

2011 CENSUS *of* AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS *for* **VANCOUVER ISLAND—COAST: CENSUS REGION 1**

REGIONAL PROFILE

- ▶ The region produces a diversity of both crops and livestock. Crops include: forage, tree fruits, grapes, berries, field vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, nursery and floriculture. Livestock farms raise beef, dairy, hog, poultry and eggs, sheep, lamb, goats, and horses.
- ▶ The population of the Vancouver Island-Coast region is 759,366, up 4.4% from Census 2006.
- ▶ The area includes 7 regional districts: Alberni-Clayoquot, Capital, Comox-Strathcona, Central Coast, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Powell River.
- ▶ There are 3,000 farms in the region, an increase of 5% from the 2,855 farms reported in 2006. The region accounts for 15% of B.C.'s total farms.
- ▶ The total farm area fell 3% in 2011. The region accounts for 2% of the total provincial farmland area.
- ▶ In Census 2011, the total gross farm receipts in this region increased by 2.4% to \$168 million from \$164 million.
- ▶ A total of 69 farms in the region reported producing certified organic products for sale, while 26 farms reported producing products in transition to becoming certified organic.

FARM ENTERPRISES

- ▶ There was an increase in the number of hay and other crop farms (+82%), greenhouse vegetable farms (+36%), field vegetable farms (+25%) sheep and goat farms (+23%) and fruit farms (+8%), between Census 2006 and 2011.
- ▶ At the same time there was a decline in the number of oilseed and grain farms (-45%), beef farms (-40%); hog farms (-26%); floriculture farms (-18%); dairy farms (-14%) poultry and egg farms (-10%) and nursery farms (-4%).

CROPS

- ▶ The region's farmland area allocated to berries more than tripled to 441 hectares (1,090 acres); the area in greenhouse vegetable production increased by 52%; the area in field vegetables increased by 31% to 700 hectares (1,730 acres); tree fruit area increased 25% to 507 hectares (1,253 acres); and the area in sod and nursery products rose 21% and 18% respectively to 74 hectares (183 acres) in sod and 306 hectares (756 acres) in nursery products.
- ▶ The area in greenhouse flower production declined 14%.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

- ▶ The total number of animals on farms decreased in every category except turkeys which showed an increase of 7% and sheep and lambs (+3%).
- ▶ Of particular note, the region had 1,387 (30%) fewer beef cattle, 213,519 (25%) fewer hens and chickens, and 680 (24%) fewer pigs compared to 2006.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

- ▶ The number of farms reporting honey bee colonies increased 10% from 155 farms to 171 farms in 2011, but the number of colonies decreased 24% from 7,461 to 5,698 colonies.

	UNIT	2006	2011		UNIT	2006	2011
Population	#	727,422	759,366	Selected Crops (Planted Area)			
Number of Farms	#	2,855	3,000	Hay and Field Crop ^{s31}	ha	16,155	16,350
Total Farm Area	ha	53,765	52,126	Tree Fruits	ha	405	507
Total Gross Farm Receipts	\$	163,694,855	167,549,987	Berries	ha	130	441
				Vegetables	ha	533	700
Farms Classified by Farm Type				Christmas Trees	ha	370	434
Beef Cattle	#	353	213	Nursery	ha	260	306
Dairy Cattle and Milk	#	74	64	Sod	ha	61	74
Hog and Pig	#	27	20	Greenhouse Total Area in Use	m ²	289,249	303,684
Poultry and Egg	#	280	252	Greenhouse Floriculture Products	m ²	116,532	100,034
Sheep and Goat	#	146	180	Greenhouse Vegetable Products	m ²	84,108	127,915
Other Animal ^{s32}	#	695	684	Other Greenhouse Products	m ²	..	75,736
Oilseed and Grain	#	11	6	Mushrooms	m ²	3,824	x
Fruit and Tree Nut	#	344	373				
Field Vegetables and Melon	#	182	228	Selected Livestock (Heads)			
Greenhouse	#	61	83	Beef Cows	#	4,656	3,269
Nursery and Tree	#	284	272	Dairy Cows	#	7,911	7,298
Floriculture	#	95	78	Pigs	#	2,814	2,134
Mushroom	#	6	6	Hens and Chickens	#	850,934	637,415
Hay and Other Crop ^{s33}	#	297	541	Turkeys	#	20,531	21,968
				Sheep and lambs	#	14,521	14,923
Organics Products (Farms Reporting)				Goats	#	1,949	1,710
Certified Organic Products for Sale	#	76	69	Horses and Ponies	#	3,834	3,447
Transitional Organic Products for Sale	#	11	26	Colonies of Honey Bees			
					#	7,461	5,698