

Regional District of Nanaimo

AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

Corporate Name	Regional District of Nanaimo
Date of Incorporation	August 24, 1967
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For additional information visit the Regional District of Nanaimo's website.

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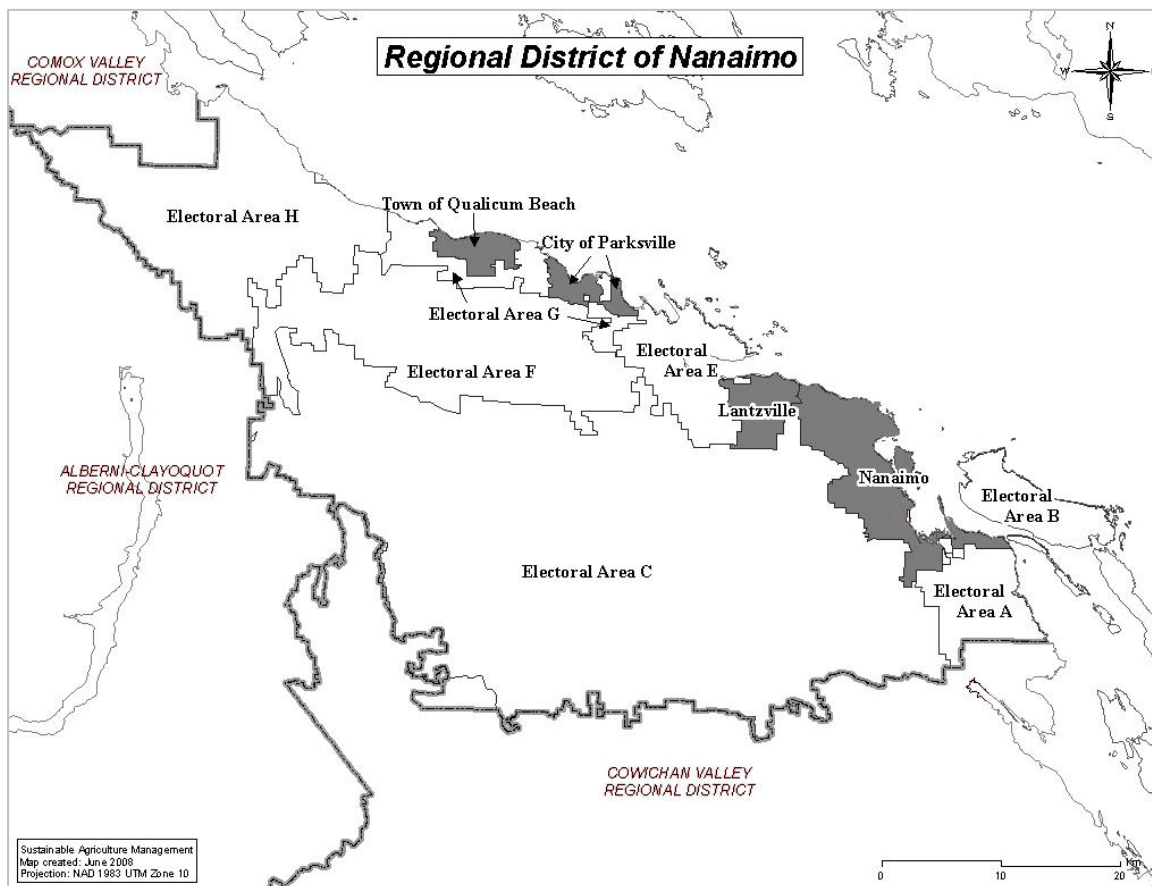
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Regional District of Nanaimo AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

- **Member Municipalities**
 - District of Lantzville
 - City of Nanaimo
 - City of Parksville
 - Town of Qualicum Beach

- **Electoral Areas**
 - “A” - Cassidy, Cedar, Yellowpoint, South Wellington
 - “B” - Gabriola, DeCourcy, Mudge Islands
 - “C” - Extension, Arrowsmith-Benson, East Wellington, Pleasant Valley
 - “E” - Nanoose Bay
 - “F” - Coombs, Hilliers, Errington
 - “G” - French Creek, Dashwood, Englishman River
 - “H” - Shaw Hill, Qualicum Bay, Deep Bay, Bowser

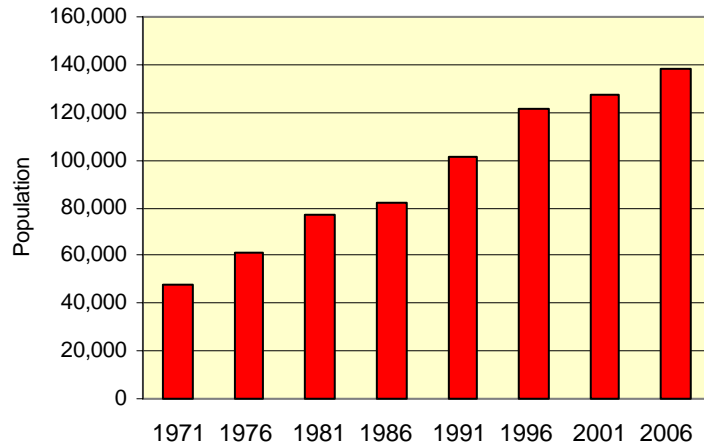


• **Population - 1971 to 2006¹**

1971	=	47,535
1976	=	61,365
1981	=	77,124
1986	=	82,180
1991	=	101,736
1996	=	121,783
2001	=	127,016
2006	=	138,631

The Regional District of Nanaimo accounted for 3.4% of BC's population in 2006.

