

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE PROFILE



Alberta HUB
Where opportunity comes to life



Investing in the Alberta HUB region offers your Agri-Food business competitive operating costs, a skilled workforce and an excellent transportation and logistics system connecting to global markets.

The Alberta HUB region provides over 3 million cultivated acres spread over very business friendly Counties, First Nations and Metis Settlements securing the necessary feedstock for value-add food manufacturing.

The Alberta HUB region has seen significant growth in the agriculture sector with Gross Farm Receipts close to **\$1.8 billion dollars** in 2021.

Numerous locations are available offering the necessary utility connections along with business and research support services.

GROSS FARM RECEIPTS	2016*	2021*
County of Vermilion River	\$405,991,767	\$655,168,180
Minburn County	\$283,877,909	\$281,459,999
Lamont County	\$181,264,477	\$148,848,811
St Paul County	\$163,658,520	\$152,956,730
Two Hills County	\$138,178,237	\$182,517,255
Bonnyville M.D.	\$102,415,084	\$112,306,467
Smoky Lake County	\$91,129,377	\$105,887,536
Thorhild County	\$73,844,150	\$84,804,638
Lac La Biche County	\$31,802,783	\$34,974,290
Alberta HUB Region Total	\$1,472,162,304	\$1,758,923,906

*Source: Federal Census & Community

TOTAL LAND IN CROPS (acres)	2016*	2021*
County of Vermilion River	763,580	825,559
Minburn County	496,297	491,232
Lamont County	398,381	345,424
St Paul County	293,577	317,589
Two Hills County	329,226	324,051
Bonnyville M.D.	239,816	226,405
Smoky Lake County	209,995	198,553
Thorhild County	184,950	171,188
Lac La Biche County	97,619	101,259
Alberta HUB Region Total	3,013,441	3,001,260

*Source: Federal Census & Community

Highlights

- The Alberta HUB region is home to Lakeland College with one of the largest student managed farms at the Vermilion campus with applied research in livestock and crop production.
- Major Ag-based companies include Archer Daniels, Viterra, GrainsConnect, Richardson Pioneer, and G3.
- Eleven Seed Cleaning plants are in the Alberta HUB region providing cleaning, grading, splitting and packaging.



ALBERTA HUB REGIONAL AGRICULTURE PROFILE

The main crops grown in the Alberta HUB region include Wheat, Canola, Barley, Oats and Dry Field Peas. Other emerging crops include Hemp, Lentils, Flax and Faba Beans.

CROP PRODUCTION	2011*	2016*	2021*	Share of Alberta
Number of Farms	5,160	5,207	5,333	
Total Crop Land (acres)	3,019,214	3,013,441	3,001,260	12%
Canola (acres)	868,107	934,415	988,791	15%
Wheat (acres)	659,039	755,794	770,200	11%
Barley (acres)	366,997	371,694	391,190	10%
Oats (acres)	128,916	143,489	149,111	17%
Dry Field Peas (acres)	62,409	164,489	103,891	7%
Lentils (acres)	150	7,718	320	0.1%
Hemp (acres)	-	3,500	1,990	6%
Flax (acres)	3,000	3,442	13,303	11%
Rye (acres)	-	4,856	1,937	3%
Alfalfa / Alfalfa Mixtures	519,474	421,129	346,239	14%

*Source: Federal Census & Community

Biomass

The Alberta HUB region provides an excellent source of biomass feedstock. Current estimate of crop residue biomass generation is approximately **1.7 million tonnes**.

This does not include the organic biomass generated by the livestock or the forestry sectors located in the Alberta HUB region.

Over 101% net growth in the Value of Poultry and Livestock over 10 years

Raised over 17,000 Head of Bison, 26% of provincial total

MARKET VALUE OF POULTRY & LIVESTOCK	2011*	2016*	2021*
County of Vermilion River	\$112,034,824	\$283,193,398	\$241,232,330
Minburn County	\$60,469,573	\$157,190,933	\$73,525,804
Two Hills County	\$31,424,181	\$77,290,468	\$98,152,574
Lamont County	\$31,081,349	\$95,106,331	\$44,844,324
Bonnyville M.D.	\$48,638,313	\$132,832,078	\$104,942,730
St. Paul County	\$66,329,461	\$165,495,317	\$151,245,698
Smoky County	\$32,013,765	\$83,835,340	\$61,473,236
Lac La Biche County	\$15,644,158	\$46,360,069	\$33,767,077
Thorhild County	\$22,041,174	\$43,166,027	\$36,621,627
Alberta HUB Region Total	\$419,676,798	\$1,084,469,961	\$845,805,400

*Source: Federal Census & Community

KEY REGIONAL ADVANTAGES

Processing facilities who set up in the region could benefit from:

- Secure feedstock supplies
- Shorter supply chains

Business and Research Support:

InnoTech Alberta, based in Vegreville, supports investors and business innovations that include a new approach to plant breeding to improve barley yields and industrial hemp research.

Lakeland Agriculture Research Association (LARA) offers applied research that provides valuable unbiased information to local producers and companies.

Lakeland College, based in Vermilion, provides applied research supports to business and industry partners by advancing agriculture practices and technologies.

