

## Agriculture in Columbia Basin Area

Table 1: ALR Designated Area (in Hectares)							
Regional District	Total Area (Ha)	Area at Designation	Inclusions	Exclusions By Application		Total Exclusions	ALR Area Mar 31, 2008
				Gov't	Private		
Central Kootenay	2,213,072	71,539	803	7,315	1,102	8,417	63,924
Kootenay Boundary	809,563	55,061	356	1,124	849	1,973	53,444
East Kootenay	2,756,000	272,510	346	803	6,658	7,461	265,395
Fraser-Fort George	5,070,500	349,636	42,676	9,981	2,320	12,301	380,011
Columbia Shuswap	2,900,300	67,409	1,366	15,448	2,484	17,932	50,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,749,435</b>	816,155	45,547	34,671	13,413	48,084	813,617

*Note: We are attempting to get local area data from the ALR to refine this inventory so it more closely matches the CBT boundaries.*

Comment on Table 1: Area in the ALR has declined by 2,538 ha (net) in the Regional Districts that in whole or in part make up the CBT area. The two Regional Districts that are totally within the CBT area, Central Kootenay RD and East Kootenay RD and lost 1,690 ha (net) and 7,115 ha (net) respectively. These losses represent approximately 2.5% of the original ALR land base. Just over half of this decline has been as a result of Government exclusions. Generally government exclusions are to remove lands that were inappropriately designated.

Table 2: Number and Area of Farms						
Region	farms reporting	2006		2001		
		acres	hectares	farms reporting	acres	hectares
<b>Central Kootenay Total</b>	562	67,554	27,338	609	67,474	27,306
Owned	545	44,929	18,182	557	43,738	17,770
Leased (Gov't)	15	12,192	4,934	18	8,018	3,245
Leased (others)	114	11,164	4,518	127	13,375	5,413
Share Crop	23	2,633	1,066	31	2,343	948
<b>Kootenay Boundary (E.A. B) Total *</b>	60	6,021	2,437	51	5,873	2,377
Owned	59	13,837	5,600	48	3,787	1,533
Leased (Gov't)	0	0	0	1	x	x

Leased (others)	6	1,087	440	13	2,055	832
Share Crop	0	0	0	2	x	x
<b>East Kootenay Total</b>	395	241,327	97,662	418	245,212	99,234
Owned	379	83,835	33,927	400	86,197	34,883
Leased (Gov't)	83	103,086	41,717	72	95,156	38,508
Leased (others)	89	52,149	21,104	88	61,056	24,708
Share Crop	9	1,245	504	16	2,803	1,134
*There are no farms reported in Electoral Area A, RDKB						

Area of Farms	2006			2001		
	farms reporting	acres	hectares	farms reporting	acres	hectares
<b>Columbia Shuswap (E.A.'s A, B) Total</b>	74	21,585	8,736	74	17,632	7,135
Owned	69	10,228	4,140	68	11,014	4,457
Leased (Gov't)	10	8,807	3,564	9	4,846	1,961
Leased (others)	13	1,923	1,183	11	1,772	717
Share Crop	1	x	x	0	0	0
<b>Fraser Fort George RD (E.A. H) Total</b>	141	64,455	26,084	144	63,494	25,695
Owned	136	43,561	17,629	140	42,261	17,102
Leased (Gov't)	23	14,864	6,015	18	16,642	6,735
Leased (others)	26	5,709	2,310	27	3,866	1,565
Share Crop	8	523	212	4	725	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>379,357</b>	<b>153,521</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>399,685</b>	<b>161,747</b>

Comment on Table 2: The number of census farms in the CBT region declined by 138 (10.6%) and the area farmed declined by 20,328 ha (5%) between 2001 and 2006. The area farmed in 2006 represents 48% of the ALR land in Central Kootenay RD and 91% in East Kootenay. However, of the land farmed in Central and East Kootenay RD's, 18% and 42.7% respectively is leased from government. That generally represents range land leased for grazing cattle, most of which is not in the ALR. The ALR area under private ownership that is farmed is therefore approximately 30% in Central Kootenay and 48% in East Kootenay. *Note: A census farm is defined as an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops (hay, field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed); livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, game animals, other livestock); poultry (hens, chickens, turkeys, chicks, game birds, other poultry); animal products (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat); or other agricultural products (Christmas trees, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod, honey, maple syrup products).*

