

## Canada Organic Statistics 2011

### Data collection

Data was collected from a variety of sources – directly from the CBs, via website listings and from provincial organizations (CARTV; Organic Alberta, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives) as well as other reports as indicated. Numbers from the May 2011 Census of Agriculture numbers are considered to be more reflective of the numbers at the end of 2010 than the numbers after the 2011 growing season. However they do provide good information on the type of certified farm operations and how these vary across the country.

Acreage data should be considered an estimate only. It is based on a combination of actual numbers for some CBs and best guesses for others. The best guesses were arrived at by extrapolating acreage from previous years and adjusting for known changes in numbers of producers. Individual crop acreage is not available for 2011.

### Primary Production

The numbers of certified farms or primary producers are staying relatively stable with little change in overall numbers for Canada. However at the provincial level more change is evident as shown in the table below. Primary producers include those with the following types of enterprises: crops of all kinds including mushrooms, livestock operations, bees and wild harvest.

Primary Producers						
Province	2010	2011 Census	2011 Census % total farms*	2011	% change	T/PCY
NS	43	44	0.8	49	14.0%	?
PEI	43	39	2.6	43	0.0%	?
NB	56	48	1.8	57	1.8%	?
NF	2	1		1		
QC	1054	963	3.2	1000	-0.5%	50
ON	685	674	0.9	701	2.3%	?
MB	158	169	1.1	134	-15.0%	3
SK	938	1015	2.7	914	-4.6%	?
AB	275	290	0.4	291		?
BC	471	470	1.6	497	5.5%	44
YK	6	5		6		
NT	1			1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3732</b>	<b>3718</b>		<b>3694</b>		

\* Differs from Stats Canada percentage because it compares farms with certified organic products not all organic products with total number of farms.

Declines appear to be continuing in Saskatchewan (-4.6%) and Manitoba (-15%), but in Saskatchewan the census data doesn't reflect this trend and one can only speculate about the difference. Perhaps it is related to whether or not there was a harvestable crop

in 2011 or the numbers of harvesters of wild rice if they are included in the census data, or some other reason. Further investigation is needed.

In Quebec the total number of certified enterprises (crops, livestock & maple syrup) has increased but total number of operators with agricultural activities appears to be lower than in 2010. Each year CARTV publishes a report with detailed information about the number and type of operators in the province and in 2013 will be launching a new website where data will be updated on a regular basis. Numbers in BC are higher than in 2010, up 5.5%, but small farms operating only in the local market are continuing to drop out of certification programs. Nova Scotia is also showing an increase. It is unclear why the New Brunswick numbers for certified operators in 2010 & 2011 differs from the census data.

### Farm Type - Source 2011 Census of Agriculture

Farm Type	2011 Census of Canada Data - Organic production											
	NF/L	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YK	Total
Fruit & Vege	1	23	36	24	233	172	12	22	21	399	5	874
Livestock		6	10	6	168	220	39	59	66	107	3	681
Hay & Field Crops		26	12	17	311	487	154	997	256	123	4	2383
Maple syrup		0	2	16	395	20	0	0	0	2	0	425
Herbs, spices & garlic		9	12	12	105	65	1	8	9	103	2	324
Other (mushrooms, nursery etc)			4	1	25	19	3	3	2	15	0	72

Detailed breakdowns for types of enterprise in Quebec are also to be found in "Statistics 2011 Usage de l'appellation biologique au Quebec". 422 syrup operations were reported in 2011 with 7,351,881 taps and 37,372 ha of maple forest.

### Acreage

Total acreage in certified production including both annual and perennial crops, forages and pasture, is estimated at 1,684,189 acres/ 681,569 hectares.

In addition there is considerable acreage classified as wild and not included in this total for example: range land in BC (393,299 ac), maple forest in Quebec (37,572 ha), as well as areas used for the collection of wild blueberries.

Little information was obtained on transitional acreage but there were at least 1200 acres in BC.

Acreage in certified production		
Province	Acres	Hectares
NS	4000	1619
PEI	8250	3339
NB	10000	4047
NF		0
QC	111,739	45219
ON	125,000	50586
MB	100,000	40469
SK	940,000	380406
AB	326,000	131928
BC	59,000	23877
YK	200	81
NT		0
	1684189	681569

## Livestock & Livestock Production

**Dairy:** The only reliable numbers on a national scale are those for the Organic dairy sector provided by Agricultural & Agri-food Canada. In BC and Quebec the increased volume of milk production indicates an increase in the size of dairy herd rather than more dairy farmers transitioning to organic production.

