

District of Kent **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

Corporate Name	The Corporation of the District of Kent
Date of Incorporation	January 1, 1895
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For additional
information visit the
District of Kent website.

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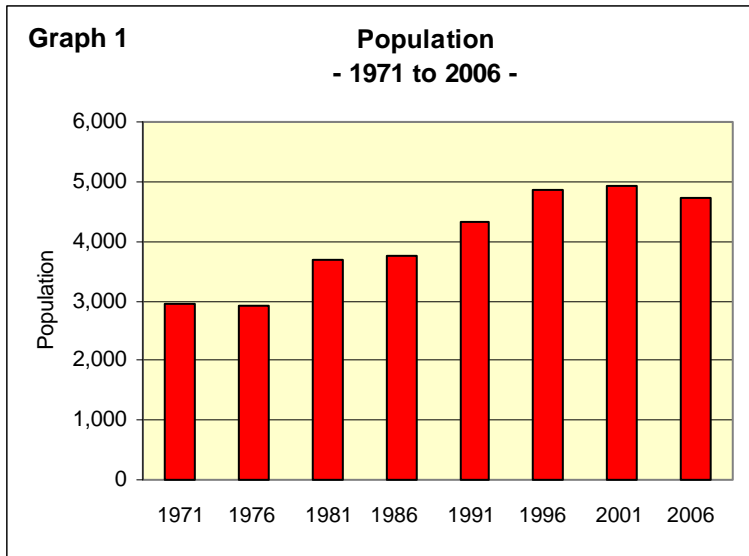
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- **Population - 1971 to 2006¹**

1971	=	2,966
1976	=	2,924
1981	=	3,683
1986	=	3,741
1991	=	4,322
1996	=	4,844
2001	=	4,926
2006	=	4,738

- **Population Increase
1971 to 2006**

= 1,772
= 51 persons / year
on average



- **2006 Urban / Rural Split**

Urban = 2,908 (61%)
Rural = 1,830 (39%)

Since 1971, Kent's population has grown gradually but the community has been one of the most stable in the Fraser Valley Regional District. The Regional District realized a population growth of 190% in the 35 years between 1971 and 2006. By contrast, Kent, with its strong agricultural base has had the lowest percentage population change, 60%, of any municipality in the Regional District.

There were 119 farms reported in Kent in 2006. The District's farm population is estimated to be 357 persons or 7.5% of Kent's total 2006 population (based on the BC average of 3 persons per farm). A similar calculation provincially sets the farm population at approximately 1.5% of B.C.'s total 2006 population.



¹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs, "Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia" - 1990 & 1998 and Statistics Canada, Ottawa - <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html>
Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

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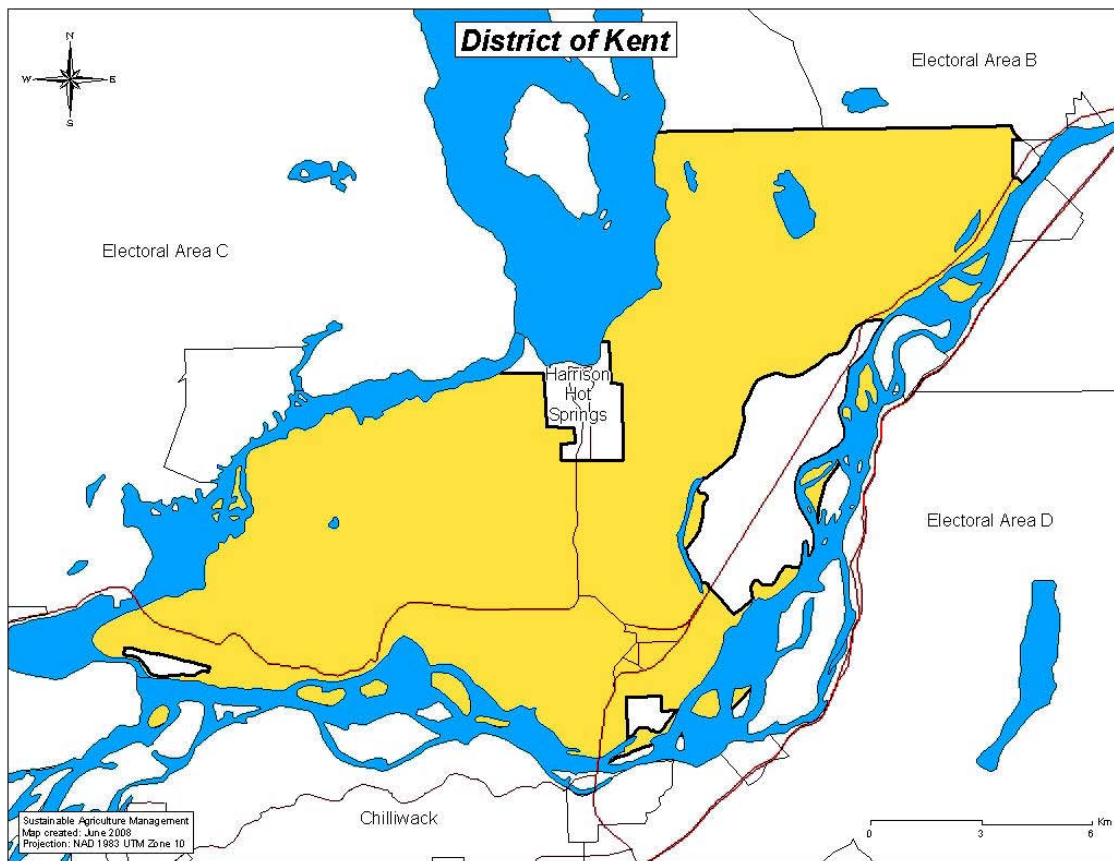
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- **Jurisdictional Area**²

Land	=	18,402 ha
Water	=	972 ha
Total	=	19,374 ha



Kent is the 4th largest of the 6 municipalities in the Fraser Valley Regional District and accounts for about 1.4% of the Regional District's total area.



