

# Certified Organic Production Statistics for Canada 2008

The following report was prepared for Canadian Organic Growers (COG) by Anne Macey using data provided by organic certification agencies operating in Canada. Other sources are referenced in the text as appropriate. Our thanks to all those who have supported this project by providing data on an annual basis.

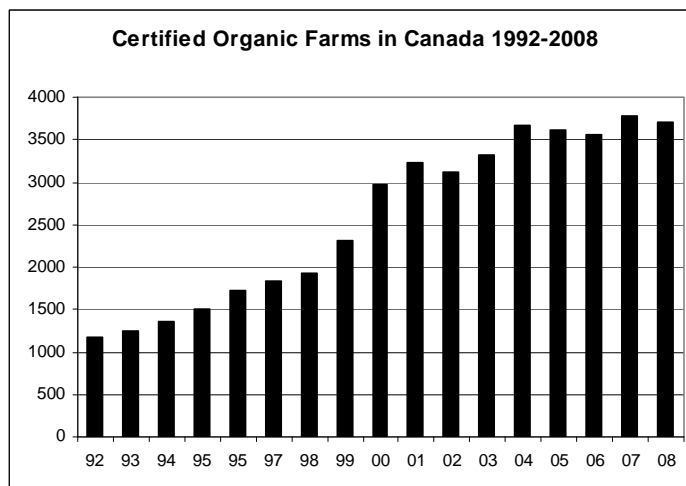
## 1. Certified Organic Operators

From data provided to Canadian Organic Growers by the certification bodies operating in Canada and for Quebec from the CARTV report "Usage de l'appellation biologique au Québec, Statistiques 2008".

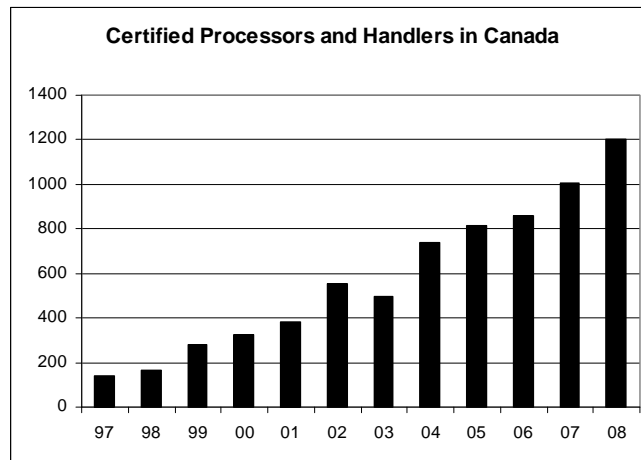
Province	Farms	% of all farms as reported in 06 census	% change in organic farms from 07	Farms in Transition	Processors (includes food manufacturers & seed cleaners)	Handlers (includes packers, brokers & retail)
BC	444	2.24	-2.4%	61	128	50
AB	259	0.52	9.8%	4	62	8
SK	1039	2.34	- 5.8%	26	81	21
MB	186	0.97	2.7%	2	33	27
ON	680	1.18	1.6%	14	220	37
QC	935	3.05	-5.3%	76	291	210
NB	52	1.87	13%	4	13	1
NS	61	1.61	7%	1	11	4
PEI	51	3.00	18.6%	2	3	2
NFL	2	0.36	-	0	0	0
YK	4		+	0	1	0
Totals	3713	1.62	-1.8%	190	843	360

Growth in the number of certified farms has occurred in Atlantic Canada and Alberta; otherwise there is little change from 2007 numbers. There were declines in Quebec, Saskatchewan and BC. Quebec's decline may be a result of different counting in 08 from 07 (if a farm had crops and maple syrup operation it may have been counted twice in 07) rather than a decline in number of farms. In fact acreage in organic production in Quebec increased by 5,666 ha from 2007 to 41,629 ha in 2008.

Overall there were 69 fewer certified farms reported in 2008 compared with 2007. There are at least 190 farms in transition but not all CBs provided data for this category.



Number of certified processors and handlers continue to grow. Total certified processors/handlers in 2008 were 1203; this is a 40 percent increase from 06 (2007 data was incomplete therefore that comparison is not made).

