

MANITOBA

Sector Highlights



Crops

The 2021 Census of Agriculture reported canola, wheat and soybeans as the top three crops by seeded acreage, as they were in 2016. While canola showed an increase of seven per cent and soybeans were 21 per cent lower than 2016, the overall standing remained and these three crops consistently account for over 70 per cent of Manitoba's seeded area.

For 2021, there were 12,084 farms reporting crop production. The table below lists the number of farms reporting each crop and the change between 2021-2016.

Number of Manitoba Farms Reporting by Crop

	2016	2021	Change 2021-2016
Canola	5839	5763	-1.3%
Spring wheat	5750	5515	-4.1%
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures	5809	5058	-12.9%
Oats	2954	3672	24.3%
Soybeans	3615	3108	-14.0%
All other tame hay	2806	2754	-1.9%
Barley	1864	1943	4.2%
Corn for silage	1100	1362	23.8%
Corn for grain	1047	1128	7.7%
Dry field peas	685	821	19.9%
Flaxseed	497	446	-10.3%
Fall rye	547	425	-22.3%
Other dry beans	306	336	9.8%
Forage seed for seed	364	296	-18.7%
Sunflowers	243	219	-9.9%
Potatoes	163	149	-8.6%
Winter wheat	488	146	-70.1%
Dry white beans	108	132	22.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0416-01

Oats have enjoyed a resurgence in recent years. Despite being one of Manitoba's first crops, oats have outshone other crops recently to record a 67 per cent increase in seeded acres since 2016. The number of farms producing oats jumped 24.3 per cent between 2016 and 2021. Manitoba has always been well-suited to oat production so stronger demand and better prices have driven this recovery.

Several smaller acreage crops have seen dramatic growth since 2016. Dry pea acreage increased over 30 per cent (20 per cent more farms reporting), dry bean area was up more than 47 per cent (9.9 per cent more farms reporting) while grain corn and fodder corn were up 21 and 27 per cent, respectively. The number of farms reporting fodder corn rose by 23.8 per cent from 2016 to 2021.

Potatoes have also expanded their footprint in Manitoba with a 15 per cent rise in seeded area for 2021, compared to 2016. This has been driven by expansion in processing capacity and increased area under irrigation.

Manitoba is home to over 90 per cent of all sunflower acres in Canada and seeded acreage of sunflowers rose by 22 per cent from 2016 to 2021, reaching nearly 83,000 acres. Alfalfa and other tame hay declined almost 13 per cent in the number of farms reporting and also declined in seeded acreage, but nonetheless, held fourth spot with 11 per cent of Manitoba's crop land.

Total vegetable area in Manitoba decreased to 3,624 acres in 2021, down 24.3 per cent from the last census. Sweet corn had 119 farms reporting 341 acres. There were 147 farms reporting fruit using 566 acres in 2021. The largest fruit acreage was in strawberries with 238 acres and 68 farms. Saskatoons were a close second with 57 farms and 217 acres.

The number of farms reporting organic products for sale remained the same at 161 farms in 2021. However, the number of farms producing certified organic production increased 7.7 per cent from 2016 to 2021.

Livestock

Livestock remain prominent on Manitoba's landscape with species including cattle (beef and dairy), hogs, sheep, horses, goats, llamas and alpacas, rabbits, bison, elk, deer and mink.

Pig numbers were up 2.1 per cent to 3.5 million from 2016 to 2021, while the farm number dropped 14.9 per cent to 566 farms. Manitoba has the third largest number of pigs in Canada, following Quebec and Ontario. Manitoba has the largest pig farms in Canada, with an average herd size of 5,087 head.

Manitoba's cattle inventory numbered 1.1 million head in 2021, which was 2.2 per cent lower than in 2016 and 24.3 per cent lower than in 2001. The number of farms with cattle declined 0.8 per cent to 6,448 farms in 2021. Census showed 425,018 beef cows on farms, down 0.9 per cent compared to 2016. Manitoba's share of the Canadian beef cow herd was 11.3 per cent in 2021.

The number of farms reporting dairy cows declined by 17.4 per cent to 399 in 2021 while the number of dairy cows declined by 6.6 per cent to 39,083 head. Milk production increased 6.1 per cent over this period. While there were fewer dairy cows, the production per animal increased. This was attributed to improved animal nutrition, genetics and production practices.

The number of farms reporting sheep and lambs remained relatively steady at 523 farms in 2021. The sheep flock grew 43.2 per cent to 90,423 animals in 2021. This was the largest increase in Canada and counter to the national trend, where the sheep flock declined by 4.9 per cent.

Number of Manitoba Farms Reporting Livestock

	2016	2021	Change 2021-2016
Cattle and calves	6,499	6,448	-0.8%
Horses and ponies	2,335	1,196	-48.8%
Pigs	665	566	-14.9%
Sheep and lambs	522	523	0.2%
Goats	310	291	-6.1%
Donkeys and mules	x	230	x
Rabbits	140	96	-31.4%
Bison (buffalo)	86	82	-4.7%
Llamas and alpacas	141	72	-48.9%
Elk (wapiti)	17	19	11.8%
Deer (domestic)	2	1	-50.0%
Mink	8	3	-62.5%

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0373-01; x...suppressed data

The number of farms reporting chicken and Cornish hen production declined by 13.9 per cent from 2016 to 2021, though production remained almost the same at 134 million lbs. Turkey production declined by 19.4 per cent to 22.7 million pounds, as the number of farms declined by 24.8 per cent to 79 farms.

Table egg production was down by 16.1 per cent to 57.4 million dozen while hatching egg production grew by 32.9 per cent to 5.1 million dozen eggs, from 2016 to 2021.

There were eight commercial poultry hatcheries reported in both 2016 and 2021 and production was up 3.9 per cent to 33 million birds.

Number of Manitoba Farms Reporting Poultry

	2016	2021	Change 2021-2016
Table eggs (dozens)	463	483	4.3%
Broilers, roasters, Cornish hens	345	297	-13.9%
Turkeys	105	79	-24.8%
Hatching eggs (dozens)	59	41	-30.5%
Chicks or other poultry hatched	8	8	0%

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0373-01

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada.

Website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2016/index-eng.htm>

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- Email us at industryintelligence@gov.mb.ca.
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