

"Of our Agricultural capabilities, the extent of our annual exports afford satisfactory evidence. The farming lands of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are much like those of the New England States, those of Ontario produce crops second to none on the continent, and the extensive prairies of the North-West are now known to be unsurpassed for depth and richness of soil." (1871)

The Census of 1871 found that 141,300 farmers in Canada, or 38 p.c. of all farmers, owned land ranging from 50 to 100 acres. Also, 25,228 farmers, or 7 p.c., owned over 200 acres of land each. (1876)

"According to a table in Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics... Canada stands seventh among the countries of the world, both with regard to the amount of agricultural capital, and of agricultural income, per head of population." (1886)



## NOW

In 1985, 51% of all Canadian agricultural production was exported, half of which was wheat.

Agriculture accounts for about 10% of Canada's economic activity, including the processing, wholesale and retail sectors. Canada is among the top seven net food-exporting countries in the world today. In 1986, there were 293,089 Census-farms in Canada, down from 318,361 in 1981.

In 1986, 19.2% of Census-farm operators were under 35 years of age; 46.6% were from 35 to 54 years; and 34.2% were 55 years and over.