

## **Alberta Grows**

August 2009

- Alberta uses about 209,789 square kilometres for crop and livestock production. That's about 30 per cent of Alberta's land area.
- Alberta is Canada's second-largest agricultural producer, earning 22 per cent of Canada's farm cash receipts. Agriculture added \$4.7 billion to Alberta's GDP in 2008.
- In 2008, Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products reached a new record of \$8.1 billion – an increase of 25.6 per cent over \$6.5 billion in 2007.
- The top five Alberta agri-food exports in 2008 were wheat (\$2.1 billion), canola seed (\$1.6 billion), beef (\$1.1 billion), live cattle (\$543 million) and pork (\$342 million).

### **CATTLE COUNTRY**

- Alberta is the largest cattle producing province in Canada. It led the nation in cattle and calf inventories, with an estimated 5.4 million head as of January 2009 – 41 per cent of the Canadian total.
- In 2008, Alberta contributed 45.7 per cent - \$3 billion – of total Canadian calf and cattle receipts.

### **OTHER LIVESTOCK**

- Alberta has 12.5 per cent of Canada's total hog receipts.
- In 2004, provincial support totaling \$6.6 million was made available to sheep, goat, deer, elk, reindeer and bison producers to help maintain their herds.

### **CROPS**

- In 2005, Alberta farmers produced just over one-third of Canada's national production of major field crops – wheat, oats, barley, canola and dry peas.
- The total irrigation area in Alberta, including irrigation districts and private irrigation, is about 1.63 million acres. This accounts for over five per cent of total cultivated land in the province.

### **PROCESSING**

- In 2008, food and beverage manufacturing industries represented the third largest manufacturing sector in the province at 16.7 per cent.

### **FORESTS**

- Forests cover more than 60 per cent of Alberta's total land base, equal to 380,728 square kilometres. Most forests (87 per cent) are on public land and are managed for sustainable development.
- Alberta's forestry industry generates \$9.8 billion in revenues and provides 38,000 jobs.
- 75 million seedlings are planted every year to sustain our forests for industry, habitat and recreation.

For more information on agriculture and rural development in Alberta, visit [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)