](#) in Prince Edward Island, a 12.1% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Farm operators

Prince Edward Island reported 2,045 [farm operators](#), 12.2% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 17.1% of Prince Edward Island farm operators were women, while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Prince Edward Island in 2011 was 54.2 years compared with 51.4 years in 2006. Nationally, the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 47.4% of all Prince Edward Island farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 57.5% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 42.8% of all Prince Edward Island farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 43.3% in 2005. At the national level, this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 22.5% of Prince Edward Island operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 19.3% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 11.4% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Prince Edward Island decreased 4.1% between 2006 and 2011 to 594,324 acres.

Despite the decrease in total farm area, average area per farm increased. Farms in Prince Edward Island averaged 398 acres in 2011, up from 365 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Prince Edward Island in 2011, 69.1% was cropland. Farm operators reported 410,712 acres of cropland in 2011, down from 423,281 acres in 2006. Cropland is the total area reported in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Prince Edward Island, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland*	
	2011	2006

* Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Field crops	65.0	59.7
Hay	31.2	37.2
Fruits	3.1	2.4
Vegetables	0.6	0.6
Sod and Nursery	0.1	0.0

In 2011 the majority of cropland (96.2%) in Prince Edward Island was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of field crops (including potatoes) increased from 59.7% in 2006 to 65.0% in 2011. Conversely, the proportion of hay decreased from 37.2% to 31.2%. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops. Other crops, including vegetables, fruit, sod and nursery production, accounted for an additional 3.8% of total cropland, an increase from 3.0% in 2006.

Livestock

The number of dairy cows in the province increased 0.2% since 2006 to 13,128 head in 2011. The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 34.3% since 2006, totalling 11,771 head in 2011.

The number of pigs in Prince Edward Island decreased 56.5% since 2006. Prince Edward Island reported 53,649 pigs in 2011, making it the second largest pig herd in Atlantic Canada behind New Brunswick.

The sheep flock in Prince Edward Island increased 104.0% since 2006 to 7,959 in 2011.

Organic farms

According to the census, there were 46 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Prince Edward Island. This represents 3.1% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant categories of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Prince Edward Island were the field crops category and the fruits, vegetables and greenhouse production category. Each of the two categories was reported by 27 of the province's 46

certified organic and/or transitional farms. (The total number of farms reporting does not equal the sum of parts because a farm could report more than one category).

Other agricultural highlights in Prince Edward Island

- Corn for grain area increased 151.3% since 2006 to 5,082 acres.
- In 2011, canola area increased to 2,962 acres from 158 acres in 2006.
- Cranberry area increased 46.7% since 2006 to 110 acres in 2011. Prince Edward Island farm operators also reported areas planted in strawberries, apples, grapes, and raspberries.
- Total greenhouse area decreased to 424,450 square feet in 2011, a decrease of 20.5% from 2006.
- No-till methods were used on 3.8% of the land prepared for seeding compared with 56.4% at the national level, conventional tillage on 74.1% compared to 19.0% at national level and conservation tillage on 22.1% compared with 24.6% at the national level.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 60,627 acres in Prince Edward Island.
- High-speed internet was reported by 49.5% of all farms in Prince Edward Island, while the national average was 44.8%.
- In Prince Edward Island 50.2% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 4,687 paid employees, of whom 25.8% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 74.2% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Prince Edward Island for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

More farms in Nova Scotia

In 2011, Nova Scotia was the only province in Canada to show an increase in the number of farms since 2006. A total of 3,905 farms were reported to the 2011 Census of Agriculture in the province, 2.9% more than in 2006. A [census farm](#) is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Nationally the number of farms decreased 10.3% between 2006 and 2011. Nova Scotia accounted for 1.9% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011.

Increased area of corn for grain and soybeans

The area of corn for grain in Nova Scotia increased 77.4% since 2006 to 13,701 acres in 2011, while soybean area more than tripled to 8,776 acres.

Gross farm receipts increased

Nova Scotia's [gross farm receipts](#) in 2010, the year prior to the census, increased 9.1% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$594.9 million, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 84 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about three cents less than they spent in 2005.

Poultry and egg farm and dairy [farm types](#) accounted for 23.0% and 22.9% total gross farm receipts, respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm operators

Nova Scotia reported 5,225 [farm operators](#) in 2011, 2.5% higher than 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 25.9% of Nova Scotia farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Nova Scotia in 2011 was 55.4 years compared with 53.2 years in 2006. Nationally the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 31.5% of all Nova Scotia farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 40.5% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 47.8% of all Nova Scotia farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 48.5% in 2005. At the national level this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 27.4% of Nova Scotia operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 29.2% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 12.7% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Nova Scotia increased 2.2% between 2006 and 2011 to 1.0 million acres. Nova Scotia was the only province in Canada to report an increase.

Average area per farm was stable between censuses. Farms in Nova Scotia averaged 261 acres in 2011, compared to 262 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Nova Scotia in 2011, 27.6% was cropland. Farm operators reported 280,889 acres of cropland in Nova Scotia in 2011, down from 288,146 acres in 2006. Cropland is the total area used in hay, field crops, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Nova Scotia, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland*	
	2011	2006

* Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Field crops	18.8	15.7
Hay	58.9	64.7
Fruits	18.7	16.3
Vegetables	2.4	2.3
Sod and Nursery	1.2	1.1

The majority of cropland (77.7%) in Nova Scotia was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of hay decreased from 64.7% in 2006 to 58.9% in 2011. Field crops (including potatoes) represented 18.8% of cropland in 2011, up from 15.7% in 2006. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

Total fruit area represented 18.7% of cropland in 2011, up from 16.3% in 2006. The proportion of field vegetables, sod and nursery increased from 3.4% to 3.6%.

Livestock

In 2011, more than a third of the total dairy herd in Atlantic Canada was reported in Nova Scotia. The total number of dairy cows in the province increased 0.7% since 2006 to 21,935 head in 2011. The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 28.8% since 2006, totalling 20,986 head in 2011.

Nova Scotia saw the largest percentage decrease in the number of pigs in the country, dropping 80.4% since 2006. The number of pigs in Nova Scotia decreased from 95,131 in 2006 to 18,645 in 2011.

Nova Scotia farm operators reported 425,273 mink breeding stock, accounting for 54.3% of the national total.

