

2011 Census of Agriculture Bulletin

Agriculture in Metro Vancouver

The agricultural industry in Metro Vancouver is a crucial component of the region’s economy, food security and community well-being. In 2010, farms in Metro Vancouver generated 27% of the B.C.’s gross farm receipts on only 1.5% of the province’s farmland. The region’s family farms continue to produce a wide diversity of crops and livestock, while increasing environmentally sustainable land management practices.

Accounting for 53% of B.C.’s population, Metro Vancouver is both an important consumer and supplier of agricultural products. The combination of a moderate climate, fertile soils, and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) has enabled the agricultural industry to make a significant contribution to the regional economy. While almost half of the municipalities in Metro Vancouver have some farming, Langley, Delta, Surrey, Pitt Meadows and Richmond account for the majority of agricultural activity and nearly 90% of the land in the ALR.

All the data provided in this bulletin has been compiled from Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture released on May 10, 2012 for the metropolitan region of Metro Vancouver Regional District. Data has also been reported for member municipalities with significant agricultural activity and compared to results from the Fraser Valley Regional District, B.C. and Canada.



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1) Total Land Farmed

Farm managers report the total amount of land they are farming which may include parcels in more than one municipality. In 2011, the total land farmed in Metro Vancouver was 40,691 hectares (ha), down slightly from the 41,035 ha reported in 2006.

While the total amount has not changed much over the past 15 years, distribution of land farmed in the region has changed significantly in some municipalities (Table 1). Over the past five years Surrey's farmed land declined by 2,939 ha, while Pitt Meadows and Langley's agricultural areas increased by 3,189 ha and 2,008 ha respectively resulting in changes in the regional distribution of land farmed in Metro Vancouver (Figure 1).

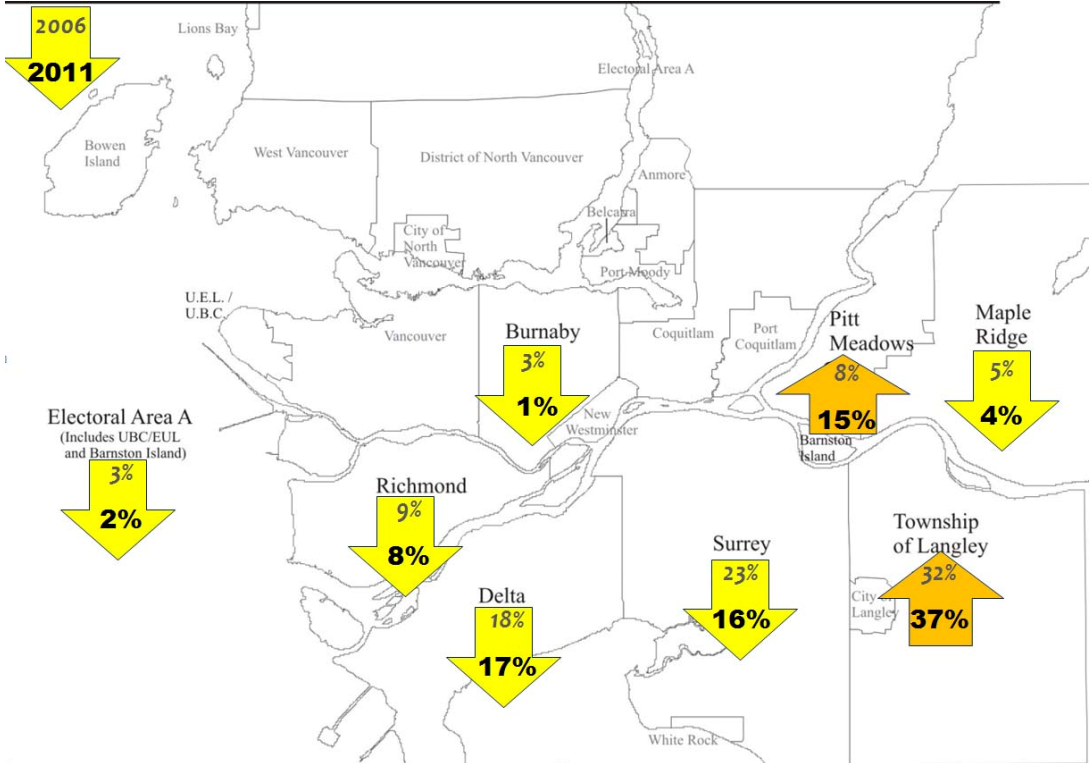
Table 1: Total Land Farmed, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Region	Total Farm Land (Hectares)				5 Yr Change
	1996	2001	2006	2011	(2006 - 2011)
Burnaby	546	292	1,397	501	-896
Delta	7,544	7,840	7,520	6,988	-532
Electoral Area A	1,365	2,378	1,102	955	-147
Langley	13,372	14,187	12,970	14,978	2,008
Maple Ridge	1,943	1,615	1,923	1,509	-414
Pitt Meadows	3,077	2,974	3,086	6,275	3,189
Richmond	3,012	3,365	3,730	3,072	-658
Surrey	8,704	7,084	9,307	6,368	-2,939
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	46	n/a
Metro Vancouver	39,676	39,735	41,035	40,691	-344
FVRD	54,454	48,670	53,603	63,838	10,235
British Columbia	2,529,060	2,587,118	2,835,458	2,611,382	-224,076
Canada	68,054,956	67,502,446	67,586,739	64,812,723	-2,774,016

n/a - Not available for a specific reference period or suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

Figure 1: Changes in the distribution of land farmed in Metro Vancouver, 2006-2011



2) Number of Farms

A census farm is defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale. This includes a wide range of crops, livestock and derived products as long as they are intended for sale, or involve boarding and horse stables. Sales in the past 12 months are not required but there must be the intention to sell.

