

Special Area No. 3

CONNECTED TO GLOBAL MARKETS



Farms in the Special Area No. 3 region are generally mixed with ranching and grain production. Grain production accounts for a high percentage of land use with wheat being the main field crop in the area. Other common grains include canola, barley and oats.

The region, which includes the Town of Oyen, is home to 650 farm families and a total farm area of 1.8 million acres. Dryland farming techniques and maximizing moisture retention have transformed the area into a region conducive for field crops.

Special Area No. 3 is located in Southeast Alberta and the main east-west route in the region is Highway 9, a high load corridor that links to Saskatchewan. The main north-south route is Highway 41. These highways are primary routes for provincial trucking and transportation. The Oyen Municipal Airport has a 3,000-foot runway, and the nearest commercial and air freight services are located at Calgary International Airport. The area is served by CN Railways.

Farming Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Number of Farms	464	448	-3.45%
Total Land Area - km2	4,402.64	4,402.64	0.00%
Total Acreage	1,616,411	1,525,402	-5.63%
Number of Farm Operators	620	605	-2.42%
Number of Employees	423	344	-18.68%
Gross Farm Receipts	\$111,947,112	\$187,331,034	67.34%
* 2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture NOTE: Special Areas No.3 and MD of Acadia Census of Agriculture data is combined			

Crop Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Canola - acres	32,161	33,974	5.64%
Wheat - acres	214,275	230,359	7.51%
Barley - acres	45,941	28,972	-36.94%
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures - acres	114,715	116,892	1.90%
All other tame hay and fodder crops - acres	21,952	17,978	-18.10%
Oats - acres	18,285	14,673	-19.75%
Dry field peas - acres	14,523	43,512	199.61%
Fruits, Berries and Nuts - acres	n/a	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 NOTE: Special Areas No.3 and MD of Acadia Census of Agriculture data is combined			

Special Area No. 3 had 448 farms comprising more than 1.52 million acres, worth \$1.65 billion dollars in total farm capital in 2016.

Livestock Overview	2011*	2016*	% ±
Value of Livestock & Poultry	\$53,659,824	\$144,854,675	169.95%
Cattle and Calves #	76,075	68,887	-9.45%
Dairy Cows #	n/a	n/a	
Beef Cows #	n/a	n/a	
Heifers #	9,204	6,436	-30.07%
Calves #	29,172	26,372	-9.60%
Steers #	4,010	2,977	-25.76%
Bulls #	1,854	1,911	3.07%
Pigs #	n/a	n/a	
Hens and Chickens #	n/a	143,075	
Sheep and Lambs #	548	n/a	
*2011 and 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture n/a - not available from Statistics Canada Census data NOTE: Special Areas No.3 and MD of Acadia Census of Agriculture data is combined			

The Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics and Data Development Section lists the value of agricultural land in Special Areas No. 3 as \$877/acre in 2015.



Gross farm receipts in Special Area No. 3 grew from \$111 million in 2011 to over \$187 million in 2016, an increase of 67%.