

Regional District of Central Okanagan **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

Corporate Name	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Date of Incorporation	August 24, 1967
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For additional
information visit the
Regional District's
website.

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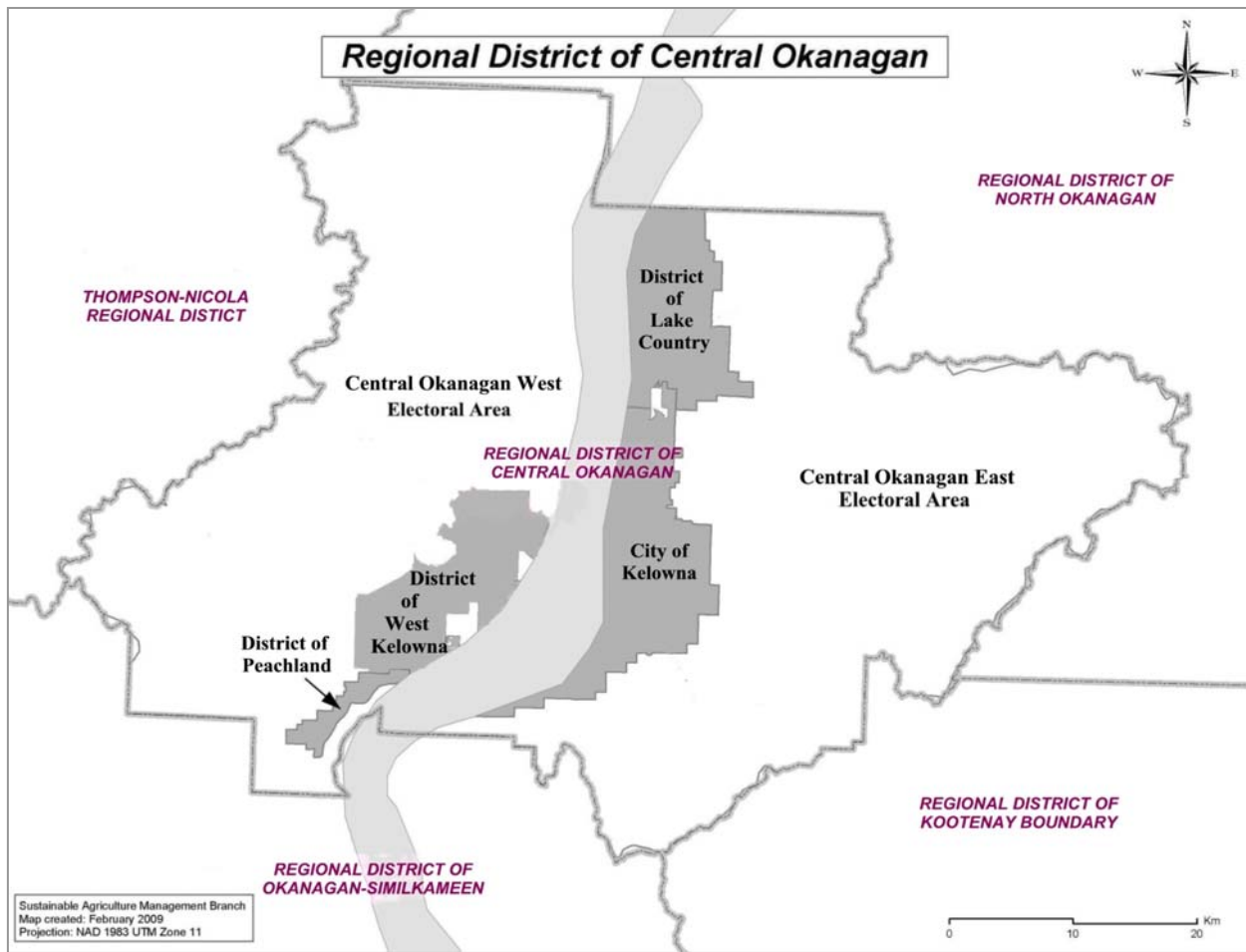
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• Member Municipalities

- City of Kelowna
- District of Lake Country
- District of Peachland
- District of West Kelowna

• Electoral Areas

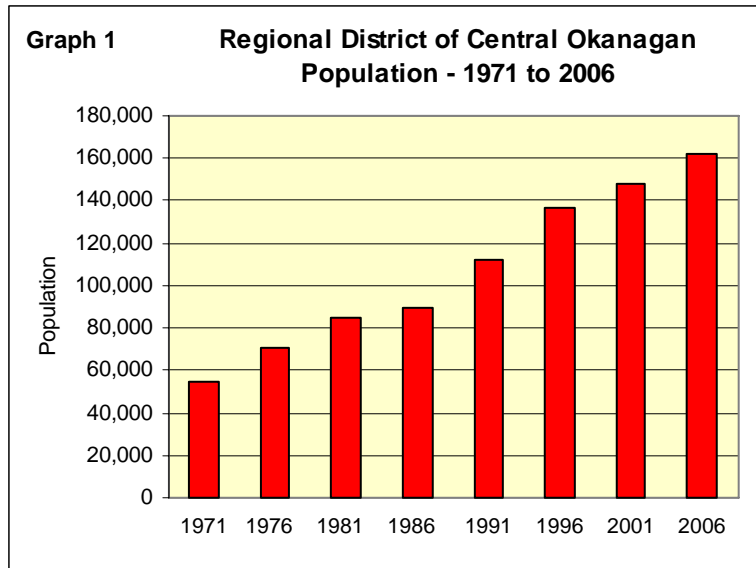
- Central Okanagan East
- Central Okanagan West



• **Population - 1971 to 2006¹**

1971	=	55,003
1976	=	70,745
1981	=	85,237
1986	=	89,730
1991	=	111,846
1996	=	136,541
2001	=	147,739
2006	=	162,276

The Regional District of Central Okanagan accounted for almost 4% of BC's population in 2006.



