

# Agriculture in Brief

Cowichan Valley Regional District

2016



## Jurisdictional Makeup

Member Municipalities: Duncan, Ladysmith, Lake Cowichan & North Cowichan.

Population (2016) <sup>1</sup>	#	83,739
Jurisdictional Land Area <sup>2</sup>	ha	347,452
Agricultural Land Reserve (2017) <sup>3</sup>	ha	19,016
Population Increase (2011-2016) <sup>4</sup>	#	3,407

Census of Agriculture Data		2006	2011	2016	Share of B.C. 2016
Total Farmland Area <sup>5</sup>	ha	11,559	10,837	10,086	0.4%
Number of Farms	#	700	685	632	3.6%
Average Farm Size	ha	16.5	15.8	16.0	na
Total Farm Operators	#	1,075	1,045	975	3.7%
Total Farm Capital		\$581,768,996	\$743,033,117	\$751,744,936	2.0%
Total Gross Farm Receipts		\$47,554,455	\$48,069,900	\$57,222,815	1.5%
Total Number of Employees	#	na	704	633	1.4%

Farmland Use	ha	2006	2011	2016	Share of B.C. 2016
Crops <sup>6</sup>	ha	5,159	5,349	5,198	0.9%
Summerfallow	ha	x	18	21	0.4%
Tame or Seeded Pasture	ha	x	798	815	0.4%
Natural Land for Pasture	ha	1,560	1,468	1,036	0.1%
All Other Land <sup>7</sup>	ha	3,723	3,204	3,016	0.8%

## Crop Area

Hay Crops <sup>8</sup>	ha	4,340	4,103	3,935	1.1%
Field Crops <sup>8</sup>	ha	455	857	903	0.5%
Fruits, Berries & Nuts	ha	172	220	205	0.8%
Vegetables	ha	63	88	93	1.4%
Nursery Products	ha	44	51	x	na
Sod Grown for Sale	ha	16	21	x	na
Greenhouse Flower Production	m <sup>2</sup>	12,382	x	2,794	0.2%
Greenhouse Vegetable Production	m <sup>2</sup>	x	x	21,798	0.7%
Other Greenhouse Production	m <sup>2</sup>	na	x	827	0.2%
Mushrooms	m <sup>2</sup>	x	x	0	0.0%
Christmas Trees	ha	106	125	110	5.5%

Area Irrigated	ha	2,465	2,120	2,029	1.8%
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Farms Reporting Organic Products for Sale <sup>9</sup>	#	na	19	19	3.5%
Farms Reporting Certified Products	#	na	15	13	2.9%
Farms Reporting in Transition Products	#	na	5	7	6.4%

Farms With Written Succession Plans <sup>9</sup>	#	na	na	23	2.0%
Family Members as Successors	#	na	na	21	1.9%
Non-family Members as Successors	#	na	na	2	2.4%

Census of Agriculture Data (continued)	2006		2011		2016		Share of B.C. 2016	
	Farms	Number	Farms	Number	Farms	Number	Farms	Number
<b>Animals on Farms</b>								
Hens & Chickens	280	281,003	289	209,881	293	226,323	5.8%	1.1%
Turkeys	42	18,556	43	x	41	x	7.7%	na
Total Other Poultry	69	5,756	80	2,994	92	1,797	8.0%	0.3%
Cattle & Calves	230	10,174	194	9,569	170	9,296	3.3%	1.4%
Dairy Cows	44	3,632	41	3,582	42	3,384	6.1%	4.5%
Beef Cows	138	1,146	112	946	95	738	2.7%	0.3%
Pigs	46	952	33	297	65	522	7.2%	0.6%
Sheep & Lambs	112	2,274	129	2,826	121	2,382	7.1%	4.0%
Horses & Ponies	183	876	155	714	121	491	2.5%	1.5%
Goats	46	1,021	51	712	49	469	5.0%	3.2%
Mink	0	0	1	x	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Bison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Deer	3	268	1	x	1	x	8.3%	na
Llamas & Alpacas	36	697	35	431	21	160	4.0%	6.3%
Rabbits	13	61	17	155	24	283	6.1%	5.3%
Colonies of Bees for Honey	33	1,072	33	1,297	46	725	4.4%	1.3%

	Farms	Share of B.C. 2016
<b>Farms Selling Direct to Consumers<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>340</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Farms Reporting Sales of Unprocessed Agricultural Products	329	5.9%
Farms Reporting Sales of Value-added Products	42	7.1%
Farms Reporting Using Farm Gate, Stands, Kiosks, U-pick	321	6.4%
Farms Reporting Using Farmers' Markets	61	4.9%
Farms Reporting Using Community Supported Agriculture	22	8.8%
Farms Reporting Using Other Methods	9	3.7%

<b>Farms Reporting Technologies Used on Farms</b>	Farms	Share of B.C. 2016
Computers/Laptops for Farm Management	318	3.6%
Smartphones/Tablets for Farm Management	204	3.4%
Automated Steering (Auto-steer)	5	1.1%
GPS Technology	26	2.4%
GIS Mapping (e.g., Soil Mapping)	16	4.8%
Greenhouse Automation	12	3.8%
Robotic Milking	5	6.9%
Automated Environmental Controls for Animal Housing	17	2.9%
Automated Animal Feeding	17	2.6%
Other Technology	8	5.5%

<b>Farms Reporting Renewable Energy Systems Produced For Use on Farm on for Sale<sup>9</sup></b>	Farms	Share of B.C. 2016
Farms Reporting Solar Panels	22	3.1%
Farms Reporting Solar Panels	20	3.3%
Farms Reporting Wind Turbines	1	2.0%
Farms Reporting Anaerobic Biodigester (Biogas or Methane)	1	10.0%
Farms Reporting Biodiesel Production Systems	0	0.0%
Farms Reporting Hydro Electric Power Generator	0	0.0%
Farms Reporting Other Renewable Energy Producing Systems	2	3.8%

Source: Statistics Canada and Adapted from Statistics Canada. Census of Agriculture, 2006, 2011, 2016, unless otherwise specified.  
Prepared by Ministry of Agriculture, Corporate Statistics and Research Unit. Summer 2017

#### End Notes

- 1 Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population.
- 2 Source: Statistics Canada, Geosuite: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/geo/index-eng.cfm>
- 3 Source: Adapted from Agricultural Land Commission. Agricultural Land Reserve as of January 1, 2008 (for 2006) & April 1, 2012 (for 2011) & April 2017 (for 2016).
- 4 Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population.
- 5 Total farmland area includes both workable and non-workable land on farm operations in B.C.
- 6 Crops include hay crops, field crops, field vegetables, fruits and nuts, sod and nursery products.
- 7 Other farmland area includes: woodland, wetlands, Christmas tree land, land on which farm buildings, barnyards, lanes, home gardens, greenhouses and mushroom houses are located, and idle land.
- 8 Does not include those crop areas suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.
- 9 The "number of farms reporting" may not equal the sum of the parts because farms reporting more than one category (or activity) are only counted once.

#### Notes

Totals may not add up due to rounding  
x - indicates farms reporting but information suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act  
na - indicates data is not available or applicable