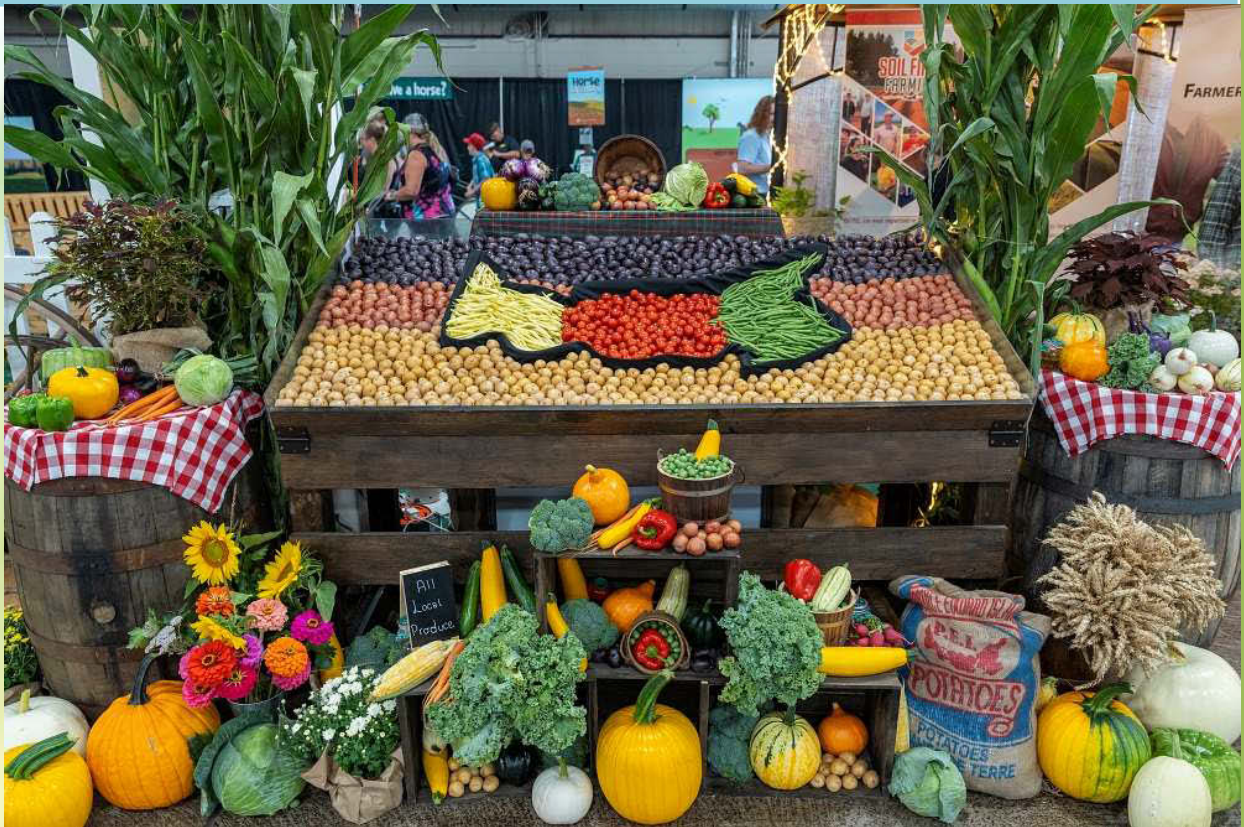


## 2024 Commodity Profiles



Prepared by:

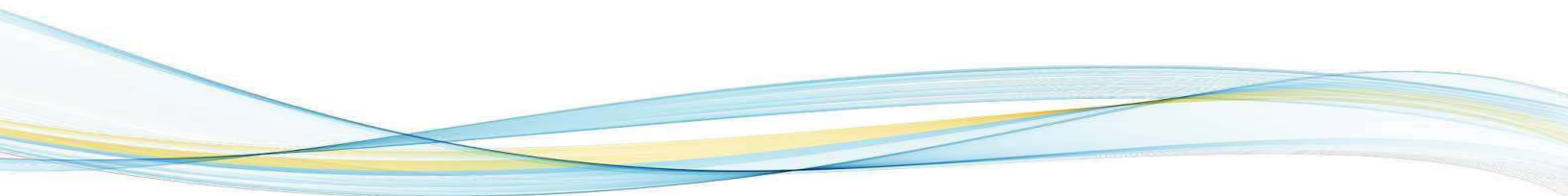
*Agriculture Industry  
Development Section,  
PEI Department of  
Agriculture*

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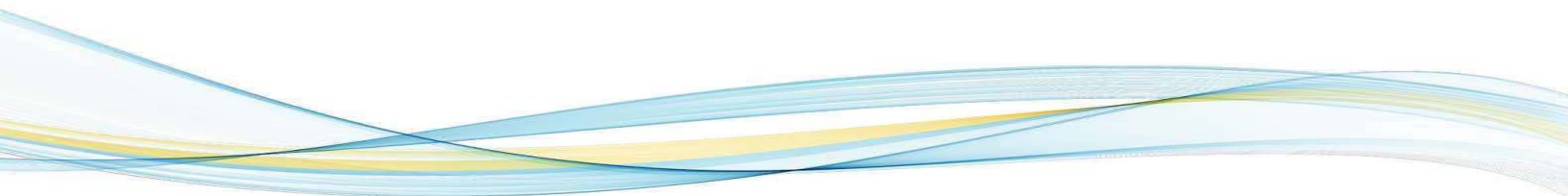
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October 2024

*All photo credits: OHW photo contest entries*



# LIVESTOCK



# Beef



## Beef Sector overview:

The beef industry is based on four integrated sectors:

1. **Purebred operators;** produce high value purebred genetics (males, females & embryos) for sale to other purebred breeders both nationally and internationally. Purebred males are principally sold to the commercial sector.
2. **Commercial cow-calf operators;** produce cross-bred (a mix of two or more beef breeds to enhance hybrid vigour) feeder calves for the backgrounding/feedlot sector as well as replacement females for their own herd or which may be sold to other commercial cow-calf farmers.
3. **Backgrounding operators;** may take weaned calves to a weight of 950 -1000 pounds. (heavy feeders) at which point animals enter a feedlot that focusses on finishing cattle on high energy rations for slaughter. Traditionally, the backgrounding sector has not been an active stand-alone sector mainly because there is considerable health risk in bringing in large numbers of light non-preconditioned (< 500 pound.) feeder calves of different type and sex for fall/winter feeding. However, there is growing interest from Ontario and Quebec feedlots to utilize feeding capacity and background calves on PEI.
4. **Feedlot/finishing operators;** may take either weaned calves or heavy feeders which are then finished to slaughter weight at approximately 1,500 pounds.

Although the sectors are distinct, most producers are involved in more than one sector and some in all four. Surplus dairy animals often enter the beef market mainly as a source to supply ground beef. However, the dairy industry has been using beef semen on cows that they do not plan on keeping



replacements from. The resulting crossbred calves have more desirable carcass traits and finish faster than pure dairy animals. Dairy-beef animals are now eligible for the Certified Island Beef brand (CIB).

There are approximately 425 beef producers on PEI whose interests are represented by the PEI Cattle Producer organization. <https://www.peicattleproducers.com/about> There are approximately 350 producers involved in the cow-calf sectors (5 – 150 cows per farm) and 125 of them background and finish their own calves and/or purchase feeders. An estimated 20 backgrounding operations feed cattle for various feedlots on PEI, Quebec and Ontario and about 50 dedicated feedlots finish between 50 – 1500 animals per year.

On PEI, the integration of the beef industry with other agricultural sectors is paramount to maintaining a vibrant sustainable food production industry. Beef cattle provide an outlet for several products of crop systems such as:

- cereal grains (barley, oats, wheat, corn, rye), cereal straws which if ploughed in the soil would require high nitrogen inputs to facilitate microbial breakdown,
- forages used in rotation with the potato crop,
- cull vegetables (potatoes, carrots, turnips etc.), protein meals after oil extraction (soybean, canola, crambe) and potato processing waste (Cavendish, Agra-West).

The recycling power of beef cattle provides options for the use of many plant-based products while at the same time providing manure to be used as a soil amendment to improve soil health and fertility and increase water-holding capacity to reduce the impact of drier summer conditions.

Beef production issues related to climate change and public perception requires a multifaceted approach emphasizing sustainability, resilience, and innovation. By implementing a local beef production system focused on reducing the carbon footprint, engaging in the carbon market, and introducing new crops or systems to optimize beef production while minimizing environmental impact, PEI can position itself as a leader in sustainable beef production.

### **Processing:**

Atlantic Beef Products Inc (ABP) is a federally licensed processing facility and as such, they can market beef products across Canada. ABP began implementing a two-cent-per-pound rail premium for all cattle that are grade AAA or higher and weigh a minimum of 800 pounds (hot dressed rail weight) from Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) registered producers in Atlantic Canada. There are a number of branded beef programs such as Blue Dot Reserve, which is a premium food service brand and CIB, which provides a premium to audited feedlots. <https://islandbeef.ca/prince-edward-island-certified-beef/>.