- **Population Increase 1971 to 2006** = 107,273
 = 3,065 persons / year on average

- **2006 Population within:²**

Municipal Jurisdictions	=	121,196	(75%)
Electoral Areas	=	32,950	(20%)
Indian Reserves	=	8,130	(5%)

- **2006 Urban / Rural Split**

Urban	=	132,027	(81%)
Rural	=	30,249	(19%)

The Regional District of Central Okanagan accounts for nearly 51% of the population of the three Okanagan regional districts.

*There were 1,017 farms reported in the Regional District of Central Okanagan in 2006. The Regional District's farm population is estimated to be 3,051 persons or 1.9% of Central Okanagan's total 2006 population (based on the BC average of 3 persons per farm).
 A similar calculation provincially sets the farm population at approximately 1.5% of B.C.'s total 2006 population.*

• **Jurisdictional Area** = 303,490 hectares³

¹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs, "Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia" - 1990 & 1998 and Statistics Canada, Ottawa - <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html>

² The 2006 Census municipal / electoral area population split in RDCO pre-dated the incorporation of Westside District Municipality. The 2008 population of Westside is estimated to be about 28,800 persons - <http://www.districtofwestside.ca/>.

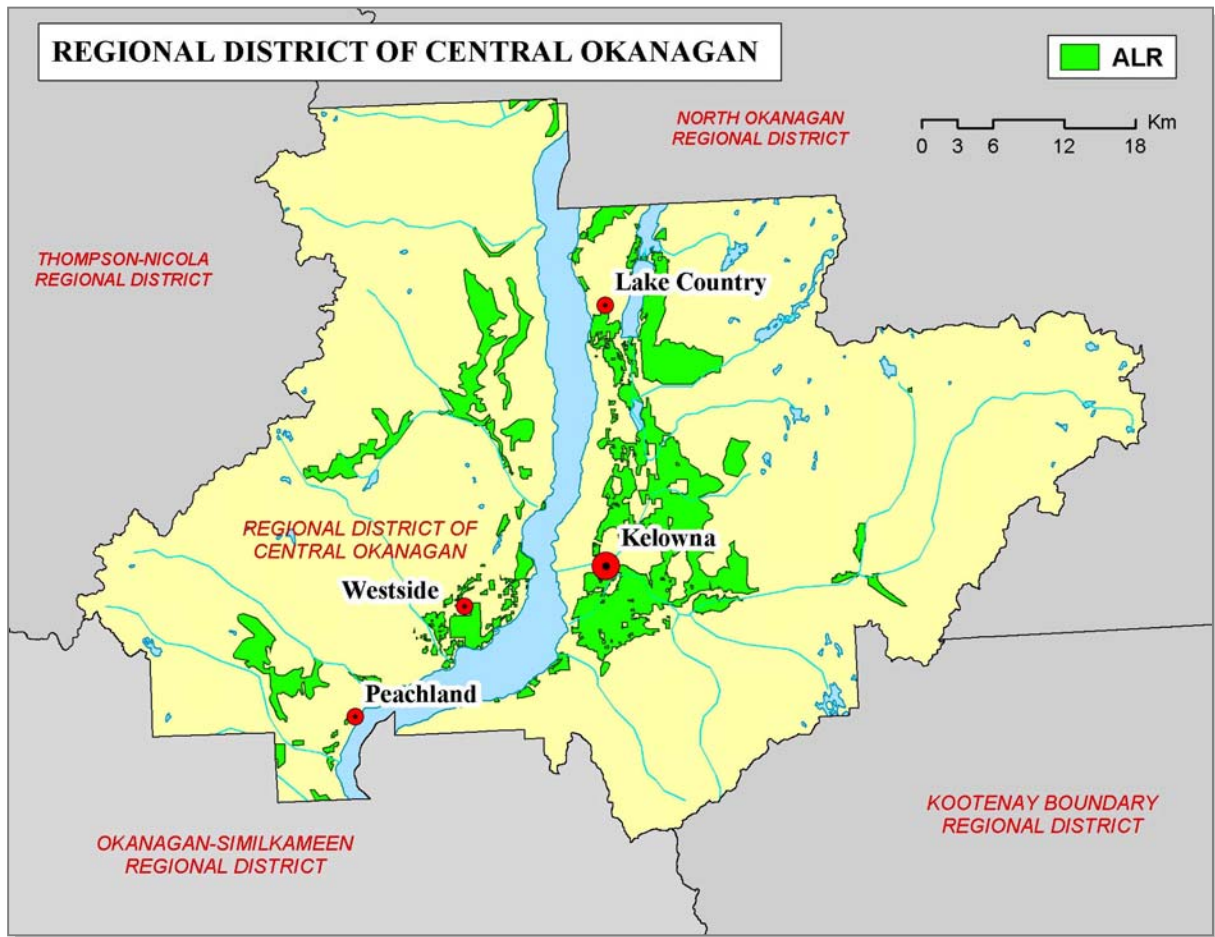
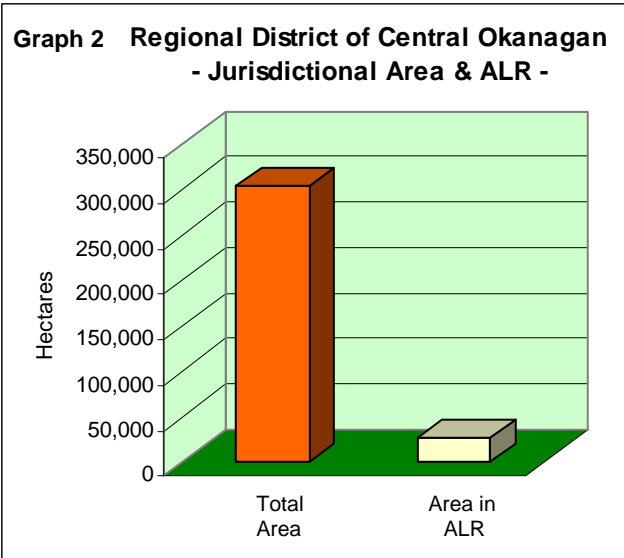
³ Ministry of Community Services, *Statistics Relating to Regional & Municipal Governments in B.C.* for July 18, 2007 at: http://www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/statistics_index.htm

