Chapter 1

Agriculture is growing and evolving

The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that gross farm receipts grew by 3.9% (at 2010 constant prices) between 2005 and 2010 in Canada, and that this growth occurred primarily on larger farms. The number of census farms with gross farm receipts of $500,000 and over grew while the number of farms with gross farm receipts less than $500,000 decreased (Figure 1).

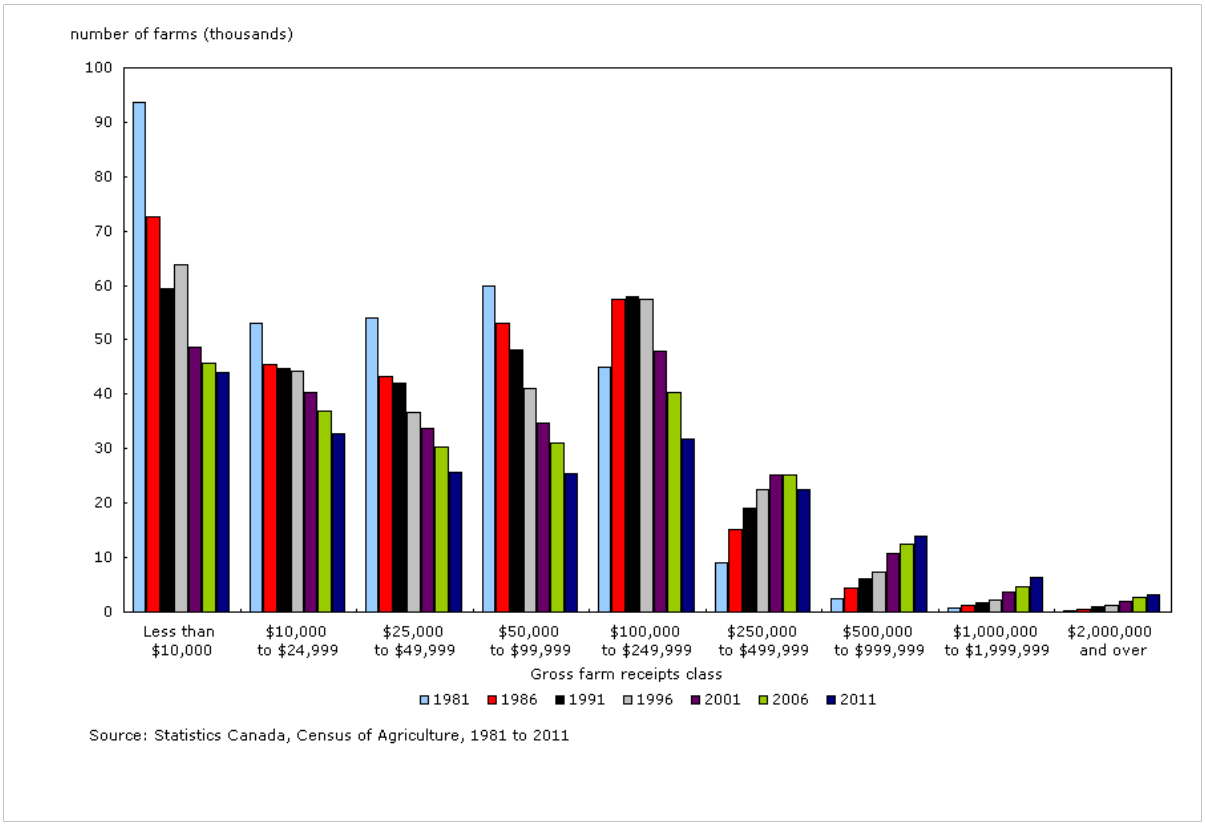


Figure 1: Number of farms by gross farm receipts (at 2010 constant prices), Canada, 1981 to 2011

Farms with $500,000 and over in gross farm receipts accounted for 11.5% of farms in 2011, and 67.9% of the total gross farm receipts in Canada (Figure 2). In 2006, they represented 8.6% of farms and 60.1% of gross farm receipts.

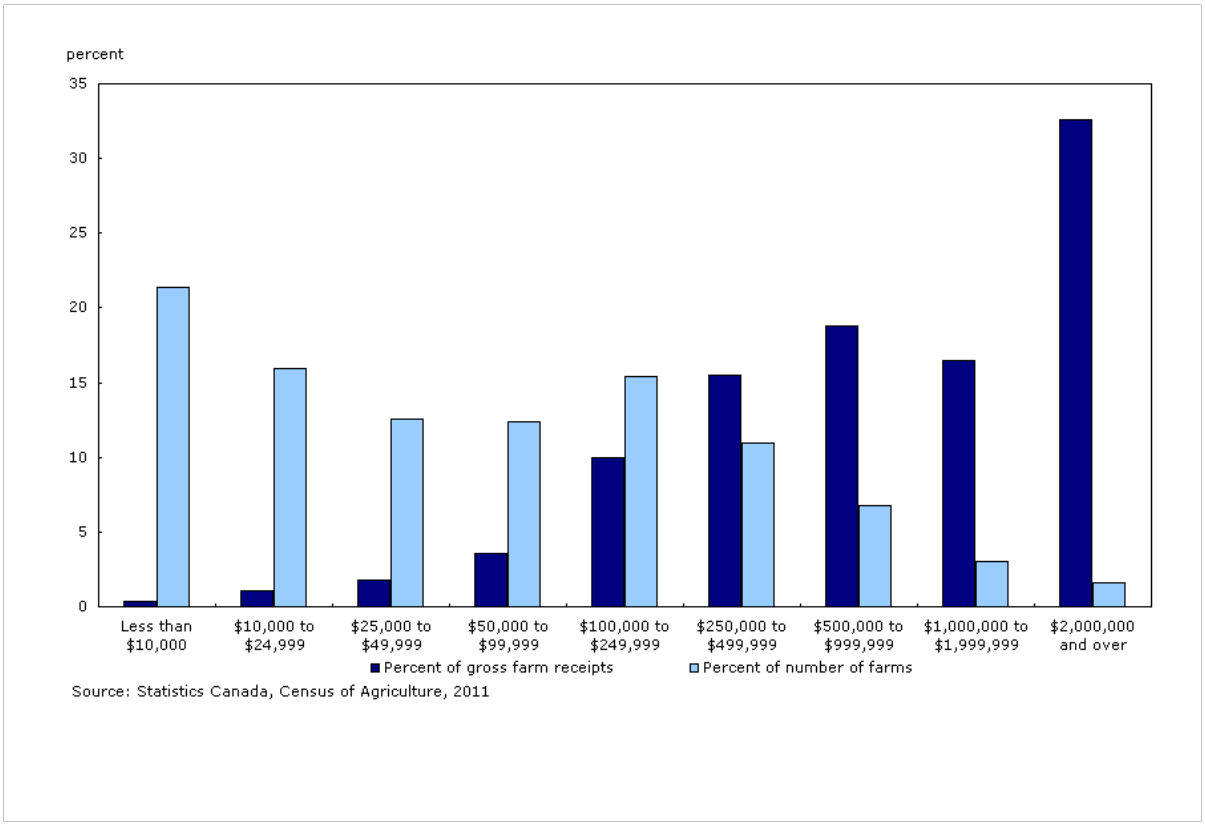


Figure 2: Proportion of gross farm receipts and farm numbers by receipts class, Canada, 2011

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 and 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.

Number of farms in 2011

For the Census of Agriculture, a census farm (agricultural operation) is any operation that produces agricultural products with the intention of selling them. This includes a variety of farms, from those operated by people who choose farming for lifestyle reasons, to those who farm for economic reasons, with or without off-farm work.

In 2011, Canada had 205,730 census farms, a number representing a decrease of 10.3% (or 23,643 farms) since the last census.

Historically, the total number of census farms in Canada began to decline after 1941 followed by the accelerating urbanization of the 1950s. The largest 5-year decline on record was from 1956 to 1961 when the number of farms fell by 16.4% or about 94,000 farms (Figure 3). Total farm area reached a high in 1966 of 174.1 million acres, and in 2011 was 160.2 million acres.

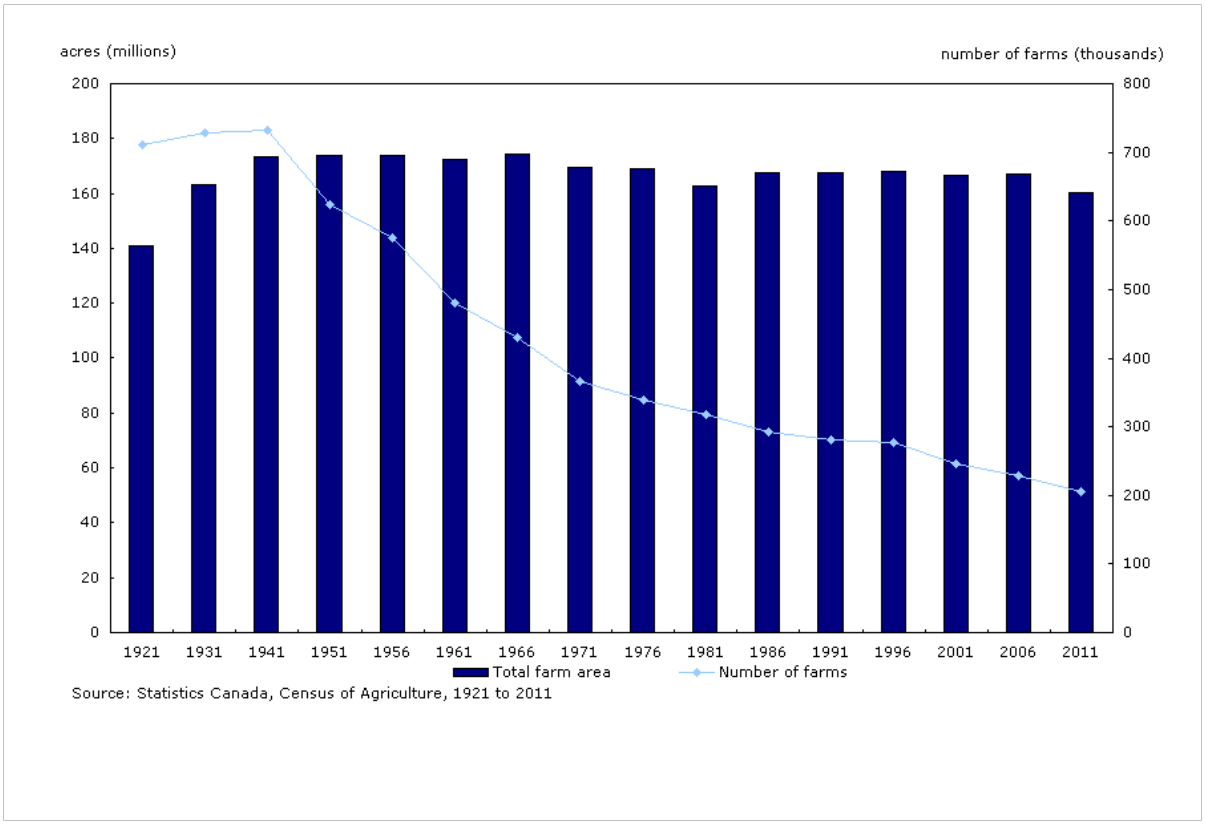


Figure 3: Number of farms and farm area, Canada, 1921 to 2011

The Canadian agricultural sector continues to restructure as many farms expand in scale of operation, consolidate, draw on technological innovations to enhance productivity, and augment their sales. This trend, consistent with the economies of scale characterizing parts of Canadian agriculture, is evident when examining farm numbers by gross farm receipts class between 2006 and 2011 (Table 1).

Table 1
Number of farms by gross farm receipts (at 2010 constant prices), Canada, 2006 and 2011

Gross farm receipts	2011	2006	Percent change, 2006 to 2011
	Number of farms		

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

Less than $10,000	43,954	45,749	-3.9
$10,000-$24,999	32,853	36,971	-11.1
$25,000-$49,999	25,764	30,227	-14.8
$50,000-$99,999	25,455	31,119	-18.2
$100,000-$249,999	31,670	40,382	-21.6
$250,000-$499,999	22,455	25,108	-10.6
$500,000-$999,999	13,977	12,499	11.8
$1,000,000-$1,999,999	6,304	4,614	36.6
$2,000,000 and over	3,298	2,704	22.0
Total	205,730	229,373	-10.3

Across the country, Nova Scotia was the only province showing an increase in farm numbers at 2.9% in comparison to the number in 2006 (Table 2). In contrast, in Prince Edward Island and the Prairies, the drop exceeded the national average. Although other provinces lost farms, their rates of decline were much lower, such as British Columbia at 0.4% and Quebec at 4.0%.

Table 2
Number of farms, farm area, and average farm size by province, with percent change since 2006, Canada and the provinces, 2011

Province	Number of Farms		Area (acres)		Average Farm Size (acres)	
	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011

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

Newfoundland and Labrador	510	-8.6	77,349	-13.5	152	-5.0
Prince Edward Island	1,495	-12.1	594,324	-4.1	398	9.0
Nova Scotia	3,905	2.9	1,018,075	2.2	261	-0.4
New Brunswick	2,611	-5.9	937,829	-4.0	359	2.0
Quebec	29,437	-4.0	8,256,614	-3.5	280	0.4
Ontario	51,950	-9.2	12,668,236	-4.8	244	4.7

Table 2
Number of farms, farm area, and average farm size by province, with percent change since 2006, Canada and the provinces, 2011

Province	Number of Farms		Area (acres)		Average Farm Size (acres)	
	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011	2011	Percent change, 2006 to 2011
Manitoba	15,877	-16.7	18,023,472	-5.5	1,135	13.4
Saskatchewan	36,952	-16.6	61,628,148	-4.1	1,668	15.1
Alberta	43,234	-12.5	50,498,834	-3.1	1,168	10.7
British Columbia	19,759	-0.4	6,452,867	-7.9	327	-7.4
Canada	205,730	-10.3	160,155,748	-4.1	778	6.9

Average farm size increased

The total farm area in Canada in 2011 was 160.2 million acres, down 4.1% since 2006.

Despite the overall decrease in farms and area, the average size of farms increased since the previous census. Compared to 2006, the average size of a Canadian farm increased from 728 acres to 778 acres, a growth of 6.9%.

The character of agriculture differs from one province to the next, with climate and soil types influencing the commodities produced. Farm size also differs from region to region, from Newfoundland and Labrador having an average farm size of 152 acres, to sprawling operations in the Prairie provinces, such as Saskatchewan which had the largest average farm size in the country, at 1,668 acres. Saskatchewan also had the greatest increase in average farm size, at 15.1% (Table 2).

A shift in production

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.

Canada's agricultural sector is resilient and flexible as it continues to adapt to changing conditions. Crop production and beef farming have long been the backbone of Canada's agriculture industry and in 2011, oilseed and grain farms once again represented the greatest number of farms across the country. However, they widened the gap with other farm types, representing 30.0% of all farms, up from 26.9% in 2006 (Figure 4). Beef farms, while declining in number since 2006, were still the second most numerous farm type in 2011. Beef farms were historically a close second as they comprised 26.6% of all farms in 2006, yet this sector experienced many challenges since the BSE outbreak in 2003 and as a result in 2011 accounted for 18.2% of all farms.

