

Fraser Valley Regional District **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Corporate Name | Fraser Valley Regional District |
| Date of Incorporation | December 12, 1995 ¹ |
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For additional information visit the Fraser Valley Regional District's website.

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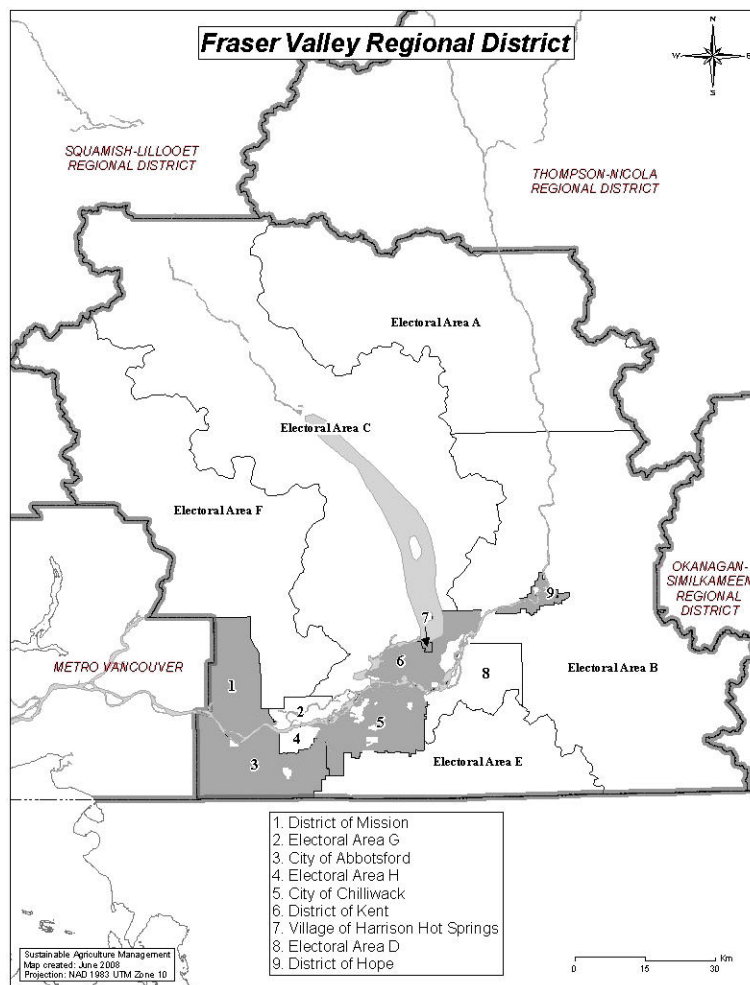


¹ The FVRD was formed through the amalgamation of portions of the Dewdney-Alouette Reg. Dist. (Incorp. Oct. 27, 1967), Central Fraser Valley Reg. Dist. (Incorp. Nov. 30, 1965) and all of the Reg. Dist. of Fraser Cheam (Incorp. Sept. 29, 1967).

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- **Member Municipalities**
 - City of Abbotsford
 - City of Chilliwack
 - Village of Harrison Hot Springs
 - District of Hope
 - District of Kent
 - District of Mission

- **Electoral Areas**
 - “A” – Boston Bar / North Bend / Canyon Alpine
 - “B” – Yale/Dogwood Valley / Choate / Sunshine Valley / Laidlaw
 - “C” – Hemlock Valley / Harrison Mills / Lake Errock
 - “D” – Popkum / Bridal Falls
 - “E” – Columbia Valley / Chilliwack River Valley / Lindell Beach / Cultus Lake
 - “F” – McConnell Creek / Hatzic Prairie
 - “G” – Nicomen Island / Deroche / Dewdney / Hatzic Island
 - “H” – Sumas Mountain



Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

• Changes to Regional District Boundaries in the Lower Mainland

Within this report some of the data spans the period between 1986 and 2001. The jurisdictional make-up of what today is the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) (now Metro Vancouver) has changed since 1986 when there were four regional districts in the Lower Mainland. Through a series of adjustments, the four regional districts created in 1967 were re-organized. Through the dissolving of three regional districts, the Lower Mainland was re-constituted into the two regional districts we know today. The following steps led to the current jurisdictional alignment:

- On December 1, 1988, the City and Township of Langley joined the GVRD from the Central Fraser Valley Regional District (CFVRD).
- On December 12, 1995, the Districts of Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge and a portion of the former Dewdney-Alouette Regional District (DARD) Electoral Area 'A' (Pitt Polder) also joined the GVRD.
- Also on December 12, 1995, the Fraser Valley Regional District was created, including all of the former Regional District of Fraser Cheam, the remaining area of the former CFVRD (Abbotsford and Electoral Area A - Sumas Mountain) and the remaining areas of the former DARD (Mission and Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, & E).

The boundary changes necessary for the creation of the FVRD have created statistical challenges. The Census of Agriculture data that pre-dates 1996 was applied to geographic areas that do not exist today. By extracting data from individual municipalities and placing that data into the appropriate regional district (GVRD or FVRD), every effort has been made throughout the Overview to alter the figures to reflect, as closely as possible, the current boundaries of the FVRD.

4 - 3 = 2



The Fraser Valley ca 1922

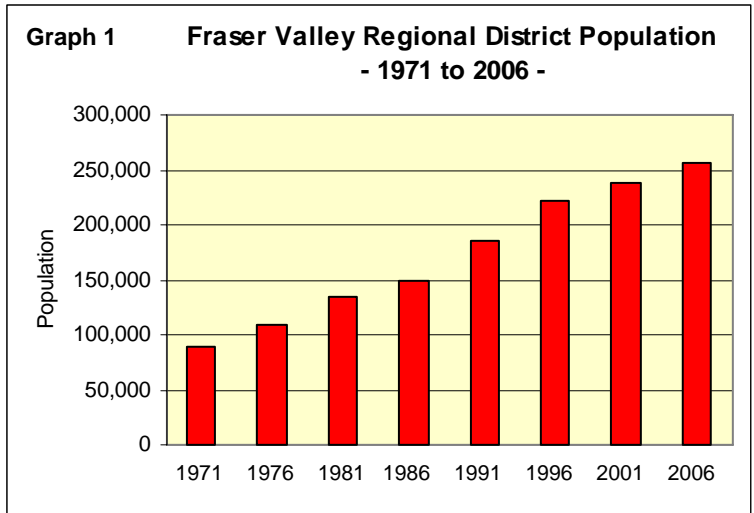
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Fraser Valley Regional District AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Population - 1971 to 2006¹

| | | |
|------|---|---------|
| 1971 | = | 88,576 |
| 1976 | = | 108,547 |
| 1981 | = | 135,235 |
| 1986 | = | 149,767 |
| 1991 | = | 186,163 |
| 1996 | = | 222,397 |
| 2001 | = | 237,550 |
| 2006 | = | 257,031 |

The Fraser Valley Regional District accounted for about 6.3% of BC's population in 2006.