While the total land farmed decreased slightly, the actual number of census farms in Metro Vancouver increased for the first time in 15 years. In 2011, there were 2,821 farms in the region, up by 203 farms from 2,618 in 2006. The largest increase was in the Township of Langley. The census data now reports farms in Vancouver due to the emergence of urban farms in the city. Both Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District had an increase in the number of farms, while farm numbers in B.C. and Canada declined since 2006.

Table 2: Total Number of Census Farms, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Region	Total Farms			5 Yr Change	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	(2006 - 2011)
Burnaby	54	51	54	43	-11
Delta	186	196	180	202	22
Electoral Area A	140	82	82	86	4
Langley	1,584	1,417	1,292	1,360	68
Maple Ridge	331	237	213	231	18
Pitt Meadows	178	132	138	163	25
Richmond	247	182	172	211	39
Surrey	744	557	487	490	3
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	n/a
Metro Vancouver	3,464	2,854	2,618	2,821	203
FVRD	2,977	2,661	2,567	2,743	176
British Columbia	21,835	20,290	19,844	19,759	-85
Canada	276,549	246,923	229,373	205,730	-23,643

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

3) Farm Size

Farm size refers to the total amount of land a farm operation manages, which may include multiple parcels of land. Farms in close proximity to large urban centres are typically smaller than most rural farms. This is evident in Metro Vancouver where in 2011 the average farm size was 14 ha, which is substantially smaller than B.C. (132 ha) and the Canadian (315 ha) average farm size (Table 3).

Over the past ten years the average farm size in Metro Vancouver has not changed, although there has been some variation. The average farm size changed in several municipalities. The greatest decrease occurred in Electoral Area A/Barnston Island (-18), while the most significant increase in average farm size occurred in Pitt Meadows (+16) (Table 3).

Table 3: Average Farm Size in Metro Vancouver, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Region	Average Farm Size (Hectares)				10 Yr Change (2001-2011)
	1996	2001	2006	2011	
Burnaby	10	6	26	12	6
Delta	41	40	42	35	-5
Electoral Area A	11	29	13	11	-18
Langley	8	10	10	11	1
Maple Ridge	6	7	9	7	0
Pitt Meadows	17	23	22	38	16
Richmond	12	18	22	15	-4
Surrey	12	13	19	13	0
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
Metro Vancouver	11	14	16	14	0
FVRD	18	18	21	23	5
British Columbia	116	128	143	132	5
Canada	246	273	295	315	42

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

In Metro Vancouver small farms dominate. In 2011, 49% of the farms in Metro Vancouver were less than 4 ha (10 acres) and another 40.5% of farms were 4-28 ha (10-69 acres). Only 41 farms or 1.5% were greater than 162 ha (400 acres) (Table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of Farm Size, 2011

Region	Number of Farms by Farm Size			
	Under 4 Hectares	4 to 28 Hectares	28 to 162 Hectares	Over 162 Hectares
Burnaby	30	11	1	1
Delta	47	91	55	9
Electoral Area A	55	22	8	1
Langley	668	586	96	10
Maple Ridge	139	83	7	2
Pitt Meadows	64	69	21	9
Richmond	118	71	18	4
Surrey	233	208	44	5
Vancouver	33.0	2	0	0
Metro Vancouver	1,387	1,143	250	41

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture

4) Land Tenure

The land tenure of farms in Metro Vancouver has not changed significantly over the past five years. In 2011, farm operators owned 71% of the land farmed, while 27% of farms is leased or rented (Table 5). The remaining 1% is crop shared, which is an agreement where the crop is shared rather than cash rent being paid.

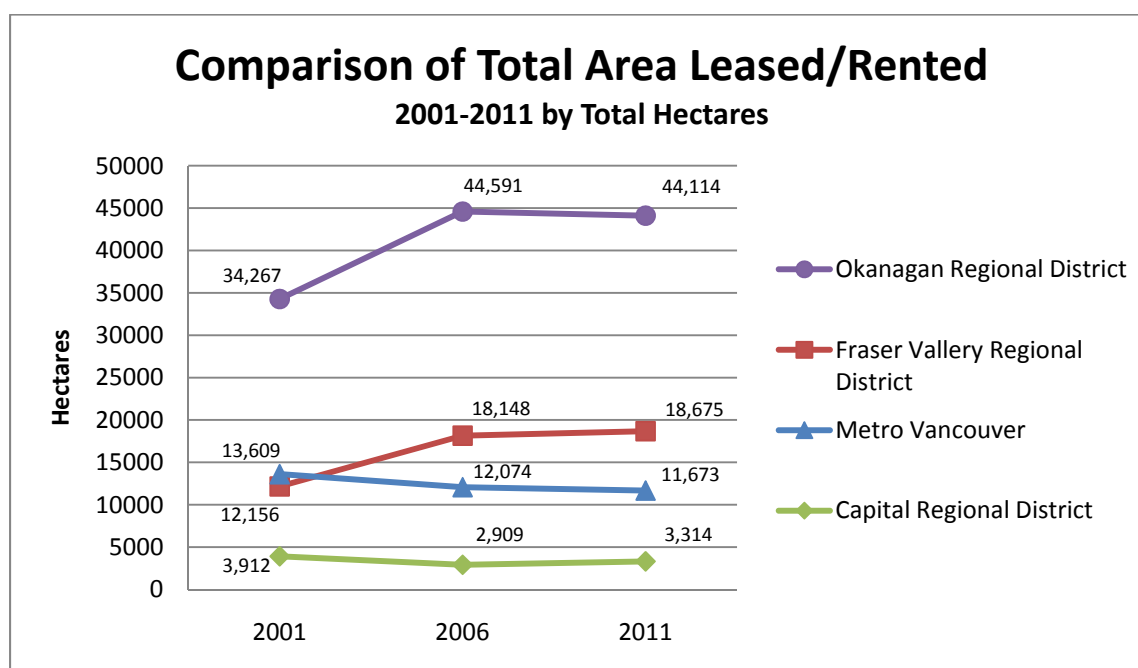
Municipalities with the highest percentage of farmer-owned agricultural land are Maple Ridge, Langley, Electoral Area A (Barnston Island), Vancouver and Pitt Meadows. The municipalities of Delta, Surrey, Langley has the largest portion of leased or rented land, of which 1,455 ha or 3.5% of the total land farmed is leased from governments (Table 5). There was also minimal change in the amount of land leased/rented in other regional districts over the past five years (Figure 2).