² Correspondence: B. Johnson, Statistics Officer, Ministry of Community Services (see: Table - 2006 Mun Land and Water Area.xls).

Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

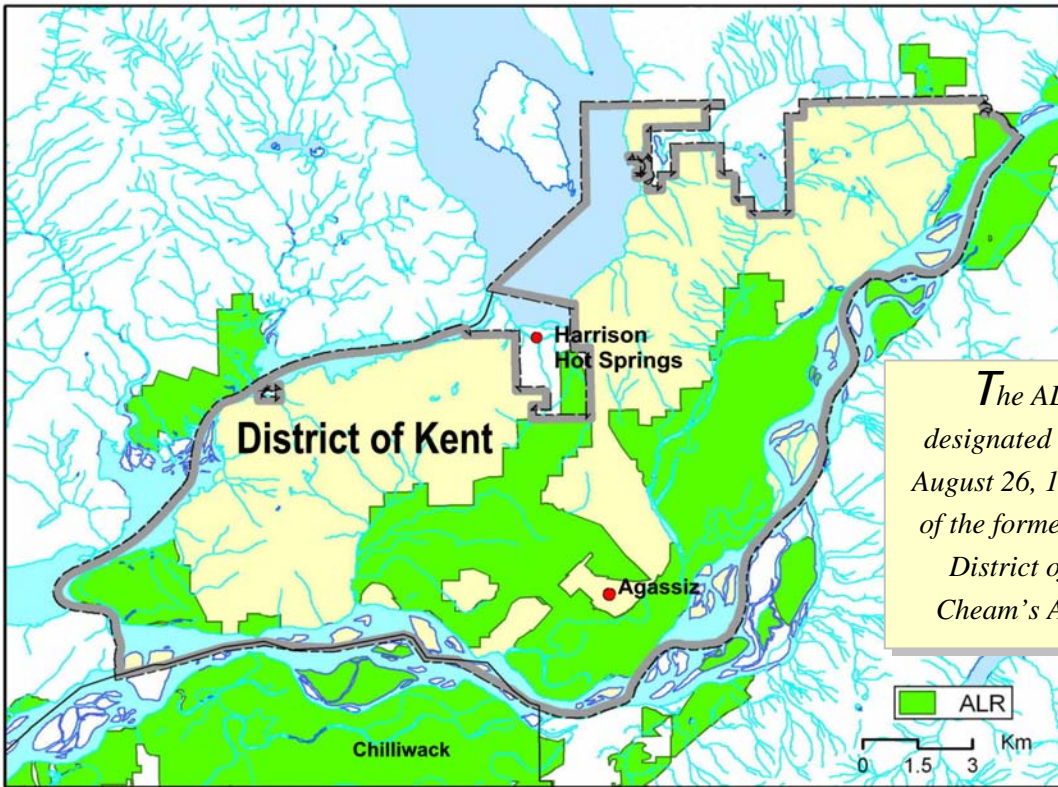
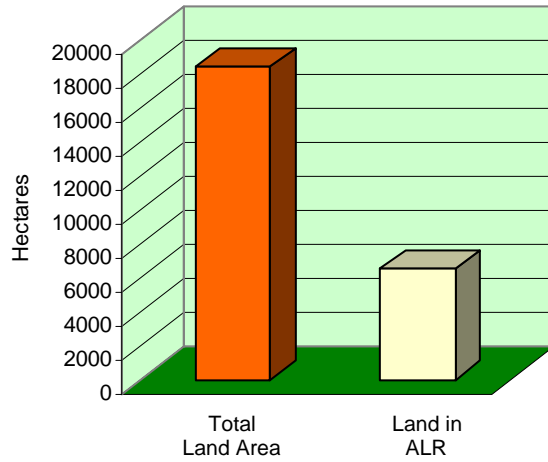
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- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

= 6,519 hectares³

Approximately 35% of Kent's land base is within the ALR and accounts for about 9.1% of the Agricultural Land Reserve in the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Graph 2
District of Kent
- Land Area & ALR -



The ALR was designated in Kent on August 26, 1974 as part of the former Regional District of Fraser Cheam's ALR Plan.

³ Source: Agricultural Land Commission - ALR as of January 2008.

Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

- Total Area Farmed**

1996	=	4,111 ha
2001	=	4,065 ha
2006	=	4,155 ha

- Number of Farms⁴ Reporting**

1996	=	133
2001	=	125
2006	=	119



In 2006, Kent accounted for 7.4% of all land being farmed in the Fraser Valley Regional District.