There were 2,567 farms reported in the FVRD in 2006. The Regional District's farm population is estimated to be 7,701 persons or 3% of FVRD's total 2006 population (based on the BC average of 3 persons per farm).

A similar calculation provincially sets the farm population at approximately 1.5% of B.C.'s total 2006 population.

- **Population Increase 1971 to 2006** = 168,455
= 4,813 persons / year on average
- **2006 Population within:**
 - Municipal Jurisdictions = 240,082 (93%)
 - Electoral Areas = 10,650 (4%)
 - Indian Reserves = 6,299 (3%)
- **2006 Urban / Rural Split**
 - Urban = 208,494 (81%)
 - Rural = 48,537 (19%)

• Jurisdictional Area = 1,393,370 hectares²

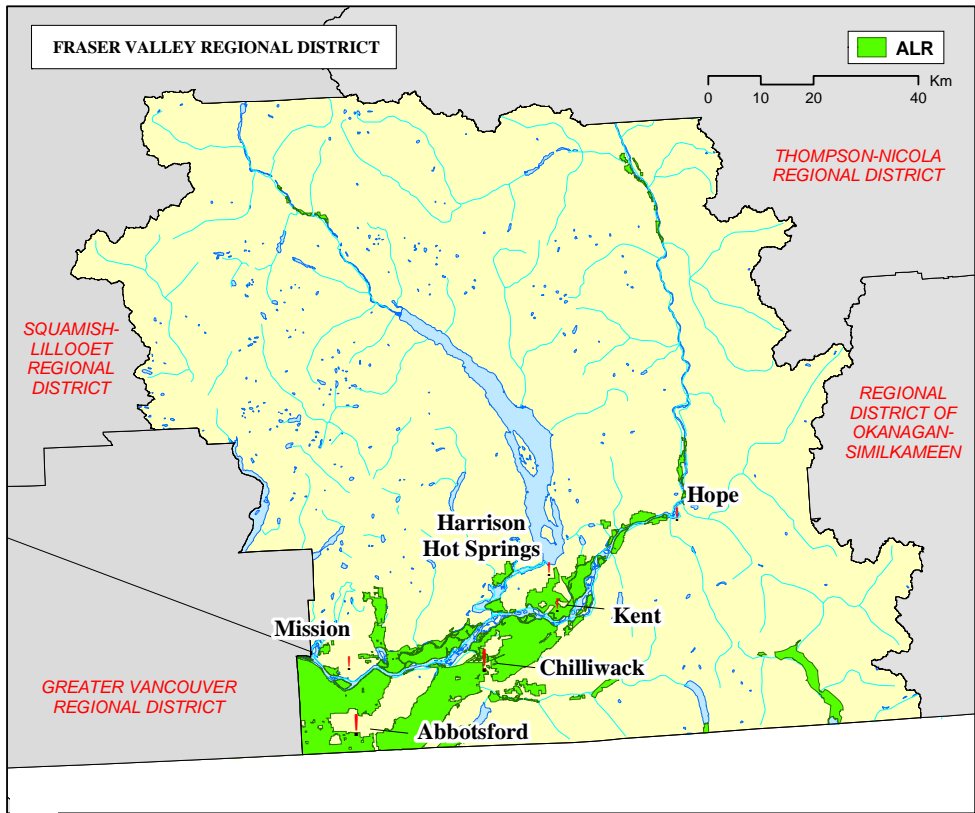
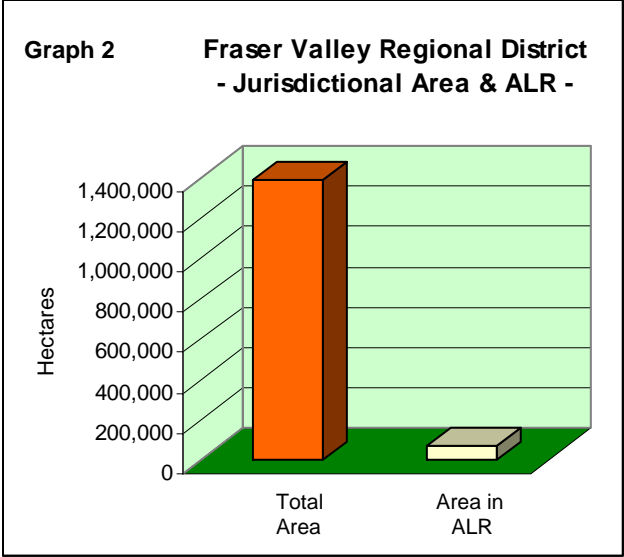
¹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs, "Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia" - 1990 & 1998 and Statistics Canada, Ottawa - <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html>

² Ministry of Community Services, Statistics Relating to Regional & Municipal Governments in B.C. for 2007 at: http://www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/statistics_index.htm

- **Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

= 71,883 hectares³

Those portions of the ALR in the Fraser Valley Regional District that were part of the former Central Fraser Valley and Dewdney-Alouette Regional Districts were designated on April 24, 1974, and that portion in the former Regional District of Fraser Cheam was designated on August 26, 1974.



The ALR accounts for about 5% of the Fraser Valley Regional District, with most of the Reserve located in the southern portion of the Regional District.

The FVRD contains nearly 55% of the highly productive ALR lands of the Lower Mainland.

³ Source: Agricultural Land Commission - ALR as of January 2008.

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• Total Area Farmed

| | | |
|------|---|------------|
| 1986 | = | 51,128 ha. |
| 1991 | = | 46,574 ha. |
| 1996 | = | 54,454 ha. |
| 2001 | = | 48,670 ha. |
| 2006 | = | 56,603 ha. |



• Number of Farms⁴ Reporting

| | | |
|------|---|-------|
| 1986 | = | 2,639 |
| 1991 | = | 2,711 |
| 1996 | = | 2,977 |
| 2001 | = | 2,661 |
| 2006 | = | 2,567 |

- Average Farm Size

| | 1986 (Hectares) | 1991 (Hectares) | 1996 (Hectares) | 2001 (Hectares) | 2006 (Hectares) |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fraser Valley Regional District | 19.4 | 17.2 | 18.3 | 18.3 | 22.1 |
| Lower Mainland | 15.9 | 15.6 | 14.6 | 16.0 | 18.8 |
| British Columbia | 126.5 | 124.4 | 115.8 | 127.5 | 142.9 |

