

MANITOBA

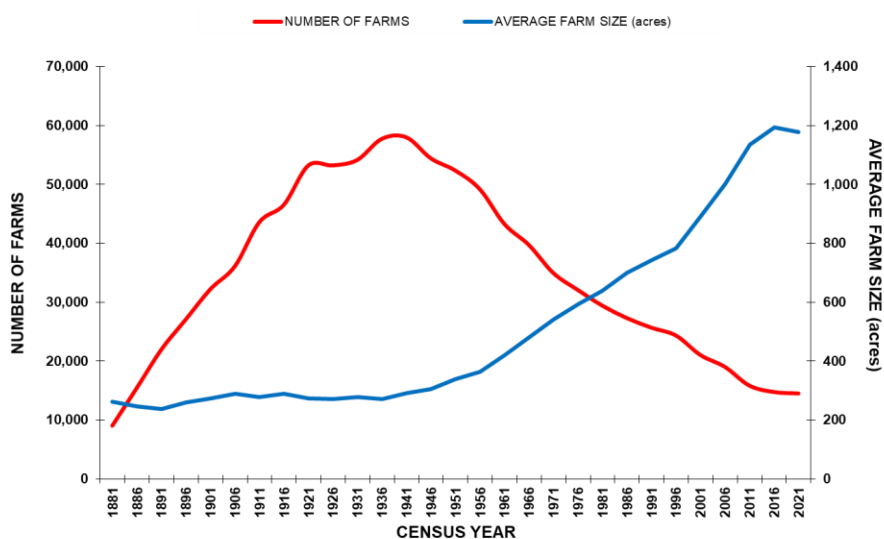
Census of Agriculture 2021



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE, 2021

A significant change to the main statistical unit used by Statistics Canada's Agriculture Statistics Program has been introduced for the 2021 Census of Agriculture. A "farm" or an "agricultural holding" (i.e., the census farm) now refers to a unit that produces agricultural products and reports revenues or expenses for tax purposes to the Canada Revenue Agency. Before 2021, a "farm" was defined as an agricultural operation that produced at least one agricultural product intended for sale.

MANITOBA FARMS AND AVERAGE FARM SIZE 1881- 2021



Number of Farms. The 2021 Census of Agriculture counted 14,543 farms in Manitoba, a moderate decrease of 1.7 per cent from the previous census, which reported 14,791 farms in 2016. Manitoba farm numbers rank sixth in Canada and account for 7.7 per cent of Canada's 189,874 farms in 2021. The number of farms in Canada declined by 1.9 per cent, compared to 2016.

The **average farm size** was 1,177 acres in 2021, 1.3 per cent smaller than the 1,192 acres in 2016. Manitoba's total farm area was 17.1 million acres in 2021 compared to 17.6 million acres in 2016, a decrease of 2.9 per cent.

The number of **farm operators** in Manitoba declined 3.4 per cent to 19,465 people in 2021. The ratio of farm operators to the number of farms was 1.3 for Manitoba, slightly less than the Canadian average of 1.4. In 2021, 43.2 per cent of farm operators in Manitoba worked more than 40 hours a week on average on agricultural operations, compared with 44.5 per cent in 2016. At the national level, this percentage was 36.9 per cent in 2021. More farmers worked off the farm in 2021, with 46.1 per cent of farm operators in Manitoba reporting an off-farm job, compared with 42.9 per cent in 2016.

Manitoba has the **second youngest population** of farm operators in Canada with an average age of 54.6. However, the average age has increased from 53.8 years in 2016. Quebec ranked first with an average age of 54 years. Only Manitoba and Quebec have an average operator age below the national average of 56 years. From 2016 to 2021, the proportion of farm operators in the oldest age category (55 years of age and older) increased to 56 per cent.

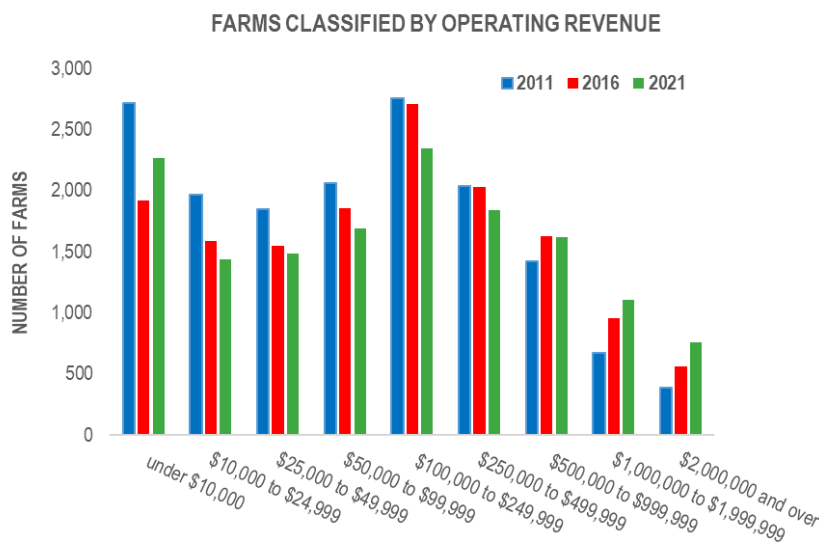
There were 5,150 **female farm operators** in 2021, representing 26.5 per cent of farm operators in Manitoba, which is 7.6 per cent higher than in 2016. The Canadian average of female farm operators is 30.4 per cent.