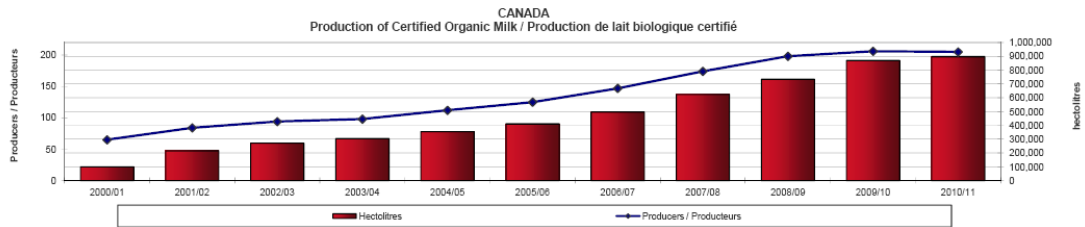


PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION

Production of Certified Organic Milk and Number of Producers (Farms)  
Production de lait biologique certifié et nombre de producteurs (Fermes)

Year / Année	BC		AB		SK		MB		ON		QC		MT (Maritimes)		Canada	
	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs	hl <sup>1</sup>	Producers / Producteurs	hl	Producers / Producteurs
2010/11	192,922	14	89,019	10	..	..	20,031	5	254,554	77	339,418	98	4,500	1	897,445	205
2009/10	183,992	15	75,336	9	..	..	18,348	4	255,788	78	339,482	100	..	..	869,826	206
2008/09	159,057	15	10,928	3	..	..	12,082	4	243,415	75	308,540	101	..	..	734,002	198
2007/08	116,045	14	4,158	2	..	..	2,099	1	198,000	67	303,842	90	..	..	624,142	174
2006/07	93,538	14	3,815	2	..	..	-	-	144,000	51	255,742	80	..	..	496,895	147
2005/06	81,184	11	2,791	2	..	..	-	-	116,000	44	211,295	88	..	..	411,251	125
2004/05	63,392	5	2,594	2	..	..	-	-	103,000	42	186,435	83	..	..	355,421	112
2003/04	39,580	3	1,590	2	..	..	-	-	98,938	43	164,136	50	..	..	304,213	98
2002/03	31,989	3	899	1	..	..	-	-	98,000	43	143,351	47	..	..	272,299	84
2001/02	15,749	2	-	-	..	..	-	-	95,372	41	105,508	41	..	..	216,628	84
2000/01	188	2	-	-	..	..	-	-	45,000	37	54,315	28	..	..	99,513	65



Note: Amounts for other provinces - nil or minute

.. Not available

- Nil

<sup>1</sup> Estimate

Source: B.C. Milk Marketing Board, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, Alberta Milk and the Organic Agriculture Center of Canada

Calculations done by AAFC-AID, Dairy Section  
Bio.xls

Note: Autres provinces - données nulles ou infimes

.. Non disponible

- Nil

<sup>1</sup> Estimation

Source: Office de commercialisation du lait de la Colombie-Britannique, Producteurs laitiers de Manitoba, Producteurs laitiers de l'Ontario, Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, Alberta Milk et le Centre d'agriculture biologique du Canada

Calculs réalisés par AAC-DIA, Secteur laitier

**Egg production:** There is significant organic egg production in Quebec (57,479 layers reported), Ontario (est 106,000) and BC (est 119,000) although it is probable that these numbers include pullets as well as layers.

### Other

Data for other livestock types is incomplete. The beef herd is likely at least 26,000 animals with most in Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC.

Quebec has the most beekeepers (10) reporting a total of 2175 hives.

## **Processors and handlers**

A total of 993 operators are involved in the manufacture of organic products or their handling and distribution. This is less than reported in 2010 (1115) but data was not obtained from all certifiers so it is possible there are some missing from the 2011 total. The different types of enterprise in Quebec are elaborated in the CARTV report which shows 306 processors (99 on farm, 73 with 5 or fewer employees and 134 with more than 5 employees; and 138 involved in distribution and retail including 93 farms with organic box programs.

It is possible to further analyse available information for other provinces but the author of this report has not been able to spend the time to do that.