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• Agricultural Land Reserve

= 27,305 hectares⁴

The ALR in the Regional District of Central Okanagan was designated on July 24, 1974 and today accounts for 9% of the Regional District's overall area.



⁴ Source: Agricultural Land Commission - ALR as of January 2008.

• **Total Area Farmed**

1986 = 25,209 ha.
 1991 = 26,109 ha.
 1996 = 31,847 ha.⁵
 2001 = 24,069 ha.
 2006 = 27,201 ha.



• **Number of Farms⁶ Reporting**

1986 = 1,053
 1991 = 1,113
 1996 = 1,157
 2001 = 1,102
 2006 = 1,017

- **Average Farm Size (hectares)**

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Regional District of Central Okanagan	23.9	23.5	27.5	21.8	26.8
Okanagan Valley Regional Districts ⁷	41.3	50.9	38.7	44.6	48.9
British Columbia	126.5	124.4	115.8	127.5	142.9

- **Farm Size**

	<u>1986</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent
<4 ha. (10 acres)	374	36%	408	37%	460	40%	393	36%	371	36%
4 to 52 ha. (10 to 129 acres)	611	58%	634	57%	637	55%	633	57%	596	59%
52 to 161 ha. (130 to 399 acres)	45	4%	46	4%	40	3%	50	5%	29	3%
<u>>161 ha. (400 acres & greater)</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2%</u>
Total	1,053	100%	1,113	100%	1,157	100%	1,102	100%	1,017	100%

⁵ The amount of land farmed in the Regional District of Central Okanagan increased by 5,738 hectares between 1991 and 1996 and in fact recorded more land farmed in the Regional District than was in the ALR in 1996. While it is possible that some land outside the ALR was being farmed, the reason for this sharp increase in the amount of farmland in this single census year may be due to the manner in which Statistics Canada reports on farm areas due to the **Headquarters Rule**. Because agricultural operations are often composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations, the “headquarters rule” assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the area where the farm headquarters is located.

⁶ Over time, the census definition of “farm” or “farm operation” has changed. An explanation of these changes can be found at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/95-629-XIE/2007000/terms.htm#farm>. In **2006**, an “agricultural operation” was defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale or the intention of sale in the past 12 months. For a complete definition of agricultural operation and agricultural products, see: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/glossary.htm#gt3>

⁷ “Okanagan Valley Regional Districts” include the Regional Districts of North Okanagan, Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen.

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Regional District of Central Okanagan
AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW• **Tenure⁸**

	<u>1986</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Farmland Owned	19,312	77%	20,055	77%	18,830	59%	18,943	79%	21,372	%
<u>Farmland Leased, etc.</u>	<u>5,897</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>6,054</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>13,017⁹</u>	<u>41%</u>	<u>5,126</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>7,749</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	25,209	100%	26,109	100%	31,847	100%	24,069	100%	29,121	100%

In 2006, provincially, 55.4% of farmland was owned.

- **Farmland Leased/Rented**

	<u>1986</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
From governments	na ¹⁰	na	1,531	25 %	9,144 ⁹	70%	566	11%	4,417	57%
From others	na	na	4,523	75%	3,873	30%	4,343	85%	3,099	40%
Crop shared from others	na	na	na	na	na	na	216	4%	110	1%
<u>Through other arrangements</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>2%</u>
Total	na	na	6,054	100%	13,017	100%	5,125	100%	7,749	100%



⁸ Note: Figures related to tenure for 2006 are not comparable to previous Census data due to a significant revision to the questionnaire and reformatting of the data by Statistics Canada. For this reason, the total area farmed in 2006 (p. 5) is not the same as the total in the Tenure table.