Table 5: Land Tenure in Metro Vancouver by Municipality, 2011

Region	Area Owned			Leased from Government			Rented or Leased from Others		
	# farms	hectares	% *	# farms	hectares	% *	# farms	hectares	% *
Burnaby	34	214	43%	3	n/a	n/a	12	24	5%
Delta	169	3,736	51%	19	604	8%	65	2,882	39%
Electoral Area A	81	885	93%	2	n/a	n/a	10	82	9%
Langley	1,286	12,148	78%	17	381	2%	197	2,637	17%
Maple Ridge	224	1,548	91%	2	n/a	n/a	23	203	12%
Pitt Meadows	152	5,214	83%	1	n/a	n/a	33	886	14%
Richmond	174	1,868	61%	5	76	2%	50	1,137	37%
Surrey	455	4,271	67%	4	470	7%	79	1,915	30%
Vancouver	23	42	91%	0	0	n/a	6	3	7%
Metro Vancouver	2,598	29,927	71%	53	1,500	4%	475	9,770	23%
FVRD	2,617	48,164	75%	43	4,268	7%	625	14,017	22%
British Columbia	18,949	1,463,793	56%	1,397	819,040	31%	3,488	322,855	12%
Canada	197,227	41,865,023	65%	17,591	8,936,156	14%	69,737	14,905,736	23%

* percentage of total farmed land attributed to form of tenure.

Figure 2: Amount of Farmland Leased/Rented in Selected Regional Districts, 2001 - 2011



7) Farm Operators

Farm operators are those persons responsible for the management decisions relating to the operation of the farm and can include up to three owners, tenants or hired managers.

Over the past 10 years, the number of farm operators in the region has increased by 9% in Metro Vancouver and 7% in the FVRD, which is in contrast to declines in provincial and national figures. The greatest increases occurred in the municipalities of Pitt Meadows, Delta and Richmond while declines were evident in Langley and Surrey (Table 6).

The average age of the farmer in Metro Vancouver is now 56.1 years, which is 3.9 years higher than the 2001 Census and above the national average of 54.0 years of age. The average age of farm operators is lowest in the City of Vancouver (52.5 years of age) and highest in Electoral Area A (58.7 years of age).

Table 6: Number of Farm Operators and Median Age, 2001, 2006, 2011

Region	2001		2006		2011		10 Yr Change (2001-2011)	
	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age	# Farm Operators	Median Age
Burnaby	70	49.6	80	52.9	60	56.4	-10	6.8
Delta	280	52.0	260	54.6	320	54.5	40	2.5
Electoral Area A	125	55.3	120	58.2	130	58.7	5	3.4
Langley	2,120	51.8	1,910	54.2	2,030	56.4	-90	4.6
Maple Ridge	345	50.8	310	55.2	350	56.7	5	5.9
Pitt Meadows	195	52.0	215	54.1	255	54.7	60	2.7
Richmond	265	54.9	230	55.9	295	56.9	30	2.0
Surrey	795	52.5	725	54.8	745	55.6	-50	3.1
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40	52.5	n/a	n/a
Metro Vancouver	3,855	52.2	4,195	54.6	4,220	56.1	365	3.9
FVRD	3,955	48.8	3,920	50.7	4,235	52.3	280	3.5
British Columbia	30,315	51.4	29,870	53.6	29,925	55.7	-390	4.3
Canada	346,195	49.9	327,060	52.0	293,925	54.0	-52,270	4.1

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture

The number of farm operators by age group also reveals that the farm population is aging. In 2011, 56% of farmers were over 55 years in Metro Vancouver, an increase of 8% over the past 10 years. In 2011, the region had 225 farm operators under 35 years of age which is 5% of the total and lower than the national average of 8%. The number of younger farmers in this region appears to have stabilized in 2011, while declines are evident elsewhere (Table 7).

