

**Certified Organic Production in
Canada 2009**

Canadian Organic Growers

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Canadian Organic Growers 
Cultivons Biologique Canada

Certified Organic Production Statistics for Canada 2009

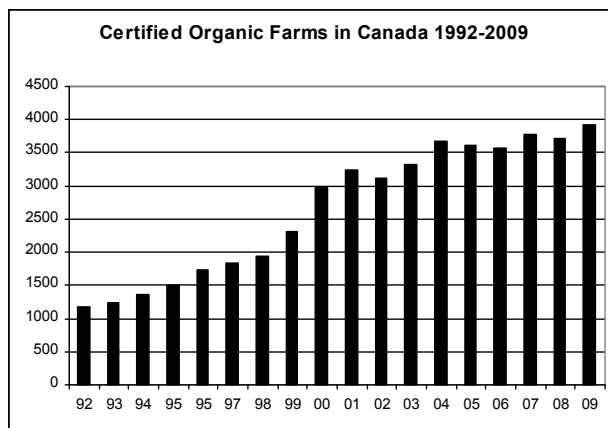
The following report was prepared for Canadian Organic Growers (COG) by Anne Macey using data provided by organic certification agencies operating in Canada. Other sources are referenced in the text as appropriate. Our thanks to all those who have supported this project by providing data on an annual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

1. Certified Organic Operators

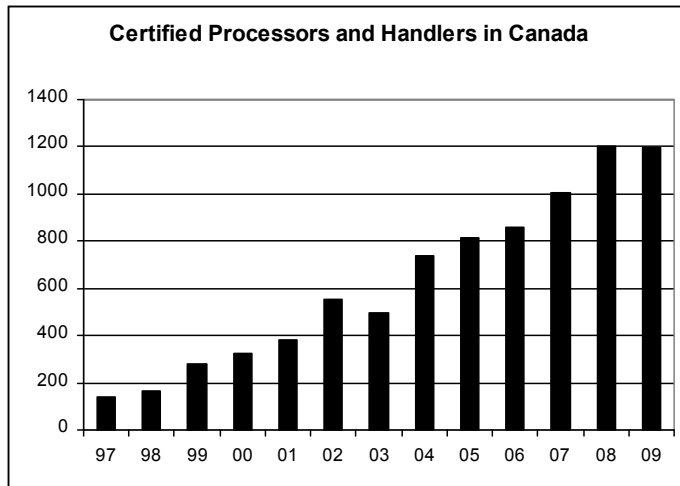
From data provided to Canadian Organic Growers by the certification bodies operating in Canada and for Quebec from the CARTV report "Statistiques 2009 Usage de l'appellation biologique au Québec".

Province	Farms	% of all farms as reported in 06 census	% change in organic farms from 08	Farms in Transition	Processors (includes food manufacturers & seed cleaners)	Handlers (includes packers, brokers & retail)
BC	475	2.4%	6.7%	87	124	65
AB	319	0.65%	23%	2	62	8
SK	1123	2.5%	8%	4	73	23
MB	168	?	-9.6%	5	24	15
ON	716	1.25%	5.3	8	216	43
QC	956	3.12%	2.25	111	278	219
NB	56	2%	7.7%		17	1
NS	47	1.2%	-23%		14	3
PEI	48	2.8%	-5.8%		4	3
NFL	2	36%	-		2	0
YK	4				1	0
Totals	3914	1.7%	5.4%	217	815	380

The numbers in the Prairie Provinces may vary slightly from that reported; one CB did not provide updated information. Modest growth was reported for several provinces and significant increases in Alberta where certified producer numbers increased by 23% from 2008. The number of producers increased by 5.4% overall. A drop in numbers in Manitoba may be attributed to several factors including farm population demographics (more leaving farming than entering), low commodity prices, high certification costs and a poor production year in 2009, (John Hollinger pers. com.) The organic transition program in Manitoba which reimburses 2/3 of the cost of certification during the formal transition period to full organic status, started in 2008 but it is too early to say if this will result in any significant increases. Variation in numbers in Atlantic Canada may be more to do with the CB reorganization that occurred when the newly formed Atlantic Certified Organic (ACO) became accredited and assumed the certification services of two of the regions CBs (NSOGA & MCOG) in 2009.