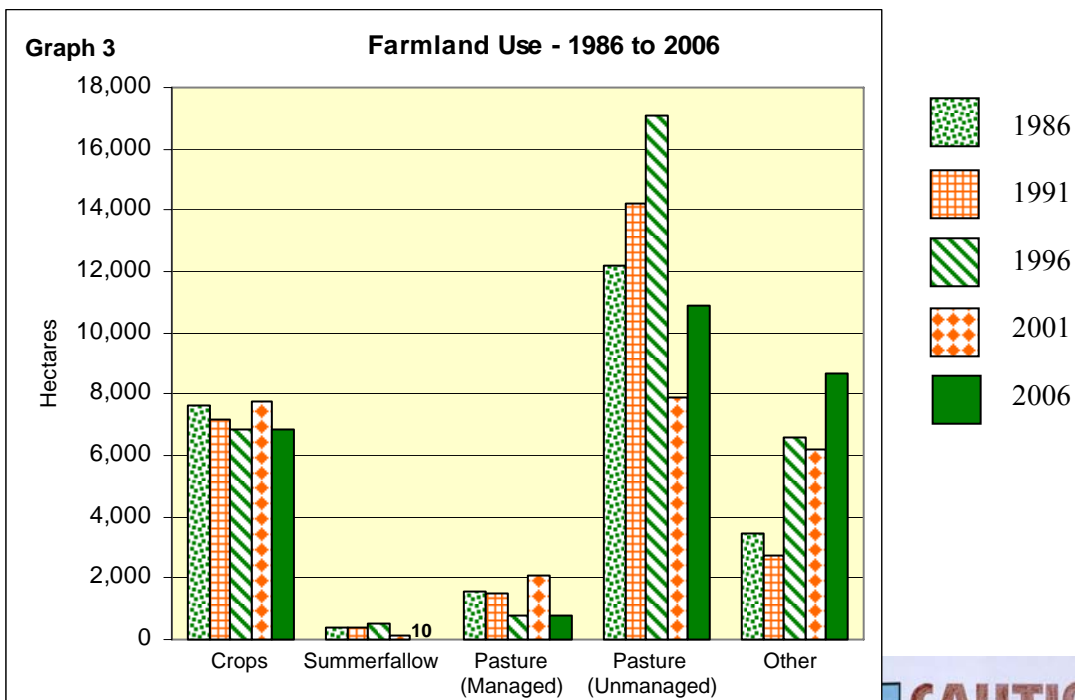
⁹ The significant increase in the amount of Farmland Leased (top table) and leased From Governments (bottom table) in 1996 may be associated with the 'headquarters rule' as noted in footnote 5.

¹⁰ "na" indicates that data was not available for the year and category in question.

Regional District of Central Okanagan **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

• Hectares of Farmland in:

	<u>1986</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Crops	966	7,649	976	7,180	963	6,871	899	7,733	826	6,840
Summerfallow	54	359	78	414	51	494	34	129	10	10
Pasture (managed)	232	1,545	228	1,516	198	785	188	2,106	157	778
Pasture (unmanaged)	185	12,195	251	14,245	292	17,099	331	7,876	277	10,920
<u>Other</u> ¹¹	<u>na</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>2,754</u>	<u>804</u>	<u>6,598</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>6,225</u>	<u>757</u>	<u>8,653</u>
Total ¹²	na	25,209	na	26,109	na	31,847	na	24,068 ¹³	na	27,201



¹¹ “Other” includes ‘Other Unimproved Land’, ‘Other Improved Land’ and ‘Woodland’.

¹² Note: A total for the number of farms in each year is not provided to avoid double counting of mixed farms.

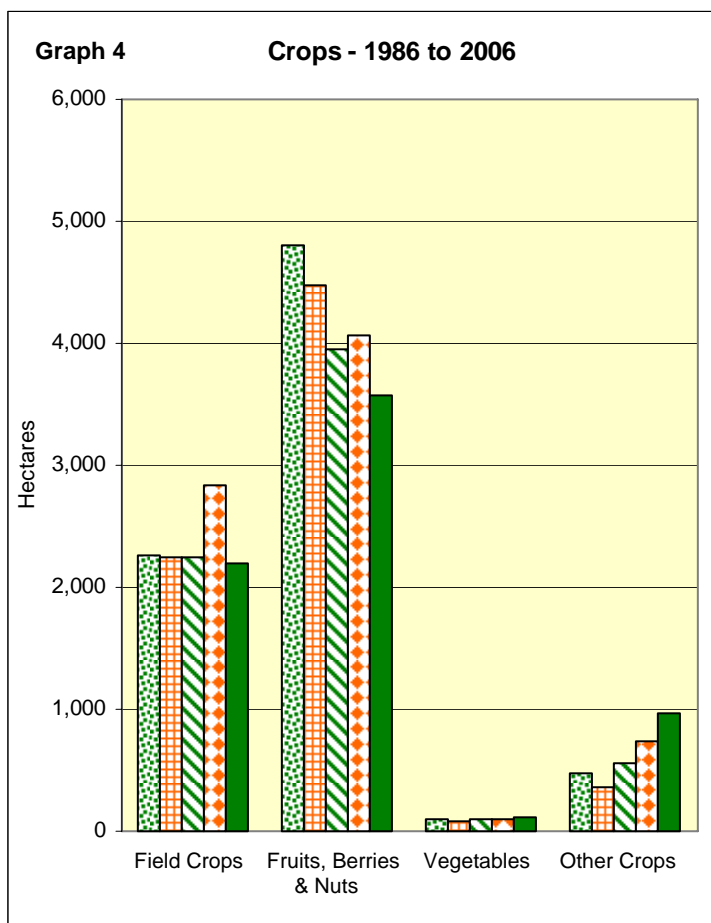
¹³ The minor (1 hectare) difference between the 2001 Total Hectares of Farmland and the Farmland Total figure given on page 5 is due to rounding.

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Regional District of Central Okanagan AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Crops (hectares)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Field Crops ¹⁴	2,265	2,254	2,253	2,828	2,189
Tree Fruits	4,296	4,208	3,723	na	na
Berries & Grapes	507	272	236	na	na
Fruits, Berries & Nuts ¹⁵	na	na	na	4,065	3,579
Vegetables	99	87	96	95	110
<u>Other¹⁶</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>745</u>	<u>962</u>
Total	7,649	7,180	6,871	7,733	6,840



Field crops consistently dominated land planted to the various types of crops in all regions of the Province, with the exception of the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen. In Central Okanagan, land producing 'fruits, berries and nuts' not only rivals, but dominates crop production.

