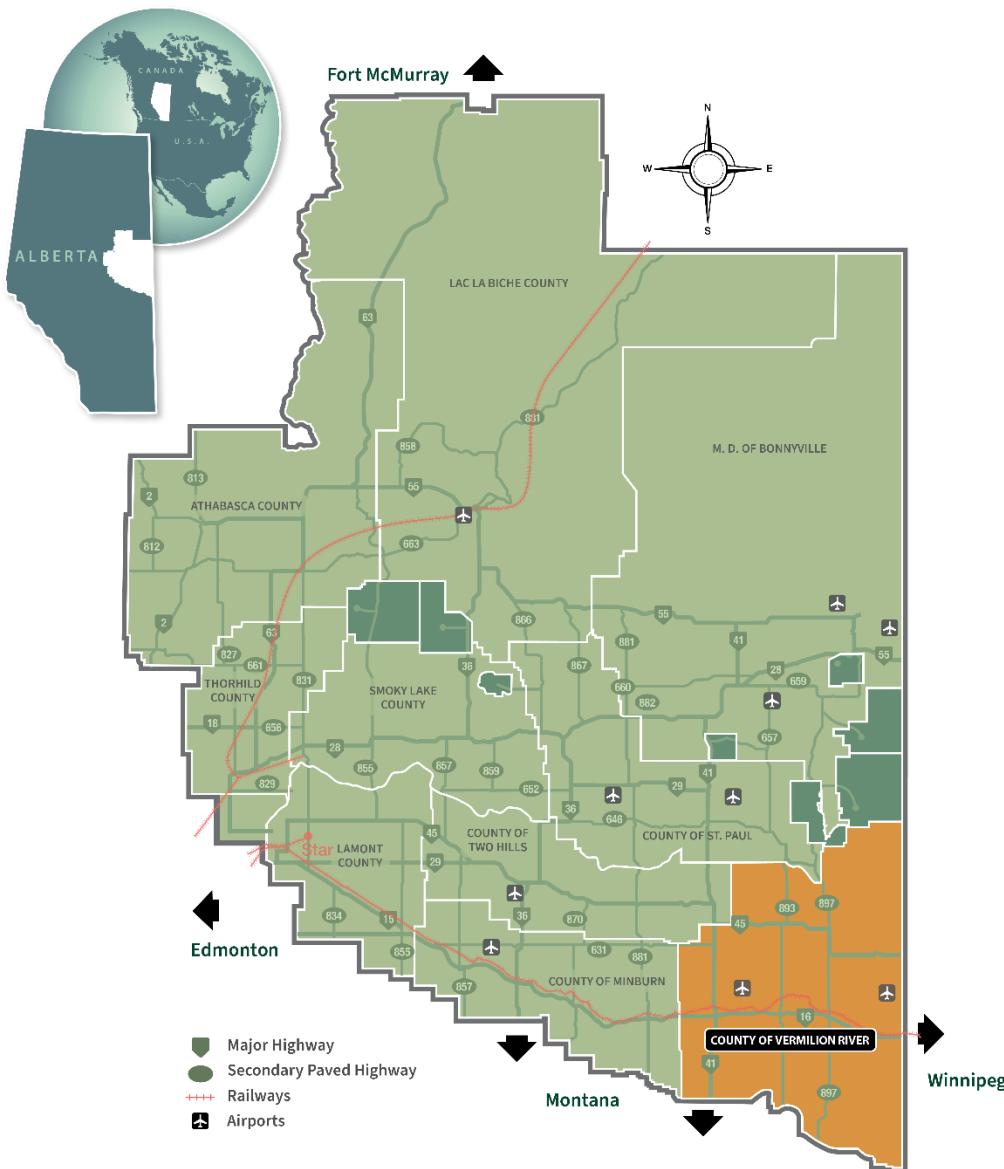


# The County of Vermilion River

## CONNECTED TO GLOBAL MARKETS



Agriculture is a major economic sector for the County of Vermilion River with feedstock ranging from cereal grains such as wheat, oats and barley to pulse crops like peas and lentils. Major investment opportunities exist for value-added agriculture businesses. The County of Vermilion River saw phenomenal growth with a 5-year 61% increase in gross farm receipts, hitting \$655 million in 2021.