Provincially licensed abattoirs include J & D Custom Butchery in Pooles Corner; MacPhee Meats in Clyde River, Hazel Grove Meats in Hazelgrove and Montrose Meats in Montrose.

### **Cattle inventories**

Inventories have been declining over the past five years (Table 1) brought on by traditionally low profitability, inadequate access to financing and high market volatility. Each farm is unique in the barriers it faces and potential opportunities it envisages to become more sustainable and build

resilience for the future. However, the industry is cautiously optimistic because of current record prices, an impending price insurance program to help protect against a market contraction and having significant feed inventory which bodes well for herd expansion.

**Table 1: Cattle Inventories, Prince Edward Island**

Livestock	Farm type	Survey date	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
			000 Head					
Total Cattle	On all cattle operations	At January 1	60.5	58.0	58.2	56.7	55.2	54.9
		At July 1	59.1	57.9	58.7	56.7	55.3	
Bulls, 1 year and over	On all cattle operations	At January 1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
		At July 1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Beef cows	On all cattle operations	At January 1	9.4	8.5	8.0	8.2	7.7	7.1
		At July 1	8.9	8.7	7.8	7.4	7.7	
Total beef heifers	On all cattle operations	At January 1	7.2	6.9	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.9
		At July 1	6.9	6.4	5.9	5.6	5.5	
Heifers for beef replacement	On all cattle operations	At January 1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.2
		At July 1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.3	
Heifers for slaughter	On all cattle operations	At January 1	5.9	5.6	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.7
		At July 1	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.2	
Steers, 1 year and over	On all cattle operations	At January 1	8.1	8.2	7.7	6.8	7.1	7.2
		At July 1	7.2	7.1	7.5	6.9	6.6	

Source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210013001>

### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
Atlantic Beef Products Inc	<a href="http://abpi.ca">abpi.ca</a>
PEI Cattle Producers	<a href="http://peicattleproducers.com">peicattleproducers.com</a>

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May 2024

# Broiler Chicken and Turkey



## Number of Producers

On Prince Edward Island there are eight registered broiler chicken producers. Producers ship to federally inspected plants in the Maritimes. All registered producers are supply-managed, and fill quotas that are allocated by provincial consumption and national growth. Outside of the supply-managed production, any farm is allowed to have up to 500 chickens for personal consumption and farm-gate retail. Chickens produced by these smaller farms do not directly compete with supply-managed and fill niches for larger birds or chicken raised on pasture.

**Source:** Heminthavong, Khamnla. Canada's Supply Managed System. Library of Parliament. [2018-42-e.pdf \(parl.ca\)](#)

There are a handful of turkey producers in Prince Edward Island. Larkin Farms is the largest turkey producer with over half the Island's turkey production. Larkin Farms is also a major distributor of turkey poults along with local feed suppliers. Turkey production in PEI and Newfoundland are not under supply-management as it is in all other Canadian provinces. There is no turkey commodity board and all bird raised in PEI must be processed and consumed within the province.

## Chicken and Turkey Production for PEI

Prince Edward Island currently has 0.36% of the national broiler quota. Island producers fill seven million kilograms of quota annually.

**Source:** Janet Hilliard-Murphy. Manager, Chicken Farms of PEI Personal Communications. June 5, 2024.

Turkey production on PEI does not have the reliable statistics that its supply-managed counterparts in other provinces enjoy. Based on conversations with Larkin Bros. Inc. about annual processing, the

Department of Agriculture estimates there are 18000-20000 turkeys/year being raised in PEI. These birds have an estimated farm-gate value of 1.3 to 1.4 million dollars, before value-adding.

**Source:** Rosemary Larkin. Larkin Farms. Personal Communications. June 4, 2024

## Processing

Registered producers in Prince Edward Island send their chickens to either Eden Valley Poultry, Berwick, Nova Scotia, or Sunnymel, Clair, New Brunswick for processing. Both of these processors fill their own markets for retail and restaurant trade.

Larkin Farms currently manages the province's largest poultry processing facility in Crapaud, PEI. This facility has recently undergone significant productivity upgrades in 2023 with modern automation and value-add capacity. There is an additional handful of small processors in the province for poultry and waterfowl for on-farm and custom bird processing. Small processors do not contribute significantly to production capacity but provide a vital service for provincial food security.

## Emerging Issues

Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is an ongoing concern to the Canadian poultry industry. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is present in wildlife reservoirs nation-wide and has been detected on farms in every province, except PEI in the past two years. Producers have increased biosecurity to prevent outbreaks. It is important for commercial and non-commercial producers to practice good biosecurity to protect themselves and other farms.

**Source:** Government of Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Status of ongoing avian influenza response by province. <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response/eng/1640207916497/1640207916934>

Provincially inspected processing for backyard producers and small farms has been severely limited in recent years. Multiple processors have reduced or eliminated custom processing from their business due to Avian Influenza concerns and labour challenges. Presently there are new processors in the initial planning phases and navigating food safety and environmental regulation.

Under current regulations, farms can produce up to 500 chickens outside of the quota system for personal consumption and farm-gate retail. A number of producers are exceeding this limit. Chicken Farmers of PEI is currently piloting a licensing program for these flocks to classify them as "Diversity Chicken". The intended outcome of this regulatory approach would be:

- Licensing of chicken producers who produce more than 500 chickens/year/premise.
- Ensuring industry production standards are applied.
- Ensuring food safety and animal welfare standards are applied for consumer confidence.
- Ensuring biosecurity measures are always in effect to prevent disease outbreaks.

Licensed "Diversity Chicken" producers will also benefit from this process by meeting nationally recognized assurance standards and falling under oversight from Chicken Farmers of PEI in the event of a disease outbreak, such as HPAI.



## Trade Issues

In late 2020, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, announced details of compensation for recent trade agreements designed with representation from all impacted sectors including chicken, eggs, broiler hatching egg and turkey. These compensations are for losses of market conceded in the Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Canadian Trans-Pacific Partnership (CTTP). Canadian egg farmers will receive over \$691 billion in the next ten years from the federal government to compensate for recent trade deals. This program received an additional \$112 million dollars in November 2022 to compensate poultry producer for trade concessions made under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)

**Source:** Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Government of Canada fulfills its commitment to compensate supply-managed sectors. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/11/government-of-canada-fulfills-its-commitment-to-compensate-supply-managed-sectors.html>

## Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
Chicken Farmers of Prince Edward Island	<a href="http://www.chickenfarmers.ca/your-provincial-board/">www.chickenfarmers.ca/your-provincial-board/</a>
Larkin Bros. Inc. (DBA Larkin Farms)	<a href="http://larkinfarmspei.com/">larkinfarmspei.com/</a>

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2024



# Dairy



## Number of Producers

There is a total of 147, dairy farms on PEI as of June 2024. These dairy farms milk cattle in either a tie-stall, free-stall or bedded pack barn. Dairy producers in Prince Edward Island must hold dairy quota issued through Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island.

All dairy farmers on Prince Edward Island are also members of Amalgamated Dairies Limited (ADL), a producer owned co-operative that is the largest processor of milk in the province.

## Prince Edward Island Dairy Production

The tables below summarize total revenue from the sale of milk (Table 1.) and inventory (Table 2.) in PEI for 2021 - 2023.

**Table 1. Summary of annual dairy production and farm receipts, 2021-2023.**

Year	Production in Hectolitres (HI) <sup>1</sup>	Farm cash receipts from dairying (\$) <sup>2</sup>
2023	1,217,109	109,544,000
2022	1,207,005	107,187,000
2021	1,218,192	95,840,000

<sup>1</sup>Source. Government of Canada. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Milk production at the farm by province (Monthly, D081). <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/animal-industry/canadian-dairy-information-centre/statistics-market-information/farm-statistics/milk-production>

<sup>2</sup>Source. Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0045-01 Farm cash receipts, annual (x 1,000). <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210004501-eng>

Farmgate cash receipts for dairy sales saw significant increase in 2022 due to price increases reflective of cost of production increases. Table 1. only accounts for the sale of milk from PEI dairy farms. It does not account for the sales of breeding animals and genetics, cull cattle, or dairy-beef calves.

**Table 2. Summary of dairy cattle inventory.**

Year	Mature Dairy Cows	Dairy Heifers
2023	12,000	5,900
2022	13,300	5,800
2021	13,500	6,300

**Source.** Government of Canada. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Number of dairy cows and heifers by province (Monthly, D042). <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/animal-industry/canadian-dairy-information-centre/statistics-market-information/farm-statistics/milk-production>

Prince Edward Island has historically been dominated by tie-stall barns due to regional culture and an emphasis on genetics. Recent years have seen a large shift towards robotic milking barns due to labour pressures and consumer demands for improved animal welfare. As of June 2024, 30% of farms milked cows with one or more robotic milking systems. The construction of tie-stall barns is strongly discouraged by the National Farm Animal Care Council. Producers who have not adopted robotic milking are transitioning into milking parlors as they upgrade their facilities.