¹⁴ Note: In the case of hectares in Field Crops, a total was not provided. In some cases, individual field crop area figures were not provided for reasons of confidentiality. As a result, the figures provided equal only the sum of those individual field crops in which Statistics Canada provides an area figure.

¹⁵ In 1986, 1991 and 1996, data was split between 'Tree Fruits' and 'Berries & Grapes'. Starting in 2001, this data was grouped as Fruits, Berries & Nuts resulting in no data being available (na) in this category in 1986, 1991 and 1996.

¹⁶ "Other" Crops also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

Regional District of Central Okanagan **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
• Field Crops¹⁷	na	2,265	na	2,254	na	2,253	na	2,828	na	2,189
Wheat	6	214	4	118	8	456	3	x ¹⁸	5	x
Oats	17	143	9	51	1	x	8	70	4	135
Barley	2	x	6	80	0	0	4	59	4	178
Mixed Grains	1	x	0	0	1	x	4	51	0	0
Corn for Grain	0	0	1	x	0	0	2	x	0	0
Buckwheat	1	x	0	0	1	x	2	x	0	0
Rye	2	x	2	x	3	7	3	17	2	x
Corn for Silage	5	x	6	40	3	x	3	x	3	44
Alfalfa	na	na	170	1,600	180	1,490	177	1,664	158	1,412
All other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops	194	1,904	44	357	54	271	62	906	60	417
Canola	2	x	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x
Potatoes	7	4	16	8	17	11	13	8	5	3
Dry Field Peas	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dry Field Beans	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0
Sunflowers	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0
Ginseng	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	x	0	0
Forage seed for seed	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	x
Other field crops	0	0	2	x	10	18	3	53	0	0



¹⁷ Note: A total for the number of farms is not provided to avoid double counting in the case of mixed farms.

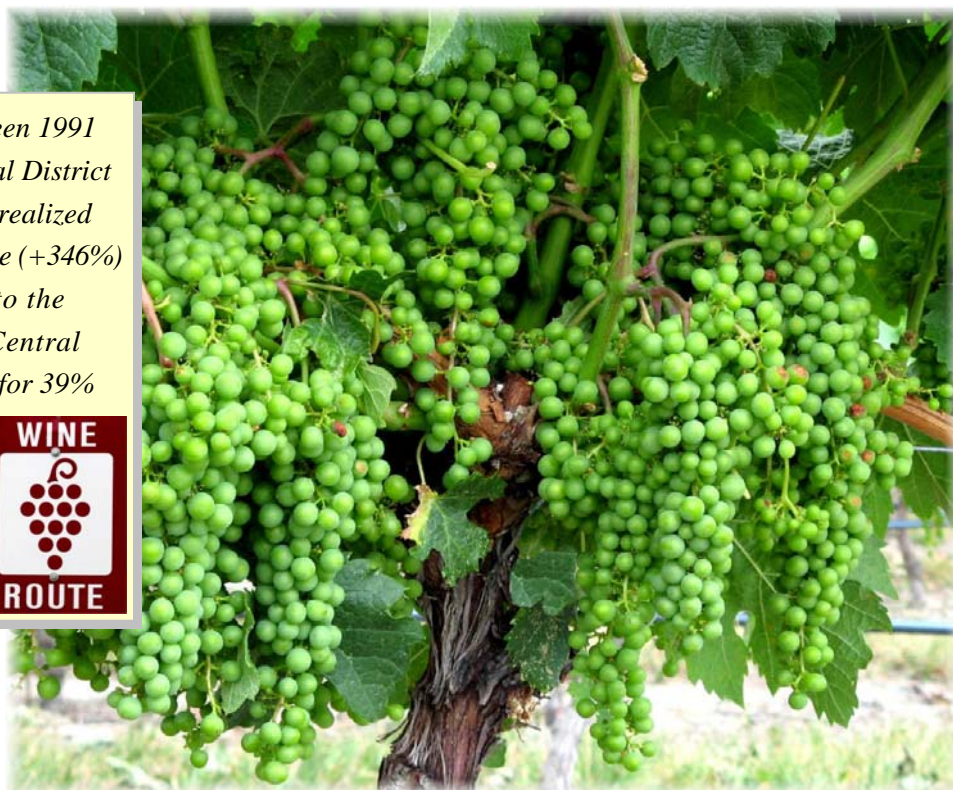
¹⁸ Throughout the report, 'x' indicates that farms are reporting but further information is not provided for reasons of confidentiality.

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• Fruits, Berries & Nuts

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Total	716	4,296	716	4,208	681	3,723	648	4,065	609	3,579
Apples	628	3,439	623	3,501	581	3,130	437	2,525	367	1,806
Pears	246	357	189	275	151	216	88	150	63	100
Plums & Prunes	223	52	163	36	156	27	75	23	77	21
Sweet Cherries	354	198	247	150	230	143	181	242	177	329
Sour Cherries	94	111	73	128	61	97	23	89	21	28
Peaches	268	x	170	69	174	62	111	56	125	69
Apricots	190	24	126	29	141	25	56	19	59	21
Other tree fruits	67	x	52	20	83	23	na	na	na	na
Grapes	117	x	76	249	81	244	93	888	101	1,110
Strawberries	20	10	21	11	22	18	15	12	18	18
Raspberries	8	3	28	x	33	7	33	9	36	10
Cranberries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x
Blueberries	4	1	5	x	4	3	13	5	12	x
Saskatoons	na	na	na	na	na	na	5	1	3	1
Other berries	2	x	7	x	10	2	na	na	na	na
Other fruits, berries & nuts	na	na	na	na	na	na	64	45	63	33

In the 15 years between 1991 and 2006, the Regional District of Central Okanagan realized an 861 hectare increase (+346%) in the land devoted to the growing of grapes. Central Okanagan accounted for 39% of all land in grape production in the three Okanagan regional districts in 2006.



