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## CANADA - Agricultural Census 1991 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** From 1871 to 1951 the census of agriculture in Canada was undertaken every ten years; then, by 1956, to better monitor the country's rapid economic growth, a census of population and a census of agriculture have been simultaneously undertaken at five-year intervals. Canada participated in all decennial World Censuses of Agriculture promoted by FAO, beginning the one carried out in 1931, up to the most recent, undertaken in 1991, to which data presented here refer.

**Organization:** Periodic censuses of agriculture and population are undertaken by the national statistics agency called Statistics Canada: it collects directly a large amount of data, at the same time making use of all other existing sources of relevant administrative statistics outside its own organization. Statistics Canada is made up of several Divisions, of which the Agriculture Division deals exclusively with the collection and publication of agricultural statistics. Statistics Canada consists of its Headquarters Offices in the Federal Capital of Ottawa, plus eight Regional Offices.

**Enumeration period:** The 1991 Census of Agriculture was conducted on 4 June 1991.

**Reference date:** Data on Holder, Holding, Land Use, Livestock and Machinery refer to the day of enumeration, while data on Crops, Employment, Use of Fertilizers and Pesticides, refer to the 12 months preceding the census.

**Definitions:** Census Farm is defined as a farm or ranch or other agricultural holding, which produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops, livestock, poultry, animal products, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod, honey, or maple syrup products. Census Farms are also commonly referred to as Farm Operations or Agricultural Holdings.

**Coverage:** The census covered the entire country except some Indian Reserves and Settlements in Yukon and in the North-West Territories, which in 1991 were incompletely enumerated because enumeration was not permitted or interrupted before its completion; however, the impact of missing data at country level is considered very small.

**Frame:** The frame used was based on the Administrative Subdivisions, i.e.:

- Provinces/Territories, which are the major subdivisions of Canada;
- Census Agricultural Regions, which are sub-provincial geographic areas consisting of groups of Census Divisions;
- Census Divisions, corresponding to counties, districts, municipalities, etc.;
- Census Consolidated Subdivisions (CCS), which are a grouping of towns, townships, cities, parishes, within a Census Division, with a combined land area greater than 25 square kilometres;
- Census subdivisions with a population greater than 100,000 persons are also considered to be a CCS.

**Methods:** The Agricultural Census was conducted jointly with the Population Census. The enumerators visited each household and left a Population Census Questionnaire; an Agricultural Census Questionnaire was also dropped off if anyone in the household operated a farm; the respondents were asked to complete and return them by mail, using the pre-addressed envelopes provided for that purpose. After being reviewed by the census representatives, the questionnaires were sent to regional processing sites for initial processing, and then forwarded to Statistics Canada Head Office in Ottawa.

**Data source:** Statistics Canada - Agricultural Profile of Canada, Part 1 - 1991 Census - Catalogue 93-350.

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