- Farm Size⁵

| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Farms | Percent | Farms | Percent | Farms | Percent | Farms | Percent |
| <4 ha. (10 acres) | 878 | 32% | 1,084 | 36% | 861 | 32% | 868 | 34% |
| 4 to 52 ha. (10 to 129 acres) | 1,618 | 60% | 1,693 | 57% | 1,566 | 59% | 1,453 | 57% |
| 52 to 161 ha. (130 to 399 acres) | 200 | 7% | 180 | 6% | 209 | 8% | 208 | 8% |
| <u>>161 ha. (400 acres & greater)</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>1%</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>1%</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>1%</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>1%</u> |
| Total | 2,711 | 100% | 2,977 | 100% | 2,661 | 100% | 2,567 | 100% |

⁴ Over time, the census definition of “farm” or “farm operation” has changed. An explanation of these changes can be found at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/95-629-XIE/2007000/terms.htm#farm>. In **2006**, an “agricultural operation” was defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale or the intention of sale in the past 12 months. For a complete definition of agricultural operation and agricultural products, see: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/glossary.htm#gt3>

⁵ Due to adjustments in the jurisdictional area of the Fraser Valley Regional District, information is not presented in a manner that allows for a breakdown of data related to farm size for the 1986 census year.

• **Tenure⁶**

| | <u>1991</u> | | <u>1996</u> | | <u>2001</u> | | <u>2006</u> | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> |
| Farmland Owned | 34,790 | 75% | 41,817 | 77% | 36,514 | 75% | 41,287 | 68% |
| <u>Farmland Leased, etc.</u> | <u>11,784</u> | <u>25%</u> | <u>12,637</u> | <u>23%</u> | <u>12,156</u> | <u>25%</u> | <u>19,093</u> | <u>32%</u> |
| Total | 46,574 | 100% | 54,454 | 100% | 48,670 | 100% | 60,380 | 100% |

In 2006, provincially, 55.4% of farmland was owned.

- **Farmland Leased/Rented**

| | <u>1991</u> | | <u>1996</u> | | <u>2001</u> | | <u>2006</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>% of Total</u> |
| From governments | x ⁷ | na ⁸ | 1,719 | 14% | x | na | 5,312 | 28% |
| From other | x | na | 10,918 | 86% | 10,395 | 86% | 12,409 | 65% |
| Crop shared from others | na | na | na | na | x | na | 427 | 2% |
| <u>Through other arrangements</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>945</u> | <u>5%</u> |
| Total | 11,784 | 100% | 12,673 | 100% | 12,156 | 100% | 19,093 | 100% |



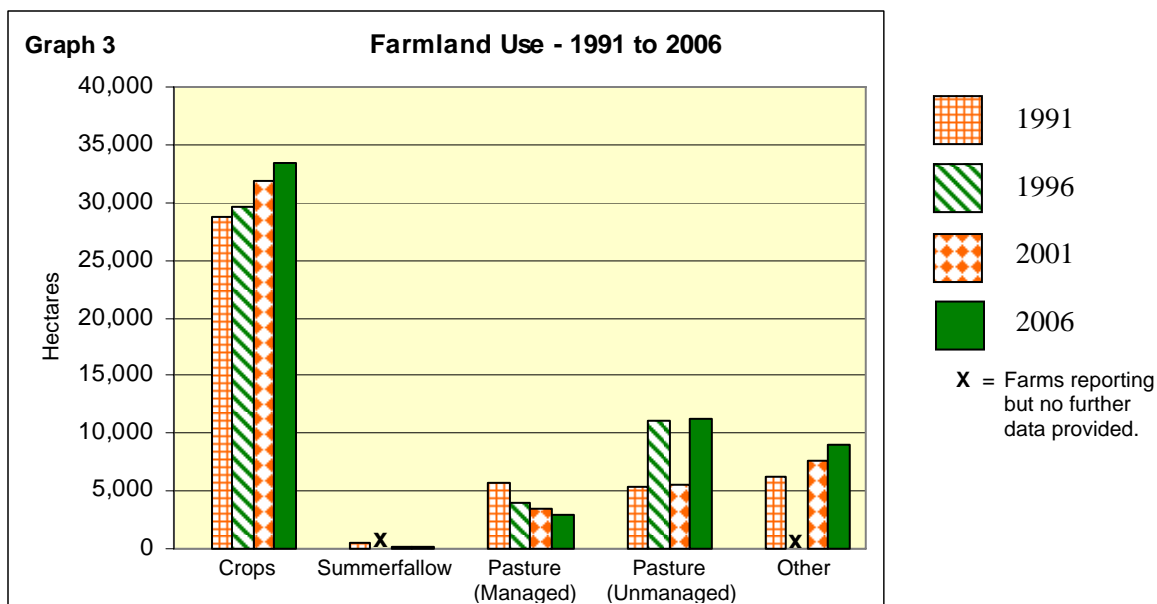
⁶ Note: Figures related to tenure for 2006 are not comparable to previous Census data due to a significant revision to the questionnaire and reformatting of the data by Statistics Canada. For this reason, the total area farmed in 2006 (p. 6) is not the same as the total in the Tenure table.

⁷ Throughout the report, ‘x’ indicates that farms are reporting but further information is not provided for reasons of confidentiality.

⁸ “na” indicates that data was not available for the year and category in question.

• **Hectares of Farmland in:**⁹

| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares |
| Crops | 1,859 | 28,764 | 1,937 | 29,593 | 1,866 | 31,799 | 1,796 | 33,394 |
| Summerfallow | 124 | 492 | 57 | x | 65 | 202 | 17 | 94 |
| Pasture (managed) | 820 | 5,703 | 649 | 3,987 | 516 | 3,469 | 429 | 2,925 |
| Pasture (unmanaged) ¹⁰ | 737 | 5,330 | 998 | 11,054 | 835 | 5,518 | 790 | 11,233 |
| Other ¹¹ | <u>2,091</u> | <u>6,285</u> | <u>2,305</u> | <u>x</u> | <u>1,946</u> | <u>7,682</u> | <u>1,912</u> | <u>8,957</u> |
| Total ¹² | na | 46,574 | na | 54,454 | na | 48,670 | na | 56,603 |



Land to Grow

Located in the Lower Mainland, the highly productive farmland of the Fraser Valley Regional District is within the largest and fastest growing population centre in B.C. To help meet the rising demand for food there has been an almost 22% increase in the amount of land being farmed within the Region over the 15 years between 1991 and 2006. If this trend continues, by 2021 over 12,000 additional hectares will come into production, equating to a total of nearly 69,000 hectares being farmed and accounting for almost all the land currently in the ALR (71,885 ha.) within the Fraser Valley Regional District.

⁹ Figures for 1986 are not available.