Graph 1 Regional District of Nanaimo Population - 1971 to 2006 -



- **Population Increase 1971 to 2006** = 91,096
 = 2,602 persons / year on average

- **2006 Population within:**

Municipal Jurisdictions	=	101,848	(74%)
Electoral Areas	=	35,948	(26%)
Indian Reserves	=	835	(<1%)

- **2006 Urban / Rural Split**

Urban	=	106,805	(77%)
Rural	=	31,826	(23%)

The City of Nanaimo is the largest municipality in the Regional District and accounted for nearly 57% of the Regional District's population in 2006.

There were 461 farms reported in the Regional District in 2006. The Regional District of Nanaimo's farm population is estimated to be 1,383 persons or 1% of the Regional District'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.

• **Jurisdictional Area** = 208,410 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

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

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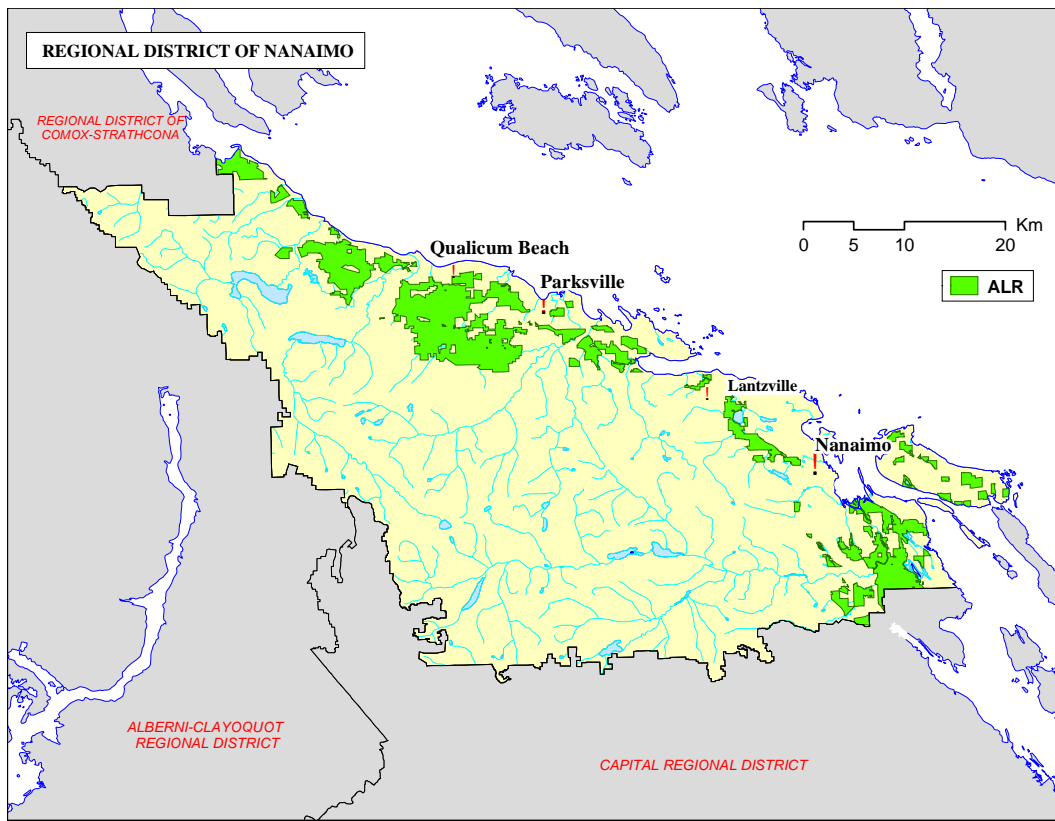
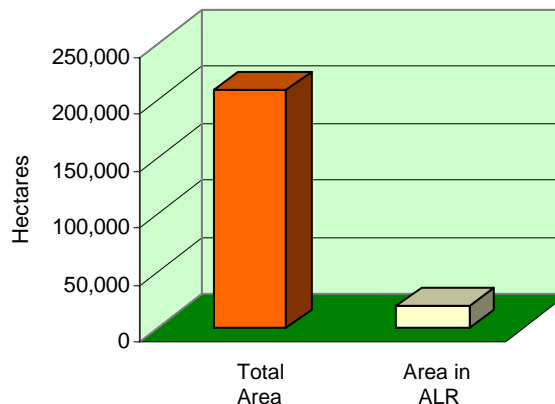
- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

= 18,726 hectares³

The ALR in the Regional District of Nanaimo was designated on July 3, 1974 and today accounts for about 9% of Regional the District's area.