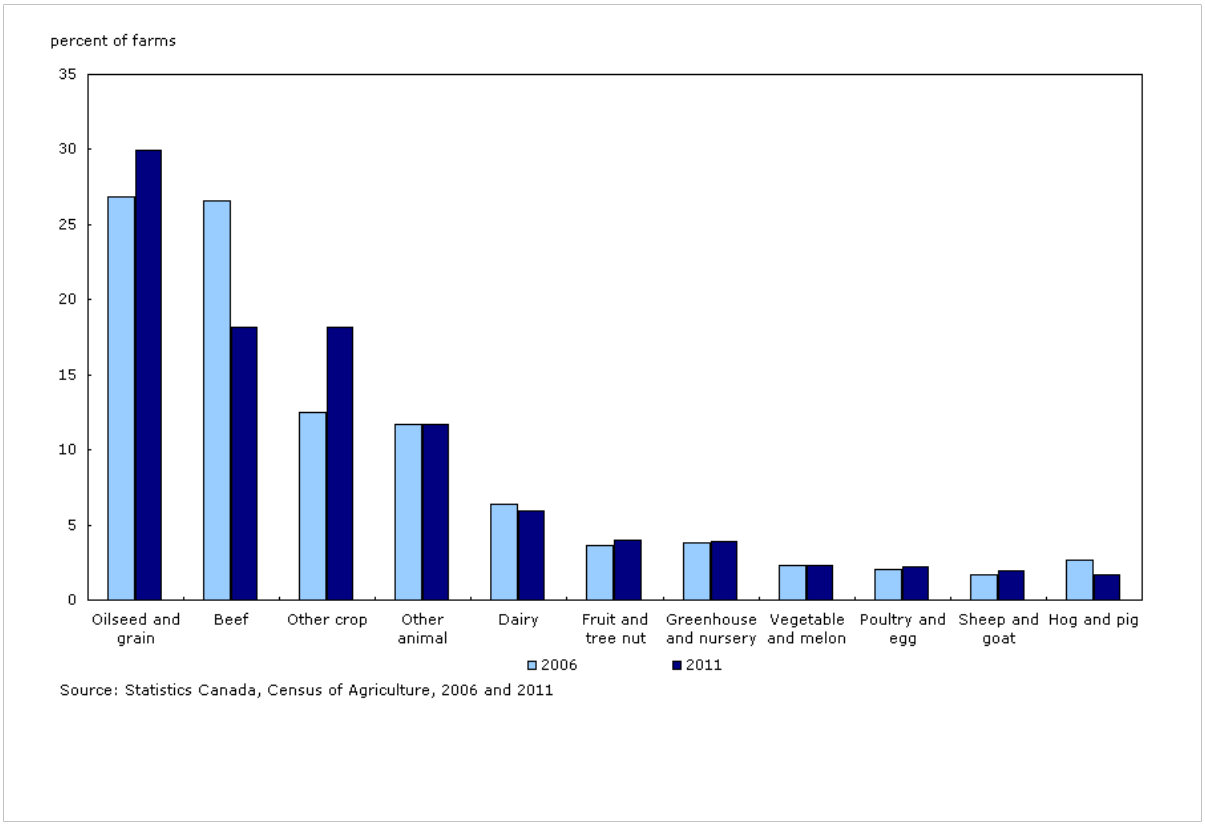


Figure 4: Proportion of all farms by farm type, Canada, 2006 and 2011

Only three farm types increased in number: "other crop", "oilseed and grain", as well as "sheep and goat" farms. The category "other crop" includes establishments primarily engaged in hay farming, maple syrup and maple products, or combinations of fruit and vegetable or other crops.

Farms more generally categorized as livestock-based comprised 41.6% of farms in 2011, compared to 50.9% in 2006. Conversely, crop-based farms accounted for 58.4% of farms, up from 49.1% in 2006 (Figure 5). This shift underlies many of the other results found in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

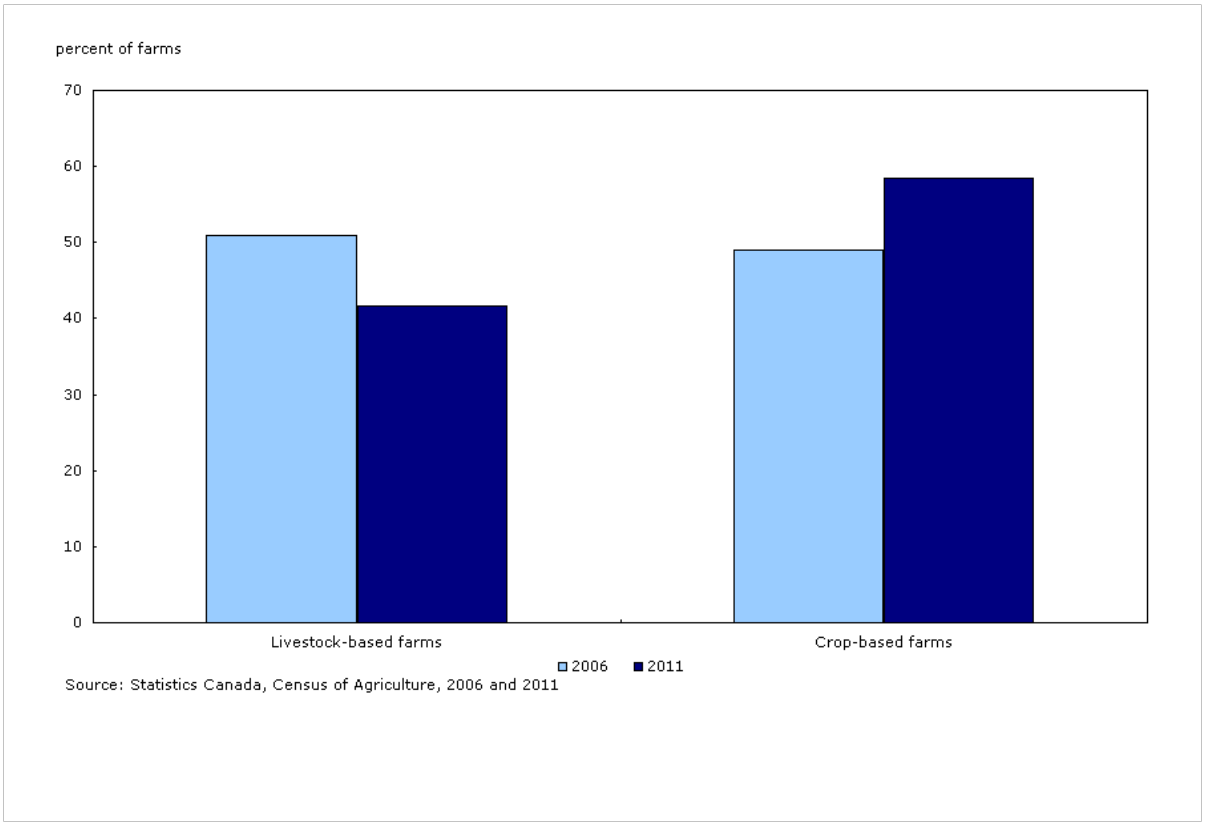


Figure 5: Livestock-based versus crop-based farm types, as a proportion of all farms, Canada, 2006 and 2011

How much land was devoted to agriculture?

Total farm area reported on the 2011 Census of Agriculture accounted for 7.2% of the total land base in Canada. As a percentage of total land area in each province, total farm area ranged from 0.1% in Newfoundland and Labrador, to just over 42% in Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan (Figure 6).

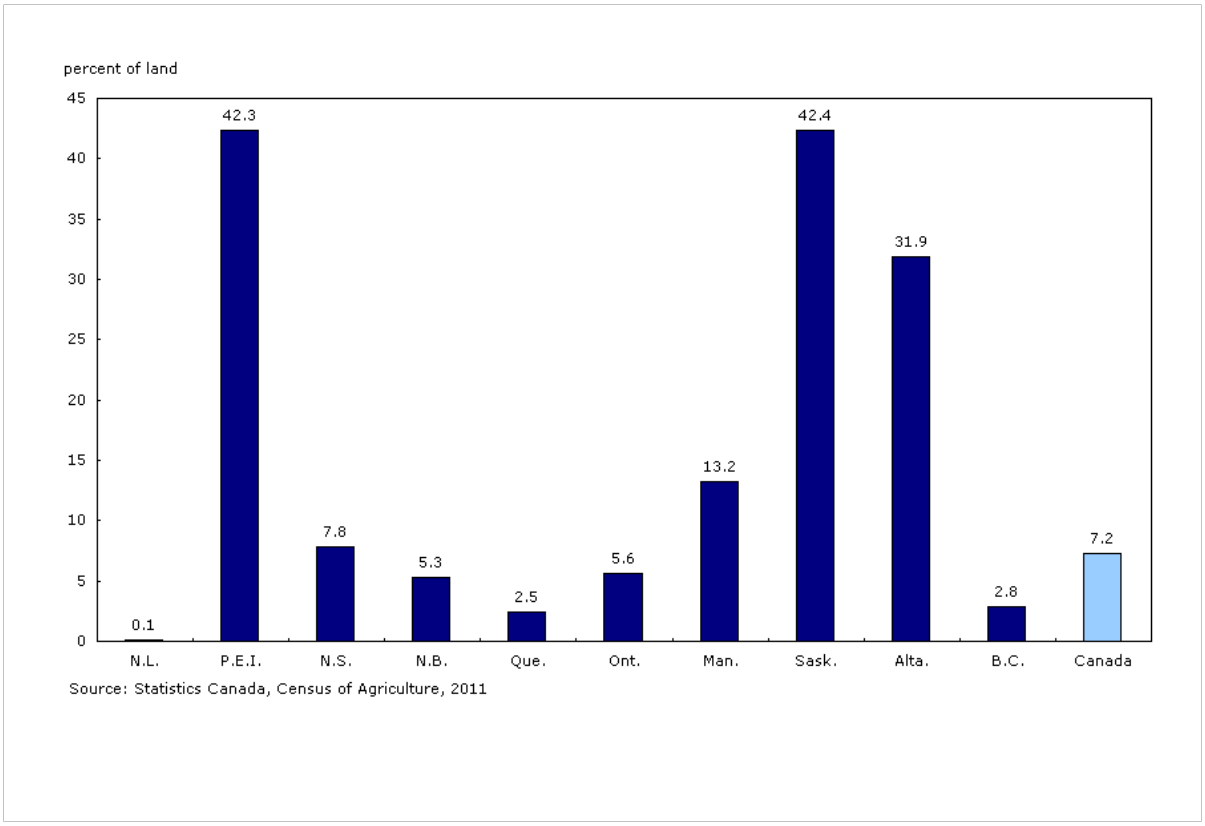
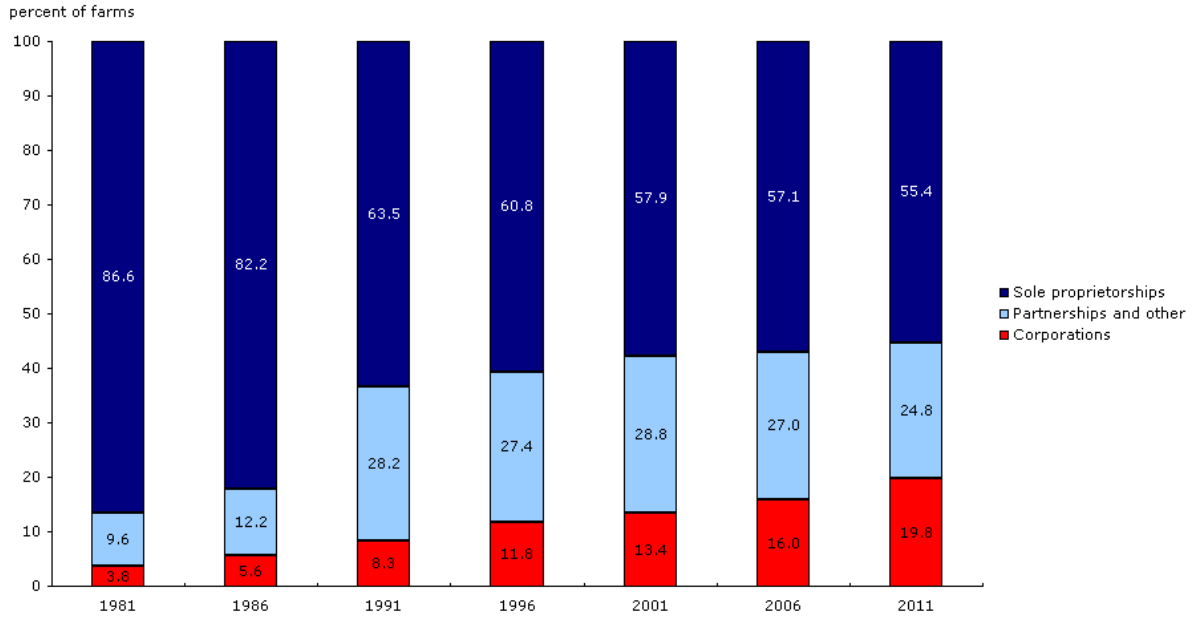


Figure 6: Total farm area as a proportion of total land area, Canada and the provinces, 2011

More farms were incorporated

There were 114,006 farms operating as sole proprietorships in 2011, a decrease of 12.9% since 2006. By contrast, the 40,714 farms operating as family or non-family corporations represented an increase of 11.2%. Family corporations accounted for 87.8% of all corporations in 2011. The historical trend shows an increase over time in the proportion of farms which are incorporated, and a decrease in the proportion which are sole proprietorships (Figure 7).



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1981 to 2011

Figure 7: Operating arrangements of farms, Canada, 1981 to 2011

It is the farms in the higher gross farm receipts classes that are more likely to be incorporated, with the $2 million and over category showing more than 80% of farms incorporated (Figure 8). Both the proportion of farms operating as sole proprietorships as well as those operating as partnerships or other arrangements tend to decline as gross farm receipts increase.

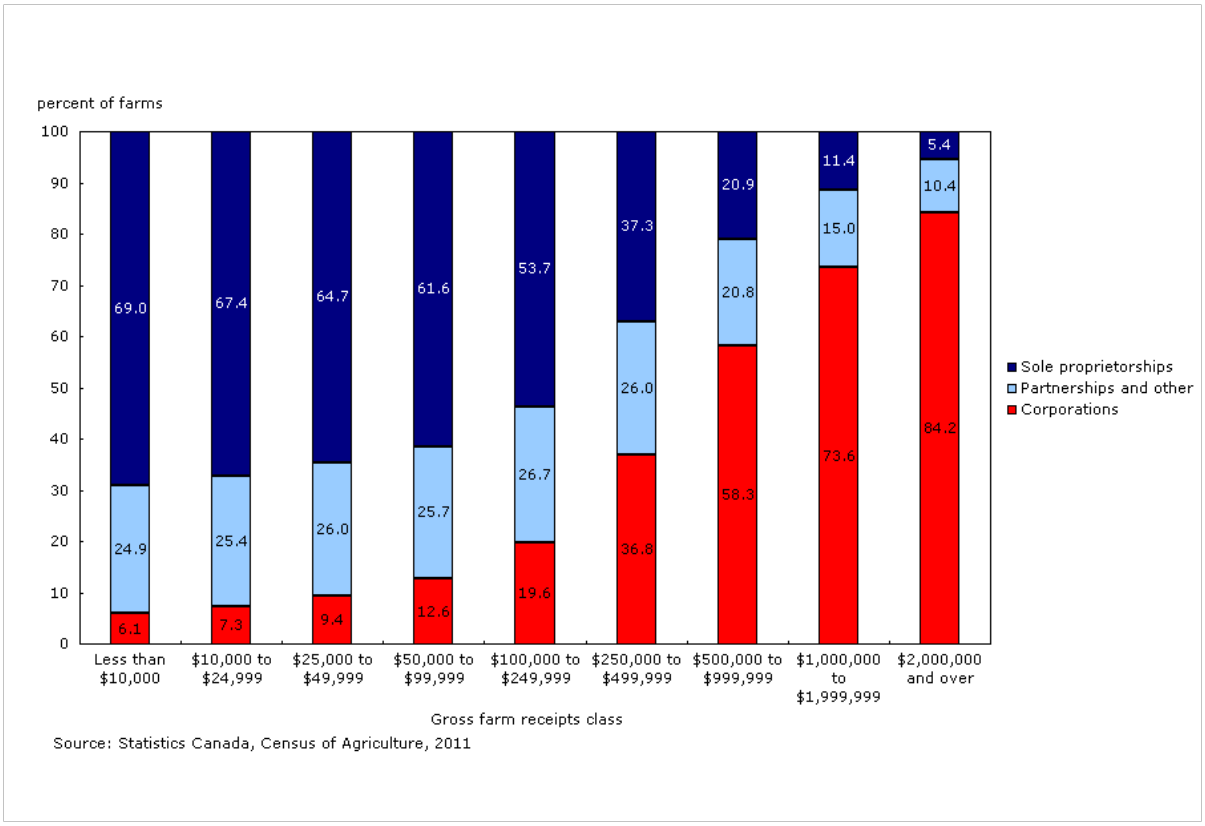


Figure 8: Operating arrangements by gross farm receipts class, Canada, 2011

Shift in land use and tenure reflects trend to crops

In 2011, the area of land in crops (cropland) stood at 87.4 million acres, a drop of 1.6% since 2006. Tame hay and alfalfa, the components of cropland most closely tied to the beef sector, decreased by 14.0%. The decline in tame hay and alfalfa is linked to the decrease in the number of beef cattle. If one excludes tame hay and alfalfa from total cropland, the remaining cropland shows an increase of 2.0%.

Cropland remained the greatest component of land use, comprising 54.6% of the total farm area reported - a slightly higher share than in 2006 (Figure 9). Total pasture followed in second place at 31.2% of the total. Total pasture, which includes both tame or seeded pasture and natural land for pasture, accounted for 50.0 million acres, down 4.3% since 2006. This decrease was also closely tied to the decrease in the number of beef cattle over the same period.

