

# **Profile of B.C.'s Agriculture Sector**

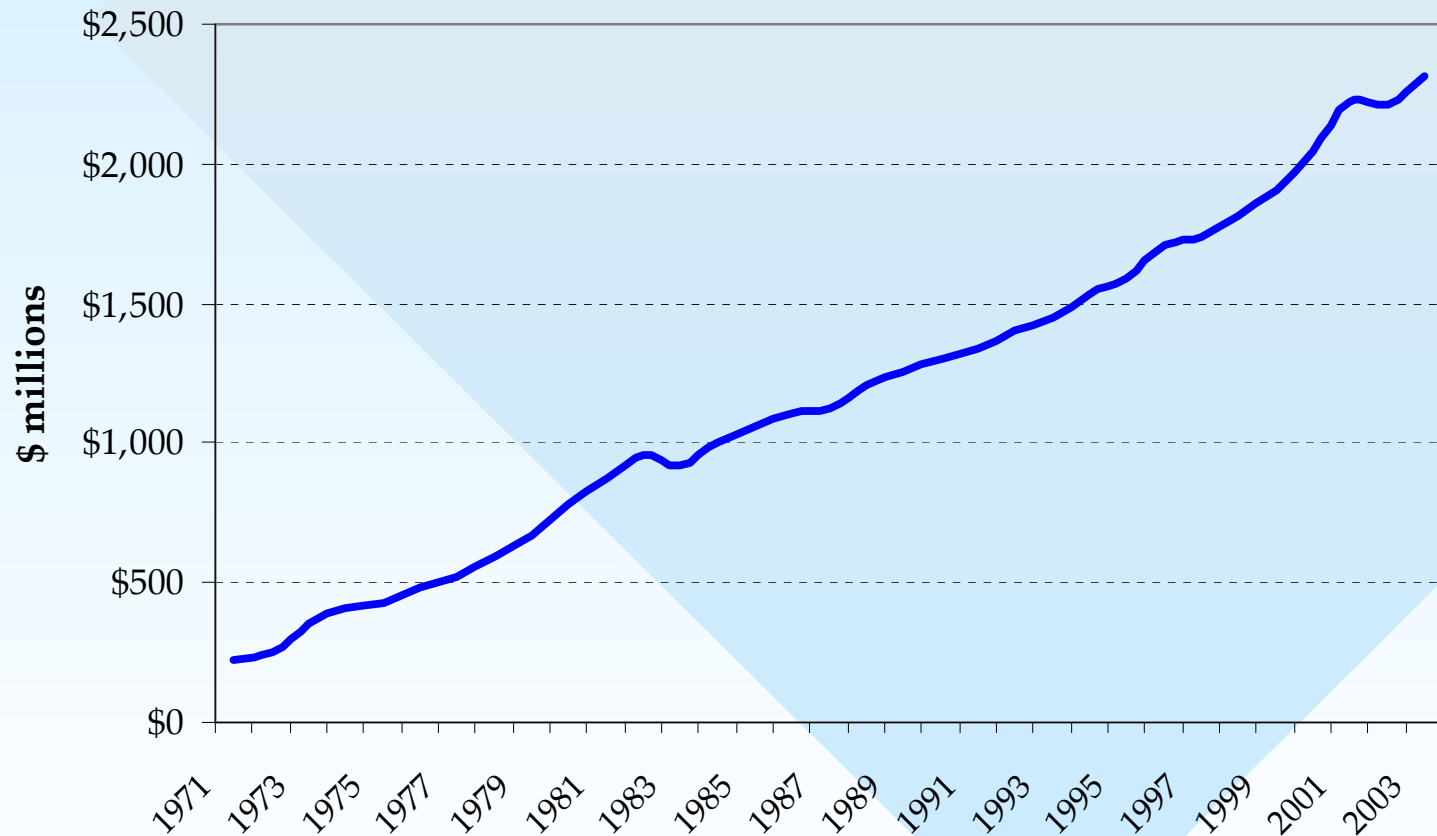
# How big is B.C.'s agriculture sector?