Agriculture is strongly supported in Vermilion, Marwayne, Kitscoty, Paradise Valley, Dewberry and Clandonald. Sector support includes grain terminals, seed cleaning plants, machinery agents, veterinary services, agriculture research and business support services. Seed Cleaning Plants that offer cleaning services for cereals, oilseeds, pulse crops, pedigreed seed, commercial seed, dockage and removal separations are in Vermilion, Kitscoty, Paradise Valley and Clandonald.

The major east-west route in the region, Hwy 16 runs through the County of Vermilion River connecting to the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver. Hwy 41, a main north-south route to the U.S. markets intersects with Hwy 16 in the County. Hwy 45 (east-west) is another primary route connecting to the Edmonton market. Air service is offered at the Vermilion Airport, which is a paved, lighted, year-round facility with a 3,300-foot runway. A 286,000lb capacity rail line operated by CN passes through Vermilion and Kitscoty, which offers terminal access points.

Farming Overview	2016*	2021*	% ±
Number of Farms	1,052	1,125	6.94%
Total Land Area - km2	5,519	5,420	-1.81%
Land in Crops - Acres	763,580	825,559	8.12%
Natural land for pasture - Acres	303,450	362,357	19.41%
Number of Farm Operators	1,435	1,525	6.27%
Number of Employees	746	529	-29.09%
Gross Farm Receipts	\$405,991,767	\$655,168,180	61.37%

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

Crop Overview	2016*	2021*	% ±
Canola - acres	255,773	293,676	14.82%
Wheat - acres	225,534	252,290	11.86%
Barley - acres	82,634	100,721	21.89%
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures - acres	64,187	35,628	-44.49%
All other tame hay and fodder crops - acres	27,179	31,522	15.98%
Oats - acres	24,513	31,764	29.58%
Dry field peas - acres	51,066	41,718	-18.31%
Quinoa - acres	4,000	11	-99.73%
Lentils - acres	1,845	320	-82.66%
Total rye - acres	334	594	77.84%
Flaxseed - acres	1,295	4,342	235.29%
Vegetables - acres (excluding greenhouses)	n/a	11	n/a
Total greenhouse area in use - square feet	n/a	23,260	n/a

\*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

*Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture: The County of Vermilion River was the leader in introducing ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) to Alberta. ALUS invests in farmers and ranchers who are rebuilding nature, one acre at a time. It enhances community, improves the environment and strengthens agricultural operations. To date, 38 participants have enrolled 3,151 acres in ALUS in the County.*

Livestock Overview	2016*	2021*	% ±
Value of Livestock & Poultry	\$283,193,398	\$241,232,330	-14.82%
Cattle and Calves #	131,376	152,591	16.15%
Dairy Cows #	n/a	193	n/a
Beef Cows #	n/a	58,217	n/a
Heifers #	16,643	26,123	56.96%
Calves #	42,573	46,165	8.44%
Steers #	18,711	18,522	-1.01%
Bulls #	3,495	3,371	-3.55%
Pigs #	n/a	39,123	n/a
Hens and Chickens #	73,096	134,944	84.61%
Sheep and Lambs #	3,614	1,955	-45.90%

\*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

Agriculture is supported by Lakeland College, a hub for innovation and applied research. Livestock research activities include monitoring individual feed intake of cattle and sheep. A crop input intensity trial is examining the economic and yield benefits of crop inputs at various levels of product use and management. One of the largest student managed farms in Canada is located at the Vermilion campus.



*The Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development lists the value of agricultural land in the County as \$2,796/acre in 2021.*