Table 7: Number of Farm Operators by Age Groups, 2001, 2006 and 2011

Region	2001 Age Groups			2006 Age Groups			2011 Age Groups			10 year Change		
	< 35	35 - 54	55 Plus	< 35	35 - 54	55 Plus	< 35	35 - 54	55 Plus	< 35	35 - 54	55 Plus
Metro Vancouver	7%	52%	41%	5%	47%	48%	5%	39%	56%	1%	-8%	8%
FVRD	12%	58%	30%	15%	55%	35%	9%	48%	43%	-3%	-10%	13%
British Columbia	8%	54%	38%	6%	49%	45%	5%	40%	54%	-3%	-13%	16%
Canada	12%	54%	35%	9%	50%	41%	8%	44%	48%	-3%	-10%	13%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

The number of farm operators in Metro Vancouver reporting no paid off-farm work has remained at 50% for the past ten years. The proportion of farm operators working off-farm for 20 hours/week or more has also remained consistent, at 40% of the total farm operators. Of this total, 19% of farm operators work more than 40 hours per week off farm. A similar trend is evident in the Fraser Valley Regional District, B.C. and across Canada (Table 8).

Table 8: Number of Farm Operators Paid for Non-farm Work, 2001, 2011

Region		2001				2011			
		No Paid non-farm work	< 20 hrs per week	20 to 40 hrs per week	> 40 hrs per week	No Paid non-farm work	< 20 hrs per week	20 to 40 hrs per week	> 40 hrs per week
Metro Vancouver	#	2,105	390	895	810	2,120	405	890	810
	%	50%	9%	21%	19%	50%	10%	21%	19%
FVRD	#	2,085	330	795	745	2,100	380	965	800
	%	53%	8%	20%	19%	49%	9%	23%	19%
British Columbia	#	14,305	3,165	6,980	5,865	14,190	3,015	7,025	5,700
	%	47%	10%	23%	19%	47%	10%	23%	19%
Canada	#	191,980	30,080	63,265	60,865	156,185	25,395	59,390	52,970
	%	55%	9%	18%	18%	53%	9%	20%	18%

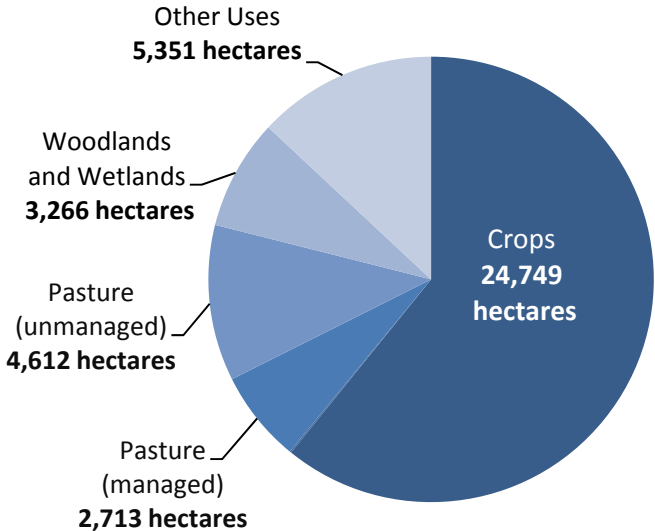
Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2011 Census of Agriculture

6) Land Use

In 2011, 24,749 ha (61%) of the total farmed area in Metro Vancouver was used for crop production, 7,325 ha (18%) for managed and unmanaged pasture, 3,266 ha (8%) contained woodlands and wetlands, while the remaining land area had other uses (Figure 3). Managed pasture is generally seeded while unmanaged is natural land for pasture which has not been cultivated, seeded, drained, irrigated or fertilized. In Figure 3 other uses includes summer fallow, Christmas trees, nursery products, sod, mushrooms, etc.

The most significant change that occurred in Metro Vancouver since 2001 is a decrease in the amount of unmanaged pasture, which decreased by 19%, mostly converted to managed pasture.

Figure 3: Land use in Metro Vancouver, 2011, Hectares



7) Crop Production

There are a wide variety of crops produced in Metro Vancouver including hay and field crops (i.e. grass, corn, grains), tree fruits, nuts, berries, vegetables, potatoes, mushrooms, nursery and greenhouse products. Greenhouse products can include vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants.



The number of farms involved in the different types of crops for each municipality is provided in Table 9. In 2011, 28% of the total farms were producing hay/field crops, 26% fruit/nuts/berries, 12% vegetables, 11% nursery products and 9% greenhouse products in Metro Vancouver.

Vegetable farms are the most prevalent type of farm in Burnaby and Vancouver, while berry production is most prolific in Langley, Surrey, Richmond and Electoral Area A. Langley also has the most mushroom operations, while Delta is a major producer of potatoes (Table 9).

In the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), more farms are in hay or field production (47%) and only 6% are producing vegetables. There are also half as many farms producing greenhouse products and potatoes compared to Metro Vancouver.

Table 9: Number of Crop Production Farms in Municipalities, 2011

Municipality	Number of Farms						
	Hay & Field Crops ¹	Vegetables ²	Fruit, Nuts, & Berries	Nursery Products	Greenhouse Products	Potatoes	Mushrooms
Burnaby	6	25	5	2	13	3	0
Delta	103	45	55	12	23	23	0
Electoral Area A	24	19	44	9	8	6	0
Langleys	417	83	221	164	98	14	21
Maple Ridge	40	24	34	38	21	5	0
Pitt Meadows	51	6	80	15	17	2	1
Richmond	36	46	109	20	34	6	1
Surrey	118	68	165	41	41	11	1
Vancouver	3	12	7	5	3	0	0
Metro Vancouver	798	328	720	306	258	70	24
FVRD	1,290	175	719	315	159	26	16

1. Excludes potatoes

2. Excludes greenhouse vegetables

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture

Metro Vancouver continues to lead the province in total farm area for potatoes, beans, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, beets, carrots, spinach, rutabaga/turnips, pumpkins, shallots and green onions, blueberries and cranberries.

