

District of North Saanich **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

Corporate Name	District of North Saanich
Date of Incorporation	August 19, 1965
Postal Address	District of North Saanich 1620 Mills Road North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S0
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↑
Additional information
can be found on the
District's website.

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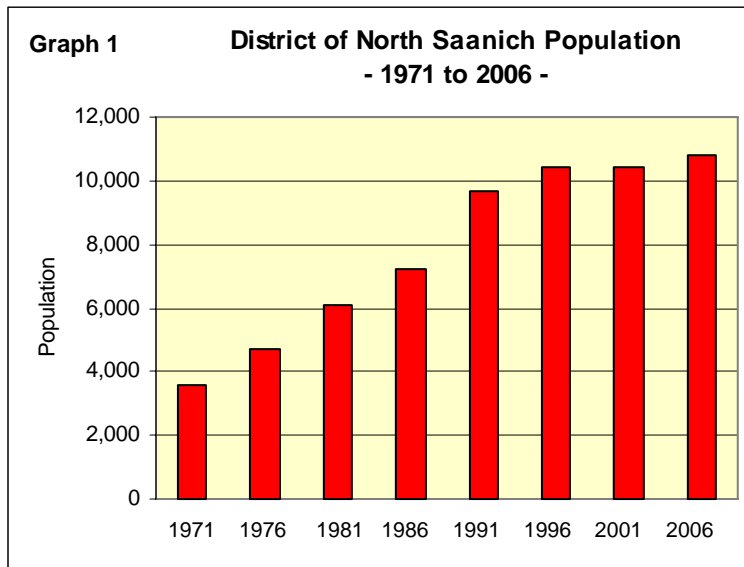
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• Population - 1971 to 2006¹

1971	=	3,601
1976	=	4,697
1981	=	6,117
1986	=	7,247
1991	=	9,645
1996	=	10,411
2001	=	10,436
2006	=	10,823



- Population Increase 1971 to 2006

= 7,222
 = 206 persons / year increase on average
 = 201% increase

- 2006 Urban / Rural Split

Urban = 6,914 (64%)
 Rural = 3,909 (36%)

North Saanich was home to about 3.1% of the Capital Regional District's population in 2006.

There were 78 farms reported in North Saanich in 2006. The District's farm population is estimated to be 234 persons or 2.2% of North Saanich'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.



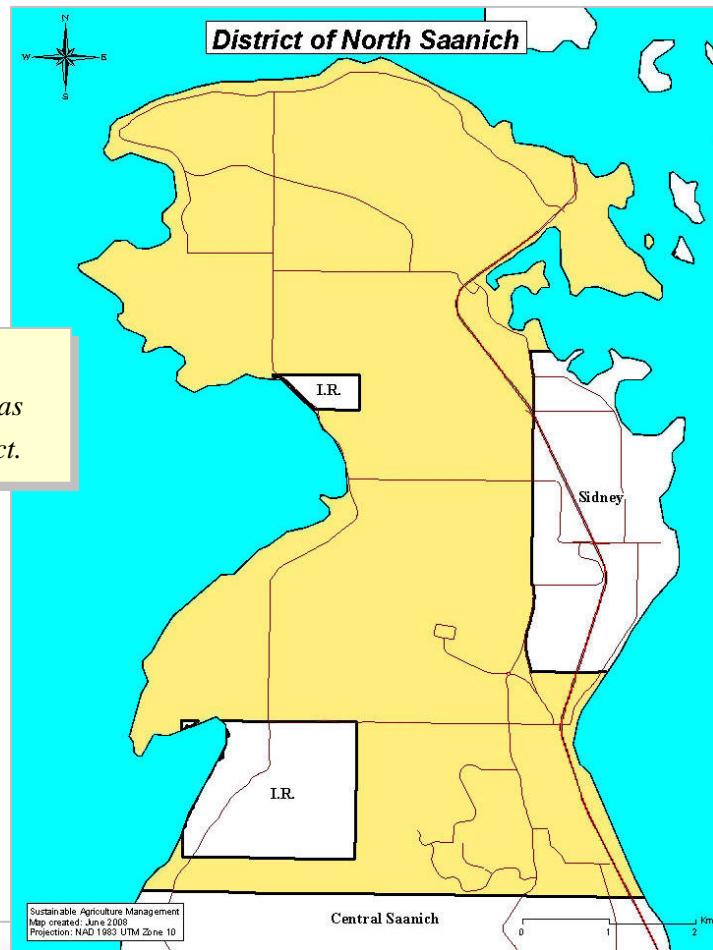
¹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs, "Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia" - 1990 & 1998 and Statistics Canada, Ottawa - <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html>