## Processing

Dairy processing on PEI is done by three processors, ADL, which is the largest and most diverse processor, and two small manufacturers, Cows Creamery and Fromagerie PEI.

ADL, which is a producer owned and operated cooperative produces fluid milk, butter, ice-cream, cheese and evaporated milk. ADL has partnered with Gay-Lea, Arla, and other manufacturers to co-pack high quality cheeses and other products. ADL's small size, compared to many other dairy processors, allows it to focus on quality production, receiving international recognition and awards for its cheeses.

Cows Creamery and Fromagerie PEI are small federally inspected dairy processing plants focusing on specialty cheese, ice cream and cheese curds respectively. Both companies, although small, are important processors on PEI. Products produced by Cows Creamery and Fromagerie PEI have produced award winning products, reflecting highly on the PEI Dairy industry.

## Emerging Issues

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is an emerging issue in Dairy farming in North America. As of spring 2024, HPAI has been confirmed in 12 US states, four of which (Idaho, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio) are located on, or share a water body with the Canadian border. HPAI has not been detected in Canada as of June 2024. The Canadian Food inspection Agency is currently testing the pooled commercial milk supply and testing suspect livestock. Although pasteurized milk is safe to consume,

there is concern about transmission from infected cattle to livestock workers and general food safety concerns from consumers.

**Source.** Government of Canada. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in livestock. <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/hpai-livestock#a5>

Dairy Farmers of Canada has committed to a national target of having the Canadian dairy industry be net-zero by 2050. Dairy cattle, as with other ruminants (beef cattle, sheep and goats) are emitters of methane, a potent but short lived GHG, through rumination and manure. Currently, there are solutions being developed or in early commercialization for genetic selection of low-methane cattle, manure management and feed additive solutions to reduce methane emissions. One feed additive solution is being produced in Prince Edward Island by North Atlantic Organics through the harvesting and processing of seaweed. Their product has shown documented reductions in Methane through feeding trials.

**Source.** Dairy Farmers of Canada. DFC targets net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. <https://dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/en/dairy-in-canada/dairy-excellence/dfc-targets-net-zero-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2050>

On-farm profitability continues to be an issue on PEI dairy farms. Surging commodity and input process in 2022 and the standard price adjustment schedule left many farms cash strapped. The PEI dairy industry has seen some reprieve in 2023/24 with some reductions in inputs and an increased milk price. Rising interest rates are also a concern as dairy is an asset heavy industry with most farms carrying considerable debt liabilities.

Growth and expansion are limited on dairy farms. The inaccessibility of quota is an issue with many farms who wish to expand their operation. Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island has had to revisit policies for quota transfers in recent years to ensure fair access to quota for all producers wishing to expand their operations

**Source.** Doug Thompson. General Manager – Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island. June 11, 2024.

Dairy-beef is a growing trend on PEI dairy farms. Many producers are utilizing sexed semen to increase the percentage of heifer calves from their top animals, electing to breed the remainder of the herd to a beef sire. Current beef prices have made this a very attractive option with improved farmgate value over pure dairy calves and has allowed some dairy producers to diversify into dairy-beef nurseries and feedlots.

Dairy and other livestock producers have been impacted by recent amendments to the Environmental Protection Act regarding agricultural plastics. Effective in 2023, legislation requires that all retailers of agricultural plastics (silage plastic, seed bags and other disposable products) are required to operate a Stewardship Plan to ensure proper disposal and recycling. This regulation will impose an Environmental Handling Fee which will impact all livestock producers.

**Source.** Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action. PEI recycling even more agricultural plastics. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/pei-recycling-even-more-agricultural-plastics>



## Trade Issues

Canadian dairy is produced under supply management. This production system, which limits production and restricts imports based on available market. Recent trade negotiations have resulted in increased tariff-free imports, and decreased growth rates for the Canadian dairy market.

Dairy market access is a common grievance with Canada's Trading partners. Since the signing of the CPTPP and CUSMA, both New Zealand and the United States have challenged the allocation of Tariff Rate Quota. Tariff Rate Quota allocations allow processors to import foreign dairy products. Canada is restructuring the TRQ format to ensure that it is compliant with recent challenges.

Recent trade negotiations for the CUSMA trade deal resulted in increased imports from the United States with a volume of 4% of the Canadian mark as of 2020. To compensate dairy producers the Federal Government has announced funding of 1.2 billion to offset lost market access. Dairy Processors received support of \$300 million dollars for solid non-fat value adding projects and 105 million for plant efficiency upgrades.

**Source.** Dairy Processor Association of Canada. Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). <https://www.dpac-atlc.ca/trade-agreements/cusma/>

**Source.** Government of Canada. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Fourth round of compensation now available for Canadian dairy farmers. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/12/fourth-round-of-compensation-now-available-for-canadian-dairy-farmers.html>

## Industry Associations

Associations	Tel	Website
Dairy Farmers of PEI	902-892-5331	<a href="http://www.dfpei.pe.ca/">www.dfpei.pe.ca/</a>
Amalgamated Dairies (ADL)	902-888-5080	<a href="http://www.adl.ca/">www.adl.ca/</a>
Lactanet	1-800-266-5248	<a href="http://www.lactanet.ca/en/thematique/atlantique/">www.lactanet.ca/en/thematique/atlantique/</a>
PEI School Milk Foundation	902-892-5331	<a href="http://www.peischoolmilk.ca/">www.peischoolmilk.ca/</a>

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2024

# Eggs



## Number of Producers

There are seven licensed egg producers on five farms in Prince Edward Island. Hens are raised in conventional, free-run and enriched housing productions systems (Table 1.). Currently Island producers are ahead of the national average for transitioning out of conventional housing.

**Table 1. Break down of laying hen housing systems on Prince Edward Island.**

Housing System	Number of Farms
Conventional	2
Free-run	1
Enriched	2

Source: Egg Farmers of PEI, , April 25, 2024.

## Egg Production for PEI

Prince Edward Island currently has 0.6% of the national egg quota.

**Table 2. Summary of annual egg production, 2021-2023.**

Year	Production in '000 Dozens
2023	3888
2022	4004
2021	3841

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 32-10-0121-01 Production and disposition of eggs, monthly](#)

## Layer Hen Inventory

In 2023 there was an inventory of 156,000 Laying hens in Prince Edward Island.

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 32-10-0121-01 Production and disposition of eggs, monthly](#)

**Table 3. Egg grading numbers and percentages of total production in Prince Edward Island, 2023.**

Grades	Sizing	Total Production ('000 Dozen)	Percentage of Production
Canada A	Jumbo Size	48.57	1.17%
Canada A	Extra Large Size	550.305	13.27%
Canada A	Large Size	1785.585	43.07%
Canada A	Medium Size	585.015	14.11%
Canada A	Small Size	34.02	0.82%
Canada A	Peewee Size	4.605	0.11%
<b>Canada A (Total)</b>	<b>N/A</b>	16.65	0.40%
Canada B	N/A	44.715	1.08%
Canada C	N/A	1049.4	25.31%
Canada Nest Run	N/A	27.33	0.66%
Other	N/A	48.57	1.17%

Source: Egg Farmers of Canada, <https://www.eggfarmers.ca/market-information-tables/#tableau-3>

## Processing

Currently eggs are only graded on farm at Burns Poultry Farm. Eggs from Burns Poultry Farm supply contracts on PEI for both wholesalers and retailers. Excess eggs are declared surplus and shipped to Maritime Pride.

Maritime Pride Eggs is a co-operative owned by producers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. All of PEI's eggs are graded separately from other provinces. Most eggs graded at Maritime Pride Eggs return to their province of origin. Maritime Pride Eggs is affiliated with the Quebec based NutriGroupe Inc.

## Emerging Issues

Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is an ongoing concern to the Canadian poultry industry. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is present in wildlife reservoirs nation-wide and has been detected on farms in every province except PEI in the past two years. Producers have increased biosecurity to prevent outbreaks. It is important for commercial and non-commercial producers to practice good biosecurity to protect themselves and other farms.

Source: Government of Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Status of ongoing avian influenza response by province. <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/status-of-ongoing-avian-influenza-response/eng/1640207916497/1640207916934>

Canadian retail egg pricing remained stable in 2023 when compared to the volatility in the American market, caused by disruption due to avian influence. This has been attributed to smaller average farm size in Canada and mechanisms within the supply management system that prevented shortages and maintained steady pricing

There has been increased interest in the public for eggs produced for personal consumption and on small farm units. Farms and homesteaders are limited to 299 layers per farm and must market any surplus eggs at farmgate as “ungraded” eggs.

