

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 4, 1992

For release at 8:30 a.m.

### 1991 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The 1991 Census of Agriculture recorded 280,043 census farms, down 4.5% from 1986.
- Family-operated farms accounted for 98% of census farms in 1991, compared to 99% in 1986.
- The number of four-wheel drive tractors increased by one-third in Canada between 1986 and 1991.
- A steady upward trend from 1970 to 1985 in the use of commercial fertilizer and herbicides reversed with the 1991 census.
- In 1991, conservation tillage and "no till" practices were used on one-third of Canadian land prepared for seeding.
- The number of farms using computers to manage the farm business quadrupled from 2.6% in 1986 to 11% in 1991.

#### Census Overview of Canadian Agriculture: 1971-1991

The Census Overview of Canadian Agriculture: 1971-1991(93-348, \$49) publication is now available. This publication compares data from the 1971 to 1991 Censuses of Agriculture at the Canada and provincial levels. One set of tables provides basic counts, totals, averages and percentage changes and distributions for a large number of variables. A second set of tables presents size class distributions for selected crop, livestock, receipts and farm-type variables.

To order Census Overview of Canadian Agriculture: 1971-1991 (93-348, \$49), see "How to Order Publications" or contact any Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

For more information, call Lynda Kemp, User Services and Marketing Unit, Census of Agriculture (613-951-8711 or call toll-free in Canada 1-800-465-1991).

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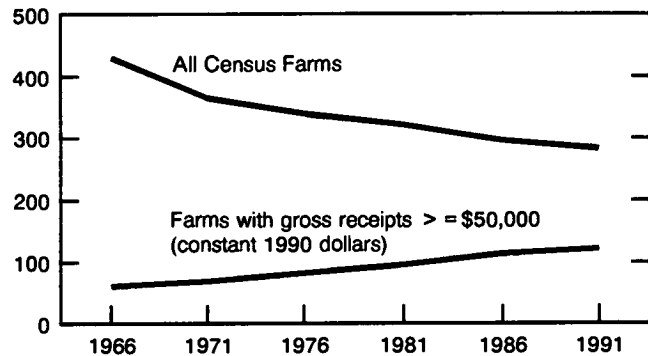
## Fewer and larger farms in 1991

- The 1991 Census of Agriculture recorded 280,043 census farms, a 4.5% decrease from the 293,089 census farms in 1986. This continued the 50-year downtrend since 1941 when the number of census farms peaked at 732,832.
- As the overall number of farms decreased, the number of larger farms (gross receipts of \$50,000 or more in constant 1990 dollars) increased 6% from 111,414 in 1986 to 118,365 in 1991. Provincially, however, the number of larger farms decreased in three provinces: Prince Edward Island (-4%), New Brunswick (-4%) and Ontario (-1%).
- Since 1986, the overall number of census farms increased in only two provinces - British Columbia (1%) and Newfoundland (11%). In contrast, the number of farms decreased at a rate slower than the national average in Saskatchewan (-4%), and Alberta (-1%).
- All other provinces reported decreases greater than the national average. Prince Edward Island reported the largest decrease in census farms (-17%), continuing the double-digit downward trend between censuses that began in 1961.

A census farm is an agricultural holding that produces an agricultural product intended for sale. This broad definition is used to obtain an inventory of all the agricultural products and resources in Canada.

### Decline in number of census farms, Increase in number of larger farms, Canada, 1966 to 1991

Thousands of census farms



### Number of Census Farms

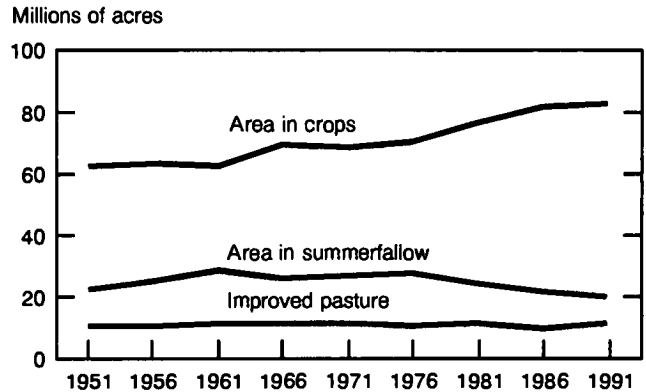
	All census farms			Gross Receipts $\geq$ \$50,000		
	Number in 1986	Number in 1991	% change since 1986	Number in 1986	Number in 1991	% change since 1986
Newfoundland	651	725	11.4	159	193	21.4
Prince Edward Island	2,833	2,361	-16.7	1,117	1,072	-4.0
Nova Scotia	4,283	3,980	-7.1	1,107	1,172	5.9
New Brunswick	3,554	3,252	-8.5	1,091	1,052	-3.6
Quebec	41,448	38,076	-8.1	18,574	19,008	2.3
Ontario	72,713	68,633	-5.6	27,338	26,996	-1.3
Manitoba	27,336	25,706	-6.0	11,449	11,676	2.0
Saskatchewan	63,431	60,840	-4.1	25,316	28,509	12.6
Alberta	57,777	57,245	-.9	21,357	24,269	13.6
British Columbia	19,063	19,225	.9	3,906	4,418	13.1
<b>Canada</b>	<b>293,089</b>	<b>280,043</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>111,414</b>	<b>118,365</b>	<b>6.2</b>

## Improved land continues to increase

- In 1991, the total area of land in crops in Canada was 83 million acres. This was up slightly from 1986, and continued two decades of an upward trend.
- Saskatchewan had the largest share of land in crops (33 million acres or 40% of the Canada total) in 1991.
- The area of summerfallow in Canada continued to decline in 1991. Acreage decreased 7% since 1986, down to 19.5 million acres in 1991.
- Saskatchewan had the largest share of summerfallow acreage (14 million acres or 72% of the Canada total) in 1991.
- Since 1971, the total area of improved pasture in Canada has remained relatively constant at about 10 million acres. In 1986, however, improved pasture acreage dropped to less than 9 million acres. The total area of improved pasture moved back to its former level in 1991.

- Alberta had the largest share of Canada's improved pasture (4.3 million acres, 42%) in 1991, followed by Saskatchewan (2.7 million acres, 26%).

### Improved land in Canada continues to increase



### Area in Crops, Summerfallow, and Improved Pasture (acres), 1986 and 1991

	Area in crops		Area in summerfallow		Improved pasture		Total Improved land	
	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991
Newfoundland	12,049	15,503	951	359	9,444	11,382	22,444	27,244
Prince Edward Island	386,715	380,796	6,541	2,464	55,899	47,636	449,155	430,896
Nova Scotia	270,609	262,503	9,663	2,930	89,542	75,918	369,814	341,351
New Brunswick	319,940	302,079	10,599	3,833	67,222	61,896	397,761	367,808
Quebec	4,310,496	4,048,706	78,586	36,355	744,115	669,468	5,133,197	4,754,529
Ontario	8,544,820	8,430,414	198,517	157,301	1,065,731	964,235	9,809,068	9,551,950
Manitoba	11,167,521	11,764,813	1,258,294	733,899	679,402	843,348	13,105,217	13,342,060
Saskatchewan	32,928,799	33,257,706	13,981,843	14,116,713	2,171,380	2,658,002	49,082,022	50,032,421
Alberta	22,641,092	22,961,142	5,255,965	4,377,212	3,402,183	4,305,760	31,299,240	31,644,114
British Columbia	1,410,584	1,375,873	200,568	142,026	510,095	595,535	2,121,247	2,113,434
<b>Canada</b>	<b>81,992,625</b>	<b>82,799,535</b>	<b>21,001,527</b>	<b>19,573,092</b>	<b>8,795,013</b>	<b>10,233,180</b>	<b>111,789,165</b>	<b>112,605,807</b>