The Regional District accounts for almost 18% of all land in the Reserve on Vancouver Island.

Graph 2 Regional District of Nanaimo - Jurisdictional Area & ALR -



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

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

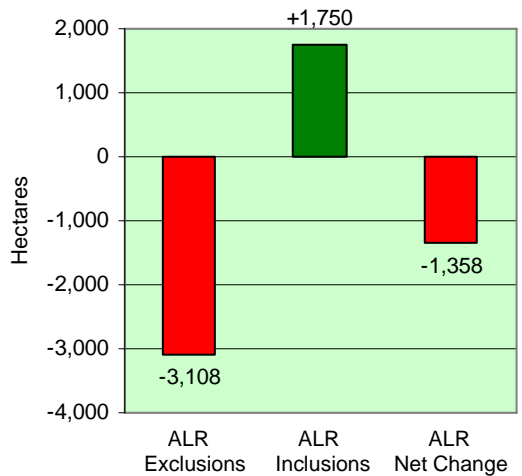
ALR Fine Tuning Program

During the 1980s, the Agricultural Land Commission spearheaded a major review of the Agricultural Land Reserve on Vancouver Island. The program involved four of the six Vancouver Island regional districts, including the Regional District of Nanaimo. Considerable effort was put into a comprehensive review and updating of the Canada Land Inventory agricultural capability ratings in key areas of the Island. The Commission also worked closely with regional districts and municipalities to ensure the ALR review considered ongoing land use planning initiatives.

With the technical review complete, a series of ALR applications, including public consultation, finalized the process. The result was a fundamental reshaping of the ALR throughout much of Vancouver Island. In total, approximately 8,360 hectares were excluded from the ALR and 3,430 hectares were included, for a net ALR decrease of 4,930 hectares.

The Regional District of Nanaimo, through five ALR applications in 1985 and 1987, saw 3,108 hectares excluded and 1,750 hectares included for a net decline of 1,358 hectares from the ALR. Compared to the other three regional districts, the RDN had the most land excluded from the ALR (37% of the total) but also the most land included into the ALR (51% of the total) as a result of the fine tuning program.

**Graph 3 - Summary -
 ALR Fine Tuning Program
 Regional District of Nanaimo**



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• Total Area Farmed

1986	=	6,696 ha.
1991	=	7,686 ha.
1996	=	10,007 ha.
2001	=	12,081 ha.
2006	=	8,282 ha.



• Number of Farms⁴ Reporting

1986	=	348
1991	=	396
1996	=	493
2001	=	490
2006	=	461

- Average Farm Size

	1986 (Hectares)	1991 (Hectares)	1996 (Hectares)	2001 (Hectares)	2006 (Hectares)
Regional District of Nanaimo	19.2	19.4	20.3	24.7	18.0
Vancouver Island	23.8	22.8	19.1	21.6	18.1
British Columbia	126.5	124.4	115.8	127.5	142.9

- Farm Size

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent	Farms	Percent
<4 ha. (10 acres)	99	29%	132	33%	198	40%	189	39%	183	40%
4 to 52 ha. (10 to 129 acres)	212	61%	225	57%	252	51%	247	50%	241	52%
52 to 161 ha. (130 to 399 acres)	35	10%	34	9%	39	8%	44	9%	31	7%
>161 ha. (400 acres & greater)	2	<1%	5	1%	4	<1%	10	2%	6	1%
Total	348	100%	396	100%	493	100%	490	100%	461	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>

• **Tenure⁵**

	<u>1986</u>		<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>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Farmland Owned	5,368	80%	6,095	79%	8,768	88%	10,485	87%	7,633	86%
<u>Farmland Leased, etc.</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>1,591</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>1,596</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>1,293</u>	<u>14%</u>
Total	6,695	100%	7,686	100%	10,007	100%	12,081	100%	8,926	100%

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

- **Farmland Leased/Rented**

	<u>1986</u>		<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>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
From governments	na ⁶	na	265	17%	128	10%	347	22%	x ⁷	na
From others	na	na	1,326	83%	1,111	90%	1,043	65%	842	65%
Crop shared from others	na	na	na	na	na	na	206	13%	x	na
<u>Through other arrangements</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>na</u>
Total	na	na	1,591	100%	1,239	100%	1,596	100%	1,293	100%



⁵ 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.

⁶ “na” indicates that data was not available for the year and category in question.

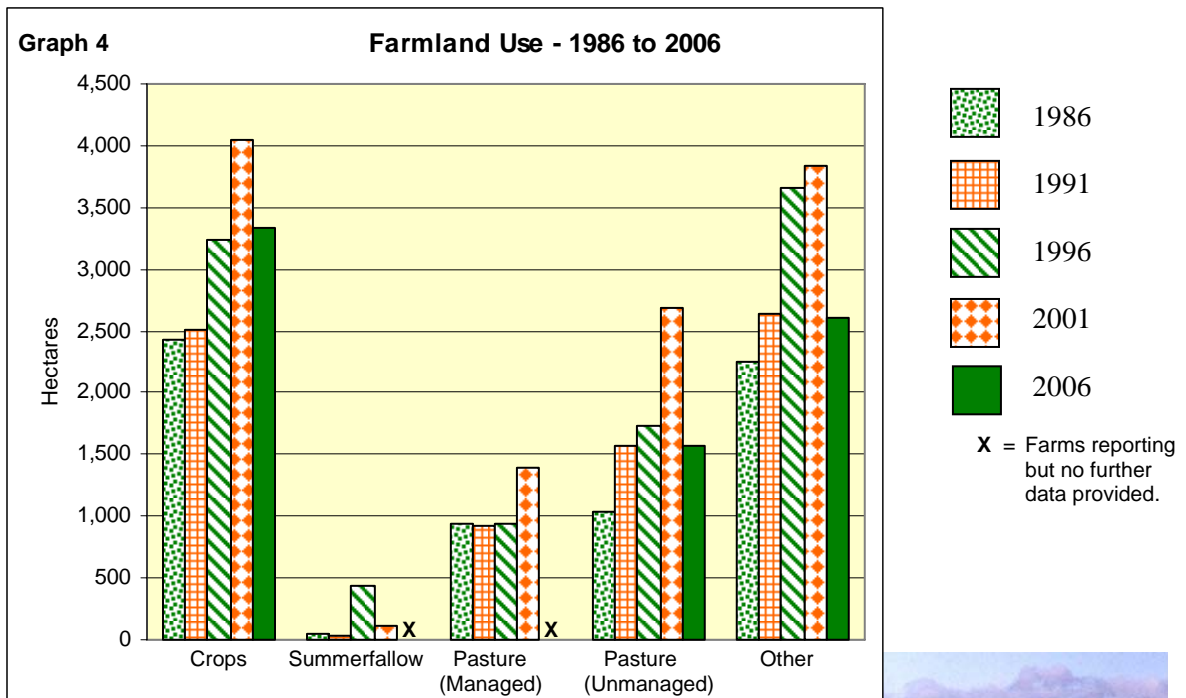
⁷ Throughout the report ‘x’ indicates that farms are reporting but further information is not provided for reasons of confidentiality.

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Regional District of Nanaimo AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• Hectares of Farmland in:

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Crops	234	2,429	254	2,508	310	3,235	333	4,050	294	3,333
Summerfallow	20	53	13	36	11	440	13	110	2	x
Pasture (managed)	174	938	174	925	132	945	155	1,389	113	x
Pasture (unmanaged)	124	1,033	182	1,578	227	1,731	235	2,690	217	1,564
Other ⁸	na	2,243	344	2,639	440	3,656	390	3,842	383	2,599
Total ⁹	na	6,696	na	7,686	na	10,007	na	12,081	na	8,282

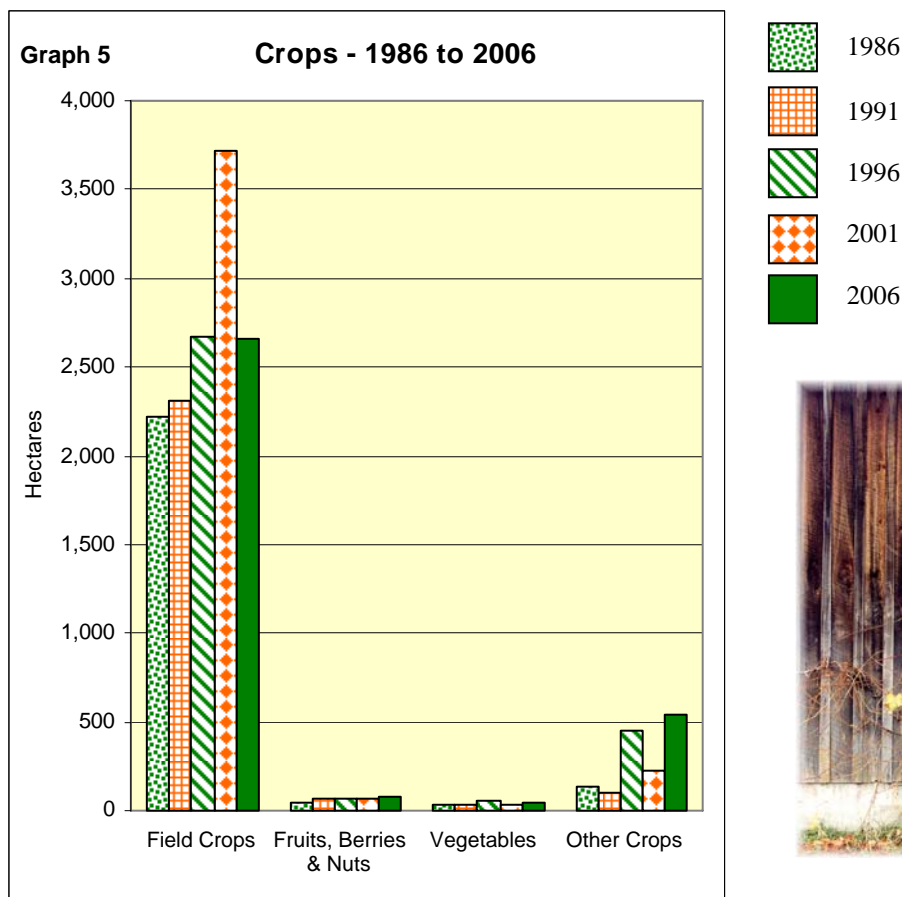


⁸ "Other" includes 'Other Unimproved Land', 'Other Improved Land' and 'Woodland'.

