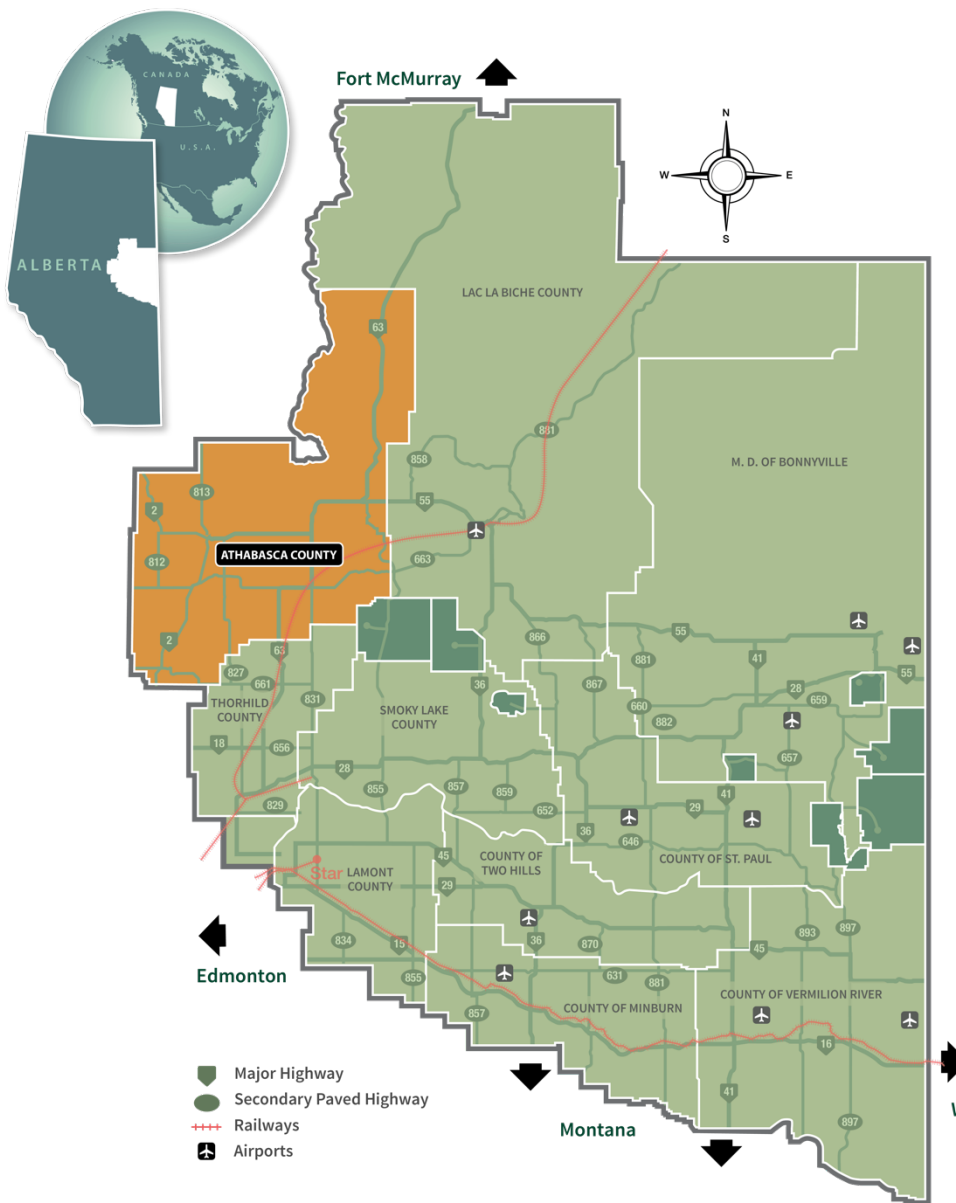


# Athabasca County

## CONNECTED TO GLOBAL MARKETS



Athabasca County has 673 farms and approximately 276,000 acres of land (2021) that produces a wide variety of outputs and has potential to be processed locally in a low-cost business environment. The agricultural land is less than two-hours from the Edmonton CMA consumer and distribution network. Leading product outputs include beef, poultry, wheat, canola, alfalfa, barley, peas and oats.