Summerfallow area accounted for 5.2 million acres in 2011, a decrease of 40.5% since 2006. Summerfallow, still largely a Prairie practice, comprised only 3.2% of the total farm area (Figure 9). Reduced reliance on this land management technique has been a result of economic conditions as well as technological changes.

Woodlands and wetlands decreased by 8.8% to 12.1 million acres, while “all other land” increased by 35.8% to 5.5 million acres since 2006. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, land that was reported to the Census of Agriculture in 2011 as “too wet to seed” as a result of flooding has been categorized as “other land” and not cropland or summerfallow; this land could shift back to cropland when conditions improve.

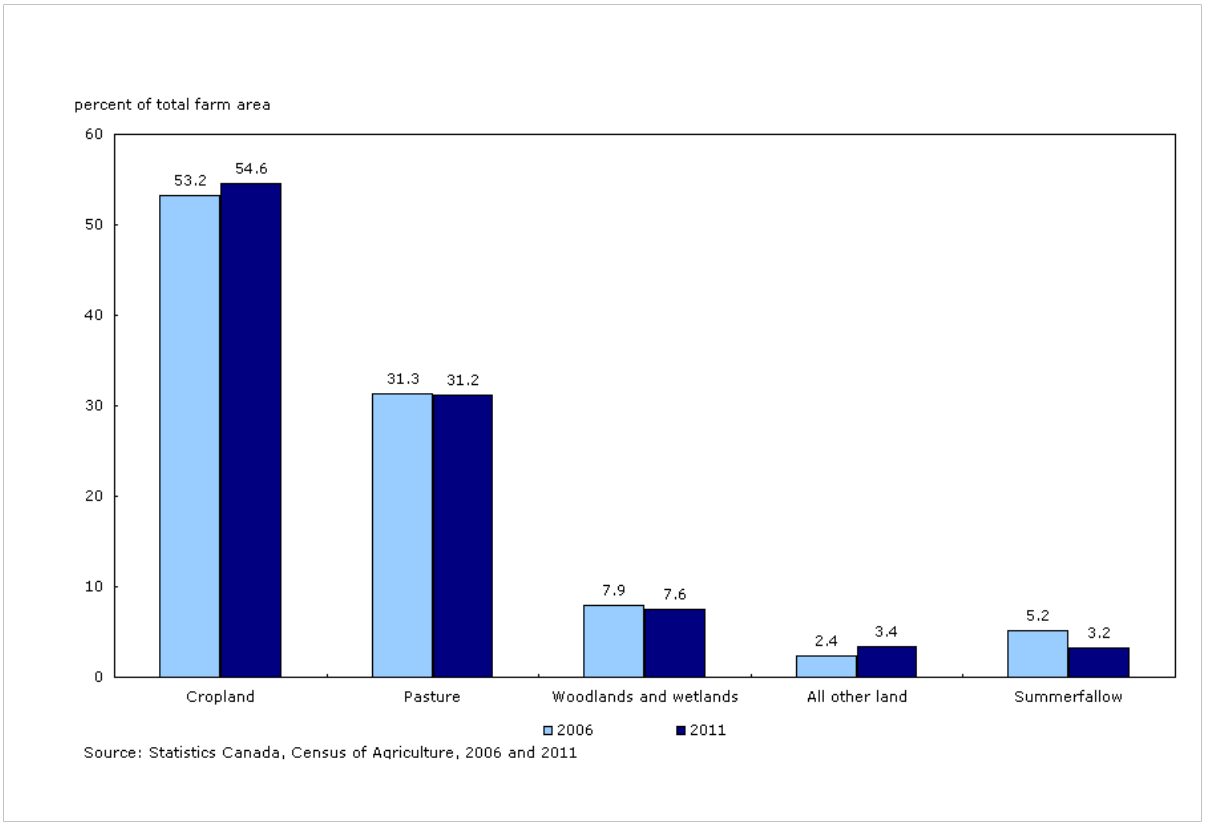


Figure 9: Land use as a proportion of total farm area, Canada, 2006 and 2011

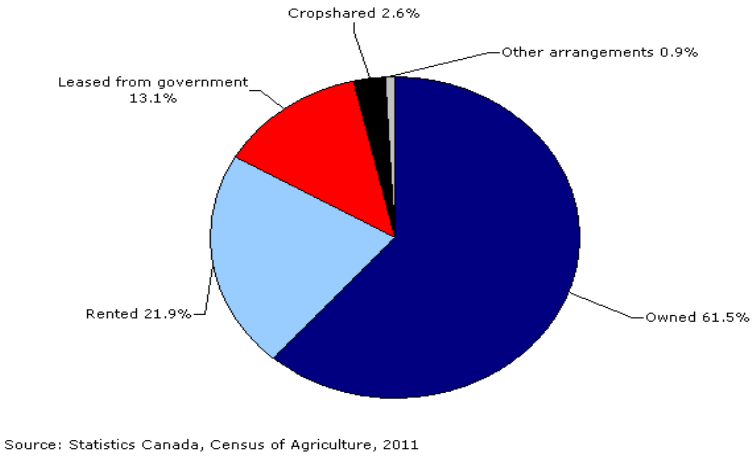
These shifting land use patterns were due in part to a declining beef cattle sector that has encountered considerable challenges in recent years. Since the BSE outbreak, Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) regulations in the United States, the rising cost of feed, a strong Canadian dollar and weakening beef exports have all affected the sector. Consequently the number of beef cattle diminished significantly as many farmers reduced livestock production or exited the industry during the intercensal period. Stronger prices for certain field crops during this same period made the move to crop farming an attractive option. While canola prices climbed steadily and facilitated this trend in Western Canada, high corn and soybean prices drove a similar shift in parts of Eastern Canada.

These changes in land use contrast with the pattern observed in the 2006 Census when cropland and summerfallow were converted into pasture in order to meet the feed requirements of increasing numbers of beef cattle related to conditions of the BSE crisis.

Shifting land use patterns are an indication that the Canadian agricultural sector continues to adapt to economic conditions.

More renting, less owning

The majority of the total land in agriculture (including areas that were used by others) in Canada was owned by those who operate it, at 61.5%. This is followed by rented land at 21.9% and land leased from government at 13.1% (Figure 10).



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011

Figure 10: Tenure composition of total land in agriculture, Canada, 2011

Total land area owned on farms across Canada stood at 103.5 million acres in 2011, down from 110.3 million acres in 2006. Area rented from others was 36.8 million acres, increasing from 34.1 million acres.

Farmers continued to respond to an increasingly competitive environment by changing tenure arrangements. Owned land as a proportion of total farm area has been decreasing steadily every census since 1976 (Figure 11).

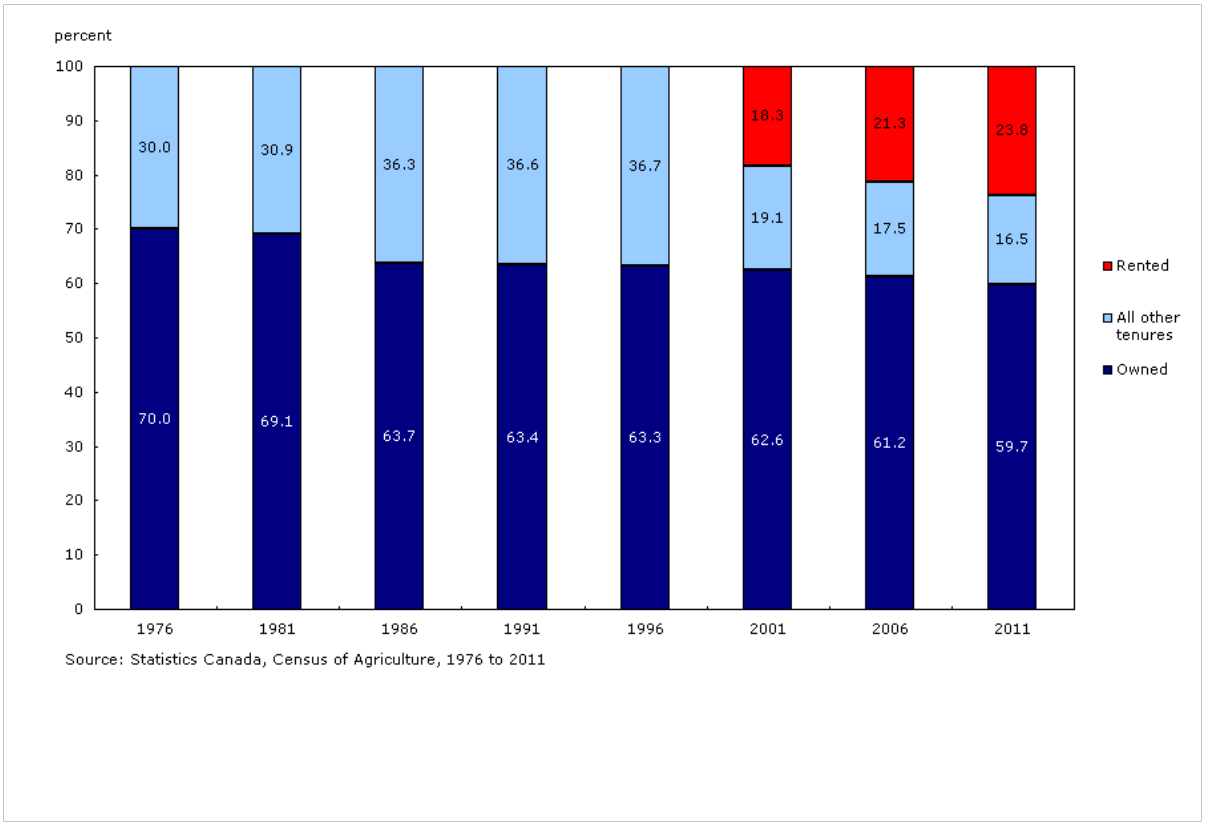


Figure 11: Land tenure as a proportion of total farm area, Canada, 1976 to 2011

Land rental was the second largest component of land tenure and has increased for the past several censuses. There were several factors contributing to this shift, such as rising land prices and an aging farm population.

Land rental is a less capital-intensive means of expanding an operation to take advantage of rising commodity prices. Also, retiring farmers may wish to retain ownership of their land and rent it out for use by other farmers. The current practice of non-farmers and investment funds investing in land and renting it out to farmers also contributes to this trend.

Since 2006, total land leased from the government decreased by 1.5 million acres, and in 2011 stood at 22.1 million acres. This decline is largely related to that of beef cattle, as the majority of this land is marginal land used for grazing animals.

Chapter 2

Almost half of farm operators aged 55 and older

The 2011 Census of Agriculture marks the first time the 55-and-over age category represented the highest percentage of total operators (Figure 12). In 2011, 48.3% of operators were aged 55 or over, compared to 40.7% in 2006. By contrast, the Labour Force Survey reported that in May 2011, 30.8% of those self-employed in the total labour force were aged 55 years or older.

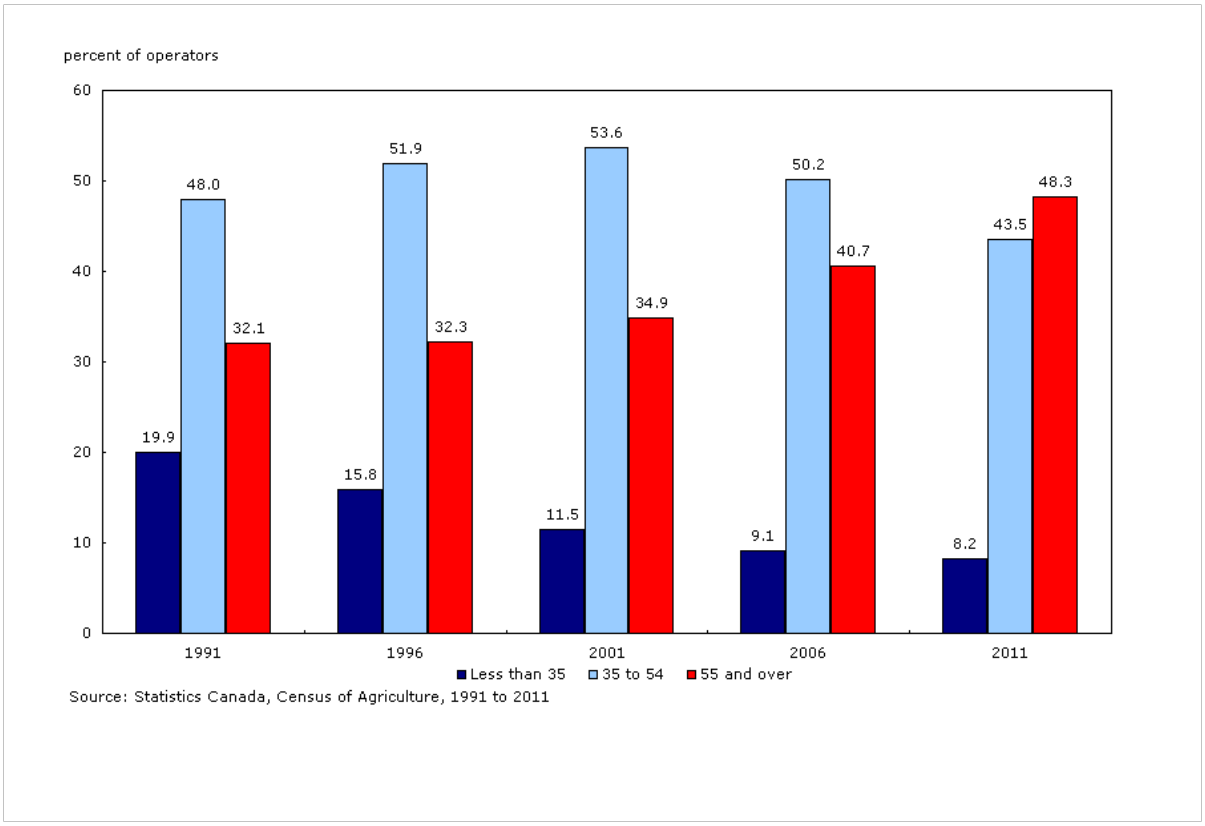


Figure 12: Total operators by age category, Canada, 1991 to 2011

There were 293,925 operators reported in the 2011 Census of Agriculture, which represents a drop of 10.1% since 2006, in line with the decreasing number of farms. There were a total of 213,265 (72.6%) male and 80,665 (27.4%) female operators.

Quebec remained the province with the youngest operators, with an average operator age of 51.4 in 2011, compared to the national average of 54.0 (Table 3). British Columbia's operators had the highest average age at 55.7.

Table 3
Average age of operators for Canada and the provinces, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 to 2011

Province	Average operator age		
	2011	2006	2001
Newfoundland and Labrador	55.0	52.3	50.5
Prince Edward Island	54.2	51.4	49.3
Nova Scotia	55.4	53.2	51.0
New Brunswick	55.5	52.8	51.0
Quebec	51.4	49.3	47.0
Ontario	54.5	52.6	50.7
Manitoba	53.1	51.2	49.0

Table 3
Average age of operators for Canada and the provinces, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Province	Average operator age		
	2011	2006	2001
Saskatchewan	54.2	52.6	50.5
Alberta	54.5	52.2	49.9
British Columbia	55.7	53.6	51.4
Canada	54.0	52.0	49.9

In 2011, 8.2% of operators were less than 35 years of age, a decrease from 9.1% in 2006. In Quebec, 10.9% of operators were less than 35 years old—the highest percentage nationally.

The average gross farm receipts for farms with all operators under 35 years of age was $204,558, while the average for farms with operators under 35 alongside older operators was $450,485 (Table 4).

Table 4
Average gross farm receipts for younger operators, Canada, 2010

Farm category	Average gross farm receipts ($)
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011	
Farms with all operators under 35 years	204,558
Farms with under-35 operators alongside older operators	450,485
Farms with all operators over 35	240,027
All farms	248,199

On-farm work

Most operators continued to work more than 40 hours a week on average on the farm, although the proportion declined. In 2010, 40.1% of operators worked more than 40 hours a week on average on their farm operations, compared with 46.7% in 2005. Conversely, 31.5% of all operators allocated less than 20 hours a week on average to farm work, an increase from 27.2% in 2005.

Female operators were more likely to work part-time on the farm with 62.3% reporting an average of less than 30 hours a week on the farm, compared to 40.4% of male operators (Table 5).