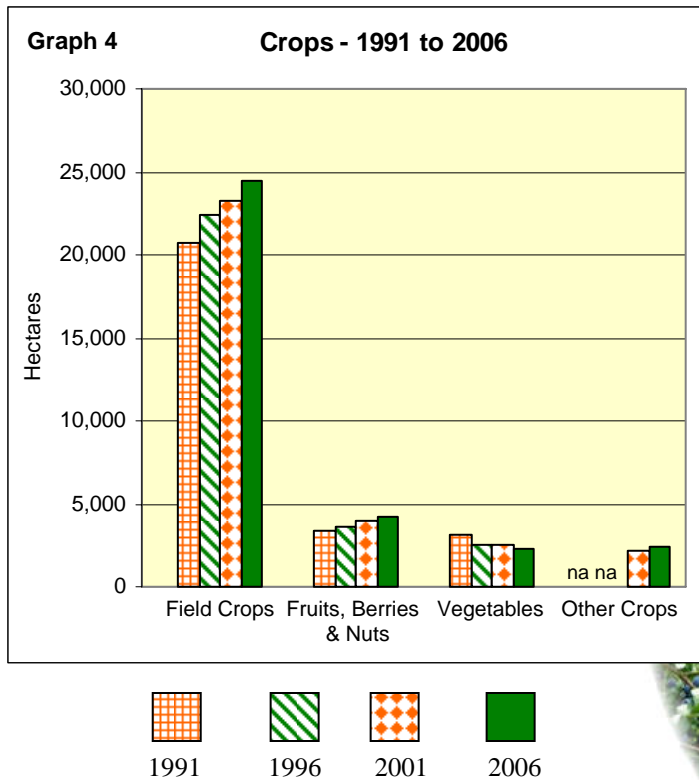
¹⁰ In both 1996 and 2006, 'Unmanaged Pasture' in the Fraser Valley Regional District had significant increases. It is possible that the majority of these increases were due to the manner in which Statistics Canada reports on farm areas associated with the Headquarters Rule. Because agricultural operations are often composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations, the "headquarters rule" assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the area where the farm headquarters is located.

¹¹ "Other" includes 'Other Unimproved Land', 'Other Improved Land' and 'Woodland'.

¹² Note: A total for the number of farms in each year is not provided to avoid double counting of mixed farms.

• **Crops** (hectares)

| | <u>1991</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Field Crops ¹³ | 20,746+ ¹⁴ | 22,427+ | 23,214 | 24,410 |
| Tree Fruits | 338 | 418 | na | na |
| Berries & Grapes | 3,080 | 3,146 | na | na |
| Fruits, Berries & Nuts ¹⁵ | na | na | 3,942 | 4,219 |
| Vegetables | 3,090 | 2,477 | 2,501 | 2,311 |
| <u>Other</u> ¹⁶ | <u>na</u> | <u>na</u> | <u>2,142</u> | <u>2,454</u> |
| Total | 28,764 | 29,593 | 31,799 | 33,394 |



¹³ Note: In the case of hectares in Field Crops, a total was not provided. In some cases, individual field crop area figures were not provided for reasons of confidentiality. As a result, the figures provided equal only the sum of those individual field crops in which Statistics Canada provides an area figure.

¹⁴ Note: the periodic use of the “**plus sign (+)**” indicates that a portion of the hectares of crops or numbers of livestock is not provided for reasons of confidentiality *within only a portion* of the current FVRD. As a result, the figure given will be lower than the full amount included in the FVRD in the year indicated.

¹⁵ In 1991 and 1996, data was split between ‘Tree Fruits’ and ‘Berries & Grapes’. In 2001 and 2006, this data was grouped as Fruits, Berries & Nuts resulting in no data being available (na) in this category in 1991 and 1996.

¹⁶ “Other” Crops also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

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| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares |
| • Field Crops¹⁷ | na | 20,746+ | na | 22,427+ | na | 23,214 | na | 24,410 |
| Wheat | 11 | 207+ | 12 | 191 | 20 | x | 28 | 308 |
| Oats | 44 | 276+ | 15 | 57 | 7 | x | 2 | x |
| Barley | 24 | 137+ | 15 | x | 5 | x | 5 | x |
| Mixed Grains | 4 | x | 0 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 4 | x |
| Corn for Grain | 7 | 31+ | 33 | 327 | 40 | 504 | 9 | 81 |
| Buckwheat | 0 | 0 | 1 | x | 1 | x | 2 | x |
| Rye | 13 | 90+ | 40 | 285 | 27 | 214 | 25 | 458 |
| Corn for Silage | 383 | 4,436+ | 361 | 4,977 | 333 | 5,941 | 318 | 7,332 |
| Alfalfa | 45 | 594+ | 57 | 762 | 82 | 1,305 | 121 | 2,543 |
| All other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops | 983 | 14,924 | 1,059 | 15,720 | 937 | 15,081 | 756 | 13,212 |
| Canola | 1 | x | 0 | 0 | 1 | x | 1 | x |
| Potatoes | 26 | 51 | 37 | 108 | 18 | 71 | 27 | 58 |
| Dry Field Peas | 1 | x | 2 | x | 1 | x | 3 | x |
| Sunflowers | 1 | x | 4 | x | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Forage seed for seed | 0 | 0 | 2 | x | 7 | 68 | 16 | 414 |
| Other field crops | 4 | x | 5 | x | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |



¹⁷ Note: A total for the number of farms is not provided to avoid double counting in the case of mixed farms.

• **Fruits, Berries & Nuts**

| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares | Farms | Hectares |
| Total | na | 3,263+ | na | 3,564 | 527 | 3,942 | 558 | 4,219 |
| Apples | 96 | 61 | 142 | 85 | 72 | 78 | 51 | 33 |
| Pears | 57 | 6+ | 84 | 13 | 31 | 7 | 28 | 13 |
| Plums & Prunes | 49 | 11 | 77 | 7 | 26 | 3 | 25 | 6 |
| Sweet Cherries | 30 | 5+ | 57 | 4 | 16 | 2 | 14 | 8 |
| Sour Cherries | 16 | 2+ | 27 | 11 | 3 | 0.4 | 3 | x |
| Peaches | 14 | 3+ | 29 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | x |
| Apricots | 6 | 1+ | 14 | 1 | 2 | x | 1 | x |
| Other tree fruits | 83 | 249+ | 124 | 293 | na | na | na | na |
| Grapes | 26 | x | 27 | x | 24 | 26 | 18 | 15 |
| Strawberries | 80 | 382 | 65 | 386 | 63 | 364 | 42 | 121 |
| Raspberries | 325 | 1,951 | 277 | 1,907 | 243 | 1,928 | 203 | 1,742 |
| Cranberries | 7 | x | 9 | x | 5 | 48 | 5 | 15 |
| Blueberries | 133 | 558+ | 148 | 721 | 204 | 1,126 | 305 | 1,942 |
| Saskatoons | na | na | na | na | 5 | x | 4 | x |
| Other berries | 34 | 34+ | 34 | 63 | na | na | na | na |
| Other fruits, berries & nuts | na | na | na | na | 96 | 35 | 91 | 320 |

The Fraser Valley Regional District accounts for about 21% of all land in BC devoted to the production of Fruits, Berries and Nuts.