- Average Farm Size (hectares)**

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
District of Kent	30.9 ha	32.5 ha	34.9 ha
Fraser Valley Reg. Dist.	18.3 ha	18.3 ha	22.1 ha
Lower Mainland	14.6 ha	16.0 ha	18.8 ha
British Columbia	115.8 ha	127.5 ha	142.9 ha

Between 1996 and 2006, the amount of farmland in Kent has marginally increased while the number of farms has decreased by 14. The result has been in a gradual increase in the average farm size.

- Farm Size**

	<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<4 ha (10 acres)	33	25%	29	23%	28	24%
4 to 52 ha (10 to 129 acres)	76	57%	73	59%	64	54%
52 to 161 ha (130 to 399 acres)	20	15%	19	15%	24	20%
<u>>161 ha (400 acres & greater)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2%</u>
Total	133	100%	125	100%	119	100%

⁴ Over time, the census definition of “farm” or “farm operation” has changed. An explanation of these changes can be found at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/95-629-XIE/2007000/terms.htm#farm>. In 2006, an “agricultural operation” was defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural operation producing agricultural products for sale or the intention of sale in the past 12 months. For a complete definition of agricultural operation and agricultural products, see: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/agcensus2006/glossary.htm#gt3>

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• Tenure ⁵

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>		
Farmland Owned	2,677 ha	(65%)	3,198 ha	(79%)	3,484 ha (80%)
<u>Farmland Leased, etc.</u>	<u>1,433 ha</u>	<u>(35%)</u>	<u>867 ha</u>	<u>(21%)</u>	<u>880ha</u> <u>(20%)</u>
Total	4,111 ha ⁶	(100%)	4,065 ha	(100%)	4,364 ha (100%)

- Farmland Leased

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>		
From governments	26 ha	(2%)	117 ha	(14%)	x ⁷ ha na ⁸
From others	1,407 ha	(98%)	715 ha	(82%)	718 ha (82%)
Crop shared from others	na	na	36 ha	(4%)	x ha na
<u>Through other arrangements</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>106 ha</u> <u>(12%)</u>
Total	1,433 ha	(100%)	868 ha ⁹	(100%)	880 ha (100%)



⁵ Note: Figures related to tenure for 2006 are not comparable to previous Census data due to a significant revision to the questionnaire and reformatting of the data by Statistics Canada. For this reason, the total area farmed in 2006 (p. 5) is not the same as the total in the Tenure table.

⁶ Tenure total is subject to rounding due to metric conversion.

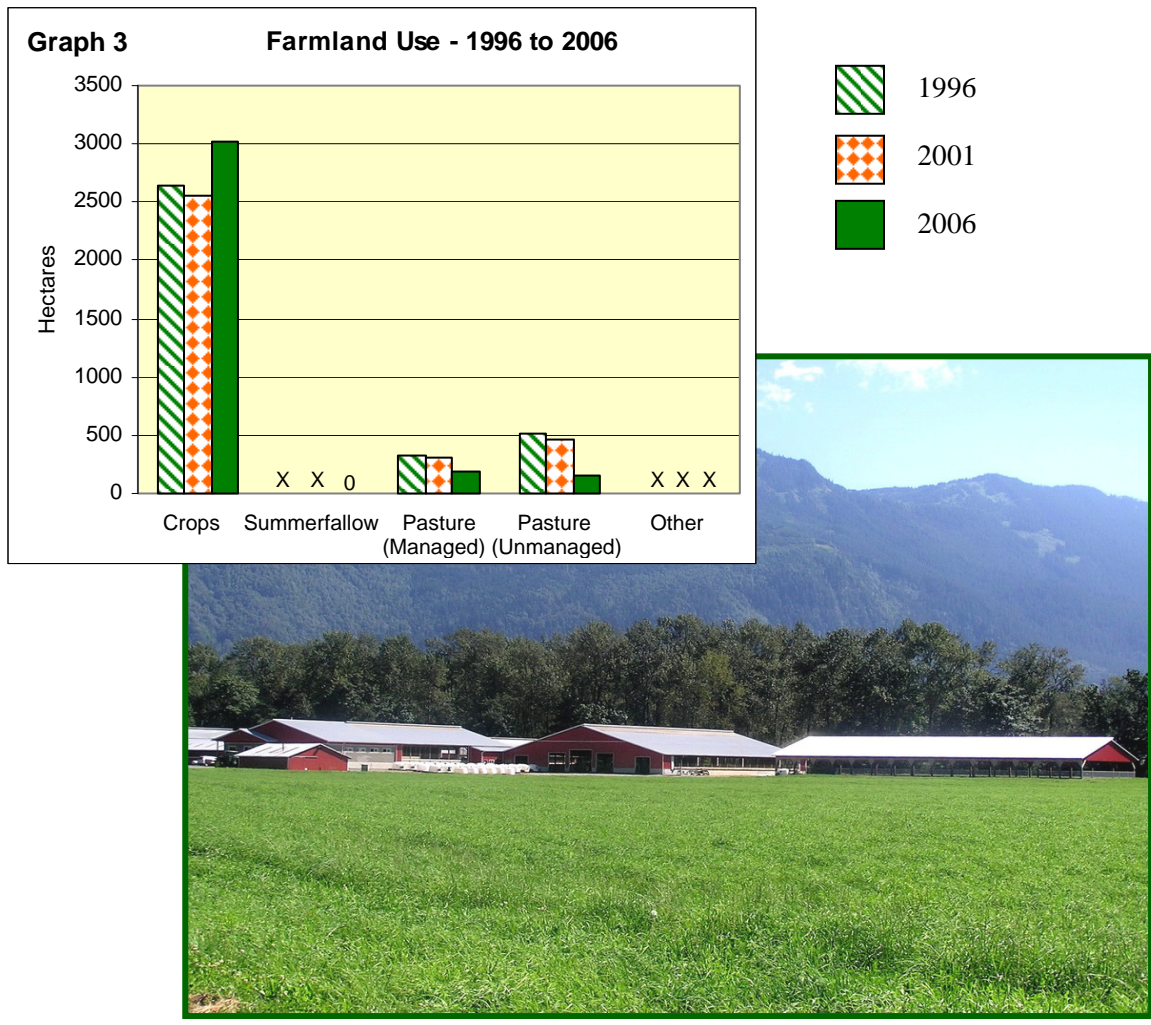
⁷ Throughout the report 'x' indicates that farms are reporting but further information is not provided for reasons of confidentiality.