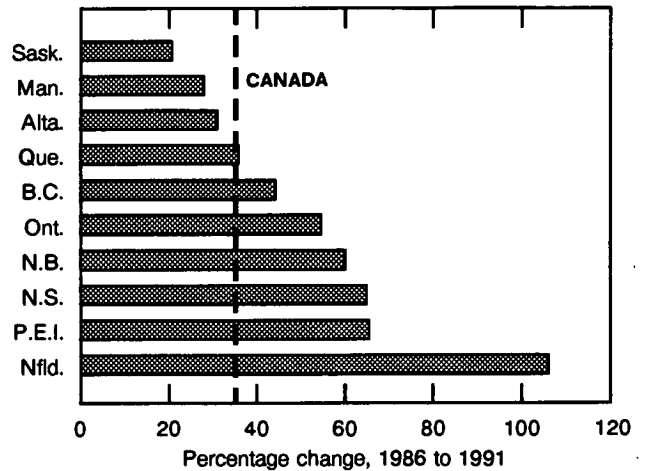
### Number of four-wheel drive tractors increases

- Since 1986, the number of four-wheel drive tractors in Canada increased by one-third, while the number of two-wheel drive tractors dropped by 3%.
- In 1991, half of the four-wheel drive tractors were in the 100 horsepower or over category. More than three-quarters of the two-wheel drive tractors were in the less than 100 horsepower category.
- At the provincial level, the number of four-wheel drive tractors in Newfoundland more than doubled, the largest increase for any province.
- The largest proportion of four-wheel drive tractors (to total tractors) in 1991 was reported in Newfoundland (31%), followed by Nova Scotia (22%) and Quebec (20%). Ontario had the single largest number of tractors (185,000) in 1991.

### Farms using more round balers

- In 1991, one-third of the balers in use in Canada were large round balers, compared to only one-fifth in 1986.

#### One-third increase in four-wheel drive tractors at Canada level



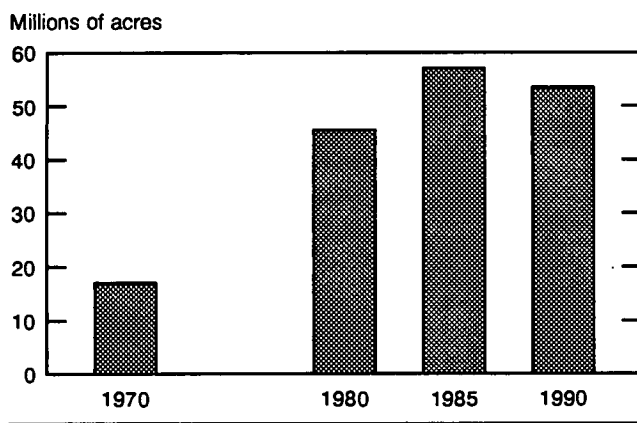
#### One-third increase in four-wheel drive tractors

	two-wheel drive tractors			four-wheel drive tractors			four-wheel drive tractors - Share of total tractors within each Province (%)	
	1986	1991	% change	1986	1991	% change	1986	1991
Newfoundland	565	580	2.7	128	264	106.3	18.5	31.3
Prince Edward Island	5,674	5,083	-10.4	391	647	65.5	6.4	11.3
Nova Scotia	6,663	6,076	-8.8	1,067	1,758	64.8	13.8	22.4
New Brunswick	6,294	5,831	-7.4	811	1,296	59.8	11.4	18.2
Quebec	81,936	76,650	-6.5	14,154	19,243	36.0	14.7	20.1
Ontario	172,905	162,728	-5.9	14,260	22,033	54.5	6.0	11.9
Manitoba	66,876	64,490	-3.6	7,069	9,033	27.8	9.6	12.3
Saskatchewan	148,427	146,592	-1.2	18,607	22,446	20.6	11.1	13.3
Alberta	131,341	130,796	-0.4	19,138	25,076	31.0	12.7	16.1
British Columbia	27,967	28,039	0.3	3,801	5,488	44.4	12.0	16.4
<b>Canada</b>	<b>648,648</b>	<b>626,865</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>79,426</b>	<b>107,284</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>

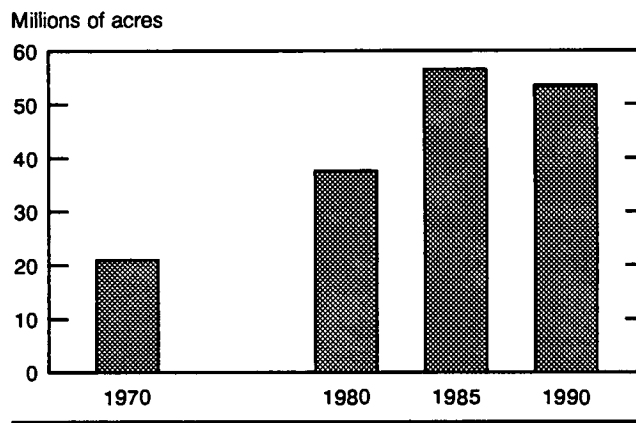
## Use of commercial fertilizer and herbicides decreases

- A steady upward trend from 1970 to 1985 in the use of commercial fertilizer and herbicides (both farms reporting and the land areas covered), reversed with the 1991 census.
- The percentage of census farms in Canada using commercial fertilizer declined from 66% in 1985 to 59% in 1990. At the same time, 37% of Canadian census farms reported using manure on more than 5 million acres of land. Over 60% of this land was in Eastern Canada.
- In 1990, Prince Edward Island had the highest percentage (71%) of farms using commercial fertilizer, whereas only 45% of British Columbia's farms reported fertilizer use.
- The proportion of cropland fertilized declined from 70% in 1985 to 64% in 1990, still significantly higher than the 25% fertilized in 1970.
- Newfoundland had the largest percentage (87%) of area in crops being fertilized in 1990, compared to only 57% in Saskatchewan.
- In 1990, 49% of Canadian census farms used herbicides, a significant drop from the 59% in 1985.
- In 1990, Saskatchewan had the highest percentage (68%) of farms using herbicides, whereas only 16% of Newfoundland's farms reported using herbicides.
- The total area of crops and summerfallow treated with herbicides dropped to 52% in 1990, down slightly from 55% in 1985. Nevertheless, the 1990 figure is still more than double the 22% treated with herbicides in 1970.
- Manitoba had the highest percentage (65%) of area in crops and summerfallow treated with herbicides in 1990. Newfoundland had the lowest at 9%.

### Decrease in area applied with commercial fertilizer in Canada



### Decrease in area applied with herbicides in Canada



**Acres applied with fertilizer and herbicides, 1970, and 1980 to 1990**

	Commercial fertilizer				Herbicides			
	1970	1980	1985	1990	1970	1980	1985	1990
<b>Newfoundland</b>	5,684	10,906	11,755	13,427	912	1,234	1,660	1,414
Prince Edward Island	138,657	265,494	279,964	252,336	106,608	202,104	211,455	182,322
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	94,271	218,779	210,145	203,287	38,467	51,553	61,145	55,310
New Brunswick	91,879	187,792	207,688	193,079	72,659	99,334	113,171	98,495
<b>Quebec</b>	1,159,810	2,731,505	2,938,659	2,462,953	410,316	990,475	1,337,461	1,394,491
Ontario	3,095,117	6,261,213	6,402,812	5,617,813	2,758,119	4,753,376	4,981,059	4,426,851
<b>Manitoba</b>	2,930,926	7,898,613	9,208,072	9,114,074	4,193,858	6,246,626	8,859,638	8,063,498
Saskatchewan	3,701,960	13,654,683	20,077,392	18,914,810	8,007,853	13,204,633	25,788,378	24,823,839
<b>Alberta</b>	5,583,003	13,603,578	16,938,768	15,690,907	5,454,426	11,761,734	15,005,557	14,012,340
British Columbia	320,244	894,782	924,633	817,762	136,432	299,379	348,830	312,520
<b>Canada</b>	17,121,551	45,727,345	57,199,888	53,280,448	21,179,650	37,610,448	56,708,354	53,371,080

**Family-operated farms still predominate**

- In 1991, family-operated farms accounted for 98% of all census farms in Canada, compared to 99% in 1986. Non-family corporations represented just over 1% of all farms in 1991, while the remainder were institutional farms, community pastures and Hutterite colonies.

**One-quarter of census farms produce most of output**

- In 1991, one-quarter of census farms generated three-quarters of gross farm receipts. This situation has remained relatively unchanged over the past three censuses.