In the period between 1991 and 2006, the amount of land in the FVRD producing blueberries increased by almost 170%.



Berry Production

“Within Canada, southwestern British Columbia is the most important production region for all berries except lowbush blueberries.

In recent years, red raspberry production has increased dramatically in BC (making it the leading producing area in the world) but has declined in eastern Canada.”



<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=HomePage&Params=A1>

The Fraser Valley Regional District accounted for 48% of all land in raspberry production in Canada in 2006.





From a provincial standpoint, the Fraser Valley Regional District made a major contribution to berry and nut production in 2006.



FVRD as a %
of BC land in
production

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Raspberries | 86% |
| Blueberries | 41% |
| Strawberries | 28% |
| Other Fruits, Berries & Nuts | 46% |



• **Growing Area - Mushrooms**

| <u>1991</u> | | <u>1996</u> | | <u>2001</u> | | <u>2006</u> | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <u>Farms</u> | <u>Sq. Metres</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Sq. Metres</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Sq. Metres</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Sq. Metres</u> |
| 12 | 29,748+ | 17 | 59,213 | 20 | 74,386+ | 17 | 120,760 |



Between 1991 and 2006, the Fraser Valley Regional District realized an increase in the mushroom growing area of approximately 300%

| | <u>1991</u> | | <u>1996</u> | | <u>2001</u> | | <u>2006</u> | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Hectares</u> | <u>Farms</u> | <u>Hectares</u> |
| • Vegetables | 238 | 3,090 | 217 | 2,477 | 182 | 2,501 | 167 | 2,311 |
| Sweet Corn | 102 | 614+ | 105 | 616 | 67 | 554 | 63 | 655 |
| Tomatoes | 21 | x | 17 | 7 | 10 | x | 10 | 2 |
| Cucumbers | 38 | 24+ | 41 | 42 | 26 | 33+ | 24 | 35 |
| Green Peas | 64 | 656+ | 46 | 379 | 37 | 537 | 25 | 420 |
| Green / Wax Beans | 45 | 274+ | 35 | 52 | 28 | 124 | 26 | 149 |
| Cabbage | 19 | 5+ | 19 | 19 | 19 | 30 | 16 | 55 |
| Chinese Cabbage | 7 | 9+ | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | x |
| Cauliflower | 36 | 234+ | 39 | 254 | 31 | 134+ | 16 | 41 |
| Broccoli | 35 | 518+ | 34 | 356 | 31 | x | 23 | 419 |
| Brussels Sprouts | 22 | 135+ | 17 | 218 | 22 | 278 | 18 | 270 |
| Carrots | 31 | 25+ | 30 | 25 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 12 |
| Rutabagas / Turnips | 7 | x | 3 | x | 5 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Beets | 24 | 4+ | 20 | 7 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 5 |
| Radishes | 20 | 4+ | 20 | x | 16 | 11 | 14 | 6 |
| Shallots / Green Onions | 25 | 2+ | 20 | 7 | 6 | x | 7 | 1 |
| Dry / Other Onions | 14 | 5+ | 12 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Celery | 5 | x | 6 | 2 | 3 | x | 5 | x |
| Lettuces | 35 | 21+ | 23 | 25 | 15 | 4 | 14 | 3 |
| Spinach | 10 | x | 19 | 29 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Peppers | 18 | 24+ | 32 | 72 | 20 | 73 | 21 | 46 |
| Squash, Pumpkins & Zucchini | 33 | 32+ | 50 | 71 | 44 | 63+ | na | na |
| Pumpkins | na | na | na | na | na | na | 33 | 26 |
| Squash / Zucchini | na | na | na | na | na | na | 30 | 57 |
| Asparagus | 2 | x | 4 | x | 3 | x | 3 | 1 |
| Rhubarb | 19 | 16+ | 21 | 19 | 17 | 28 | na | na |
| Other Vegetables | 53 | 50+ | 45 | 38 | 42 | 65 | 59 | 92 |



Vegetable Production

Growing about 25 different types of vegetables, the Fraser Valley Regional District is second only to the GVRD among all regional districts in the amount of land devoted to vegetable production in 2006. The FVRD provincially makes a significant contribution in the following vegetables.

Percent of BC Land in Production - 2006

- Sweet Corn 47%
- Green Peas 55%
- Cauliflower 48%
- Brussels Sprouts 98%
- Peppers 35%

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• Greenhouse Production

| | 1991 | | | 1996 | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Farms | Sq. Metres | % of Total | Farms | Sq. Metres | % of Total |
| Flowers | 75 | 136,750+ | 51% | 112 | 81,818+ | 26% |
| Vegetables | na | 78,785+ | 29% | 45 | 102,134+ | 33% |
| Other Greenhouse Products | 21 | 14,768 | 6% | 50 | 22,419+ | 7% |
| Not in Use on date of census | na | 4,671 | 2% | na | 3,473+ | 1% |
| Total ¹⁸ | 119 | 270,989+ | na | 173 | 314,667+ | na |

| | 2001 | | | 2006 | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| | Farms | Sq. Metres | % of Total | Farms | Sq. Metres | % of Total |
| Flowers | 102 | 389,536 | 45% | 90 | x | na |
| Vegetables | 38 | 425,155+ | 49% | 36 | x | na |
| Other Greenhouse Products | 52 | 27,501+ | 3% | 17 | 120,760 | 10% |
| Not in Use on date of census | na | 8,326 | 1% | na | 7,714 | <1% |
| Total ¹⁸ | 181 | 869,216 | 100% | 161 | 1,185,946 | 100% |



In the 15 years between 1991 and 2006, the Fraser Valley Regional District more than quadrupled the amount of land in the Regional District under glass.

By 2006, the FVRD accounted for 22% of all land under glass in BC - second highest among all regional districts after Metro Vancouver.

Despite the growth in the greenhouse sector, the area under glass in 2006 represented only 0.16% of all land in the ALR in the Regional District.

¹⁸ Note: A single greenhouse may be engaged in more than one form of production.

• **Organic Farms**



| | Farms <u>2001</u> | Farms <u>2006</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total | 27 | 55 |
| Hay / Field Crops | 3 | 15 |
| Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse | 21 | 28 |
| Animal | 8 | 26 |
| Other | 5 | 10 |



In 2006, the Fraser Valley Regional District was 2nd, after the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, in the number of organic farms compared to all other regional districts in B.C.

