

2011 CENSUS *of* AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS *for* **PEACE RIVER: CENSUS REGION 8**

REGIONAL PROFILE

- ▶ Agriculture plays an important role in the region's economy; it is primarily a grain and oilseed growing area, producing wheat, canola, barley and hay crops, as well as cattle ranching.
- ▶ The population of the Peace River region increased 2%, from 64,411 in Census 2006 to 65,660 in Census 2011.
- ▶ There are 1,560 farms in the region, down 10% from 1,729 farms in 2006. The region accounts for 8% of B.C.'s farms.
- ▶ The total farm area, at 892,903 hectares (2,206,411 acres) accounts for 32% – almost one-third – of the provincial total farmland.
- ▶ Total farm gross receipts increased 4% to \$145 million from \$139 million.

FARM ENTERPRISES

- ▶ The region had an increase in the number of hay and other crop farms (+49%), sheep and goat farms (+27%), fruit farms (+20%), and oilseed and grain farms (+2%).
- ▶ Farm number declines were reported for beef (-54%), other animal production (-28%), nursery (-26%), poultry and egg (-25%), and floriculture (-8%) farms.

CROPS

- ▶ The area in grains increased 29% to 1,632 hectares (4,033 acres), alfalfa hay 21% to 93,673 hectares (231,470 acres) and barley 16% to 15,985 hectares (39,499 acres). The region's area in canola increased 44% to 33,593 hectares (83,009 acres). Canola accounts for the largest of the grain and oilseed crop area with 94% of the provincial total.
- ▶ Significant shares of BC's total crop acreage is accounted for in this region with wheat at 87%, barley at 60%, alfalfa hay at 43%, mixed grains at 41% and all other tame hay and fodder crops accounting for 27%.
- ▶ The area in hay and field crops increased 14% to 240,735 hectares (594,869 acres). The region accounts for 40% of BC's total area in hay and field crops up from 36% in 2006.
- ▶ A decline in farmland occurred in berries (-71%), vegetables (-45%), and Christmas trees (-40%).
- ▶ The area dedicated to greenhouse production increased 36%.

LIVESTOCK

- ▶ The region had a 287 (+42%) increase in the number of goats on farm between the two census, a 1,723 (+29%) increase in sheep and lambs, and a 3,647 bird (+9%) increase in hens and chickens.
- ▶ At the same time, declines were reported in the number of pigs by 16,994 head (-70%), beef cows by 19,494 (-31%), horses and ponies by 2,184 (-21%), and turkeys by 290 (-10%).

HONEY BEE COLONIES

- ▶ The region's honey bee colonies declined 41% from 2,716 colonies in 2006 to 1,605 colonies in 2011.

	UNIT	2006	2011		UNIT	2006	2011
Population	#	64,411	65,660	Selected Crops (Planted Area)			
Number of Farms	#	1,729	1,560	Hay and Field Crops	ha	212,024	240,735
Total Farm Area	ha	892,903	831,565	Tree Fruits	ha	0	0
Total Farm Gross Receipts	\$	138,904,007	144,940,291	Berries	ha	17	5
				Vegetables	ha	29	16
Farms Classified by Farm Type				Christmas Trees	ha	47	28
Beef Cattle	#	544	249	Nursery	ha	129	X
Dairy Cattle and Milk	#	6	6	Sod	ha	X	X
Hog and Pig	#	2	2	Greenhouse Total Area in Use	m ²	6,168	8,398
Poultry and Egg	#	8	6	Greenhouse Floriculture Products	m ²	X	4977
Sheep and Goat	#	11	14	Greenhouse Vegetable Products	m ²	X	X
Other Animals	#	432	310	Other Greenhouse Products	m ²	..	X
Oilseed and Grain	#	174	178	Mushrooms	m ²	0	0
Fruit and Tree Nut	#	5	6				
Field Vegetables and Melons	#	4	4	Selected Livestock (Heads)			
Greenhouse	#	1	1	Beef Cows	#	63,089	43,595
Nursery and Tree	#	19	14	Dairy Cows	#	383	392
Floriculture	#	12	11	Pigs	#	24,381	7,387
Mushroom	#	0	0	Hens and Chickens	#	39,973	43,620
Hay and Other Crops	#	511	759	Turkeys	#	2,958	2,668
				Sheep and lambs	#	5,950	7,673
Organics Products (Farms Reporting)				Goats	#	689	976
Certified Organic Products for Sale	#	13	17	Horses and Ponies	#	10,292	8,108
Transitional Organic Products for Sale	#	2	3	Colonies of Honey Bees			
					#	2,716	1,605