Table 5
On-farm work, Canada, 2010

Average hours per week of on-farm work	Percent of operators		
	All	Male	Female
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011			
More than 40 hours	40.1	46.2	24.2

Table 5 On-farm work, Canada, 2010			
	Percent of operators		
Average hours per week of on-farm work	All	Male	Female
30 to 40 hours	13.4	13.4	13.5
20 to 29 hours	15.0	14.1	17.3
Less than 20 hours	31.5	26.4	45.0

Farms with higher gross farm receipts had operators that worked more hours a week on average on the farm. Of the operators whose farms had $2 million and over in gross farm receipts, 80.7% worked more than 40 hours a week on average on the farm, while only 6.9% worked an average of less than 20 hours a week on average (Figure 13).

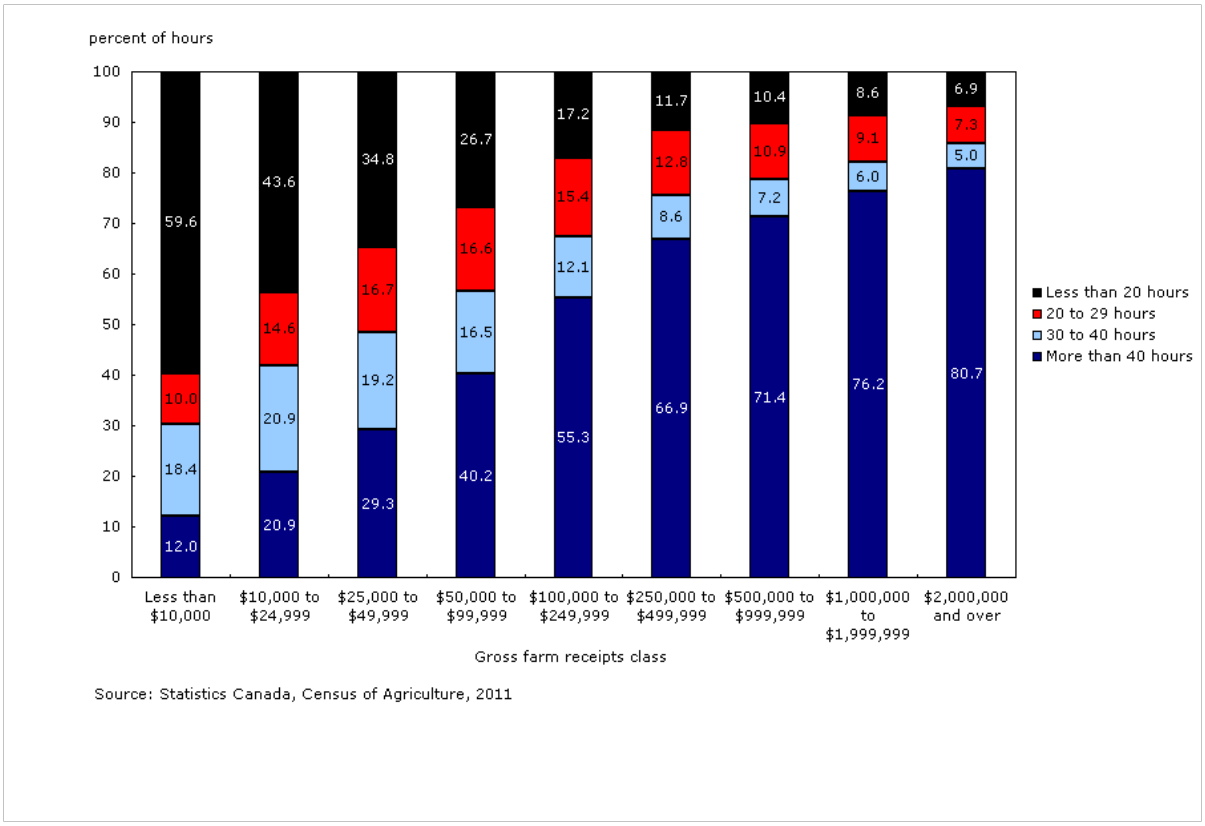


Figure 13: Proportion of operators' average hours of work on the farm per week by gross farm receipts, Canada, 2010

Off-farm work

The majority of operators did not work off the farm in 2010, and this was consistent for both males and females. The 2011 Census showed that 46.9% of operators reported working off the farm in 2010, compared to 48.4% in 2005.

For those who did work off the farm, the proportion of female operators was higher than that of males; however, female operators reported working fewer hours off the farm, and were more likely to have part-time employment.

One-fifth (20.7%) of female operators reported working less than 30 hours a week on average (part-time) off the farm in 2010, compared to 13.0% of male operators (Table 6). Still, 11.1% of female operators reported more than 40 hours a week of employment off the farm, though this was about half the percentage of male operators at 20.6%.

Table 6
Off-farm work, Canada, 2010

Average hours per week of off-farm work	Percent of operators		
	All	Male	Female

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011

Any off-farm work	46.9	46.3	48.4
More than 40 hours	18.0	20.6	11.1
30 to 40 hours	13.7	12.7	16.6
20 to 29 hours	6.5	5.5	9.1
Less than 20 hours	8.6	7.5	11.6

Paid labour on farms: year-round and seasonal employees

Paid labour was reported on 34.0% of Canadian farms for 2010, accounting for 297,683 paid employees.

Of those, 112,059 (37.6%) were year-round (either full-time or part-time) employees, while 185,624 (62.4%) were seasonal or temporary employees (Table 7). Questions on the number of year-round and seasonal employees were new to the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

At the provincial level, it was Ontario that reported the most farm employees with 28.5% of the total count, followed by Quebec and British Columbia.

Table 7
Paid year-round and seasonal employees for Canada and the provinces, 2010

Province	Total employees	Year-round employees		Seasonal employees	
		number	percent	number	percent

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011

Newfoundland and Labrador	1,395	466	33.4	929	66.6
Prince Edward Island	4,687	1,209	25.8	3,478	74.2
Nova Scotia	9,695	2,177	22.5	7,518	77.5
New Brunswick	7,452	2,024	27.2	5,428	72.8
Quebec	57,488	24,592	42.8	32,896	57.2
Ontario	84,878	33,271	39.2	51,607	60.8
Manitoba	19,827	8,847	44.6	10,980	55.4

Table 7
Paid year-round and seasonal employees for Canada and the provinces, 2010

Province	Total employees	Year-round employees		Seasonal employees	
		number	percent	number	percent
Saskatchewan	28,904	10,634	36.8	18,270	63.2
Alberta	37,852	15,598	41.2	22,254	58.8
British Columbia	45,505	13,241	29.1	32,264	70.9
Canada	297,683	112,059	37.6	185,624	62.4

Higher proportions of seasonal employees were reported in provinces such as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. These provinces have higher proportions of fruit, tree nut and potato farms which require brief periods of significant labour. In contrast, provinces having higher proportions of year-round employees also have higher proportions of livestock farms, requiring year-round labour.

Financial status of farms

Gross farm receipts increased while expenses remained stable

From 2005 to 2010, gross farm receipts increased while total operating expenses remained unchanged. Gross farm receipts in Canada were $51.1 billion in 2010, up 3.9% from $49.2 billion (at 2010 constant prices) in 2005. Total operating expenses remained unchanged at $42.2 billion during the same period.

Most gross farm receipts come from the sales of farm commodities. They also include payments from government-sponsored programs. Farmers themselves contributed to many of these programs by paying premiums, much like with any insurance plan. According to Statistics Canada data from the Agriculture Economics Statistics series on direct program payments to agricultural producers, 13.4% of receipts in 2005 were from program payments; in 2010 this proportion had dropped to 7.0% (CANSIM series 002-0001). The value of these payments fell by 45.4%, from $5.7 billion to $3.1 billion (at 2010 constant prices) during this period.

More million-dollar farms

According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, Canada had 9,602 farms with $1 million or more in gross farm receipts reported for 2010. While these farms are still a relatively small proportion of all farms, they increased significantly, from 3.2% of the total number of farms and 42.8% of gross farm receipts for 2005 to 4.7% of all farms and 49.1% of gross farm receipts for 2010 (at 2010 constant prices).

The number of farms reporting $1 million or more (at 2010 constant prices) in receipts grew by 31.2% over the last intercensal period, while the number of farms reporting less than $1 million fell by 11.7%.

Million-dollar farms were more likely to be incorporated; 77.2% of million-dollar farms were incorporated compared with 19.8% of all farms. Family corporations represented 66.3% of million-dollar farms compared with 17.4% of all farms, and non-family corporations represented 10.9% of million-dollar farms, but 2.4% of all farms.

The number of $2 million farms also increased—the 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that Canada had 3,298 farms in this category, a 22.0% increase since the 2006 Census. They represented 1.6% of all farms, while they reported one-third of the total receipts.

Gross farm receipts varied by farm type

The leading farm type in terms of both farm numbers and receipts was oilseed and grain farms, accounting for 30.0% of all farms and 35.7% of all gross farm receipts in Canada in 2010 (Figure 14). The gross farm receipts of oilseed and grain farms totalled $18.2 billion in 2010, up 49.5% since 2005 (at 2010 constant prices) (Table 8), while the number of farms typed as oilseed and grain remained constant.

Beef farms came second, with 18.2% of all farms and 14.3% of all gross farm receipts in Canada. Receipts from beef farms totalled $7.3 billion in 2010, down 24.8% since 2005 (at 2010 constant prices), while the number of farms typed as beef declined by 38.6%. Dairy farms were third in terms of gross farm receipts, reporting 12.3% of all gross farm receipts in Canada, while they accounted for 5.9% of all farms.

Gross farm receipts on hog and pig farms fell by 33.2% between 2005 and 2010 (at 2010 constant prices), to $4.1 billion. These farms represented 1.7% of all farms in Canada and reported 8.1% of all gross farm receipts in 2010, down from 2.6% of all farms and 12.5% of gross farm receipts in 2005. Gross receipts reported by poultry and egg farms increased by 9.8% during the same 5 years to $4.0 billion, while the number of farms typed as poultry and egg decreased by 2.1%.

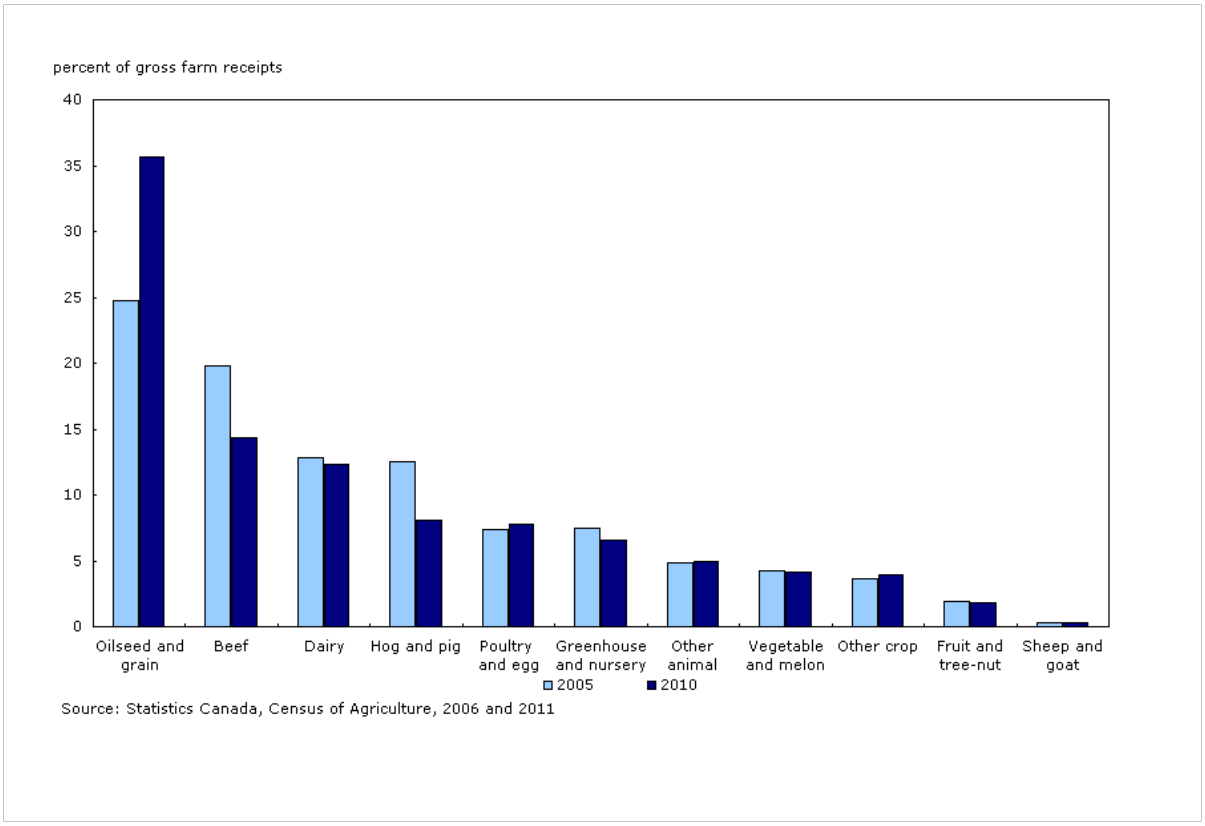


Figure 14: Proportion of gross farm receipts by farm type (at 2010 constant prices), Canada, 2005 and 2010

Table 8: Gross farm receipts and percent change by farm type (at 2010 constant prices), Canada, 2005 and 2010

Farm type	2010 (millions of dollars)	2005 (millions of dollars)	Percent change, 2005 to 2010
Oilseed and grain	18,220	12,188	49.5
Beef	7,323	9,743	-24.8
Dairy	6,278	6,323	-0.7
Hog and pig	4,122	6,170	-33.2
Poultry and egg	3,978	3,623	9.8
Greenhouse and nursery	3,356	3,699	-9.3
Other animal	2,533	2,406	5.3
Vegetable and melon	2,132	2,105	1.3
Other crop	1,997	1,786	11.8
Fruit and tree nut	949	952	-0.2
Sheep and goat	173	172	0.7
All farms	51,062	49,166	3.9

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

Farm operating expenses

Total operating expenses remained unchanged from 2005 to 2010, at $42.2 billion (at 2010 constant prices).

Compared to 2005, crop-specific production expenses increased by 19.2%, whereas livestock-specific production expenses decreased by 7.3%.

Fertilizer and lime expenses increased by 24.5% (at 2010 constant prices) between 2005 and 2010, from $2.9 billion to $3.6 billion. Purchases of fertilizer and lime accounted for 8.4% of total operating expenses in Canada in 2010 compared with 6.8% in 2005.

Purchases of feed, supplements and hay accounted for 14.1% of total operating expenses in Canada in 2010 compared with 13.8% (at 2010 constant prices) in 2005 (Figure 15), related to increases in crop prices. This expense category increased by 2.5% to $6.0 billion in 2010. Expenses for purchases of livestock and poultry decreased by 16.3%, from $5.9 billion in 2005 to $5.0 billion in 2010. This expense category shifted from 14.1% to 11.8% of the total during the intercensal period.

Expenses for both family and non-family wages represented 10.4% of all expenses in Canada in 2010 compared with 10.6% in 2005 (at 2010 constant prices). Between 2005 and 2010, expenses for wages fell by 2.2% to $4.4 billion. The proportion of wages paid to family members continued to decrease in comparison with wages paid to non-family members. Other expenses grew by 16.0%, from $5.1 billion in 2005 to $5.9 billion in 2010. These expenses accounted for 13.9% of all expenses in Canada in 2010 compared with 12.0% in 2005.