Cage systems are currently in transition from conventional housing systems to enriched housing systems with a national mandate to phase out conventional housing systems by 2036.

**Source:** National Farm Animal Care Council –Code of practice for the care and handling of pullets and laying hens – 2017

### Trade Issues

In late 2020, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, announced details of compensation for recent trade agreements designed with representation from all impacted sectors including chicken, eggs, broiler hatching egg and turkey. These compensations are for losses of market conceded in the Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Canadian Trans-Pacific Partnership (CTTP). Canadian egg farmers will receive over \$691 billion in the next ten years from the federal government to compensate for recent trade deals. This program received an additional \$112 million dollars in November 2022 to compensate poultry producer for trade concessions made under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)

**Source:** Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. Government of Canada fulfills its commitment to compensate supply-managed sectors. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/11/government-of-canada-fulfills-its-commitment-to-compensate-supply-managed-sectors.html>

### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
Egg Farmers of Prince Edward Island	<a href="https://eggspei.ca/">eggspei.ca/</a>
Maritime Pride Eggs	<a href="https://nutrigroupe.ca/en/business-units/maritime-pride-eggs/">nutrigroupe.ca/en/business-units/maritime-pride-eggs/</a>

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2024





# Hogs



## Number of Producers

Hog producers in Prince Edward Island are classified under two categories, registered hog producers, and hog farmers. A registered hog producer on PEI, must own 10 farrowing sows and produce more than 50 weaner pigs/year. Operations that finish hogs are designated as hog farms. Currently there are 13 register producers and 19 hog farmers on Prince Edward Island

**Source:** Denise Cassidy, Executive Director - PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board, Personal Communications, June 5, 2024

Hogs on Prince Edward Island are produced to meet pre-specified market standards. Currently ninety percent of island hogs are produced for specialty programs such as raised without antibiotics (RWA) produced pork or Global Animal Partnership (GAP) certified pork. Both RWA and GAP offer higher prices than commodity pork but require changes to husbandry and facilities to meet their respective requirements for each. The PEI hog industry is in a better position to supply pork for retail into markets with high animal care standards with 95% of sows being housed in Proposition 12<sup>1</sup> compliant barns.

<sup>1</sup>See Hog Industry Definitions

## Prince Edward Island Hog Inventory and Production

The tables below summarize total revenue from the sale of hogs (Table 1.) and inventory (Table 2.) in PEI for 2021 - 2023.

**Table 1. Summary of annual hog production and farm receipts, 2021-2023.**

Year	Annual Hog Production in '000 head <sup>1</sup>	Farm Cash Receipts From Hog Sales (\$) <sup>2</sup>
2023	86.8	10,785,000
2022	85.3	14,977,000
2021	98.5	15,975,000

<sup>1</sup>Source. Government of Canada. Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0201-01 Hogs statistics, sows farrowed, pigs born and sows bred to farrow, semi-annual (x 1,000). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210020101>

<sup>2</sup>Source. Government of Canada. Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0046-01 Farm cash receipts, quarterly (x 1,000). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210004601>

Farmgate cash receipts for hogs in Prince Edward Island were decreased in 2023 due to two producers exiting the industry, and significant infrastructure loss at one of the larger hog farms in the province. In addition to animals lost during a barn fire, the farm's decreased finishing capacity required more hogs to be marketed as lighter weaner pigs.

**Table 2. Summary of hog inventory on Prince Edward Island, 2023/24**

Hog Size	Hog Inventory July 1, 2023 in '000 Hogs	Hog Inventory January 1, 2024 in '000 Hogs
Breeding stock, 6 months and over	3.8	3.6
Boars, 6 months and over	0.1	0.1
Sows and gilts, 6 months and over	3.7	3.5
All other hogs	35.3	37.7
Under 23 kilograms	16.2	19
Under 7 kilograms	6.0	7.7
7 to 22 kilograms	10.2	11.3
23 to 53 kilograms	6.5	6.4
54 to 80 kilograms	5.8	5.3
Over 81 kilograms	6.8	7.0
<b>Hogs, total</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>41.3</b>

Source: Government of Canada. Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0160-01 Hogs statistics, number of hogs on farms at end of semi-annual period (x 1,000). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210016001>

## Processing

Currently there is no federally certified slaughter capacity for hogs east of Quebec. The last federally certified hog slaughter plant to close in the maritime region was Larsen Packers Ltd, which closed in 2011. Island producers must ship their product to plants in Quebec, with Aliments Asta Inc, and DuBreton, being the primary destinations. There are markets for isowean (isolated wean) pigs in Ontario, but it is not a market regularly targeted by Island producers. Increasing demand for proposition 12 compliant weaners has increased the amount of exports to the United States in 2024.

The primary markets for Canadian pork are the United States, Japan and South Korea. Canada exports pork to 101 countries in total. China has become a less important market due to increases in domestic production and fickle trade policy.

Provincially, there are six inspected red meat abattoirs with capacity to slaughter hogs. The six abattoirs have a cumulative slaughter of just under 2000 animals per year, with 1742 and 1962 hogs slaughter in 2023 and 2022 respectively.

**Source:** Ann-Louise DesRoches, Administrative Support – Environmental Health, Department of Health and wellness, Email Commutations – RE: Provincial Hog Slaughter, June ,7 2024

## Emerging Issues

The Canadian industry is bracing for the arrival of African Swine Fever (ASF). Since its first outbreaks in 2007, the disease has spread across Asia and Europe. The presentation of infection depends on the strain of the virus, with signs and symptoms ranging from reduced appetite and fever, to 100 percent mortality. There is no vaccine against ASF, and illicit vaccines in China have caused the creation of variants.

**Source:** Government of Canada. Canadian Food Inspection Agency - African swine fever (ASF) – fact sheet. <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/african-swine-fever/fact-sheet/eng/1306993248674/1306993787261>

Animal care standards in the hog industry are currently in the process of a production paradigm shift away from individual dry sow penning. Major market pressures are now being seen for producers to adapt to California's Proposition 12 regulations, requiring dry sows to be raised in loose housing with 24 ft<sup>2</sup> per. Similar standards have also been legislated in other US States. Within Canada, as of 2029, sows will be required to be housed in loose housing with 21 ft<sup>2</sup>/sow. Most Island hog farms will be Proposition 12 compliant by late 2024, well ahead of adoption rates in other provinces.

Disruptions in international markets, and high hog prices have placed strain on all pig processors internationally. In spring of 2023, Olymel announce the closure of the Vallee-Jonction processing plant in Quebec which displaced 60% of PEI's market hog production. Alternate slaughter facilities meeting RWA standards have since been found.

**Source:** Real Agriculture, Pork Council looking for solutions following Olymel closure - <https://www.realagriculture.com/2023/04/pork-council-looking-for-solutions-following-olymel-closure/>

## Trade Issues

Most Canadian pork is exported to the United States, and Asian markets. As an export driven commodity, hog producers have benefited from NAFTA and CUSMA, and plan to benefit under the CPTPP, CETA, Canada-PAFPA trade agreements and many others that are in exploratory discussions.

**Source:** Canadian Pork Council. Foreign Trade. <https://www.cpc-ccp.com/foreign-trade>

In 2024, the United States launched a voluntary “Product of USA” labeling program. To meet the standards for the “Product of USA”, meat product must be from animals that are born, raised, slaughtered and processed within the United States. This is expected to have impacts on the Canadian market due to it’s high levels of integration with the United States.

African Swine Fever has benefited Canadian producers by decreasing global pork supplies. This disease, however, will negatively affect Canadian exports if it is detected in the country. Contingency plans are in place between Canada and some of its trading partners to minimize this impact

#### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board	<a href="https://peipork.com/">peipork.com/</a>

#### Prepared by:

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Dairy/ Livestock Development Officer  
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Tel: 902-218-3568

2024





## <sup>1</sup>Hog Industry Definitions

Global Animal Partnership	An animal welfare assurance standard. Meat products that are Global Animal Partnership (GAP) certified meet production standards as demanded by consumer for enhanced animal welfare during production.
Farrowing	The processes of sows birthing piglets.
Finisher	Pigs raised over 70kg to be marketed for slaughter or retained for breeding.
Isowean	Piglets that are weaned at 5kg (3 weeks) and moved to a finisher barn.
Market Hog/Pig	Pigs raised to a target weight for processing.
Piglet	Young pigs that have not yet been weaned from their mother.
Proposition 12	<p>A Californian regulatory requirement requiring minimum animal welfare production standards that exceeded common industry practices for veal, eggs and pork sold within the state. The regulation states:</p> <p><i>“A business owner or operator knowingly engaging in the sale within the State of California of any whole veal meat, pork meat, shell or liquid eggs that the business owner or operator knows or should know is the product of a covered animal confined in a cruel manner.</i></p> <p><i>Cruel manner defined as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Confining a calf raised for veal with less than 43 square feet of usable floor space per calf;</i></li> <li>• <i>Confining a breeding pig with less than 24 square feet of usable floor space per pig;</i></li> <li>• <i>Confining an egg-laying hen with less than 144 square inches of usable floor space per hen;</i></li> <li>• <i>Confining an egg-laying hen with less than the amount of usable floor space required by the 2017 edition of the United Egg Producers’ Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg-Laying Flocks.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Those who fail to implement the cage specifications would be charged with misdemeanors, with fines up to \$1,000 by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.”</i></p>
Raised Without Antibiotics	Animals raised in production systems that have not been treated with preventative or curative antibiotics. These systems rely on preventative strategies and animals that must be treated are marketed as conventional animals.
Weaner	Pigs that have been weaned from their mother and weights less than 25-40 kg.

# Honey Bees



## Number of Producers

There are currently 25 commercial beekeepers on PEI and many more hobbyist beekeepers who do not derive any pollination or honey income from their hives.

## Production Data for the last 3 years

**Table 1: Honey Production for PEI**

Year	Total honey yield in pounds (lbs)	Estimated average honey yield per hive in pounds (lbs)	Total value of honey in dollars (\$) bulk and retail
2023	85,000	25	277,000
2022	213,000	48	533,000
2021	192,000	56	462,000

**Source:** Statistics Canada, (The data reported by Stats Canada is collected by PEI Provincial Apiarist via annual voluntary survey)  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210035301&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.2&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2016&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2020&referencePeriods=20160101%2C20200101>

## Hive Inventory

Commercial hives: approx. 5,000

**Source:** various surveys, funding programs administered by PEI Provincial apiarist

## Processing

There are several honey extraction/ bottling facilities on PEI, many of which only process honey gathered by the particular beekeeper who owns the facility. However, some facilities also purchase un-extracted honey for both extracting and bottling or extracted honey for bottling. Some of the larger PEI honey extract bottling companies are:

- Island Gold Honey Inc. – Roger O’Neill
- Milk and Honey Farm Inc. – Stan Sandler

## Emerging Issues

### Small hive beetle

The invasive hive pest, the small hive beetle (SHB) remains a top concern for PEI beekeepers. There are breeding populations of SHB in Ontario, the province from which thousands of hives are temporarily imported to PEI to pollinate wild blueberries. Although more serious pests and diseases are already present on PEI (e.g. varroa mites, American foulbrood disease), PEI beekeepers are concerned that the added pressures of yet another imported invasive hive pest could be detrimental to Island beekeeping operations. Small Hive Beetle poses a threat to stored boxes of honey awaiting extraction or empty honey comb after extraction, both of which are attractive to the insect. Honey comb infested with SHB larvae cannot be extracted and sold for human consumption.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-bees-beekeepers-small-hive-beetle-pest-1.5084912>

### Open border for hive importation

Island beekeepers can only currently supply about 50% of the wild blueberry pollination demand (10,000 – 12,000 hives). The two main concerns Island beekeepers have with an open border are, a) the risk of importing damaging hive pests and/ or diseases with out-of-province hives (e.g. small hive beetle) and b) a lack of assurance that their hives will be rented before imported hives. The latter concern is the basis for which some Island beekeepers claim that they are not able to increase their hive numbers quick enough to keep up with the pollination demand. In other words, without the closed border, Island beekeepers are hesitant to invest in expanding their operations without the virtual guarantee there will be a return on their investments.

### Winter Colony Mortality

PEI beekeepers have suffered relatively high (i.e. approx. 50%) colony mortality in recent winters. Maritime seasonal changes are unpredictable and the timing and onset of these environmental changes has a great impact on the health of honey bee colonies. For instance, an early Spring will cause parasitic mite populations that plague beehives to increase much faster than in a typical year. Beekeepers who do not have the labour capacity to respond to these unusual seasonal changes with timely pest management may suffer serious damage from the pests, thereby decreasing the colonies chances of surviving the winter. The severity and duration of winters themselves is also becoming increasingly difficult to predict. Mild winters with frequent temperature fluctuations can cause overwintering colonies to repeatedly break dormancy, putting them at risk of damage when flash freeze events occur.

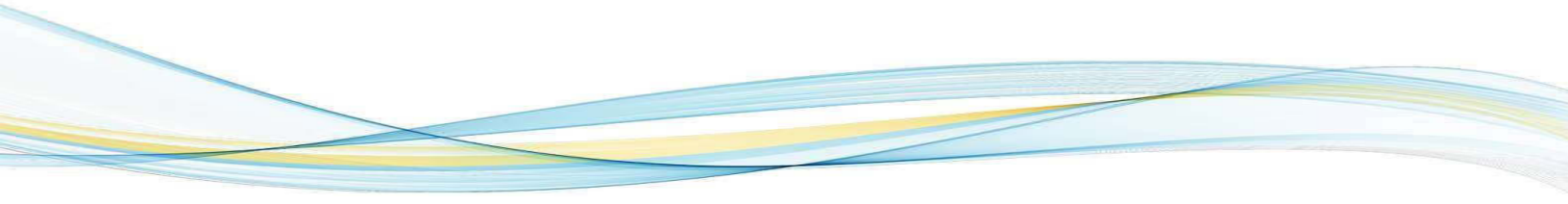
**Industry Associations and Contacts**

Associations	Email
PEI Beekeepers' Association	<a href="http://peibeekeepers.ca">peibeekeepers.ca</a>

**Prepared by:**

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June, 2024





# Sheep



## Number of Producers

The Department of Agriculture estimates that there are between 50 and 75 sheep producers that would be considered a commercial venture. The number of flocks with over 150 breeding ewes has increased to over 20 compared to only 10 farms in 2021. Not all producers have membership in PEI Sheep Breeders' Association, and industry dynamics in which entrants enter and exit frequently makes a census difficult. In 2024, there were 22 paid memberships to the PEISBA.

## Sheep Production and Inventory for PEI

Prince Edward Island's sheep industry is focused around the production of light and heavy lambs. Light lambs are primarily marketed in Ontario with most heavy lambs being marketed in the Maritimes. There are a small number of producers focusing on wool production. There is some interest in dairy sheep, but its current potential is limited by a lack of policy, regulation, and local processing.

**Table 1. Summary of breeding ewes, 2019-2024 as of January 1**

Year	Sheep aged one year or older
2024	4,700
2023	4,500
2022	4,000
2021	4,000
2020	3,900

**Source:** Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0129-01 Number of sheep and lambs on farms (x 1,000)

## Processing

There is currently one federally inspected slaughterhouse in the Maritime region, Northumberland Lamb Marketing Coop Limited in Truro, Nova Scotia. In 2024, Northumberland processed 2,928 Island lambs, which accounted for 50% of their total production<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> **Source** - Northumberland Lamb Marketing Coop Limited

There are multiple provincially inspected packing houses in the Maritimes that are a market for Island lamb with Oulton's Meat in Windsor, Nova Scotia, being the largest. There are numerous farms and business selling PEI lamb direct to consumer. They rely heavily on provincially inspected abattoirs for this market.

A significant percentage of cull sheep and lambs marketed as light lambs (50-100 lbs) are marketed in auction houses in Ontario. The Ontario Livestock Exchange (OLEX) is the primary destination. Due to regional demand, more PEI lambs have been marketed in these categories within the Maritimes with projections showing this market growing.

Prince Edward Island has one major wool processor, MacAusland's Woolen Mills, and numerous smaller mills that cater to niche and high-end markets.

### Emerging Issues

High auction prices in early 2024 have placed supply strain on local packing houses. This has become a recurring issue as producers are drawn to high seasonal markets in Ontario. Processors are working with producers to find meaningful ways to ensure a steady year-round supply and fair pricing.

There is interest in milking sheep, along with other small ruminants, but building this industry sector has proved difficult due to a lack of policy and regulations. Preliminary work has begun to develop regulations for non-bovine dairy (sheep, goat and buffalo), that would establish regulated inter-provincial equivalencies, allowing milk produced in PEI, to be marketed off-island.

The PEISBA has recently been awarded \$100,000 for importing parasite resistant sheep genetics through the PEI Climate Challenge Fund. This initiative will help introduce genetics for climate change mitigation in the PEI sheep flock.

### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
PEI Sheep Breeders' Association	<a href="https://peisheepbreeders.weebly.com/">peisheepbreeders.weebly.com/</a>
Northumberland Lamb Marketing Coop Ltd	<a href="https://northumberlandlamb.ca/">northumberlandlamb.ca/</a>
Canadian Sheep Federation	<a href="https://www.cansheep.ca/">www.cansheep.ca/</a>

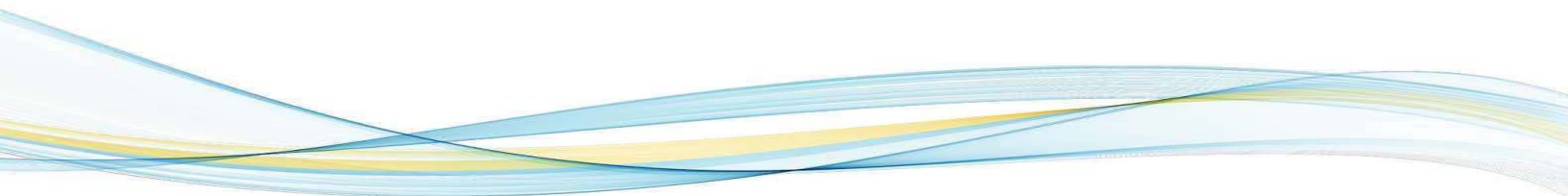
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2024



# CROPS



# Apples



## Executive Summary:

PEI's apple industry is undergoing a period of revival and expansion, building on the following foundations:

- A climate particularly favorable to the production of high value apple cultivars (PEI can produce the best Honeycrisp in the world). Cooler evenings improves colour of maturing apples, increasing retail value and market demand.
- New investment and significant expansion: approx. 400 acres of high density, trellised apples, mostly planted in the last ten years, with potential yield of 16 million lbs of apples at maturity. These new higher density trellised apple production systems yield more, higher quality fruit per acre than previously possible through "traditional" orchards (lower density, larger trees)
- PEI's apple industry is adapting to the evolving climate: PEI orchards suffered near total crop loss and a significant portion of their trees were damaged or destroyed by post-tropical storm Fiona in September 2022. PEI orchardists are learning which trellising systems and orchard designs provide the most resilience to significant weather events like hurricanes.
- Market demand for Honeycrisp apple is consistently strong, earning double the price of other apples. Major apple growing regions (Washington, USA) have difficulty producing this apple, creating market opportunity for our growers.
- The PEI tree fruit industry has also made significant investments in post-harvest infrastructure in recent years, including the establishment of two controlled atmosphere storage units and a washing/ packing facility.



PEI Department of Agriculture is actively supporting this industry's development by providing cost-share support for orchard expansion (Perennial Crop Development Program) and by funding the Industry Research Coordination project, offered through the PEI Tree Fruit Growers Association. .

### **Acreage and numbers:**

Currently there are approximately 40 orchardists on PEI, and a considerable interest amongst new entrants and established farmers looking to diversify.

There are approximately 475 acres of orchard, with 75 acres of traditional orchard and 400 acres of high density, trellised orchard mostly featuring high value varieties.

Estimated number of trees is approx. 425,000.

### **Market Channels:**


Island-grown apples are marketed through the following channels:

- U-Picks: Preferred market channel for many smaller orchards.
- Retail: Arlington Orchards markets apples and cider through Sobeys.
- Commodity: Larger orchards are marketing through Scotian Gold (NS) and Bellevue (NB)
- New venture (2021): Red Shore Orchards Inc: A company formed by Tim Pearson, Nancy MacKay and Scott Linkletter recently established a controlled atmosphere (CA) storage and a processing/ packing facility in Charlottetown. Red Shore Orchards Inc. will purchase apples at harvest, store in CA storage and market over winter through spring.
- Value-added processing: The demand for cider continues to grow, and new cider-specific varieties are being planted on PEI. Cider apples are different from fresh-eating apples, in that they are bitterer, have higher levels of tannins and phenolics. The North American cider market continues to grow and mature, ensuring continued opportunity for craft cider production.

### **Industry Challenges:**

- The Apple industry continues to work with AIC to develop an updated crop insurance policy. The old policy for lower density orchards didn't meet needs of new orchards, nor did it reflect the investment required and the value of the tree. Work is ongoing, but AIC is actively engaging with industry to make the changes necessary to develop a policy that reflects industry's need.
- Growers are learning to work together effectively and cohere as an industry (rather than as individual competing producers), but developing a capable industry association is a work in progress. Still, great progress has been made over the past two years.

### **Ecological Benefits:**

- PEI's apple industry boasts some of the earliest Integrated Pest Management systems in North America.
  - Zero erosion potential from apple orchards, and orchard ecology has potential for carbon sequestration and smart use of water.
- 



**Support from PEI Department of Agriculture:**

- Perennial Crop Development Program offers up to 50% cost-share for new orchard plantings and orchard expansion, as well as post-harvest storage and processing systems
- Agriculture Research and Innovation Program: Industry Research Coordination subprogram is providing 90% funding support to the PEI Tree Fruit Growers Association to offer a research coordination program.
- Dedicated support from industry development specialists Adam MacLean and Cameron Menzies.

**Other Tree Fruit:**

- Apple orchardists are also planting pears, peaches, and plums. Pears have great potential in up-pick, particularly for new Islanders of east-Asian descent, who typically prefer pears over apples. Peaches have potential, but the climate is still marginal for their success, though peach production is feasible as a complementary enterprise to apple/pear orchards.

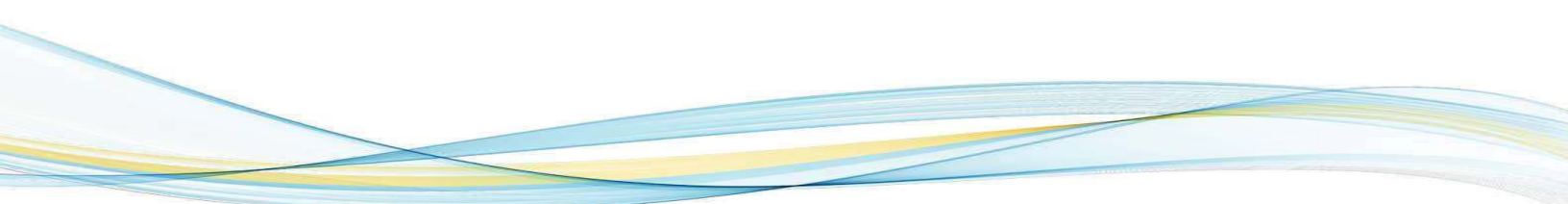
**Industry Representation:**

Associations	Website
PEI Tree Fruit Growers Association (doing business as PEI Apple Growers)	<a href="http://www.peitfga.ca/">www.peitfga.ca/</a>

**Prepared by:**

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June, 2024



# Lowbush (Wild) Blueberries



## Number of Producers

There is an estimated 120 – 130 wild blueberry growing operations on PEI

## Production Data for the last 3 years

**Table1: Wild Blueberry Production for PEI**

Year	Total yield in pounds (lbs)*	Average yield per acre in pounds (lbs)*	Farm gate value of wild blueberries in dollars per pound (\$/ lb)**	Total farm gate value of wild blueberries in dollars (\$) **
2023	19.6 million	2,800	0.40 - 0.50	8 – 10 million
2022	28 million	4,000	0.50 - 0.60	14 – 17 million
2021	19.5 million	2,900	0.60 – 0.70	12 – 14 million

\*Source: annual survey responses collected by PEI Berry Crop Development Officer

\*\*Source: conversations with various growers and processors over current blueberry price

## Acreage Inventory

Total acres: approx. 1,4,000

Fruiting acres in any given year: approx. 7,000

**Source:** annual survey administered by PEI Berry Crop Development Officer, conversations with growers and PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association

Note: Wild blueberries are cropped on a biannual cycle

## Processing

There are two main wild blueberry processing facilities on PEI which control the majority of the wild blueberry purchasing:

- Jasper Wyman and Son Inc.
- Bragg Lumber Company

Small amounts of blueberries have been sold to Merills US and various local retailers as fresh berries in recent years but Wymans and Braggs encompass the vast majority of PEI wild blueberry purchasing/processing.

## Emerging Issues

### Field price

The principal concern of PEI Wild Blueberry growers is the annual field price for their berries. In 2023, the field price hit another low, as low as \$0.35/ lb well below the breakeven threshold for most growers. Although the field price has been near or above the breakeven point for several years prior, a bumper crop in 2022 caused an imbalance in supply and demand, resulting in low field prices again. Island wild blueberry growers are concerned about the lack of power they have in dictating their price. Some growers claim they do not know what they will be paid for their crop until during or after harvest is complete in the fall. In 2021, the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association held a plebiscite to initiate the process of transitioning from a commodity association to a commodity board to increase the members' leverage power with the buyers of their crop. The motion was voted down by a relatively low margin.

### Increased Competition from International Highbush Blueberry Producers

For most of the North American wild blueberry industry's history, it greatly dominated the majority of the global market share for frozen blueberries. Frozen blueberries are either processed into value added products or sold as frozen blueberries. However, in recent years, rapid and significant expansion of the highbush industry in other continents, particularly South America, is causing highbush blueberries to enter the frozen market due to the flooded fresh market. This increased competition is further driving down the wild blueberry field price. Efforts are being made by the Wild Blueberry Association of North America to educate consumers about the difference between wild (i.e. lowbush) and highbush blueberries and fund research investigating the increased health benefits of wild blueberries.

