



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Partner Profile: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Submitted by AAFC

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) works with agricultural producers and industry to help feed our country and develop markets around the world. AAFC's core responsibilities include domestic and international markets, science and innovation and agricultural sectoral risks. AAFC supports the growth and development of the agriculture and agri-food sector through programs, research, policies and technology for all sectors to succeed in Canadian and global markets.

Agriculture and agri-food is a major contributor to the Canadian economy; as of 2018 contributing over \$60B in farm market receipts and \$115B in food and beverage processing sales. The agriculture & agri-food system in 2019 employed 2.3M people, provided 1 in 8 jobs in Canada and accounted for 7.4% of the national GDP. Additional industries support agricultural inputs and service suppliers, making the agriculture & agri-food system a significant driver of economic activity in Canada.

Agriculture is a shared jurisdiction between the federal and provincial governments in Canada. AAFC actively supports collaboration with provinces and territories in its core responsibility areas and agri-environmental support includes science-based research in healthy and resilient agro-ecosystems, programs such as Canadian Agricultural Partnership [\$3B 2018-2023], development of policies such as the new Food Policy for Canada and research on a wide range of crops and livestock including emerging opportunities in bioproducts, genomics and climate change adaptation.

AAFC ensures collaboration with portfolio partners and agencies such as the Farm Products Council of Canada, Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal, Farm Credit Canada, Canadian Dairy Commission, Canadian Grain Commission; the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's non-food safety activities which include economic and trade issues, consumer protection as well as animal health and plant protection work [food safety activities report to the federal Minister of Health].

In Alberta, AAFC staff are located at research and development centres [RDC] at Lethbridge, Lacombe, Beaverlodge and regional offices at Calgary and Edmonton.

Established in 1906, the Lethbridge RDC leads research on beef cattle production systems (health and welfare, food safety, microbiology); crop production (agronomy, breeding, genetics, pathology) and sustainable production systems under dryland and irrigated conditions [including soil carbon, salinity, soil fertility research]. The Lethbridge RDC is the largest research centre of all of AAFC's network of 20 research centres.

The Lacombe RDC was established in 1907, and research activities focus on livestock and meat production, as well as crop sciences including plant breeding on field peas and oats, weed science and development of beneficial management practices.

On Common Ground – Messages from the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta – Issue #32, December 2020

The Beaverlodge Research Farm was established in 1917 and is host of AAFC's national honey bee research program, with an emphasis on bee health. Support to the applied research organizations at Fort Vermilion [Mackenzie Applied Research Assoc.-MARA], Manning [North Peace Applied Research Assoc.-NPARA] and Fahler [Smoky Applied Research & Demonstration Association –SARDA] is supported by AAFC research scientists and staff at Beaverlodge.

Regional specialists in the AAFC regional offices at Edmonton and Calgary support local and provincial agri-environmental initiatives, industry and trade relations, regional communications and strategic partnerships. The 2020 pandemic has disrupted most aspects of society and public health restrictions and guidelines have resulted in many AAFC staff teleworking from home where possible, however, essential services have been maintained throughout the year [eg. care of facilities and livestock] and specific research activities have been carefully and safely re-integrated since summer 2020.

For more information, please contact:

Email: aafc.atsbccalendar-calendrierseacb.aac@canada.ca

Telephone: 780-495-3307

Fax: 780-495-3324

Mail:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Suite 945 - 9700 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3