

**RESOLUTION 3  
INCORPORATING AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM**

- WHEREAS:** Alberta Education is currently reviewing the Alberta school curriculum;
- WHEREAS:** Education about agriculture is limited within the current school curriculum;
- WHEREAS:** The Classroom Agricultural Program is only able to spend one hour with grade 4 students;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer interest of how agriculture production is achieved, and food is produced is increasing;
- WHEREAS:** Less than 2% of the population have a direct role in primary agriculture production, people have a less direct experience with growing their own food or participating in the agriculture industry;
- WHEREAS:** The availability of incorrect or incomplete information on the agriculture and agri-food industry is increasing;
- WHEREAS:** Consumer purchases can be influenced by the amount and quality of agriculture and agri-food awareness and education they have received.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that the Minister of Education, during the pending review of the Alberta School Curriculum, include agriculture and agri-food and its importance to Canadians as part of the new curriculum at elementary, junior high and high school levels.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of time spent in the school curriculum to discuss food and agriculture.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create a panel of Agricultural and Nutrition experts to create the curriculum that will be taught in Alberta classrooms.

**SPONSORED BY:** Northern Sunrise County  
Cypress County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

**Background Information:**

Everyone needs to eat. The agriculture and agri-food industries in Canada ensure that Canadians have safe and healthy food to eat, but there is skepticism from many Canadians about their food due to inaccurate or incomplete information they receive. Canada’s farmers comprise 2% of our currently population which means that there is a large rural/urban split between those who produce food and those that consume that food. People no longer have that direct connection to the farm to be able to understand how the food they eat is produced and rely on what they are taught in school and other outlets.

Education about agriculture and its’ importance is currently limited within the current Alberta school curriculum. In some instances, the only agriculture education kids receive is a one hour presentation from the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) when they are in grade four. Don George, the CAP General Manager, said: *“Last year we had over 21,000 grade 4 students registered for CAP, while that is a large number, it represents less than half of all grade 4’s in the province. One of our biggest hurdles to increasing that number is available volunteers. At CAP we are always looking for ways to increase our student registration.”* Agriculture in the Classroom and Green Certificate are two other programs available through schools. Agriculture in the Classroom is another voluntary program that was developed for grade 2-5 students to connect students to people who grow food. Farmers, ranchers and individuals that support them visit classroom and share their personal agriculture story through this program. Green Certificate is an optional high school course, developed by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, that students can take to learn about agriculture and develop skills to help them work in the agriculture industry. These programs are all voluntary and therefore do not have the ability to reach all students to help them understand the importance of agriculture and the agri-food industry. A formal agricultural component needs to be integrated into the Alberta school curriculum to help it reach all students at all stages of learning.

Alberta Education is currently reviewing their current school curriculum. This is an opportunity to include additional time in the curriculum to help children, their teachers and parents understand how food is produced and that agriculture produces safe and healthy food for them to eat. Some of the things they should be taught include the science behind Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and its’ advantages, facts about protein production and organic versus conventional agriculture and the nutrition of each process. They should also be taught the importance of preserving good agricultural land for food production and that much of Canada’s agricultural lands are disappearing rapidly.

The curriculum should also include the economic importance of the agriculture and agri-food industries to Canada. In 2014, Canada exported \$52 billion in agri-food exports and it is estimated that 1 in 8 jobs are directly linked to agriculture and agri-food. The demand for agriculture and agri-food exports will continue to increase over time and the world will need 70% more food by 2050. Additional information about Alberta’s agriculture and agri-food exports is attached.

From <http://www.albertacanada.com/business/industries/agrifood-about-the-industry.aspx>