⁹ Note: A total for the number of farms in each year is not provided to avoid double counting of mixed farms.

• **Crops (hectares)**

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Field Crops ¹⁰	2,219	2,308	2,671	3,716	2,662
Tree Fruits	24	37	40	na	na
Berries & Grapes	16	28	22	na	na
Fruits, Berries & Nuts ¹¹	na	na	na	69	83
Vegetables	38	30	55	38	49
<u>Other</u> ¹²	<u>132</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>539</u>
Total	2,429	2,508	3,235	4,050	3,333



¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ In 1986, 1991 and 1996, data was split between 'Tree Fruits' and 'Berries & Grapes'. In 2001, this data was grouped as Fruits, Berries & Nuts resulting in no data being available (na) in this category in 1986, 1991 and 1996.

¹² "Other" Crops also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

	<u>1986</u>		<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>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
• Field Crops¹³	na	2,219	na	2,308	na	2,671	na	3,716	na	2,662
Wheat	1	x ¹⁴	1	x	1	x	7	33	1	x
Oats	3	10	21	56	11	69	15	276	9	37
Barley	0	0	2	x	4	199	7	269	5	78
Mixed Grains	2	x	2	x	3	5	1	x	0	0
Corn for Grain	1	x	1	x	2	x	1	x	0	0
Buckwheat	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	x
Rye	1	x	3	x	2	x	5	6	1	x
Corn for Silage	10	93	12	72	11	93	10	x	3	69
Alfalfa	na	na	19	212	12	253	35	458	35	417
All other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops	na	na	171	1,885	175	1,976	179	2,596	148	1,981
Canola	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x
Potatoes	5	x	12	83	14	75	19	76	12	80
Dry Field Peas	0	0	0	0	1	x	3	2	1	x
Dry White Beans	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0
Sunflowers	0	0	0	0	3	x	1	x	0	0
Triticale	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forage seed for seed	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x	1	x
Other field crops	3	3	4	x	2	x	2	x	0	0

• Organic Farms



	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Farms</u>
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total	5	5
Hay / Field Crops	2	0
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse	5	4
Animal	2	2
Other	1	1



¹³ Note: A total for the number of farms is not provided to avoid double counting in the case of mixed farms.

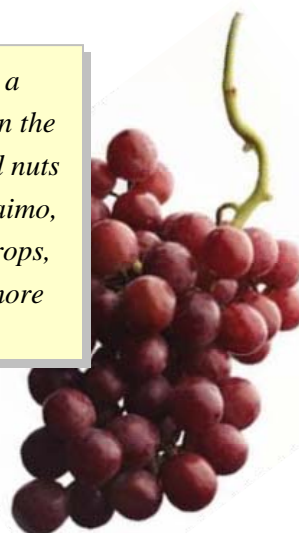
¹⁴ Throughout the report, 'x' indicates that farms are reporting but information is not provided for reasons of confidentiality.



• **Fruits, Berries & Nuts**

	<u>1986</u>		<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>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Total	89	40	84	65	110	62	78	69	79	83
Apples	50	11	38	17	60	20	50	19	40	16
Pears	43	3	26	3	41	3	19	2	19	2
Plums & Prunes	41	3	27	4	45	4	20	2	19	2
Sweet Cherries	40	2	21	2	39	2	15	x	14	1
Sour Cherries	8	1	5	0.4	7	0.8	1	x	2	x
Peaches	21	1	8	x	17	0.8	5	x	3	0
Apricots	7	x	7	x	9	x	3	x	0	0
Other tree fruits	18	1	13	10	23	9	na	na	na	na
Grapes	2	x	5	x	10	x	12	x	12	10
Strawberries	18	8	23	9	21	5	19	5	17	4
Raspberries	22	x	23	5	21	4	22	5	31	6
Cranberries	0	0	1	x	2	x	1	x	2	x
Blueberries	4	0.4	10	4	13	3	11	x	18	6
Saskatoons	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	x	1	x
Other berries	4	0.4	7	x	12	x	na	na	na	na
Other fruits, berries & nuts	na	na	na	na	na	na	26	11	29	15

Since 1986, there has been a decrease of 10 farms involved in the production of fruits, berries and nuts in the Regional District of Nanaimo, but the land devoted to these crops, between 1986 and 2006, has more than doubled.



