

2011 CENSUS *of* AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS *for* **NECHAKO: CENSUS REGION 7**

REGIONAL PROFILE

- ▶ The main agricultural activities in the region are forage and cattle ranching.
- ▶ With a population of 39,837 Nechako has 1% of B.C.'s total population and is the second largest region in the province by area.
- ▶ The region includes the Bulkley-Nechako and Stikine regional districts.
- ▶ The total number of farms decreased 5% to 840 farms, accounting for 4% of B.C.'s farms.
- ▶ Total farm area in the region is 251,422 hectares (621,278 acres), or 10% of B.C.'s total farmland area.
- ▶ Total gross farm receipts fell 1% to \$54 million in 2011.
- ▶ Total number of farms reporting certified organic products for sale declined from 3 to 2 farms, while one farm reported being in transition to producing certified organic products for sale.

FARM ENTERPRISES

- ▶ This region had an 85% increase in the number of hay and other crop farms and increases in hog and pig (300%), poultry and egg (120%), greenhouse (50%), fruit and tree nut (25%), dairy cattle and milk (21%), and field vegetable (11%) farm numbers.
- ▶ There was a 45% decline in the number of beef farms as well as a drop in farm numbers for oilseed and grain (-33%), sheep and goat (-32%), nursery (-33%), floriculture (-17%) and other animals (-8%).

CROPS

- ▶ Total area in berries more than doubled to 7 hectares (18 acres). The area in field vegetables increased 91% to 21 hectares (53 acres), in nursery increased from 2 to 3 hectares (8 acres), and the farmland area in hay and field crops increased 3% to 58,764 hectares (145,210 acres).
- ▶ The region's total area in greenhouse production – the sum total of greenhouse floriculture, greenhouse vegetable, and other greenhouse product production – fell 65%.

LIVESTOCK

- ▶ The region had 490 (+96%) more goats on farm, 112 (+32%) more pigs, and 118 (+11%) more dairy cows.
- ▶ The region had 460 (49%) fewer turkeys, 10,263 (32%) fewer beef cows, 638 (19%) fewer sheep and lambs, and 359 (-11%) fewer horses and ponies.
- ▶ The region accounts for 11% of all beef cows in B.C., unchanged since 2006, and 7% of B.C.'s horses and ponies and goats.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

- ▶ The region also had a near quadrupling of the number of honey bee colonies on farms from 97 in 2006 to 370 in 2011.

	UNIT	2006	2011		UNIT	2006	2011
Population	#	38,875	39,837	Selected Crops (Planted area)			
Number of Farms	#	886	840	Hay and Field Crops	ha	57,008	58,764
Total Farm Area	ha	272,488	251,422	Tree Fruits	ha	0	1
Total Gross Farm Receipts	\$	54,630,348	54,186,702	Berries	ha	3	7
				Vegetables	ha	11	21
Farms Classified by Farm Type				Christmas Trees	ha	36	21
Beef Cattle	#	411	225	Nursery	ha	2	3
Dairy Cattle and Milk	#	14	19	Sod	ha	0	0
Hog and Pig	#	1	3	Greenhouse Total Area in Use	m ²	35,103	12,214
Poultry and Egg	#	5	11	Greenhouse Floriculture Products	m ²	X	7,692
Sheep and Goat	#	19	13	Greenhouse Vegetable Products	m ²	X	1,780
Other Animals	#	203	186	Other Greenhouse Products	m ²	..	2,741
Oilseed and Grain	#	12	8	Mushrooms	m ²	X	0
Fruit and Tree Nut	#	4	5				
Field Vegetables and Melons	#	9	10	Selected Livestock (Heads)			
Greenhouse	#	2	3	Beef Cows	#	31,805	21,542
Nursery and Tree	#	9	6	Dairy Cows	#	1,050	1,168
Floriculture	#	12	10	Pigs	#	347	459
Mushrooms	#	1	0	Hens and Chickens	#	9,383	9,046
Hay and Other Crops	#	184	341	Turkeys	#	936	476
				Sheep and Lambs	#	3,328	2,690
Organics Products (Farms Reporting)				Goats	#	508	998
Certified Organic Products for Sale	#	3	2	Horses and Ponies	#	3,380	3,021
Transitional Organic Products for Sale	#	0	1	Colonies of Honey Bees			
					#	97	370