7VRD, in 2006, did have more organic farms engaged in animal and animal products than any other regional district in the province.

| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Farms | Ha. | Farms | Ha. | Farms | Ha. | Farms | Ha. |
| • Nursery Products | 271 | 789 | 324 | 913 | 334 | 1,458 | 350 | 1,773 |
| • Sod Grown for Sale | 8 | x | 10 | x | 8 | 229 | 11 | 376 |
| • Christmas Trees | na | na | 87 | 217 | 69 | 266 | 71 | 252 |
| • Maple Tree Taps | na | na | na | na | 0 | 0 | 1 | x |



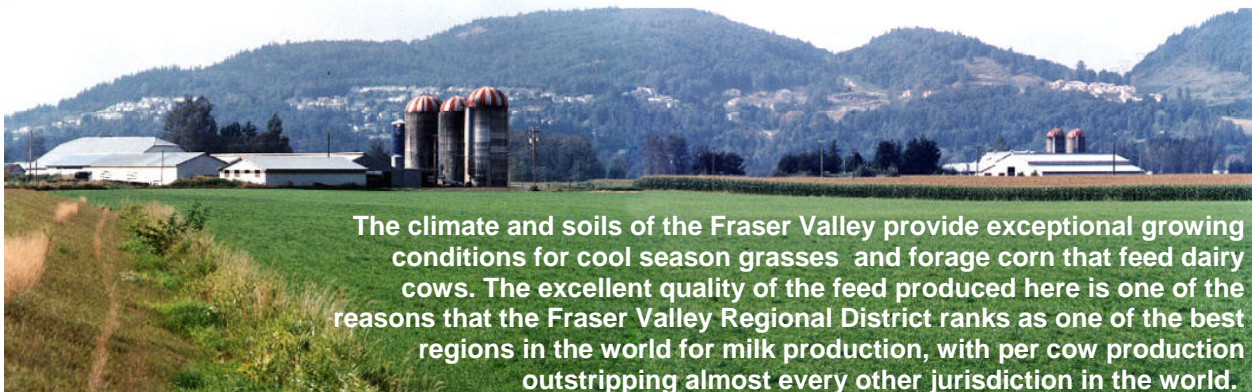
In the FVRD in 2006

62% of all BC
Hens and Chickens

• **Livestock**

| | 1986 | | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| | Farms | Livestock | Farms | Livestock | Farms | Livestock | Farms | Livestock | Farms | Livestock |
| - Poultry | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hens & Chickens | 659 | 4,464,980 | 660 | 5,734,990 | 669 | 7,332,675 | 698 | 10,805,519 | 585 | 11,396,784 |
| Turkeys | na | na | 68 | 322,344 | 55 | 422,299 | 65 | 437,264 | 42 | 434,543 |
| Total Other Poultry | na | na | 147 | 133,416 | 226 | 259,528 | 177 | 552,167 | 111 | 371,172 |
| - Other Livestock | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle & Calves | 1,558 | 88,923 | 1,395 | 86,807 | 1,386 | 94,087 | 1,026 | 91,103 | 868 | 92,722 |
| - Milk Cows | na | na | 627 | 38,875 | 567 | 41,617 | 461 | 40,785 | 376 | 44,300 |
| - Beef Cows | na | na | 503 | 4,438 | 545 | 6,694 | 360 | 3,793 | 305 | 4,297 |
| Pigs | 189 | 133,386 | 217 | 140,279 | 178 | 123,229 | 126 | 138,419 | 84 | 96,565 |
| Sheep & Lambs | na | na | 212 | 4,029 | 223 | 7,637 | 188 | 8,665 | 174 | 4,002 |
| Horses & Ponies | na | na | 490 | 1,998 | 565 | 2,596 | 491 | 2,785 | 456 | 2,634 |
| Goats | na | na | 116 | 1,783 | 159 | 2,248 | 141 | 6,366 | 121 | 3,822 |
| Rabbits | na | na | 116 | 4,640 | 99 | 4,186 | 29 | 7,011 | na | na |
| Wild Boar | na | na | na | na | na | na | 1 | x | 0 | 0 |
| Mink | na | na | 12 | 63,344 | 10 | 156,320 | 8 | 163,900 | 6 | 104,700 |
| Fox | na | na | 2 | x | 0 | 0 | 1 | x | 0 | 0 |
| Bison | na | na | na | na | 1 | x | 1 | x | 2 | x |
| Llamas & Alpacas | na | na | na | na | 23 | x | 56 | 348 | 64 | 324 |

+



• **Land Management Practices**

| | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|---|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| | Ha. | % of Farmland | Ha. | % of Farmland | Ha. | % of Farmland | Ha. | % of Farmland |
| • Irrigation | 7,641 | 16% | 8,003 | 15% | 7,704 | 16% | 10,555 | 19% |
| • Commercial Fertilizers | 24,556 | 53% | 24,254 | 46% | 23,768 | 49% | 25,112 | 44% |
| • Manure ¹⁹ | 23,465 | 50% | 27,143 | 50% | 27,436 | 56% | 25,876 | 46% |
| • Herbicides | 8,930 | 19% | 9,561 | 18% | 10,869 | 22% | 12,942 | 23% |
| • Insecticides & Fungicides ²⁰ | 4,979 | 11% | na | na | na | na | na | na |
| • Insecticides | na | na | 4,786 | 9% | 5,480 | 11% | 6,069 | 11% |
| • Fungicides | na | na | 4,182 | 8% | 4,276 | 9% | 4,638 | 8% |



“View of reclaimed land;
 Sumas Prairie”

- Date: 1924

Source: BC Archives
 Call No. G-03773



¹⁹ In the case of some forms of manure application, data was not provided. Figures represent only where data is provided.

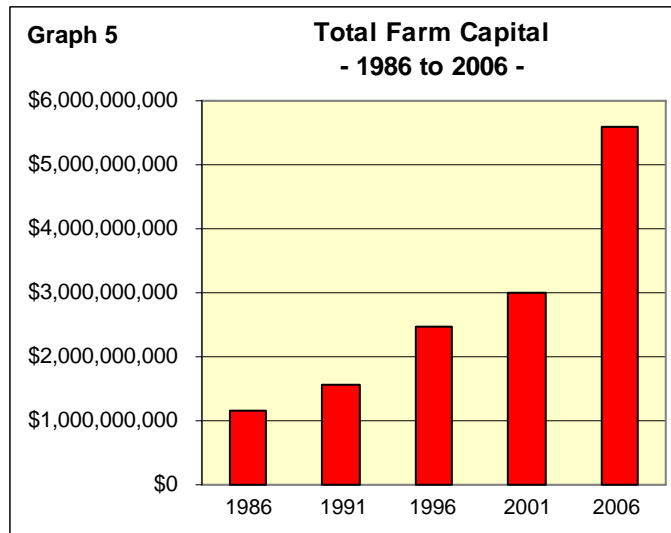
²⁰ In the 1991 Census of Agriculture, insecticides and fungicides were grouped together but split in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

18 Fraser Valley Regional District AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Total Farm Capital

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 1986 = | \$1,157,053,548 |
| 1991 = | \$1,576,529,812 |
| 1996 = | \$2,467,335,818 |
| 2001 = | \$3,005,136,751 |
| 2006 = | \$5,582,816,220 |

About 96% of the increase in the total farm capital in the Fraser Valley Regional District between 1991 and 2006 (years of available data) is attributable to increases in the value of land and buildings.



