

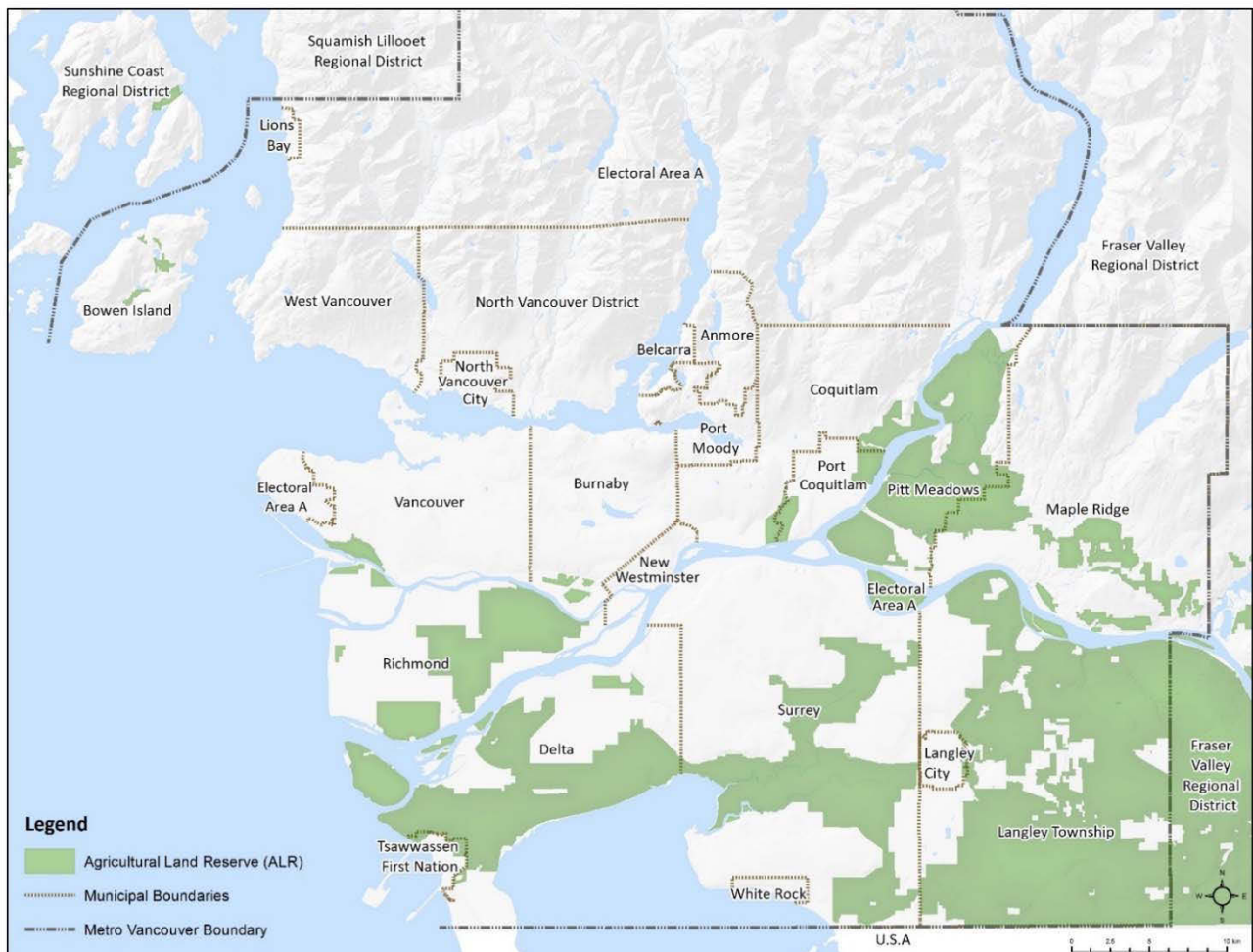
2016 Census of Agriculture Bulletin

Agriculture in Metro Vancouver

The Metro Vancouver region is one of the most important food producing areas in British Columbia. Local farms produce a wide range of crops and livestock that serve both domestic and export markets, while contributing to the region's economic prosperity and food security. The combination of farmer ingenuity, fertile soils, a moderate climate and the proximity to urban areas enables farms in Metro Vancouver to generate over \$945 million (26% of the BC's gross annual farm receipts) on only 1.5% of the province's agricultural land.

Metro Vancouver is also the most populous regional district in British Columbia accounting for 53% of provincial population. Yet despite ongoing pressure for urban development, farms in the region continue to thrive due to protection from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Agriculture in Metro Vancouver occurs mostly on ALR land in the Township of Langley, Delta, Surrey, Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Maple Ridge, Burnaby, Vancouver and on Barnston Island in Electoral Area A (see map below).

This 2016 Census of Agriculture bulletin provides a selection of data on agriculture in the Metro Vancouver region based on the "farm unit" including: 1) Farms; 2) Farmers and Employment; 3) Land Tenure and Use; 4) Crops and Livestock; 5) Farm Practices and Marketing and; 6) Financial Measures. The value of the census data is further enhanced when used in conjunction with the Agricultural Land Use Inventory completed by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, which describes farming on a "land parcel" basis.



About the Census of Agriculture

The census is conducted across Canada every five years at the national, provincial and sub-provincial levels. The Census of Agriculture form is filled out by farm operators in May, the same time as the Census of Population. All farm operators are required to complete the Census of Agriculture form as directed by the *Statistics Act*. Due to confidentiality constraints, the data for one or more geographic areas having very few farms may be combined with the data from another census consolidated subdivision or census division. The symbol “x” is used when a data point is suppressed to protect the confidentiality of respondents as required in the *Statistics Act*.

A list of tables can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

1. Farms

Total Farm Area

The total farm area is all the land under the management of the farm operator including workable and non-workable land as well as any other parcels that are part of the farm operation, even if they are leased/rented or located in another municipality. In 2016, the total farm area in Metro Vancouver was 38,380 ha (94,799 acres). This is the lowest total farm area in the region over the past 20 years (Table 1).

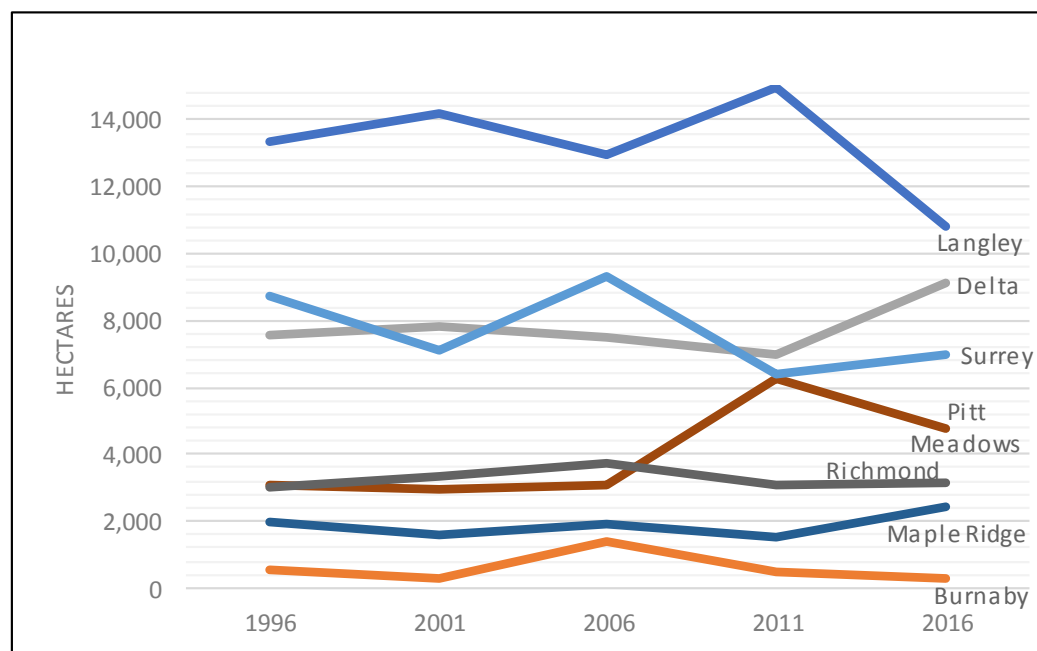
Table 1: Total Farm Area, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Municipality/ Region	Total Farm Area (Hectares)				
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Burnaby	546	292	1,397 ³	501	277
Delta	7,544	7,840	7,520	6,988	9,090
Greater Vancouver A ¹	1,365	2,378	1,102	955	692
Langley	13,372	14,187	12,970	14,978	10,807
Maple Ridge	1,943	1,615	1,923	1,509	2,446
Pitt Meadows	3,077	2,974	3,086	6,275	4,785
Richmond	3,012	3,365	3,730	3,072	3,122
Surrey	8,704	7,084	9,307	6,368	7,007
Vancouver ²	x	x	x	46	154
Metro Vancouver	39,676	39,735	41,035	40,691	38,380
Fraser Valley	54,454	48,670	53,603	63,838	60,853
British Columbia	2,529,060	2,587,118	2,835,458	2,611,382	2,590,210
Canada	68,054,956	67,502,446	67,586,739	64,812,723	64,232,948

