

P.E.I Agriculture

Potatoes
Gains and Oilseeds
Fruit Production
Beef Production
Vegetables
Dairy Production
Hog Production
Organic Farming





Department of
Agriculture



Prince Edward Island is a great place to farm. The Island has a total land area of 1.4 million acres with approximately 620,000 acres cleared for agricultural use. Agriculture is very important to the rural way of life on P.E.I. with 4.5 percent of the population living on farms; 1.5 percent higher than the national average. The 2006 census listed 1,700 farms primarily engaged in growing crops and raising livestock on P.E.I.

Potatoes represent Prince Edward Island's single largest agricultural commodity in terms of farm cash receipts. In 2010, Island producers harvested 85,000 acres of potatoes totaling 25.5 million hundredweight (cwt) of product. The value of the crop is subject to global market fluctuations. Over the last five years values have ranged from \$201 to \$235 million. Prince Edward Island potatoes are processed into frozen potato products and chips. They are also supplied to the fresh table market in eastern Canada, the United States and overseas. Prince Edward Island seed potatoes are shipped across Canada and around the world to other potato producing regions. Approximately 85,000 acres of potatoes have been planted in 2011.





Grains and Oilseeds are the largest groups of crops grown on P.E.I. Grains are primarily grown in rotation with potato crops. In 2010, Statistics Canada estimated that there were 99,000 acres of wheat, oats, barley and mixed grain and 44,000 acres of soybeans seeded on the Island. Barley accounted for 50,000 acres. Milling wheat is grown for the production of flour. One third of the soybean acreage in 2008 was exported to Japan to be processed into tofu and miso. Canola is being grown and pressed for oil that is used for food and fuel. The remaining grains and soybeans are fed to livestock on the Island. The total value of the 2010 grain and oilseed crop was estimated to be \$14.9 million.



Fruit Production is very diverse on P.E.I. Lowbush blueberries make up the largest acreage of commercial fruit crops (11,600 acres). Commercial cranberry bogs and strawberry fields are located across the province. Strawberry nursery stock is produced for export to southern USA. Twenty thousand apple trees fill Island orchards. Specialty fruits including raspberry, gooseberry, rose hips, and highbush blueberry are produced in small acreages. Rising interest in black currant, grape and haskap berry have resulted in new developments of these crops.



Beef production on Prince Edward Island involves 35 percent of farms, greater than any other type of farming operation. The beef industry is comprised of two main sectors; cow-calf operations where calves are raised to the feeder stage and beef feedlots that purchase the feeders to finish for market. The average cow-calf herd is 40 cows. Calves are sold to feedlots throughout the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Feedlot operations are intrinsically linked to the potato sector by incorporating cull potatoes, potato by-products and crops used in the potato rotation such as barley, soybeans and forage into the beef feed ration. There are several small abattoirs that process beef for the local market and one federally inspected facility, Atlantic Beef Products Inc., which processes beef for the Maritime market and for export to the United States.



Vegetables are an important cash crop for many farmers and are a source of fresh and processed product for consumers in Atlantic Canada. A core group of diversified growers produce a significant percentage of the fresh market vegetable acreage. Cauliflower, carrots and brussel sprouts are shipped to off-island processors. Rutabaga, carrots, onions and cabbage are stored and sold throughout the year to local, national and international markets.



Dairy production has become highly specialized and mechanized. Quality standards are very high. Rigid inspection programs cover every phase of production, from the health of the cow through to the finished product. There are approximately 206 dairy farms on PEI with milk cow herds ranging in number from 20 to more than 250 cows. Annual milk production exceeds 101 million liters. Fourteen percent is used to supply the fresh market and the balance is manufactured into butter, cheese, ice cream and other dairy products. Breeding stock is sold to dairy farms across Canada and internationally. Quota price was \$26,875 per kg in June 2011.

Hog Production has tapered and the industry is in a period of transition. Due to low market prices, many farmers have exited the industry. Many of the remaining farms are confined housing operations with highly mechanized, temperature controlled barns. Several large operations produce high quality, disease free breeding stock to supply local operations and for exporting within Canada and worldwide.



Organic Farming is continuing to expand across Prince Edward Island. There are approximately 55 certified producers in the province who produce crops and/or raise livestock. Increasing demand for food grade quality cereals and soybeans is stimulating the expansion of field crops. Consumer support for purchasing local food has encouraged producers to explore market opportunities at farmer's markets or through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) ventures. Farmers may label their products as "*Certified Organic*" when they are produced according to a national standard, pass an annual inspection and detailed records of production practices are maintained.



For more information about the Agriculture Industry on Prince Edward Island, please contact the **Agriculture Information Centre:**

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Agriculture Information Officer
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PEI Agriculture Quiz: Fill In the Blanks

1. PEI has a total land area of _____ with _____ cleared for farm use.
2. The latest census figures (2006) shows that there are _____ farms primarily engaged in growing crops and raising livestock on PEI.
3. In 2010 Island potato producers harvested _____ acres of potatoes.
4. There are approximately _____ dairy farmers in the province.
5. Annual milk productions exceeds _____, with 14% used to supply the fresh market and the balance is manufactured into butter, cheese, ice cream, and other dairy products.
6. Beef production on Prince Edward Island involves _____% of farms.
7. The beef industry is comprised of two main sectors; _____ operations and _____.
8. _____ and _____ are the largest group of crops grown on PEI.
9. The total value of the 2010 grain and oilseed crop was estimated to be _____ dollars.
10. The main fruit crops are _____, _____, _____, and _____.
11. There are approximately _____ certified organic producers in the province.
12. The three vegetables that are shipped to off-island processors are, _____, _____ and _____.

PEI Agriculture Quiz Answers: Fill In the Blanks

1. 1.4 million acres and 620,000

2. 1700

3. 85,000 acres

4. 206

5. 101 million liters

6. 35

7. Cow calf, and beef feed lots

8. Grains and oilseeds

9. 14.9 million dollars

10. Lowbush blueberries, cranberries, strawberries, and apples

11. 55

12. Cauliflower, carrots and brussel sprouts