Overall there were 201 more certified farms reported in 2009 compared with 2008.



The number of certified processors and handlers appears to have changed little from 2008 to 2009, but accurate numbers were not provided by all CBs.

2. Certified Organic Acreage 2009

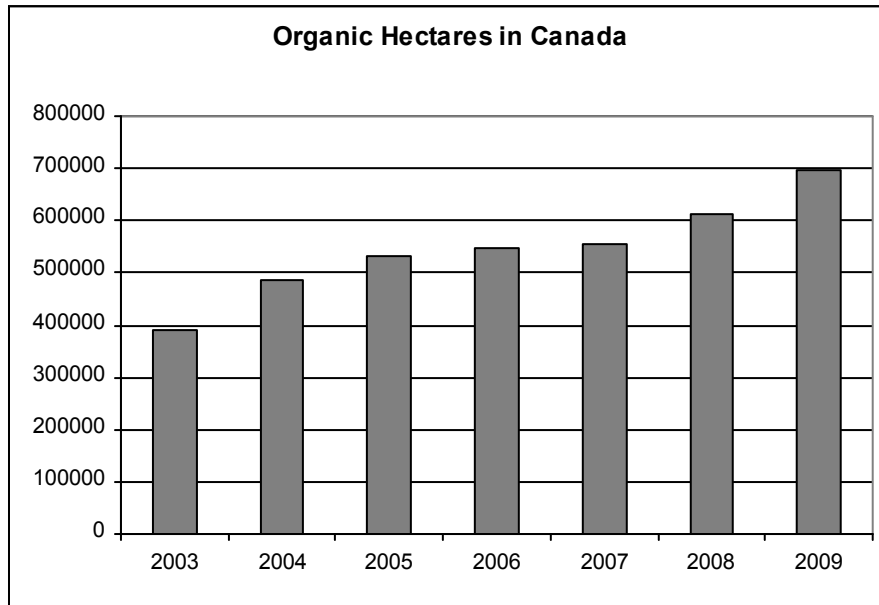
The following is an estimate based on a combination of accurate information from some certifiers and estimates for others based on changing operator numbers.

Province	Farmed land				Wild land for harvesting/pasture	
	Ha	Ha in Transition	Acres	Ac in Transition	Ha	Acres
BC	22578	1,554	55,789	3,839	159,367	393,791 mainly native pasture/crownland for cattle range
AB	135,350	?	334,445	?	13,553	33,489 mainly native pasture/crownland for cattle range
SK	399,269	3744	986,580	9252	32,376	80,000 native pasture
MB	41,962	?	103,687	?	376	928 ?
ON	46,772	2743	115572	6778	4,814	11,895 ?
QC	41,384	?	102,260	?	?	?
NB	3731	?	9220	?	490	1210 Wild blueberries; maple forest Represents only some of the maple
NS	1,533	11	3789	26	82	202
PEI	2730	164	6745	383	155	383 ?
NFL	82		203		?	?
YK	73		181			
CANADA	695,463	8215	1,718,468	20,300	210,231	519,474

Notes: In AB & SK some of the wild land may not have been spilt out of the total. Native pastures are not necessarily reported in the same way by all certifiers. The New Brunswick data for wild land does not include all the maple forest which is estimated at 3250 ha (8044 acres) (Claude Berthélemé, NB Dept of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries).

Land in Organic Production 2003 -2009

The chart shows the farmed acreage in organic certification programs excluding maple bush and wild or crown land which may be used for cattle range/pasture or wild harvest e.g. wild blueberries. The acreage includes both annual and perennial crops as well as permanent pastures.