Global Market Access

The region is connected to the U.S. and Mexican markets, two of Alberta's top five Agri-food markets, via the main corridor Hwy 36. Hwy 16 is a four-lane divided highway running East-West, which is part of the Trans-Canada highway system connecting to the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver in the province of British Columbia allowing shorter times to Asian markets.

Rail

Canada's two national rail carriers service the region: Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). These rail networks deliver goods anywhere in North America and to east and west coast tidewaters.

ALBERTA HUB REGION

AGRI-FOOD MANUFACTURING

Alberta HUB can provide the necessary feedstock for value-add manufacturing.

A large selection of industrial/business parks, as well as large sites for heavy industrial areas, are available in various sizes and levels of service, from completely serviced to non-serviced, and can include rail and major highway access.

The Alberta HUB region has seen major growth in the agriculture sector with Gross Farm Receipts reaching nearly \$1.8 billion dollars in 2021. The region has also gained significant ground in the value-added agriculture space. Complimenting the region's traditional crops, the Alberta HUB region offers an excellent climate for various plant proteins and pulse crops including hemp, dry peas, faba beans, flax and quinoa.

Plant Protein

According to a 2019 report from McKinsey, consumer interest in alternative proteins has been accelerating for about a decade, driven largely by health and environmental concerns.

Globally, plant-based protein is one of the fastest growing food and agri-food sub-sectors. This growth is driven by a rising global population fueling increased global consumption and a corresponding need to find new protein sources to fulfill that demand.

The Alberta HUB region is an excellent choice for establishing a fractionization facility.

The Alberta HUB region has over 3 million acres of cultivated acres with feedstock for protein fractionization. Field peas, fava beans and industrial hemp are currently grown in the region.

20-30% Higher Yields

With the northern advantage for growing hemp for fibre producing 20-30% higher yields of stalks than in the southern regions.



Locate Your Fractionization Facility Here

The Alberta HUB region is an excellent choice for establishing a plant protein fractionization facility with over 3 million acres of cultivated acres.

Industrial Hemp

Industrial Hemp is a growing industry in the Alberta HUB region with its northern advantage for growing hemp for seed, fibre and CBD.

Oats

The Alberta HUB region is a top producer of oats. With a strong demand for innovative plant-based products in the marketplace and several new products being offered in utilizing oats, including extruded flours and blends, snacks and pastas, establishing a value-add oats processing facility in the Alberta HUB region makes sense.

ALBERTA HUB REGION PROCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

Alberta HUB Research and Development

Applied Research, support and skilled labour is essential for your investment. The Alberta HUB region offers entrepreneurs and manufacturers research centres along with Lakeland College, Portage College and the University at Blue Quills. Lakeland College welcomes new partnerships for applied research opportunities. The Lakeland Agriculture Research Association (LARA) offers additional research support.

For more information, please visit the following websites:
Lakelandcollege.ca Portagecollege.ca Bluequills.ca

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) runs innovative and sustainable agricultural studies in Northeastern Alberta. Through applied research, demonstrations, and extension programs we offer unbiased and trustworthy information to local farmers. LARAonline.ca

Hemp Innovation in the Alberta HUB Region

In the Alberta HUB region, InnoTech Alberta provides research support for companies to perfect their product for the marketplace. InnoTech is an R&D facility that also features a 13,000 sq. ft. fibre processing pilot plant located at the Vegreville facility concentrating on decortivating hemp and flax fibres. In addition, the Crop Production Research farm sits on 600 acres on the western outskirts of Vegreville. The research conducted on the farm includes new crops research on crops such as industrial hemp.

InnoTech Alberta is an essential partner in maintaining the profitability and sustainability of Alberta's over \$4.4 billion crop industry. As one of the strongest crop producers in the world, our services and facilities are uniquely positioned to assist Alberta agricultural and food producers. We have large and small outdoor plots, indoor greenhouses, and growth facilities, and fully equipped molecular biology, plant pathology, and biochemistry laboratories (certified by CFIA and Health Canada).

THE ALBERTA HUB INVESTMENT ADVANTAGE

Access to Markets

- Highways 41 and 36 are main North/South corridors connecting to U.S. and Mexican markets.
- Highway 16 connects the region east-west coast to strategic ports accessing Asian markets.
- CN and CP Rail both have secondary lines with direct rail access points in seven counties.
- Nine regional airports are in the region. Daily flights to Calgary are available from the Lloydminster Airport.

Land

- Highly accessible and competitively priced retail, commercial and industrial land is available.

Demographics

- A regional population of approx. 140,000 providing excellent labour access and immediate market access to the Edmonton market with a population of well over 1.4 million (2021).

Quality of Life

- Numerous active lifestyle choices.
- Excellent healthcare and educational systems.
- Several recreational activities for families and individuals.

Competitiveness

- Benefit from no taxes through partnerships with our First Nations and Metis Settlements, where numerous investments opportunities thrive.

Education

- Skilled labour is available regionally through post-secondary education at two Colleges: Lakeland and Portage as well as the University at Blue Quills. Over 38,000 have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in the region.



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