⁸ "na" indicates that data was not available for the year and category in question.

⁹ Tenure total is subject to rounding due to metric conversion.

• **Hectares of Farmland in:**

	<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Crops	106	2,649	100	2,555	101	3,013
Summerfallow	2	x	2	x	0	0
Pasture (managed)	33	333	41	317	27	192
Pasture (unmanaged)	52	517	33	461	34	156
<u>Other</u> ¹⁰	<u>92</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>x</u>
Total ¹¹	na	4,111	na	4,065	na	4,155



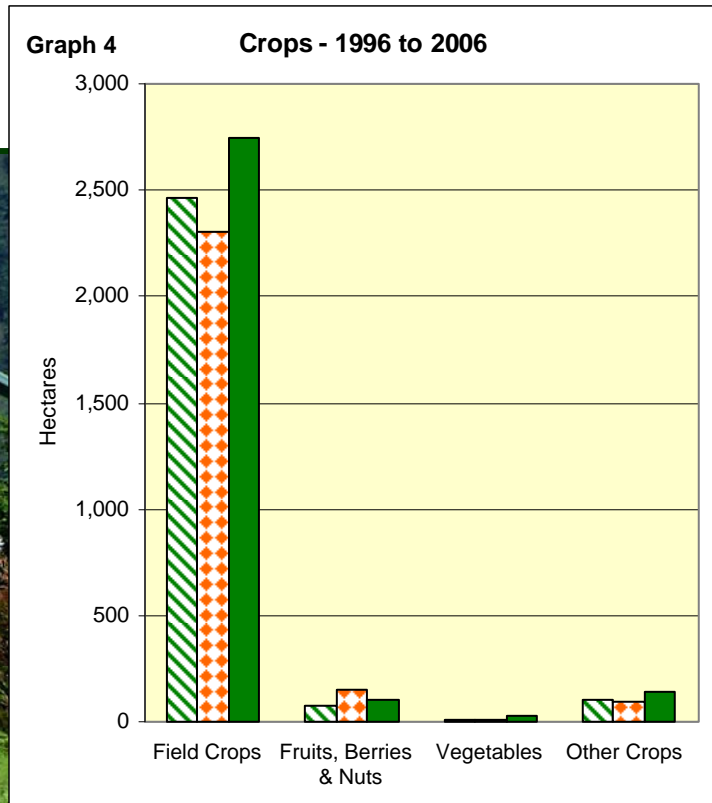
¹⁰ “Other” includes ‘Other Unimproved Land’, ‘Other Improved Land’ and ‘Woodland’.

¹¹ Note: A total for the number of farms in each year is not provided to avoid double counting of mixed farms.

District of Kent AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

• **Crops** (hectares)

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2006</u>
Field Crops ¹²	2,466	2,300	2,745
Tree Fruits	64	na	na
Berries & Grapes	10	na	na
Fruits, Berries & Nuts ¹³	na	153	103
Vegetables	6	9	25
<u>Other</u> ¹⁴	<u>103</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>142</u>
Total	2,649 ¹⁵	2,555	3,013