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	102,434	253,121	
Oats	44,539	110,059	
Barley	27,767	68,614	
Flax	24,238	59,893	
Lentils & dry peas	23,801	58,813	
Soybeans	14,186	35,053	
Grains	9,978	24,656	mixed grain, feed grains & unidentified
Rye	9,211	22,760	
Spelt	4,183	10,336	
Corn	7,199	17,790	
Oilseeds	1,639	4050	
Buckwheat	1284	3173	
Hemp	1170	2892	
Canola	1785	4412	

FORAGES/GREEN MANURES	Ha	Ac
Alfalfa & Alfalfa/grass	10,860	26,835
Hay/Pasture /forage crops	213,635	527,903
Native pasture	168,801	417,067
Green manure/plowdown	40,512	100,106

Fallow		54,830	135,488
VEGETABLES FRUIT & NUTS	Ha	Ac	Notes
Vegetables	1262	3121	includes acreages of single crops, mixed vegetables in market gardens, greenhouse crops
Potatoes	594	1469	in addition to those included in above
Sweet Corn	26	65	
Fruit & vegetables	485	1199	
Tree Fruit	891	2201	includes apples, pears, apricots, peaches, plums and cherries
Small fruit/berries	1136	2806	includes strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, currants
Unidentified Fruit	61	152	
Grapes	129	320	mainly wine grapes
Nuts	101	251	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.

Livestock Type	Number of head	Notes
Beef cattle	42281	
Bison	539	
Dairy cattle	18855	
Goats	1626	Dairy & meat
Sheep	4574	For meat & dairy
Pigs	10325	
Bees	736 (hives)	
Laying hens	227,571	Missing majority of production from Ontario
Meat birds/Broilers*	277,735	
Turkeys	13,200	

*Chicken Farmers of Canada report increases in organic production from 2008 to 2009 in BC, AB & QC. The 2009 amounts were BC – 918,210 kgs live; AB- 181,534 kgs live and QC- 541,000 kgs. There is also organic production in Ontario and Nova Scotia but no details for production levels. In other provinces production is small-scale production outside of the supply managed system.

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

3.2 Organic Milk Production

From: AAFC-AID Dairy Section with data sourced from B.C Milk Marketing Board, Manitoba Milk Marketing Board, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, and Alberta's Dairy Producers.

Year	BC		AB		MB		ON		QC		CANADA	
	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers	hl	Producers
2009/10	183,892	15	73,336	9	18,348	4	255,768	78	336,482	100	869,826	206
2008/09	159,057	15	10,928	3	12,062	4	243,415	75	308,540	101	734,002	198
2007/08	116,045	14	4,156	2	2009	1	198,000	67	303,842	90	624,053	174
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

There has been significant growth in the organic dairy sector. In recent years the largest increase year to year was 25% from 06/07 to 07/08. 09/10 shows a 8.5% increase from the previous year. Although impressive growth, the numbers only represent 1% of total Canadian milk production.

Percentage of organic milk by province: QC- 39%; ON-29%; BC- 21%; AB -8%; MB- 2%

Number of certified producers: 206; QC- 48%; ON-38%; BC - 7%; AB- 4%; MB-2%

4. Other types of production

4.1 Maple syrup

There is certified maple syrup production in Quebec (404 producers 6,443,695 taps), Ontario (6 producers, 946 acres), New Brunswick (17 producers, 650,000 taps for an approximate 3250 ha/8044 acre equivalent) and Nova Scotia (1).

4.2 Mushrooms

Certified mushroom production is found in BC (10 producers), Quebec (4 producers plus 1 wild collection), NB (1), PEI (1), and Ontario (1) - data incomplete.

4.3 Apiculture (bees/bee products/honey)

There is certification of bees and honey in Quebec (10 producers), Manitoba (1), Saskatchewan (2) and BC (4). 736 hives were reported but data not available for all producers.

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 by all certifiers in Atlantic Canada. There are at least: 293 ha/723 acres wheat; 483ha /1193 ac oats, 249ha /619 acres other grains and 508ha/1256 ac soybeans. Also reported were 208 ha/515 ac potatoes; 28 ha/71 ac other vegetables, 28 ha/71 ac tree fruit and 53 ha/132 ac of berries.

216 dairy cattle were reported (Nova Scotia & PEI). Beef (NB, PEI), sheep, 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 crop. Data reported for livestock production is as follows:

Livestock type	Head	Number of farms
Beef cattle	1287	74
Dairy cattle	5,224 (milking)	106
Dairy sheep	258	2
Dairy goats	525	6
Sheep	592	9
Pigs		11
Rabbits		4
Layers		13
Broilers		16
Turkeys		8
Guinea fowl		4
Ducks		3

5.3 Ontario

Most of the information in the following table is based on data from 80% of the certified farms. This is not the same as 80% of farms growing field crops and therefore extrapolations have not been done to estimate totals for each crop.