The most significant increases in the amount of land for crops occurred in berry production which increased by 65% over the last 5 years. Blueberries and cranberries in particular have increased by 3,080 ha over the last five years, while land area in strawberries and raspberries declined by 43 ha.

Also since 2006, the land area in vegetables and potatoes declined by 19% and 11% respectively. While there were significant declines for green/wax beans (322 ha) and sweet corn (262), there were also increases in the amount of hectares in Chinese cabbage, beets, cabbage, broccoli and other vegetables (Table 10).

Table 10: Crop Production in Metro Vancouver, 2011

Crop Type	Land Area (Hectares)				5 Yr Change (2006-2011)	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	Ha	%
Berries Total	3,300	3,940	4,643	7,680	3,037	65%
Blueberries	1,506	1,756	2,734	4,929	2,195	80%
Cranberries	1,218	1,505	1,503	2,388	885	59%
Strawberries	204	227	208	182	-26	-13%
Raspberries	318	200	198	181	-17	-9%
Fruit Trees Total	201	79	74	68	-6	-8%
Apples	56	46	42	31	-11	-35%
Pears	23	19	12	15	3	20%
Plums and Prunes	9	5	5	11	6	55%
Sweet Cherries	9	4	10	11	1	9%
Other						
Grapes	11	58	31	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other fruit, berries & nuts	42	116	53	92	39	42%
Nursery Crops	1,113	1,235	1,192	1,172	-20	-2%
Potatoes	2,097	2,085	2,285	2,030	-255	-11%
Vegetables Total	2,639	3,175	3,025	2,451	-574	-19%
Green/Wax Beans	444	627	804	482	-322	-40%
Squash and Zucchini	n/a	n/a	116	201	85	73%
Pumpkin	n/a	n/a	203	200	-3	-1%
Lettuces	271	282	213	178	-35	-16%
Carrots	182	259	196	172	-24	-12%
Green Peas	313	264	267	153	-114	-43%
Chinese Cabbage	74	96	105	151	46	44%
Sweet Corn	366	469	405	143	-262	-65%
Cabbage	161	197	97	117	20	21%
Rutabagas and Turnips	39	44	45	98	53	118%
Beets	43	49	55	95	40	73%
Spinach	29	58	47	49	2	4%
Broccoli	22	73	17	39	22	129%
Shallots and green onions	36	49	35	29	-6	-17%
Cauliflower	36	43	19	15	-4	-21%
Dry onions	134	68	39	5	-34	-87%
Peppers	13	n/a	18	4	-14	-78%
Brussel sprouts	7	n/a	0.4	4	4	900%
Celery	46	20	7	2	-5	-71%
Other vegetables	134	144	229	255	26	11%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

8) Greenhouse Production

The amount of land used for greenhouse production in Metro Vancouver decreased by 3% between 2006 and 2011, reversing the trend of increasing greenhouse production that existed from 1996 to 2006 (Table 11).



Table 11: Greenhouse Production in Metro Vancouver, 2011

Greenhouse Type	Area (m ²)				5 Yr Change (2006-2011)	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	m ²	%
All Greenhouses	1,641,078	2,815,265	3,245,764	3,154,305	-91,459	-3%
Flower	812,155	1,081,816	1,007,752	1,034,477	26,725	3%
Vegetable	502,898	1,295,302	1,743,581	1,848,391	104,810	6%
Other Greenhouses	297,954	410,928	485,169	237,410	-247,759	-51%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture

The municipalities of Delta and Langley continue to have the most area in greenhouse production in Metro Vancouver. Langley has experienced the greatest increases in greenhouse area over the past 5 years, while Pitt Meadows has shown a decline of 92% due to the closure of Pelton Reforestation Nursery (Table 12).

Table 12: Greenhouse Production by Municipality, 2001, 2006, 2011

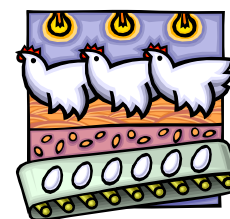
Municipality	Area (m ²)			5 Yr Change (2006-2011)	
	2001	2006	2011	m ²	%
Burnaby	n/a	n/a	49,324	n/a	n/a
Delta	1,169,000	1,230,464	1,219,361	-11,103	-1%
Electoral Area A	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Langley	543,925	766,273	950,985	184,712	24%
Maple Ridge	256,863	277,674	23,254*	-254,420	-92%
Pitt Meadows	259,897	313,630	284,493	-29,137	-9%
Richmond	153,910	126,948	134,173	7,225	6%
Surrey	361,390	445,891	475,341	29,450	7%
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Metro Vancouver	2,815,265	3,245,764	3,154,305	-91,459	-3%

* The significant decrease in the greenhouse area in Maple Ridge was due to the closing of Pelton Reforestation Nursery

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture

9) Livestock Production

Livestock production is also significant in Metro Vancouver in terms of numbers of farms, diversity of livestock and numbers of animals. Twenty five percent of the farms have horses/ponies, 21% chicken/hens, 17% cattle (mostly dairy), and 15% is in egg production. Most of the livestock producers are located in Langley, Surrey and Maple Ridge (Table 13).