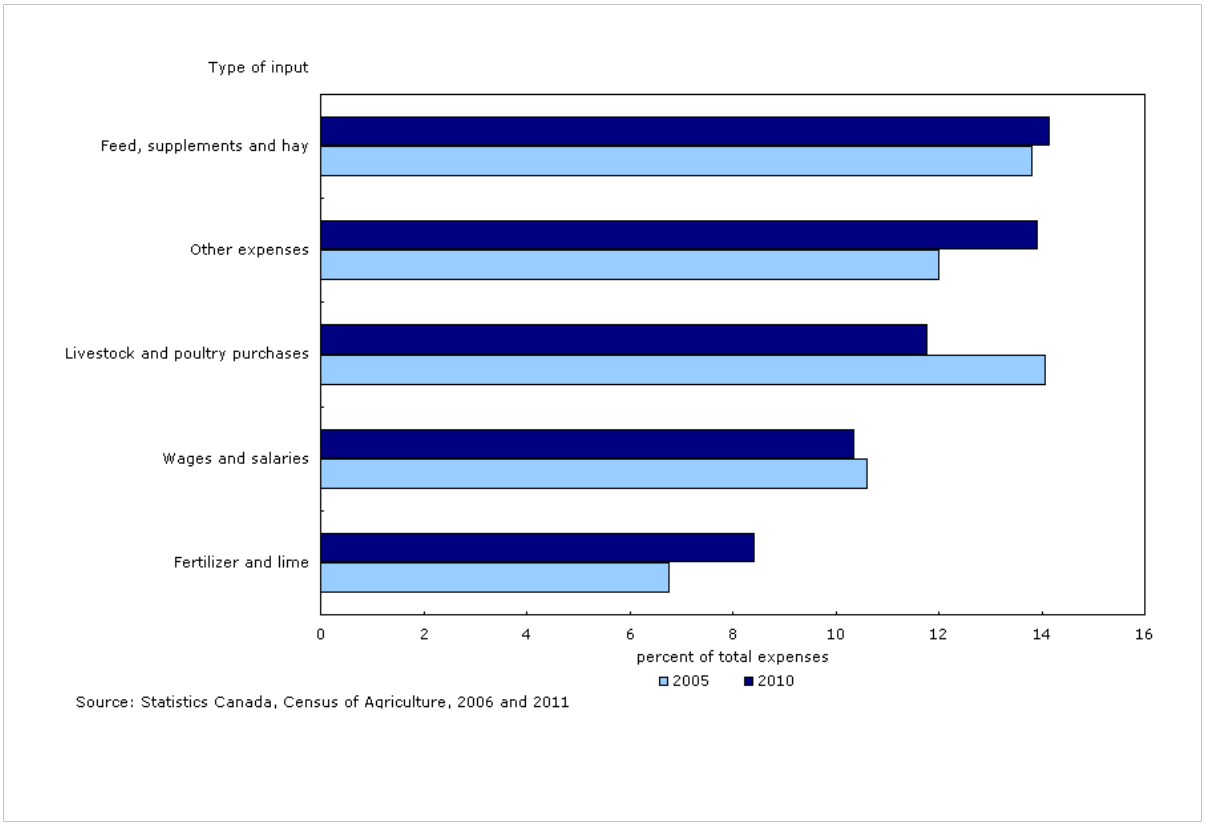


Figure 15: Selected operating expenses as a percent of total operating expenses, Canada, 2005 and 2010

Farm product and input prices

According to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) and the Farm Input Price Index (FIPI), prices farmers received for the products they sold between 2005 and 2010 rose (16.5%) more quickly than prices they paid for the inputs purchased (15.7%) (CANSIM series 002-0022 and 328-0015).

Prices farmers received for crops increased more than prices for livestock products. During this period, the FPPI shows a 33.8% increase in crop prices; as part of that increase, grain prices rose by 45.9% and oilseed prices by 51.3%. By contrast, the FPPI shows that livestock product prices increased by 5.7%. This includes dairy prices which grew by 12.6% and cattle prices which grew by 0.3%, while hog prices fell by 2.8%.

The prices farmers paid for crop production inputs also increased more significantly than the prices for livestock production inputs. The FIPI shows a 21.8% increase between 2005 and 2010 in the price of crop inputs, whereas livestock production input prices rose by 16.8% in that period.

Note that the FIPI shows an overall increase in farm input prices that is greater than the FPPI for animal products and less than the FPPI for crop products (Figure 16).

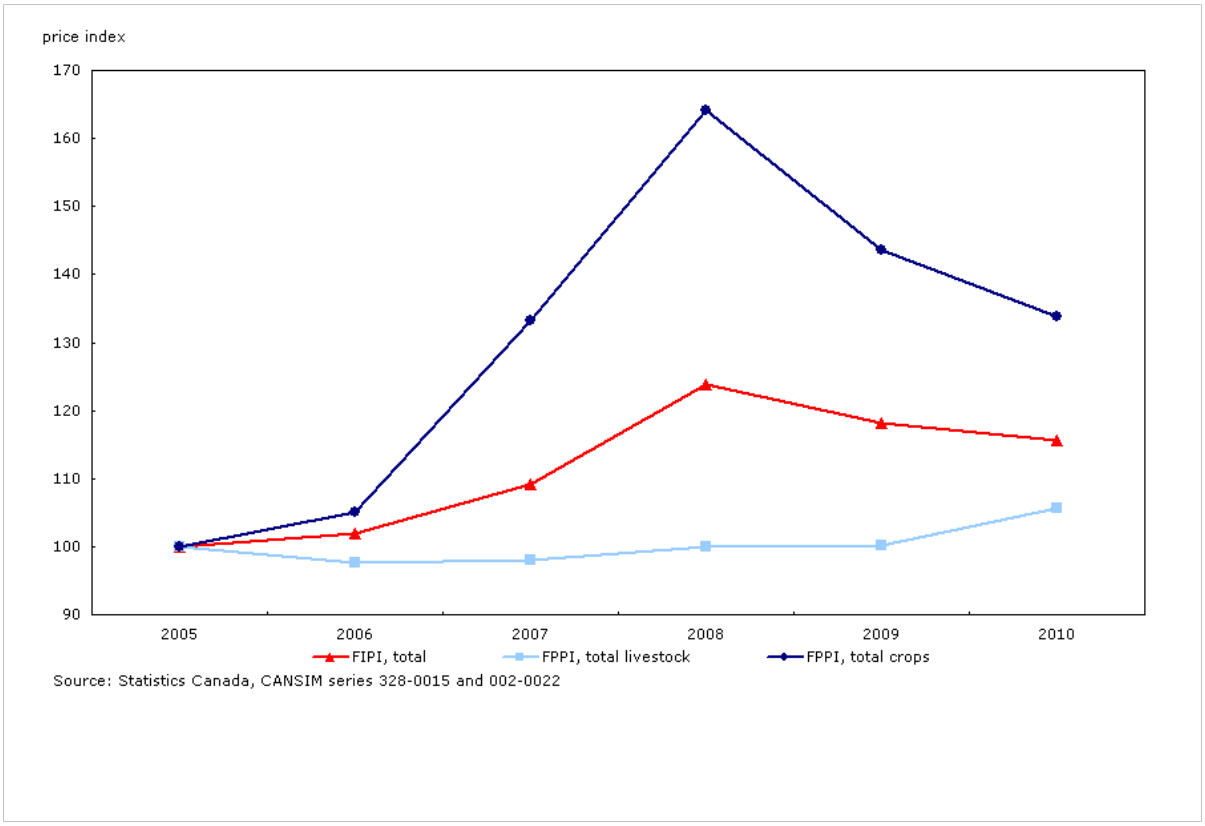


Figure 16: Farm Product Price Index and Farm Input Price Index (2005=100), Canada, 2005 to 2010

Expense-to-receipts ratio improved

For every dollar of receipts in 2010, Canadian farmers spent an average of 83 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation), about 3 cents less than in 2005 (Table 9).

Increased efficiency, higher crop prices, increased production and the move to crops with higher returns contributed to improving the ratio of expenses to gross farm receipts.

The expenses-to-receipts ratios were stable or improved in every province. In 2010, Saskatchewan had the country's lowest ratio of expenses to receipts at 0.76, due mainly to the predominance of oilseed and grain farms in that province, a farm type with one of the lowest ratios (Table 10). Oilseed and grain farms accounted for 60.1% of all farms in Saskatchewan, and 77.0% of the province's gross farm receipts.

Quebec had the second lowest ratio at 0.82, due mostly to the predominance of dairy farms, a farm type with one of the best ratios. By contrast, British Columbia had the highest ratio in Canada, with floriculture, fruit and tree nut farms predominant in that province. These farm types have higher ratios than other agricultural sectors.

Table 9
Ratio of expenses to receipts for Canada and the provinces, 2000, 2005 and 2010

Province	Ratio		
	2010	2005	2000

Table 9
Ratio of expenses to receipts for Canada and the provinces, 2000, 2005 and 2010

Province	Ratio		
	2010	2005	2000
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 to 2011			
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.86	0.86	0.87
Prince Edward Island	0.85	0.90	0.85
Nova Scotia	0.84	0.87	0.84
New Brunswick	0.86	0.86	0.86
Quebec	0.82	0.82	0.83
Ontario	0.84	0.86	0.86
Manitoba	0.83	0.86	0.87
Saskatchewan	0.76	0.88	0.85
Alberta	0.85	0.89	0.90
British Columbia	0.89	0.90	0.91
Canada	0.83	0.86	0.87

Dairy farms had the lowest ratio of Canada's major farm types, and this ratio remained unchanged between 2005 and 2010 (Table 10). Oilseed and grain farms also had a low ratio of 0.76 in 2010, an improvement over their ratio of 0.87 in 2005, and due in part to higher crop prices, especially for canola. The ratio for beef farms remained relatively stable at 0.93. The ratio for hog and pig farms deteriorated significantly, from 0.86 in 2005 to 0.92 in 2010.

Table 10
Ratio of expenses to receipts by farm type, Canada, 2000, 2005 and 2010

Farm type	Ratio		
	2010	2005	2000
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 to 2011			
Oilseed and grain	0.76	0.87	0.85
Beef	0.93	0.93	0.94
Dairy	0.73	0.73	0.74
Hog and pig	0.92	0.86	0.85
Poultry and egg	0.84	0.84	0.86
Greenhouse and nursery	0.86	0.86	0.85
Other animal	0.88	0.92	0.92
Vegetable and melon	0.84	0.85	0.85
Other crop	0.89	0.91	0.95

Table 10
Ratio of expenses to receipts by farm type, Canada, 2000, 2005 and 2010

Farm type	Ratio		
	2010	2005	2000
Fruit and tree nut	0.90	0.87	0.90
Sheep and goat	1.01	1.01	1.18
All farms	0.83	0.86	0.87

Chapter 3

Livestock sector re-focuses

The total number of cattle in Canada decreased by 18.9% since 2006, falling to 12.8 million head (Figure 17).

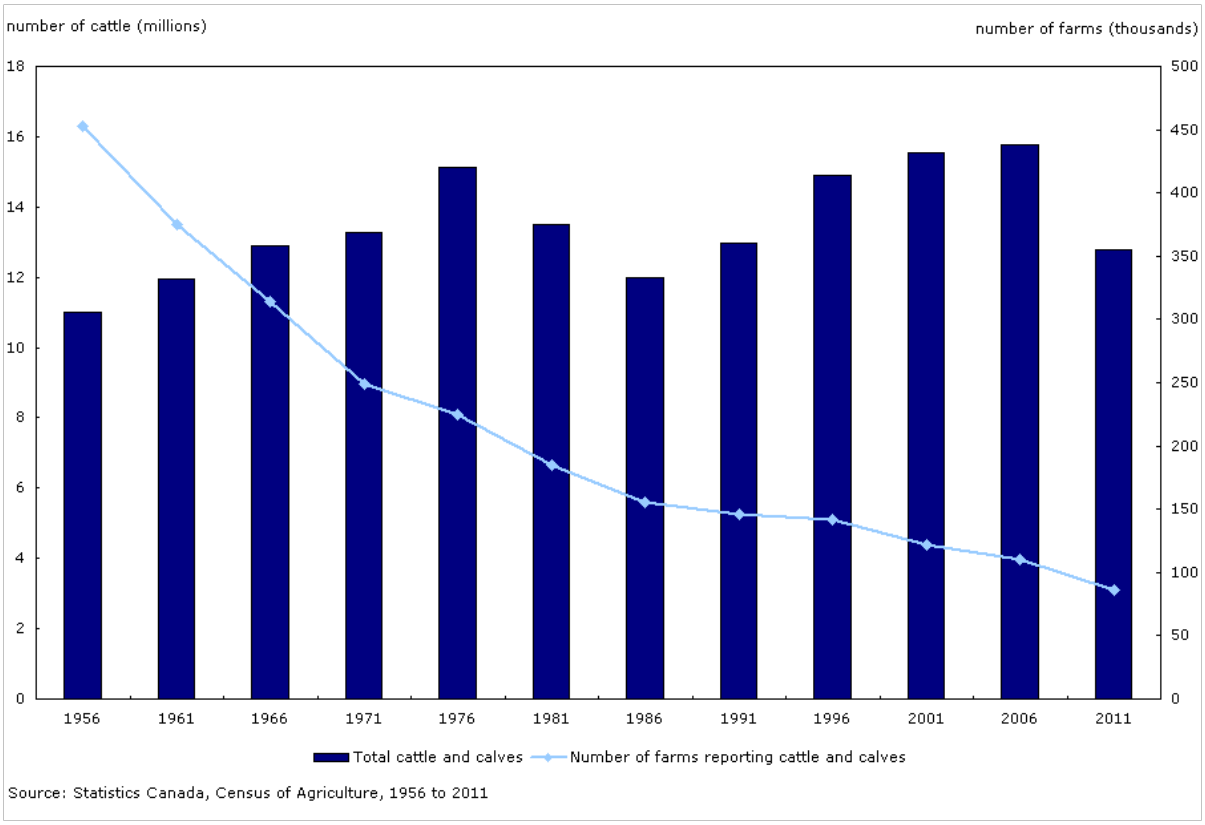


Figure 17: Total number of cattle and calves and farms reporting, 1956 to 2011

Beef cattle numbers decreased

The number of beef cattle reported for breeding purposes (beef cows and beef heifers for replacement purposes) decreased by 22.3% since 2006, totalling 4.5 million head in 2011. The number of farms reporting breeding stock decreased by 25.3% to 63,515 farms.

Almost half of the beef breeding herd in Canada was in Alberta in 2011, where it decreased by 22.4% since 2006 to 1.8 million head.

Cattle destined for feeding or slaughter (steers and feeder/slaughter heifers) decreased by 16.1%, reducing the total number of feeder/slaughter cattle in Canada to 2.6 million in 2011. The number of farms reporting feeder/slaughter cattle dropped by 21.2%. Alberta reported the majority of the feeder/slaughter cattle in the country in 2011, with 57.8% of the national feeder/slaughter cattle herd.

Since 2006, the beef industry in Canada declined as a result of several economic factors, including a decline in consumer demand for beef. Data on food availability per person indicates that between 2006 and 2011, food availability of beef dropped 5.1% to 28.3 kg per person annually in Canada (CANSIM series 002-0011).

Dairy showed efficiency gains

The number of dairy cows in Canada decreased to 961,726 in 2011, down 3.4% since 2006. Efficiency gains allowed operations to increase production while reducing the overall size of the dairy herd (Figure 18). Consolidation of the dairy herd continued as the number of farms reporting dairy cows decreased 15.0% from 2006.

In 2011, Quebec accounted for 37.4% of the total dairy cows in Canada. Ontario remained second, accounting for 33.1% of all dairy cows.

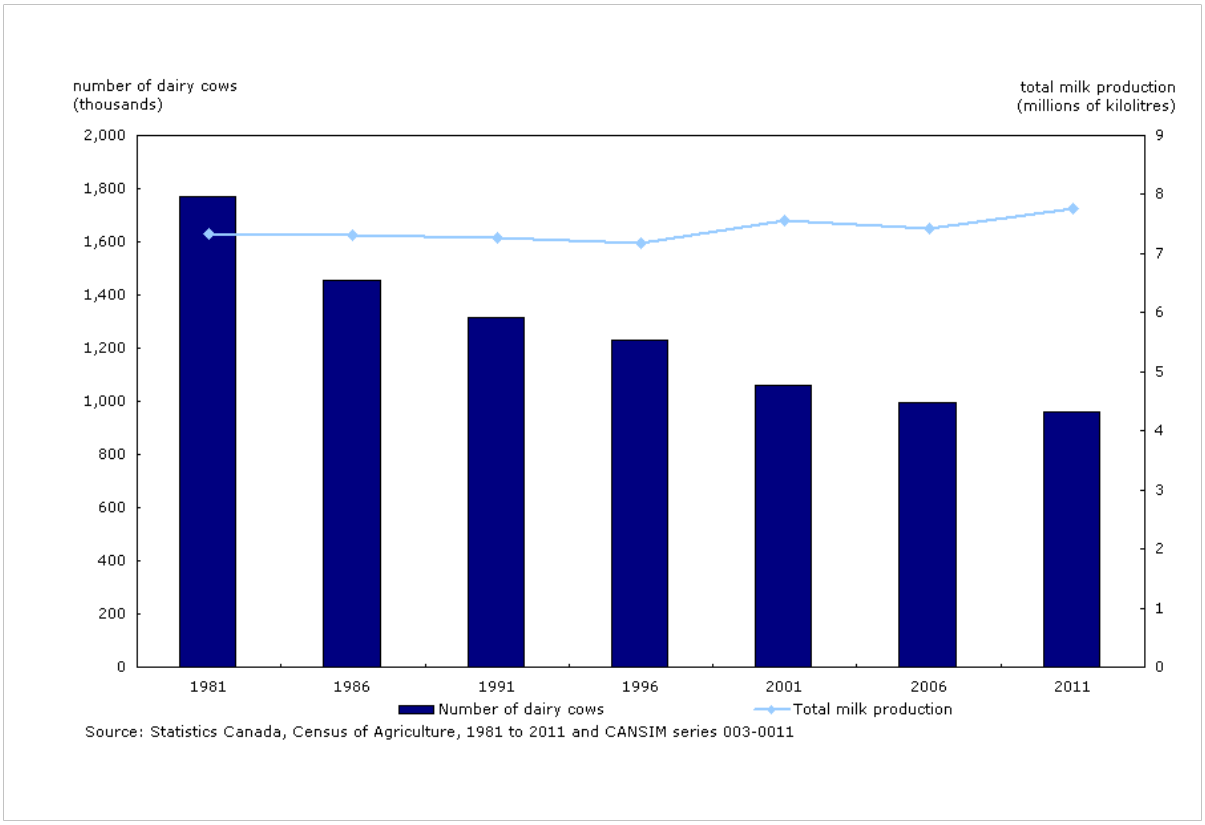


Figure 18: Number of dairy cows and total milk production, Canada, 1981 to 2011

Pig numbers decreased

Since 2006, the number of pigs in the country decreased by 15.7%, falling to 12.7 million in 2011. The number of farms reporting pigs decreased to 7,371 in 2011, a 35.9% drop. Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba maintained their respective positions as the provinces reporting the most pigs. The industry continued moving towards larger farms, with the average number of pigs per farm increasing to 1,720 in 2011, a 31.5% increase since 2006.