Land in crops has been relatively stable. In 2021, there were 11.6 million acres of cropland in Manitoba, an increase of 0.8 per cent and 93.6 million acres in Canada, up 0.2 per cent. The province accounts for 12.4 per cent of Canada's cropland area. Grain and oilseed farms continue to be the largest sectors in Manitoba and Canada.

In Manitoba, the area of land devoted to **summerfallow** declined 37.7 per cent from 2016 to 2021 and 89.1 per cent from 2001. There were only 715 farms reporting the practice in 2021, compared to 5,902 in 2001.

In 2021, **Manitoba's top crops**, as reported by farm numbers, were canola, spring wheat, alfalfa and alfalfa mixture, oats, soybeans, other tame hay, barely, corn for silage, grain corn, field peas, flaxseed, fall rye, dry beans, forage seed for seed, sunflowers, potatoes, winter wheat and dry white beans.

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.



Farm income. In 2021, Manitoba's total operating revenue were \$8.2 billion, 19.8 per cent higher than the previous census period. Operating expenses also increased 25.7 per cent to \$7.0 billion in 2021. The average net operating revenue for all Manitoba farms were \$84,262. For every dollar in sales, farms on average incurred 86 cents in operating expenses in 2021 for an expense-to-receipt ratio of 0.86, up from 0.81 in 2016.

Farm consolidation continues to increase in Manitoba. While the number of farms with less than \$1 million of

revenue fell by 4.5 cent between censuses, those with over \$1 million increased by 23.2 per cent. There were 1,869 of these larger farms in Manitoba in 2021, representing almost 12.9 per cent of farms in the province. The share of very large farms (more than \$1 million in sales) almost doubled from 6.7 per cent in 2011.

The value of **farm capital** increased 32.3 per cent from 2016 to 2021 to \$55.8 billion. Land and buildings rose by 39.6 per cent to \$47.3 billion, machinery and equipment increased by 15.3 per cent to \$6.3 billion and the value of livestock and poultry decreased by 23.6 per cent to \$2.1 billion. The value of the land and buildings per acre in Manitoba increased 43.8 per cent (in 2021 constant dollars) from 2016 to \$2,760 per acre in 2021.

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 productions increased 7.7 per cent from 2016 to 2021.

More farms in Manitoba reported selling agricultural products **directly to consumers** in 2021. The number of farms were up by 12.6 per cent to 1,013, compared to 2016. Among the farms reporting selling agricultural products directly to consumers in the 2021 census, 32.3 per cent obtained more than 75 per cent of their total operating revenue from direct marketing to consumers.

The share of farms producing **renewable energy** has quadrupled from 524 farms in 2016 to 2,101 farms in 2021. This includes solar energy systems, geothermal heating and cooling systems, biomass or bioenergy, wind energy installations and other renewable energy types. Among those who reported producing renewable energy, 89 per cent used the produced energy on their operation while the remaining 11 per cent produced renewable energy for sale.

Manitoba farmers embrace **sustainable on-farm practices**. The number of farms reporting zero-till increased by 55.2 per cent from 2,239 farms in 2016 to 3,476 farms in 2021. Similarly, the amount of acres under zero-till seeding practices increased by 52.6 per cent from 2.07 million acres in 2016 to 3.16 million acres in 2021. The number of farms reporting tillage practices that retains most crop residue on the surface, and the amount of acres under this tillage practice, increased by 12.9 per cent and 11.7 per cent from the previous census, respectively.

Between 2016 and 2021, the use of in-field winter grazing or feeding and windbreaks or shelterbelts increased by 8.7 per cent and 49.2 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, there was a decrease in rotational grazing (down by 5.6 per cent), plowing down green crops (down by 15.2 per cent), and use of winter cover crops (down by 24.3 per cent).

More and more Manitoba farmers are adopting **modern technologies** that help farmers reduce their input costs (e.g., labour and fertilizer) and environmental footprint. Nearly half of Manitoba's dairy farmers reported using robotic milking technology in 2021, up by 72 per cent from 2016. The number of farmers that reported using automated steering and GPS mapping (e.g., soil mapping) in 2021 increased by 16 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively. About five per cent of Manitoba farmers also reported using drones in their operation in 2021.

Another very important technology that farmers reported using in 2021 was **slow-release fertilizers**, a new group of fertilizer formulation that can significantly reduce the amount of fertilizer required, while maintaining or increasing yield. One in four Manitoba farmers reported using slow release fertilizer during the 2021 census. This technology can reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emission from the use of regular fertilizer sources, such as urea. Likewise, 16 per cent farmers reported the use of variable rate input application, another precision farming technology that help farmers reduce costs and their environmental footprint while increasing yield and profitability.

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada.

Website: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/census-agriculture?MM=1>

Contact us

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