• Vegetables

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Total	76	99	78	87	91	96	103	95	86	110
Sweet Corn	46	27	48	29	45	25	43	24	32	16
Tomatoes	31	10	41	9	54	14	41	8	39	8
Cucumbers	23	3	35	4	28	3	27	3	26	3
Green Peas	7	0.8	13	1	11	1	24	3	16	1
Green / Wax Beans	7	x	17	2	19	2	18	1	19	2
Cabbage	11	2	14	3	11	1	12	1	12	7
Chinese Cabbage	na	na	2	x	3	x	2	x	1	x
Cauliflower	7	1	9	2	7	0.4	7	0.8	7	2
Broccoli	5	0.4	9	1	8	0.4	9	0.8	9	1
Brussels Sprouts	0	0	1	x	2	x	4	x	0	0
Carrots	13	1	20	2	18	2	28	6	19	1
Rutabagas / Turnips	0	0	0	0	2	x	4	x	0	0
Beets	9	0.4	14	1	15	1	22	2	17	1
Radishes	3	x	5	1	5	0.4	9	0.4	5	0.4
Shallots / Green Onions	2	x	2	x	4	0.4	5	x	9	2
Dry / Other Onions	17	18	17	16	13	15	17	7	16	5
Celery	2	x	3	0.4	3	x	4	0.8	4	0.4
Lettuces	5	x	6	0.4	11	x	14	3	12	2
Spinach	2	x	5	x	4	x	6	0.4	6	1
Peppers	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	5	23	5
Squash, Pumpkins & Zucchini	9	3	20	5	23	5	35	12	na	na
Pumpkins	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	17	4
Squash / Zucchini	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	22	3
Asparagus	5	1	3	x	2	x	7	4	5	4
Rhubarb	2	x	1	x	2	x	6	x	na	na
Parsnips	1	x	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cantaloupes & Melons	4	x	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Other Vegetables	11	4	14	5	26	13	36	10	47	41

• Certified Organic Farms



	Farms <u>2001</u>	Farms <u>2006</u>
Total	15	16
Hay / Field Crops	2	2
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse	13	14
Animal	0	0
Other	2	2

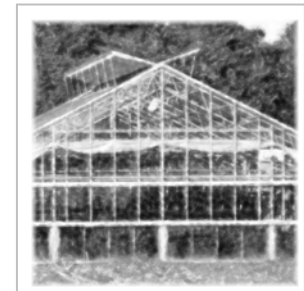


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• Greenhouse Production

	1986			1991 ¹⁹			1996		
	Farms	Sq. M.	% of Total	Farms	Sq. M.	% of Total	Farms	Sq. M.	% of Total
Flowers	10	9,133	70%	13	11,961	31%	17	6,331	39%
Vegetables	4	1,528	12%	na	na	na	12	1,823	11%
Other Greenhouse Products	3	x	na	2	x	na	14	7,150	44%
Not in Use on date of census	na	na	na	na	23,062	60%	na	928	6%
Total²⁰	18	12,993	100%	21	38,482	100%	37	16,232	100%

	2001			2006		
	Farms	Sq. M.	% of Total	Farms	Sq. M.	% of Total
Flowers	26	19,155	71%	23	31,257	76%
Vegetables	6	413	2%	11	4,419	11%
Other Greenhouse Products	9	5,304	20%	5	5,157	12%
Not in Use on date of census	na	1,845	7%	na	335	1%
Total²⁰	34	26,717	100%	31	41,168	100%



• Mushrooms (Growing Area)

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres
	2	x	2	x	4	2,671	1	x	1	x

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.
• Nursery Products	24	x	43	196	60	276	60	431	38	463
• Christmas Trees	na	na	na	na	36	115	45	142	33	50
• Sod Grown for Sale	7	50	7	10	5	99	6	66	5	67



¹⁹ 1991 data for the total area under greenhouse protection, along with the area not in use, increased rapidly compared with 1986. This increase may have involved temporary structures, possibly associated with silviculture use.

²⁰ Note: A single greenhouse may be engaged in more than one form of production.

Regional District of Central Okanagan AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

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• Livestock

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock
Hens & Chickens	165	122,690	164	67,475	161	47,077	180	58,582	158	82,946
Turkeys	23	222	23	413	19	x	29	x	16	x
Total Other Poultry	29	1,663	39	421	66	1,117	51	1,005	24	949
Cattle & Calves	147	6,320	163	7,596	144	6,133	135	7,624	87	4,416
- Milk Cows	17	209	23	85	10	44	5	154	0	0
- Beef Cows	77	2,268	98	2,879	73	2,172	83	3,217	52	1,574
Pigs	19	323	33	380	28	194	22	230	17	204
Sheep & Lambs	17	247	40	671	36	875	42	983	28	813
Horses & Ponies	166	986	222	1,626	234	1,622	223	1,565	199	1,581
Goats	13	53	32	132	40	331	34	276	29	246
Rabbits	23	x	32	3,449	33	369	6	165	na	na
Mink	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bison	na	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	5	15
Llamas & Alpacas	na	na	na	na	12	89	24	291	18	268
Colonies of Bees for Honey	na	na	24	1,193	20	x	26	1,849	26	1,440



An inventory completed in 2007 indicates that approximately 6,944 hectares of farmland were under irrigation in the Regional District, with only about 204 hectares with irrigation available but not in use.