---

- 5.3% of the provincial land base is currently in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- In 2003, total farm cash receipts totaled \$2.3 billion.
- This shows strong growth of 4.4% over the value of farm receipts in 2002.
  - More than half of the value of farm receipts is accounted for by the livestock sector (cattle, hogs, poultry, dairy, eggs, honey, fur, game farm animals)
  - The other half is accounted for by crops and mixed farming operations.

# B.C. farm cash receipts represented 6.8% of Canadian receipts in 2003.

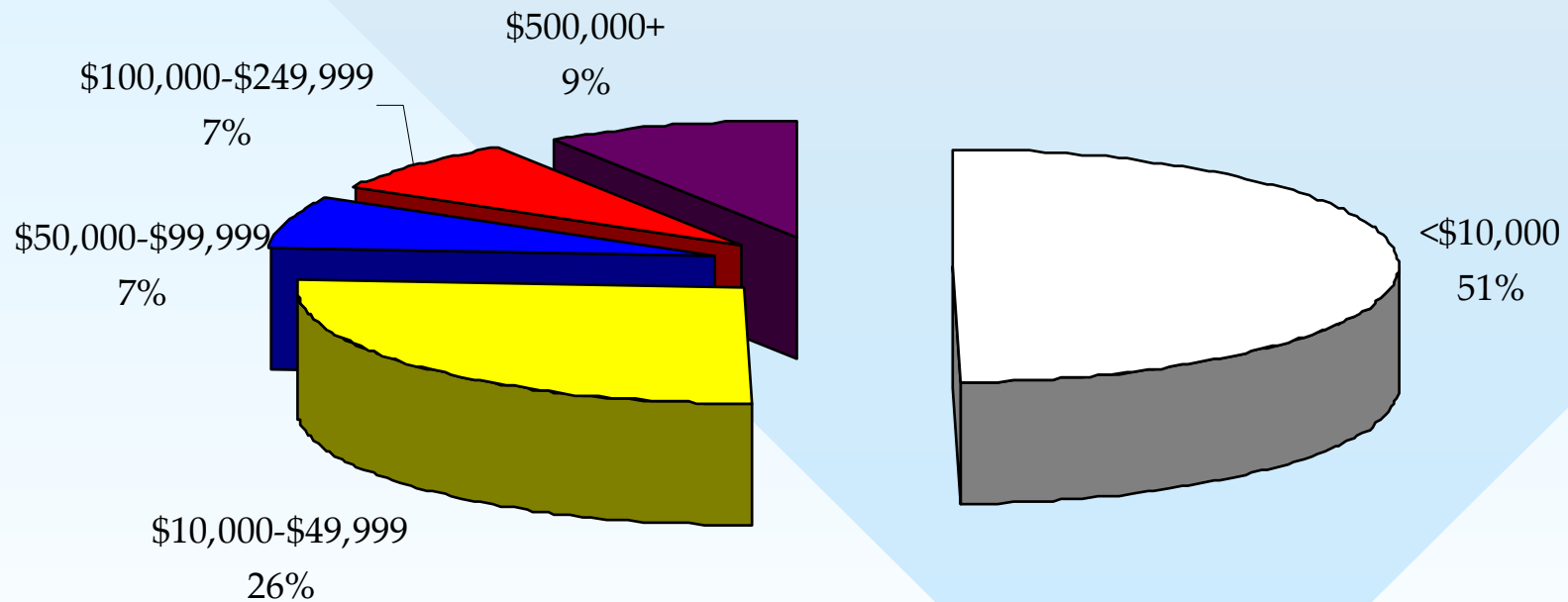
B.C. Farm Cash receipts



# How many farms are there in B.C.?

Number of Farms in B.C. in 2001 by value of Sales

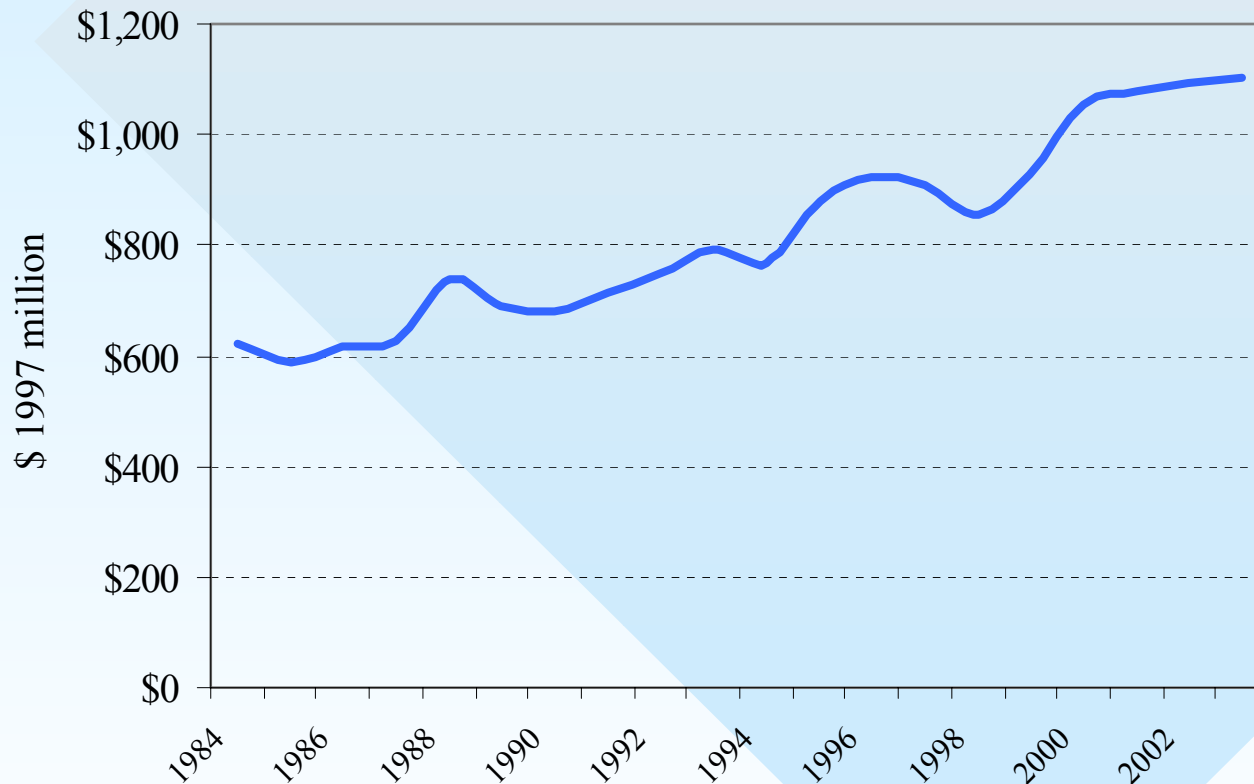
Total = 20,290



Source: Statistics Canada

# How much in GDP does crop and animal production in B.C. generate?