 1996
  2001
  2006

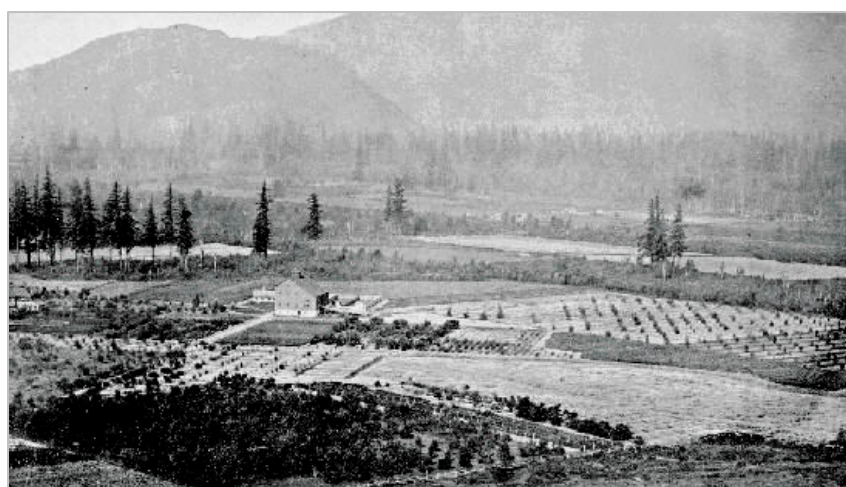
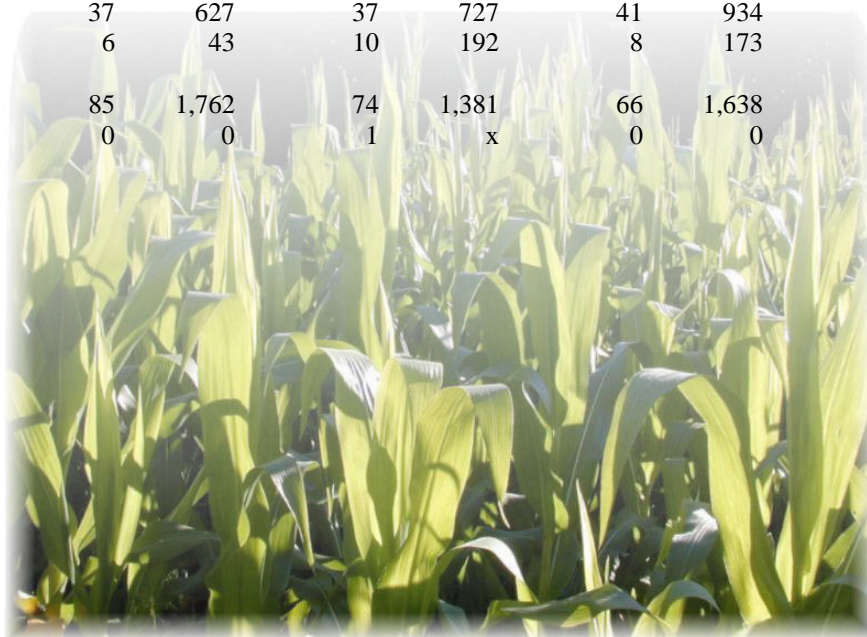
¹² Note: In the case of hectares in Field Crops, a total was not provided. In some cases, individual field crop area figures were not provided for reasons of confidentiality. As a result, the figures provided equal only the sum of those individual field crops in which Statistics Canada provide an area figure.

¹³ In 1991 and 1996, data was split between ‘Tree Fruits’ and ‘Berries & Grapes’. In 2001 & 2006, this data was grouped as Fruits, Berries & Nuts, resulting in no data being available (na) in this category in 1991 and 1996.

¹⁴ “Other” Crops also account for area figures not provided due to confidentiality.

¹⁵ Excluding Christmas tree area.

	1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
• Field Crops¹⁶	na	2,466	na	2,300	na	2,745
Wheat	1	x	0	0	4	x
Oats	2	x	1	x	1	x
Corn for Grain	2	x	2	x	0	0
Rye	3	34	2	x	1	x
Corn for Silage	37	627	37	727	41	934
Alfalfa	6	43	10	192	8	173
All other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops	85	1,762	74	1,381	66	1,638
Potatoes	0	0	1	x	0	0



“General view of the experimental farm at Agassiz, British Columbia, from the mountain - 1898”

Source: BC Archives
Call No. B-06838

¹⁶ Note: A total for the number of farms is not provided to avoid double counting in the case of mixed farms.

Data source: Statistics Canada standard or custom tabulations, 1996, 2001, 2006 Census of Agriculture, unless otherwise noted.

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Fruits, Berries & Nuts	1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
	19	74	17	153	22	103
Apples	2	x	4	x	5	1
Pears	2	x	3	x	3	1
Plums & Prunes	2	x	3	x	2	x
Sweet Cherries	0	0	1	x	2	x
Sour Cherries	1	x	0	0	0	0
Peaches	1	x	1	x	1	x
Other tree fruits	14	63	na	na	na	na
Strawberries	1	x	0	0	2	x
Raspberries	1	x	2	x	4	5
Blueberries	2	x	1	x	5	17
Cranberries	0	0	0	0	1	x
Grapes	1	x	1	x	0	0
Other fruits, berries & nuts ¹⁷	1	x	13	129	12	75

The predominant crop in Kent that accounts for “Other tree fruits” and “Other fruits, berries & nuts” is **hazelnut production**. Hazelnuts are the only nut crop produced commercially in BC and the province’s nut farms are mainly located in Kent and Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley. B.C. produces about 300,000 kg. of hazelnuts annually from about 330 hectares. Production is expected to increase annually over the next decade as the newer plantings come into full production. For more information about hazelnut production, visit the Ministry of Agriculture and Land’s website at: <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/aboutind/products/plant/filberts.htm>



¹⁷ In 1996 Other fruits, berries & nuts were separated into ‘Other tree fruits’ and ‘Other berries’.