1. Greater Vancouver A includes Barnston Island, Port Coquitlam and other municipalities that may have farms

2. Agriculture data specific to Vancouver was not reported prior to the 2011 Census period.

3. The increase in Burnaby in 2006 was due to a temporary lease of City-owned lands for agricultural use.

Figure 1: Total Farm Area by Municipality from 1996 to 2016

Number of Farms

A census farm is defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale. Sales in the past 12 months are not required but there must be the intention to sell agricultural products. In 2016, there were 2,412 farms in Metro Vancouver, a decline of 409 farms since 2011 (Table 2). The number of farms recorded in census has declined by 30% since 1996. The greatest 20 year declines occurred in Greater Vancouver A (Barnston Island and other municipalities), Surrey, Maple Ridge and Langley (Table 3).

Table 2: Total Number of Farms, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Municipality/ Region	Total Farms				
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Burnaby	54	51	54	43	47
Delta	186	196	180	202	185
Greater Vancouver A	140	82	82	86	73
Langley	1,584	1,417	1,292	1,360	1,103
Maple Ridge	331	237	213	231	203
Pitt Meadows	178	132	138	163	133
Richmond	247	182	172	211	189
Surrey	744	557	487	490	439
Vancouver	x	x	x	35	40
Metro Vancouver	3,464	2,854	2,618	2,821	2,412
Fraser Valley	2,977	2,661	2,567	2,743	2,576
British Columbia	21,835	20,290	19,844	19,759	17,528
Canada	276,549	246,923	229,373	205,730	193,492

Table 3: Change in the Number of Farms

Municipality/ Region	5 Yr Change 2011-2016		10 Yr Change 2006-2016		20 Yr Change 1996-2016	
Burnaby	4	9%	-7	-13%	-7	-13%
Delta	-17	-8%	5	3%	-1	-1%
Greater Vancouver A	-13	-15%	-9	-11%	-67	-48%
Langley	-257	-19%	-189	-15%	-481	-30%
Maple Ridge	-28	-12%	-10	-5%	-128	-39%
Pitt Meadows	-30	-18%	-5	-4%	-45	-25%
Richmond	-22	-10%	17	10%	-58	-23%
Surrey	-51	-10%	-48	-10%	-305	-41%
Vancouver	5	14%				
Metro Vancouver	-409	-14%	-206	-8%	-1,052	-30%
Fraser Valley	-167	-6%	9	0%	-401	-13%
British Columbia	-2,231	-11%	-2,316	-12%	-4,307	-20%
Canada	-12,238	-6%	-35,881	-16%	-83,057	-30%

Farm Size

Farm size refers to the total amount of land a farm operator manages, which includes crop land, pasture and land currently not in production (i.e. woodlots). The average size of a Metro Vancouver farm operation in 2016 was 16 ha. The average farm size in municipalities and the region has fluctuated over the years (Table 4). In Metro Vancouver small farms dominate. In 2016, 49% of the farms were less than 4 ha, which has not changed much over the past 10 years. Only 36 farms (1.5% of total farms) were greater than 162 ha (Table 5).

Table 4: Average Farm Size, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Municipality/ Region	Average Farm Size (Hectares)					20 Yr Change 1996-2016
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	
Burnaby	10.1	5.7	25.9	11.7	5.9	-42%
Delta	40.6	40.0	41.8	34.6	49.1	21%
Greater Vancouver A	10.6	29.0	13.4	11.1	9.5	-10%
Langley	8.4	10.0	10.0	11.0	9.8	16%
Maple Ridge	5.9	6.8	9.0	6.5	12.0	105%
Pitt Meadows	17.3	22.5	22.4	38.5	36.0	108%
Richmond	12.2	18.5	21.7	14.6	16.5	35%
Surrey	11.7	12.7	19.1	13.0	16.0	36%
Vancouver	x	x	x	1.3	3.9	x
Metro Vancouver	11.5	13.9	15.7	14.4	15.9	39%
Fraser Valley	18.3	18.3	20.9	23.3	23.6	29%
British Columbia	115.8	127.5	142.9	132.2	147.8	28%
Canada	246.1	273.4	294.7	315.0	332.0	35%

Table 5: Distribution by Farm Size, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Under 4 Ha (10 acres)	% of Total Farms	4 to 28 Ha (10-69 acres)	% of Total Farms	28 to 162 Ha (69-400 acres)	% of Total Farms	Over 162 Ha (400 acres)	% of Total Farms
Burnaby	37	79%	8	17%	2	4%	0	0%
Delta	36	19%	91	49%	47	25%	11	6%
Greater Vancouver A	47	64%	21	29%	5	7%	0	0%
Langley	540	49%	483	44%	75	7%	5	0.5%
Maple Ridge	129	64%	64	32%	7	3%	3	1.5%
Pitt Meadows	48	36%	61	46%	18	14%	6	5%
Richmond	112	59%	51	27%	24	13%	2	1%
Surrey	207	47%	185	42%	38	9%	9	2%
Vancouver	32	80%	7	18%	1	3%	0	0%
Metro Vancouver	1,188	49%	971	40%	217	9%	36	1.5%
Fraser Valley	1,052	41%	1,111	43%	379	15%	34	1%
British Columbia	5,389	31%	4,378	25%	2,729	16%	767	4%

2. Farmers and Employment

Farm Operators

Farm operators are those persons responsible for the management decisions relating to the operation of the farm and can include up to three owners, tenants or hired managers. The average age of the farmer in Metro Vancouver was 56.7 years in 2016, which is 4.5 years higher than the 2001 Census and above the national average of 55 years old (Table 6). In 2016, 65% of farm operators were male and 35% were female. The decrease in farm operators since 2011 was evenly split between males and females on a regional basis, but varied between municipalities (Table 7). In 2016, 39% of the farms in Metro Vancouver had only one operator making the management decisions on the farm and most of these farmers were male (Table 8).