Organic farms

According to the census, there were 60 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Nova Scotia. This represented 1.5% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of organic products reported in Nova Scotia was fruit, vegetable and greenhouse production and it was reported by 83.3% of the province's 60 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in Nova Scotia

- Alfalfa area decreased 0.4% since 2006 to 37,902 acres in 2011 while other tame hay area decreased 14.0% to 127,521 acres.
- Blueberry area increased 16.7% since 2006 to 45,073 acres in 2011. Nova Scotia reported the second largest blueberry area in Canada after Quebec in 2011.
- Apple area decreased 13.8% since 2006 to 5,264 acres in 2011. Nova Scotia reported the fourth largest apple area in the country in 2011.
- Total grape area increased 41.2% since 2006 to 658 acres in 2011.
- Total greenhouse area decreased to 2.0 million square feet in 2011, down 39.9% from 2006. Greenhouse floriculture area decreased 50.2% to 1.2 million square feet in 2011.
- Total field vegetable area increased 2.0%, from 6,633 acres in 2006 to 6,768 acres in 2011. Nova Scotia was the only province in Canada to report an increase in field vegetable area since 2006. The largest vegetable areas in Nova Scotia were carrots, broccoli, and onions.
- In Nova Scotia, no-till methods were used on 17.2% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 13.7% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 60.4% of land prepared for seeding, from 65.9% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 22.5% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 20.3% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 14,763 acres in Nova Scotia.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 46.0% of the province's farms, slightly above the national average of 44.8%.
- In Nova Scotia 39.0% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 9,695 paid employees, of whom 22.5% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 77.5% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census

program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Nova Scotia for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Blueberry and cranberry areas increased in New Brunswick

New Brunswick's total fruit area climbed 23.5% to 29,851 acres in 2011, up from 24,174 acres in 2006. Higher total fruit area was driven by expansion of the province's two largest berry crops – blueberries and cranberries.

Blueberry area increased 26.1% since 2006 to 27,878 acres in 2011. New Brunswick reported the highest percentage increase in blueberry area in Atlantic Canada.

Cranberry area increased 59.2% to 866 acres, up from 544 acres in 2006. New Brunswick reported the largest area of cranberries in Atlantic Canada, as well as the third largest area in the country.

Corn for grain, soybeans and canola areas increased

Since 2006, the area of corn for grain in New Brunswick increased 142.9% to 10,611 acres, soybean area increased 462.6% to 10,600 acres and canola area increased 916.0% to 9,002 acres in 2011.

Gross farm receipts decreased

New Brunswick's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, decreased 0.9% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$552.8 million, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces to report a decrease in gross farm receipts.

Operators spent an average of 86 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, the same as in 2005.

Vegetable and melon farm and dairy [farm types](#) accounted for 28.3% and 18.7% of gross farm receipts, respectively. Fruit and tree nut farming comprised another 6.3% of gross farm receipts. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework

for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 2,611 [census farms](#) in New Brunswick in 2011, a 5.9% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

New Brunswick accounted for 1.3% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, which was slightly higher than its share in 2006.

Farm operators

New Brunswick reported 3,470 [farm operators](#) in 2011, 6.1% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 21.0% of New Brunswick farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in New Brunswick in 2011 was 55.5 years compared with 52.8 years in 2006. Nationally the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 37.3% of all New Brunswick farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 46.7% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 44.5% of all New Brunswick farm operators had an off-farm job or business, while at the national level this percentage was 46.9%.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 31.1% of New Brunswick operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 27.9% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 10.9% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in New Brunswick decreased 4.0% between 2006 and 2011 to 0.9 million acres in 2011.

Despite the decrease in total land area, average area per farm increased. Farms in New Brunswick averaged 359 acres in 2011, up from 352 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farmland in New Brunswick in 2011, 37.5% was cropland, a slight decline from 38.5% reported in 2006. Farm operators reported 351,231 acres of cropland in New Brunswick in 2011, down from 375,590 acres in 2006. Cropland is the total area used in field crops, fruits, vegetables, sod and nursery.

Of the total farm area in New Brunswick in 2011, 37.5% was cropland, a slight decline from 38.5% reported in 2006. Farm operators reported 351,231 acres of cropland in New Brunswick in 2011, down from 375,590 acres in 2006. Cropland is the total area used in hay, field crops, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, New Brunswick, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland*
-------------------------	----------------------

	2011	2006
--	------	------

* Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Field crops	40.8	37.7
Hay	49.7	54.9
Fruits	8.5	6.4
Vegetables	0.5	0.6
Sod and Nursery	0.4	0.4

The majority of cropland (90.5%) in New Brunswick was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of hay decreased from 54.9% of cropland in 2006 to 49.7% in 2011. Field crops (including potatoes) represented 40.8% of reported cropland in 2011, up from 37.7% in 2006. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

Total fruit area represented 8.5% of cropland in 2011, up from 6.4% in 2006.

Livestock

The total number of dairy cows in the province decreased to 18,534 head in 2011, down from 18,814 in 2006. The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 24.8% since 2006, totalling 18,835 head in 2011.

The number of pigs in the province dropped 49.1% since 2006. There were 54,630 pigs reported in the province in 2011, down from 107,254 in 2006.

Organic farms

According to the census, there were 59 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in New Brunswick. This represents 2.3% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of organic products reported in New Brunswick was fruit, vegetable and greenhouse production and it was reported by 50.8% of the province's 59 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in New Brunswick

- In 2011, New Brunswick reported the fourth largest area of potatoes in the country with 51,814 acres – a 13.5% decrease since 2006.
- The area of grains traditionally used for livestock feed decreased in 2011. Since 2006, oat area decreased 6.6% to 23,324 acres and barley area decreased 30.4% to 23,144 acres.
- Apple area decreased 31.3% since 2006 to 550 acres in 2011. New Brunswick ranked fifth among provinces for total apple area in 2011.

- New Brunswick ranked second in Canada for total number of maple taps with 1.9 million taps in 2011, an increase of 11.4% from 2006.
- Total vegetable area decreased 10.0%, from 2,136 acres in 2006 to 1,923 acres in 2011. The largest vegetable crop areas in New Brunswick were sweet corn, squash and zucchini, and green beans.
- Sweet corn area decreased 19.5%, from 482 acres in 2006 to 388 acres in 2011.
- No-till methods were used on 7.1% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 5.1% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 68.4% of land prepared for seeding, from 78.0% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 24.5% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 16.9% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 21,059 acres in New Brunswick.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 41.0% of the province's farms, compared to a national average of 44.8%.
- In New Brunswick 43.3% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 7,452 paid employees, of whom 27.2% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 72.8% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continued to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of New Brunswick for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Over one-third of dairy cows were reported in Quebec

As in 2006, Quebec [farm operators](#) reported the greatest number of dairy cows in the country. In 2011, there were 359,510 dairy cows in Quebec, ahead of Ontario with 318,158 dairy cows. In 2011, 37.4% of dairy cows in the country were reported in Quebec. In 2006, there were 382,263 dairy cows in Quebec which represented 38.4% of all dairy cows in the country.