### Access to Pollination

While Island beekeepers remain greatly concerned with the potential consequences of an open border to hive imports, Island blueberry growers have the opposite concern. The wild blueberry pollination demand struggles to be met by PEI, Ontario, and more recently Western Canadian hives. Although the PEI beekeeping industry remains concerned about an open border the potential for the PEIDA to make significant changes in the PEI Honey Bee Importation Protocol from year to year increases the difficulty for blueberry growers to reliably access pollination from year to year. The most vocal proponent of keeping an open border and restrictions to importation to a minimum is Jasper Wyman and Son Inc. processing company with headquarters in Maine. Representatives of this company have suggested

unpredictability of access to pollination for PEI wild blueberry acres undermines the company's confidence in their PEI processing operation.

### Climate

Summer droughts along with spring and fall frosts have had significant impacts to PEI wild blueberry yields in recent years. Only one PEI wild blueberry grower has access to mid-summer irrigation to buffer the effects of drought. Conversely, the summer of 2023 saw an overabundance of rainfall on PEI which caused growers harvesting and fungal disease issues. PEI blueberry growers do not have any significant protection from frost events. Researchers at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus are looking into methods of strengthening wild blueberry resilience to frost events using growth hormone sprays.

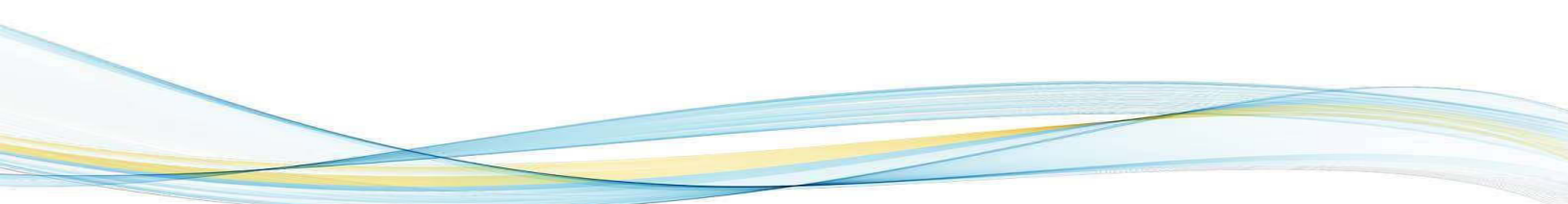
### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association	<a href="http://peiwildblueberries.com/">peiwildblueberries.com/</a>

### Prepared by:

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June, 2024



# Cereal and Oilseeds



## Acreage, Production and Cash Receipts

**Table 1. PEI Acreage 2021-2023**

Crop	Acreage		
	2023	2022	2021
Barley	52,250	57,000	54,900
Spring Wheat	22,300	22,000	22,500
Oats	6,000	6,500	6,000
Mixed Grain	950	950	875
Winter Wheat	19,750	15,500	15,250
Fall Rye	400	640	875
Soybean	46,000	39,750	35,000
Corn	30,500	29,500	27,750
Canola	2,500	1,960	700

<sup>1)</sup>Estimation only. Derived from Participation Summary Report from PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation with an estimation of producers that do not purchase crop insurance.

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0359-01 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3210035901>



**Table 2. Production by Crop 2021-2023**

Crop	Total Production (metric tonnes)		
	2023	2022	2021
Barley	80,939	88,840	84,405
Wheat	62,283	74,464	48,200
Oats	5,200	6,179	6,303
Soybean	37,300	36,057	33,477
Corn (Grain)	50,601	-	53,642
Corn (Silage)	-	-	147,331

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0359-01 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3210035901>

### Pedigree Seed Production

In 2022, a total of 1,358 acres of pedigree seed was inspected on PEI with cereals representing 90% of the inspected acres. Seeds Canada recognizes five farms as being Registered Seed Establishment. Of those, four are listed as Approved Conditioner and two have Bulk Storage Facility accreditation.

<https://seedgrowers.ca/reports-publications/annual-report/>

[https://seeds-canada.ca/en/seed-resources/registered-seed-establishments/?\\_provinces=prince-edward-island](https://seeds-canada.ca/en/seed-resources/registered-seed-establishments/?_provinces=prince-edward-island)

### Handling and Processing

**PEI Grain Elevator Corporation (PEIGEC)** – is a Provincial Crown Corporation involved in commercial grain handling and marketing. PEIGEC operates three facilities located in Elmsdale, Kensington, and Roseneath and has a combined storage capacity of 35,000 metric tons. Major crops handled include barley, wheat (feed and milling), corn, oats, and soybeans. PEIGEC offers a variety of marketing options to farmers including price pooling, open market pricing, and forward contract pricing. They also offer value added services to farmers including custom drying, trucking, roasting and extruding.

**Atlantic Pure Grains Ltd** – located in Belle River, (formerly Atlantic Soy Corporation). The facility has a capacity of 14,000 metric tons per year and offers storage contracts, drying contracts, purchasing contracts, and selling contracts. Commodities handled include corn, soybean, wheat, barley, peas etc.

**Addican** – manufacturer and supplier of nutritional products for animals. Operates two manufacturing facilities including the former W.A Grain and Pulse Solutions in Slemon Park. Addican offers feed ingredients, grains, seed cleaning and sorting, and storage.

**Sollio Agriculture** – is a Quebec based company that offers grain-merchandising services for Eastern Canadian farmers including PEI. They operate several elevators and feed mills throughout the Maritimes.

**Soya Source** – located in Poole's corner, the company extracts oil and meal from soybeans to use as an additive in livestock feed.

**Atlantic Oilseed Processing** – located in Newton, the company cold presses non-gmo canola. The extracted oil is exported internationally while the canola meal is marketed locally to livestock operations.

**Nature's Crop International (NCI)** – located in Kensington, NCI provides specialty plant derived ingredients to the food supplement and cosmetic industries. They offer production contracts and storage for crambe and other specialty oilseeds.

**Feed Mills** – There are various other feed mills across the Island that purchase local grains and oilseeds to process and add value for the livestock industry.

### Malt Barley

The craft beer industry on PEI has experienced significant growth in recent years. Along with this has come strong demand for locally sourced malt barley varieties. There are two commercial scale malting facilities utilizing locally grown malt barley. Shoreline Malting located in Slemon Park uses a state-of-the-art enclosed system, while Island Malt house in New Glasgow uses the traditional floor malting method. This has provided barley growers with a niche marketing opportunity for product that meets malting quality and specifications.

### Emerging Issues

**Business Risk Management** – In the fall of 2020, the Atlantic Grains Council was part of a joint campaign with the Grain Farmers of Quebec and Ontario Grain Farmers in lobbying the Federal government to strengthen Business Risk Management programs for Canadian farmers. The group is asking for increased funding into the AgriStability program that will cover cost of production in times of crisis and level the playing field with US farmers, who are heavily subsidized.

**Seed Regulatory Modernization** – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is updating the *Seeds Regulations* in Canada, which has been in place since 1905. The goal is to improve responsiveness and consistency, reduce complexity, and strengthen consumer protection. Seed and seed potato stakeholders can provide input at various engagements and through various working groups. The CFIA has a goal of preparing the new regulatory package by the summer of 2022.

<https://germination.ca/cfia-to-solicit-feedback-on-regulatory-modernization-in-january/>

### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
Atlantic Grains Council	<a href="http://atlanticgrainscouncil.ca">atlanticgrainscouncil.ca</a>
PEI Grain Elevator Corporation	<a href="http://peigec.com/">peigec.com/</a>
Maritime Branch Canadian Seed Growers Association	<a href="http://seedgrowers.ca/contact-us/csga-provincial-branches/">seedgrowers.ca/contact-us/csga-provincial-branches/</a>

### Prepared by:

Steve Hammill, Cereal and Oilseed Development Officer

# Horticulture (non-fruit crops)



## Key Points:

- Number of Field Vegetable Farms – 43<sup>1</sup>  
Greenhouse Tomatoes and Cucumbers – 1 (Organic)  
Greenhouse Tomato – 1 (Conventional)
- Planted area of field vegetables was around 2,200 acres annually from 2018 to 2021 and had a significant decrease in 2022 with 1,871 acres<sup>1</sup>
- In 2023 the largest horticulture crop in area was rutabaga with 330 acres (Table 1). Carrots had the largest production with 11,000 metric tonnes (Table 2)<sup>2</sup>
- Total farm gate value<sup>3</sup> from the horticulture sector (excluding blueberries and potatoes) was approximately \$16 million in 2023<sup>2</sup>
- Although the acreage isn't large the crops are high in value and diverse – carrots, beets, pumpkins, dry onions, edible beans, rutabagas, squash, cole crops, parsnips, etc.