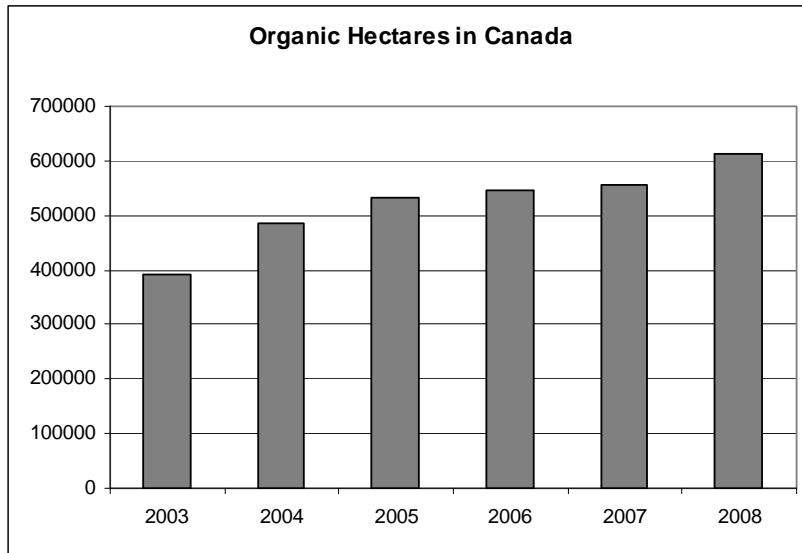


## 2. Certified Organic Acreage 2008

Province	Source	Farmed land				Wild land for harvesting/pasture		
		Ha	Ha in Transition	Acres	Ac in Transition	Ha	Acres	
	% of producers for which data submitted by CBs; remaining is estimate.							
BC	98%	21,738	1,325	53,715	3,274	159,101	393,138	mainly native pasture/ crownland for cattle range
AB	82%	114,491	2,900	282,903	7,166	25,537	63,102	mainly native pasture/ crownland for cattle range
SK	81%	333,555	3,866	824,204	9,553	32,376	80,001	native pasture
MB	94%	46,593	4,292	115,130	10,605	1,215	3,002	?
ON	84%	46,008	4,361	113,685	10,776	4,814	11,895	?
QC	CARTV- 100%	41,629	?	102,865	?	300,696	743,020	Mainly blueberries
NB	95%	2,633	?	6,506	?	2,040	5,042	includes maple forest & seaweed
NS	88%	1,672	?	4,132	?	1,547	3,823	mainly seaweed
PEI	100	3,201	136	7,910	336	481	1,189	?
NFL	100	82		203		6	15	
YK	100	73		181				
<b>CANADA</b>		<b>611,676</b>	<b>16,880</b>	<b>1,511,434</b>	<b>41,710</b>	<b>527,813</b>	<b>1,304,227</b>	

Notes: It is possible that the acreage reported for Atlantic Canada includes transitional acreage in the total. In BC, AB & SK some of the wild land may not have spilt out of the total. Native pastures are not necessarily reported in the same way by all certifiers. The Quebec data does not include most of the acreage of maple forest.

## Land in Organic Production 2003 -2008



**2.1 Acreage by Crop:** Individual crop acreage was not provided by all CBS. Any numbers provided below are therefore **minimum values** for Canada. Additional information is given in the provincial summaries (section 5.1-5.5).

FIELD CROPS	Ha	Ac	Notes
Wheat /Durum	114,224	282,254	
Oats	43,953	108,610	
Lentils & dry peas	20,608	50,029	
Barley	20,202	49,920	
Flax	16,987	41,977	
Grains	13,929	34,418	mixed grain, feed grains & unidentified
Soybeans	10,919	26,982	
Rye	7,785	19,237	
Spelt	4,390	10,848	
Corn	3,902	9,642	
Oilseeds	1,275	3,151	includes rapeseed
Mustard	1,170	2,891	
Buckwheat	1,067	2,637	
Hemp	746	1,843	
Canola	743	1,837	

FORAGES/GREEN MANURES	Ha	Ac
Alfalfa & Alfalfa/grass	8,513	21,036
Hay/Pasture /forage crops	201,102	496,933
Native pasture	168,781	417,067
Green manure/plowdown	61,823	152,768
Clover	8,579	21,199
Fallow	8,904	22,003

<b>VEGETABLES FRUIT &amp; NUTS</b>	<b>Ha</b>	<b>Ac</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Vegetables	1190	2943	includes acreages of single crops, mixed vegetables in market gardens, greenhouse crops
Potatoes	447	1106	in addition to those included in above
Sweet Corn	105	260	
Fruit & vegetables	389	961	
Tree Fruit	1039	2568	includes apples, pears, apricots, peaches, plums and cherries
Small fruit/berries	452	1119	includes strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, currants
Unidentified Fruit	52	128	
Grapes	112	276	mainly wine grapes
Nuts	94	233	includes hazelnuts/filberts and walnuts

### 3. Livestock

Livestock numbers were not reported by all CBs and when data was provided some CBs included only breeding animals, other included breeding, slaughter and replacement animals. The categories reported below represent **minimum numbers** in Canada for each livestock type and do not distinguish between breeding, slaughter and young animals.