Chicken and hen production was the most prevalent type of livestock farm in Surrey, Maple Ridge, Richmond and Electoral Area A. Horse and pony operations were the dominant livestock farm in Langley, Pitt Meadows, Delta and Vancouver. Bee colonies are being produced in all municipalities including Burnaby which had the lowest amount of livestock farms in the region.

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is well known for its livestock production, particularly dairy and poultry. Twenty seven percent of farms produce cattle/calves and 25% produce chicken/hens. Only 15% of farms in the FVRD have horses/ponies (Table 13).

Table 13: Number of Livestock Farms for Select Farm Animals, 2011

Municipality	Number of Farms						
	Cattle & Calves ¹	Chicken & Hens ²	Turkeys & Other Poultry ³	Egg Production ⁴	Sheep & Lambs	Horses & Ponies	Bee Colonies
Burnaby	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Delta	21	21	0	13	5	44	12
Electoral Area A	7	21	9	15	6	19	11
Langleys	300	315	110	234	112	449	43
Maple Ridge	44	93	34	76	31	66	11
Pitt Meadows	21	14	6	10	2	28	11
Richmond	6	18	13	11	4	17	11
Surrey	77	97	30	71	30	64	28
Vancouver	1	8	1	3	1	15	6
Metro Vancouver	479	588	203	433	191	702	135
FVRD	745	698	179	338	168	420	84

1. Total cattle and calves. "Total cattle and calves" includes "Calves under 1 year," "Steers 1 year and over," "Heifers for slaughter or feeding," "Heifers for beef herd replacement," "Heifers for dairy herd replacement," "Beef cows," "Dairy cows" and "Bulls 1 year and over."

2. Total hens and chickens. "Total hens and chickens" includes "Broilers, roasters and Cornish," "Pullets under 19 weeks intended for laying" and "Laying hens 19 weeks and over."

3. Turkeys. Turkey inventories reflect the total number of birds on Census Day and should be used with caution. Poultry inventories will fluctuate because barns that were empty on Census Day had no inventories to report. Users are advised to use the annual production data as a more accurate reflection of changes in these agricultural sectors over time.

4. Egg Production. "Egg Production" includes "Table eggs (dozens)" and "Hatching eggs (dozens). New for 2011; therefore comparison with 2006 is not possible.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture

Over the past 10 years, the number of animals produced in Metro Vancouver increased on farms raising turkey and other poultry, goats and bee colonies. There have also been large fluctuations in the number of chicken and hens in the region since 1996 (Table 14).

All other livestock categories have shown a steady decline in the number of animals on Metro Vancouver farms. The greatest declines since 2001 occurred in the number of pigs (69%), sheep/lambs (39%) and cattle/calves (38%).

Table 14: Number of Farm Animals in Metro Vancouver, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011

Livestock Type	Number of Animals				10 Yr Change (2001-2011)	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	No.	%
Cattle & Calves ¹	43,942	31,915	29,433	19,786	-12,129	-38%
Sheep & lambs	7,355	6,739	4,699	4,094	-2,645	-39%
Chicken & hens ²	3,439,091	4,987,882	4,075,048	4,458,587	-529,295	-11%
Turkeys & other poultry ³	n/a	272,503	465,232	373,273	100,770	37%
Pigs	12,210	4,860	3,832	1,524	-3,336	-69%
Horses & ponies	7,544	7,399	6,237	5,951	-1,448	-20%
Goats	2,084	1,721	1,234	1,737	16	1%
Llamas & alpacas	381	720	578	659	-61	-8%
Bee colonies	1,039	2,822	4,438	13,902	11,080	393%

1. Total cattle and calves. "Total cattle and calves" includes "Calves under 1 year," "Steers 1 year and over," "Heifers for slaughter or feeding," "Heifers for beef herd replacement," "Heifers for dairy herd replacement," "Beef cows," "Dairy cows" and "Bulls 1 year and over."

2. Total hens and chickens. "Total hens and chickens" includes "Broilers, roasters and Cornish," "Pullets under 19 weeks intended for laying" and "Laying hens 19 weeks and over."

3. Turkeys. Turkey inventories reflect the total number of birds on Census Day and should be used with caution. Poultry inventories will fluctuate because barns that were empty on Census Day had no inventories to report. Users are advised to use the annual production data as a more accurate reflection of changes in these agricultural sectors over time.

4. Egg Production. "Egg Production" includes "Table eggs (dozens)" and "Hatching eggs (dozens). New for 2011; therefore comparison with 2006 is not possible.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

10) Land Management Practices

More census data is being collected on land management practices that benefit the environment and soil quality (Table 15). In 2011, in-field winter grazing and nutrient management plans were added to the census survey. Since 2006, there has been an increase in the number of farms practicing crops rotations, plowing down green manure crops and using cover crops.

