

Notes on Data Tables

New for 2006

- Woodlands and wetlands
- Use of lime
- Rotational grazing
- Buffer zones around water bodies
- Manure
- Use of irrigation
- Other pollinating bees
- Organic

Farm type (NAICS classification)

The farm type is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) farm-typing categories. NAICS is revised periodically. The 2001 farm-type data were derived using NAICS1997 and 2006 farm-type data were derived using NAICS2002. Both classifications are the same for the Canadian agriculture industry, making the data from the two reference years directly comparable.

Changes in farm types over time do reflect a shift in farming activity but could also be influenced by changing commodity prices.

Land tenure

The land tenure section of the 2006 Census of Agriculture questionnaire was revised significantly. Its new format does not permit comparisons with 2001. The 2006 data have been adjusted to be historically comparable to the land tenure data collected by the 2001 Census of Agriculture.

Total farm area is the difference between "Total area of all land tenures" minus "Total area used by others."

Land use

In British Columbia the total land area of farms, area leased from governments, unimproved pasture and all other land are higher than in previous censuses due to better quality data on government lands operated under a licence, permit or lease.

Herbicide, insecticide, fungicide

As in previous censuses, the area of land on which herbicides, insecticides and fungicides were applied is under-reported. However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Windbreaks or shelterbelts (natural or planted)

Due to wording changes in the census question, 2006 data are not comparable with 2001 data.

Manure

The area of land on which composted manure was applied was over-reported for 2005 in all provinces except Quebec. Many farmers included manure that had not been actively managed.

In Quebec the total of "Liquid manure applied by irrigation" is zero because spreading livestock manure by mobile or stationary equipment having a projection range of more than 25 m is prohibited. As of April 1, 2005, liquid manure from hog operations must be spread using low-ramp equipment only.

In Western Canada, the area of land on which manure was applied using solid and composted manure was over-reported, due to some respondents reporting manure spread naturally by grazing livestock.

Tillage

When comparing the data on tillage practices to previous censuses, calculating each practice as a percentage of the total land prepared for seeding is recommended since total land prepared for seeding varies over time.

Land management

When comparing the number of farms reporting soil conservation practices to previous censuses, calculating the number of farms reporting any one practice as a percentage of the total number of farms is recommended since the total number of farms varies over time.

Irrigation

In Ontario irrigation of hay is likely to be over-reported and data should be used with caution. In Alberta, some respondents reported irrigation of alfalfa under "Field crops" rather than under "Hay and pasture," resulting in over-reporting of irrigation of "Field crops" and under-reporting of irrigation of "Hay and pasture."

Organic

In 2001, due to both undercoverage and respondent errors, the number of farms producing certified organic products for sale was under-reported.

Corn

"Total corn" includes "Corn for grain" and "Corn for silage."

Bees

As in previous censuses some undercoverage, primarily of smaller operations with bees, occurred in 2006.

Number of broiler and turkey

Broiler and turkey inventories reflect the total number of birds on Census Day and should be used with caution. Poultry inventories will fluctuate because barns that were empty on Census Day had no inventories to report. Users are advised to use the annual production data as a more accurate reflection of changes in these agricultural sectors over time.

Poultry production

Production is reported on a live-weight basis.

Maple trees tapped

Some respondents may have reported taps made on birch trees.

Value of land and buildings

Value of land and buildings owned and rented reflect present market values as reported by respondents.

Gross farm receipts and farm business operating expenses

All references to a dollar value are based on the current dollar of the respective year.

Gross farm receipts and some operating expenses are understated at the aggregate level due to the increase in contractual arrangements (e.g., contract feeding), custom work performed by non-farmers, and the involvement in primary agriculture of large non-farm corporations such as food processors, meatpacking plants and others.

"Total farm business operating expenses" does not include depreciation or capital cost allowance.

Expenses (Commercial feed purchases)

Commercial and non-commercial feed purchases were overstated in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2001 due to respondent error.

Expenses (Custom work, contract work and hired trucking)

"Custom work, contract work and hired trucking" was overstated in British Columbia in 2001 due to respondent errors.

Paid work

As in previous censuses, respondent errors are common for the paid work question because of the variety of arrangements in hiring farm labour. The data are, however, comparable with previous censuses.

Injuries

The number of farms reporting a type of injury does not equal all persons injured under that category because more than one person could have been injured on the same farm.

As in previous censuses, injuries are under-reported.

Operator

Up to three operators can be reported per farm. This is a count of distinct operators; hence, operators of two or more separate farms are included only once in the total.