

/NOTES TO DATA USERS

1. The 1991 Census of Agriculture was conducted on June 4, 1991.
2. Census farm is defined in 1991 Census of Agriculture as any person operating an agricultural holding which produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops, livestock, poultry, animal products, greenhouse products, nursery products, mushroom, sod, honey, maple syrup products.

- **General Notes**

Conversion Factors

The following factors are used in this publication to convert between different units of measurement:

1 acre = .404 685 6 hectares
1 hectare = 2.471 acres
1 arpent = 0.845 acres
1 square foot = 0.092 903 04 square metres
1 square metre = 10.763 91 square feet
1 kilogram = 2.204 622 6 pounds
1 pound = 0.453 592 4 kilograms

Rounding

Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to the use of conversion factors and the rounding of fractions to whole numbers where applicable.

Headquarters Rule

Many agricultural operations in Canada are composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations. These different locations are often situated in several geographic areas (such as townships or counties). In these situations, the "headquarters rule" assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the geographic area where the farm headquarters is located.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves and Indian Settlements

Some Indian reserves and Indian settlements were incompletely enumerated in 1991, as enumeration was either not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed. As a result, it was not possible to identify any census farms on these particular reserves and settlements. The impact of the missing data is very slight at the larger geographic levels (Canada, province, and census agricultural region), but the impact is more significant for those census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions in which the affected reserves and settlements are located

- **Notes on variables**

The validation process identified some instances where data either were not directly comparable to data from previous censuses or were of reduced quality primarily due to

coverage or response errors. Following a thorough investigation of each case, the following list of notes was developed to identify these variables and to explain the situation associated with each.

Operating arrangements

In 1991, for the first time, respondents were permitted to report more than one operating arrangement. As a result, the comparability of 1991 data with data from earlier censuses is somewhat limited.

Durum Wheat

The data for durum wheat in Manitoba are over-reported because some respondents included spring wheat with durum wheat.

Dry White Beans

Some Respondents in Québec included coloured beans with dry white beans.

Other Field Crops

The increase in the area for other field crops in the Prairie Provinces is primarily because of improved coverage of wild rice operations.

Number of Apple Trees

Many respondents in Ontario and British Columbia experienced difficulties providing the number of apple trees for the three categories: standard, semi-dwarf and dwarf. For these two provinces, users should interpret these categories instead as low, medium and high density. In Ontario, it appears that these reporting difficulties resulted in an overestimate of the number of apple trees.

Blueberries

The increase in the area of blueberries in Québec can be attributed mainly to improved coverage, not to an actual increase in area since 1986.

Summerfallow

The data for summerfallow have been overstated in previous censuses, for geographic areas where the practice is not common. However, a question added to the 1991 questionnaire about the use of weed control methods on summerfallow land significantly reduced the extent of over-reporting in these areas.

Irrigation

In 1991, unlike previous censuses, only one question was asked about irrigation, As a result, some respondents missed this question, causing the area to be under-reported.

Forms of Weed Control Used on Summerfallow Land

The area for tillage and chemical combination was over-reported, and the areas for tillage only were under-reported, because respondents interpreted this question in different ways

Methods of Tillage Used to Prepare Land For Seeding “No Tillage”

This area has been overstated mainly because respondents misunderstood the term no tillage. They interpreted it in several different ways, for instance, as one tillage just prior to seeding, or as land planted to hay or pasture requiring no tillage.

Windbreaks or Shelterbelts

Although the question asked the length of windbreaks or shelterbelts planted for soil conservation, natural windbreaks maintained for the same purpose often were included.

Poultry Production

Some respondents experienced difficulty estimating poultry production for 1990.

Wethers

To protect the confidentiality of individual farm operators, the data for wethers have been combined with data for ewes. The total number of wethers in Canada is 5,171.

Colonies of Bees

The increase in the number of bee colonies in 1991 results primarily from improved coverage. However, some undercoverage remains, mainly in small operations.

Mower-Conditioners

Data for mower-conditioners is overstated because some mowers and some swathers with conditioner attachments were included.

Value of Land and Buildings

In 1991, for the first time, there were two separate questions on the value of land and buildings; one on rented properties and one on owned properties. As a result, the total reported value of land and buildings increased, compared with earlier censuses, where some respondents had failed to include rented land. In particular, respondents near large urban areas reported the true market value of their rented properties regardless of intended future use.

Total Gross Farm Receipts

Traditionally, receipts are under-reported. In 1991, the level of under-reporting was significantly reduced, most notably in the Atlantic Provinces, Manitoba and Alberta.

Farm Type

As a result of refinements to the farm typing procedures in 1991, some census farm that reported tame hay have been typed differently in 1991 than in previous censuses.

Maple Tree Taps

Efforts were increased in 1991 to identify all operations with maple tree taps, but some undercoverage remains.

- **Confidentiality**

Statistics Canada is keenly aware of the importance of keeping information collected by the census strictly confidential. All tabulated data are subject to confidentiality restrictions prior to release. A number of computerized checks are performed on each table to suppress all data, which could result in the disclosure of information concerning any particular agricultural operation. Furthermore, due to confidentiality constraints, data for those geographic areas with very few agricultural operations are not released separately, but rather merged with a geographically adjacent area.

- **Non-Standard Geographic Classification**

Data for Census Division included within another Census Division as Census Consolidated Subdivision

1005999	Data for Division No. 9 are included in Division No. 5
1305999	Data for Saint John County are included in Kings County
3519999	Data for Toronto Metro. Mun. are included in York Regional Mun.
4716999	Data for Division No. 18 are included in Division No. 16
4806999	Data for Division No. 15 are included in Division No. 6
5925999	Data for Alberni-Clayoquot R.D. are included in Comox-Strathcona R.D.
5927999	Data for Sunshine Coast R.D. are included in Powell River R.D.
5941999	Data for Central Coast Regional District are included in Cariboo R.D.