Table 6: Farm Operators by Median Age, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Municipality/ Regions	2001		2006		2011		2016	
	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age
Burnaby	70	49.6	80	52.9	60	56.4	60	55.0
Delta	280	52.0	260	54.6	320	54.5	270	55.5
Greater Vancouver A	125	55.3	120	58.2	130	58.7	110	59.3
Langley	2,120	51.8	1,910	54.2	2,030	56.4	1,620	57.2
Maple Ridge	345	50.8	310	55.2	350	56.7	310	55.2
Pitt Meadows	195	52.0	215	54.1	255	54.7	195	57.4
Richmond	265	54.9	230	55.9	295	56.9	265	57.5
Surrey	795	52.5	725	54.8	745	55.6	645	56.5
Vancouver	x	x	x	x	40	52.5	50	48.1
Metro Vancouver	3,855	52.2	4,195	54.6	4,220	56.1	3,525	56.7
Fraser Valley	3,955	48.8	3,920	50.7	4,235	52.3	3,915	52.9
British Columbia	30,315	51.4	29,870	53.6	29,925	55.7	26,430	56.3
Canada	346,195	49.9	327,060	52.0	293,925	54.0	271,935	55.0

Table 7: Percent of Male and Female Operators on All Farms since 2011

Municipality/ Region	2016 All Farm Operators			Change in percent since 2011		
	Total Operators	% Males	% Females	% Total Operators	% Males	% Females
Burnaby	60	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Delta	270	74%	26%	-16%	-13%	-22%
Greater Vancouver A	110	55%	45%	-15%	-14%	-9%
Langley	1,620	62%	38%	-20%	-20%	-20%
Maple Ridge	310	61%	40%	-11%	-10%	-11%
Pitt Meadows	195	67%	33%	-24%	-26%	-24%
Richmond	265	74%	26%	-10%	-9%	-13%
Surrey	645	70%	30%	-13%	-11%	-19%
Vancouver	50	50%	40%	25%	0%	33%
Metro Vancouver	3,525	65%	35%	-16%	-16%	-17%
Fraser Valley	3,915	68%	32%	-8%	-8%	-7%
British Columbia	26,430	62%	38%	-12%	-13%	-9%
Canada	271,935	71%	29%	-7%	-9%	-3%

Table 8: Change in the Number of One Operator Farms since 2011

Municipality/ Region	2016 Farms with One Operator			Change in percent since 2011		
	Total Operators	% Males	% Females	% Total Operators	% Males	% Females
Burnaby	30	42%	8%	20%	0%	0%
Delta	110	33%	6%	5%	0%	-22%
Greater Vancouver A	40	27%	14%	-11%	0%	-9%
Langley	625	27%	11%	-16%	-19%	-20%
Maple Ridge	100	24%	8%	-20%	-12%	-11%
Pitt Meadows	75	31%	10%	-6%	0%	-24%
Richmond	120	38%	8%	-11%	-9%	-13%
Surrey	250	33%	6%	0%	2%	-19%
Vancouver	30	40%	20%	0%	-20%	33%
Metro Vancouver	1,380	30%	9%	-10%	-10%	-17%
Fraser Valley	1,355	27%	5%	-6%	-9%	-7%
British Columbia	10,065	26%	8%	-11%	-14%	-9%
Canada	122,220	37%	5%	-7%	-10%	-3%

Over the past five years, farm operators in the 35-54 age group declined by 425 operators, more than the 55+ age group, which lost 290 operators since 2011 (Table 9). In the last 15 years, the percent of farm operators in the 55+ age group continued to increase at a steady rate in Metro Vancouver, while the 34-55 age group has declined from 52% to 34% (Table 10). Both these trends are also reflected in the Fraser Valley, BC and Canada census data. Meanwhile, the share of farm operators < 35 years old increased by 1% in the region.

Table 9: Change in the Number of Farm Operators by Age Group since 2011

Municipality/ Region	Age Groups 2016				5 Year Change 2011-2016			
	< 35	35-54	55 Plus	Total Farm Operators	< 35	35-54	55 Plus	Total Farm Operators
Burnaby	5	30	30	60	5	5	0	10
Delta	20	110	145	270	-5	-15	-25	-45
Greater Vancouver A	10	30	70	110	5	-15	-15	-25
Langley	95	540	980	1,620	10	-265	-170	-425
Maple Ridge	15	125	170	310	0	-30	-10	-40
Pitt Meadows	5	65	120	195	-15	-35	-20	-70
Richmond	25	75	170	265	5	-25	-5	-25
Surrey	35	240	365	645	-15	-55	-40	-110
Vancouver	15	20	15	50	5	10	-5	10
Metro Vancouver	225	1,235	2,065	3,525	-5	-425	-290	-720
Fraser Valley	355	1,720	1,840	3,915	-30	-310	15	-325
British Columbia	1,825	9,140	15,460	26,430	205	-2,970	-735	-3,500

Table 10: Percent of Farm Operators by Age Group, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Regions	2001			2006			2011			2016		
	< 35	35-54	55+	< 35	35-54	55+	< 35	35-54	55+	< 35	35-54	55+
Metro Vancouver	7%	52%	41%	5%	47%	48%	5%	39%	56%	6%	35%	59%
Fraser Valley	12%	58%	30%	15%	55%	35%	9%	48%	43%	9%	44%	47%
British Columbia	8%	54%	38%	6%	49%	45%	5%	40%	54%	7%	35%	58%
Canada	12%	54%	35%	9%	50%	41%	8%	44%	48%	9%	36%	55%

Employment

In 2016, 48% of farms in Metro Vancouver provided full-time year round employment while 67% of the farms used paid seasonal or temporary work. The 2016 Census form added a new category - the number of farms with employees that were family members, which was 57% of farms in the region (Table 11).

Table 11: Farms with Paid Work, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Paid work year-round basis (full-time)		Paid work on a year-round basis (part-time)		Paid work on a seasonal or temporary basis		Employees that were family members	
	2016	% of Farms	2016	% of Farms	2016	% of Farms	2016	% of Farms
Burnaby	x	x	6	25%	21	88%	18	75%
Delta	58	56%	36	35%	73	71%	72	70%
Greater Vancouver A	10	45%	3	14%	18	82%	11	50%
Langley	168	47%	139	39%	207	58%	194	55%
Maple Ridge	19	51%	16	43%	20	54%	21	57%
Pitt Meadows	31	50%	18	29%	47	76%	40	65%
Richmond	47	48%	28	29%	72	74%	52	54%
Surrey	79	43%	55	30%	135	73%	104	56%
Vancouver	13	81%	4	25%	8	50%	5	31%
Metro Vancouver	433	48%	305	34%	601	67%	517	57%
Fraser Valley	633	51%	532	43%	739	59%	859	69%
British Columbia	2,073	40%	1,546	30%	3,654	71%	2,972	58%

Most farm operators (52%) do not have a second job, although 600 farm operators (17%) are working off-farm more than 40 hours per week (Table 12). Off-farm paid work is not related to the operation of the farm.

Table 12: Farm Operators with Off-Farm Paid Work, 2016

Municipality/ Region	No paid off-farm work		< 20 hrs per week		20 - 40 hr per week		> 40 hrs per week	
	# farm operators	% of all operators	# farm operators	% of all operators	# farm operators	% of all operators	# farm operators	% of all operators
Burnaby	45	75%	5	8%	15	25%	0	0%
Delta	150	56%	15	6%	55	20%	50	19%
Greater Vancouver A	55	50%	15	14%	25	23%	15	14%
Langley	775	48%	150	9%	395	24%	295	18%
Maple Ridge	140	45%	35	11%	75	24%	60	19%
Pitt Meadows	125	64%	10	5%	30	15%	30	15%
Richmond	170	64%	20	8%	40	15%	35	13%
Surrey	345	53%	55	9%	135	21%	110	17%
Vancouver	20	40%	10	20%	15	30%	5	10%
Metro Vancouver	1,825	52%	315	9%	395	11%	600	17%
Fraser Valley	1,970	50%	310	8%	885	23%	745	19%
British Columbia	3,015	21%	2,290	16%	6,250	44%	4,670	33%

3. Land Tenure and Use

Land Tenure on Farms

Land tenure refers to the amount of land that is owned, leased/rented or crop-shared by the farm operator. In 2016, 93% of the farms owned land and 19% of farms were leasing or renting land. Since 2011, the number of farms owned by farm operators decreased by 363, while leased land decreased by 66 farms. Seven percent of the farm area is used by others, not the landowner (Table 13).

