

NOTES TO DATA USERS

- **General Notes**

1. The 1986 Census of Agriculture was conducted on June 3, 1986.
2. Census farm is defined in the 1986 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 1986, 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 (for respondents in Quebec who reported land areas in arpents)
- 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.

Provincially owned grazing land in British Columbia

The estimates of unimproved grazing land do not included all provincially owned grazing land. This has always been the case in previous censuses. In 1986 attempts were made to account for all area of provincially owned grazing land; however, this data were not published by the census because of response errors.

Colonies of Bees

Due to under-coverage of beekeeping operations, the data cannot be published.

Subsurface Drainage

Data for subsurface drainage for the four western provinces cannot be provided due to response errors.

Due to under-estimations, caution is advised when using the following items:

Chicken Production

There is some under-estimation of chicken production partly because some respondents tended not to include spent hens in the chicken production.

Electricity Expenses

In the 1986 Census of Agriculture, many respondents did not report electricity. Many operators do not report electricity expenses because the farm business share is not separately metered and this may represent only a small portion of their total electricity expense.

Maple Tappings

Based on the validation, with other sources there is some indication of under-coverage of maple operations in the 1986 Census of Agriculture. This is assumed to have existed throughout all censuses; thus the data are comparable with that of previous censuses.

Value of Agricultural Products Sold

Based on comparison with other data sources there is some indication that the total value of agricultural products sold may be under-stated because of response errors (e.g. some operators reported net income instead of gross sales). The Wording of the question has remained consistent over time; therefore, the data are comparable with that of 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.

- **Non-Standard Geographic Classification**

Data for Census Division included within another Census Division as Census Consolidated Subdivision

1005998	Data for Division No. 9 are included in Division No. 5
1005999	Data for Division No. 10 are included in Division No. 5
1006999	Data for Division No. 3 are included in Division No. 6
1302999	Data for Saint John County are included in Charlotte County
2484999	Data for Territoire-du-Nouveau-Québec are included in Abitibi
3519999	Data for Toronto Metro. Mun. are included in York Regional Mun.
4716999	Data for Division No. 18 are included in Division No. 16
4806999	Data for Division No. 15 are included in Division No. 6
5925999	Data for Alberni-Clayoquot R.D. are included in Comox-Strathcona R.D.
5927999	Data for Sunshine Coast R.D. are included in Powell River R.D.
5941999	Data for Central Coast Regional District are included in Cariboo R.D.
5949999	Data for Skeena-Queen Charlotte R.D. are included in Kitimat-Stikine R.D.