<b>Livestock Type</b>	<b>Number of head</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Beef cattle	35,913	
Bison	159	
Dairy cattle	17,082	
Goats	1130	Dairy & meat
Sheep	4,580	For meat & dairy
Pigs	8,277	
Bees	628 (hives)	
Laying hens	178,569	Missing majority of production from Ontario
Meatbirds/Broilers	1,066,098	
Turkeys	807,187	

Other types of livestock raised organically are Elk, wild boar, rabbits, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and quail.

### 3.2 Organic Milk Production

From: AAFC-AID Dairy Section with data from British Columbia Milk Marketing Board, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, Alberta Milk

Year	BC		AB		ON		QC		CANADA	
	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers
2008/09	159,057	15	10,928	3	243,415	75	308,540	101	721,939	194
2007/08	116,045	14	4,156	2	198,000	67	303,842	90	622,043	173
2006/07	93,538	14	3,615	2	144,000	51	255,742	80	496,895	147
2005/06	81,164	11	2,791	2	116,000	44	211,295	68	411,250	125
2004/05	63,392	5	2,594	2	103,000	42	186,435	63	355,420	112
2003/04	39,989	3	1,560	2	98,938	43	164,136	50	304,214	98
2002/03	31,989	3	869	1	96,000	43	143,351	47	272,209	94
2001/02	15,749	2			95,372	41	105,508	41	216,628	84
2000/01	198	2			45,000	37	54,315	26	99,513	65

These figures are missing information from Manitoba where the first organic milk producer was certified in 2008 (2 producers) and from PEI.

In recent years the largest increase year to year was 25% from 06/07 to 07/08. 08/09 shows a 16% increase from the previous year. Although impressive growth, the numbers still represent less than 1% of Canadian milk production.

Percentage of organic milk by province: QC- 43%; ON-34%; BC- 22%; AB -1.5%

Number of certified producers: 193; QC- 52%; ON-39%; BC - 8%; AB - 1%

#### **4. Other types of production**

##### **4.1 Maple syrup**

There is certified maple syrup production in Quebec (52,126,127 taps and 341 producers in 2008), Ontario (7 producers, 976 ac) and New Brunswick (15 producers, 575,000 taps and an additional 1195 acres)

##### **4.2 Mushrooms**

Certified mushroom production is found in BC (12 producers), Quebec (6 producers plus 1 wild collection), PEI (1), and Ontario – data incomplete

##### **4.3 Apiculture** (bees/bee products/honey)

There is certification of bees and honey in Quebec (12 producers), Manitoba (1), Saskatchewan (2) and BC with 628 hives reported - data incomplete.

#### **5. Regional and Provincial data - PLEASE NOTE ALL DATA REPRESENTS MINIMUM NUMBERS; DATA WAS NOT PROVIDED BY ALL CERTIFIERS.**

##### **5.1 Atlantic Canada**

Data for acreage by crop type was not provided for the majority of certified farms in Atlantic Canada. There are at least 33 ha (81 ac) of certified tree fruit and 24 ha (60 ac) of vegetables in Nova Scotia. In PEI there are at least 158 ha (389 ac) of potatoes; 313 ha (773 ac) of soybeans; 161 ha (399 ac) barley; 209 ha (516 ac) mixed grain; 149 ha (362ac) oats; and 100 ha (246 ac) of wheat.

307 dairy cattle were reported in Nova Scotia and 290 in PEI. Beef, pork and poultry operations are also certified but livestock numbers were not provided.

##### **5.2 Quebec**

The CARTV report "Usage de l'appellation biologique au Québec, Statistiques 2008" provides a lot of detail on the number of farms growing different types of crops and raising livestock but does not include detailed information on the cultivated acreage for each crops. Data reported for livestock production is as follows:

Livestock type	Head	Number of farms
Beef cattle	1,093	74
Dairy cattle	5,145	106
Dairy sheep	893	2
Dairy goats	561	8
Sheep		9
Pigs		14
Rabbits		3
Layers	47,540	15
Broilers	419,555	20
Turkeys		7
Guinea fowl		4
Ducks		3

### 5.3 Ontario

The following table is based on information from 84% of certified farms. This is not the same as 84% of farms growing field crops and therefore extrapolations have not been done to estimate totals for each crop.