• Land Management Practices

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Ha.	% of Farmland	Ha.	% of Farmland	Ha.	% of Farmland	Ha.	% of Farmland	Ha.	% of Farmland
• Irrigation	7,333	29%	6,235	24%	6,638	21%	7,200	30%	6,059	22%
• Commercial Fertilizers	5,750	23%	4,534	17%	5,111	16%	5,305	22%	4,483	17%
• Manure ²¹	na	na	646	3%	636	2%	1,038	4%	672	3%
• Herbicides	3,894	16%	3,501	13%	4,214	13%	3,997	17%	3,815	14%
• Insecticides & Fungicides ²²	4,519	18%	3,995	15%	na	na	na	na	na	na
• Insecticides	na	na	na	na	3,913	12%	3,857	16%	3,213	12%
• Fungicides	na	na	na	na	3,480	11%	3,683	15%	3,136	12%

²¹ In the case of some forms of manure application, data was not provided. Figures represent only where data is provided.

²² In the 1986 and 1991 Census of Agriculture, insecticides and fungicides were grouped together but split starting in 1996.

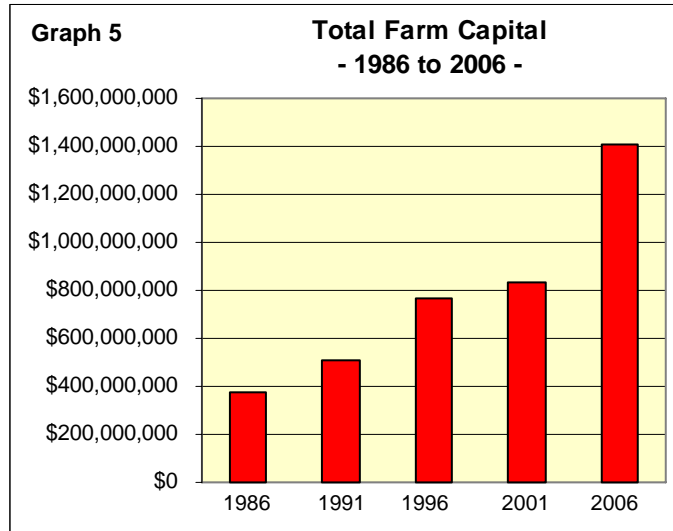
14 Regional District of Central Okanagan AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Total Farm Capital

1986 =	\$374,775,068
1991 =	\$506,447,526
1996 =	\$767,584,730
2001 =	\$829,477,138
2006 =	\$1,409,729,953

About 95.8% of the increase in the total farm capital in the Regional District of Central Okanagan between 1991 and 2006 is attributable to increases in the value of land and buildings.*

** Years data available that allow comparison across jurisdictions.*

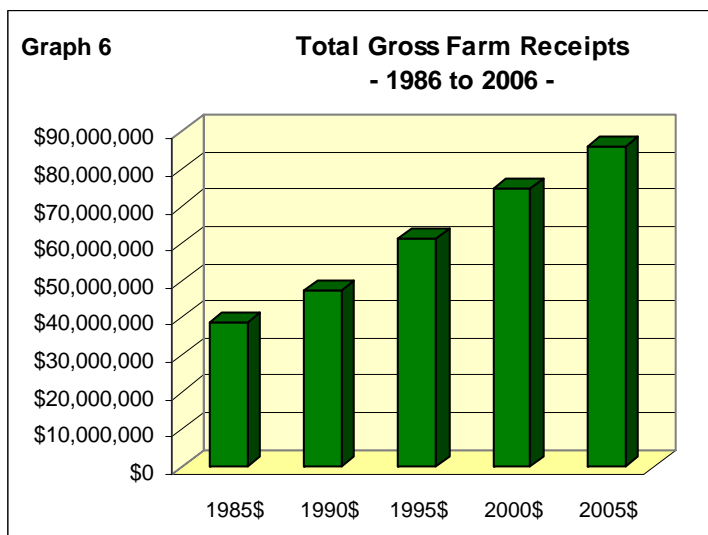


Division of Capital - 2006 (only)

	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
• Land and Buildings	\$1,326,565,410	94.1%
• Farm Machinery & Equipment	\$77,284,874	5.5%
• Livestock & Poultry	\$5,879,669	0.4%



• **Total Gross Farm Receipts**



1986 =	\$38,891,588	(1985\$)
1991 =	\$47,199,053	(1990\$)
1996 =	\$61,368,658	(1995\$)
2001 =	\$74,887,598	(2000\$)
2006 =	\$86,228,375	(2005\$)



- **Average Gross Farm Receipts per Farm**

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Reg. Dist. Central Okanagan	\$36,934	\$42,407	\$53,041	\$67,956	\$84,787
British Columbia	\$55,552	\$68,723	\$84,233	\$113,736	\$133,641

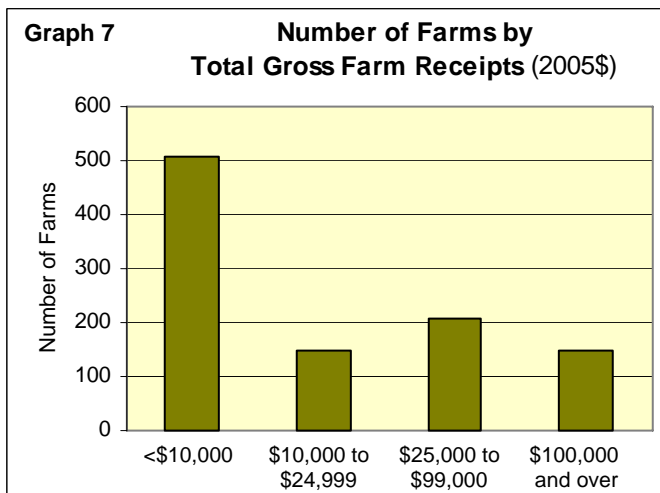
- **Number of Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts 2006 (2005\$)**