**British Columbia Agriculture GDP (constant dollars)**

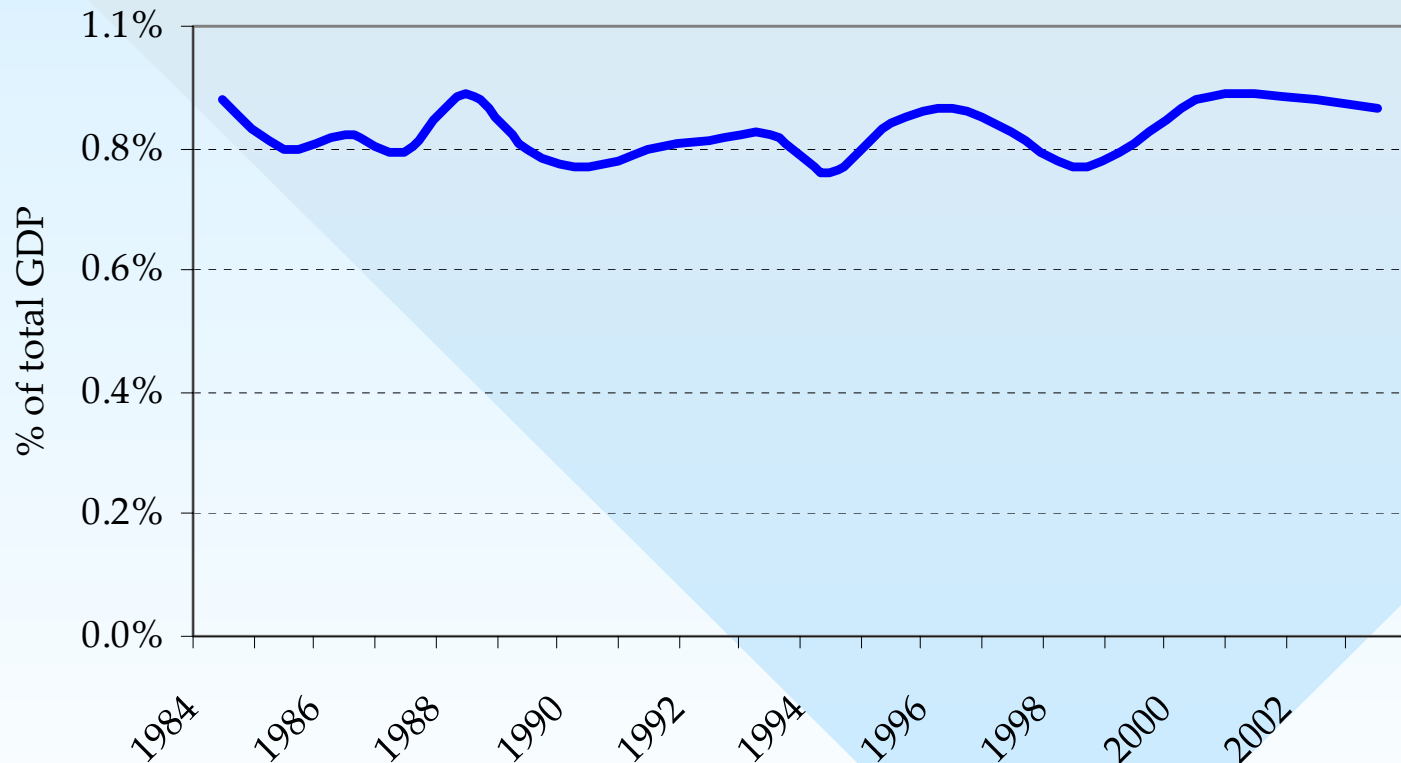


Source: Statistics Canada Provincial Economic Accounts

Support for Agriculture generates an estimated \$80M - \$100M per year in GDP

# What proportion of the economy does this represent?

**Agriculture GDP as a percent of Total GDP**



Source: Statistics Canada, Provincial Economic Accounts

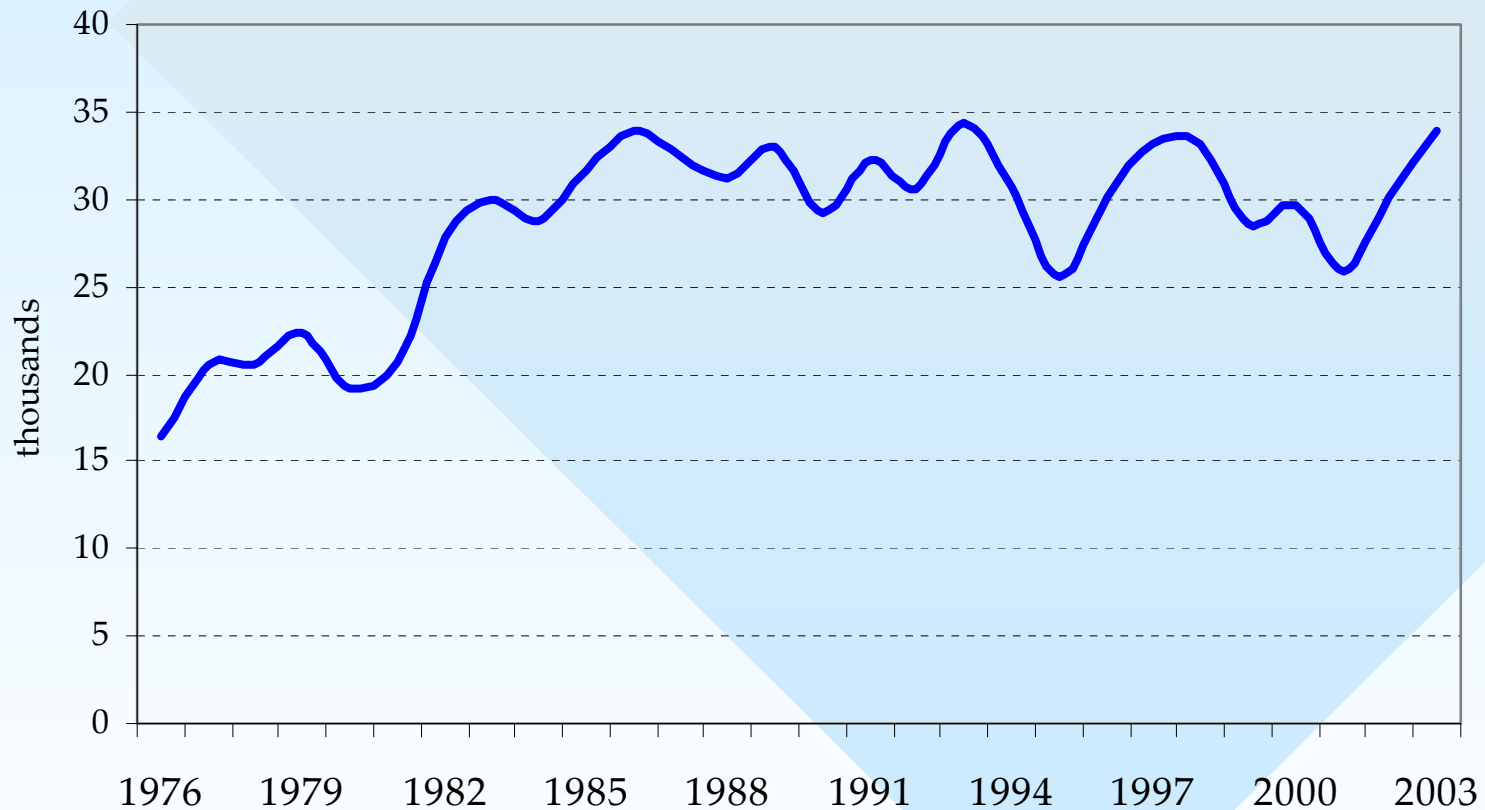
# Where in the province is agriculture?

---

- B.C.'s climate makes it possible to grow a wide range of crops, however, some regions have particularly favourable growing conditions for specific commodities.
  - Southern Interior – tree fruits and grapes.
  - Fraser Valley and Southern Vancouver Island – berries and vegetables.
  - Peace River Region – grains and oilseeds.
  - Cariboo and North Thompson – cattle and dairy.
  - Lower Mainland – hogs, poultry and eggs.