Maple taps increased

Over 90% of Canadian maple taps in 2011 were reported in Quebec. Since 2006, the total number of maple taps in Quebec increased 17.2% to 40.6 million in 2011.

Blueberry and cranberry areas expand

Blueberry area increased by 60.7% to 67,085 acres in 2011, the largest area in the country. Cranberry area more than doubled to 7,100 acres, up from 3,348 acres in 2006. The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that Quebec surpassed British Columbia to become the largest cranberry area in the country. Quebec ranked first in total area of strawberries, second in raspberries, and third in grape area.

Youngest farm operators

In 2011 Quebec reported the lowest average age of farm operators in the country at 51.4 years compared with 49.3 years in 2006. Nationally, the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

Gross farm receipts increased

Quebec's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, increased 1.6% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$8.4 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 82 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, the same as in 2005.

Dairy farm and pig [farm types](#) accounted for 29.5% and 18.2% of total 2010 gross farm receipts respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 29,437 [census farms](#) in Quebec, a 4.0% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Quebec accounted for 14.3% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, which is slightly higher than their share in 2006.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms in Quebec with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 9.2% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 5.9%. There were 4,128 of these larger farms in Quebec in 2011, and while they represented 14.0% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 65.5% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

Quebec reported 43,920 farm operators in 2011, 3.4% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 25.9% of Quebec farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

In 2010, 49.0% of all Quebec farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 57.0% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 35.6% of all Quebec farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 33.3% in 2005. At the national level this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 14.0% of Quebec operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 14.8% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 8.5% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Quebec decreased 3.5% between 2006 and 2011 to 8.3 million acres. Quebec reported 5.2% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011. Average area per farm was stable with 280 acres in 2011 and 279 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Quebec in 2011, 56.1% was cropland, a slight increase from 55.8% reported in 2006. Farmers reported 4.6 million acres of cropland in Quebec in 2011, down from 4.8 million acres in 2006. The province accounted for 5.3% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area reported in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Quebec, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland	
	2011	2006
Field crops	54.5	51.6
Hay	40.9	44.2
Vegetables	2.0	2.2
Fruits	2.1	1.5
Sod and Nursery	0.5	0.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Similar to 2006, the majority of cropland (95.4%) in Quebec was reported in field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of field crops in cropland (including potatoes) increased to 54.5% in 2011 from 51.6% in the previous census. Conversely, the proportion of land in hay decreased to 40.9% from 44.2%. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef

cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

Livestock

In 2011, Quebec reported more pigs than any other province, with 4.1 million pigs, a 3.7% decrease since 2006. Quebec reported nearly one-third of all pigs in Canada in 2011.

The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 18.2% since 2006, totalling 205,238 head in 2011.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 1,037 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Quebec. This represented 3.5% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Quebec was maple products and was reported by 38.6% of the province's 1,037 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in Quebec

- Quebec continued to report the second largest area of corn grown for grain in the country. However, the area decreased slightly since 2006 to 994,454 acres in 2011.
- In 2011, soybean area increased 55.6% to 684,837 acres, representing the third largest soybean area in country (17.3% of the national soybean area).
- Canola area increased 169.8% to 41,060 acres.
- The area in grain crops traditionally used for livestock feed decreased in 2011 compared to 2006. Oat area decreased 17.6% to 255,984 acres, barley decreased 30.6% to 181,409 acres and mixed grains decreased 32.7% to 44,706 acres.
- Quebec ranked second in total apple area despite a 16.7% decrease since 2006 to 13,471 acres.
- Quebec reported the largest area of Christmas trees in the country with 20,627 acres, the second largest sod area with 13,366 acres, the third largest greenhouse area with 30.5 million square feet, and the fourth largest nursery area at 8,260 acres.
- In Quebec, no-till methods were used on 18.2% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 9.6% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 48.9% of land prepared for seeding, from 62.0% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 32.9% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 28.5% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marks the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 548,369 acres in Quebec.

- High-speed internet was reported by 40.6% of all farms in Quebec, compared to the national average of 44.8%.
- In Quebec 43.8% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 57,488 paid employees, of whom 42.8% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 57.2% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

During the time the census was being collected in 2011, many farm operators were confronted with challenges related to flooding and exceedingly wet conditions in some regions of Quebec. However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Quebec for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Ontario led in soybeans and corn area

Ontario accounted for 62.3% and 61.7% of the national areas of soybeans and corn for grain, respectively. Since 2006, soybean area increased 308,986 acres to 2.5 million acres in 2011 and corn for grain increased 454,494 acres to 2.0 million acres.

Ontario continued to report the most farms

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted the highest number of farms in Ontario with 25.3% of Canada's 205,730 farms. A [census farm](#) is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 51,950 census farms in Ontario, a 9.2% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level.

Gross farm receipts remained stable

Ontario's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, remained stable with a 0.1% increase (at 2010 constant prices) to \$11.9 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent on average 84 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about two cents less than they spent in 2005.

Oilseed and grain farm and dairy [farm types](#) accounted for 24.5% and 17.6% of total gross farm receipts respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 5.8% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 10.7%. There were 5,609 of these larger farms in Ontario in 2011, and while they represented 10.8% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 68.1% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

Ontario reported 74,840 [farm operators](#) in 2011, 9.2% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 28.4% of Ontario farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Ontario in 2011 was 54.5 years compared with 52.6 years in 2006. Nationally, the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 37.0% of all Ontario farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 43.1% five years earlier. At the national level, this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 47.8% of all Ontario farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 49.6% in 2005. At the national level, this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 26.5% of Ontario operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 26.8% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 12.1% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Ontario decreased 4.8% between 2006 and 2011 to 12.7 million acres. Ontario reported 7.9% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011. Average area per farm was 244 acres in 2011, up from 233 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Ontario in 2011, 70.5% was cropland, a slight increase from 68.0% reported in 2006. Farmers reported 8.9 million acres of cropland in Ontario in 2011, down from 9.0 million acres in 2006. The province accounted for 10.2% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area reported in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Ontario, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland*	
	2011	2006

* Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Field crops	74.1	68.6
Hay	23.3	28.3
Vegetables	1.5	1.7
Fruits	0.6	0.7
Sod and Nursery	0.6	0.7

The majority of cropland (97.4%) in Ontario in 2011 was reported as field crops and hay which is an increase from the 96.9% in 2006 (Table 1). The proportion of field crops (including potatoes) increased to 74.1% in 2011 from 68.6% in the past census. Conversely, the proportion of hay area decreased to 23.3% from 28.3%. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops. Other crops, including field vegetables, fruit, sod and nursery production, accounted for an additional 2.7% of total cropland in 2011, down from 3.1% in 2006.