- Provincially, the component of gross farm receipts generated by the top 25 percent of farms varies greatly. In Newfoundland and British Columbia in 1991, the top 25% of farms generated over 90% of provincial farm receipts, while in Saskatchewan, these farms generated 62%. Quebec and Manitoba (along with Saskatchewan) were below the national average at 72%.

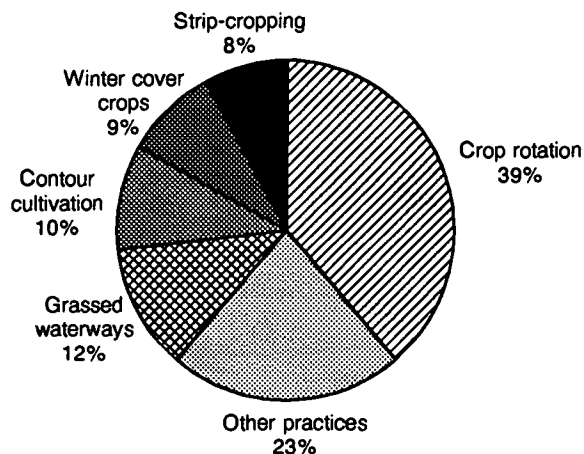
**% of gross farm receipts on top 25% of farms in Canada**

Year	% of gross farm receipts
1966	68.7
1971	71.8
1981	74.2
1986	74.0
1991	75.5

### Crop rotation most common soil erosion control method

- Crop rotation (using clovers, alfalfa, etc.) was employed by 37% of Canadian census farms to control soil erosion in 1990.
- In Prince Edward Island, 64% of farms practiced crop rotation compared to 17% of British Columbia farms.
- To control soil erosion, 18% of Ontario farms used winter cover crops, 15% of Alberta farms used grassed waterways and Saskatchewan farms used strip-cropping (20%) and contour cultivation (17%). The most frequently reported "other practice" was conservation tillage.

Crop rotation most common soil erosion control method, Canada, 1990



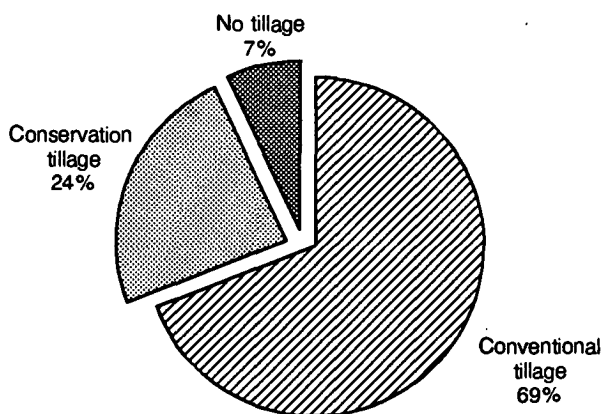
Percentage of Census Farms Reporting Soil Erosion Control Practices, 1990

	Crop rotation using clover, alfalfa, etc.	Winter cover crops	Grassed waterways	Strip-cropping	Contour cultivation	Other practices
Newfoundland	24	4	3	1	5	8
Prince Edward Island	64	8	10	4	9	14
Nova Scotia	28	10	7	2	6	6
New Brunswick	35	8	7	4	7	7
Quebec	42	3	3	2	3	7
Ontario	54	18	14	4	6	18
Manitoba	32	6	11	4	12	34
Saskatchewan	21	6	12	20	17	34
Alberta	38	6	15	8	10	26
British Columbia	17	8	7	1	4	9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>

## Conservation and "no till" practices used

- In 1991, one-quarter of the land seeded in Canada (17.5 million acres) was prepared using conservation tillage. "No till" seeding was used on an additional 7% of land.
- Conservation tillage and "no till" seeding was most prevalent in the Prairie provinces. Saskatchewan accounted for the largest proportion of conservation tillage and "no till" seeding, where these methods were used on 36% of land prepared for seeding.

### Tillage methods on seeded land in Canada, 1991



## Soil salinity

In 1991, for the first time, the Census of Agriculture asked farm operators questions about soil salinity.

- Measures to control soil salinity were most prevalent in the Prairie provinces. In Saskatchewan, 24% of census farms reported using some measure to control soil salinity, compared with 15% of Manitoba farms and 11% of farms in Alberta.

## Share of Seeded Land according to Tillage Method, 1991

	Conventional tillage	Conservation tillage	No tillage
Newfoundland	84.1	7.7	8.2
Prince Edward Island	91.2	7.9	0.9
Nova Scotia	88.3	7.8	3.8
New Brunswick	85.3	12.5	2.2
Quebec	85.2	12.3	2.5
Ontario	78.2	17.8	4.0
Manitoba	66.3	28.7	5.0
Saskatchewan	63.9	25.7	10.4
Alberta	72.6	24.3	3.1
British Columbia	83.5	11.9	4.6
<b>Canada</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>

## Canadian farms use shelterbelts

- In 1991, 13% of all Canadian farms (36 thousand) reported having soil conservation shelterbelts (windbreaks).
- The total length of shelterbelts in Canada in 1991 was 84 thousand kilometres or 2.3 kilometres per reporting farm. If planted in a row, these trees would circle the equator twice.
- In 1991, Prairie provinces reported the most shelterbelts in Canada. In Saskatchewan, 18% of farms reported 34 thousand kilometres of shelterbelts for an average length per reporting farm of 3.2 kilometres. In 1991, 21% of Manitoba farms and 16% of Alberta farms reported having shelterbelts.



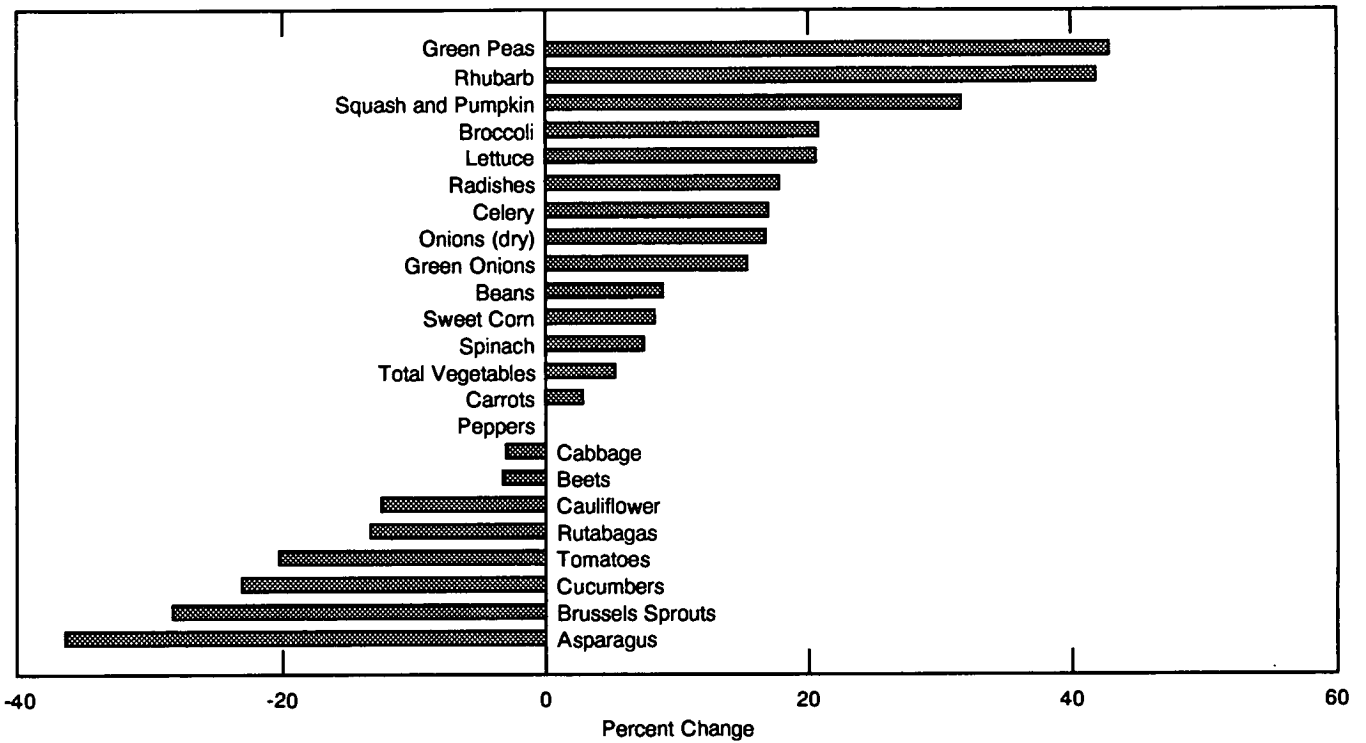
## Vegetable crop acreage increases

- Total vegetable acreage increased 15 thousand acres (5%) between 1986 and 1991. Acreage increased for 14 vegetable crops and declined for 8.
- In 1991, sweet corn (29%), green peas (16%) and tomatoes (10%) accounted for 55% of the vegetable crop acreage. Between 1986 and 1991, sweet corn acreage increased 8%, and

green peas 43% (the largest increase of any vegetable crop), but tomatoes decreased 20%.