• **Vegetables**

	<u>1986</u>		<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>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Total	34	38	35	30	65	55	68	38	58	49
Sweet Corn	19	7	19	7	35	20	22	11	23	17
Tomatoes	10	1	17	2	24	2	18	2	16	1
Cucumbers	11	2	15	3	22	2	18	1	18	2
Green Peas	8	0.4	12	1	13	x	12	0.8	16	1
Green / Wax Beans	7	0.4	12	1	21	2	17	2	20	2
Cabbage	7	1	7	2	13	0.8	6	x	6	0.4
Chinese Cabbage	na	na	0	0	1	x	3	x	0	0
Cauliflower	6	0.8	5	0.4	15	x	8	0.4	10	1
Broccoli	6	0.4	9	1	21	2	8	0.8	10	3
Brussels Sprouts	1	x	1	x	4	x	4	x	4	0
Carrots	12	1	15	2	17	2	15	0.8	13	x
Rutabagas / Turnips	5	x	2	x	4	x	4	x	4	1
Beets	4	0.4	14	1	13	x	16	0.8	16	1
Radishes	3	x	4	2	4	x	3	x	3	x
Shallots / Green Onions	3	x	6	0.4	12	0.4	5	x	6	x
Dry / Other Onions	6	x	5	0.4	11	0.4	10	0.8	9	1
Celery	2	x	3	x	6	x	2	x	3	x
Lettuces	7	0.8	11	1	17	2	17	1	13	1
Spinach	5	x	5	0.4	9	0.4	5	x	8	0.4
Peppers	5	x	8	1	12	2	8	0.4	5	x
Squash, Pumpkins & Zucchini	6	x	10	1	22	5	27	6	na	na
Pumpkins	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	15	6
Squash / Zucchini	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	24	3
Asparagus	5	x	5	3	3	x	4	0.4	4	0
Rhubarb	4	x	8	0.4	14	x	11	x	na	na
Parsnips	2	x	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cantaloupes & Melons	3	x	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Other Vegetables	7	2	9	1	26	6	23	7	28	5

• **Mushrooms (Growing Area)**

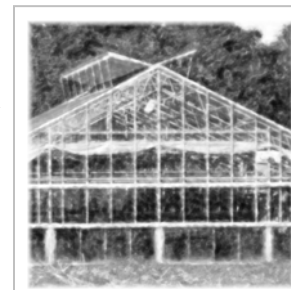
<u>1986</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. Metres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. Metres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. Metres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. Metres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. Metres</u>
0	0	2	x	2	x	1	x	0	0



• **Greenhouse Production**

	1986			1991			1996		
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. M.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. M.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. M.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Flowers	15	11,358	85%	14	5,402	22%	26	23,977	41%
Vegetables	6	823	6%	na ¹⁵	na	na	23	x	na
Other Greenhouse Products	4	729	6%	6	x	na	11	x	na
Not in Use on date of census	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>3,028</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>656</u>	<u>1%</u>
Total¹⁶	23	13,301	100%	30	25,111	100%	45	59,094	100%

	2001 ¹⁷			2006		
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. M.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Sq. M.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Flowers	34	18,525	51%	34	23,828	na
Vegetables	26	7,157	20%	17	x	na
Other Greenhouse Products	19	1,719	5%	16	x	na
Not in Use on date of census	<u>na</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>na</u>
Total¹⁶	57	na	100%	54	x	100%



	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Ha.</u>
• Nursery Products	12	28	24	34	46	55	56	56	38	49
• Sod Grown for Sale	1	x	3	8	5	25	5	24	3	17
• Christmas Trees	na	na	na	na	20	173	12	78	18	48
• Maple Tree Taps	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	0	5	702

¹⁵ In 1991 the Census of Agriculture did not provide an overall figure for area of greenhouse vegetables but did indicate that within the Regional District of Nanaimo there were 4,565 sq. m of greenhouse tomatoes and 2,616 sq. m. in greenhouse cucumbers and 2 farms growing greenhouse lettuce.