Livestock

The number of dairy cows in Ontario decreased 3.5% since 2006. Despite this decrease, in 2011 Ontario continued to report the second largest dairy herd (behind Quebec) in the country with 318,158 cows down from 329,737 in 2006.

The number of pigs in Ontario decreased 21.8% since 2006. Despite this, Ontario continued to report the second highest number of pigs in Canada, behind Quebec, with 3.1 million pigs in 2011. Ontario accounted for the largest decrease in the number of farms reporting pigs, down 1,514 farms to 2,556 in 2011.

Ontario ranked second in the country in number of mink breeding stock with 122,137 reported in 2011.

In 2011, Ontario maintained the largest population of goats and sheep in the country, both of which increased since 2006. The number of goats in Ontario increased 52.7% to reach 116,260 head in 2011 which accounted for 51.6% of the national total. The number of sheep in Ontario increased 13.4% to reach 352,807 head in 2011 which accounted for 31.8% of the national total.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 774 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Ontario. This represented 1.5% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Ontario was field crops and hay and it was reported by 67.7% of the province's 774 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in Ontario

- Ontario continued to report the largest winter wheat area in the country. In 2011, winter wheat area increased 7.0% to 1.1 million acres.
- Area reported for grains traditionally used for livestock feed decreased in 2011. Barley area decreased 42.6% to 126,881 acres, mixed grain area decreased 38.8% to 106,162 acres and oat area decreased 46.2% to 71,040 acres. Similarly, hay area decreased 18.9% to 2.1 million acres.
- Ontario accounted for the majority (98.6%) of ginseng area in Canada in 2011. Since 2006 the total ginseng area in the province increased 1.1% to 7,232 acres.
- The number of maple taps in Ontario increased 15.0% to 1.5 million.
- Over half (54.2%) of Canada's total greenhouse area was located in Ontario in 2011. Total greenhouse area increased by 6.7% to 135.1 million square feet. Greenhouse vegetables accounted for 86.2 million square feet and floriculture products for 42.6 million square feet.
- In 2011, Ontario had the largest area of grapes, apples, peaches, sour cherries, pears, and plums in the country. Apple area decreased 21.5% to 15,830 acres in 2011. Grape area also decreased between censuses by 10.7% to 18,383 acres in 2011 — nearly two-thirds (61.3%) of all grape area in the country was reported in Ontario.
- Ontario had the largest share of the Canadian nursery and sod areas, with 25,270 acres of nursery and 28,414 acres of sod. This accounted for 42.4% and 44.8% of Canada's nursery and sod areas, respectively.
- In Ontario, no-till methods were used on 33.1% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, a slight increase from 31.2% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 37.1% of land prepared for seeding, from 43.9% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 29.8% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 24.9% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marks the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 873,120 acres in Ontario.
- High-speed internet was reported by 44.7% of all farms in Ontario, similar to the national average of 44.8%.
- In Ontario 31.0% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010, the largest proportion in the country. The census counted 84,878 paid employees, of whom 39.2% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 60.8% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Ontario for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Canola area surpassed spring wheat area in Manitoba

The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that canola area surpassed spring wheat area for the top spot among field crops in Manitoba. Since 2006, canola area increased 44.3% to 3.3 million acres, while spring wheat area decreased 13.2% to 2.6 million acres.

Largest area of sunflowers

In 2011, Manitoba continued to report the largest area of sunflowers in the country despite a decrease of 66.7% to 63,380 acres. This area accounted for 81.5% of the national total in 2011, down from 90.1% in 2006.

Gross Farm Receipts increased

Manitoba's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, increased 7.8% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$5.3 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 83 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about three cents less than they spent in 2005.

Oilseed and grain farm and pig farm types accounted for 49.6% and 19.2% of the 2010 total gross farm receipts respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The [farm types](#) presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 15,877 [census farms](#) in Manitoba, a 16.7% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Manitoba accounted for 7.7% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, lower than its 8.3% share in 2006.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 25.7% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 21.6%. There were 2,490 of these larger farms in Manitoba in 2011, and while they represented 15.7% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 73.2% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

Manitoba reported 22,315 [farm operators](#), 16.2% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 23.6% of Manitoba farm operators were women, while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Manitoba in 2011 was 53.1 years compared with 51.2 years in 2006. Nationally, the average age of a farm operator was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 46.6% of all Manitoba farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 52.6% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% 2010.

In 2010, 46.2% of all Manitoba farm operators had an off-farm job or business, compared to 47.7% in 2005. At the national level this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 24.5% of Manitoba operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 20.7% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 9.6% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Manitoba decreased 5.5% between 2006 and 2011 to 18.0 million acres. Manitoba had 11.3% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011.

Despite the decrease in total farm area, average area per farm increased. Farms in Manitoba averaged 1,135 acres in 2011, up from 1,001 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Manitoba, 59.6% was cropland, a slight decrease from 60.9% reported in 2006. Farm operators reported 10.7 million acres of cropland in Manitoba in 2011, down from 11.6 million acres in 2006. The province accounted for 12.3% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area reported in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Manitoba, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland	
	2011	2006
Field crops	82.9	79.8
Hay	17.0	20.1
Others*	0.1	0.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Almost all the cropland (99.9%) in the province was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). In 2011, field crops (including potatoes) accounted for 82.9% of the total cropland in the province compared to 79.8% in 2006. The proportion of hay decreased from 20.1% in 2006 to 17.0% in 2011. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

The proportion of pasture (tame or seeded pasture and natural land for pasture), summerfallow and woodlands in total farm area decreased while the proportion of other land increased to 5.7% from 2.4% in 2006. Manitoba experienced severe flooding in the spring and summer of 2011 and land reported to the 2011 Census of Agriculture as "too wet to seed" has been categorized as "other land" and not cropland or summerfallow; this land could shift back to cropland when conditions improve.