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- Jurisdictional Area ²

Land	=	4,691 ha
<u>Water</u>	=	<u>0 ha</u>
Total	=	4,691 ha

North Saanich is one of 13 municipalities and 3 Electoral Areas within the Capital Regional District.



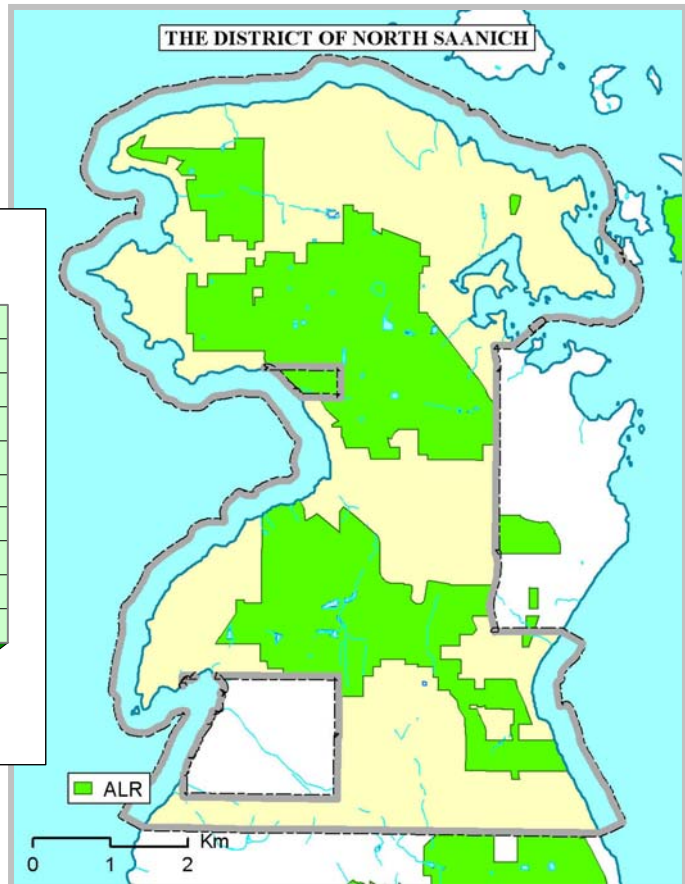
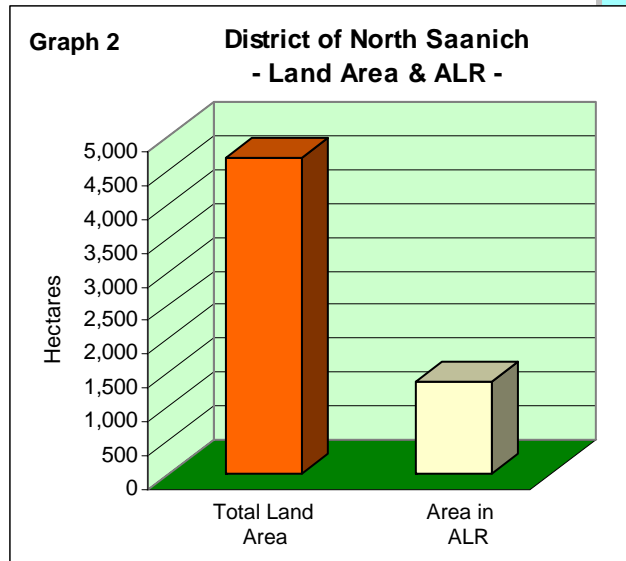
² Correspondence: B. Johnson, Statistics Officer, Ministry of Community Services (see: Table - 2006 Mun Land and Water Area.xls).

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• Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

= 1,381 hectares³



Approximately 29% of North Saanich's land base is within the ALR and accounts for about 8.4% of the Agricultural Land Reserve within the Capital Regional District.

