

NOTES TO DATA USERS

- **General Notes**

1. The 1981 Census of Agriculture was conducted on June 3, 1981.
2. Census farm is defined in the 1981 Census of Agriculture as a farm, ranch, or other agricultural holding with sales of agricultural products during the past 12 months of \$250 or more. Operations, which anticipated sales of \$250 or more in 1981, were also included.

- **Headquarters Rule**

Many agricultural operations in Canada are composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations. These different locations are often situated in several geographic areas (such as townships or counties). In these situations, the "headquarters rule" assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the geographic area where the farm headquarters is located.

- **Conversion Factors**

The following factors are used in this publication to convert between different units of measurement:

- 1 acre = .404 685 6 hectares
- 1 hectare = 2.471 acres
- 1 arpent = 0.845 acres
- 1 square foot = 0.092 903 04 square metres
- 1 square metre = 10.763 91 square feet
- 1 kilogram = 2.204 622 6 pounds
- 1 pound = 0.453 592 4 kilograms

- **Notes on variables**

The data received for some question, for a variety of reasons, are too unreliable for publication. Thus the following items have been deleted:

Colonies of Bees

For all of Canada

Total Rent, Share Rent

For all Atlantic Provinces and Quebec

Forage Seed

For all Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Ontario

Total Irrigation

For Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Ontario

Caution is advised with respect to the following items:

Unimproved Land

In 1981, the area of unimproved land was under-reported in the four Western provinces. This affected the “Total area of farms” for each of the Western provinces and for Canada.

Fruit Trees

Winter-kill in 1981 destroyed a significant number of fruit trees, especially apple trees, in Eastern Canada. Quebec was particularly hart hit. On Census Day, June 3, 1981, the extent of damage was still undetermined and consequently the number of trees reported does not reflect fully the number of trees lost and thus is overstated.

Area of Sod, Grapes, Strawberries, Raspberries and Asparagus

Although farmers were asked to report the area they anticipated harvesting in 1981, in some instances they reported the area planted.

Days of Off-farm Work

Respondents were asked to report the days worked in 1980. Many who worked full-time off the farm reported 365 days, and therefore total days are overstated. This bias has existed in previous censuses.

- **Confidentiality**

Statistics Canada is keenly aware of the importance of keeping information collected by the census strictly confidential. All tabulated data are subject to confidentiality restrictions prior to release. A number of computerized checks are performed on each table to suppress all data, which could result in the disclosure of information concerning any particular agricultural operation. Furthermore, due to confidentiality constraints, data for those geographic areas with very few agricultural operations are not released separately, but rather merged with a geographically adjacent area.

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