FIELD CROPS	Ha	Ac
Soybeans	7,242	17,896
Corn	3,762	9,297
Wheat	3,310	8,179
Spelt	2,436	6,020
Mixed Grains	1,656	4,091
Barley	1,106	2,733
Oats	1,073	2,652
Rye	594	1,469
Buckwheat	414	1,024
Rapeseed	414	1,023
Peas	220	543
Hay/pasture/forages	15,124	37,373
Green manure/plowdown	669	1,652

FRUIT & VEGE	Ha	Ac
Vegetables	526	1301
Potatoes	67	165
Fruit & Vegetables	51	126
Tree Fruit	426	1053
Apples	16	40

Livestock type	Head	Poultry	Head
Beef cattle	3,003	Layers	15,000 reported missing majority.
Dairy cattle	7,853	Broilers	80,080
Dairy goats	352	Turkeys	1829
Sheep	1,433		
Pigs	7,889		

#### 5.4 Prairie Provinces

The following tables are based on data for 94% of certified farms in Manitoba, 81% of certified farms in Saskatchewan and 82% of certified farms in Alberta.

Crop	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Ha	Ac	Ha	Ac	Ha	Ac
Wheat/Durum	4,887	12,077	90,321	223,189	14,795	36,560
Oats	2,768	6,839	34,501	85,253	4,611	11,393
Flax	1,674	4,135	14,125	34,904	1,076	2,659
Barley	932	2304	13,928	34,417	3,476	8,590
Lentils			2,798	6,915		
Peas	55	135	4,024	9,944	351	868
Lentils/peas			12,840	31,729	232	573
Soybeans	32	80				
Rye	1,080	2,668	4,708	11,635	1,170	2,892
Spelt	219	542	834	2060	878	2,170
Corn	47	117			65	160
Hemp	334	826	217	537	194	480
Mustard			1,170	2,891		
Buckwheat	159	393	312	771		
Canola	545	1347	22	54	129	318
Triticale			275	679	46	114
Feed grains	37	91			1,821	4,500
Grains			3,583	8,855	244	602
Mustard/peas			105	260		
Oilseeds	65	160	683	1,687	81	200
Hay/alfalfa pasture/forage/		28,555	52,373	129,415	94,156	232,662
Native pasture /bush					10,030	24,785
Green manures/ plowdown/ clover	639	1,579	60,896	150,479	7,774	19,210
Fallow			2,163	5,345	6,740	16,656

Livestock	MB	SK	AB
Beef Cattle	4524 –more than 28 producers	11,629 plus animals raised by at least another 8 producers	15,302 plus animals raised by at least another 19 producers
Bison	141	√	√
Dairy cattle	568	0	√
Pigs	√	√	√
Sheep	√		√
Layers	11200	499	2500 +
Broilers	√	√	√
Turkeys			800288 +

√ numbers unknown - there are producers certified for these types of livestock

## 5.5 BC

Acreage by crop type was not provided by all certifiers – the following information has been compiled from different sources and is incomplete.

<b>Vegetables, Fruit &amp; Nuts</b>	<b>Ha</b>	<b>Ac</b>
Miscellaneous Tree fruits	295.5	730.1
Apples	95.3	235.5
Apricots	1.5	3.6
Cherries	5.8	14.3
Peaches	1.2	3
Pears	10.3	25.6
Plums	1.6	4
Blueberries	38.3	94.8
Grapes	111.7	275.9
Fruit (unidentified)	30.3	74.8
Fruit and vegetables	300.9	743.5
Nuts (hazelnuts, filberts, walnuts)	92	227.2
Vegetables	220	544
Potatoes	18	45

Hay, pasture and forages make up another 17,305 ha (42,701 acres) with an additional 159,095 ha (393,133 ac) of native pasture and crown lands in the organic certification program. Farms with fruit, vegetables and hay/pasture not separated out by crop type make up another 580ha (1433ac). Grain crops are also grown but there is very limited data on acreage.

Livestock numbers were not provided by all CBs. There are at least 2692 dairy cattle, and 2108 sheep. Beef and bison numbers were not reported but there are several certified ranches and farms producing organic beef. Poultry numbers are at least 102,157 laying hens; 417,700 broilers and 2000 turkeys.