Livestock

In 2011, Manitoba reported the third largest pig herd in Canada, with 2.9 million pigs, a 2.8% decrease since 2006. This was the lowest percent decrease among all provinces.

The total number of cattle in Manitoba decreased 23.0% since 2006 to 1.2 million head. The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 23.9% since 2006, totalling 550,642 head in 2011.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 180 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Manitoba. This represented 1.1% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Manitoba was field crops and hay and it was reported by 88.3% of the province's 180 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in Manitoba

- Manitoba reported the second largest area of soybeans in Canada in 2011 with 705,032 acres, an increase of 101.1% since 2006.
- Areas reported for hay and grains traditionally used for livestock feed decreased in 2011. Hay area decreased 21.8% to 1.8 million acres in 2011. Similarly, oat area decreased 26.4% to 695,945 acres and barley area decreased 42.3% to 483,432 acres.
- Despite a 10.7% decrease from 2006 to 2011, Manitoba continued to report the second largest potato area in the country with 72,043 acres, behind Prince Edward Island.
- The total area of corn for grain increased 40.4% to 211,148 acres in 2011.
- Despite a 56.4% decrease in 2011, Manitoba continued to report the second largest flaxseed area in the country with 167,367 acres, behind Saskatchewan.
- Strawberry area decreased 26.4% to 304 acres in 2011, down from 413 acres reported in Manitoba in 2006.

- The area in saskatoons decreased 27.8% to 267 acres in 2011, down from 370 acres in 2006.
- Total vegetable area decreased 8.4% from 5,641 acres in 2006 to 5,169 acres in 2011. The largest vegetable areas in 2011 in Manitoba were sweet corn, carrots, and onions.
- The number of pollinating bees (excluding honeybees) decreased by 50.4% to 37,343 gallons in 2011, down from 75,332 gallons in 2006. There were 75,847 honeybee colonies reported in 2011, up from 73,411 colonies in 2006.
- In Manitoba, no-till methods were used on 24.0% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 21.3% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 38.3% of land prepared for seeding, from 43.4% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 37.7% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 35.2% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 747,146 acres in Manitoba.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 43.1% of all farms in Manitoba, while the national average was 44.8%.
- In Manitoba 36.7% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 19,827 paid employees, of whom 44.6% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 55.4% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

During the time the census was being collected in 2011, many farm operators were confronted with challenges related to flooding and exceedingly wet conditions in some regions of the Prairies. However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Manitoba for their participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Canola area surpassed spring wheat area in Saskatchewan

The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that canola area surpassed spring wheat area for the top spot among field crops in Saskatchewan. Since 2006, canola area increased 63.6% to 9.8 million acres while spring wheat area decreased 16.5% to 8.0 million acres. The province accounted for over half (50.5%) of the canola area in the country. Despite the decrease in spring wheat area, Saskatchewan continued to report the largest area of spring wheat with 47.4% of Canada's total.

Largest reported area of lentils

Since 2006, the total lentil area in Saskatchewan increased 94.1% to 2.5 million acres in 2011, accounting for 96.0% of the total lentil area in the country.

Gross farm receipts increased

Saskatchewan's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, increased 10.2% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$9.4 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 76 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about 12 cents less than they spent in 2005. Saskatchewan had the country's lowest ratio of expenses to receipts at 0.76, due mainly to the predominance of oilseed and grain farms.

Oilseed and grain farm and beef [farm types](#) accounted for 77.0% and 11.7% of total 2010 gross farm receipts respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 36,952 [census farms](#) in Saskatchewan, a 16.6% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Saskatchewan accounted for 18.0% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, slightly lower than its share in 2006. Saskatchewan's total ranked third in Canada.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 44.9% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 21.6%. There were 4,764 of these larger farms in Saskatchewan in 2011, and while they only represented 12.9% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 60.0% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

Saskatchewan reported 49,475 [farm operators](#) in 2011, 16.4% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 22.9% of Saskatchewan farm operators were women, while nationally, this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Saskatchewan in 2011 was 54.2 years compared with 52.6 years in 2006. Nationally, the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 46.6% of all Saskatchewan farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 52.7% five years earlier. At the national level, this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 46.1% of all Saskatchewan farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 48.3% in 2005. At the national level, this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 30.8% of Saskatchewan operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 23.8% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 10.0% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Saskatchewan decreased 4.1% between 2006 and 2011 to 61.6 million acres. Saskatchewan had 38.5% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011.

Despite the decrease in total farm area, average area per farm increased. Farms in Saskatchewan averaged 1,668 acres in 2011, up from 1,449 acres five years earlier. Saskatchewan had the largest average farm size in the country and the greatest increase in average farm size, at 15.1%.

Of the total farm area in Saskatchewan, 59.1% was cropland, an increase from the 57.5% reported in 2006. Farmers reported 36.4 million acres of cropland in Saskatchewan in 2011, down from 37.0 million acres in 2006. The province accounted for 41.7% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area used in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Saskatchewan, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland	
	2011	2006
Field crops	87.4	86.1
Hay	12.6	13.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Almost all the cropland in Saskatchewan was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of field crops increased from 86.1% in 2006 to 87.4% in 2011. Alfalfa and tame hay represented 12.6% of the cropland in Saskatchewan in 2011 compared to 13.9% in 2006. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

Summerfallow as a proportion of total farm area in Saskatchewan decreased to 5.8% in 2011 from 9.3% in 2006. Saskatchewan experienced flooding in the spring and summer of 2011 and land reported to the 2011 Census of Agriculture as "too wet to seed" has been categorized as "other land" and not cropland or summerfallow; this land could shift back to cropland when conditions improve.

Livestock

In 2011, Saskatchewan had the second largest cattle herd in the country after Alberta, with 20.7% of the national total. The number of cattle in the province decreased from 3.4 million head in 2006 to 2.6 million head in 2011, a 21.5% decrease. The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 20.6% since 2006, totalling 1.3 million head in 2011.