District of Kent AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW

	<u>1996</u>		<u>2001</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
• Vegetables	5	6	8	9	7	25
Sweet Corn	2	x	2	x	2	x
Cucumbers	0	0	1	x	0	0
Green Peas	0	0	1	x	0	0
Green or Wax Beans	0	0	2	x	0	0
Cabbage	0	0	1	x	0	0
Chinese Cabbage	0	0	1	x	0	0
Cauliflower	1	x	0	0	0	0
Broccoli	1	x	0	0	0	0
Brussels Sprouts	1	x	0	0	0	0
Carrots	0	0	2	x	0	0
Beets	0	0	1	x	0	0
Radishes	0	0	1	x	0	0
Dry / Other Onions	0	0	1	x	0	0
Celery	0	0	1	x	0	0
Lettuces	1	x	1	x	0	0
Spinach	0	0	2	x	0	0
Peppers	2	x	1	x	0	0
Squash, Pumpkins & Zucchini	1	x	4	3	3	x
Rhubarb	0	0	1	x	na	na
Other Vegetables	3	1	3	1	2	x

• Organic Farms



	<u>Farms</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>Farms</u> <u>2006</u>
Total	2	3
Fruits, Veg. or Greenhouse	1	3
Field Crops	1	1
Animal	0	0
Other	1	1



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- Growing Area - Mushrooms**

1996		2001		2006	
Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres	Farms	Sq. Metres
1	x	2	x	0	0

- Greenhouse Production**

	1996			2001		
	Farms	Square Metres	% of Total	Farms	Square Metres	% of Total
Flowers	2	x	na	3	x	na
Vegetables	2	x	na	2	x	na
Other Greenhouse Products	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Area not in use on date of census</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>
Total ¹⁸	4	x	100%	5	13,367	100%

	2006		
	Farms	Square Metres	% of Total
Flowers	5	x	na
Vegetables	1	x	na
Other Greenhouse Products	3	2,469	na
<u>Area not in use on date of census</u> ¹⁸	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>
Total ¹⁸	7	x	100%



	1996		2001		2006	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nursery Products	5	8	6	26	12	29
Sod Grown for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christmas Trees	0	0	3	x	2	x

¹⁸ Note: A single greenhouse may be engaged in more than one form of production.

- Livestock**

- Poultry**

	1996		2001		2006	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Livestock</u>
Hens & Chickens	26	27,964	33	x	23	30,307
Turkeys	3	x	4	134	1	x
Total Other Poultry	13	3,500	12	x	9	1,872

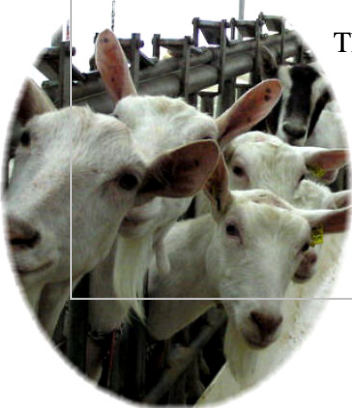
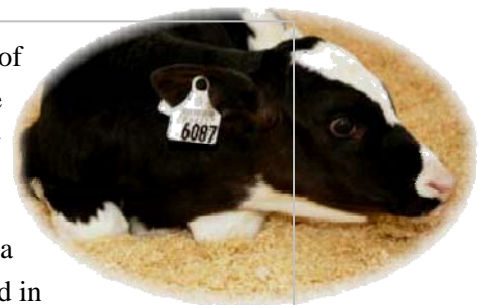
- Other Livestock**

Cattle & Calves	89	7,761	78	12,760	68	7,507
- Dairy Cows	56	3,898	53	4,626	45	x
- Beef Cows	24	248	16	420	13	x
Pigs	11	1,247	7	4,221	4	x
Sheep & Lambs	12	87	8	x	7	x
Horses & Ponies	31	153	27	119	24	153
Goats	14	72	13	148	13	x
Rabbits	5	18	0	0	na	na
Llamas & Alpacas	1	x	2	x	3	16
Colonies of Bees for Honey	2	x	3	x	2	x

The dairy industry has historically been a centrepiece of Kent agriculture and it remains so today. Besides cattle dairy farms, Kent also has a vibrant goat dairy industry as well.

Kent is also home of the University of British Columbia Dairy Education and Research Centre which is operated in conjunction with the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research station.

The Dairy Centre, opened in 2000, is designed to provide provide education and research programs in support of the dairy industry in BC and beyond. The Centre is unique in Canada and one of the largest in the world. The Centre's mission is to be a world-leading centre for dairy education, research and technology transfer.



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• Land Management Practices

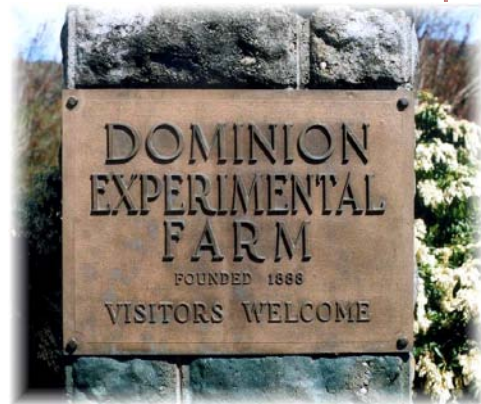
	1996		2001		2006	
	Hectares	% of Farmland	Hectares	% of Farmland	Hectares	% of Farmland
• Irrigation	438	11%	270	7%	569	14%
• Commercial Fertilizers	2,261	55%	2,378	59%	2,453	59%
• Manure ¹⁹	3,221	78%	2,519	62%	na ²⁰	na
• Herbicides	611	15%	790	19%	1,031	25%
• Insecticides	153	4%	236	6%	x	na
• Fungicides	106	3%	47	1%	92	2%

Agassiz Experimental Farm²¹ / Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre²² - A Long History of Agricultural Research -

Located in Kent, the Agassiz Experimental Farm, now known as the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, was one of the five original Experimental Farms in Canada. In 1887, Dr. William Saunders conducted a survey of the settled areas of British Columbia and decided upon the site for the experimental farm in Agassiz. The Farm Station began in 1889.

