

Canadian Organic Growers
Cultivons biologique Canada



Certified Organic Production in Canada 2006

Prepared for Canadian Organic Growers
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CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN CANADA 2006

Canadian Organic Growers continues to collect data from the organic certification bodies (CBs) operating in Canada. Statistics are gathered on the number of certified organic producers and processors as well as acreage in production and livestock numbers. Unfortunately not all CBs provided their data for 2006, with the result that good information is not available for the Prairie Provinces. Data is more complete in other regions and it provides an interesting comparison with the data obtained by the 2006 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture.

We found that different methodology results in different numbers. Some differences we can explain, others we cannot. For instance: Census data is May 2006, COG data is December 2006; COG collects data from the CBs and Statistics Canada collects data from individual farmers; COG counts certified enterprises, the Census counts farmers so a multi-generational farm might be recorded as 1 by COG and 3 by the Census if the farmer and 2 adult sons were partners in the farm. The Census data also showed an increase of nearly 60% in certified organic farms since the 2001 Census but clearly organic producers were missed by the 2001 Census. If COG data is used for 2001 the increase is only 9%.

Care should be taken if using or quoting the following data. Italics indicate missing data and numbers shown will be at least that amount. For some provinces numbers are estimates calculated from a combination of 2006 and 2005 data where CBs failed to provide 2006 numbers.

ATLANTIC CANADA

Numbers in Atlantic Canada are showing modest increases in numbers of producers and acres in production.

Province	Producers 2006	% change from 2005	Census 2006	In Trans.	Processors	Handlers	% total farms
NB	42	17%	42		13		1.5%
NS	56	12%	61	4	12	1	1.5%
PEI	40	38%	31	5	1	2	2.3%
NF	4	0	4		1		0.7%

Province	Certified Land in Production in 2006			Wild land in program		Transitional land	
	Hectares	Acres	% Increase	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
NB	1593	3936	-		?		?
NS	864	2134	2.6%	108	267	236	583
PEI	552	1365	35.8%			319	789
NF	7	17	-			40	100

QUEBEC & ONTARIO

Province	Producers 2006	% change from 2005	Census 2006	Trans.	Processors	Handlers	% total farms
QC	791	- 3%	765	127	256	112	2.6%
ON	496	0	593	87	76	21	0.9%

The decline in producer numbers in Quebec is again attributed to a decrease in certified maple syrup producers which are down 12% since 2005. Other types of production are slowly increasing (2.8% since 2005), whereas processor and handler numbers increased by 41% since 2005. Numbers of certified producers in Ontario appear to be static. Data is missing for manufacturers and handlers therefore comparisons cannot be made with previous years.

Province	Certified Land in Production in 2006			Wild land in program		Transitional land	
	Hectares	Acres	% Increase	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
QC	31458	77733	11.2%	300,000	741300	?	?
ON	37087	91643	11.8%			?	?

Although there was no significant increase in the number of producers from 2005 to 2006, acreage data reported indicates an increase of over 11% in land in organic production.

In Ontario field crop acreage in 2006 was dominated by the following four crops: soybeans 16634 ac/6732 ha), spelt (8883ac/3595ha), corn (4760ac/1926 ha) and mixed grains (3391ac/1372ha). In addition there were 38,790 acres (15698 ha) of hay, pasture and forage crops, approximately 10,000 acres more than reported in 2005. Organic tree fruit is produced on 959 acres (388ha) with the majority in apples (939 ac/380ha).

Livestock (data not provided by all CBs)

Province	Dairy Cattle	Beef cattle	Dairy goats	Sheep/lambs	Pigs	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys
QC 162 farms	4055	388	801	1010 ewes	762	38681	177123	3307
ON	3967	3495	41	880/550	1101	90471	12807	10

Organic milk production continues to rise with 21.1 million litres and 68 producers reported in Quebec in 2005-2006 compared with 18.6 million litres in 04/05. This is triple the production since 00/01 (Source: Federation de producteurs de lait du Quebec). In Ontario production is also up with 11.6 million litres and 44 producers compared with 10.3 million litres in 04/05 (Source: Dairy Farmers of Ontario). The difference in production levels but similar numbers of dairy cattle suggests that livestock numbers from Ontario include young animals whereas numbers in Quebec are cows in production but this has not been confirmed.