- Some smaller crops showed the largest changes in acreage between 1986 and 1991. Rhubarb, broccoli and lettuce increased over 20%, but asparagus, brussels sprouts and cucumbers declined by more than 20%.
- Sweet corn acreage increased in all provinces. Sweet corn is primarily grown in Ontario and Quebec with 57% and 31%, of the Canadian sweet corn acreage.

Fourteen vegetable crops increase acreage, Eight vegetable crops decrease acreage, Canada, 1986 to 1991



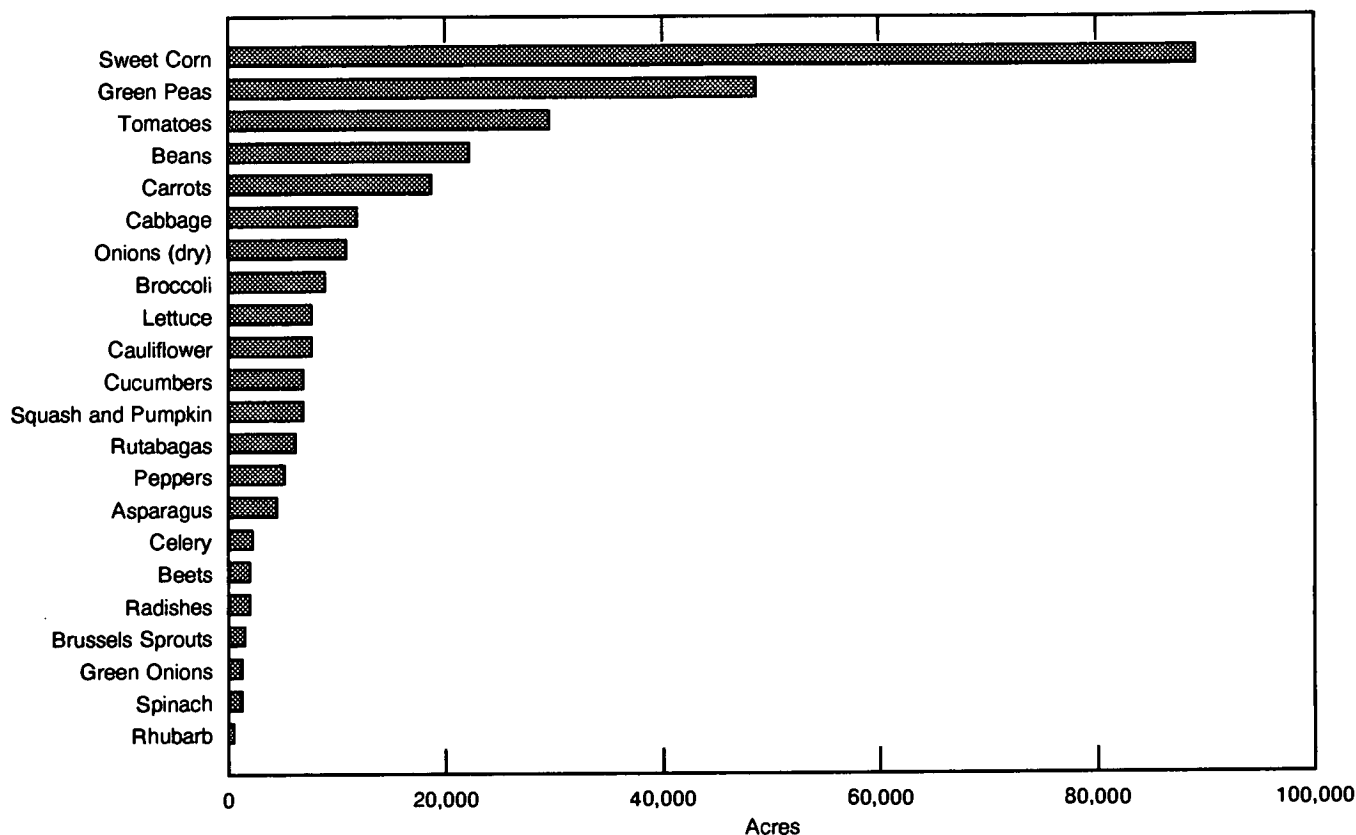
- Green peas increased in all provinces with significant acreages, except in New Brunswick where acreage fell marginally (-2%) between 1986 and 1991.
- The Ontario decline in tomato acreage (down 7,000 acres, -20%) accounted for the overall decline, since Ontario has 89% of the tomato acreage in Canada. Tomato acreage in Quebec (9% of the acreage in Canada) also declined by more than 20%.

**Total Vegetable Acreage<sup>1</sup>**

	1986	1991	% change
Newfoundland	970	1,199	23.6
Prince Edward Island	2,773	3,059	10.3
Nova Scotia	8,916	9,462	6.1
New Brunswick	8,079	7,145	-11.6
Quebec	81,060	90,378	11.5
Ontario	154,046	154,493	.3
Manitoba	3,400	4,174	22.8
Saskatchewan	1,213	1,044	-13.9
Alberta	8,895	11,536	29.7
British Columbia	18,702	20,447	9.3
<b>Canada</b>	<b>288,058</b>	<b>302,936</b>	<b>5.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Canada total may not equal sum of provinces due to rounding.

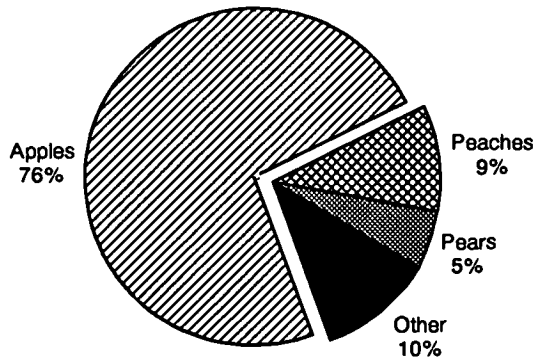
**Top three vegetables account for 55% of vegetable acreage, Canada, 1991**



### Tree fruit area down slightly

- In 1991, tree fruit area in Canada was 113 thousand acres, 2% less than in 1986.
- Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Nova Scotia accounted for 98% of the tree fruit area in Canada in 1991. Except for Quebec, all these provinces experienced slight declines in tree fruit area between 1986 and 1991.
- Apples remained the predominant tree fruit grown in Canada in 1991. Apples accounted for three-quarters of the area devoted to tree fruits, increasing slightly by 1% to 86 thousand acres in 1991.
- Peaches ranked second in terms of area in 1991 at 11 thousand acres, a 10% decrease from 1986.
- Sour cherries registered the largest percentage decline in tree fruit area, down 19% from 1986 to 2,600 acres.