Table 13: Land Tenure by Number of Farms, 2016 and change since 2011

Municipality/ Region	Owned			Leased or Rented from Others ¹			Crop-sharing from Others			Land used by others		
	2016 Farms	% of 2016 Farms	Change since 2011	2016 Farms	% of 2016 Farms	Change since 2011	2016 Farms	% of 2016 Farms	Change since 2011	2016 Farms	% of 2016 Farms	Change since 2011
Burnaby	38	81%	4	14	30%	-1	0	0%	-1	2	4%	1
Delta	163	88%	-6	71	38%	-13	4	2%	-1	32	17%	2
Greater Vancouver A	71	97%	-10	6	8%	-6	0	0%	0	4	5%	-7
Langley	1,055	96%	-231	168	15%	-46	11	1%	4	74	7%	-39
Maple Ridge	197	97%	-27	22	11%	-3	0	0%	0	6	3%	-13
Pitt Meadows	125	94%	-27	28	21%	-6	3	2%	-4	5	4%	-10
Richmond	157	83%	-17	57	30%	2	3	2%	0	12	6%	-2
Surrey	409	93%	-46	81	18%	-2	3	1%	-2	23	5%	-23
Vancouver	20	50%	-3	15	38%	9	1	3%	1	1	3%	-1
Metro Vancouver	2,235	93%	-363	462	19%	-66	25	1%	-3	159	7%	-92
Fraser Valley	2,441	95%	-176	618	24%	-50	41	2%	-3	317	12%	-79
British Columbia	16,751	96%	-2,198	4,462	25%	-423	595	3%	75	1,463	8%	-522

1. Some farms both own and lease/rent land.

The actual farm area owned was 73% of the total hectares in 2016. The leased or rented area was 29% of the total farm area. The lowest percent of farmer owned land was in Delta, Richmond, Surrey and Vancouver (Table 14). Since 2011, the amount of hectares owned decreased by 2,076 ha and the amount hectares leased/rented has decreased by 351 ha, mostly land leased from governments.

Table 14: Land Tenure on Farms by Hectares, 2016 and change since 2011

Municipality/ Region	Owned			Leased from Governments			Rented/Leased from Others			Crop-shared from Others		
	2016 ha	% of 2016 Ha	Change since 2011	2016 ha	% of 2016 Ha	Change since 2011	2016 ha	% of 2016 Ha	Change since 2011	2016 ha	% of 2016 Ha	Change since 2011
Burnaby	263	95%	49	x	x	x	26	9%	2	0	0%	x
Delta	5,584	61%	1,848	353	4%	-251	3,424	38%	542	30	0%	-61
Greater Vancouver A	634	92%	-251	0	0%	x	72	10%	-10	0	0%	0
Langley	8,425	78%	-3,723	169	2%	-212	2,283	21%	-354	80	1%	-35
Maple Ridge	2,154	88%	606	x	x	x	165	7%	-38	0	0%	0
Pitt Meadows	3,995	83%	-1,219	x	x	x	754	x	-132	x	x	x
Richmond	2,056	66%	368	44	1%	150	1,079	35%	123	2	0%	-65
Surrey	4,639	66%	188	320	5%	-32	2,038	29%	-58	7	0%	-23
Vancouver	100	65%	58	x	x	x	27	x	24	x	x	x
Metro Vancouver	27,851	73%	-2,076	1,052	3%	-448	9,867	26%	97	125	0%	-278
Fraser Valley	45,865	75%	-2,299	3,621	6%	-647	12,947	21%	-1,070	419	1%	29
British Columbia	1,356,623	52%	-107,170	872,096	34%	53,056	360,477	14%	37,622	24,839	1%	-2,900

Land Use on Farms

Land use on farms is more than crops and includes pasture, woodlands and other uses. Managed pasture is generally seeded while unmanaged pasture has not been cultivated, seeded, drained, irrigated or fertilized. Other land uses include areas where buildings are located, as well as greenhouse, nursery, sod, or mushroom operations. In 2016, 65% of the land on farms was dedicated to crop production (Table 15), which was an increase of 137 ha since 2011 (Table 16). The greatest change in land use on farms since 2011 was a decrease in the amount of managed pasture (-1,380 ha) and a decline in woodlands and wetlands (-2,060 ha) (Table 16).

Table 15: Land Use on Farms, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Crops		Summerfallow		Pasture (managed)		Pasture (unmanaged)		Woodlands and wetlands ¹		Other Uses	
	Ha	% of Total Ha	Ha	% of Total Ha	Ha	% of Total Ha	Ha	% of Total Ha	Ha	% of Total Ha	Ha	% of Total Ha
Burnaby	243	88%	x	x	x	x	3	1%	2	1%	25	9%
Delta	6,782	75%	x	x	x	x	1,125	12%	134	1%	717	8%
Greater Vancouver A	453	65%	x	x	x	x	56	8%	15	2%	105	15%
Langley	5,723	53%	32	0.3%	647	6%	1,808	17%	836	8%	1,760	16%
Maple Ridge	675	28%	x	x	x	x	1,272	52%	124	5%	280	11%
Pitt Meadows	3,738	78%	x	x	x	x	38	1%	99	2%	869	18%
Richmond	2,393	77%	24	0.8%	92	3%	138	4%	171	5%	304	10%
Surrey	4,856	69%	284	4.1%	153	2%	481	7%	153	2%	1,080	15%
Vancouver	24	16%	x	x	x	x	11	7%	17	11%	100	65%
Metro Vancouver	24,886	65%	438	1.1%	1,333	3%	4,932	13%	1,206	3%	5,240	14%

1. Woodlands and wetlands data includes Christmas trees.

Table 16: Land Use on Farms in Metro Vancouver, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Land Use on Farms	Farm Area (Hectares)					5 Yr Change		10 Yr Change		20 Yr Change	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	Ha	%	Ha	%	Ha	%
Crops	23,485	22,965	24,086	24,749	24,886	137	1%	800	3%	1,401	6%
Summerfallow	386	293	x	45	438	393	873%	x	x	52	13%
Pasture (managed)	2,912	2,672	3,216	2,713	1,333	-1,380	-51%	-1,883	-59%	-1,579	-54%
Pasture (unmanaged)	6,027	6,626	4,910	4,612	4,932	320	7%	22	0%	-1,095	-18%
Woodlands and wetlands ¹	x	x	2,801	3,458	1,550	-1,908	-55%	-1,251	-45%	x	x
Other uses	6,866	7,179	5,713	5,114	5,240	126	2%	-473	-8%	-1,626	-24%
Metro Vancouver Total	39,676	39,735	41,035	40,691	38,379	-2,312	-6%	-2,656	-6%	-1,297	-3%

1. Data was not available for Woodlands and wetlands prior to 2006. This data includes Christmas trees.

4. Crops and Livestock

Crop Production

There are a wide variety of crops produced on farms in Metro Vancouver including hay and field crops (i.e. grass, corn, and grain), vegetables, greenhouse products, nursery products and mushrooms. Since 2011, the number of farms producing vegetables and potatoes increased by 60 and 18 farms respectively. The most significant declines over the past five years were 138 fewer farms producing hay and field crops and 73 fewer nursery and sod farms (Table 17). In 2016, the area in greenhouse production increased for vegetables, but declined in flowers and other products (Table 18). This trend was also evident in the greenhouse area in BC (Table 19). Metro Vancouver has 55% of the greenhouse flowers and 66% of the greenhouse vegetable in BC.