Region	2005		2000	
	No. farms	Amount	No. farms	Amount
<b>Central Kootenay</b>				
Total Farm Sales	562	\$30,004,374	609	\$26,218,599
Average Sales/Farm		\$53,388		\$43,052
Average Operating Expenses/Farm		\$47,966		\$40,416

Average Farm Net Income		\$5,422		\$2,636
<b>Kootenay Boundary (E.A. B)</b>				
Total Farm Sales	60	\$2,131,934	51	\$1,033,107
Average Sales/Farm		\$33,532		\$20,257
Average Operating Expenses/Farm		\$33,595		\$23,509
Average Farm Net Income		-\$63		-\$3,252
<b>East Kootenay</b>				
Total Farm sales	395	\$15,570,846	418	\$14,899,563
Average Sales/Farm		\$39,420		\$35,645
Average Operating Expenses/Farm		\$39,553		\$35,933
Average Farm Net Income		-\$133		-\$288

<b>Columbia Shuswap (E.A.'s A and B)</b>				
Total Farm Sales	74	\$1,271,698	74	\$1,098,752
Average Sales/Farm		\$17,185		\$14,848
Average Operating Expenses/Farm		\$16,962		\$24,585
Average Farm Net Income		\$233		<b>-\$9,737</b>
<b>Fraser Fort George (E.A. H)</b>				
Total Farm Sales	141	\$5,243,150	144	\$4,607,568
Average Sales/Farm		\$37,122		\$31,997
Average Operating Expenses/Farm		\$35,337		\$35,048
Average Farm Net Income		\$1,785		<b>-\$3,051</b>

Comment on Table 3: Average farm sales in 2006 were less than \$55,000. Central Kootenay had the highest average farm sales at \$53,388. The difference between average farm sales and average operating expenses (average net return) was very low in 2006, but generally improved between 2001 and 2006. The low average net incomes in 2006, ranging from a high of \$5,422 in Central Kootenay RD to -\$133 in East Kootenay is the most significant reason for the continuing loss of farms and operating farmland in the region.

<b>Table 4: Farms classified by total gross farm receipts (Number)</b>				
	Total number of farms		Under \$10,000 in Sales	
<b>Region</b>	2006	2001	2006	2001
<b>Central Kootenay</b>	562	609	323	378
<b>Kootenay Boundary (E.A. B)</b>	60		35	
<b>East Kootenay</b>	395	418	193	223
<b>Columbia Shuswap (E.A.'s A and B)</b>	74		51	
<b>Fraser Fort George (E.A. H)</b>	141		64	

Comment on Table 4: Over 50% of farms grossed less than \$10,000 in sales in both 2001 and 2006, with the exception of Fraser Fort George E.A., H.

<b>Table 5: Farm Investment</b>				
<b>Regional District</b>	<b>2006</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>farms reporting</b>	<b>Average market value</b>	<b>farms reporting</b>	<b>Average market value</b>
Total Farm Capital	562	\$383,640,115	609	\$261,876,101
Average Farm Capital	562	\$682,634	609	\$430,010
Average Land/ Buildings Owned	549	\$483,770	580	\$285,428
Farm machinery	562	\$80,145	609	\$61,254

Livestock and Poultry	363	\$25,279	417	\$37,322
<b>Kootenay Boundary (E.A. B)</b>				
Total Farm Capital	60	\$44,769,947	n/a	n/a
Average Farm capital	60	\$746,165		
Land and Buildings Owned	59	\$549,673		
Farm machinery	60	\$75,346		
Livestock and Poultry	51	\$14,665		

