

# The County of Forty Mile No. 8

## CONNECTED TO GLOBAL MARKETS



There are almost 500 farms throughout the County of Forty Mile with the majority of the rural population living in the northern, irrigated areas of the municipality. The County's diversified agricultural economy is based on ranching, dryland farming, irrigated specialty crops, and intensive livestock operations.

The arable land in County of Forty Mile No. 8 yields a variety of different crops such as beans, potatoes, sugar beets, dill, peppermint, hemp and a very progressive dry land farming. The high amount of sunshine in the region also makes the County a suitable location for greenhouse operations.

In addition, the Town of Bow Island and Village of Foremost provide strong service support to the agricultural sector.

The County is served by Highway 61 crossing the southern half of the County and Highway 3 in the northern portion of the County. Various secondary highways feed into the primary system throughout the County and are part of the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor. Two airstrips are located within the County in Foremost and Bow Island. The nearest commercial and air freight services are located in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Air freight facilities are located at Calgary International Airport. CP Rail also provides rail service in the County.

Farming Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Number of Farms	524	498	-4.96%
Total Land Area - km2	7,294.31	7,294.31	0.00%
Total Acreage	1,703,217	1,795,795	5.44%
Number of Farm Operators	730	695	-4.79%
Number of Employees	770	730	-5.19%
Gross Farm Receipts	\$253,907,405	\$431,457,264	69.93%

\* 2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture

*The County of Forty Mile had 498 farms comprising more than 1.79 million acres, worth \$3.72 billion dollars in total farm capital in 2016.*

Crop Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Canola - acres	92,867	77,825	-16.20%
Wheat - acres	382,315	369,156	-3.44%
Barley - acres	50,371	59,905	18.93%
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures - acres	28,181	32,540	15.47%
All other tame hay and fodder crops - acres	10,179	9,795	-3.77%
Oats - acres	5,333	3,506	-34.26%
Dry field peas - acres	61,517	124,186	101.87%
Fruits, Berries and Nuts - acres	10	n/a	
Total vegetables (excluding greenhouse vegetables) - acres	n/a	n/a	
Total greenhouse area in - square feet	n/a	n/a	

\*2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture  
n/a - not available from Statistics Canada Census data

Livestock Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Value of Livestock & Poultry	\$51,000,508	\$134,684,261	164.08%
Cattle and Calves #	61,778	64,180	3.89%
Dairy Cows #	1,842	1,812	-1.63%
Beef Cows #	19,754	22,066	11.70%
Heifers #	10,824	6,813	-37.06%
Calves #	18,376	22,529	22.60%
Steers #	9,753	9,703	-0.51%
Bulls #	1,229	1,257	2.28%
Pigs #	31,023	n/a	
Hens and Chickens #	n/a	401,678	
Sheep and Lambs #	328	2,182	565.24%

\*2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture  
n/a - not available from Statistics Canada Census data

*The Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics and Data Development Section lists the value of agricultural land in the County of Forty Mile*



*Forty Mile Rail recently bought 72 km of tracks from CP Rail to make southern Alberta's first short rail line, hauling grain and pulse crops from Foremost to the main line at Stirling. The shortline will accommodate about 400,000 acres of production in the County.*