In 2016, the top 10 vegetable crops in hectares were: green peas (383 ha), potatoes (328 ha), green/wax beans (294 ha), squash and zucchini (240 ha), pumpkins (205 ha), carrots (184 ha), lettuce (164 ha), beets (122 ha), sweet corn (116 ha) and Chinese cabbage (90 ha) (Table 20). Blueberries remain the most widely planted crop in Metro Vancouver. The amount of farmland in blueberry production continued to increase in 2016 with an additional 246 ha, but at a slower rate than the previous 15 years. The area in strawberries and raspberries declined, while tree fruits, grapes, other fruits & nuts increased over the past five years (Table 21).

Table 17: Change in the Number of Farms in Crop Production since 2011

Municipality/ Region	Hay & Field Crops		Potatoes		Vegetables		Fruit, Nuts, & Berries		Greenhouse Products		Nursery & Sod		Mushrooms	
	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011	2016	change since 2011
Burnaby	5	-1	5	2	25	0	8	3	19	6	8	5	0	0
Delta	100	-3	23	0	47	2	60	5	20	-3	9	-4	0	0
Greater Vancouver A	14	-10	4	-2	25	6	35	-9	7	-1	4	-5	0	0
Langley	341	-76	15	1	113	30	226	5	74	-24	124	-41	16	-5
Maple Ridge	30	-10	10	5	36	12	37	3	22	1	29	-9	2	1
Pitt Meadows	37	-14	1	-1	7	1	80	0	12	-5	7	-9	0	0
Richmond	29	-7	12	6	54	8	106	-3	32	-2	16	-4	0	-1
Surrey	103	-15	16	5	71	3	154	-11	33	-8	39	-3	2	1
Vancouver	1	-2	2	2	10	-2	5	-2	6	3	2	-3	0	0
Metro Vancouver	656	-138	88	18	388	60	721	1	225	-33	238	-73	20	-4
Fraser Valley	1,208	-89	39	13	244	69	720	1	154	-5	243	-82	14	-2
British Columbia	10,890	-1,851	498	76	2,329	289	4,455	-199	1,146	1,034	874	-302	68	5

Table 18: Greenhouse Production Area in Metro Vancouver, 2011, 2016

Greenhouse Type	2011	2016	5 Year Change	
	square meters	square meters	square meters	%
Greenhouse Flowers	1,034,477	1,022,712	(11,765)	-1%
Greenhouse Vegetables	1,848,391	2,035,110	186,719	10%
Other Greenhouse Products	237,410	182,982	(54,428)	-23%
Greenhouse Total	3,120,278	3,240,804	120,526	4%

Table 19: Greenhouse Production Area in British Columbia, 2011, 2016

Greenhouse Type	2011	2016	5 Year Change	
	square meters	square meters	square meters	%
Greenhouse Flowers	1,903,933	1,855,808	(48,125)	-3%
Greenhouse Vegetables	2,846,371	3,070,555	224,184	8%
Other Greenhouse Products	746,426	423,500	(322,926)	-43%
Greenhouse Total	5,496,730	5,349,863	(146,867)	-3%

Table 20: Vegetable Production Area in Metro Vancouver, 2016

Vegetable Type	Land Area (Hectares)					5 Year Change	10 Year Change	20 Year Change
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2011-2016	2006-2016	1996-2016
Vegetables Total¹	2,639	3,175	3,025	2,451	2,463	12	-562	-176
Green/Wax Beans	444	627	804	482	294	-188	-510	-150
Squash and Zucchini	x	x	116	201	240	39	124	x
Pumpkin	x	x	203	200	205	5	2	xs
Lettuce	271	282	213	178	164	-14	-49	-107
Carrots	182	259	196	172	184	12	-12	2
Green Peas	313	264	267	153	383	230	116	70
Chinese Cabbage	74	96	105	151	90	-61	-15	16
Sweet Corn	366	469	405	143	116	-27	-289	-250
Cabbage	161	197	97	117	85	-32	-12	-76
Rutabagas and turnips	39	44	45	98	56	-42	11	17
Beets	43	49	55	95	122	27	67	79
Spinach	29	58	47	49	36	-13	-11	7
Broccoli	22	73	17	39	15	-24	-2	-7
Shallots and green onions	36	49	35	29	27	-2	-8	-9
Cauliflower	36	43	19	15	19	4	0	-17
Dry onions	134	68	39	5	2	-3	-37	-132
Peppers	13	n/a	18	4	23	19	5	10
Brussel sprouts	7	n/a	0.4	4	4	0	4	-3
Celery	46	20	7	2	4	2	-3	-42
Other vegetables	134	144	229	255	328	73	99	194
Potatoes	2,097	2,085	2,285	2,030	2,123	93	-162	26

1. Vegetable total does not include potatoes.

Table 21: Fruit Production Area in Metro Vancouver, from 1996 to 2016

Fruit Type	Land Area (Ha)					5 Yr Change	10 Yr Change	20 Yr Change
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2011-2016 Ha	2006-2016 Ha	1996-2016 Ha
Blueberries	1,506	1,756	2,734	4,929	5,175	246	2,441	3,669
Cranberries	1,218	1,505	1,503	2,388	2,267 ¹	x	x	x
Strawberries	204	227	208	182	74	-108	-134	-130
Raspberries	318	200	198	181	134	-47	-64	-184
Fruit trees	201	79	74	68	83	15	9	-118
Grapes	11	58	31	x	98	x	67	87
Other fruit & nuts	42	116	53	92	115	23	62	73

1. Total hectares in cranberries represents only portion of the farms because in some municipalities the data was suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

Livestock Production

The number of farms producing different types of livestock in 2016 was comparable to the Fraser Valley with some exceptions. The Fraser Valley has more farms producing cattle and chickens, while Metro Vancouver has more farms in egg production, sheep, horses and bee colonies (Table 22). Over the past 5 years, the number of livestock farms decreased in cattle, other poultry, horses and ponies in Metro Vancouver. These declines were also evident in the Fraser Valley, BC and Canada (Table 23). Pigs, horses and llamas have a long term trend in declining numbers of animals (Table 24).

Table 22: Number of Livestock Farms, 2016

Municipality/ Region	2016 Number of Farms							
	Cattle & Calves ¹	Chicken & Hens ²	Turkey ³	Other Poultry	Egg Production ⁴	Sheep & Lambs	Horses & Ponies	Bee Colonies
Burnaby	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	4
Delta	25	21	1	5	9	5	25	13
Greater Vancouver A	6	17	1	5	10	6	13	11
Langley	230	334	33	81	240	114	298	64
Maple Ridge	31	99	8	22	69	28	46	10
Pitt Meadows	11	11	0	1	12	2	12	14
Richmond	7	16	3	3	11	5	12	11
Surrey	73	80	9	16	60	24	52	32
Vancouver	0	6	0	1	4	3	13	11
Metro Vancouver	384	586	55	134	416	189	471	170
Fraser Valley	651	780	57	130	58	159	334	111
British Columbia	5,126	5,031	530	1,149	3,515	1,693	4,767	1,044

1. Cattle and calves includes calves under 1 year, steers 1 year and over, heifers for slaughter or feeding, heifers for beef herd replacement, heifers for dairy herd replacement, beef cows, dairy cows and bulls 1 year and over.

2. Hens and chickens includes broilers, roasters, Cornish, pullets under 19 weeks intended for laying and laying hens > 19 weeks.

3. Turkey inventories reflect the total number of birds on Census Day and should be used with caution. Poultry inventories will fluctuate if barns were empty on Census Day and had no inventories to report. Users are advised to use the annual production data to reflect changes over time.

4. Egg Production includes table eggs (dozens) and hatching eggs (dozens) from the previous year.

Table 23: Change in the Number of Livestock Farms since 2011

Region	Cattle & Calves	Chicken & Hens	Turkey	Other Poultry	Eggs Production	Sheep & Lambs	Horses & Ponies	Bee Colonies
Metro Vancouver	-95	-2	-9	-299	-17	-2	-231	60
Fraser Valley	-94	82	-8	78	6	-9	-86	41
British Columbia	-664	368	-52	-2,089	277	106	-1,320	415

Table 24: Number of Farm Animals in Metro Vancouver, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Livestock Type	Number of Farm Animals					5 Yr Change 2011-2016		10 Yr Change 2006-2016		20 Yr Change 1996-2016	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cattle & Calves	43,942	31,915	29,433	19,786	21,976	2,190	11%	-7,457	-25%	-21,966	-50%
Sheep & lambs	7,355	6,739	4,699	4,094	4,066	-28	-1%	-633	-13%	-3,289	-45%
Chicken & hens	3,439,091	4,987,882	4,075,048	4,458,587	4,545,630	87,043	2%	470,582	12%	1,106,539	32%
Turkey & other poultry	x	272,503	465,232	373,273	302,310	-70,963	-19%	-162,922	-35%	x	x
Pigs	12,210	4,860	3,832	1,524	583	-941	-62%	-3,249	-85%	-11,627	-95%
Horses & ponies	7,544	7,399	6,237	5,951	4,043	-1,908	-32%	-2,194	-35%	-3,501	-46%
Goats	2,084	1,721	1,234	1,737	1,874	137	8%	640	52%	-210	-10%
Llamas & alpacas	381	720	578	659	422	-237	-36%	-156	-27%	41	11%
Bee colonies	1,039	2,822	4,438	13,902	21,393	7,491	54%	16,955	382%	20,354	1959%

Farm Practices and Marketing

Land Management Practices

In 2016, the number of farms using beneficial land management practices showed a steady increase in all categories except for rotational grazing, which had the highest participation rate at 19% of the total farms (Table 25). The 2016 census no longer collects information on crop rotations, buffer zones around water bodies, and nutrient management plans.

Table 25: Number of Farms Using Land Management Practices, 2011, 2016

Municipality/ Region	In-field winter grazing or feeding			Rotational grazing			Windbreaks or shelterbelts		
	2011	2016	% of 2016 farms	2011	2016	% of 2016 farms	2011	2016	% of 2016 farms
Burnaby	0	1	2%	1	1	2%	1	4	9%
Delta	14	14	8%	22	21	11%	29	22	12%
Greater Vancouver A	13	14	19%	19	10	14%	11	14	19%
Langley	230	252	23%	394	304	28%	151	176	16%
Maple Ridge	43	54	27%	54	50	25%	26	36	18%
Pitt Meadows	10	5	4%	17	6	5%	10	16	12%
Richmond	3	9	5%	8	14	7%	12	18	10%
Surrey	53	51	12%	67	56	13%	55	57	13%
Vancouver	2	3	8%	6	3	8%	4	7	18%
Metro Vancouver	368	403	17%	588	465	19%	299	350	15%
Fraser Valley	302	368	14%	476	406	16%	342	442	17%
British Columbia	4,004	4,172	24%	5,443	4,791	27%	3,858	4,812	27%
Canada	30,260	30,177	16%	51,589	44,538	23%	61,024	70,417	36%
Municipality/ Region	Plowing down green			Winter cover crops					
	2011	2016	% of 2016 farms	2011	2016	% of 2016 farms			
Burnaby	4	6	13%	1	4	9%			
Delta	33	30	16%	39	37	20%			
Greater Vancouver A	8	11	15%	6	9	12%			
Langley	53	55	5%	55	62	6%			
Maple Ridge	8	11	5%	8	10	5%			
Pitt Meadows	9	6	5%	10	14	11%			
Richmond	19	22	12%	17	16	8%			
Surrey	42	38	9%	31	31	7%			
Vancouver	1	6	15%	4	7	18%			
Metro Vancouver	177	185	8%	171	190	8%			
Fraser Valley	270	216	8%	409	427	17%			
British Columbia	1,955	1,451	8%	1,601	1,606	9%			
Canada	22,341	17,727	9%	13,166	20,501	11%			

Irrigation

In 2016, the number of farms using irrigation in Metro Vancouver increased by 11% (184 farms) over the last five years. The 2016 percentage is similar or lower than other regions in BC (Table 26). In 2016, the total hectares of irrigated land increased by 5% (1,241 ha) between 2011 and 2016 (Table 27). This percent is higher than other regions in BC.

Table 26: Number of Farms using Irrigation, 2011, 2016

Municipality/ Regions	2011		2016	
	Number of Farms Irrigating	% of Farms Irrigating	Number of Farms Irrigating	% of Farms Irrigating
Burnaby	16	37%	28	60%
Delta	80	40%	100	54%
Greater Vancouver A	19	22%	24	33%
Langley	216	16%	287	26%
Maple Ridge	27	12%	41	20%
Pitt Meadows	57	35%	59	44%
Richmond	69	33%	88	47%
Surrey	153	31%	191	44%
Vancouver	10	29%	13	33%
Metro Vancouver	647	23%	831	34%
Fraser Valley	844	31%	1,004	39%
Squamish-Lillooet	82	59%	86	62%
Sunshine Coast	23	26%	36	40%
Capital	446	27%	507	34%
Thompson-Nicola	690	59%	655	64%
Okanagan-Similkameen	1,307	87%	1,163	90%
Central Okanagan	854	84%	775	88%
North Okanagan	550	47%	509	49%
British Columbia	7,304	37%	7,523	43%

Table 27: Total Hectares Irrigated, 2011, 2016

Municipality/ Region	2011		2016	
	Total Ha Irrigated	% of Ha Irrigated	Total Ha Irrigated	% of Ha Irrigated
Burnaby	75	15%	80	29%
Delta	2,949	42%	3,343	37%
Greater Vancouver A	89	9%	164	24%
Langley	1,836	12%	1,591	15%
Maple Ridge	45	3%	265	11%
Pitt Meadows	2,486	40%	2,495	52%
Richmond	1,098	36%	1,227	39%
Surrey	2,353	37%	2,979	43%
Vancouver	16	35%	44	29%
Metro Vancouver	10,947	27%	12,188	32%
Fraser Valley	11,277	18%	14,093	23%
Squamish-Lillooet	1,951	9%	1,473	19%
Sunshine Coast	26	4%	25	5%
Capital	1,410	10%	1,488	11%
Thompson-Nicola	21,720	5%	23,312	4%
Okanagan-Similkameen	8,859	11%	9,911	12%
Central Okanagan	5,159	16%	5,621	24%
North Okanagan	8,960	11%	8,762	11%
British Columbia	111,139	4%	114,064	4%

Manure Use on Farms

While there was a significant decline in the number of farm using manure, the total farm hectares in Metro Vancouver increased by 34% from 2011 to 2016 (Table 28).

Table 28: Total Farms using Manure, 2011, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Total Number of Farms using Manure ¹			Total Farm Hectares using Manure		
	2011	2016	% change since 2011	2011	2016	% change since 2011
Burnaby	10	12	20%	17	52	206%
Delta	85	61	-28%	1,707	2,660	56%
Greater Vancouver A	42	26	-38%	133	126	-5%
Langley	847	373	-56%	2,882	3,157	10%
Maple Ridge	135	69	-49%	194	386	99%
Pitt Meadows	52	30	-42%	516	511	-1%
Richmond	54	34	-37%	361	282	-22%
Surrey	228	119	-48%	1,857	2,923	57%
Vancouver	16	4	-75%	2	2	0%
Metro Vancouver	1,469	728	-50%	7,808	10,431	34%
Fraser Valley	1,640	1,050	-36%	25,918	33,130	28%
British Columbia	11,102	5,616	-49%	79,353	94,245	19%

1. Includes all types of manure: solid, liquid or composted.

Direct Marketing

Farms that sell directly to consumers for human consumption (and not for resale) is captured in direct marketing. In 2016, overall 32% of the farms in Metro Vancouver conduct some type of direct marketing, a similar percentage to British Columbia total, but less than other regional districts. Farm gate sales, stands and U-picks are the most popular form of direct marketing (Table 29).