A strong Canadian dollar, high feed prices and trade restrictions, as well as the supply of pork outpacing demand in the intercensal period resulted in a restructuring of the sector.

The Cull Breeding Swine Program (2008) and the Hog Farm Transition Program (2009) were introduced to help farmers either successfully transition out of the hog industry or reduce their herd size. According to the Canadian Pork Council, Ontario had the largest portion of farms that took advantage of the Hog Farm Transition Program; Ontario also showed the largest drop in number of pigs among all provinces since 2006.

Poultry sector continued to consolidate

The number of laying hens and pullets in Canada grew by 2.4% since 2006, increasing to just over 38.6 million birds in 2011. Ontario accounted for 38.2% of the laying hens producing table eggs in 2011, the highest of all provinces.

For the first time, the Census of Agriculture collected data on table and hatching eggs produced for sale. A total of 555.9 million dozen table eggs and 54.2 million dozen hatching eggs produced were reported in 2010.

The broiler industry—birds destined for the table—underwent consolidation since the 2006 Census of Agriculture. The number of farms producing birds for consumption decreased; however, production increased since 2005 by 13.5% to 1.3 billion kilograms in 2010. Ontario maintained its position as the largest producer of broilers with 32.5% of the total broiler production in Canada.

The number of turkeys in Canada increased 4.3% since 2006, pushing the total to just over 8.0 million birds. This increase in the number of birds equated to an increase of 4.2% in reported live weight production. Consolidation in the turkey sector led to a 12.8% decrease in the number of farms reporting turkeys in Canada since 2006.

Shift from forages to cash crops

Increased prices for cash crops coupled with declining livestock numbers led to a shift from forages and crops traditionally used for feed (such as oats, barley, and mixed grains) to more profitable cash crops (such as oilseeds) (Figure 19).

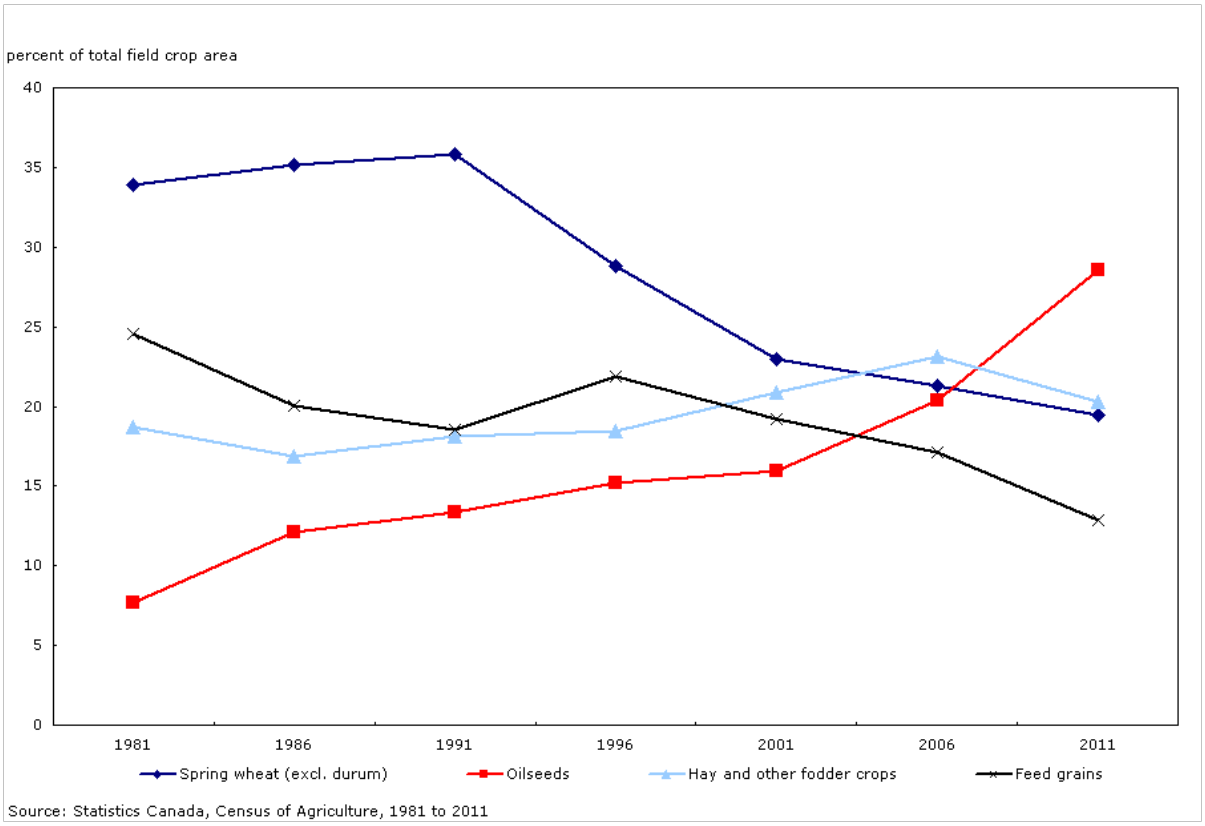


Figure 19: Proportion of total field crop area in selected crops, 1981 to 2011

Canola took the lead from spring wheat

The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed that canola area surpassed that of spring wheat (Figure 20). Spring wheat lost its position as the number one field crop, dropping 10.0% since 2006. This marks the fourth straight census to report a decrease in spring wheat area. The largest decreases were in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

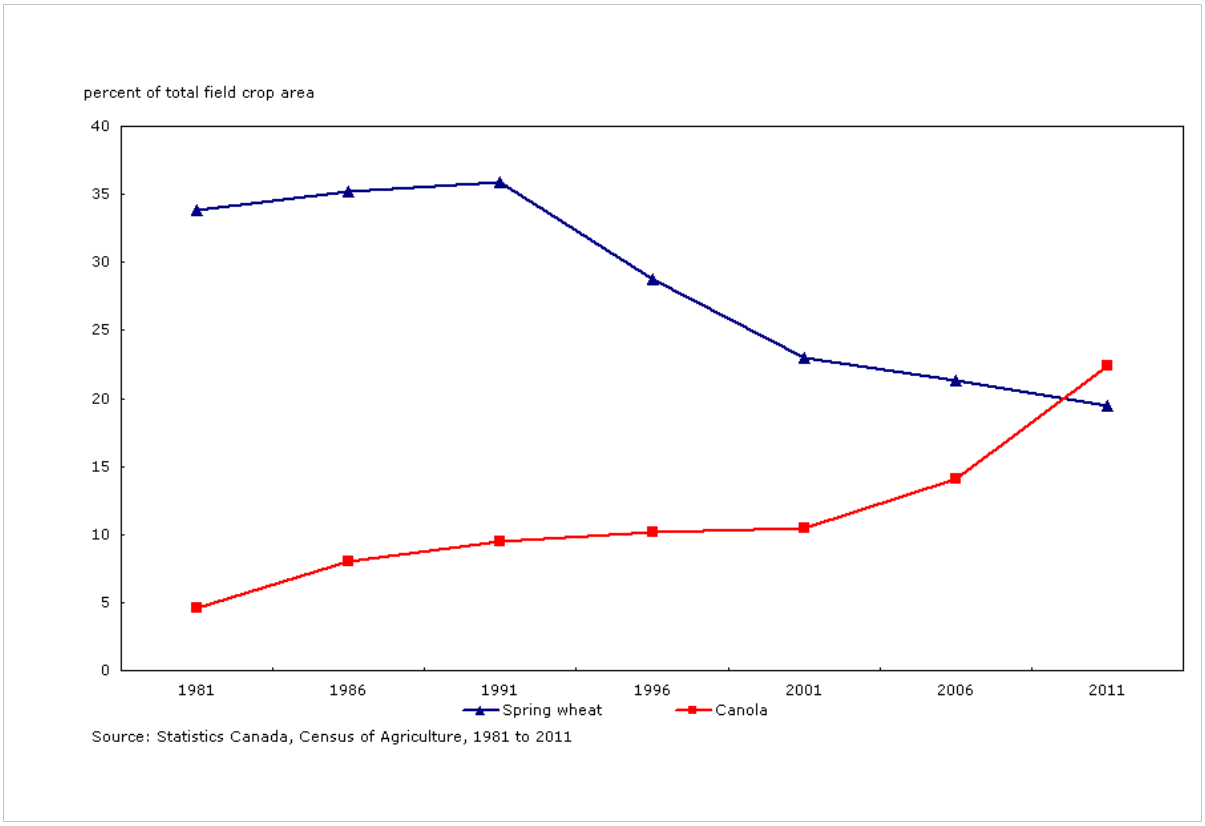


Figure 20: Canola and spring wheat as a proportion of total field crop area, 1981 to 2011

With 19.4 million acres, representing a 55.9% increase from 2006, canola moved into the top spot among field crops. As in 2006, most of this area (98.8%) was reported on farms in the Prairie provinces. Saskatchewan led with just over half (50.5%) of the national total, followed by Alberta (31.3%) and Manitoba (17.0%). The increase comes as no surprise considering the steady growth in canola area since its development in the 1970s. High prices in combination with favourable yields encouraged farmers to plant more canola, and the 2011 Census of Agriculture marks the largest increase in land devoted to canola.

Soybeans stood out in the East

Total soybean area in Canada increased 33.2% since 2006 to 4.0 million acres in 2011 as a result of attractive prices, strong demand and breeding programs.

Ontario maintained its position as the largest producer of soybeans, reporting 62.3% of the total area in Canada. Research advances in developing new varieties of soybeans with earlier maturity and tolerance of cooler climates allowed the zones in which they are produced to further expand. Figure 21 shows the top 4 provinces reporting soybean area in Canada.

In Prince Edward Island soybeans are gaining on potatoes with 51,116 acres planted—a 351.6% increase since 2006—although potatoes still totalled 86,560 acres in 2011. New, shorter-season varieties of soybeans adapted to the Prairies also triggered a doubling of soybean area in Manitoba to 705,032 acres.

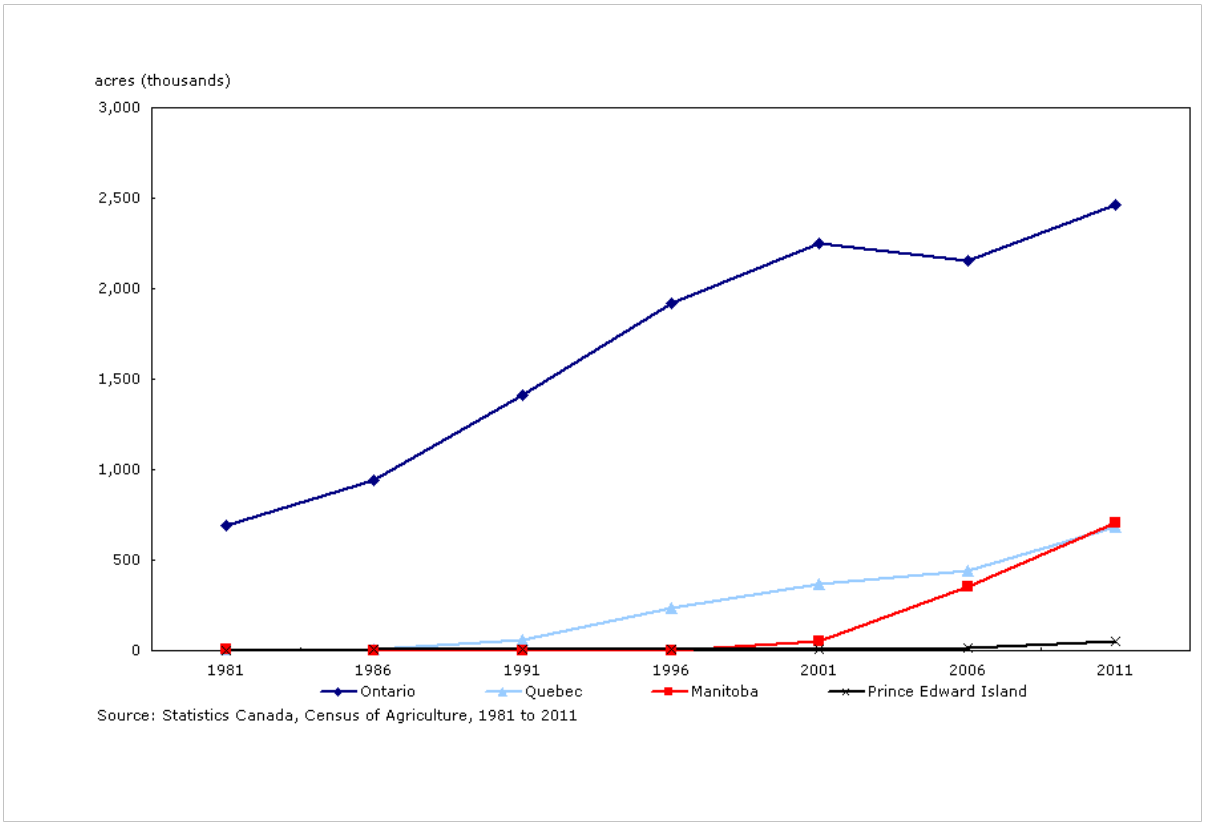


Figure 21: Soybean area, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, 1981 to 2011

The increases in canola and soybean areas in Canada were at the expense of tame hay, alfalfa and small grains. With declining demand from the livestock industry, tame hay and alfalfa area decreased 14.0% since 2006 to 16.9 million acres. The majority of tame hay and alfalfa (73.7%) was reported in Western Canada, with Alberta continuing to report the largest share of the national total (30.2%) despite its 14.5% decrease. Area planted to feed grains in Canada also declined since 2006, with area in oats, barley and mixed grains dropping 26.0%.

Several specialty crops also decreased since 2006. For example, area planted to sunflowers decreased 63.1% to 77,788 acres. Most sunflower acres (81.5%) were in Manitoba and were afflicted in recent years with diseases such as sclerotinia wilt and head rot, which is especially prevalent in wet conditions. This coupled with the attractive economic returns for other crops, such as canola and soybeans, contributed to the decrease in total sunflower area.

Lentil area, on the other hand, doubled since 2006 to 2.6 million acres. Almost all of the lentil acres were reported in two provinces; Saskatchewan with 96.0% of the total Canadian lentil area and Alberta, with 3.8%.

Chapter 4

Area in field vegetables decreased

Total vegetable area in Canada declined 13.5% since the 2006 Census, to 267,665 acres in 2011.

Sweet corn continued to lead in field vegetable area

Sweet corn area decreased by 23.3% since 2006, largely due to a decline in the processing sector. However it remained the number one vegetable crop in Canada, representing 21.4% of the total vegetable area in Canada (Figure 22).