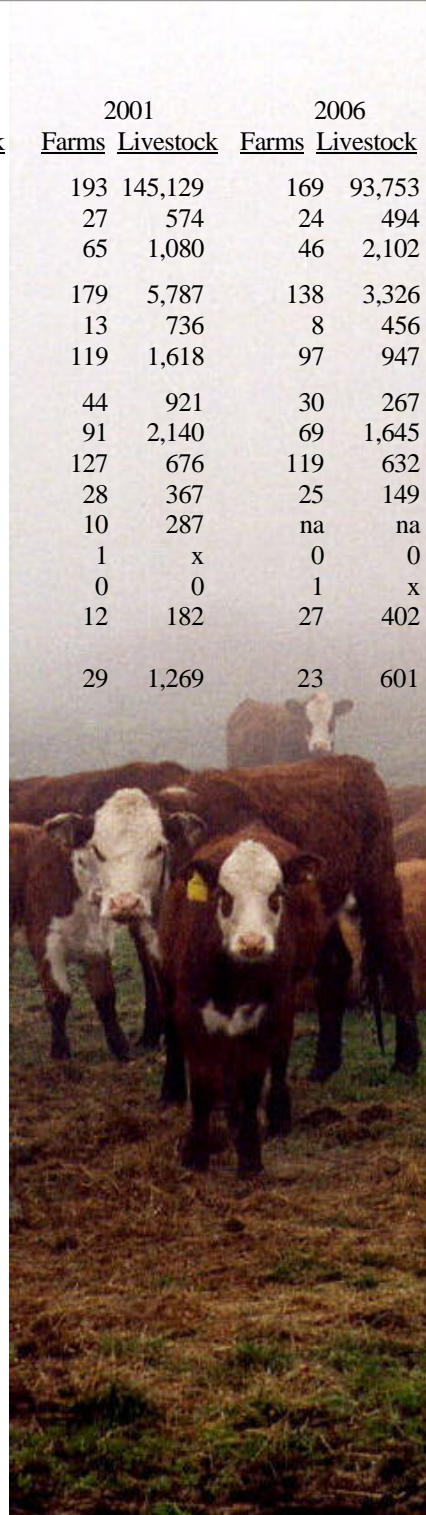
¹⁶ Note: A single greenhouse may be engaged in more than one form of production.

¹⁷ The 2001 Census of Agriculture does not provide a total for area under glass in the Regional District as a whole. By adding up the sq. metres for individual census subdivisions within the Regional District where data is provided, there were 36,162 sq. metres under glass in these areas. It can be concluded, therefore, that the Regional District of Nanaimo had at least this amount of land under glass in 2001. Figures for greenhouses growing flowers, vegetables and other greenhouse products in 2001 were similarly calculated.

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• Livestock

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock
Hens & Chickens	187	92,246	174	113,697	182	158,643	193	145,129	169	93,753
Turkeys	19	1,177	36	767	18	x	27	574	24	494
Total Other Poultry	54	4,998	60	1,835	55	3,737	65	1,080	46	2,102
Cattle & Calves	199	4,614	206	5,003	208	4,912	179	5,787	138	3,326
- Milk Cows	44	826	35	1,055	27	810	13	736	8	456
- Beef Cows	136	1,133	137	1,218	152	1,347	119	1,618	97	947
Pigs	54	3,140	50	3,628	62	3,457	44	921	30	267
Sheep & Lambs	50	1,399	73	1,682	71	1,775	91	2,140	69	1,645
Horses & Ponies	103	389	117	489	133	625	127	676	119	632
Goats	18	144	28	117	35	229	28	367	25	149
Rabbits	32	637	33	706	33	670	10	287	na	na
Wild Boar	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	x	0	0
Bison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x
Llamas & Alpacas	na	na	na	na	6	37	12	182	27	402
Colonies of Bees for Honey	na	na	23	663	21	1,038	29	1,269	23	601



“Tom Browne’s first farm at Hilliers”

Between
1910 and 1919

Source: BC Archives
Call No. B-07873



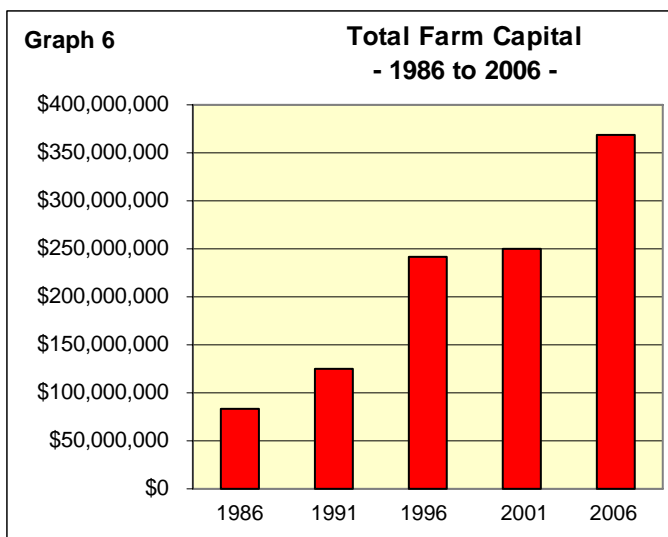
• Land Management Practices

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>% of Farmland</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>% of Farmland</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>% of Farmland</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>% of Farmland</u>	<u>Ha.</u>	<u>% of Farmland</u>
• Irrigation	413	6%	470	6%	891	9%	703	6%	902	11%
• Commercial Fertilizers	2,172	32%	2,245	29%	3,170	32%	2,851	24%	2,735	33%
• Manure ¹⁸	na	na	1,510	16%	1,258	13%	1,207	10%	983	12%
• Herbicides	223	3%	196	3%	999	10%	923	8%	1,249	15%
• Insecticides & Fungicides ¹⁹	128	2%	138	2%	na	na	na	na	na	na
• Insecticides	na	na	na	na	236	2%	154	1%	311	4%
• Fungicides	na	na	na	na	114	1%	195	2%	235	3%