FIELD CROPS	Ha	Ac
Soybeans	8,470	20,929
Corn	3,735	9,230
Wheat	2,368	5,852
Spelt	1,955	4,832
Mixed Grains	1,571	3,882
Barley	779	1,924
Oats	1,301	3,216
Rye	559	1381
Buckwheat	678	1676
Hay/pasture/forages	14,292	35,314
Green manure/plowdown	899	2,222

FRUIT & VEGE	Ha	Ac
Vegetables	487	1204
Potatoes	77	190
Fruit & Vegetables	191	472
Tree Fruit	401	990
Small Fruit	90	224
Grapes	12	30
Nuts	6	16

Livestock type	Head	Poultry	Head
Beef cattle	4127	Layers	26,229
Dairy cattle	6360	Broilers	35,137
Dairy goats	607	Turkeys	1,243
Sheep	918		
Pigs	9595		

Note that livestock numbers are **minimums** and may include breeding, slaughter and replacement animals. Layer numbers are missing some of large producers.

5.4 Prairie Provinces

Data from 56% of the certified farms in Manitoba are missing from the following table. The data from Saskatchewan and Alberta represents data from approximately 80% of the certified producers in each province.

Crop	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Ha	Ac	Ha	Ac	Ha	Ac
Wheat/Durum	3,094	7,645	80,159	198,077	13,550	33,483
Oats	1,894	4,679	31,769	78,502	8,045	19,879
Flax	1,477	3,649	21,431	52,956	1,148	2838
Barley	461	1,139	20,823	51,455	4,936	12,197
Lentils			144	355	3,121	7,771
Peas	333	822	5,741	2,168	877	2,168
Lentils/peas	40	100	13,249	32,739	167	413
Rye	635	1,568	6,400	15,814	1,293	3,196
Soybeans	452	1,116	91	226	65	160
Spelt	200	494	380	938	1,137	2,809
Hemp			782	1,932	388	960
Buckwheat	168	415	416	1,029		
Canola	1,126	2,782	19	47	575	1,422
Oilseeds			1,319	3,260	174	430
Feed grains					1,821	4,500
Grains			2,513	6,209	111	275
Hay/alfalfa pasture/forage/	4,174	10,161	81,481	201,344	89,291	218,901
Native pasture /bush	106	261			10,382	25,656
Green manures/ plowdown/ clover	1,256	3,103	32,763	80,958	4,904	12,117
Fallow	318	785	44,458	109,859	9,865	24,377

Livestock	MB	SK	AB
Beef cattle	5076	9525	16463
Bison	114	79	141
Dairy cattle	553	0	104
Pigs	24		405
Sheep	47	273	245

Note that livestock numbers are **minimums** and may include breeding, slaughter and replacement animals. There is one large egg producer (over 10,000 layers) in Manitoba, and smaller flocks in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Alberta produces over 100,000 broilers/year; Saskatchewan reported 1820.

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.

Vegetables, Fruit & Nuts	Ha	Ac
Miscellaneous Tree fruits	278.7	688.8
Apples	112.5	278
Apricots	5.2	12.8
Cherries	7.2	17.8
Peaches	4.7	11.5
Pears	13.3	32.8
Plums	1.6	4
Blueberries	40.7	100.5
Grapes	113.5	280.4
Fruit (unidentified)	43.3	107.1
Fruit and vegetables	276.6	683.5
Nuts (hazelnuts, filberts, walnuts)	93.9	232.2
Vegetables	454	1114
Potatoes	195	481

Hay, pasture & forages	15,220	37,613
Native pasture/crown land	158,935	392,737
Filed crops (wheat, barley, oats, etc)	1072	2277
Hay & Grains	3350	8379
Hay/pasture, fruit & vege	494	1222

Livestock type	Head	Poultry	Head
Beef cattle	5358	Layers	138,787
Dairy cattle	6224	Broilers	118,383
Dairy goats	226	Turkeys	8938
Sheep	2120		
Pigs	119		

Note that livestock numbers are **minimums** and may include breeding, slaughter and replacement animals.