## About the industry

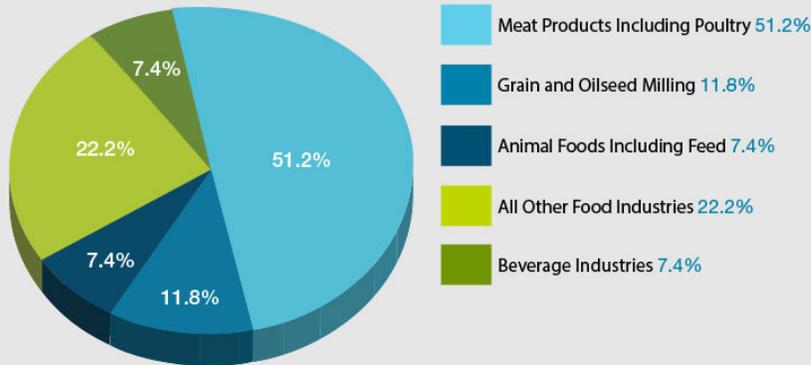
### Industry fast facts

- Nationally, Alberta represented almost 20% (\$9.7 billion) of Canadian total agri-food exports of \$52.0 billion in 2014, and was the third largest exporter of agri-food products after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Alberta's manufacturing industries employed 144,500 persons in 2014. The largest segment was made up of food and beverage manufacturing workers at 25,500 or 17.6% of the total.
- Preliminary estimates for 2014 indicate that Alberta's food and beverage processing industries represented the second largest manufacturing sector in the province accounting for 17.3% or \$13.7 billion of total manufactured goods (\$79.4 billion). Petroleum and coal product manufacturing industries ranked first at 28.5% or \$22.6 billion. Chemical manufacturing industries ranked third at 16.3% or \$13.0 billion. Alberta is the third largest food and beverage producing province (13.0%) in Canada.
- Alberta's food and beverage products have high standards and a global reputation for safety and quality.
- 63.0% of Alberta's food and beverage manufacturing industries in 2014 was concentrated in two segments: meat product manufacturing and grain and oilseed milling.

### **Alberta Food Manufacturing**

In 2014, 55.2% of food manufacturing sales was concentrated in the meat product manufacturing segment.

## Alberta Food and Beverage Sales by Type 2014 Preliminary <sup>(1)</sup>

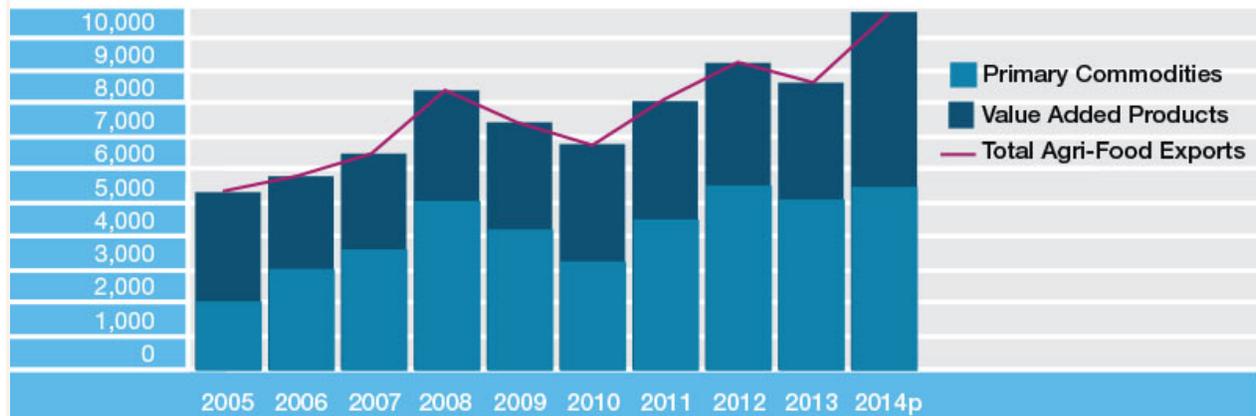


(1) The data shown in this table are preliminary estimates and are subject to revision.  
 Source: Statistics Canada  
 Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch

## Alberta Agri-food exports

In 2014, Alberta agri-food exports set another record at \$9.7 billion, up 11.6% from 2013. Strong livestock prices, the low Canadian dollar and generally larger export quantities contributed to the increase. Gains in exports were reported for both primary commodities (animals and crops) and value added processed products. Exports of primary commodities rose 8.2% to \$5.5 billion, representing 56.4% of Alberta's total agri-food exports. Value added exports increased 16.3% to \$4.2 billion, and accounted for 43.6% of the total.

## Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2005-2014, Value \$ Millions



Source: Statistics Canada  
 Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch