

B.C.'s 2024 New Farmer Profile

KEY FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF NEW FARMERS

BARRIER #1: Access to Land



KEY FINDING:
among new entrants who do not own their farmland, **79%** leased the land



(up from 75% in 2019)

CHALLENGE:
affordability of landownership was a barrier



Average Score: 74/100
(up from 70 in 2019)

NEED:
incentives for landowners to sell or rent identified as an important support



Average Score: 76/100
(unchanged from 2019)

BARRIER #2: Access to Knowledge



KEY FINDING:
45% of respondents had completed at least a Bachelor's degree



(up from 38% in 2019)

CHALLENGE:
14% of respondents completed university or college training in agriculture



(down from 16% in 2019)

NEED:
informal mentorship identified as an important support



Average Score: 83/100
(up from 82 in 2019)

BARRIER #3: Access to Capital



KEY FINDING:
21% of new entrants reported gross farm revenue of \$50,000 and over



(up from 18% in 2019)

CHALLENGE:
lack of access to capital, credit, or other sources of financing was a barrier



Average Score: 65/100
(up from 61 in 2019)

NEED:
government funding was identified as an important support



Average Score: 84/100
(up from 79 in 2019)

Survey Fast Facts

WHO ARE B.C.'S NEW FARMERS?



- ▶ **44%** are first generation farmers (down from 49% in 2019)
- ▶ **43%** started farming as a second career (up from 40% in 2019)
- ▶ **58%** are 45 or older (up from 46% in 2019)
- ▶ **46%** are women (down from 48% in 2019)
- ▶ **40%** have children 18 years or older (up from 31% in 2019)

WHAT ARE COMMON TYPES OF FARMING OPERATIONS?



- ▶ **19%** Vegetables
- ▶ **16%** Fruit and tree nuts
- ▶ **14%** Poultry and Eggs
- ▶ **51%** Conventional
- ▶ **32%** Ecological or regenerative
- ▶ **42%** Sole proprietorship
- ▶ **14%** Hobby farm or not-for-profit

WHAT ARE COMMON SUPPORTS ACCESSED BY NEW FARMERS?



- ▶ **65%** used online educational resources (up from 64% in 2019)
- ▶ **63%** accessed informal mentorship by another farmer (down from 68% in 2019)
- ▶ **45%** attended farm workshops, field days, and farm tours (down from 52% in 2019)
- ▶ **5.1** different supports were used on average by new entrants (down from 6.4 in 2019)

WHICH BARRIERS ARE MOST SIGNIFICANT FOR NEW FARMERS?



- ▶ **22%** affordability of landownership
- ▶ **11%** lack of access to capital, credit, or other sources of financing
- ▶ **11%** lack of grants for small farm businesses

Statistics summarize 266 responses to the 2024 New Entrants Needs Assessment survey conducted by BC Stats, with comparisons to the 2019 survey, where applicable.

More information can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=F5032A0499354960ABF6F99F7007F710>