### Three-quarters of tree fruit area in apples Canada, 1991

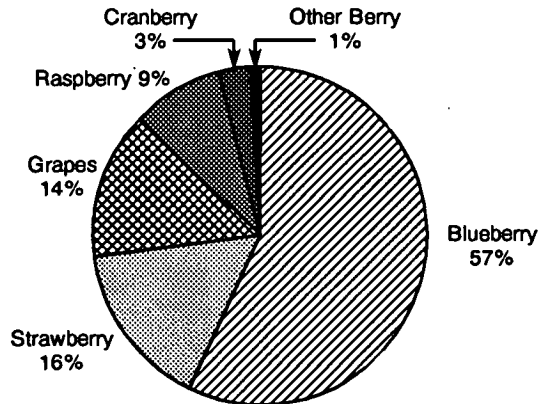


Other	
Plums and Prunes	3%
Sweet Cherries	2%
Sour Cherries	2%
Apricots	1%
Other Tree Fruits	2%

### Small fruit acreage increases

- Between 1986 and 1991, small fruit acreage in Canada increased by 13 thousand acres (13%), to 110,000 acres.
- The top three in area were blueberries (57% of total small fruit area), strawberries (16%) and grapes (14%).
- Grapes (-40%) and strawberries (-14%) showed the only decreases in small fruit acreage between 1986 and 1991.
- From 1986 to 1991, cranberry area in Canada increased 71% to roughly 3,400 acres. British Columbia had 84% of Canada's cranberry acreage.

### Blueberries represent 57% of small fruit area, Canada, 1991

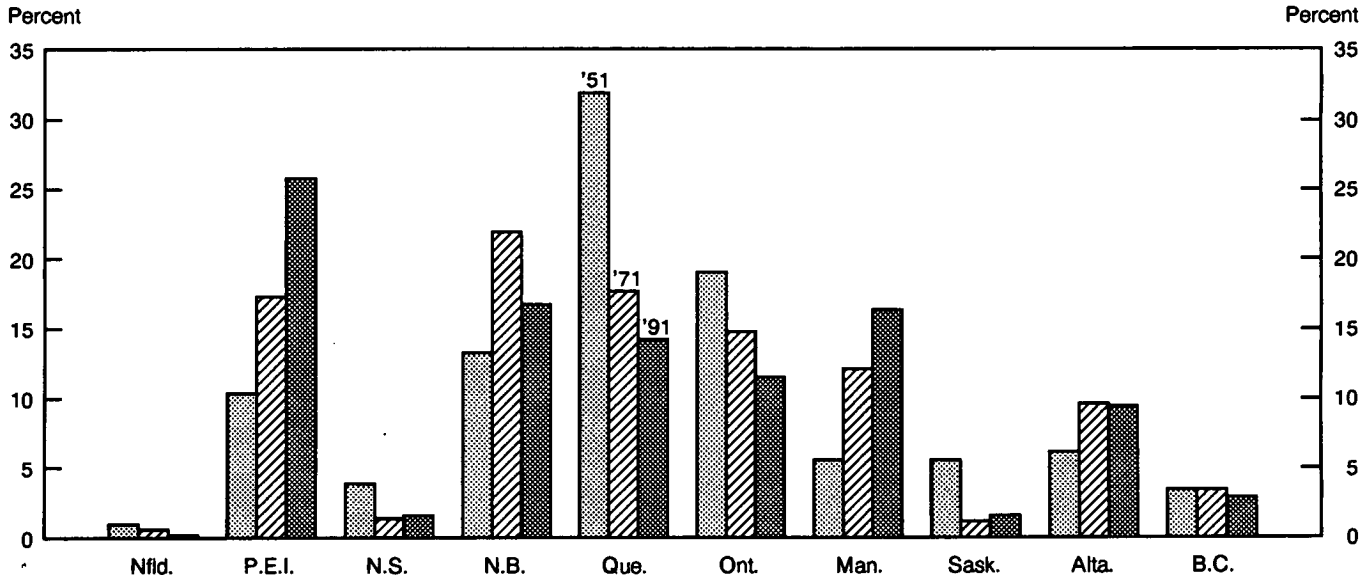


## Prince Edward Island still grows most potatoes

- In 1991, Canada grew 302 thousand acres of potatoes, up 10% from 1986.
- Ontario, with 37% of the Canadian population in 1991, reported only 12% of the total area planted in potatoes. In comparison, Prince Edward Island, with only 0.5% of the population, reported 26% of the total acreage.

- From 1971 to 1991, Prince Edward Island's share of the total area planted in potatoes increased from 17% to 26%. Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan also reported increases, while all other provinces showed decreases.
- In 1991, less than 300 farms (6% of farms with potatoes) accounted for almost half of the potatoes grown in Canada. Twenty-eight percent (83) of these large farms were in Prince Edward Island, 24% (73) in Manitoba, 13% (39) in New Brunswick and 12% (36) in Ontario.

### Largest share of potato area in Prince Edward Island



### Total Potato Acreage, 1951, 1971 and 1991

	1951	1971	1991
Newfoundland	2,505	1,194	667
Prince Edward Island	29,607	46,752	77,809
Nova Scotia	11,331	3,487	4,386
New Brunswick	38,123	59,421	50,621
Quebec	92,024	47,535	43,280
Ontario	54,894	40,055	35,070
Manitoba	15,846	32,678	49,478
Saskatchewan	15,709	3,255	4,461
Alberta	17,730	26,139	28,339
British Columbia	9,792	9,083	8,324
<b>Canada</b>	<b>287,561</b>	<b>269,599</b>	<b>302,435</b>

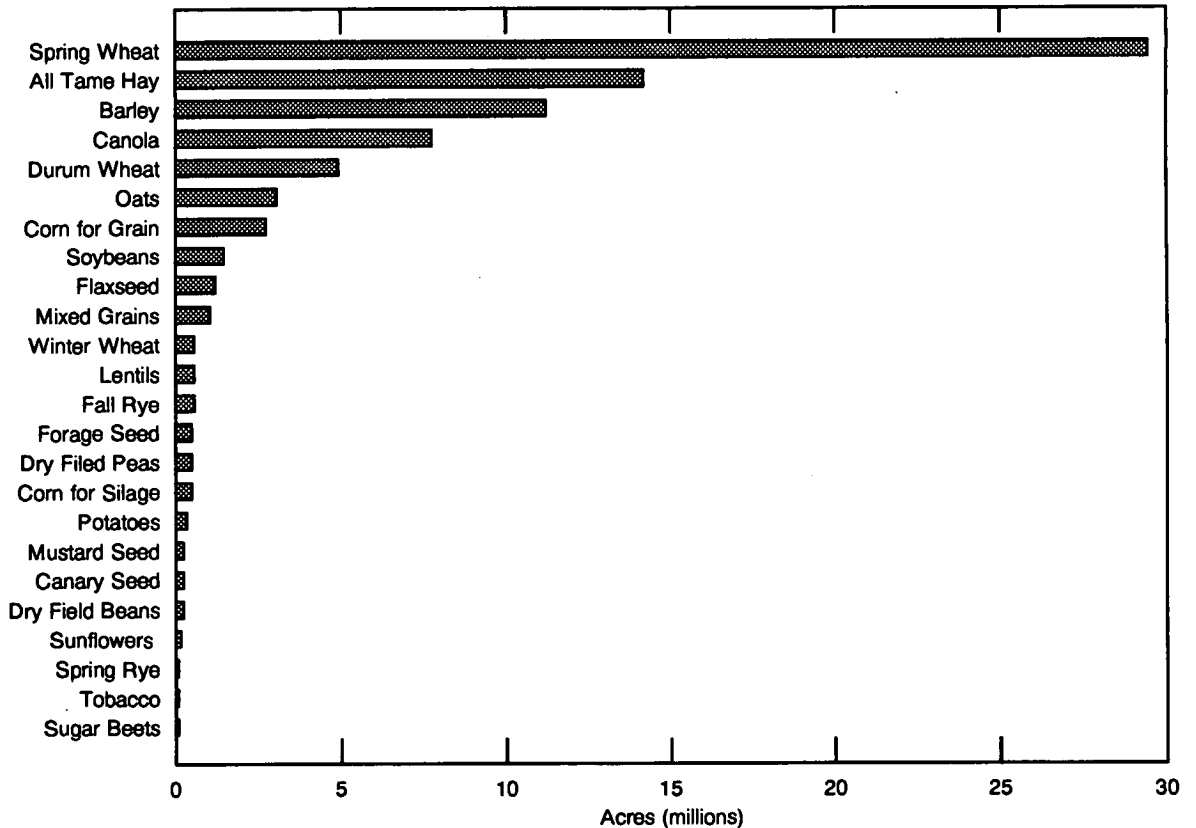
### Share of Total Potato Acreage Among the Provinces, 1951, 1971 and 1991