Table 15: Number of Farms using Land Management Practices Metro Vancouver, 2011

Region	Number of Farms Reporting							
	Crop rotation	In-field winter grazing or feeding	Rotational grazing	Plowing down green crops	Winter cover crops	Nutrient management planning	Windbreaks or shelterbelts	Buffer zones around water bodies
Metro Vancouver	418	368	588	177	171	315	299	287
FVRD	513	302	476	270	409	475	342	294
British Columbia	4,257	4,004	5,443	1,955	1,601	2,966	3,858	3,167
Canada	119,576	30,260	51,589	22,341	13,166	41,541	61,024	42,566

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture

In 2011, there were 41 farms with organic products for sale, 35 farms with certified organic products and 6 farms in transition in Metro Vancouver. Direct comparisons with 2006 census data cannot be done due to recent changes to the census survey questions. The category for number of farms producing uncertified organic products was removed to reflect the new regulations and the use of the term "organic."

11) Gross Farm Receipts

Agriculture continues to be a significant contributor to the region's economy. Financial data is collected for the year prior to the census year so that it encompasses a full calendar year.

In 2010, Metro Vancouver generated 27% of B.C.'s total gross farm receipts on 1.5% of the province's farmland. In the past five years the region's agricultural industry had a modest growth rate of 8%, which is substantially less than the change in gross annual farm receipts (13%) between 2000 and 2010 (Table 16).



In comparison, Metro Vancouver farms had a lower overall increase in gross annual farm receipts since 2005 than farms in Fraser Valley Regional District (22%), B.C. (11%) and Canada (21%).

Table 16: Gross Annual Farm Receipts, 2000, 2005, 2010

Region	Gross Annual Farm Receipts (\$)			5 Yr Change (2005/10)		10 Yr Change (2000/10)	
	2000	2005	2010	\$	%	\$	%
Metro Vancouver	698,053,467	728,604,105	789,493,730	60,889,625	8%	91,440,263	13%
FVRD	735,859,984	921,425,274	1,119,984,565	198,559,291	22%	384,124,581	52%
British Columbia	2,307,697,089	2,651,963,167	2,935,906,056	283,942,889	11%	628,208,967	27%
Canada	38,298,728,817	42,191,981,171	51,061,935,759	8,869,954,588	21%	12,763,206,942	33%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

The distribution of gross annual farm receipts reveals that Langley, Pitt Meadows and Richmond had the greatest gains while declines were evident in Delta and Maple Ridge. The decrease in gross receipts in Maple Ridge, Burnaby and Surrey may be related to the loss of greenhouse production area (Table 12) or total land farmed (Table 1). Concurrently the ten year increase in gross annual farm receipts in Pitt Meadows may be due to the additional 3,301 ha in agricultural production (Table 1). However, total land farmed does not explain the increases in Richmond or Langley (Table 17), revealing that other significant factors are influencing the gross annual farm receipts.

Table 17: Gross Annual Farm Receipts by Municipality, 2000, 2005, 2010

Municipality	Gross Annual Farm Receipts (\$)			5 Yr Change (2005/10)		10 Yr Change (2000/10)	
	2000	2005	2010	\$	%	\$	%
Burnaby	14,949,181	9,589,684	11,578,104	1,988,420	21%	-3,371,077	-23%
Delta	160,841,471	190,315,672	169,506,910	-20,808,762	-11%	8,665,439	5%
Electoral Area A	10,073,081	13,593,801	10,159,557	-3,434,244	-25%	86,476	1%
Langley	203,399,307	228,440,789	277,347,292	48,906,503	21%	73,947,985	36%
Maple Ridge	39,180,041	34,546,984	10,183,840	-24,363,144	-71%	-28,996,201	-74%
Pitt Meadows	50,592,345	58,214,426	83,597,741	25,383,315	44%	33,005,396	65%
Richmond	37,646,150	40,512,112	48,607,644	8,095,532	20%	10,961,494	29%
Surrey	181,371,891	153,390,637	167,171,249	13,780,612	9%	-14,200,642	-8%
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	11,341,393	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Metro Vancouver	698,053,467	728,604,105	789,493,730	60,889,625	8%	91,440,263	13%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

The high proportion of small farms in Metro Vancouver is also reflected in the gross annual farm receipts. In 2011, 49% of the farms reported earning less than \$10,000 in the region, which is consistent with previous years. Throughout the region, 77% of the farms have gross annual receipts of less than \$100,000, while only 11% reported gross receipts over \$500,000 (Table 18).

Table 18: Distribution of Gross Annual Farm Receipts by Municipality, 2011

Region	Number of Farms by Annual Farm Receipts by Municipality, 2011							
	Under \$10,000		\$10,000 - \$99,999		\$100,000 - \$499,999		\$500,000 and over	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burnaby	9	21%	15	35%	12	28%	7	16%
Delta	50	25%	64	32%	46	23%	42	21%
Electoral Area A	54	63%	21	24%	5	6%	6	7%
Langley	755	56%	362	27%	132	10%	111	8%
Maple Ridge	162	70%	47	20%	17	7%	5	2%
Pitt Meadows	52	32%	54	33%	30	18%	27	17%
Richmond	71	34%	72	34%	38	18%	30	14%
Surrey	217	44%	137	28%	67	14%	69	14%
Vancouver	17	49%	12	34%	2	6%	4	11%
Metro Vancouver	1,387	49%	784	28%	349	12%	301	11%
FVRD	1,009	37%	733	27%	430	16%	571	21%
British Columbia	9,591	49%	6,727	34%	2,167	11%	1,274	6%
Canada	43,954	21%	84,072	41%	54,125	26%	23,579	11%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture

12) Farm Operating Expenses

Farm operating expenses are any costs associated with producing crops or livestock, except the purchase of land, buildings or equipment. It includes the cost of seed, feed, fuel, fertilizers, etc., but does not include depreciation or capital cost allowance. Over the past 10 years farm annual operating expenses increased by 15% in Metro Vancouver with the highest increases occurring in Pitt Meadows, Langley and Richmond (Table 19), which are the same municipalities that experienced the greatest increases in gross annual farm receipts.