CAAQ reported 271 producers of maple syrup with 3561430 taps and at least 13484 ha of maple trees in Quebec, 133 market gardens, 14 large scale vegetable producers and 71 CSA operations.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Data is incomplete for 2006; producer and acreage numbers are ESTIMATES only using 2005 data for one CB. Italic numbers are minimums - data is missing from some CBS.

Province	Producers 2006	% change from 2005	Census 2006	Trans.	Processors	Handlers	% total farms
MB	243	4.7%	196	23	40	10	1.3%
SK	1201	-2.4%	1181	9	73	13	2.7%
AB	231	-2.9%	230	2	42	6	0.5%

Province	Certified Land in Production in 2006			Wild land in program		Transitional land	
	Hectares	Acres	% change	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
MB	25005	61788	-9%	121	300	252	624
SK	284468	702929	-4%				
AB	152004	375605	16%	17872	44162	1750	4325

Acreage data for specific crops and livestock numbers are missing for more than 85% of producers in Saskatchewan and 50% in Alberta.

From the livestock data that was provided it appears that there are more organic beef cattle, broilers and turkeys in Alberta than in any other province in Canada. Alberta and Manitoba were the only provinces reporting production of organic honey.

Data is missing from approximately 16 % of producers in Manitoba. Field crop acreage is at least 17,859 acres (7231 ha) and 31,392 acres (12744 ha) in forages. Livestock numbers reported were 3268 beef cattle, 207 bison, 71,112 broilers and 6950 laying hens.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON

Province	Producers 2006	% change from 2005	Census 2006	Trans.	Processors	Handlers	% total farms
BC	457	*	452	52	119	58	2.3%
YK	4	100%	?	0	1	0	?

* Previously published data for 2005 showed 484 producers; this is now known to be incorrect resulting from transitional growers being added to the total. The revised number for 2005 is 456.

Numbers of processors and handlers in BC continue to increase up 10.6% since 2005.

Province	Certified Land in Production in 2006			Wild land in program		Transitional land	
	Hectares	Acres	% change	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
BC	13002	32129	-3%	110316	272593	3131	7737
YK	144	355	50%	190	469		

Acreage data for specific crops was not provided by all CBs. There are at least 770 ha (1903 acres) in vegetables with the largest acreages reported for green beans (269 ac/109 ha); potatoes (420 ac/170 ha) and broccoli (78 ac/32 ha). These are minimum values because these crops are also included in the unspecified vegetable categories which total 933 acres (378ha).

BC and Ontario reported similar acreage in tree organic fruits but BC has greater diversity of type. There were 963 acres reported in BC with apples 612 ac, pears 64 ac, peaches 48 ac, cherries 33 ac, apricots 17 ac, plums 14 ac, as well as 165 acres unspecified. There are also 165 acres of grapes and 138 acres in berries of one kind or another.

Livestock Numbers – italics are minimums - data missing from some CBS

Province	Dairy Cattle	Beef cattle	Dairy goats	Sheep/lambs	Pigs	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys
BC	2311	2407	553	2459	153	39001	36800	?
YK	36?							50

Dairy production continues to increase to meet increasing demand. In 2005/2006 there were 11 certified dairy farms and 8.1 million litres of milk 05/06 producers compared with 6.3 million litres in 04/05 (Source: BC Milk Marketing Board).

CANADIAN TOTALS 2006

Given the lack of accurate data for 2006 from some CBs the totals for Canada are only considered estimates based on a combination of 2006 and 2005 data. There were approximately 3565 certified producers and 1.38 million acres in organic production not including wild land used for cattle range or wild harvesting. There were also at least 116,300 acres in transition.

Although the total number of certified producers 3571 is close to that reported by the Census of Agriculture (3555) this does not reflect the discrepancies from one province to another. Clearly more work is needed to solve the problems that exist for the collection of organic statistics in Canada. Collection of 2007 data is expected to be equally challenging with certifiers focused on preparations to be ready for the implementation of the new Canadian regulation.