Division of Capital - 2006 (only)

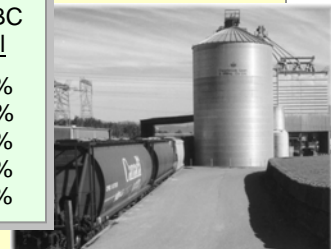
| | Value (\$) | % of Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| • Land and Buildings | \$5,125,044,403 | 92% |
| • Farm Machinery & Equipment | \$301,073,305 | 5% |
| • Livestock & Poultry | \$156,698,512 | 3% |



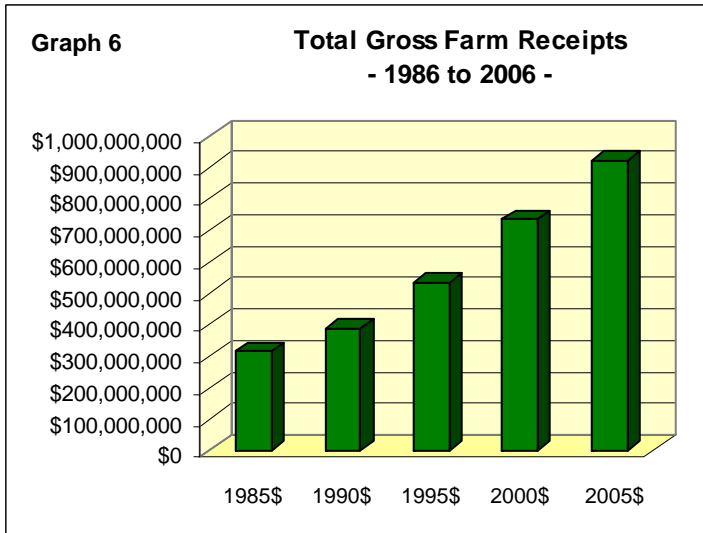
Agricultural Cities

The Fraser Valley Regional District has many distinct farming communities - the District of Kent, Hatzic Prairie and Nicomen Island, the Columbia Valley and Mission, with each making important agricultural contributions. But by any measure, farming in the FVRD is dominated by the City of Abbotsford and the City of Chilliwack. Together, these two cities support a large and diverse agricultural sector that not only underpins local economies, but makes significant contributions at a provincial level. Below are just five examples drawn from the 2006 Census of Agriculture that illustrates the prominence of these two agricultural cities.

| Indicator | Cities of Abbotsford & Chilliwack | % of FVRD Total | % of BC Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Total Gross Farm Receipts | \$810,676,051 | 88.0% | 30.6% |
| Annual Weeks of Paid Labour | 216,573 | 87.9% | 23.9% |
| Total Cash Wages & Salaries Paid | \$123,873,703 | 86.8% | 24.9% |
| Livestock & Poultry Purchases | \$90,734,925 | 86.7% | 40.6% |
| Total Feed & Supplement Purchases | \$147,941,854 | 88.2% | 44.5% |



• **Total Gross Farm Receipts**



1986 = \$314,647,167 (1985\$)
 1991 = \$388,291,023 (1990\$)
 1996 = \$535,152,835 (1995\$)
 2001 = \$735,859,984 (2000\$)
 2006 = \$921,425,274 (2005\$)

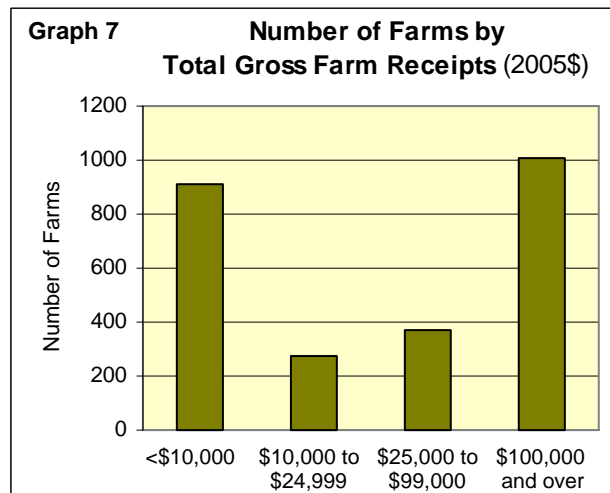
At over \$900 million, FVRD topped all other regional districts in 2005 and accounted for nearly 35% of BC's annual gross farm receipts. The Regional District also had the highest average gross farm receipts per farm compared to all other BC regional districts in 2005 - well above the provincial average.

- **Average Gross Farm Receipts per Farm**

| | <u>1985</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fraser Valley Regional District | \$119,230 | \$143,228 | \$179,763 | \$276,535 | \$358,950 |
| Lower Mainland | \$105,007 | \$127,151 | \$156,521 | \$263,266 | \$306,932 |
| British Columbia | \$55,552 | \$68,723 | \$84,233 | \$113,736 | \$133,641 |

Number of Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts 2006 (2005\$)

| <u>Fraser Valley Reg. Dist.</u> | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| | <u>Farms</u> | <u>% of RD Total</u> |
| < \$10,000 | 908 | 35% |
| \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 277 | 11% |
| \$25,000 - \$99,999 | 374 | 15% |
| <u>\$100,000 & over</u> | <u>1,008</u> | <u>39%</u> |
| Total | 2,567 | 100% |
| <u>British Columbia</u> | | |
| | <u>Farms</u> | <u>% of BC Total</u> |
| < \$10,000 | 9,466 | 48% |
| \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 3,194 | 16% |
| \$25,000 - \$99,999 | 3,629 | 18% |
| <u>\$100,000 & over</u> | <u>3,555</u> | <u>18%</u> |
| Total | 19,844 | 100% |



• **Total Operating Expenses & Cash Wages Paid**

| | | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Wages</u> |
|--------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1985\$ | = | \$267,813,948 | na |
| 1990\$ | = | \$317,752,201 | \$57,489,818 |
| 1995\$ | = | \$460,861,649 | \$86,149,517 |
| 2000\$ | = | \$634,375,571 | \$103,931,975 |
| 2005\$ | = | \$783,723,708 | \$142,654,672 |

• **Total Paid Labour** (weeks)

| | <u>1990</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 143,255 | 175,367 | 189,523 | 246,408 |

- **Year Round vs. Seasonal Paid Labour**

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| % Year Round | 51% | 60% | 68% | 71% |
| % Seasonal | 49% | 40% | 32% | 29% |
| <i>% Year Round British Columbia</i> | <i>51%</i> | <i>57%</i> | <i>62%</i> | <i>63%</i> |



Leading the Province

Within British Columbia, the Fraser Valley Regional District is an agricultural powerhouse. In a review of 136 different commodities and other agricultural indicators from the 2006 census, the FVRD led all other regional districts in 43 of the categories considered.