The Farm specialized in horticulture from its beginnings and by 1900, in excess of 3,000 plant varieties were under test at Agassiz. At the time, this was the largest collection of plant material centered at any one place in Canada. The animal research program, with chicken flocks and Dorset Hornsheep, was initiated early in the station's history. Over the years, Agassiz has been the home to many prize-winning animals and herds.

Today the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre at Agassiz has a land base of 310 hectares and includes poultry research facilities, a feedmill, the Avian Research Centre, greenhouses and a weather station that has been collecting data since 1889. Along with a heritage stone barn built in 1893, the Centre has a modern laboratory and office complex conducting research on a wide range of subjects including the preservation and conservation of poultry genetic resources. In addition, the University of BC's Dairy Education and Research Centre is on site, leading to increased collaboration between the Centre and University on dairy cattle research.



¹⁹ In the case of some forms of manure application, data was not provided. Figures represent only where data is provided.

²⁰ The area in which manure is applied is derived from the total of several different types of manure handling methods, most of which were not provided in 2006 due to confidentiality. However, the Census of Agriculture did indicate that 'composted manure not incorporated into the soil' was applied to 108 hectares and 'liquid manure not incorporated into the soil' was applied to 1,310 hectares.

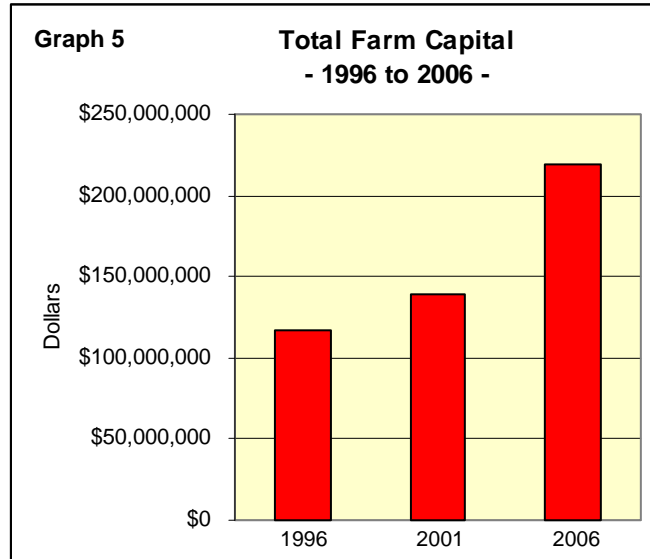
²¹ Source: "One Hundred Harvests Research Branch Agriculture Canada 1886-1986" at: <http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/agrican/pubweb/hs27cover.asp>

²² Source: <http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1180620561099&lang=e>

• **Total Farm Capital**

1996 = \$117,056,182
 2001 = \$138,749,612
 2006 = \$219,072,422

Between 1996 and 2006, Kent's Total Farm Capital increased by over \$102 million. Almost 94% of this increase was accounted for by increases in the value of land and buildings.

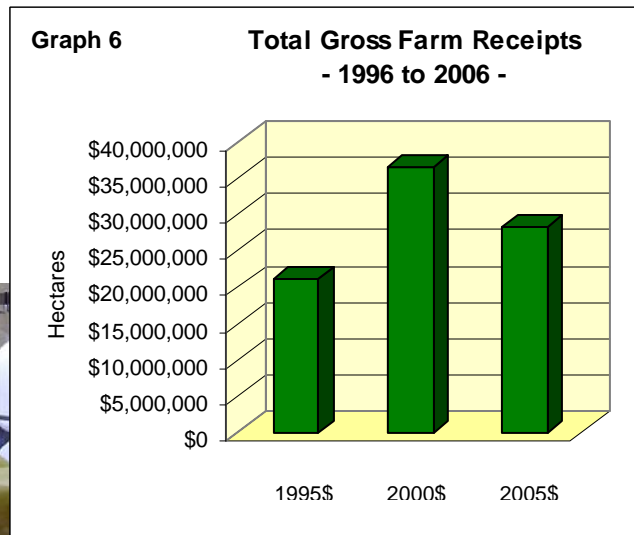


Division of Farm Capital - 2006

	Value (\$)	% of Total
• Land and buildings	\$194,035,197	88%
• Farm machinery & equipment	\$17,272,835	8%
• Livestock & poultry	\$7,764,390	4%

• **Total Gross Farm Receipts**

1996 = \$21,087,899 (1995\$)
 2001 = \$36,578,537 (2000\$)
 2006 = \$28,336,017 (2005\$)

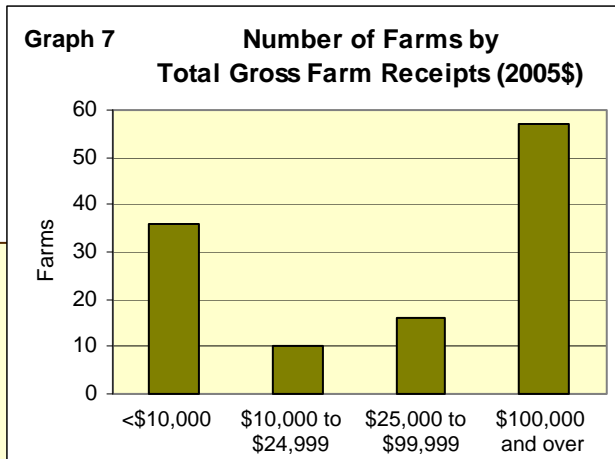


- Average Gross Farm Receipts per Farm

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
District of Kent	\$158,556	\$292,628	\$238,118
Fraser Valley Regional District	\$179,763	\$276,535	\$358,950
British Columbia	\$84,233	\$113,736	\$133,641