	1951	1971	1991
Newfoundland	0.9	0.4	0.2
Prince Edward Island	10.3	17.3	25.7
Nova Scotia	3.9	1.3	1.5
New Brunswick	13.3	22.0	16.7
Quebec	32.0	17.6	14.3
Ontario	19.1	14.9	11.6
Manitoba	5.5	12.1	16.4
Saskatchewan	5.5	1.2	1.5
Alberta	6.2	9.7	9.4
British Columbia	3.4	3.4	2.8
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

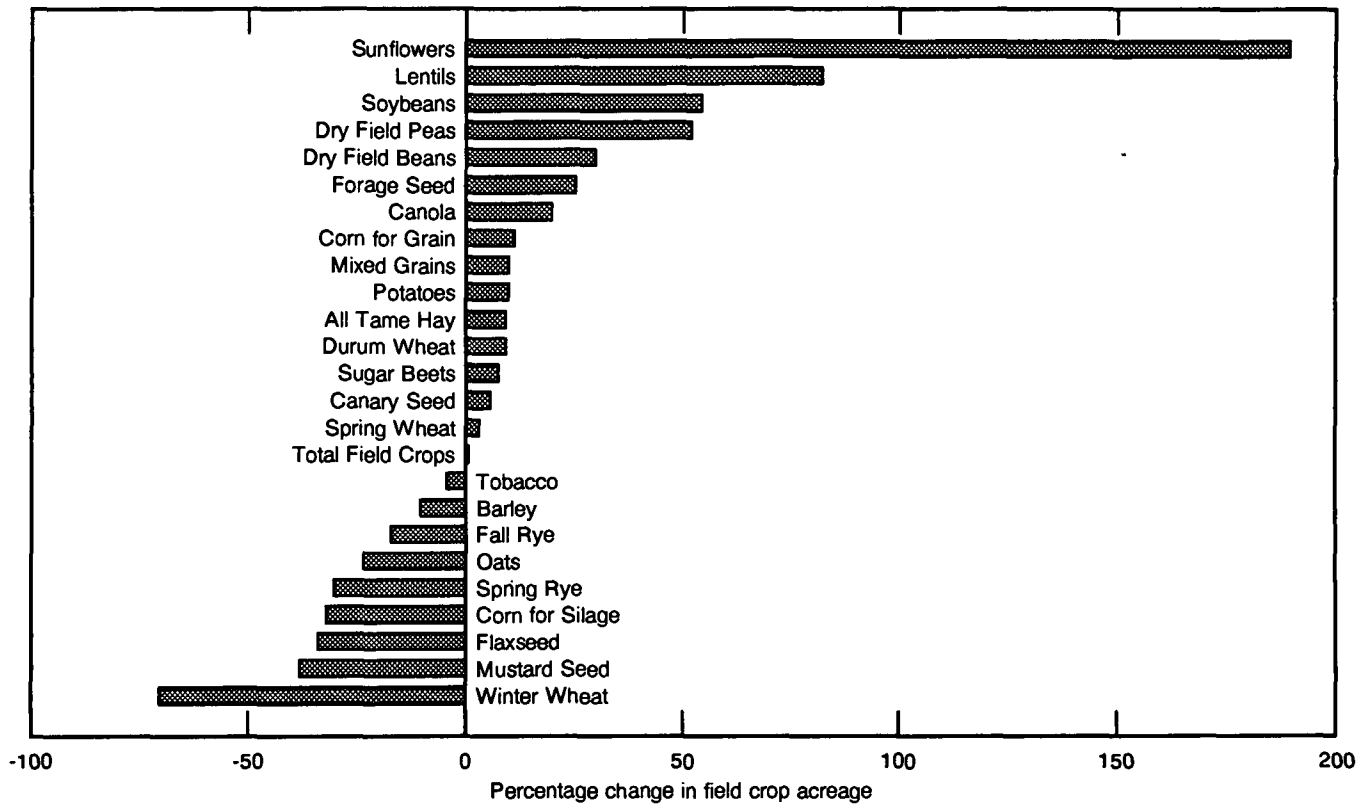
## Area of field crops remains constant

- Canada's area of field crops in 1991 was just over 82 million acres, a 0.9% increase from 1986.
- Wheat remains the number one field crop accounting for 35 million acres, or 43% of total field crop area. Spring wheat makes up 84% of total wheat area, followed by durum (at 14%) and winter wheat (at 2%).
- Tame hay is the largest field crop after wheat, with 17% of field crop area (14.2 million acres). Alberta has the largest provincial share of hay (30 percent of all land in hay) with 4.2 million acres. Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec rank second, third and fourth, with just over 2 million acres each.
- Sunflowers showed the largest increase (189%) between 1986 and 1991, to a level of 206,049 acres. Manitoba accounted for nine-tenths of the total Canadian area of sunflowers.
- Soybean area was up in the two major producing provinces. Ontario, with the largest area of soybeans (1.4 million acres in 1991) increased 50% from 1986. Quebec's area of soybeans increased almost six-fold between 1986 and 1991, to 62,445 acres.
- Tobacco area declined by 5% between 1986 and 1991, to 74 thousand acres. Ontario, with 90% of tobacco area, registered the only provincial increase, up 3% to 67 thousand acres.

### Spring Wheat has largest area, Canada, 1991



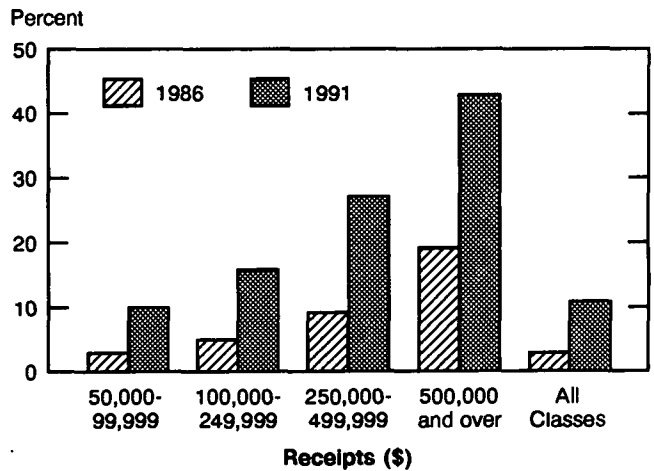
Area of total field crops remains constant, Canada, 1986 to 1991



**Computer use on farms quadruples since 1986**

- The number of farms using computers to manage the farm business quadrupled from 2.6% in 1986 to 11% in 1991.
- Farms with receipts of \$500,000 or more were most likely to use a computer to manage their business. In 1991, 43% of this category of farm reported using a computer, up from 19% in 1986.
- Among the provinces, British Columbia had the highest proportion (14%) of farms using computers.