Here is a sampling of several of the key indicators that together confirm the significant contribution the Fraser Valley Regional District is making to BC agriculture.

| <u>Commodity / Category</u> | <u>2006 Percent of B.C. Total</u> | <u>Regional District Rank</u> |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Corn for Silage (ha) | 56.9% | 1 st |
| Total area in Vegetables (ha) | 33.2% | 2 nd |
| Sweet Corn (ha) | 47.3% | 1 st |
| Green Peas (ha) | 55.3% | 1 st |
| Mushroom Growing Area (sq. m.) | 53.3% | 1 st |
| Cauliflower (ha) | 48.2% | 1 st |
| Broccoli (ha) | 90.7% | 1 st |
| Brussels Sprouts (ha) | 97.8% | 1 st |
| Peppers (ha) | 35.1% | 1 st |
| Strawberries (ha) | 47.4% | 1 st |
| Raspberries (ha) | 85.8% | 1 st |
| Blueberries (ha) | 40.7% | 2 nd |
| Other Fruits Berries & Nuts (ha) | 46.2% | 1 st |
| Nursery Area (ha) | 39.4% | 1 st |
| Sod (ha) | 44.6% | 1 st |
| Hens & Chickens | 62.1% | 1 st |
| Laying Hens 19 wks + Turkeys | 72.3% | 1 st |
| Other Poultry | 52.9% | 1 st |
| Dairy Cows | 68.9% | 1 st |
| Pigs | 60.9% | 1 st |
| Goats | 71.1% | 1 st |
| Colonies of Bees | 29.2% | 1 st |
| Organic Animals or Animal products (Farms) | 18.1% | 1 st |
| Total Farm Capital | 30.2% | 1 st |
| Value of Machinery & Equipment (\$) | 22.4% | 1 st |
| Value of Livestock & Poultry (\$) | 16.5% | 1 st |
| Total Gross Farm Receipts (2005\$) | 21.5% | 1 st |
| Total Farm Business Operating Expenses (2005\$) | 34.8% | 1 st |
| Farms using computers for farm business | 32.9% | 1 st |
| | 14.1% | 1 st |

BC Agriculture - A Snapshot

Agriculture is a significant and expanding industry in British Columbia with more than 290,000 people employed on farms, ranches, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries, as well as warehouses, veterinary offices, hatcheries, grocery stores, and other food-related services in 2006. The primary agriculture sector generates more than \$782 million towards the province's total Gross Domestic Product. Although the industry is relatively small by itself, it contributes significantly to spinoffs in the food processing, food wholesaling, food retailing and food service sectors. This translates in total gross revenues for this industry of more than \$36 billion a year.

| B.C. - 2006 - Census of Agriculture | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| No. of Farms | - | 19,844 |
| Total Area of Farms | - | 2,835,458 ha |

Climatic conditions in the province make it possible for British Columbia farmers to grow a wide variety of crops - approximately 200 different commodities. The top farm commodities in terms of sales in 2006 B.C. were dairy, chicken, floriculture, cattle, nursery, greenhouse tomatoes, mushrooms, calves, and blueberries. Total farm cash receipts reached \$2.3 billion in 2006 and total crop receipts reached over \$1.1 billion in 2006. The livestock sector, which includes cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs, dairy, honey, fur and game-farm animals, reached \$1.2 billion in 2006.

The **Southern Interior** is well-suited for the production of tree fruits and grapes. The **Fraser Valley** and southern **Vancouver Island**, with a cooler, wetter climate, are extremely favourable for the production of berries and vegetables. Most of the province's grain and oilseed crops are grown in the **Peace River** region.

Beef cattle are concentrated in the **North, Cariboo** and **Thompson-Okanagan** regions. Large dairy herds are found mostly in the **Lower Mainland**, southeastern **Vancouver Island** and the **Okanagan-Shuswap** area. Hog, poultry and egg production are concentrated in the **Lower Mainland**.



| Nationally, in 2006, BC ranked 1 st in receipts generated in four commodities | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Commodity | BC Share of Canada's Gross Farm Receipts | National Ranking |
| Sweet Cherries | 84.6% | 1 |
| Raspberries | 58.1% | 1 |
| Blueberries | 49.3% | 1 |
| Cranberries | 45.0% | 1 |

Nationally, B.C. ranked 2nd in a further eight agricultural commodities - greenhouse peppers, greenhouse tomatoes, nursery products, apples, grapes, mushrooms, floriculture and greenhouse cucumbers.

From: "Fast Stats - Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food 2007"
 Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Sources:

- Statistics Canada, British Columbia Agriculture, 1986, Census Catalogue 96-112.
- Statistics Canada, Small Area Data British Columbia, July 1992.
- Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia.
- Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia
- Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture - Farm data and farm operator data.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs Recreation and Culture, Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia, 1990.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Municipal Statistics (including Regional Districts), March , 1998.
- Correspondence: Ministry of Community Services
- Statistical Reports and Files of the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission.

Sources: Photos and Illustrations

All photos and illustrations are from the BC Ministry of Agricultural and Lands with the exception of the following:

- Page 3 - Map - http://www.vanc.igs.net/~roughley/fv_1922.html
- Page 5 - ALR Map produced by the Resource Management Branch. Data provided by Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Page 7 - B. Smith
- Page 12 - David Sands (raspberry plants)
- Page 13 - Peas: www.postcardsfromla.com/.../2004_08.html / Beans: <http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/chinde/gallerydetail/random/?imageNum=2> / Cauliflower: <http://www.5aday.gov/tools/assets/photos/cauliflower.jpg> / Radishes: www.wegmans.com/.../vegetables/radish.asp / Peppers: www.darrenbarefoot.com/.../slides/Peppers.html / Brussels Sprouts: www.nelsonideas.com/cancer-fighting-foods/veg/ / Rhubarb: www.jeremyb.com/Photography/
- Page 14 - BC Greenhouse Growers' Association
- Page 15 - Certified Organic Ass. of B.C. at: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/> - Egg & Logo
- Page 17 - BC Archives - Call # G-03773 (Sumas Prairie)

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE IN B.C.?

See:

the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands at:

<http://www.al.gov.bc.ca>

the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission at:

<http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/>



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