

2011 CENSUS *of* AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS *for*

LOWER MAINLAND—SOUTHWEST: CENSUS REGION 2

REGIONAL PROFILE

- ▶ This region has the highest population, the highest number of farms and the highest farm gate values in the province.
- ▶ The total population of the Lower Mainland-Southwest region was up 9% in 2011.
- ▶ The area includes Fraser Valley, Greater Vancouver, Squamish-Lillooet and Sunshine Coast regional districts.
- ▶ The number of farms in the region increased 7%. The region accounts for 29% of the province's farms – the largest share in the province.
- ▶ The total farm area in this region increased 6% and accounts for 5% of the total provincial farmland area.
- ▶ Total gross farm receipts increased 16% – accounting for 65% of B.C.'s total farm receipts.
- ▶ This region is best known for producing a variety of crops including greenhouse vegetables, floriculture, nursery, mushrooms, berries and field vegetables along with animal products including dairy, beef, pork, poultry and eggs, sheep and lambs, and honey bees.
- ▶ A total of 112 farms in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region reported producing certified organic products for sale, while 27 farms reported producing products in transition to becoming certified organic.

FARM ENTERPRISES

- ▶ Farm types in this region with an increase in numbers were: hay and other crops (+69%), field vegetables (+32%), fruits (+27%), sheep and goats (+18%), poultry and eggs (+13%), greenhouse vegetables (+6%), other animals (+5%), and oilseed and grains (+5).
- ▶ The region also had decreases in the number of beef (-28%), hog (-27%), dairy (-15%), nursery product (-5%), floriculture (-5%) and mushroom (-9%) farms.

CROPS

- ▶ The total area planted in berries increased 49%, to 12,620 hectares (31,186 acres). The region's area in blueberries, cranberries and raspberries accounts for 97%, 97%, and 92% of the provincial total area in these three berry crops, respectively.
- ▶ Farmland in tree fruits rose 28% to 270 hectares (667 acres).
- ▶ The region had land increases for: sod (16%), greenhouse flower production (12%), greenhouse vegetable production (11%) and hay and field crops (1%).
- ▶ Farmland declined 13% in field vegetables, 3% in nursery products and 3% in mushroom production.
- ▶ The region's 4.6 million square metres in greenhouse production accounts for 84% of B.C.'s total greenhouse area.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

- ▶ The region had an increase in the number of poultry on farms, with turkeys increasing by 109,734 birds (+14%) and the number of hens and chickens increasing by 900,152 birds (+6%). The poultry in this region accounts for 87% of the total provincial poultry on farms.
- ▶ There were 3,457 (35%) fewer beef cows, 23,856 (24%) fewer pigs, 370 (4%) fewer horses and ponies, and 942 (2%) fewer dairy cows. This region accounts for 70% of B.C.'s dairy cows.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

- ▶ The region had 9,162 (+90%) more honey bee colonies. The area now accounts for 57% of the province's total honey bee colonies, up from 35% in 2006.

	UNIT	2006	2011		UNIT	2006	2011
Population	#	2,436,596	2,657,711	Selected Crops (Planting Area)			
Number of Farms	#	5,410	5,793	Hay and Field Crops	ha	42,813	43,053
Total Farm Area	ha	118,090	125,762	Tree Fruits	ha	211	270
Total Farm Gross Receipts	\$	1,660,504,505	1,920,747,557	Berries	ha	8,473	12,620
				Vegetables	ha	5,388	4,711
Farms Classified by Farm Type				Christmas Trees	ha	524	x
Beef Cattle	#	644	464	Nursery	ha	3,002	2,898
Dairy Cattle and Milk	#	438	372	Sod	ha	468	543
Hog and Pig	#	45	33	Greenhouse Total Area in Use	m ²	4,425,589	4,603,300
Poultry and Egg	#	577	653	Greenhouse Floriculture Products	m ²	1,478,867	1,660,028
Sheep and Goat	#	166	195	Greenhouse Vegetable Products	m ²	2,364,178	2,632,358
Other Animals	#	1,008	1,059	Other Greenhouse Products	m ²	..	310,914
Oilseed and Grain	#	21	22	Mushrooms	m ²	219,941	214,020
Fruit and Tree Nut	#	910	1,156				
Field Vegetables and Melons	#	251	332	Selected Livestock (Heads)			
Greenhouse	#	71	75	Beef Cows	#	9,783	6,326
Nursery and Tree	#	726	684	Dairy Cows	#	52,355	51,413
Floriculture	#	208	198	Pigs	#	100,476	76,620
Mushroom	#	43	39	Hens and Chickens	#	15,476,410	16,376,562
Hay and Other Crops	#	302	511	Turkeys	#	767,068	876,802
				Sheep and lambs	#	9,074	9,066
Organics Products (Farms Reporting)				Goats	#	5,106	5,177
Certified for Sale	#	110	112	Horses and Ponies	#	9,331	8,961
Transitional for Sale	#	20	27	Colonies of Honey Bees	#	10,149	19,311