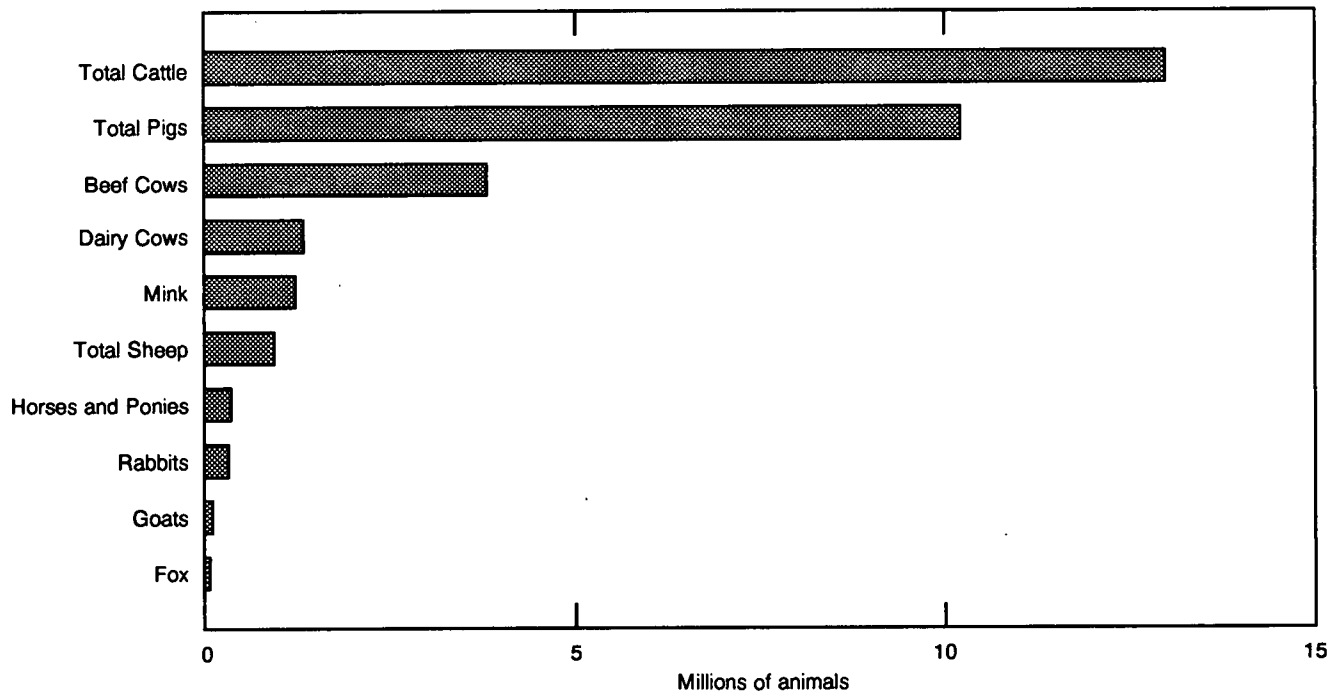
**Computer use on Canadian farms quadruples since 1986**



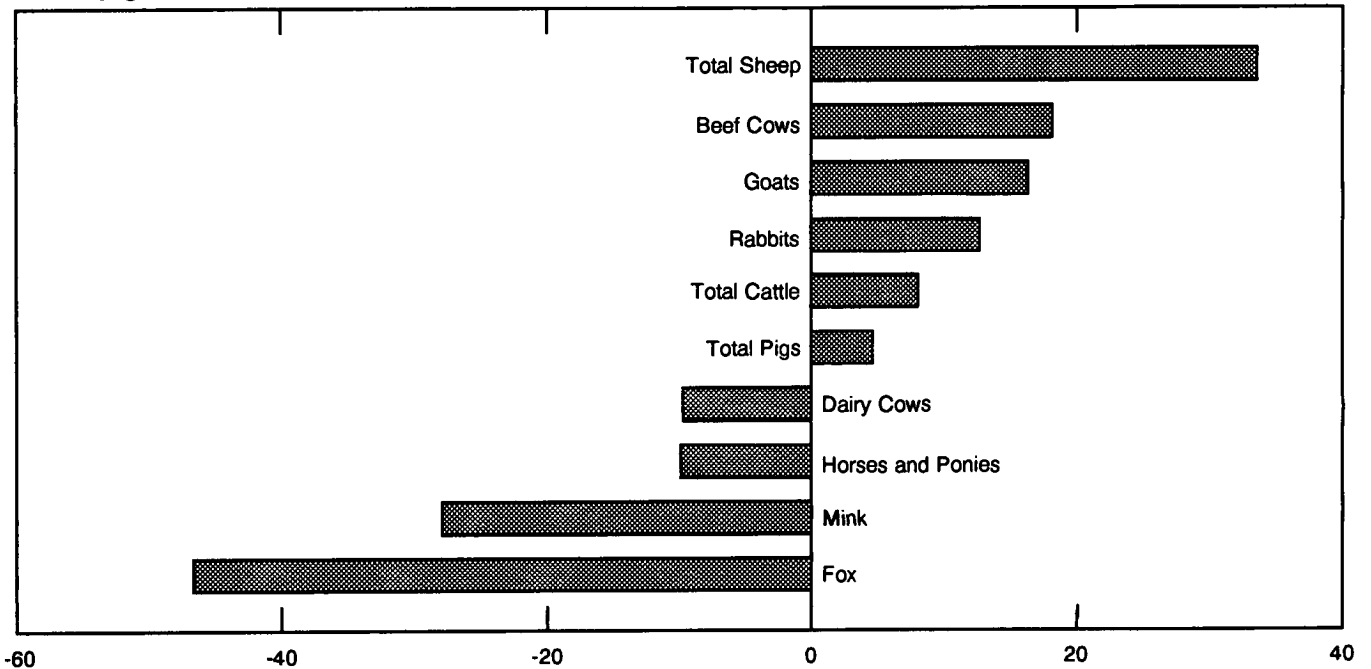
### Cattle, pig and sheep herds increase

- In 1991, numbers of sheep showed the largest increase of any livestock category, up one-third since 1986 to almost 936,000 head.
- The number of beef cows in 1991 reached 3.8 million, an 18% increase from 1986. Alberta's share of the Canadian beef cow herd was 43%, and Saskatchewan had 23%.
- In addition to beef cows and sheep, the numbers of goats, rabbits and pigs also increased between 1986 and 1991.
- The number of fox, at 60,000, showed the largest drop of all livestock categories since 1986, down 47%.
- Between 1986 and 1991, decreases were also registered in numbers of mink, horses and ponies, and dairy cows.

Livestock Numbers, Canada, 1991



**Cattle, pig and sheep herds increase, Canada, 1986 to 1991, Percentage Change**



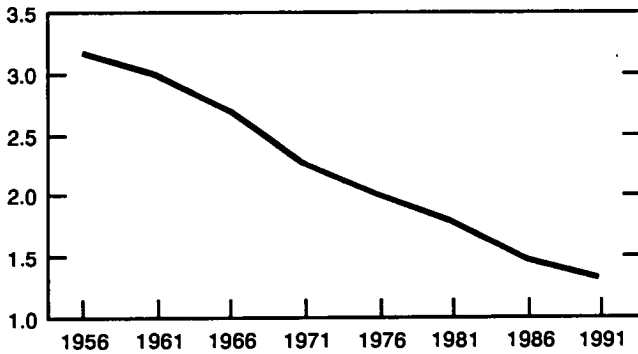
**Fewer dairy cows on Canadian farms**

- In 1991, there were 1.3 million dairy cows in Canada, a 10% decrease since 1986.

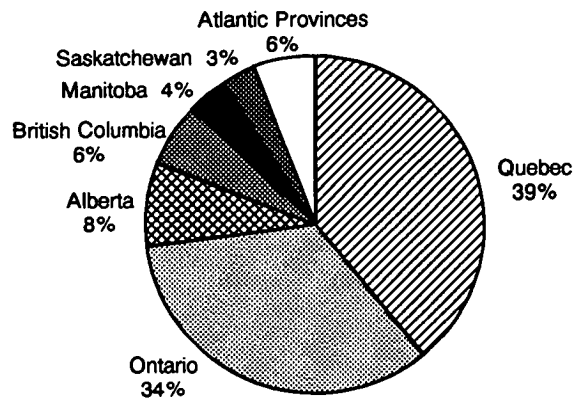
- From 1986 to 1991, the number of farms with dairy cows dropped by 22% to 40,000.
- The average dairy farm had 34 dairy cows in 1991 compared to 29 cows in 1986 and only 16 cows in 1971. In 1991, nearly half of the dairy cows were in herds of fewer than 50.

**Fewer dairy cows on Canadian farms**

Millions of head



**Provincial share of dairy cows, 1991**



Atlantic Provinces	
Newfoundland	1%
Prince Edward Island	1%
Nova Scotia	2%
New Brunswick	2%

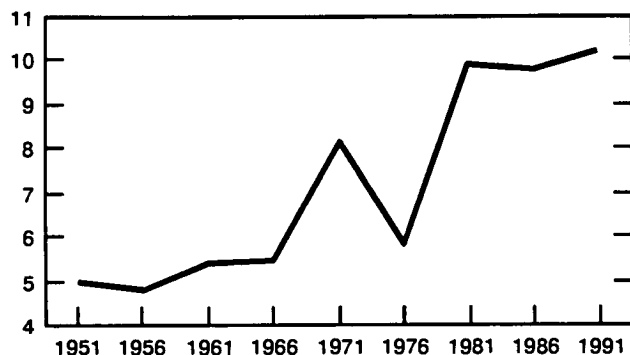


## Number of pigs at census high

- In 1991, 10.2 million pigs were reported on farms in Canada, a census-record and a slight increase over 1986.
- At the same time, the number of farms reporting pigs dropped to a record low of 30,000 in 1991, down 76% since 1971. In 1991, 8% of these farms accounted for half the pigs in Canada. Of these larger farms, 40% were in Quebec, 23% in Ontario and 17% in Alberta.