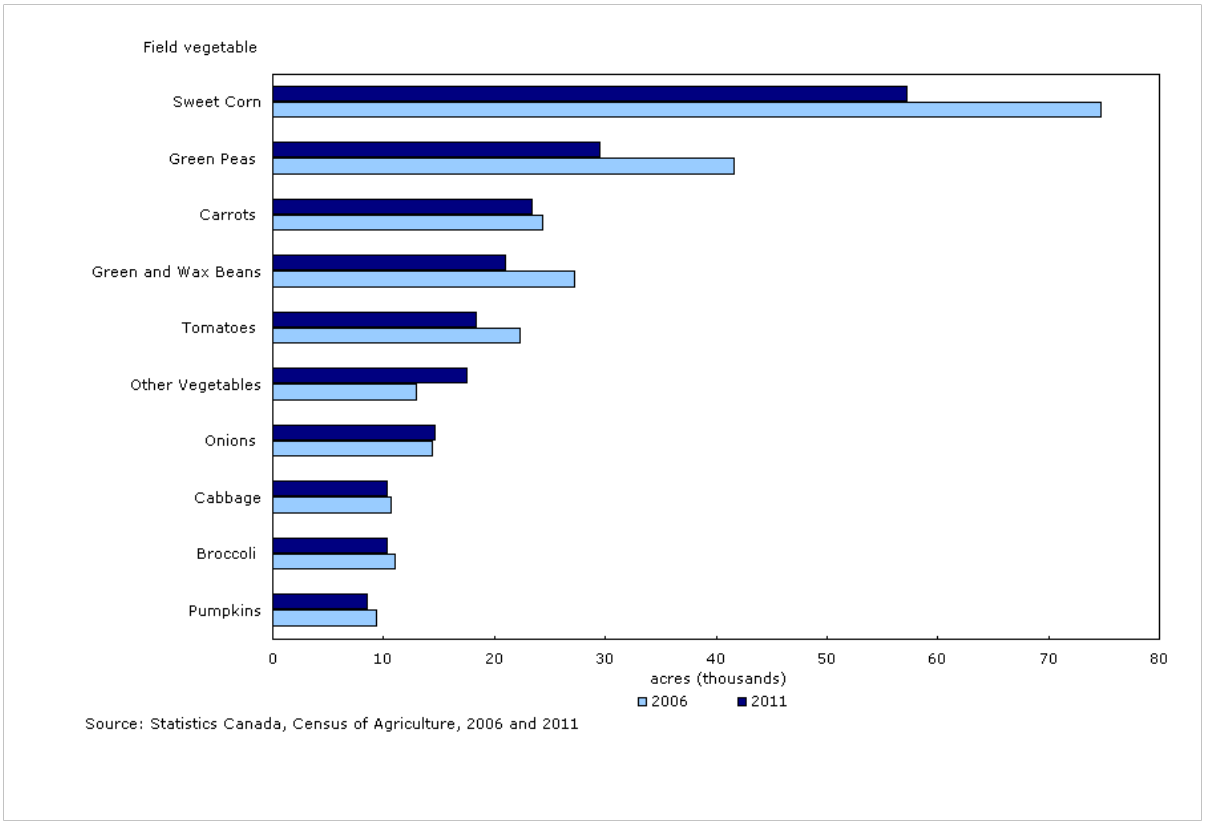


Figure 22: Area grown for selected field vegetables, Canada, 2006 and 2011

Decrease in area of vegetables for the processing sector

Over the last five years, several factors including a strong Canadian dollar and increasing imports affected both the fresh and processing vegetable markets.

Since 2006, many vegetable processing plants closed their doors, thus reducing the market for processing vegetables. Although production area of vegetables primarily intended for the food processing sector decreased, area intended for some fresh vegetables remained stable or even increased slightly. Those which increased in area included beets, Brussels sprouts, Chinese cabbage, as well as other vegetables less commonly reported, such as Asian vegetables.

Ontario farms remained top vegetable growers

A decrease in the total area of field vegetables occurred in almost all provinces. Areas in vegetables in Ontario and Quebec combined represented 83.2% of the total vegetable area in Canada, despite seeing drops in area of 16.7% and 10.8%, respectively. Nova Scotia was the only province to report an increase in field vegetable area (2.0%).

Greenhouse area expanded

Greenhouse expansion continued from 2006 to 2011 bringing the total greenhouse area to 249.3 million square feet, an increase of 4.2%.

Operations in Ontario accounted for the majority of the increase as Canada's greenhouse sector continued to be concentrated in this province (54.2%), followed by British Columbia (24.0%) and Quebec (12.2%). The number of operations decreased while the average area under glass increased. Greenhouse area increased in most provinces across the country, with the exception of the four Atlantic provinces.

Total greenhouse area used to produce vegetables (135.1 million square feet) exceeded that used to produce flowers (92.5 million square feet)—a situation first observed in 2006. The area dedicated to greenhouse vegetables increased by 18.7% since 2006. Growth in greenhouse vegetable area continued to be supported by demand for year-round high-quality produce as well as stable export markets in the United States—particularly important to Ontario.

Conversely, greenhouse floriculture area decreased by 7.4% and most notably in Ontario. Greater competition from imported products from countries such as Ecuador, Colombia, and the United States, a higher Canadian dollar, weakening exports and rising production costs challenged greenhouse floriculture producers.

Blueberries and cranberries increased in area

Total fruit area climbed 14.7% since 2006 to 312,041 acres in 2011. Blueberries accounted for more than half (56.1%) of the total fruit area with 175,078 acres, with a 38.1% rise from 2006 (Figure 23).

At the provincial level, development of managed wild blueberry area increased the total blueberry area by 60.7% in Quebec, 26.1% in New Brunswick, 25.5% in Prince Edward Island, and 16.7% in Nova Scotia. In British Columbia, rapid expansion of highbush blueberry area increased its total blueberry area by 76.8% to 20,858 acres.

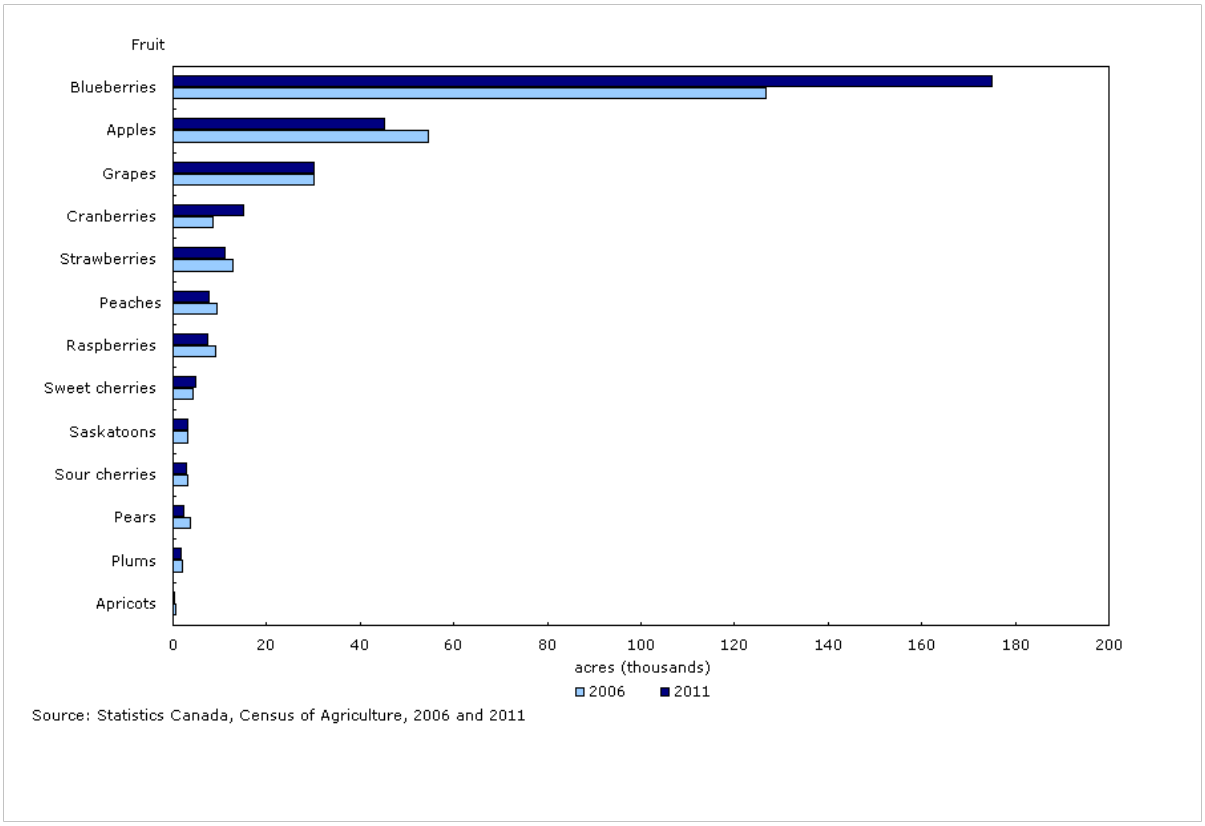


Figure 23: Area grown for selected fruit, Canada, 2006 and 2011

Driven by international demand and rising consumption, cranberry area surpassed areas of strawberries, peaches, and raspberries between the 2006 and 2011 censuses to become the fourth largest fruit crop nationwide. Cranberry area more than doubled in Quebec (up 112.1%) to 7,100 acres and rose by 61.0% to 6,519 acres in British Columbia—the two provinces reporting the largest areas of cranberries. Atlantic Canada also became a greater player in cranberries with area increases in all Atlantic provinces.

Increases in grape area since 2006 in British Columbia, Quebec, and Nova Scotia were offset by a decrease in Ontario, resulting in an overall decline in grape area of 0.2% to 30,009 acres in 2011. The decrease in Ontario was driven by the loss of the market for Labrusca grapes (used primarily for juice and jelly); however, vinifera and hybrid grapes (used primarily for wine) continued to be important.

Rising labour costs, competition from imports, price fluctuations, loss of processing markets, and increasing costs of production affected the fruit industry across the country. As a result, areas of strawberries, raspberries, and all tree fruits with the exception of sweet cherries declined since 2006. While sour cherry area decreased at the Canada level overall, it increased 37.5% in Saskatchewan as a result of continued growth of hardy machine-harvestable bush cherries.

Beekeepers mostly in the west

Farmers and beekeepers reported 561,297 colonies of honeybees in 2011, up 1.4% from 2006. Although honeybees were reported in every province, just over two-thirds of all honeybee colonies (70.2%) were reported in the Prairie provinces. In addition to being used for honey production, honeybees are used to pollinate crops, such as berries and fruit trees, vegetables and hybrid canola for seed. The demand for honey and pollination services supported colony numbers despite ongoing bee mortality problems across the country.

Other bees used exclusively for pollination—principally leaf-cutter bees—were reported almost entirely in the three Prairie provinces, with 98.4% of the 355,126 gallons of other pollinating bees reported in Canada. Leaf-cutter bees are used principally for pollination of alfalfa seed and in production of hybrid canola for seed. They are also used as pollinators for blueberries and other fruit crops, albeit to a lesser extent.

Sod and nursery industries in sync with housing

The area of sod decreased 8.1% since 2006 to 63,467 acres, while nursery area declined 3.2% to 59,666 acres. The decrease was concentrated in Ontario and Quebec, Canada's most populated provinces, reflecting the economic climate and consequently slower demand for sod and nursery products.

Production of sod and nursery products for landscaping has close ties with the housing sector. In 2011, total annual building permits issued for single residence units declined by 26.0% in Ontario and 22.8% in Quebec compared to 2006 (CANSIM series 026-0001). Rising costs of production also tightened margins across the nursery sector.

Maple taps increased

The number of maple taps increased by 16.7% since 2006 to 44.4 million taps. Quebec continued to dominate the maple industry with 91.4% of all taps in the country, followed by New Brunswick and Ontario. Small-scale tapping continued across the country, including all three Prairie Provinces and in British Columbia.

While dairy-typed farms were the most common in Quebec (20.1%), those typed as maple syrup and products farms came second (15.9%). Farms typed as maple in Quebec accounted for 89.5% of total gross farm receipts in 2010 from all maple farms across the country.

Quebec also accounted for 92.9% of all the farms reporting certified organic maple products in Canada.

Chapter 5

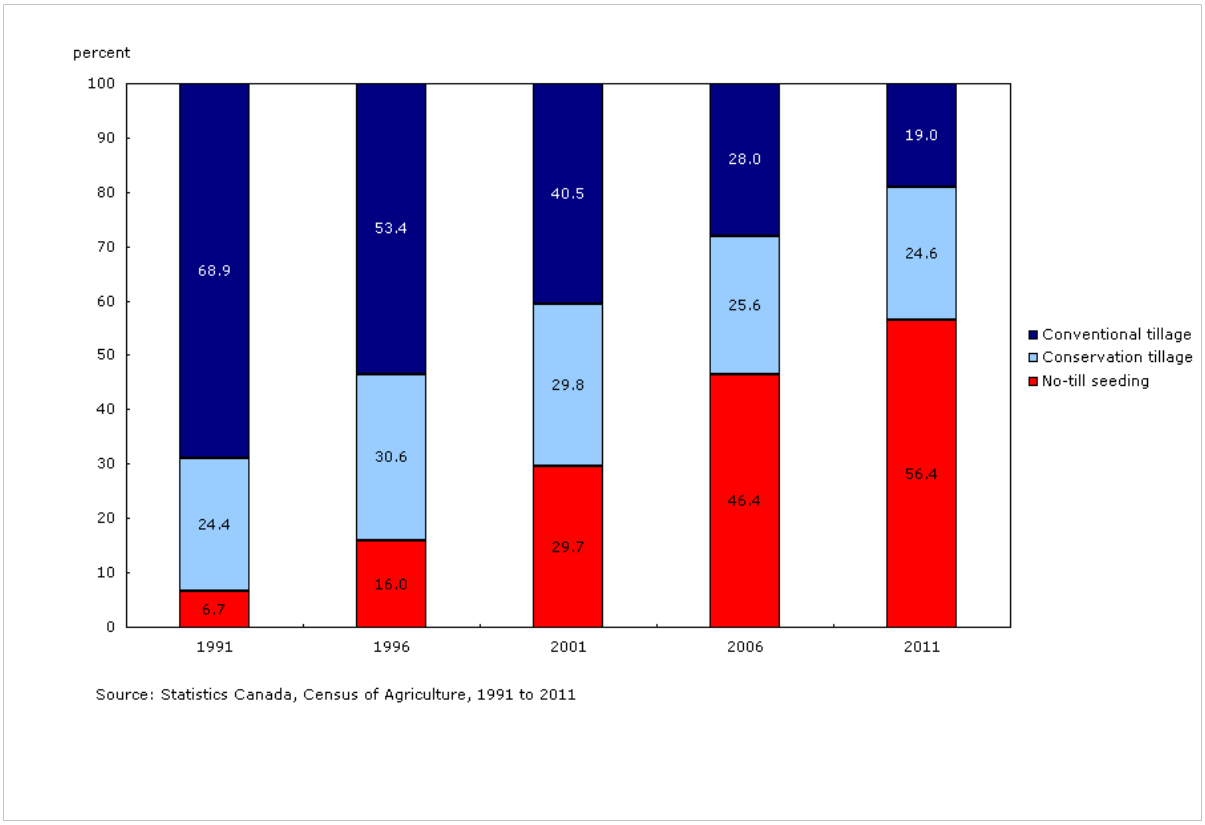
No-till practices increased

Traditionally, most farmers utilized conventional tillage, however, in recent decades farmers have increasingly substituted conventional tillage with no-till seeding techniques or conservation tillage. No-till is less ecologically disruptive as specialized machinery is used to slice a thin slit into the soil to deposit seeds. Conservation tillage is also less disturbing of soil ecology as the depth of furrows is between that of no-till and conventional tillage.

The total area of land prepared for seeding has stayed close to 70 million acres in Canada since 1991, rising to just over 73 million acres in 2011. In 2011, 84.8% of land prepared for seeding was located in the Prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

For the first time, no-till practices accounted for more than half of all area prepared for seeding across the country, a shift that was caused by a 23.8% increase in the area of land seeded using no-till practices (Figure 24). Overall, 17.1% more farms reported using no-till practices than in 2006.

No-till systems are dominant in the Prairies, where large farm sizes and erosion-prone soils enhance the environmental and financial benefits of low-impact, one-pass seeding. In Eastern Canada, Quebec doubled its no-till area to more than half a million acres as the number of farms using this practice rose by 69.0%. This increase was in part due to a government incentive for farm operators employing no-till practices between 2009 and 2013.