Saskatchewan had the second largest bison herd in the country with 39,343 head, a 31.5% decrease. Saskatchewan now accounts for 31.4% of the national herd, a slight increase since 2006.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 1,064 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Saskatchewan. This represented 2.9% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production. Saskatchewan had the highest number of certified organic operations in the country despite a 14.6% decrease since 2006.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Saskatchewan was field crops and hay and it was reported by 97.5% of the province's 1,064 certified organic and/or transitional operations.

Other agricultural highlights in Saskatchewan

- In 2011, Saskatchewan continued to report the largest areas of spring wheat, durum wheat, oats, rye, canola, flaxseed, dry field peas, chickpeas, lentils, as well as mustard, canary and caraway seed in Canada.
- Durum wheat area increased 14.8% to 3.7 million acres in 2011.
- After a steady rise between each of the census years from 1991 to 2006, flaxseed area decreased 47.4% to 812,437 acres in 2011 compared to 2006.
- The area reported in hay and feed grains declined in 2011. Hay area decreased 11.0% to 4.6 million acres, barley area decreased 33.8% to 2.3 million acres, oat area decreased 25.7% to 1.7 million acres and mixed grain area decreased 43.1% to 85,786 acres.
- Sour cherry area continued to increase in Saskatchewan with a 37.5% increase from 2006 to a total of 220 acres in 2011.
- The area of saskatoons decreased by 19.4% to 875 acres in 2011, down from 1,086 acres in 2006.
- Total vegetable area decreased 5.9%, from 813 acres in 2006 to 765 acres in 2011. The largest vegetable areas in Saskatchewan were for sweet corn, cabbage, and pumpkins.
- Pollinating bees (excluding honeybees) decreased by 44.8% to 122,706 gallons in 2011, down from 222,380 gallons in 2006. There were 82,452 honeybee colonies reported in 2011, down from 91,254 in 2006.
- In Saskatchewan, no-till methods were used on 70.1% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 60.2% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 9.7% of land prepared for seeding, from 18.3% five years earlier. Conservation tillage

was used on 20.2% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 21.5% in 2006.

- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 1.3 million acres in Saskatchewan – the second largest area reported in the country.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 47.9% of all farms in Saskatchewan, while the national average was 44.8%.
- In Saskatchewan 32.9% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 28,904 paid employees, of whom 36.8% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 63.2% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

During the time the census was being collected in 2011, many farm operators were confronted with challenges related to flooding and exceedingly wet conditions in some regions of the Prairies. However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Saskatchewan for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Canola area surpassed spring wheat area in Alberta

The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that canola area surpassed spring wheat area for the top spot among field crops in Alberta. Since 2006, canola area increased 49.2% to 6.1 million acres, while spring wheat area increased 3.5% to 6.0 million acres. Alberta reported the second largest area of canola in the country after Saskatchewan.

Largest reported cattle herd

As in 2006, Alberta continued to report the largest cattle herd in the country in 2011. The province experienced a 19.9% decrease in total cattle inventories, compared to a national

decrease of 18.9%. Cattle inventories declined to 5.1 million head in 2011, down from 6.4 million head in 2006. Alberta accounted for 39.9% of the national cattle herd.

In line with the drop in cattle inventories, the area of land in hay and feed grains decreased in 2011. Hay area decreased 14.5% to 5.1 million acres. Despite this decrease Alberta continued to report the largest area of hay (30.2% of the national area) in Canada. Similarly, Alberta reported the largest area of barley in the country at 3.6 million acres, despite an 11.8% decrease. Oat area dropped 29.8% to 891,580 acres in 2011.

Gross farm receipts increased

Alberta's [gross farm receipts](#) in [2010](#), the year prior to the census, increased 0.9% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$11.4 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 85 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about 4 cents less than they spent in 2005.

Oilseed and grain farm, and beef [farm types](#) accounted for 38.9% and 35.5% of total gross farm receipts respectively. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Farm numbers decreased

The Census of Agriculture counted 43,234 [census farms](#) in Alberta, a 12.5% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

Alberta accounted for 21.0% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, slightly lower than its share in 2006. Alberta's total number of farms ranked second in Canada after Ontario.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 18.0% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 15.1%. There were 4,454 of these larger farms in Alberta in 2011, and while they represented 10.3% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 70.6% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

Alberta reported 62,050 [farm operators](#), 13.4% lower than in 2006, following the trend in the number of farms. In 2011, 29.0% of Alberta farm operators were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%.

The average age of a farm operator in Alberta in 2011 was 54.5 years compared with 52.2 years in 2006. Nationally the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 37.8% of all Alberta farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 43.6% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 52.0% of all Alberta farm operators had an off-farm job or business compared to 54.6% in 2005. At the national level this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 32.8% of Alberta operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off-farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 27.9% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 12.8% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in Alberta decreased 3.1% between 2006 and 2011 to 50.5 million acres. Alberta had 31.5% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011. Average area per farm was 1,168 acres in 2011, up from 1,055 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in Alberta in 2011, 47.7% was cropland, an increase from the 45.6% reported in 2006. Farmers reported 24.1 million acres of cropland in Alberta in 2011, up from 23.8 million acres in 2006. The province accounted for 27.6% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area reported in field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, Alberta, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland**	
	2011	2006

* Includes fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery

** Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011

Field crops	78.6	74.6
Hay	21.3	25.2
Others*	0.1	0.1

Almost all the cropland (99.9%) was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of field crops (including potatoes) increased to 78.6% in 2011 from 74.6% in 2006. Alfalfa and tame hay represented 21.3% of the cropland in Alberta, down from 25.2% in 2006. Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining beef cattle and pig numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed to more profitable cash crops.

Pasture land (tame or seeded pasture and natural land for pasture) accounted for 43.2% of total farm area in Alberta. Pasture land decreased 2.0% from 22.3 million acres in 2006 to 21.8 million acres in 2011 which is in line with the decrease in livestock.

Livestock

Alberta reported 40.3% of the beef breeding herd (beef cows and beef heifers) in Canada in 2011. The beef breeding herd decreased 22.4%, to 1.8 million head in 2011.

In 2011, Alberta reported the majority (57.8%) of the feeder and slaughter cattle (steers and feeding heifers) in the country, with 1.5 million head, a 15.5% decrease since 2006. Similarly, the number of farms reporting feeder cattle dropped 23.0% to 9,191 farms.