Table 29: Number of Farms Direct Marketing, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Total Farms in 2016	% of Total Farms Direct Marketing	Farms with value- added products sold		Farms using farm gate sales, stands, U pick		Farms using farmers' markets		Farms using community supported agriculture	
			# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms
Burnaby	47	19%	x	0%	5	11%	3	6%	0	0%
Delta	185	18%	3	2%	28	15%	5	3%	6	3%
Greater Vancouver A	73	52%	4	5%	33	45%	14	19%	2	3%
Langley	1,103	31%	26	2%	327	30%	39	4%	5	0%
Maple Ridge	203	50%	3	1%	95	47%	11	5%	1	0%
Pitt Meadows	133	27%	2	2%	34	26%	4	3%	1	1%
Richmond	189	37%	3	2%	60	32%	11	6%	4	2%
Surrey	439	27%	9	2%	104	24%	16	4%	6	1%
Vancouver	40	45%	2	5%	13	33%	6	15%	6	15%
Metro Vancouver	2,412	32%	52	2%	699	29%	109	5%	31	1%
Fraser Valley	2,576	23%	46	2%	524	20%	114	4%	29	1%
Squamish-Lillooet	138	40%	6	4%	43	31%	22	16%	10	7%
Capital Region	1,003	61%	84	8%	561	56%	132	13%	43	4%
Thompson-Nichola	1,017	34%	27	3%	297	29%	62	6%	17	1%
Central Okanagan	879	37%	30	3%	307	35%	66	8%	10	1%
Okanagan-Similkameen	1,296	28%	48	4%	312	24%	102	8%	54	1%
British Columbia	17,528	32%	592	3%	5,047	29%	1,244	7%	249	1%

Organic products

Farms that sell organic products manage their farms according to a set of organic production principles. In 2016, there were 87 farms selling organic products in Metro Vancouver, which is 4% of the total farms in the region, a lower percent than other regional districts and the province (Table 30). In 2016, there were more farms selling organic products that were not certified than certified in Metro Vancouver (Table 31). The types of organic crops are no longer reported in the census data as of 2016.

Table 30: Number of Farms with Organic Products for Sale, 2011, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Total Farms with Organic Products		% of Total Farms with Organic Products	
	2011	2016	2011	2016
Burnaby	2	4	5%	9%
Delta	13	15	6%	8%
Greater Vancouver A	1	1	1%	1%
Langley	37	31	3%	3%
Maple Ridge	8	7	3%	3%
Pitt Meadows	7	9	4%	7%
Richmond	2	4	1%	2%
Surrey	17	11	3%	3%
Vancouver	1	5	3%	13%
Metro Vancouver	88	87	3%	4%
Fraser Valley	148	164	5%	6%
Capital	105	80	10%	8%
Okanagan-Similkameen	267	218	18%	17%
Squamish-Lillooet	35	36	25%	26%
Thompson-Okanagan	511	456	9%	10%
British Columbia	1,149	1,112	6%	6%

Table 31: Categories of Organic Products for Sale, 2016

Municipality/ Region	Categories of Organic Products			
	Not certified	Certified	Transitional	2016 Total
Burnaby	2	2	-	4
Delta	8	6	1	15
Greater Vancouver A	-	-	1	1
Langley	16	13	2	31
Maple Ridge	5	2	-	7
Pitt Meadows	4	3	2	9
Richmond	2	2	-	4
Surrey	6	5	-	11
Vancouver	3	2	-	5
Metro Vancouver	46	35	6	87
Fraser Valley	78	67	19	164
Capital	40	26	14	80
Okanagan-Similkameen	111	99	8	218
Squamish-Lillooet	19	15	2	36
Thompson-Okanagan	222	190	44	456
British Columbia	550	449	113	1,112

5. Financial Measures

Gross Annual Farm Receipts

Financial data on agriculture is collected for the year prior to the census year so that it encompasses a full calendar year. Over the past five years, there was a 21% increase in gross annual farm receipts in Metro Vancouver, which was 10% lower than the Fraser Valley and 6% lower than BC data (Table 32). The high proportion of small farms in Metro Vancouver is reflected in the number of farms with gross annual farm receipts that are less than \$10,000. In 2015, 43% of the farms reported earning less than \$10,000 in the region, which was a decrease from the 2010 figure of 49%. In 2016, 299 farms (12% of total farms) reported earning over \$500,000 (Table 33).

Table 32: Gross Annual Farm Receipts, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015

Municipality/ Region	Gross Annual Farm Receipts (\$)				5 Yr Change	10 Yr Change	15 Yr Change
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2010-2015	2005-2015	1996-2015
Burnaby	14,949,181	9,589,684	11,578,104	12,937,561	12%	35%	-13%
Delta	160,841,471	190,315,672	169,506,910	223,516,003	32%	17%	39%
Greater Vancouver A	10,073,081	13,593,801	10,159,557	12,537,483	23%	-8%	24%
Langley	203,399,307	228,440,789	277,347,292	340,111,011	23%	49%	67%
Maple Ridge	39,180,041	34,546,984	10,183,840	18,616,019	83%	-46%	-52%
Pitt Meadows	50,592,345	58,214,426	83,597,741	81,308,215	-3%	40%	61%
Richmond	37,646,150	40,512,112	48,607,644	57,841,958	19%	43%	54%
Surrey	181,371,891	153,390,637	167,171,249	196,632,472	18%	28%	8%
Vancouver	x	x	11,341,393	11,075,259	-2%	x	x
Metro Vancouver	698,053,467	728,604,105	789,493,730	954,575,981	21%	31%	37%
Fraser Valley	735,859,984	921,425,274	1,119,984,565	1,468,505,390	31%	59%	174%
British Columbia	2,307,697,089	2,651,963,167	2,935,906,056	3,729,364,086	27%	41%	103%
Canada	38,298,728,817	42,191,981,171	51,061,935,759	69,367,544,142	36%	64%	115%

Table 33: Distribution of Gross Annual Farm Receipts, 2015

Municipality/ Region	Under \$10,000		\$10,000 - \$99,999		\$100,000 - \$499,999		\$500,000 and over	
	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms
Burnaby	10	21%	18	38%	11	23%	8	17%
Delta	36	19%	52	28%	52	28%	45	24%
Greater Vancouver A	44	60%	18	25%	4	5%	7	10%
Langley	546	50%	313	28%	138	13%	106	10%
Maple Ridge	138	68%	37	18%	15	7%	13	6%
Pitt Meadows	30	23%	50	38%	28	21%	25	19%
Richmond	61	32%	57	30%	42	22%	29	15%
Surrey	154	35%	134	31%	88	20%	63	14%
Vancouver	9	23%	15	38%	13	33%	3	8%
Metro Vancouver	1,028	43%	694	29%	391	16%	299	12%

In 2015, there were 42 more farms reporting earnings in the \$100,000-\$499,999 category than in 2010, while the number of farms reported earnings over \$500,000 declined by 2 farms (Table 34). The ratio of gross farm receipts to total farm area revealed that the Metro Vancouver region has the highest dollar per ha earnings at \$24,872/ha, just slightly higher than the Fraser Valley at \$24,132/ha (Table 35).

