

2011 CENSUS *of* AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS *for* **THOMPSON–OKANAGAN: CENSUS REGION 3**

REGIONAL PROFILE

- ▶ This region has the highest number of farms reporting organic products for sale. It is also B.C.'s primary growing area for tree fruits and grapes.
- ▶ The population for the Thompson-Okanagan region increased 6%.
- ▶ The area includes the Okanagan Similkameen, Central Okanagan, North Okanagan, Thompson-Nicola and Columbia Shuswap regional districts.
- ▶ There are 5,486 farms in the region, down 4% from Census 2006. The region accounts for 28% of B.C.'s total farms – the second largest share of farms in the province
- ▶ The total farm area is 700,210 hectares (1,730,258 acres), or 20% of B.C.'s total farmland area.
- ▶ Total gross farm receipts increased 6%.
- ▶ The region is well known for its vineyards and tree fruits including apples, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, nectarines and apricots. The beef cattle sector also plays a major role in the north.
- ▶ The number of farms reporting certified organic products for sale increased 12% and 44 farms reported products that were in transition to becoming certified organic.

FARM ENTERPRISES

- ▶ The region had increased in the number of hay and other crop (+53%), greenhouse vegetable (+20%), sheep and goat (+18%), field vegetable (+13%), and poultry and egg (+4%) farms.
- ▶ There were fewer pig (-46%), beef (-30%), other animal production (-11%), nursery (-10%), floriculture (-8%), and dairy (-3%) farms.

CROPS

- ▶ The region's farmland in greenhouse vegetable production increased 19%, field vegetables increased 18% to 886 hectares (2,189 acres) sod increased 12% to 180 hectares (446 acres), nursery products rose 5% to 708 hectares (1,749 acres), tree fruit area increased 1% to 9,307 hectares (22,997 acres) and land in field crops increased 0.5% to 71,284 hectares (176,147 acres).
- ▶ The amount of farmland in berries fell 39% to 97 hectares (239 acres) and greenhouse floriculture production area fell 37% to 29,487 square meters.
- ▶ Acreage for sweet cherries increased 40%. The total area planted to sweet cherries in this region accounts for 87% of B.C.'s and 75% of Canada's total farmland in sweet cherries
- ▶ Area for grapes increased 16%. The total area planted to grapes accounts for 90% of B.C.'s and 27% of Canada's total land in grapes.
- ▶ The area in apples declined 14%.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

- ▶ There were 1,763 (+20%) more dairy cows in the region, 4,575 (+16%) more turkeys, 418 (13%) more goats, and 25,725 (1%) more hens and chickens. At the same time, there were 4,849 (81%) fewer pigs, 18,979 (24%) fewer beef cattle, 2,333 (17%) fewer horses and ponies, and 2,505 (16%) fewer sheep and lambs.
- ▶ The region accounts for 30% of the province's total beef cattle, approximately 25% of B.C.'s sheep and lambs, horses and ponies, goats, llamas and alpacas, and deer on farms, 15% of the dairy cow, and 10% of the provincial total poultry on farms.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

- ▶ The region had 2,166 (30%) fewer bee colonies, although it accounted for 15% of the province's total colonies.

	UNIT	2006	2011		UNIT	2006	2011
Population	#	491,479	520,803	Selected Crops (Planted area)			
Number of Farms	#	5,700	5,486	Hay and Field Crops	ha	70,941	71,284
Total Farm Area	ha	713,986	700,210	Tree Fruits	ha	9,215	9,307
Total Gross Farm Receipts	\$	450,234,225	480,694,754	Berries	ha	158	97
				Vegetables	ha	752	886
Farms Classified by Farm Type				Christmas Trees	ha	306	284
Beef Cattle	#	1,092	760	Nursery	ha	676	708
Dairy Cattle and Milk	#	104	101	Sod	ha	161	180
Hog and Pig	#	28	15	Greenhouse Total Area in Use	m ²	223,829	279,412
Poultry and Egg	#	169	176	Greenhouse Floriculture Products	m ²	98,968	62,539
Sheep and Goat	#	111	131	Greenhouse Vegetable Products	m ²	49,014	58,365
Other Animals	#	1,261	1,120	Other Greenhouse Products	m ²	..	158,509
Oilseed and Grain	#	38	38	Mushrooms	m ²	X	X
Fruit and Tree Nut	#	1,788	1,696				
Field Vegetables and Melons	#	213	240	Selected Livestock (Heads)			
Greenhouse	#	20	24	Beef Cows	#	77,725	58,746
Nursery and Tree	#	192	172	Dairy Cows	#	8,807	10,570
Floriculture	#	59	54	Pigs	#	5,984	1,135
Mushrooms	#	0	1	Hens and Chickens	#	1,782,900	1,808,625
Hay and Other Crops	#	625	958	Turkeys	#	27,846	32,421
				Sheep and Lambs	#	16,108	13,603
Organics Products (Farms Reporting)				Goats	#	3,116	3,534
Certified Organic Products for Sale	#	196	219	Horses and Ponies	#	14,005	11,672
Transitional Organic Products for Sale	#	30	44	Colonies of Honey Bees			
					#	7,227	5,061