Reg. Dist. of Central Okanagan

	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of RD Total</u>
< \$10,000	509	50%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	150	15%
\$25,000 - \$99,999	208	20%
<u>\$100,000 & over</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	1,017	100%

British Columbia

	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of BC Total</u>
< \$10,000	9,466	48%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	3,194	16%
\$25,000 - \$99,999	3,629	18%
<u>\$100,000 & over</u>	<u>3,555</u>	<u>18%</u>
Total	19,844	100%



16 Regional District of Central Okanagan AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Total Operating Expenses & Cash Wages Paid

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Wages</u>
1985\$ =	\$38,848,847	\$12,159,477
1990\$ =	\$42,762,895	\$14,168,059
1995\$ =	\$55,620,118	\$17,520,036
2000\$ =	\$72,569,957	\$19,979,732
2005\$ =	\$86,647,951	\$27,665,650



	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
• Total Paid Labour (weeks)	43,016	39,016	40,314	42,917	50,762
- Year Round vs. Seasonal Paid Labour					
% Year Round	29%	28%	35%	48%	41%
% Seasonal	71%	72%	65%	52%	59%
% Year Round British Columbia	47%	51%	57%	62%	63%



“Harvesting Apples in a Kelowna Orchard - ca 1912”

Source: BC Archives
Photographer: Hudson
Call No. H-06815



BC Agriculture - A Snapshot

Agriculture is a significant and expanding industry in British Columbia with more than 290,000 people employed on farms, ranches, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries, as well as warehouses, veterinary offices, hatcheries, grocery stores, and other food-related services in 2006. The primary agriculture sector generates more than \$782 million towards the province's total Gross Domestic Product. Although the industry is relatively small by itself, it contributes significantly to spinoffs in the food processing, food wholesaling, food retailing and food service sectors. This translates in total gross revenues for this industry of more than \$36 billion a year.

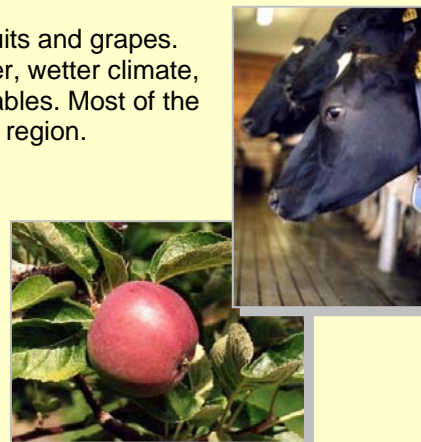
Climatic conditions in the province make it possible for British Columbia farmers to grow a wide variety of crops - approximately 200 different commodities. The top farm commodities in terms of sales in 2006 B.C. were dairy, chicken, floriculture, cattle, nursery, greenhouse tomatoes, mushrooms, calves, and blueberries. Total farm cash receipts reached \$2.3 billion in 2006 and total crop receipts reached over \$1.1 billion in 2006. The livestock sector, which includes cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs, dairy, honey, fur and game-farm animals, reached \$1.2 billion in 2006.

The **Southern Interior** is well-suited for the production of tree fruits and grapes. The **Fraser Valley** and southern **Vancouver Island**, with a cooler, wetter climate, are extremely favourable for the production of berries and vegetables. Most of the province's grain and oilseed crops are grown in the **Peace River** region.

Beef cattle are concentrated in the **North, Cariboo** and north **Thompson-Okanagan** regions and large dairy herds are found mostly in the Lower Mainland, southeastern Vancouver Island and the Okanagan-Shuswap area. Hog, poultry and egg production are concentrated in the Lower Mainland.

B.C. - 2006 - Census of Agriculture

No. of Farms	-	19,844
Total Area of Farms	-	2,835,458 ha



Nationally, in 2006, BC ranked 1st in receipts generated in four commodities

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>BC Share of Canada's Gross Farm Receipts</u>	<u>National Ranking</u>
Sweet Cherries	84.6%	1
Raspberries	58.1%	1
Blueberries	49.3%	1
Cranberries	45.0%	1

Nationally, B.C. ranked 2nd in a further eight agricultural commodities - greenhouse peppers, greenhouse tomatoes, nursery products, apples, grapes, mushrooms, floriculture and greenhouse cucumbers.

From: "Fast Stats - Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food 2007"
 Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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Sources:

- Statistics Canada, British Columbia Agriculture, 1986, Census Catalogue 96-112.
- Statistics Canada, Small Area Data British Columbia, July 1992.
- Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia.
- Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia
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- Ministry of Municipal Affairs Recreation and Culture, Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia, 1990.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Municipal Statistics (including Regional Districts), March , 1998.
- Correspondence: Ministry of Community Services
- Statistical Reports and Files of the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission.

Sources: Photos and Illustrations

All photos and illustrations are from the BC Ministry of Agricultural and Lands with the exception of the following:

- Cover, pages 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 (bottom only), 13, 14, 15, 16 (top only) B. Smith
- Page 4 - ALR Map produced by the Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch. Data provided by Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.
- Page 16 - B.C. Archives - Call No. H-06815

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE IN B.C.?

See:

the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands at:

<http://www.al.gov.bc.ca>



the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission at:

<http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/>



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

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