



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance 2004

Robots milking cows, precision farming using satellites, cars fuelled by grass—high-tech achievements that have a major impact on farming. But what is the future of farms located just outside Canada's cities: will they become only tourist attractions, or will they be engulfed by the urban sprawl?

These topics are examined in *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance*, a new publication available today that takes you through the barn and beyond.

With more than 300 pages and 40 fascinating, easy-to-read analytical articles, complete with full-colour photos, graphs and other illustrations, this publication makes agriculture more accessible to everyone.

The first of five chapters takes you back to 1871 for a look at the history of farming. The book then heads straight for the future, with articles on the tension between preserving farmland and urban development, and a look at immigrants who come to Canada to farm. Outlined below are 10 different farm profiles covered in *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance*.

With their land base, established irrigation and transportation infrastructures, and proximity to US markets for processed potato products, the Prairies are proving to be an ideal potato-growing area. The Prairie climate produces high yields and, as long as they are irrigated, the deep, well-drained soils are perfect for potatoes. In 2002, even though Prince Edward Island accounted for 29% of Canada's potato production, Manitoba had 18% and Alberta 15%.

Canadians spend about \$3 billion annually on wine, domestic and imported. About 80% of the grapes grown in Canada are used for wine production. Many grape operations have moved beyond grape growing into wine production, wine sales and even agri-tourism attractions.

Farmers across the country are increasingly active in growing medicinal herbs to diversify their operations. Many drug stores now stock an extensive selection of herbal remedies whose properties were largely unknown to most consumers 20 years ago—proof that for agriculture, the future is now. Echinacea, popular for its reputed cold- and flu-fighting capabilities, was among the most-cultivated medicinal herbs in 2001.

Manure usage, always a hot topic, is discussed in a chapter on agriculture and the environment. Neighbours are concerned about odours from nearby livestock or

poultry operations. Legislators are worried about possible water pollution. Farmers fear limits on their right to farm and make a living. Yet by applying manure, farmers can reduce, and sometimes even eliminate, the need for commercial fertilizers.

An article on organic food shows that health and environmental concerns are likely reasons that more than 70% of Canadians bought organic foods at least once in 2000. Once found only in health food stores or local roadside stands, organic foods are now appearing in mainstream grocery stores.

A chapter on the business of farming discusses the trend towards fewer, but larger farms. This trend is particularly dramatic in the poultry sector, which is also becoming more vertically integrated. This means that one firm often controls several stages in the production process, ranging from hatcheries to the processing of meat and eggs.

The Prairie provinces have long been able to produce more than enough grains to feed Canadians. During the 1970s, Prairie farmers started looking farther afield for new markets and new products. They started diversifying beyond grains into other crops such as mustard seed, sunflower seed and dry peas on a small scale in the 1970s. Diversified production scaled up in the 1980s as Prairie farmers added lentils, canary seed and dry beans.

In the dairy sector, the latest innovation is the automated milking system known as the robotic milker. The milker cleans and prepares the cow's udder, then attaches itself. When milking begins, the system monitors the flow of milk and detaches when the flow diminishes. Currently, about 65 dairy farms in Canada use robotic milking systems.

Outside the barn, farmers are now using global positioning systems technology to gather data that let them target fertilizer or pesticide application. This technology not only helps farmers decide where to put the fertilizer or pesticides, but also provides them with the proper amount and even suggests which blend to use.

New crops or new uses for existing crops may offer interesting new markets for many farmers, such as plastics made from corn, cars fuelled by grass and strong silk from goat's milk. Scientists are finding biological ways to produce complex compounds that will compete with petroleum-based plastics, nylons and even gasoline.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3438.

The 2004 issue of *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance* (96-325-XPB, \$49) is now available, along with a selected number of free lesson plans and articles for teachers. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991), Census of Agriculture. ■

Investment in non-residential building

First quarter 2004 (revised)

Following the release of the national economic and financial accounts for the first quarter of 2004, revised

estimates of the investment in non-residential building for the first quarter of 2004 are now available. Estimates have also been revised from 2000 to 2003. For more information, consult *The 2000 to 2003 Revisions of the Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-605-XIE, free).

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics,
February 2004, Vol. 36, no. 2
Catalogue number **63-011-XIE** (\$7/\$59).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, March 2004,
Vol. 82, no. 3
Catalogue number **72-002-XIB** (\$26/\$257).

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance, Teacher's Kit, 2001 Census of Agriculture
Catalogue number **96-325-MWE**
(free).

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance, 2001 Census of Agriculture
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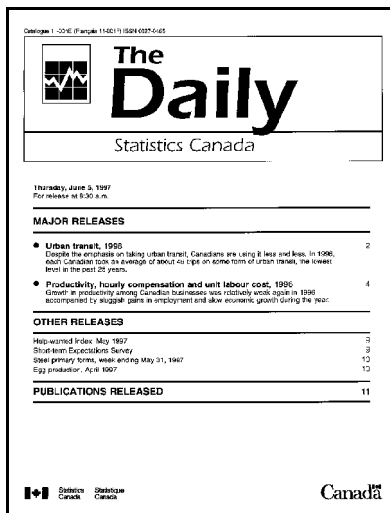
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