Agriculture in the County has seen moderate growth since 2016 seeing the most significant increases in the acres of barley (+22%) and all other tame hay and fodder crops (+11%). Hens and Chickens saw a 104% increase hitting 85,526 in 2021 and Bison jumped 37%.

Athabasca County has several major transportation routes including highway, bus, rail and air service creating a prime corridor for agriculture imports and exports to major markets.

The County is served by CN Rail and the Athabasca Regional Airport, with a 4,000-foot lighted runway. Major Highway 2, the Canamex Corridor, links north/south corridors from northern Alberta to Mexico and Highways 2, 55 and 63 link Edmonton to Fort McMurray. The Edmonton International Airport is only 120 minutes south.

| Farming Overview                 | 2016*         | 2021*         | % ±     |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Number of Farms                  | 650           | 673           | 3.54%   |
| Total Land Area - km2            | 6,124         | 6,111         | -0.21%  |
| Land in Crops - acres            | 274,787       | 275,776       | 0.36%   |
| Natural land for pasture - acres | 118,675       | 117,176       | -1.26%  |
| Number of Farm Operators         | 940           | 955           | 1.60%   |
| Number of Employees              | 293           | 208           | -29.01% |
| Gross Farm Receipts              | \$122,915,651 | \$125,988,167 | 2.50%   |

\*Source: Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, and community information. Figures are based on number of farms reporting.

Athabasca County has 673 farms with approx. 276 thousand acres in crop land with gross farm receipts estimated at approximately \$126 million in 2021, a 2.5% increase from 2016.

| Crop Overview                               | 2016*  | 2021*  | % ±     |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| Canola - acres                              | 68,885 | 69,416 | 0.77%   |
| Wheat - acres                               | 52,867 | 47,349 | -10.44% |
| Barley - acres                              | 25,195 | 30,773 | 22.14%  |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures - acres        | 62,995 | 63,571 | 0.91%   |
| All other tame hay and fodder crops - acres | 27,281 | 30,506 | 11.82%  |
| Oats - acres                                | 21,315 | 22,980 | 7.81%   |
| Dry field peas - acres                      | 9,601  | 4,828  | -49.71% |
| Fruits, Berries and Nuts - acres            | 33     | 13     | n/a     |
| Lentils - acres                             | n/a    | n/a    | n/a     |
| Total rye - acres                           | n/a    | 50     | n/a     |
| Flaxseed - acres                            | n/a    | 575    | n/a     |
| Vegetables - acres (excluding greenhouses)  | n/a    | 65     | n/a     |
| Total greenhouse area in use - square feet  | 12     | 3      | -75.00% |

\*Source: Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, and community information. Figures are based on number of farms reporting. n/a - not available from Statistics Canada Census data

| Livestock Overview           | 2016*         | 2021*        | % ±     |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Value of Livestock & Poultry | \$110,083,014 | \$78,032,131 | -29.12% |
| Cattle and Calves #          | 49,410        | 48,465       | -1.91%  |
| Dairy Cows #                 | n/a           | 471          | n/a     |
| Beef Cows #                  | n/a           | 22,035       | n/a     |
| Heifers #                    | 6,353         | 4,809        | -24.30% |
| Calves #                     | 17,400        | 17,847       | 2.57%   |
| Steers #                     | 2,223         | 2,131        | -4.14%  |
| Bulls #                      | 1,118         | 1,172        | 4.83%   |
| Pigs #                       | n/a           | 4,191        | n/a     |
| Hens and Chickens #          | 41,850        | 85,526       | 104.36% |
| Sheep and Lambs #            | 3,178         | 1,757        | -44.71% |

\*Source: Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, and community information. Figures are based on number of farms reporting. n/a - not available from Statistics Canada Census data

Athabasca County Agricultural Services supports farmers and producers by encouraging production, profitability, and sustainability. Available programs and information include vegetation management, insect and pest control, and wildlife management.



The Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development lists the average value of agricultural land in the County as \$1,798/acre in 2021.