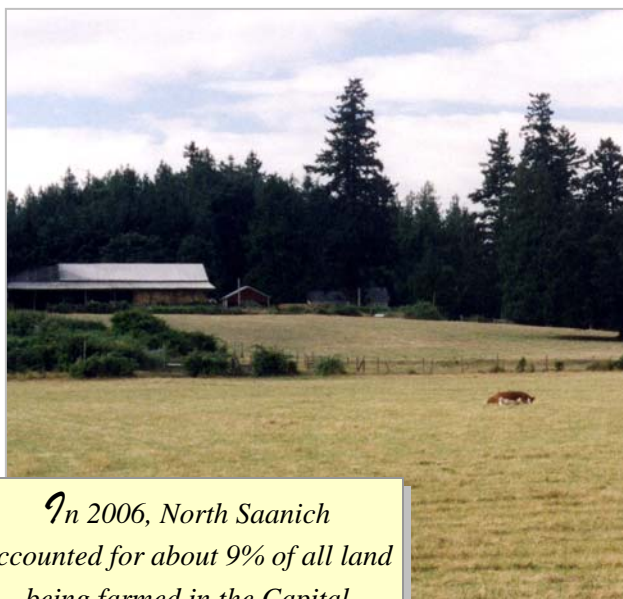
The ALR was designated in North Saanich on June 27, 1974 as part of the Capital Regional District's ALR Plan.

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

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• Total Area Farmed

1986	=	1,129 ha
1991	=	677 ha
1996	=	757 ha
2001	=	1,025 ha
2006	=	1,226 ha



*In 2006, North Saanich
accounted for about 9% of all land
being farmed in the Capital
Regional District.*

• Number of Farms⁴ Reporting

1986	=	78
1991	=	67
1996	=	74
2001	=	84
2006	=	78

- Average Farm Size (hectares)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
District of North Saanich	14.5 ha	10.1 ha	10.2 ha	12.2 ha	15.7 ha
Capital Regional District	16.8 ha	15.8 ha	13.9 ha	15.9 ha	13.7 ha
British Columbia	126.5 ha	124.4 ha	115.8 ha	127.5 ha	142.9 ha

- Farm Size

	<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<4 ha (10 acres)	38	57%	42	57%	45	54%	43	55%
4 to 52 ha (10 to 129 acres)	26	39%	30	41%	36	43%	30	38%
52 to 161 ha (130 to 399 acres)	3	4%	1	1%	2	2%	3	4%
<u>>161 ha (400 acres & greater)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3%</u>
Total	67	100%	74	100%	84	100%	78	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>

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• Tenure⁵

	<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
Farmland Owned	431 ha	64 %	505 ha	67%	699 ha	68%	778 ha	63%
<u>Farmland Leased, etc.</u>	<u>246 ha</u>	<u>36%</u>	<u>252 ha</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>326 ha</u>	<u>32%</u>	<u>453 ha</u>	<u>37%</u>
Total	677 ha	100%	756 ha	100%	1,025 ha	100%	1,231 ha	100%

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

- Farmland Leased

	<u>1991</u>		<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
From governments	x	na ⁶	144 ha	57%	x ⁷	na	x	na
From others	x	na	107 ha	42%	x	%	233 ha	51%
Crop shared from others	na	na	na	na	x	na	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>x</u>	<u>na</u>
Total	246 ha	100%	253 ha	100%	326 ha	100%	453 ha	100%

Peninsula Agricultural Commission

North Saanich is one of four municipalities, along with Saanich, Central Saanich and Sidney, that is part of the Peninsula Agricultural Commission. The Commission was formed in 1998 with a mandate to advise the Municipalities on agricultural matters. The Commission has 9 voting members who are local farmers, and four Municipal Council representatives. The Commission is also assisted by agricultural professionals from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Agricultural Land Commission.



The Commission has the following objectives:

- Increase public awareness, education and support for a sustainable farm community.
- Foster stewardship of farmland which embraces environmental and other community values.
- Increase economic returns to farmers.
- Secure an adequate supply of water to farms at a competitive cost.
- Maintain and enhance the sustainability of agriculture on the Saanich Peninsula.

Examples of the Commission's work have been its efforts on local drainage and land use issues, and the 2005 Capital Regional District Agricultural Water Use and Conservation Study.