• Total Farm Capital

1986 = \$83,236,767
 1991 = \$124,980,243
 1996 = \$241,929,105
 2001 = \$249,031,421
 2006 = \$369,169,959

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



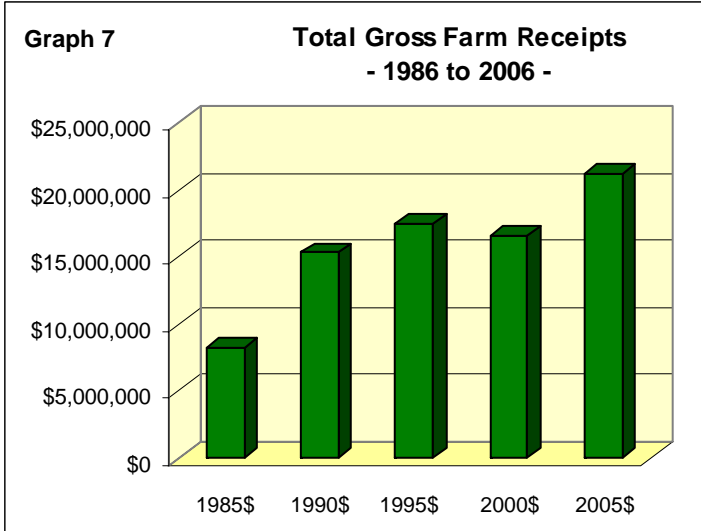
Division of Capital - 2006 (only)

	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
• Land and Buildings	\$340,664,601	92%
• Farm Machinery & Equipment	\$24,138,529	7%
• Livestock & Poultry	\$4,366,829	1%

¹⁸ In the case of some forms of manure application, data was not provided. Figures represent only where data is provided.

¹⁹ In the 1986 and 1991 Census of Agriculture, insecticides and fungicides were grouped together but split in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

• **Total Gross Farm Receipts**



1986	=	\$8,273,850	(1985\$)
1991	=	\$15,335,020	(1990\$)
1996	=	\$17,508,293	(1995\$)
2001	=	\$16,612,719	(2000\$)
2006	=	\$21,186,317	(2005\$)

- **Average Gross Farm Receipts per Farm**

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Regional District of Nanaimo	\$23,775	\$38,725	\$35,514	\$33,904	\$45,957
Vancouver Island	\$37,865	\$47,690	\$50,385	\$51,058	\$58,974
British Columbia	\$55,552	\$68,723	\$84,233	\$113,736	\$133,641



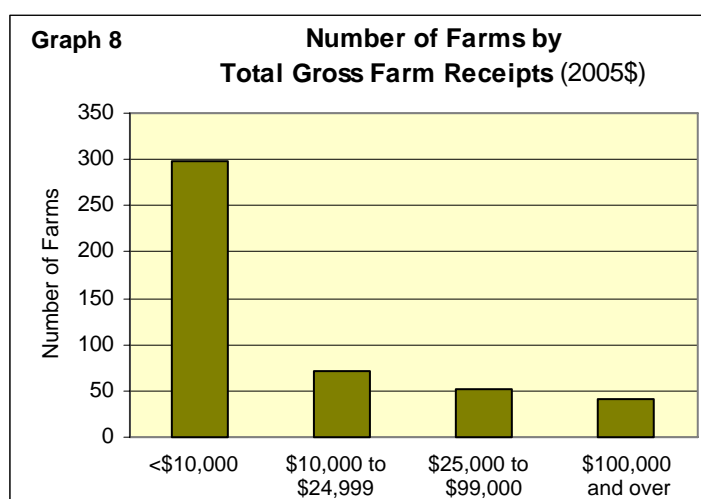
Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

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

	<u>Regional District of Nanaimo</u>		<u>British Columbia</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of RD Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of BC Total</u>
< \$10,000	299	65%	9,466	48%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	71	15%	3,194	16%
\$25,000 - \$99,999	51	11%	3,629	18%
\$100,000 & over	<u>40</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>3,555</u>	<u>18%</u>
Total	461	100%	19,844	100%

• Total Operating Expenses & Cash Wages Paid

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Wages</u>
1985\$	= \$8,953,572	\$1,437,777
1990\$	= \$13,239,021	\$2,504,456
1995\$	= \$18,317,094	\$3,591,970
2000\$	= \$17,323,886	\$3,717,703
2005\$	= \$21,274,867	\$4,932,014



• Total Paid Labour (weeks)

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Total Paid Labour (weeks)	4,829	6,727	8,897	7,681	8,470

- Year Round vs. Seasonal Paid Labour

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
% Year Round	61%	66%	52%	57%	52%
% Seasonal	39%	34%	48%	43%	48%
<i>% Year Round British Columbia</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>63%</i>



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.

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**.

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



Nationally, in 2006, BC ranked 1st 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 2 - Map - Regional District of Nanaimo website at: <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/?w=319>
- Page 4 - 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 10 - B. Smith
- Page 14 - BC Archives: Call No. B-07873 and B. Smith (Beef Cows)
- Page 16 - B. Smith (Barn Window)

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/>



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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