- Number of Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts 2005

	<u>Kent</u>		<u>Fraser Valley RD</u>		<u>B.C.</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of Kent Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of Fr. Valley Total</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>% of BC Total</u>
< \$10,000	36	30%	908	35%	9,466	48%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	10	8%	277	11%	3,194	16%
\$25,000 - \$99,999	16	14%	374	15%	3,629	18%
\$100,000 and over	<u>57</u>	<u>48%</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>3,555</u>	<u>18%</u>
Total	119	100%	2,567	100%	19,844	100%



The strength of Kent’s agricultural sector is evident with almost 50% of the District’s farms having total gross farm receipts of \$100,000 or more in 2005. This percentage was significantly higher than the Fraser Valley Regional District as a whole or the province.

With a diversity of agricultural and value added products, Kent is developing a strong direct farm marketing and agri-tourism sector. From hazelnuts to handmade cheese products to dairy and tulip farms, are all part of Kent’s “Agassiz / Harrison Mills Circle Farm Tour”.



• **Total Operating Expenses & Cash Wages Paid**

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Wages</u>
1995\$ =	\$16,764,679	\$2,241,816
2000\$ =	\$30,954,205	\$4,009,177
2005\$ =	\$21,973,842	\$3,159,269

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
• Total Paid Labour (weeks)	5,159	6,345	5,006

- **Year Round vs. Seasonal Paid Labour**



% Year Round	79%	83%	na
% Seasonal	21%	17%	na
% Year Round British Columbia	57%	62%	63%



BC Agriculture - A Snapshot

Agriculture is a significant and expanding industry in British Columbia with more than 290,000 people employed on farms, ranches, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries, as well as warehouses, veterinary offices, hatcheries, grocery stores, and other food-related services in 2006. The primary agriculture sector generates more than \$782 million towards the province's total Gross Domestic Product. Although the industry is relatively small by itself, it contributes significantly to spinoffs in the food processing, food wholesaling, food retailing and food service sectors. This translates in total gross revenues for this industry of more than \$36 billion a year.

Climatic conditions in the province make it possible for British Columbia farmers to grow a wide variety of crops - approximately 200 different commodities. The top farm commodities in terms of sales in 2006 B.C. were dairy, chicken, floriculture, cattle, nursery, greenhouse tomatoes, mushrooms, calves, and blueberries. Total farm cash receipts reached \$2.3 billion in 2006 and total crop receipts reached over \$1.1 billion in 2006. The livestock sector, which includes cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs, dairy, honey, fur and game-farm animals, reached \$1.2 billion in 2006.

The **Southern Interior** is well-suited for the production of tree fruits and grapes. The **Fraser Valley** and southern **Vancouver Island**, with a cooler, wetter climate, are extremely favourable for the production of berries and vegetables. Most of the province's grain and oilseed crops are grown in the **Peace River** region.

Beef cattle are concentrated in the **Peace River, Cariboo, Thompson-Okanagan** and **Bulkley-Nechako** regions. Large dairy herds are found mostly in the **Lower Mainland**, southeastern **Vancouver Island** and the **Okanagan-Shuswap** area. Hog, poultry and egg production are concentrated in the **Lower Mainland**.

B.C. - 2006 - Census of Agriculture		
No. of Farms	-	19,844
Total Area of Farms	-	2,835,458 ha



Nationally, in 2006, BC ranked 1st in receipts generated in four commodities

Commodity	BC Share of Canada's Gross Farm Receipts	National Ranking
Sweet Cherries	84.6%	1
Raspberries	58.1%	1
Blueberries	49.3%	1
Cranberries	45.0%	1

Nationally, B.C. ranked 2nd in a further eight agricultural commodities - greenhouse peppers, greenhouse tomatoes, nursery products, apples, grapes, mushrooms, floriculture and greenhouse cucumbers.

From: "Fast Stats - Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food 2007"
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Sources:

- “One Hundred Harvests Research Branch Agriculture Canada 1886-1986” at:
<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/agrican/pubweb/hs27cover.asp>
- Statistics Canada, British Columbia Agriculture, 1986, Census Catalogue 96-112.
- Statistics Canada, Small Area Data British Columbia, July 1992.
- Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia.
- Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Agriculture Profile Data - British Columbia
- Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture - Farm Data Tables - British Columbia - Special Run
- Correspondence: Brittany Johnson, Statistics Officer, Ministry of Community Services.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Municipal Statistics (Including Regional Districts), March , 1998
- Statistical Reports & Files of the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission.

Sources: Photos and Illustrations

All photos and illustrations are from the BC Ministry of Agricultural and Lands with the exception of:

- Page 4 - ALR Map produced by the Resource Management Branch. Data provided by Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.
- Page 9 - B.C. Archives - Call No. B-06838
- Page 12 - UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre (calf) at: http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/dairy_centre/
- Page 15 - Agassiz Harrison Mills Circle Farm Tour 2007 brochure.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE IN B.C.?

See:

the Ministry of Agriculture at:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri>



the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission at:

<http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca>



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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca>



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