For more information about the Commission see: <http://islandfarming.blogspot.com/>

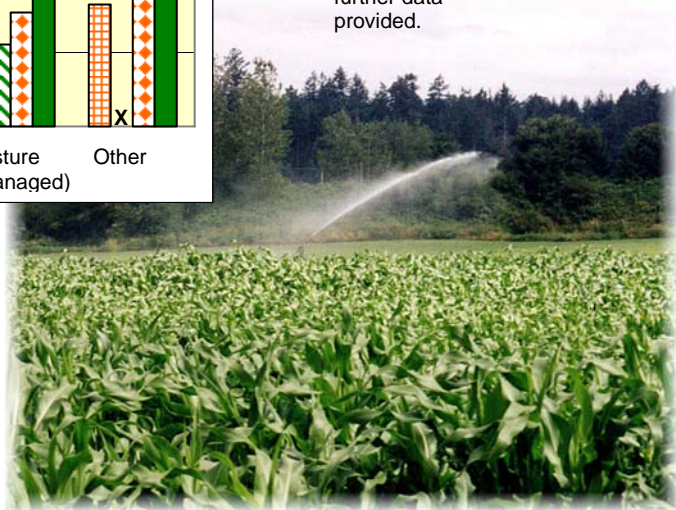
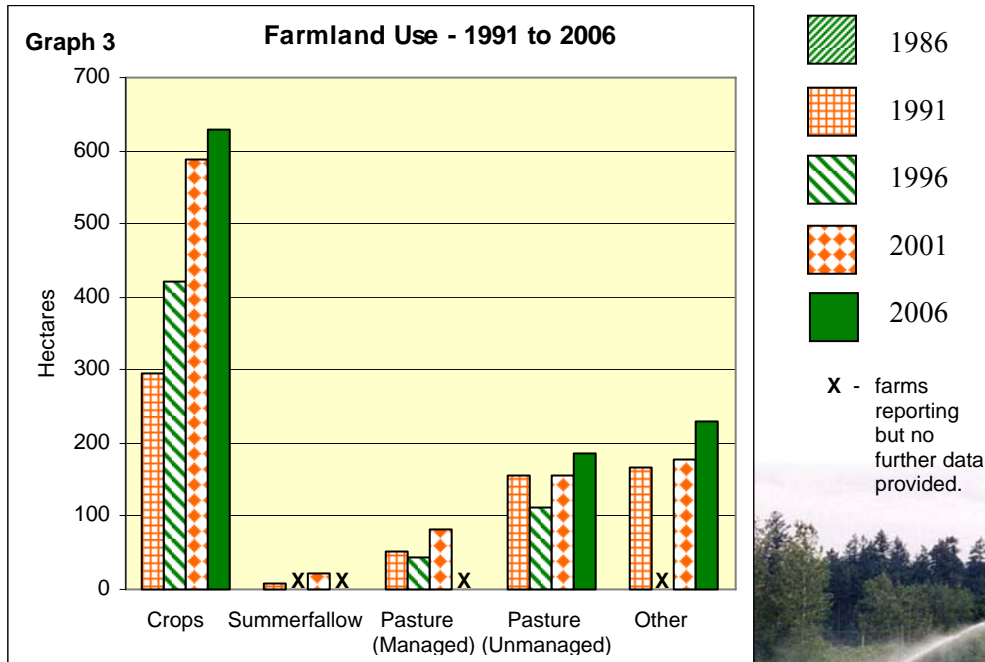
⁵ Note: Figures related to tenure for 2006 are not comparable to previous Census data due to a significant revision to the questionnaire and reformatting of the data by Statistics Canada. For this reason, the total area farmed in 2006 (p. 4) is not the same as the total in the Tenure table.

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.

• Hectares of Farmland in:

	1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Crops	51	295	52	422	60	587	55	629
Summerfallow	5	7	1	x	4	21	4	x
Pasture (managed)	16	53	9	43	19	82	14	x
Pasture (unmanaged)	24	155	28	112	40	157	30	187
Other ⁸	49	166	61	x	55	177	63	231
Total ⁹	na	676 ¹⁰	na	757	na	1,024 ¹⁰	na	1,226



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.

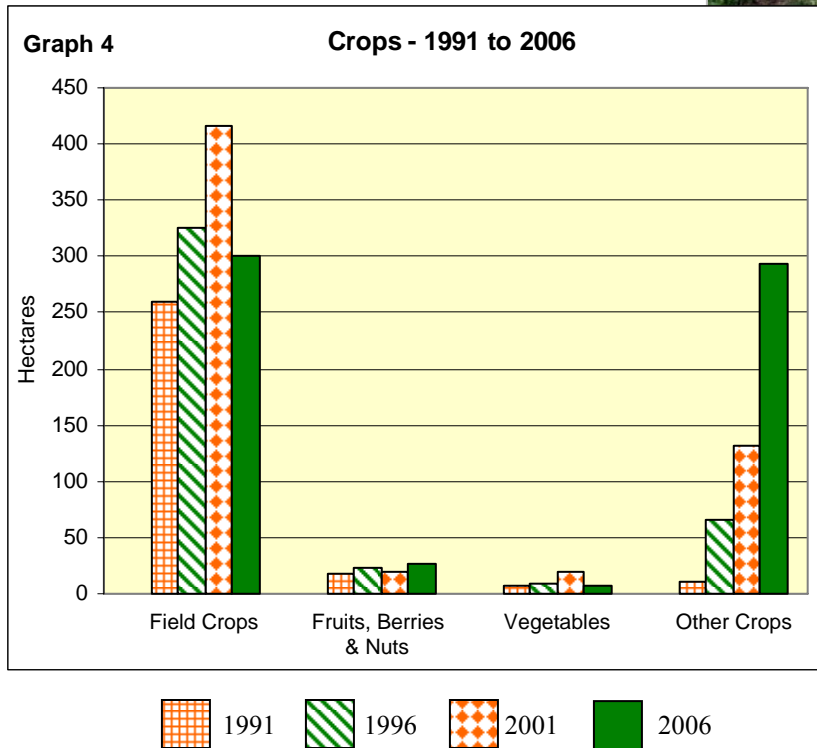
¹⁰ The minor difference with Total Area Farmed on page 5 is due to rounding or metric conversion.

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• Crops (hectares)

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Field Crops ¹¹	259	325	416	301
Tree Fruits	10	14	na	na
Berries & Grapes	8	10	na	na
Fruits, Berries & Nuts ¹²	na	na	20	27
Vegetables	8	9	19	7
<u>Other</u> ¹³	<u>10</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>294</u>
Total	295	422	587	629



¹¹ 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.

¹² In 1991 and 1996, data was split between 'Tree Fruits' and 'Berries & Grapes'. Starting in 2001 this data was grouped as Fruits, Berries & Nuts, resulting in data not being available (na) in this category in 1991 and 1996.

¹³ "Other" Crops also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

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	<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>
• Field Crops¹⁴	na	259	na	325	na	416	na	301
Wheat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x
Oats	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x
Barley	1	x	0	0	0	0	1	x
Buckwheat	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	x
Rye	1	x	0	0	4	7	3	x
Corn for Silage	2	x	2	x	2	x	2	x
Alfalfa	0	0	3	28	3	x	3	x
All other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops	29	241	23	295	34	409	24	301
Sunflowers	0	0	1	x	1	x	0	0
Potatoes	2	x	4	2	1	x	2	x
Dry Field Beans	0	0	1	x	1	x	0	0




Fruits, Berries & Nuts

	<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>
	27	18	40	24	24	20	25	27
Apples	13	6	14	9	16	8	13	4
Pears	9	x	9	2	5	1	7	1
Plums & Prunes	8	x	6	x	2	x	4	1
Sweet Cherries	1	x	6	1	2	x	3	x
Sour Cherries	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x
Peaches	7	1	3	x	2	x	1	x
Apricots	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0
Other tree fruits	5	1	8	0.8	na	na	na	na
Strawberries	6	2	3	2	3	x	6	1
Raspberries	6	3	7	1	1	x	5	1
Cranberries	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blueberries	0	0	3	x	2	x	9	11
Other Berries	4	x	7	2	na	na	na	na
Grapes	2	x	6	3	5	x	6	6
Other fruits, berries & nuts	na	na	na	na	9	3	7	3

¹⁴ Note: A total for the number of farms is not provided to avoid double counting in the case of mixed farms.

