

# 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 3.2 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 **\$1.9 billion dollars** in 2021.

Research and business support includes Innotech Alberta based in Vegreville, where you have access to research on cereal crops and industrial hemp.

GROSS FARM RECEIPTS	2016*	2021*
County of Vermilion River	\$405,991,767	\$655,168,180
Minburn County	\$283,877,909	\$281,459,999
Two Hills County	\$138,178,237	\$182,517,255
Lamont County	\$181,264,477	\$148,848,811
St Paul County	\$163,658,520	\$152,956,730
Athabasca County	\$122,915,651	\$125,988,167
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
<b>Alberta HUB Region Total</b>	<b>\$1,595,077,955</b>	<b>\$1,884,912,073</b>

\*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
Two Hills County	329,226	324,051
St Paul County	293,577	317,589
Athabasca County	274,787	275,776
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
<b>Alberta HUB Region Total</b>	<b>3,288,228</b>	<b>3,277,036</b>

\*Source: Federal Census & Community

## Highlights

- The Alberta HUB region is home to Lakeland College in Vermilion, where research initiatives support industry partners who capitalize on new opportunities. [Lakelandcollege.ca](http://Lakelandcollege.ca)
- Major Ag-based companies include Archer Daniels, Viterra, GrainsConnect, Richardson Pioneer, and G3.
- Twelve 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	5,857	5,857	6,006	
Total Crop Land (acres)	3,295,200	3,288,228	3,277,036	13%
Canola (acres)	943,828	1,003,300	1,058,207	16%
Wheat (acres)	699,610	808,661	817,549	12%
Barley (acres)	387,259	396,889	421,963	11%
Alfalfa / Alfalfa Mixtures	598,592	484,124	409,810	14%
Oats (acres)	154,348	164,424	172,091	19%
Dry Field Peas (acres)	63,235	174,090	108,719	7%
Flax (acres)	3,000	3,442	13,878	11%
Faba Beans (acres)	-	-	8,726	18%
Hemp (acres)	0	0	2,055	7%
Rye (acres)	0	4,856	1,987	3%
Lentils (acres)	150	7,718	320	0.1%

\*Source: Federal Census & Community

## Biomass

The Alberta HUB region provides an excellent source of biomass feedstock. Current estimate of crop residue biomass generation is in excess of **2 million tonnes** (annual).

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

*Over 107% net growth in the Value of Poultry and Livestock over 10 years*

LIVESTOCK (2021*)	Bison (#)	Cows (#)	Pigs (#)	Market Value of Poultry & Livestock (\$)
County of Vermilion River	7,338	152,591	39,123	\$241,232,330
St. Paul County	918	95,629	140	\$151,245,698
Bonnyville M.D.	3,414	65,363	150	\$104,942,730
Two Hills County	104	64,564	6,180	\$98,152,574
Athabasca County	1,407	48,465	4,191	\$78,032,131
Minburn County	1,983	49,464	221	\$73,525,804
Smoky County	223	41,506	132	\$61,473,236
Lamont County	543	28,541	168	\$44,844,324
Thorhild County	815	23,755	651	\$36,621,627
Lac La Biche County	337	20,995	32	\$33,767,077
<b>Alberta HUB Region Total</b>	<b>17,082</b>	<b>590,873</b>	<b>50,988</b>	<b>\$923,837,531</b>

\*Source: Federal Census & Community

## KEY REGIONAL ADVANTAGES

Agriculture manufacturing facilities that set up in the Alberta HUB region benefit from:

- Secure feedstock supplies
- Shorter supply chains

### Bioenergy / Biomass

Canada's bioenergy sector has been steadily growing, considered a low carbon form of energy, bioenergy is expected to contribute to net-zero efforts both in Canada and globally.

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## BISON

Alberta bison - deemed to be the cornerstone of the diversified livestock industry in Alberta - represent approximately 50% of the Canadian bison population.

The Alberta HUB region raised over 17,000 head of Bison, 26% of Alberta's total.

# ALBERTA HUB REGION

## AGRI-FOOD MANUFACTURING

The Alberta HUB region features unwavering local confidence in agriculture. Our community's deep-rooted appreciation for the industry provides a robust foundation for agri-businesses to tap into a thriving market. This translates into a motivated, skilled workforce ready to contribute to your success.

Home to over 6,000 farms producing a variety of crops and livestock, the Alberta HUB region has the feedstock to accommodate value-added manufacturers. We also have a well-developed value chain with ag-input suppliers, machinery and equipment manufacturers, seed cleaning plants, grain handlers and fertilizer plants.

### Oats

The global oats market size expanded at a 6.3% CAGR from 2019 to 2023. Consumers are adopting healthier eating habits because of the increasing focus on wellness and health. With their high fiber and beta-glucan content, oats are well known for their nutritional advantages and are growing increasingly popular as a nutritious option.

*Source: futuremarketinsights.com*

***Between 2011 and 2021, the Alberta HUB region grew 164,000 (annual average) acres of oats, which is approximately 19% of Alberta's total. Practically guaranteeing feedstock for your investment.***

**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.**



### Industrial Hemp

The Alberta HUB region has the northern advantage for growing industrial hemp for fiber.

### Investment in the Alberta HUB

Canadian Rockies Hemp Corp. (CRHC) 40,000 sq.ft. processing facility based in Bruderheim provides sustainable, consistent commercial supply of processed hemp biomaterials to manufacturing facilities in Canada, the U.S. and globally.

#### **2024 Investment Announcement**

Logistik Unicorp Inc. has chosen to invest in the development of a processing hemp plant in Elk Point in partnership with Frog Lake First Nations.

### Water Supply

A reliable water supply is critical for value-add Agri-food manufacturing.

The Alberta HUB region offers water service through the Alberta Central EAST (ACE) Regional Waterline, Highway 28/63 Water Commission, John S. Batiuk Regional Water Commission, Aspen Regional Water Services Commission and County-owned Utilities who draw from large bodies of water such as Cold Lake and Lac La Biche.



# ALBERTA HUB REGION PROCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

## Alberta HUB Research and Development

Applied Research and business support is essential for your investment. The Alberta HUB region is home to **InnoTech Alberta** an R&D facility that features a fibre processing pilot plant focusing on decorticating hemp and flax fibres. In addition, Innotech has 600 acres for plot research for cereal crops, hemp, flax and other specialty crops.

**Lakeland College** welcomes industry partnerships for applied research opportunities. Lakeland College houses 3 major research facilities... the Crop Research and Bioenergy...Electronics used for developing new circuitry to support wireless sensors...Renewable Energy Center

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) runs innovative and sustainable agricultural studies. Through applied research and demonstrations, we offer unbiased and proven information. [Laraonline.ca](http://Laraonline.ca)

## Location, Location, Location

With direct access to the US and easy access to the Pacific Rim and Europe, Alberta is the leader in exports in Canada. In 2019, the province had the second-highest exports per capita at \$26,772, significantly higher than the national average of \$14,483.

## Global Market Access

The Alberta HUB 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 (Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor). Hwy 16 is a four-lane divided highway running East-West connecting to the ports of Prince Rupert and Vancouver allowing shorter times to Asian markets.

### Rail

Canada's two national rail carriers service the region: Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC).

## 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 CPKC Rail both have secondary lines with direct rail access points in seven counties.
- Ten regional airports.

### Land

- The region covers 55,873 sq. km. over ten counties.
- Highly accessible and competitively priced retail, commercial and industrial land is available.

### Demographics

- A regional population of approx. 160,000 providing 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. Close to 41,000 have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in the region.



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