The Canadian bison herd decreased 36.1% since 2006. Alberta reported the largest bison herd in Canada with 57,483 head, a 41.0% decrease since 2006. In 2011, Alberta accounted for 45.9% of the national bison herd.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 326 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in Alberta. This represented 0.8% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in Alberta was field crops and hay and it was reported on 84.0% of the province's 326 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in Alberta

- In 2011, areas of several pulses and specialty crops increased in Alberta. Since 2006, dry field pea area increased 20.3% to 706,726 acres; lentil area increased 803.2% to 97,775 acres; and sunflower area increased 236.8% to 6,035 acres.
- Corn for grain area increased 296.4% since 2006 to 17,148 acres in 2011.
- Soybean area in Alberta increased 38.0% since 2006 to 3,693 acres.
- Alberta reported the largest area of saskatoons in the country with 1,622 acres in 2011, up slightly from 1,587 acres in 2006.
- Sod area increased by 7.0% since 2006 to 10,063 acres in 2011 and nursery area increased by 8.9% to 9,755 acres.
- Alberta's greenhouse vegetable area increased by 32.8% since 2006 to 6.3 million square feet in 2011.
- Total field vegetable area decreased 18.8% since 2006 to 10,716 acres in 2011. The largest field vegetable areas reported in Alberta in 2011 were sweet corn, green peas, and onions.
- Alberta beekeepers reported the highest number of honeybee colonies in Canada, with 235,951 colonies in 2011 – more than 40% of Canada's total. Pollinating bees (excluding honeybees) more than doubled (111.6%) since 2006 to 189,510 gallons in 2011.
- In Alberta, no-till methods were used on 64.8% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 47.8% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 12.8% of land prepared for seeding, from 24.5% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 22.5% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 27.7% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 2.2 million acres in Alberta – the largest area reported in the country.
- Alberta continued to report the largest area of land irrigated (65.2%) in the country in 2010 with 1.2 million acres, most of which was irrigated field crops and irrigated hay and pasture.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 46.5% of all farms in Alberta, while the national average was 44.8%.

- In Alberta 29.6% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 37,852 paid employees, of whom 41.2% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 58.8% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

During the time the census was being collected in 2011, many farm operators were confronted with challenges related to flooding and exceedingly wet conditions in some regions of the Prairies. However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of Alberta for participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Over a quarter of gross farm receipts from greenhouse and nursery production in British Columbia

Greenhouse and nursery type farms accounted for 25.8% of the [2010 gross farm receipts](#) in British Columbia with \$756.6 million. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) provides a framework for classifying farms based on the commodities they produce and the value of these commodities. The [farm types](#) presented in this document are derived based on this system.

Greenhouse area in British Columbia increased 4.2% to 59.7 million square feet in 2011. Greenhouse vegetables accounted for 30.6 million square feet, and floriculture products another 20.5 million square feet of the total greenhouse area in 2011. The reported area of nursery products in 2011 in British Columbia was 11,296 acres, second in the country after Ontario.

Blueberry area expanded

Since 2006, blueberry area increased 76.8% to 20,858 acres in 2011. British Columbia accounted for 11.9% of the national blueberry area in 2011, up from 9.3% in 2006.

Gross farm receipts increased

British Columbia's gross farm receipts in 2010, the year prior to the census, increased 4.0% (at 2010 constant prices) to \$2.9 billion, from 2005. At the national level there was a 3.9% increase in gross farm receipts between 2005 and 2010.

Operators spent an average of 89 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation) for every dollar of receipts in 2010, about one cent less than they spent in 2005.

The greenhouse and nursery farm type and the poultry and egg farm type accounted for 25.8% and 19.9% of total gross farm receipts, respectively.

Farm numbers stable

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 19,759 [census farms](#) in British Columbia, a 0.4% decrease since 2006. This compares to a 10.3% decrease at the national level. A census farm is an agricultural operation that produces agricultural products intended for sale.

British Columbia accounted for 9.6% of Canada's 205,730 farms in 2011, which is slightly higher than its share in 2006.

More larger farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms with \$500,000 or more (at 2010 constant prices) of 2010 gross farm receipts increased by 7.1% between censuses, and those with less than \$500,000 decreased by 0.9%. There were 1,274 of these larger farms in British Columbia in 2011, and while they represented 6.4% of all farms in the province, they accounted for 74.5% of total provincial gross farm receipts reported for the year 2010.

Farm operators

British Columbia reported 29,925 [farm operators](#), 0.2% higher than in 2006.

Women comprised more than a third of farm operators in British Columbia. Of the province's 29,925 operators in 2011, 36.5% were women while nationally this percentage was 27.4%. British Columbia had the highest proportion of female operators in the country.

The average age of a farm operator in British Columbia in 2011 was 55.7 years compared with 53.6 years in 2006. Nationally the average age of a farm operator in 2011 was 54.0 years, up from 52.0 years in 2006.

In 2010, 25.7% of all British Columbia farm operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared to 31.1% five years earlier. At the national level this percentage was 40.1% in 2010.

In 2010, 52.6% of all British Columbia farm operators had an off-farm job or business, compared to 54.9% in 2005. At the national level this percentage was 46.9% in 2010.

According to the Census of Agriculture, 25.1% of British Columbia operators who were under the age of 35 on census day worked off the farm for more than 40 hours a week on average in 2010, compared to 27.2% of operators aged 35 to 54, and 12.3% of operators over 55 years of age.

Farm area

Total farm area in British Columbia decreased 7.9% between 2006 and 2011 to 6.5 million acres. British Columbia had 4.0% of the total farm area in Canada in 2011.

Average area per farm also decreased. Farms in British Columbia averaged 327 acres in 2011, down from 353 acres five years earlier.

Of the total farm area in British Columbia in 2011, 61.7% was pasture land (tame or seeded pasture and natural land for pasture). Cropland accounted for an additional 23.0%. Farm operators reported 1.5 million acres of cropland in 2011, up 2.3% from 2006. The province accounted for 1.7% of cropland reported in Canada. Cropland is the total area used in field crops, hay fruits, field vegetables, sod and nursery.

Table 1: Proportion of cropland, British Columbia, 2006 and 2011

Composition of cropland	Percent of cropland	
	2011	2006
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011		
Hay	64.1	66.8
Field crops	29.8	27.7
Fruits	4.1	3.4
Vegetables	1.1	1.2
Sod and Nursery	0.9	0.9

The majority of cropland (93.9%) in British Columbia was reported as field crops and hay (Table 1). The proportion of hay decreased from 66.8% in 2006 to 64.1% in 2011. Field crops represented 29.8% of cropland in 2011 compared to 27.7% in 2006. Total fruit area represented 4.1% of cropland in 2011, up from 3.4% in 2006.