	<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	14	8	16	9	12	19	12	7
Sweet Corn	5	1	6	0.4	3	x	3	x
Tomatoes	5	x	9	0.4	7	x	5	x
Cucumbers	2	x	7	0.4	4	0.4	4	0
Green Peas	0	0	7	0.4	3	0.8	2	x
Green or Wax Beans	2	x	7	0.8	3	x	5	0.4
Cabbage	2	x	2	x	3	x	2	x
Chinese Cabbage	0	0	2	x	0	0	0	0
Cauliflower	2	x	2	x	2	x	2	x
Broccoli	0	0	2	x	3	0.8	4	1
Brussels Sprouts	1	x	1	x	1	x	0	0
Carrots	0	0	3	x	2	x	1	x
Rutabagas / Turnips	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x
Beets	2	x	3	x	3	0.8	4	0.4
Radishes	0	0	3	x	1	x	2	x
Green (Bunching) Onions & Shallots	2	x	5	x	2	x	2	x
Dry / Other Onions	0	0	3	x	2	x	3	x
Celery	0	0	1	x	2	x	0	0
Lettuces	2	x	3	x	2	x	4	x
Spinach	2	x	2	x	2	x	1	x
Peppers	2	x	3	x	3	0.4	1	x
Squash, Pumpkins & Zucchini	2	x	11	0.8	6	2	na	na
Pumpkins	na	na	na	na	na	na	4	x
Squash / Zucchini	na	na	na	na	na	na	9	x
Rhubarb	4	1	3	x	2	x	na	na
Asparagus	2	x	0	0	1	x	1	x
Other Vegetables	4	2	8	2	6	1	6	1

	<u>Farms</u>	
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
• Organic Farms	3	4
 Total	0	0
Hay / Field Crops	2	4
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse	0	1
Animal	0	3
Other		



• **Greenhouse Production**

	1991			1996		
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Square Metres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Square Metres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Flowers	5	8,779	84%	11	19,668	46%
Vegetables	na	na	na	3	2,791	6%
Other Greenhouse Products	1	x	na	8	20,441	48%
<u>Area not in Use on date of census</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>53</u>	<u><1%</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>25</u>	<u><1%</u>
Total ¹⁵	8	10,447	100%	15	42,925	100%

	2001			2006		
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Square Metres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Square Metres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Flowers	14	27,091	55%	7	x	na
Vegetables	6	519	1%	5	173	<1%
Other Greenhouse Products	7	18,754	38%	5	x	na
<u>Area not in Use on date of census</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>2,747</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>5</u>	<u><1%</u>
Total ¹⁵	21	49,111	100%	15	44,857	100%

	1991		1996		2001		2006	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
• Nursery Products	8	4	13	9	12	8	9	18
• Christmas Trees	na	na	1	x	1	x	1	x

“Oast silo at the William Towner farm in North Saanich near Victoria. - ca 1900”

Source: BC Archives
Photographer: B.C. Government
Call No. D-04377



¹⁵ Note: A single greenhouse may be engaged in more than one form of production.

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• Livestock

	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock	Farms	Livestock
Hens & Chickens	33	2,239	21	1,595	20	2,576	27	x	23	x
Turkeys	na	na	6	x	2	x	4	108	0	0
Total Other Poultry	na	na	8	285	10	142	6	141	4	34
Cattle & Calves	31	930	17	665	15	1,097	12	1,014	12	1,008
- Milk Cows	na	na	6	384	4	x	2	x	2	x
- Beef Cows	na	na	8	42	9	x	8	x	7	x
Pigs	5	22	8	60	4	x	0	0	2	x
Sheep & Lambs	na	na	14	708	17	612	15	352	12	459
Horses & Ponies	na	na	21	147	17	79	22	156	17	165
Goats	na	na	3	14	8	30	3	17	2	x
Rabbits	na	na	4	106	4	17	0	0	na	na
Llamas & Alpacas	na	na	na	na	1	x	2	x	2	x
Colonies of Bees for Honey	na	na	3	8	3	10	4	13	3	x