Table 34: Change in Distribution of Gross Annual Farm Receipts since 2010

Municipality/ Region	Under \$10,000		\$10,000 - \$99,999		\$100,000 - \$499,999		\$500,000 and over	
	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms	# of farms	% of total farms
Burnaby	1	11%	3	33%	-1	-11%	1	11%
Delta	-14	-28%	-12	-24%	6	12%	3	6%
Greater Vancouver A	-10	-19%	-3	-6%	-1	-2%	1	2%
Langley	-209	-28%	-49	-6%	6	1%	-5	-1%
Maple Ridge	-24	-15%	-10	-6%	-2	-1%	8	5%
Pitt Meadows	-22	-42%	-4	-8%	-2	-4%	-2	-4%
Richmond	-10	-14%	-15	-21%	4	6%	-1	-1%
Surrey	-63	-29%	-3	-1%	21	10%	-6	-3%
Vancouver	-8	-47%	3	18%	11	65%	-1	-6%
Metro Vancouver	-359	-26%	-90	-6%	42	3%	-2	-0.1%

Table 35: Comparison of Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare, 2015

Municipality/ Region	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	Total Farm Area (Ha)	Receipts per Hectare
Burnaby	12,937,561	277	\$46,706
Delta	223,516,003	9,090	\$24,589
Greater Vancouver A	12,537,483	692	\$18,118
Langley	340,111,011	10,807	\$31,471
Maple Ridge	18,616,019	2,446	\$7,611
Pitt Meadows	81,308,215	4,785	\$16,992
Richmond	57,841,958	3,122	\$18,527
Surrey	196,632,472	7,007	\$28,062
Vancouver	11,075,259	154	\$71,917
Metro Vancouver	954,575,981	38,380	\$24,872
Fraser Valley	1,468,505,390	60,853	\$24,132
Capital	64,588,697	13,265	\$4,869
Okanagan-Similkameen	159,195,593	81,438	\$1,955
Squamish-Lillooet	10,308,917	7,674	\$1,343
Thompson-Okanagan	136,841,713	548,233	\$250
British Columbia	3,729,364,086	2,590,210	\$1,440
Canada	69,367,544,142	64,232,948	\$1,080

Farm Operating Expenses

Farm operating expenses are any costs associated with producing crops or livestock, except the purchase of land, buildings or equipment. It includes the cost of seed, feed, fuel, fertilizers, etc., but does not include depreciation or capital cost allowance. Over the past 5 years, the average farm operating expenses increased by 18% in Metro Vancouver. The only exception was in Pitt Meadows which showed a decline in expenses (Table 36).

In 2016, all the detailed expenses were removed from the census form.

The ratio of expenses to receipts is an indicator of profitability. For example: a ratio of 0.88 means for every 88 cents spent on expenses; a dollar was received in receipts. In 2015 there was an improvement in the average ratio of operating expenses to gross farm receipts in Metro Vancouver (Table 37). The lower the ratio means more profits.

Table 36: Change in Farm Operating Expenses since 2010

Municipality/ Region	Annual Farm Operating Expenses (\$)		5 Year Change (2010-2015)
	2010	2015	
Burnaby	9,819,691	10,820,131	10%
Delta	145,732,759	198,478,666	36%
Greater Vancouver A	9,298,889	10,691,735	15%
Langley	251,586,818	292,468,089	16%
Maple Ridge	11,201,021	16,759,607	50%
Pitt Meadows	77,348,844	68,126,690	-12%
Richmond	41,599,095	48,634,439	17%
Surrey	142,441,732	168,044,585	18%
Vancouver	9,506,524	9,459,236	-0.5%
Metro Vancouver	698,535,373	823,483,178	18%
Fraser Valley	950,128,254	1,222,076,351	29%
British Columbia	2,620,714,990	3,159,719,355	21%
Canada	42,191,084,542	57,459,558,415	36%

Table 37: Ratio of Expenses to Receipts, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015

Municipality/ Region	Ratio of Expense/Receipts				
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Burnaby	0.94	0.93	0.87	0.85	0.84
Delta	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.89
Greater Vancouver A	0.95	1.14	0.95	0.92	0.85
Langley	0.88	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.86
Maple Ridge	0.86	0.84	0.88	1.10	0.90
Pitt Meadows	0.85	0.86	0.92	0.93	0.84
Richmond	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.86	0.84
Surrey	0.94	0.82	0.88	0.85	0.85
Vancouver	x	x	x	0.84	0.85
Metro Vancouver	0.88	0.87	0.89	0.88	0.86
Fraser Valley	0.87	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.83
British Columbia	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.89	0.85
Canada	0.83	0.87	0.86	0.83	0.83

Farm Capital

Farm capital includes the value of all farmland, buildings, farm machinery and equipment (including passenger vehicles used in the farm business), and livestock and poultry. Respondents report the value of their land, buildings, farm machinery and equipment as of Census Day. Values for livestock and poultry inventories reported in the census are calculated using data on average farm prices for the various types of livestock and poultry. Farm capital does not include the value of crops in the field or in storage, or farm inputs on hand, such as fertilizer and seed.

The total farm capital increased by 8% over the past five years and 61% since 2005 (Table 38). As elsewhere, most of the total farm capital in Metro Vancouver is in the value of the land and buildings. In 2015, the percent of farmer-owned land and buildings in the region was 75% of total farm capital. This is higher than the BC (73%) and Canadian average (61%) and similar to the previous census data (Table 39).

Table 38: Total Farm Capital, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015

Municipality/ Region	Total Farm Capital (\$)				5 Yr Change 2010-2015	10 Yr Change 2005-2015
	2000	2005	2010	2015		
Burnaby	32,904,358	57,346,196	86,589,512	\$76,523,015	-12%	33%
Delta	551,565,667	876,157,405	1,253,876,159	\$1,355,073,314	8%	55%
Greater Vancouver A	81,890,432	115,367,094	146,155,862	\$150,702,192	3%	31%
Langley	1,244,825,447	1,919,266,478	2,711,318,664	\$2,935,976,834	8%	53%
Maple Ridge	170,969,501	268,109,450	266,208,086	\$384,501,439	44%	43%
Pitt Meadows	233,372,454	436,743,719	929,223,467	\$714,132,614	-23%	64%
Richmond	344,468,146	429,591,022	795,975,797	\$914,704,067	15%	113%
Surrey	655,035,591	1,083,076,189	1,411,555,787	\$1,720,479,595	22%	59%
Vancouver	x	x	93,819,674	\$76,292,852	x	x
Metro Vancouver	3,315,031,596	5,185,657,553	7,694,723,008	\$8,328,385,922	8%	61%
Fraser Valley	3,005,136,751	5,582,816,220	7,490,504,472	\$8,721,165,323	16%	56%
British Columbia	15,831,578,331	24,904,712,511	34,701,682,716	\$37,518,893,336	8%	51%
Canada	196,868,929,481	248,317,591,506	330,751,085,312	\$509,664,649,639	54%	105%

Table 39: Total Farm Capital by Input, 2015

Municipality/ Region	% of value in farm machinery and equipment	% of value in livestock and poultry	% of value land & buildings owned	% of value land & buildings rented, or leased
Burnaby	4%	0%	82%	14%
Delta	4%	1%	59%	36%
Greater Vancouver A	3%	1%	93%	3%
Langley	3%	1%	80%	15%
Maple Ridge	3%	2%	81%	14%
Pitt Meadows	4%	1%	79%	16%
Richmond	3%	0%	70%	27%
Surrey	4%	1%	76%	19%
Vancouver	1%	2%	71%	26%
Metro Vancouver	4%	1%	75%	20%
Fraser Valley	5%	3%	73%	19%
British Columbia	5%	4%	71%	20%

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All data used in this bulletin was sourced from Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 Census of Agriculture.