Livestock

The total number of dairy cows in the province increased 1.3% since 2006 to 73,707 head in 2011.

The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers) decreased by 26.9% since 2006, totalling 229,268 head in 2011.

Organic farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 569 farms with [certified organic](#) and/or [transitional](#) production in British Columbia. This represented 2.9% of all farms in the province. Nationwide, 2.0% of all farms reported certified organic and/or transitional production.

The predominant category of certified organic and/or transitional products reported in British Columbia was fruit, vegetable and greenhouse production and was reported on 70.1% of the province's 569 certified organic and/or transitional farms.

Other agricultural highlights in British Columbia

- Alfalfa area in British Columbia increased 7.9% since 2006 to 538,438 acres in 2011 while other tame hay area decreased 12.2% to 411,225 acres.
- Since 2006, canola and spring wheat areas both expanded. Canola area increased 37.7% to 88,557 acres and spring wheat area increased 50.4% to 81,971 acres in 2011.
- Sweet cherry area expanded 30.4% since 2006 to 4,178 acres in 2011. British Columbia accounted for 86.6% of the national sweet cherry area. British Columbia also reported the largest areas of raspberries and apricots in the country.
- Grape area increased 17.6% since 2006 to 9,169 acres in 2011 while apple area decreased 12.7% to 9,646 acres.
- British Columbia ranked third in Canada in field vegetable area, behind Ontario and Quebec. The province reported 16,287 acres in 2011 down 5.3% since 2006. The largest vegetable crops in British Columbia were sweet corn, beans, and squash and zucchini. Sweet corn area decreased 5.9% since 2006 to 3,216 acres in 2011.
- In British Columbia, no-till methods were used on 28.3% of the land prepared for seeding in 2011, up from 19.1% in 2006. Conventional tillage decreased to 39.5% of land prepared for seeding, from 54.8% five years earlier. Conservation tillage was used on 32.2% of the land prepared for seeding, compared to 26.1% in 2006.
- The 2011 Census marked the first time farm operators were asked to report the area from which crop residue was baled for bedding or sale. In 2010, crop residue was baled from 54,189 acres in British Columbia.
- High-speed internet access was reported by 43.2% of all farms in British Columbia, while the national average was 44.8%.
- In British Columbia 32.9% of all farms in the province reported paid labour for the year 2010. The census counted 45,505 paid employees, of whom 29.1% worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity while 70.9% were seasonal or temporary employees.

A snapshot in time

The 2011 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of the overall state of Canadian agriculture and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. The census program provides a data continuum stretching back to 1921, while agricultural data has been collected since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

Since the previous Census of Agriculture in 2006, fluctuating commodity prices in certain sectors as well as changing costs of fertilizers, fuel, seed and livestock feed affected the farming community. The residual effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza were also issues.

However, many changes have since ensued, including favourable commodity prices in some sectors as well as continued evolution in global economic conditions, and some of these factors have benefited the Canadian agricultural sector. At the same time, many farm operators continue to adapt their production and farming practices to become more efficient and to respond to market factors and consumer demands.

These developments, as well as the dynamic and complex nature of the Canadian agricultural industry, are an important reminder that the Census is a snapshot of the agricultural sector that captures its state at a point in time, and does not measure the annual fluctuations between census years.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the farming community of British Columbia for their participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Notes

Census farm

An operation is considered a census farm (agricultural operation) if it 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
- Animal products: Milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat
- Other agricultural products: Christmas trees, sod, greenhouse, or nursery products, mushrooms, honey or bees, maple syrup and its products

The data for the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are not included in the national totals because of the different definition of an agricultural operation in the territories and confidentiality constraints. The data for the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are presented separately.

Certified organic

An operation or products are referred to as "certified organic" when certification has taken place. Certification refers to the procedure whereby a certification body accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides written assurance that products and production systems conform to specified requirements. Certification may be based on a range of inspection activities including verification of management practices, auditing of quality assurance systems and in/out production balances. (Source: Canada Organic Office Operating Manual)

Transitional organic

Transitional organic refers to those who were in the process of undertaking the three-year process of having all or part of their operations certified organic at the time of the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Gross farm receipts

The Census of Agriculture measures gross farm receipts for the calendar or accounting year prior to the census.

Gross farm receipts (before deducting expenses) in this analysis include:

- receipts from all agricultural products sold
- program payments and custom work receipts.

The following are **not** included in gross farm receipts:

- sales of forestry products (for example: firewood, pulpwood, logs, fence posts and pilings)
- sales of capital items (for example: quota, land, machinery)
- receipts from the sale of any goods purchased only for retail sales.

2005 to 2010

Some data refer to a reference period other than Census Day. For example, for financial data the reference period is the calendar or accounting (fiscal) year prior to the census.

Farm type

Farm type is established through a procedure that classifies each census farm 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. For example, a census farm with total potential receipts of 60% from hogs, 20% from beef cattle and 20% from wheat, would be classified as a hog and pig farm. The farm types presented in this document are derived based on the 2007 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The chart below shows how these derived farm types relate to NAICS.

Census of Agriculture derived categories	NAICS five-digit classes
Dairy	Dairy cattle and milk production
Beef	Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots
Hog and pig	Hog and pig farming
Poultry and egg	Chicken egg production
	Broiler and other meat-type chicken production
	Turkey production
	Poultry hatcheries
	Combination poultry and egg production
	All other poultry production
Sheep and goat	Sheep farming
	Goat farming
Other animal	Apiculture
	Horse and other equine production
	Fur-bearing animal and rabbit production
	Animal combination farming
	All other miscellaneous animal production
Oilseed and grain	Soybean farming
	Oilseed (except soybean) farming

Census of Agriculture derived categories	NAICS five-digit classes
	Dry pea and bean farming
	Wheat farming
	Corn farming
	Other grain farming
Vegetable and melon	Potato farming
	Other vegetable (except potato) and melon farming
Fruit and tree-nut	Fruit and tree nut farming
Greenhouse and nursery	Mushroom production
	Other food crops grown under cover
	Nursery and tree production
	Floriculture production
Other crop	Tobacco farming
	Hay farming
	Fruit and vegetable combination farming
	Maple syrup and products production
	All other miscellaneous crop farming

Farm operator

According to the census, a farm operator is any person responsible for the management decisions made for an agricultural operation as of May 10, 2011.