Regional District		2006		2001	
East Kootenay	Farms reporting	Average market value	Farms reporting	Average market value	
Total Farm Capital	395	\$523,517,241	418	\$351,686,072	
Average Farm Capital	395	\$1,325,360	418	\$841,354	
Average Land/ Buildings Owned	379	\$883,685	400	\$479,834	
Farm machinery	395	\$97,540	418	\$80,288	
Livestock and Poultry	319	\$48,610	353	\$86,755	
<b>Columbia Shuswap (E.A.'s A, B)</b>					
Total Farm Capital	74	\$69,587,840	n/a	n/a	
Average Farm capital	74	\$940,376			
Land and Buildings Owned	69	\$749,577			
Farm machinery	74	\$76,444			
Livestock and Poultry	56	\$24,287			
<b>Fraser Fort George (E.A., H)</b>					
Total Farm Capital	141	\$93,480,197	n/a	n/a	
Average Farm capital	141	\$662,980			
Land and Buildings Owned	136	\$440,249			
Farm machinery	141	\$79,044			
Livestock and Poultry	121	\$43,613			

Comment on Table 5: The average capital value of farms ranged from \$1,325,360 in R.D. East Kootenay to \$662,980 in R.D. Fraser Fort George E.A. H in 2006. Land and buildings represented 86% of the total capital value in Central Kootenay to approximately 66% in R.D. East Kootenay. The lower proportion in East Kootenay is a result of the higher proportion of rented crown land. The investment in livestock and poultry declined significantly between 2001 and 2006 in both Central Kootenay and East Kootenay R.D.'s.

Table 6: Livestock/Poultry					
		2006		2001	
Central Kootenay	No. farms	No. animals	No. farms	No. animals	
Cattle and Calves (all)	194	10,871	225	11,520	
Dairy Cows	20	1,582	29	1,735	
Beef Cows	148	3,240	154	2,782	
Pigs	30	189	42	349	

Sheep and Lambs	36	826	39	685
Hens and Chickens	156	11,545	215	22,580
Horses, Ponies	144	799	148	854
<b>Kootenay Boundary E.A. B</b>				
Cattle and Calves	23	638		
Dairy Cows	2	x		
Beef Cows	19	x		
Pigs	6	59		
Sheep and Lambs	5	68		
Hens and Chickens	22	1,617		
Horses	31	180		

<b>East Kootenay</b>				
Cattle and Calves (all)	193	23,360	214	26,187
Dairy Cows	2	x	8	35
Beef Cows	160	x	179	12,131
Pigs	13	77	25	553
Sheep and Lambs	25	758	34	1,194
Hens and Chickens	72	4,600	113	10,061
Horses	229	2,051	220	1,977
<b>Columbia Shuswap E.A.'s A and B</b>				
Cattle and Calves	24	1,532		
Dairy Cows	0	0	0	0
Beef Cows	21	709		
Pigs	1	x		
Sheep and Lambs	5	x		
Hens and Chickens	27	1,791		
Horses	28	179		
<b>Fraser Fort George E.A. H</b>				
Cattle and Calves (all)	93	8,010		
Dairy Cows	8	x		
Beef Cows	83	x		
Pigs	8	92		
Sheep and Lambs	13	1,005		
Hens and Chickens	36	x		
Horses	55	481		

Comment on Table 8: Both the number of farms reporting livestock and poultry and the total number of animals declined for all types between 2001 and 2006, with the exception of horses.

<b>Table 7: Crops on Farms</b>						
<b>Region</b>	<b>2006</b>			<b>2001</b>		
<b>Central Kootenay</b>	<b>No. farms</b>	<b>acres</b>	<b>hectares</b>	<b>No. farms</b>	<b>acres</b>	<b>hectares</b>
Total land in crops	441	28,253	11,434	463	28,582	11,567
Alfalfa/ Mixtures	183	12,252	4,958	166	11,541	4,670
Other Tame Hay	118	6,613	2,676	136	7,205	2,916
Mixed Grains	1	x	x	4	x	x
Total Vegetables	86	331	134	78	273	110
Fruits, Berries, Nuts	138	855	346	159	812	329
Greenhouse	40	191,836 ft <sup>2</sup>	17,822 m <sup>2</sup>	44	502,003 ft <sup>2</sup>	46,638 m <sup>2</sup>