### Number of pigs in Canada

Millions of pigs



- Between 1986 and 1991, hog production shifted from Eastern to Western Canada. In 1991, Eastern hog producers lost 5% of total hog production (just over 0.5 million) to Western producers.
- In 1991, Quebec accounted for 28% of the number of pigs, yet had only 12% of the farms reporting pigs. In contrast, Ontario accounted for the same number of pigs, but had nearly three times as many farms reporting pigs.

### Provincial Share of Total Pigs, 1986 and 1991

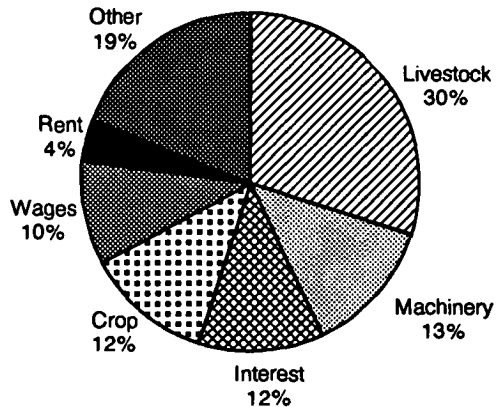
	1986	1991
Newfoundland	0.2	0.2
Prince Edward Island	1.2	1.0
Nova Scotia	1.4	1.3
New Brunswick	1.0	0.7
Quebec	30.0	28.5
Ontario	32.0	28.6
<b>East</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>60.4</b>
Manitoba	11.0	12.6
Saskatchewan	6.1	7.9
Alberta	14.9	16.9
British Columbia	2.2	2.2
<b>West</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>39.6</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Expenses

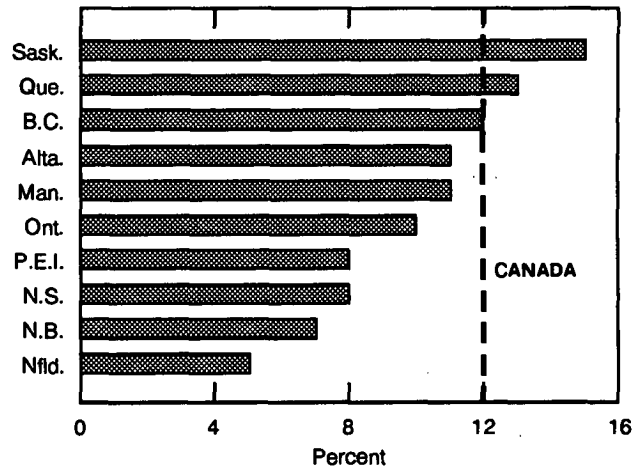
- In 1990, total farm business operating expenses in constant 1990 dollars increased marginally (3%) from 1985.
- In 1990, interest expenses were \$2.4 billion or 12% of total farm business expenses in Canada. The average amount of interest paid per reporting farm was \$13,700.
- At the national level, 15% of farms with receipts of \$50,000 or more were debt-free and reported no interest expenses. For farms with receipts of less than \$50,000, however, 55% were without interest expenses in 1990.

- In the Atlantic provinces, interest expenses accounted for less than 10% of total farm expenses, with Newfoundland the lowest at just over 5%. Saskatchewan reported the highest share of interest to total farm expenses (15%).
- Livestock expenses (feed, supplements, livestock, poultry, and veterinary expenses) were the largest component (30%) of total expenses at the national level. This proportion varied among provinces, from a low in Saskatchewan of 13% to a high in Newfoundland of 52%.
- Crop expenses (fertilizer, lime, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, seed and seedlings) made up 12% of all farm expenses in 1990.
- Wages and salaries (\$2 billion) accounted for 10% of farm expenses in Canada. Half of all wages and salaries were paid to family members.

Share of Farm Expenses, Canada, 1990



Interest as a percentage of total expenses highest in Saskatchewan in 1990



**Expenses, 1990**

	Canada		Newfoundland		Prince Edward Island		Nova Scotia		New Brunswick		Quebec	
	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses
Rent	767,911	4	241	0	6,714	3	2,824	1	2,544	1	33,178	1
Wages	2,039,667	10	10,330	17	33,244	16	55,462	18	44,981	18	357,221	12
Interest	2,373,734	12	3,190	5	17,064	8	23,532	8	18,585	7	391,976	13
Machinery	2,729,776	13	3,234	5	25,448	12	26,809	9	28,759	11	306,424	10
Crop	2,486,984	12	2,045	3	37,779	18	19,367	6	30,853	12	272,037	9
Livestock	6,088,997	30	31,682	52	52,867	25	109,735	36	76,600	31	1,128,559	36
Other	3,824,485	19	10,087	17	36,583	17	63,228	21	48,278	6	612,460	20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>20,311,554</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60,809</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>209,699</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300,957</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>250,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,101,855</b>	<b>100</b>

	Ontario		Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta		British Columbia	
	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses	(\$'000)	% of total expenses
Rent	164,235	3	94,788	5	244,740	7	193,582	4	25,063	2
Wages	665,354	12	130,644	7	209,292	6	303,857	7	229,282	20
Interest	572,873	10	200,909	11	487,673	15	517,105	11	140,828	12
Machinery	536,593	10	310,404	17	735,614	22	641,715	14	114,775	10
Crop	603,870	11	362,695	20	544,234	16	534,930	11	79,173	7
Livestock	1,779,670	33	410,813	23	446,395	13	1,712,842	37	339,833	30
Other	1,139,993	21	306,528	17	659,899	20	749,453	16	197,978	18
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,462,588</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,816,781</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,327,847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,653,484</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,126,932</b>	<b>100</b>

**The Daily**

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### Data Sources

All data which appear in today's issue of The Daily come from various Censuses of Agriculture.

Data for selected variables from the Censuses of Agriculture from 1971 to 1991 appear in the publication released today: Census Overview of Canadian Agriculture: 1971-1991 (Catalogue 93-348).

### Sub-provincial data

The Census of Agriculture provides detailed information for small areas within provinces. These data will be released in July, 1992.

### 1991 Agriculture-Population Linkage

Information on number, age, sex, marital status and mother tongue of farm operators and the farm population, as well as number of days of off-farm work by farm operators, will be released October 26, 1992.

Data on the labour force activity, income, education, citizenship, and ethnic origin of farm operators and the farm population will be released in October, 1993.

### Further information

The information summarized here is only a sample of highlights from the 1991 Census of Agriculture. Sub-provincial data and printed publications will be available in July, 1992. User-specified tabulations can be provided on

a cost-recovery basis by contacting Lynda Kemp, User Services Unit, Census of Agriculture at (613) 951-8711, or toll-free in Canada at 1-800-465-1991.

Please address other enquiries to:

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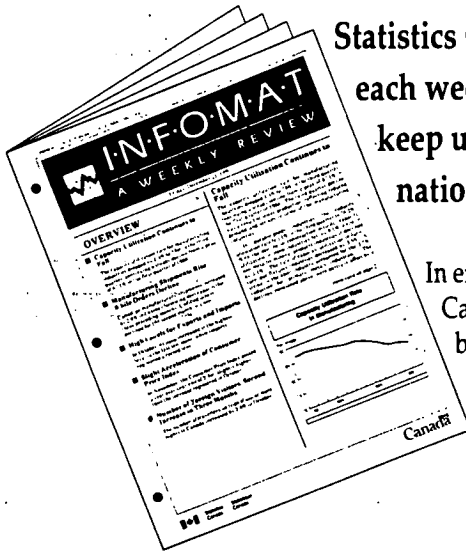


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