Table 19: Farm Annual Operating Expenses by Municipality, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Municipality/ Region	Annual Farm Operating Expenses (\$)			10 Yr Change (2000/10)	
	2000	2005	2010	\$	%
Burnaby	13,919,780	8,338,720	9,819,691	-4,100,089	-29%
Delta	138,965,301	165,941,122	145,732,759	6,767,458	5%
Electoral Area A	11,530,501	12,945,276	9,298,889	-2,231,612	-19%
Langley	184,491,083	209,734,952	251,586,818	67,095,735	36%
Maple Ridge	32,904,315	30,501,689	11,201,021	-21,703,294	-66%
Pitt Meadows	43,261,351	53,276,468	77,348,844	34,087,493	79%
Richmond	33,199,069	33,068,434	41,599,095	8,400,026	25%
Surrey	148,244,897	135,715,838	142,441,732	-5,803,165	-4%
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	9,506,524	n/a	n/a
Metro Vancouver	606,516,297	649,522,499	698,535,373	92,019,076	15%
British Columbia	2,088,607,363	2,382,732,345	2,620,714,990	532,107,627	25%
Canada	33,213,077,917	36,436,363,959	42,191,084,542	8,978,006,625	27%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

In 2010 there was a positive change in the average ratio of operating expenses to gross farm receipts in Metro Vancouver. The ratio was 0.88:1 which means for every 88 cents spent on expenses; a dollar was received in gross receipts. The Metro Vancouver ratio was only marginally more favorable than the B.C. average ratio and much lower than the Canadian average ratio of 0.83 (Table 20).

Table 20: Ratio of Expenses/Receipts by Municipality, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Municipality/ Region	Ratio of Expense/Receipts			
	1995	2000	2005	2010
Burnaby	0.94	0.93	0.87	0.85
Delta	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.86
Electoral Area A	0.95	1.14	0.95	0.92
Langley	0.88	0.91	0.92	0.91
Maple Ridge	0.86	0.84	0.88	1.10
Pitt Meadows	0.85	0.86	0.92	0.93
Richmond	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.86
Surrey	0.94	0.82	0.88	0.85
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.84
Metro Vancouver	0.88	0.87	0.89	0.88
British Columbia	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.89
Canada	0.83	0.87	0.86	0.83

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

13) Farm Employment

One of the benefits the agricultural industry provides to the regional economy is farm employment and job creation. In Metro Vancouver farm wages and salaries have increased by 31% over the past 10 years and the total weeks of paid work increased by 27% (Table 21).

Table 21: Total Farm Wages and Salaries & Weeks of Paid Work by Municipality, 2000, 2005, 2010

Municipality	Total Wages and Salaries				Total weeks of paid work			
	2000	2005	2010	% Change 2000-2010	2000	2005	2010	% Change 2000-2010
Burnaby	2,362,032	3,264,834	3,976,729	68%	4,202	5,859	7,118	69%
Delta	33,852,700	34,332,026	32,903,096	-3%	56,948	71,912	56,071	-2%
Electoral Area A	2,677,400	2,653,235	2,216,322	-17%	5,603	5,043	3,367	-40%
Langley	41,097,228	47,673,547	59,436,814	45%	75,021	89,527	98,096	31%
Maple Ridge	12,041,525	12,090,770	2,239,312	-81%	13,811	22,229	3,866	-72%
Pitt Meadows	12,850,705	17,904,815	27,060,408	111%	23,812	28,440	53,892	126%
Richmond	10,253,460	10,973,685	15,292,473	49%	17,509	18,322	26,197	50%
Surrey	29,307,514	37,321,352	44,638,830	52%	53,590	64,728	69,289	29%
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	846,915	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,335	n/a
Metro Vancouver	144,442,564	166,214,264	188,610,899	31%	250,496	306,060	319,231	27%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001, 2006, 2011 Census of Agriculture

14) Farm Capital

As elsewhere, most of the total farm capital in Metro Vancouver is in the value of the land and buildings (Table 22). In 2011, the percent of farmer-owned land and buildings in the region was 75% of total farm capital. This is higher than the B.C. (73%) and Canadian average (61%) and similar to the previous census data.

Table 22: Total Farm Capital for Municipalities, 2011

Municipality/ Region	Total Farm Capital in 2011	% of value in farm machinery and equipment	% of value in livestock and poultry	% of value land & buildings owned	% of value land & buildings rented, or leased
Burnaby	86,589,512	n/a	n/a	81%	14%
Delta	1,253,876,159	4%	0%	61%	35%
Electoral Area A	146,155,862	4%	1%	88%	8%
Langley	2,711,318,664	3%	1%	78%	17%
Maple Ridge	266,208,086	4%	1%	82%	13%
Pitt Meadows	929,223,467	3%	1%	82%	14%
Richmond	795,975,797	3%	0%	73%	24%
Surrey	1,411,555,787	4%	1%	73%	22%
Vancouver	93,819,674	n/a	n/a	80%	17%
Metro Vancouver	7,694,723,008	4%	1%	75%	21%
British Columbia	34,701,682,716	5%	2%	73%	20%
Canada	330,751,085,312	13%	4%	61%	22%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Agriculture