Mushrooms	0	0	0	2	x	x
Nursery Products	25	301	122	34	206	83
<b>Kootenay Boundary E.A. B</b>						
Total land in crops	33	768	311			
Alfalfa/ Mixtures	13	340	138			
Other Tame Hay, Pasture	11	360	146			
Mixed Grains	0	0	0			
Total Vegetables	3	4	1			
Fruits, Berries, Nuts	9	17	7			
Greenhouse	6	26,480ft2	2,460m2			
Mushrooms	0	0	0			
Nursery Products	2	x	x			
<b>East Kootenay</b>						
Total land in crops	283	25,003	10,118	285	26,661	10,789
Alfalfa/ Mixtures	195	17,964	7,270	200	18,239	7,381
Other Tame Hay/Pasture	75	5,036	2,038	72	5,195	2,102
Mixed Grains	3	x	x	1	x	x
Total Vegetables	14	19	8	15	20	8
Fruits, Berries, Nuts	17	43	18	17	49	20
Greenhouse	15	150,173 ft2	13,952m2	20	220,710ft2	20,505m2
Mushrooms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Products	12	164	66	16	44	18
<b>Columbia Shuswap E.A. A and B</b>						
Total land in crops	45	2,440	987			
Alfalfa/ Mixtures	30	1,564	633			
Other Tame Hay/Pasture	14	590	239			
Mixed Grains	0	0	0			
Total Vegetables	6	4	2			

Fruits, Berries, Nuts	5	x	x			
Greenhouse	3	x	x			
Mushrooms	0	0	0			
Nursery Products	2	x	x			
<b>Fraser Fort George E.A. H</b>						
Total land in crops	113	15,139	6,127			
Alfalfa/Mixtures	39	4,427	1,792			
Other Tame Hay/Pasture	72	8,208	3,322			
Mixed Grains	1	x	x			
Total Vegetables	8	11	4			
Fruits, Berries, Nuts	7	9	3			
Greenhouse	4	3,978ft2	370m2			
Mushrooms	0	0	0			
Nursery Products	2	x	x			
Total Area in Crops		71,603	28,977			

Comment on Table 7: The area in crops represents only 19% of the area in farms in 2006. The remaining area of farms is managed pasture, unmanaged land or land that is not suitable for agricultural use.

Most of the area of land in crops is used for managed hay and pasture.

<b>Table 8: Average age of farm operators</b>							
		<b>Of all farm operators</b>		<b>On farms with one operator</b>		<b>On farms with two or more operators</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2001</b>	
<b>Central Kootenay</b>	54.3	51.5	56.0	52.9	53.4	50.7	
<b>Kootenay Boundary (E.A. B)</b>	52.7		55.7		51.6		
<b>East Kootenay</b>	55.0	51.7	57.7	54.7	53.7	50.1	
<b>Columbia Shuswap E.A. A</b>	55.7		53.3		56.7		
<b>Columbia Shuswap E.A. B</b>	51.1		60.3		47.3		

<b>Fraser Fort George (E.A., H)</b>	55.3		58.1		53.8	
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Comment on Table 8: The average age of farmers was over 50 years in all regions in 2006. On farms with only 1 operator, the average age was generally higher than on farms with more than one operator.

<b>Table 9: Farms classified by certification status of organic products 2006</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Total producing organic products</b>	<b>Certified organic products</b>	<b>Transitional organic products</b>	<b>Uncertified organic products</b>
<b>Number of farms reporting</b>				
<b>Central Kootenay</b>	145	24	5	122
<b>Kootenay Boundary E.A. B</b>	16	3	1	13
<b>East Kootenay</b>	52	2	0	50
<b>Columbia-Shuswap E.A. A</b>	12	0	0	12
<b>Columbia-Shuswap E.A. B</b>	9	0	0	9
<b>Fraser-Fort George E.A. H</b>	32	0	0	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>238</b>

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Comment on Table 9: Only 29 or approximately 2.5% of all farms in Columbia Basin Trust area reported production of certified organic products in 2006. Another 244 (22% of all farms) reported producing transitional or uncertified organic products.

**Data Sources:**

[http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/stats/Statistics\\_TOC.htm](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alr/stats/Statistics_TOC.htm)

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2006/index-eng.htm>

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