• Land Management Practices

	1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Hectares	% of Farmland	Hectares	% of Farmland	Hectares	% of Farmland	Hectares	% of Farmland
• Irrigation	194	29%	505	67%	224	22%	257	21%
• Commercial Fertilizers	372	55%	546	72%	503	49%	382	31%
• Manure ¹⁶	219	32%	234	31%	125	12%	114	9%
• Herbicides	62	9%	80	11%	80	8%	109	9%
• Insecticides & Fungicides ¹⁷	7	1%	na	na	na	na	na	na
• Insecticides	na	na	45	6%	29	3%	89	7%
• Fungicides	na	na	29	4%	10	1%	8	<1%

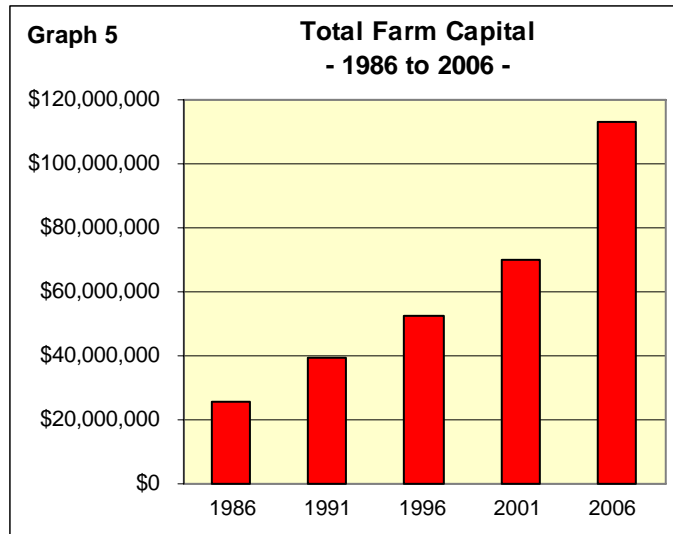
¹⁶ In the case of some forms of manure application, data was not provided. Figures represent only where data is provided.

¹⁷ In the 1991 Census of Agriculture, insecticides and fungicides were grouped together.

• Total Farm Capital

1986	=	\$25,741,105
1991	=	\$39,549,342
1996	=	\$52,311,202
2001	=	\$69,777,752
2006	=	\$113,234,538

About 95.5% of the increase in the total farm capital in North Saanich between 1991 and 2006 (years of available data) is attributable to increases in the value of land and buildings.

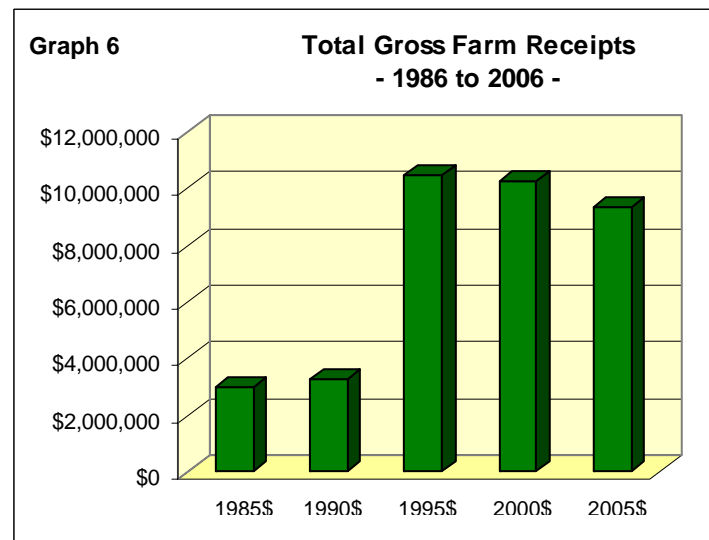


Division of Capital - 2006

	Value (\$)	% of Total
• Land and buildings	\$107,236,222	95%
• Farm machinery & equipment	\$4,527,984	4%
• Livestock & poultry	\$1,470,332	1%

• Total Gross Farm Receipts

1986	=	\$2,988,111	(1985\$)
1991	=	\$3,298,800	(1990\$)
1996	=	\$10,469,668	(1995\$)
2001	=	\$10,257,966	(2000\$)
2006	=	\$9,334,553	(2005\$)