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1991 to 2011

Figure 24: Proportion of area prepared for seeding according to tillage practice, Canada, 1991 to 2011

Although no-till seeding is not suited for all types of crop farming and requires a significant investment in machinery, it nonetheless provides important benefits to farmers. Foremost, no-till reduces the time required for seeding crops, while using considerably less fuel in the process. In addition, no-till seeding has many ecological advantages, such as improved soil structure, enhanced moisture penetration and retention, and reduced soil compaction and land erosion.

A shift to no-till seeding also accounted for the decrease in land area allocated to summerfallow, a land management practice that involves leaving land unplanted so it can rebuild soil moisture while controlling weeds in semi-arid regions of the Prairie provinces.

The area of land subject to conventional tillage declined by 30.9% since 2006, accounting for 19.0% of all land prepared for seeding in 2011. It remains a common practice in some parts of the country as a result of the type of crops grown and soil characteristics.

Less irrigation in 2010

A total of 1.9 million acres of land was reported as irrigated for 2010, 8.9% lower than for 2005.

The decrease in total area irrigated across Canada was largely attributed to the above-average precipitation in several regions of the country in 2010. The most significant decrease was in irrigated hay and pasture land, which declined by 17.9% to 550,260 acres.

The majority of irrigation continued to be reported for field crops and hay, followed by vegetables, fruit and other crops.

Alberta continued to report the largest area of land irrigated in the country with 65.2% of the total, most of which was irrigated field crops and irrigated hay and pasture.

British Columbia reported the second largest area of land irrigated with 14.4% of the national total. British Columbia continued to report the largest area of irrigated fruit crops in Canada, with the fruit area irrigated increasing 21.3% in this province to a total of 48,077 acres. This offset the decrease in fruit irrigation in some other provinces, such as Ontario, resulting in a national increase of 5.2%.

Irrigation on vegetable crops across Canada decreased 16.3% to 89,987 acres. Most of the vegetable irrigation was on Ontario farms, despite a decrease of 18.9% in the province in 2010 compared to 2005.

Manure and commercial fertilizer

The proportion of farms that reported using or producing manure in 2010 decreased to 55.0% from 59.4% in 2005. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the declining number of cattle operations. Beef-typed operations continued to account for the largest proportion (29.7%) of operations reporting manure, despite a decrease from 39.8% in 2005, due to the overall drop in beef cattle numbers. The second largest contributor was dairy-typed farms (10.7%).

Solid or composted manure was mechanically applied to 4.3 million acres of land across Canada in 2010. Beef cattle operations were the farm type that applied solid or composed manure to the largest land area, followed by dairy farms. Western Canada had just over half of the total land area on which solid or composted manure was spread, and this was due to the fact that the majority of beef cattle operations were located in Alberta.

Liquid manure was mechanically applied to 2.8 million acres in 2010. Hog and pig and dairy operations were most likely to spread liquid manure. In 2010, 70.1% of the area on which liquid manure was applied was in Quebec and Ontario, where the majority of dairy farms are located.

Across Canada, commercial fertilizer was applied to 61.6 million acres of land and lime was added to 950 thousand acres in 2010. In both cases the total area of land receiving these inputs remained similar in 2005 and 2010.

Crop Residue

Across Canada, farm operators reported a total of 5.9 million acres of land from which crop residue (straw, stover, stalks) was baled in 2010. This question was new to the 2011 Census of Agriculture. Uses for baled crop residue include animal bedding and erosion control.

More organic operations

A change in regulations

In 2009, the Organic Products Regulations came into effect in Canada, which require mandatory certification to revised Canadian Organic Standards in order to claim agricultural products as being organic in import, export and inter-provincial trade, or in order to use the Canada organic logo. Organic operations are certified through certifying bodies accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the authority providing oversight to the system.

According to the new regulations, producers can be either "certified organic" or "transitional". Transitional producers are 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.

The number of certified organic farms continued to grow

The number of certified organic operations increased 4.4% in Canada since 2006, and 66.5% since 2001, to 3,713 operations in 2011. Certified organic operations represented 1.8% of all farms in Canada, compared to 1.5% in 2006, and 0.9% in 2001 (Table 11).

Table 11
Number of organic operations, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Census of Agriculture	Total certified and / or transitional operations*	Certified organic operations	Transitional organic operations	Certified organic as a percent of total operations
Symbol: .. not available for a specific reference period				
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 to 2011				
2011	4,120	3,713	543	1.8
2006	3,898	3,555	640	1.5
2001	..	2,230	..	0.9

* Farm operations may report both certified and transitional statuses; therefore the total does not equal the sum of the parts.

Among those provinces that increased their number of certified organic operations between 2006 and 2011, Quebec and Ontario had the greatest gains, growing by 198 farms and 81 farms, respectively. Quebec already had provincial legislation mandating certification for organic production prior to the introduction of the Organic Products Regulation in 2009.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan all showed decreases in the number of certified organic farms since 2006. Saskatchewan had the highest number of certified organic operations at 1,015 despite a 14.1% decrease since 2006. Quebec, with the second greatest number of certified organic operations, gained on Saskatchewan (Figure 25).

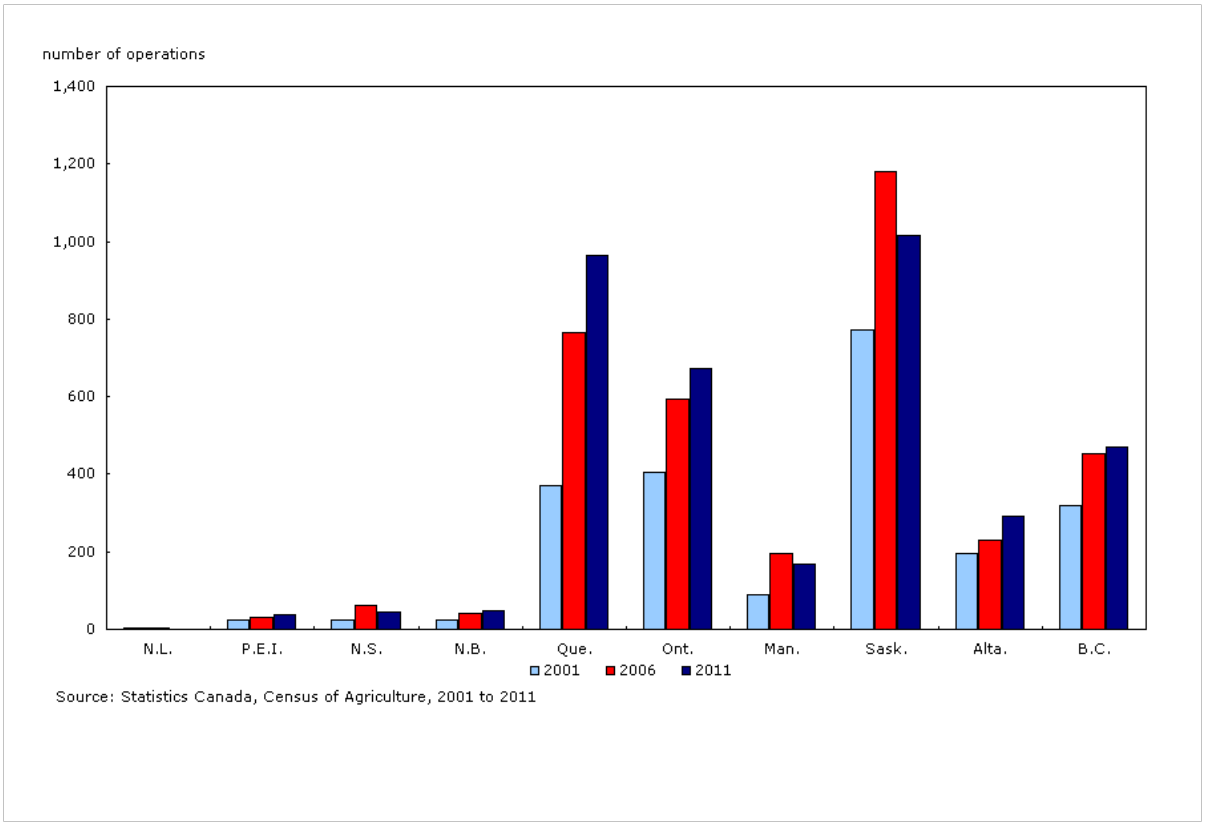


Figure 25: Number of certified organic operations by province, 2001 to 2011

Field crops and hay remained the largest certified organic product category

The largest product category of certified organic production remained field crops and hay, although the number of operations decreased slightly since 2006. Organic fruit, vegetable, and greenhouse production was the only other category that decreased (Figure 26).

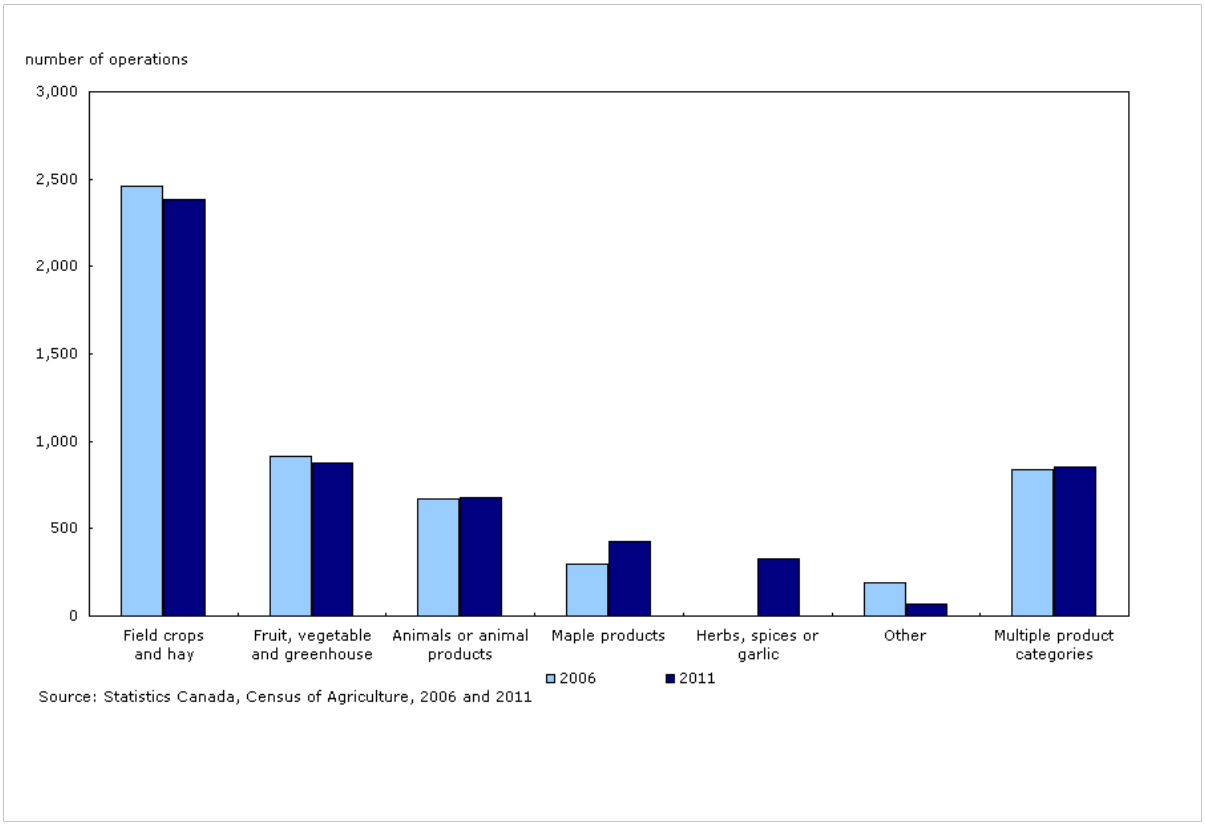


Figure 26: Product categories reported by certified organic operations, Canada, 2006 and 2011

Quebec led in terms of the number of certified organic maple operations and saw the largest increase in number of farms. British Columbia continued to report the largest number of operations for certified organic fruit, vegetable, and greenhouse production across Canada. Quebec and British Columbia led the new category of organic herbs, spices or garlic, with 32.4% and 31.8%, respectively, of the certified organic operations across Canada in this category.

Most certified organic farms were in the $50,000 to $99,999 and $100,000 to $249,999 gross farm receipts classes. Almost all categories showed growth in the proportion of certified organic farms (Figure 27).

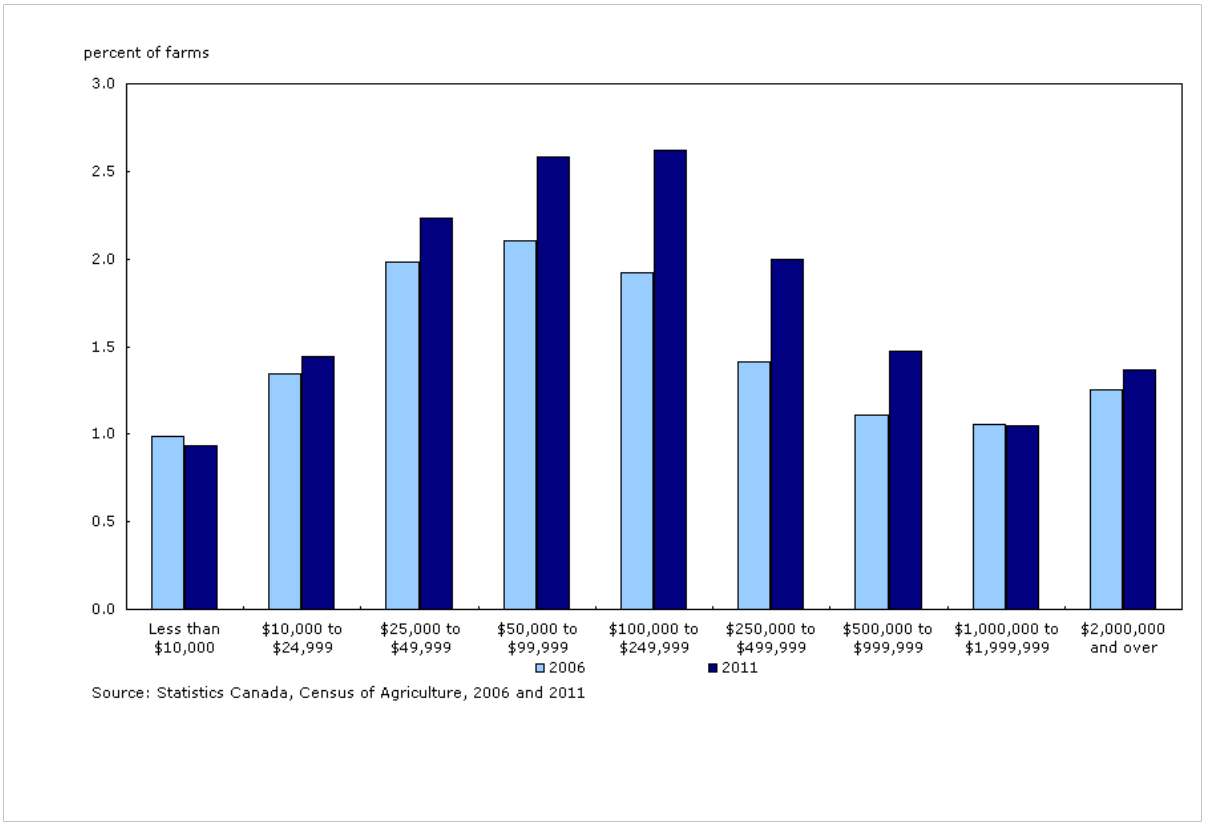


Figure 27: Proportion of all farms with certified organic status by gross farm receipts class (at 2010 constant prices), Canada, 2006 and 2011

Less than half of farms reported high-speed Internet access

The percentage of farms that were using the internet for farm business increased from 34.9% in 2006 to 55.6% in 2011.

In 2011, 44.8% of all farms reported having access to high-speed Internet. Across the country, self-reported access to high-speed Internet on all farms ranged from a low of 40.6% in Quebec to a high of 49.5% in Prince Edward Island. Comparatively, in the general population, the latest data from the Canadian Internet Use Survey showed that three-quarters of all Canadian households reported home high-speed Internet access in 2010.

A dynamic industry

The 2011 Census of Agriculture shows that the Canadian agricultural sector has continued to expand in scale of operation, consolidate, and adapt its mix of farming practices and commodities.

Capturing the state of the agriculture industry at a point in time allows for a portrait of a dynamic and increasingly complex industry every 5 years at a regional, provincial, and national scale. In addition, census data going back over 90 years allows for the analysis of long term trends, structural changes and traces the history of this primary industry.

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

For further information regarding the Census of Agriculture, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre at 613-951-8116 or toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rosemary Villani at 613-951-2889, Census of Agriculture, Agriculture Division.