# How many people are employed in agriculture in B.C.?

Employment in B.C.'s crop and animal production sector



Source: Labour Force Survey



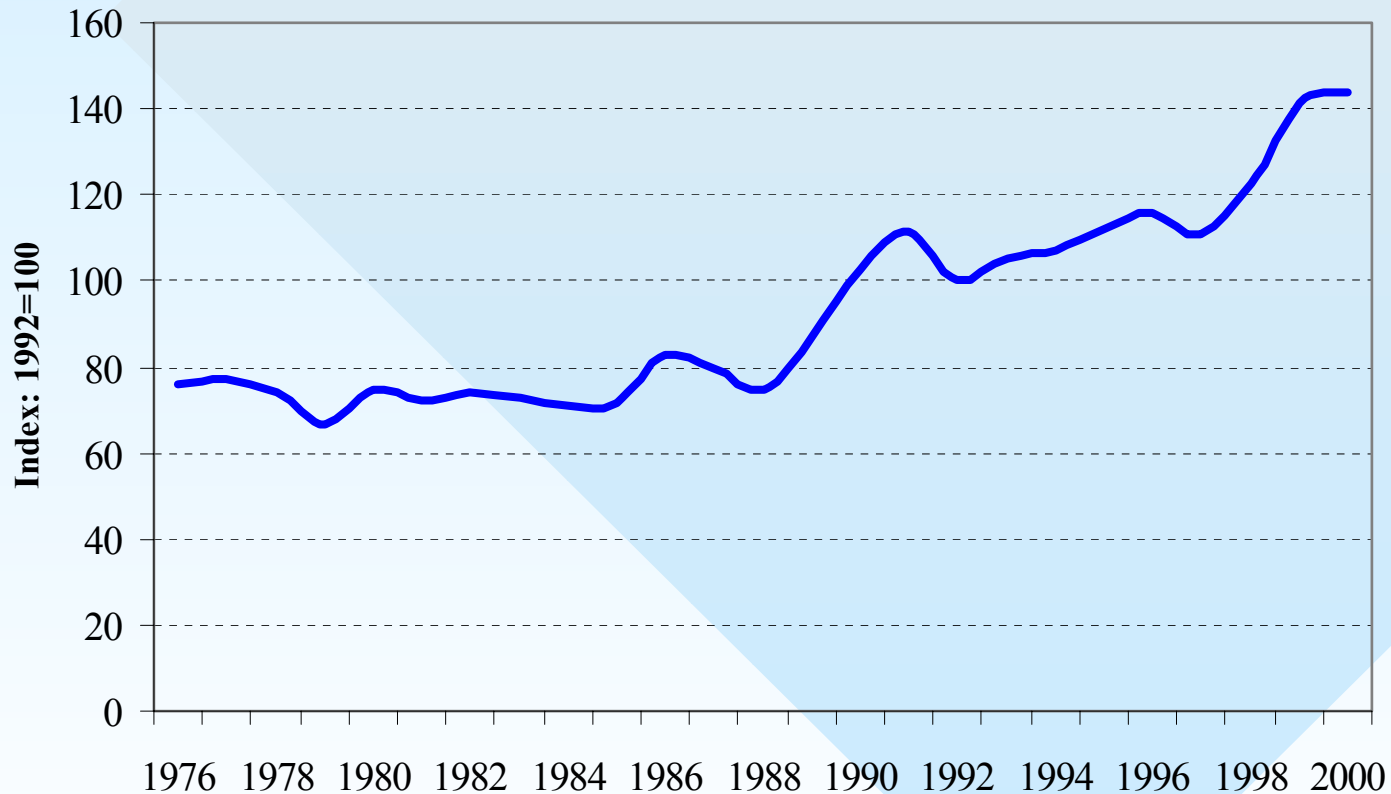
# What types of jobs do workers in the agriculture sector do?

- Workers in the agriculture sector require specific skills, particularly as technological improvements are introduced in crop and animal production.
- The hands-on nature of production means fewer management skills are employed than in other sectors, and a higher than average share of skilled/technical workers.

	Share of workforce	
	<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>All industries</u>
Professional/management	2.2%	27.2%
Skilled and technical	49.1%	30.1%
Semi-skilled	41.3%	30.3%
Unskilled	7.5%	12.5%

# Labour productivity in the agriculture sector has risen in the last decade.

**Index of Labour Productivity in the Agriculture Sector (Canada)**



Source: Statistics Canada, National Accounts

# Agriculture is connected to a number of other sectors...

---

- Some other sectors and occupations which provide services to, or are linked with agriculture include:
  - Food processing (27,200 employed)
  - Beverage & tobacco processing (4,700 employed)
  - Support for agriculture (2,200 employed)
  - Veterinarians & Vet. Technicians (1,900 employed)
  - Farm products wholesalers & distributors (2,000 employed)

# Emerging opportunities

---

- Growing demand for organic products.
- Agri-tourism is an expanding tourism niche market.
- Growing demand for specialty food products will create new opportunities in food & beverage processing.
- Close proximity to growing Pacific Rim markets means there is potential for future expansion of the sector.
  - B.C.'s transportation network provides good support for movement of raw products for both export and processing.