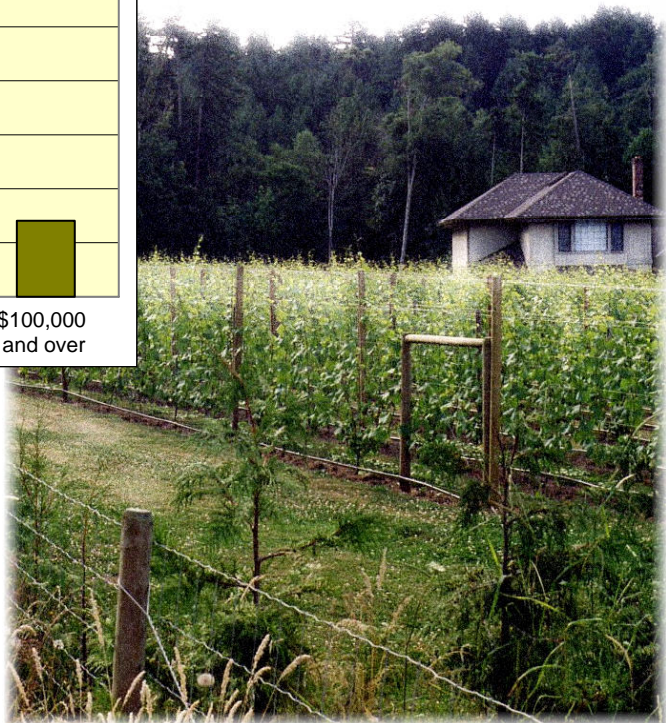
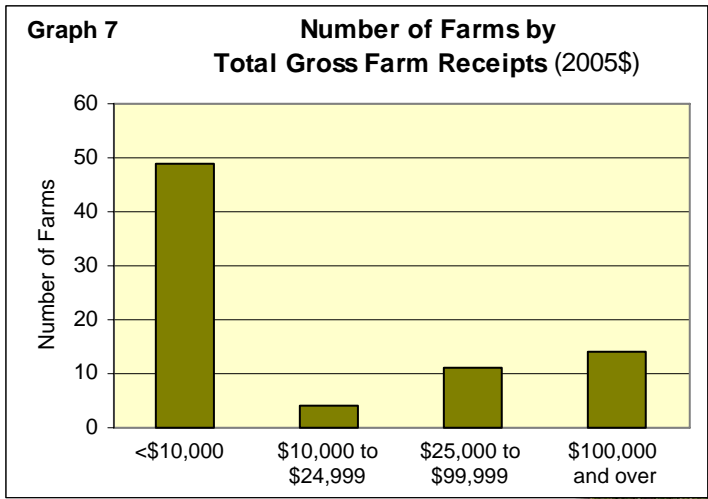


- Average Gross Farm Receipts per Farm

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
District of North Saanich	\$38,309	\$49,236	\$141,482	\$122,119	\$119,674
Capital Regional District	\$35,552	\$42,237	\$49,314	\$51,660	\$54,754
Vancouver Island	\$37,865	\$47,690	\$50,385	\$51,058	\$58,974
British Columbia	\$55,552	\$68,723	\$84,233	\$113,736	\$133,641

- Number of Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts 2005

	<u>North Saanich</u>		<u>Capital Reg. Dist.</u>		<u>B.C.</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of North Saan. Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of Reg. Dist. Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of BC Total</u>
< \$10,000	49	63%	663	67%	9,466	48%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	4	5%	119	12%	3,194	16%
\$25,000 - \$99,999	11	14%	126	13%	3,629	18%
\$100,000 and over	14	18%	83	8%	3,555	18%
Total	78	100%	991	100%	19,844	100%




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

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Wages</u>
1985\$ =	\$3,286,392	na
1990\$ =	\$2,436,844	\$602,185
1995\$ =	\$9,896,599	\$3,731,561
2000\$ =	\$9,548,242	\$3,187,337
2005\$ =	\$8,899,299	\$3,498,422



	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
• Total Paid Labour (weeks)	1,549	5,506	5,958	5,114

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

	% Year Round	73%	41%	72%	57%
	% Seasonal	27%	59%	28%	43%
	% Year Round British Columbia	51%	57%	62%	63%



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.
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- 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:

- Page 4 - ALR Map produced by the Resource Management Branch. Data provided by Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.
- Page 11 - BC Archives: Call No. D-04377

**WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
AGRICULTURE IN B.C.?**

See:

the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands at:

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



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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