## Notes:

Although carrots and cabbages are important horticulture crops in PEI, its data has been partially or totally suppressed from Statistics Canada to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

1. Statistical Overview of the Canadian Field Vegetable Industry 2022.  
<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/horticulture/reports>
2. PEI Horticultural Association – personal communication
3. Farm gate value is the value received by producers at the point of first transaction, when ownership first changes hands. This value excludes any separately billed costs such as delivery, storage, marketing and administration.

## Marketing & Processing

Many of the Island's horticultural producers sell their product locally, to the Vegetable Grower's Co-op, farmer's markets, restaurants, independent grocers and large national retail chains.

There are no vegetable processing facilities on PEI, however a small amount of carrots is exported to Oxford Foods in Nova Scotia.

## Production

**Table 1: Acreage by crop**

Crop	2023 Acres
Rutabagas	330
Pumpkins	62
Sweet Corn	55
Dry Onions	51
Beets	40
Green and Wax Beans	27
Squash and Zucchini	20
Cucumbers and Gherkins	13
Parsnips	12.5
Cauliflowers	5

**Source:** PEI Horticultural Association and Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0365-01 Area, production and farm gate value of marketed vegetables. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210036501-eng>

**Table 2: Production data (metric tonnes) for the last 3 years (major vegetable crops)**

Crop	2023	2022	2021
Carrots	11,000	N/A	N/A
Rutabagas	5,500	5,847	5,434
Cabbage	2,083	N/A	N/A
Beets	400	367	366
Cauliflower	20	1,035	1,144

**Source:** PEI Horticultural Association and Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0365-01 Area, production and farm gate value of marketed vegetables. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210036501-eng>

## Emerging Issues

**Labour** - Labour needs are substantial because many operations (planting, packing, harvesting, etc.) are manual in nature. Vegetable harvesting begins in early July and continues daily until Fall. This sector employs many foreign labourers in the agriculture industry on PEI.

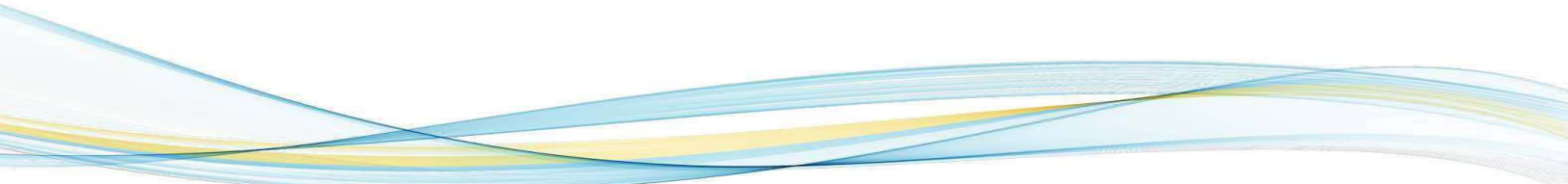
**Industry Associations and Contacts**

Associations	Website
PEI Horticultural Association	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/p/PEI-Horticultural-Association-100083129421220/">www.facebook.com/p/PEI-Horticultural-Association-100083129421220/</a>
PEI Vegetable Grower's Cooperative	<a href="https://canadasfoodisland.ca/export/company/pei-vegetable-growers-co-op">canadasfoodisland.ca/export/company/pei-vegetable-growers-co-op</a>

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April 2024





# Potatoes



## Key Points:

- About 175 potato farms are operating in PEI<sup>1</sup>
- PEI has the largest planted area of potatoes in Canada, with 84,500 acres in 2023<sup>2</sup>
- However, it is currently in third place for total production with 1.31 million metric tonnes, behind Alberta (1.63 million metric tonnes) and Manitoba (1.51 million metric tonnes)<sup>2</sup>
- In 2023, the fresh potato sector generated \$409.14 million in cash receipts in PEI, which was equivalent to half of the total farm cash receipts for PEI in that year<sup>3</sup>
- The PEI potato sector generated approximately \$914.43 million in international exports in 2023 representing 25.98% of total Canadian potato exports<sup>4</sup>
- The main export market for PEI's potatoes and potato products are the USA this market represents 94% of the potato sector exports value,
- Potatoes make up 63% of PEI's total agri-food exports<sup>4</sup>

## Source:

<sup>1</sup>Statistics Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210016601-eng>

<sup>2</sup>Statistics Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210035801-eng>

<sup>3</sup>Statistics Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3210004501-eng>

<sup>4</sup>Trade Data Online. <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/trade-data-online/en>

## Types of Production – Seed, Table, Processing and Organic

### Processing

The majority of PEI potatoes, around 60%, go to the processing sector and are used to produce french fries, potato chips, dehydrated and other processed products. Most potato farmers have modern storage facilities and are responsible for keeping good quality potatoes to meet the requirements from retailers and processors.

Source: AAFC (<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/horticulture/reports/potato-market-information-review-2022-2023>)

## Table

About 32% of PEI potatoes are intended to be used as fresh or table potatoes. Packing facilities are able to pack, sell, and ship potatoes for internal, national and international markets.

## Seed

Around 90 growers produce over 80 varieties of seed potatoes on PEI (PEI Seed Potato Certification Directory), with the Province ranking second in seed potato production in Canada, with 24% of the total volume of seed.. Alberta is the largest seed potato producer in the country, responsible for 25% of the national production. The seed potato industry supports local table and processing growers, and PEI also exports seed domestically and internationally.

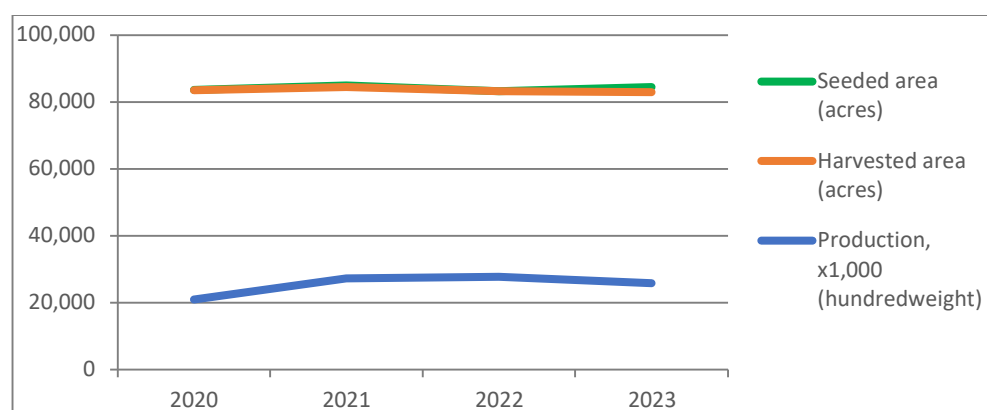
Source: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/af\\_seedbook.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/af_seedbook.pdf)  
<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/horticulture/reports/potato-market-information-review-2022-2023>

## Organic

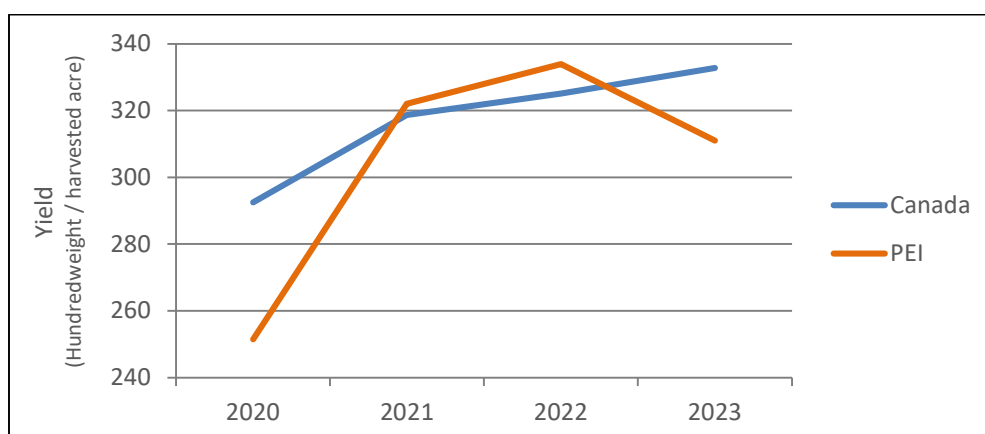
Roughly 735 acres of organic potatoes are grown in PEI, mostly by conventional growers who dedicate a portion of their acreage to organic. (Dan Clavin, Organic and Perennial Crop Development Officer). For more information on the organic potato sector, please refer to the Organic Agriculture Commodity Profile.

## Production Data for the last 4 years

**Graph 1: PEI Potato Acres seeded, harvested, and total production 2020-2023**



Source: Statistics Canada, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210035801>

**Graph 2: Average yield, PEI vs Canada 2020-2023**

Source: Statistics Canada, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210035801>

### Industry Associations and Contacts

Associations	Website
PEI Potato Board	<a href="https://peipotato.org">peipotato.org</a>
Cavendish Farms	<a href="https://cavendishfarms.com">cavendishfarms.com</a>

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April 2024