



# 5 B.C. FARM & FOOD FACTS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU!

When you think of British Columbia, activities like surfing on the Pacific Ocean, or skiing down snowy mountains probably come to mind. But in the province's fertile valleys and rolling foothills, there is another activity that is worth celebrating: our abundance of agriculture!

There are over 26,000 dedicated farmers and ranchers across B.C. who grow and raise everything from chickens to cherries, and tomatoes to tulips. **BC Agriculture Council** knows that farms are an essential part of healthy, vibrant, local communities and shares all about local food and farmers through **We Heart Local BC**. Follow along for **recipes**, **in-season foods** and to get to know our local **farmers and ranchers**.

## 1. B.C. farming is a family affair.

There are close to 17,500 farms in B.C. and 98% of those are family-owned businesses. Many farms have three or four generations working together and caring for their land. Families like the **Clifton's** and the **Day's** have been farming for over one hundred years and their passion still runs strong.

## 2. B.C. tops the list for female farm operators.

As of the 2016 census, B.C. has the highest proportion of female farm operators in Canada at 37.5% (nationally the percentage is 28.7%). Across the province there are many female farmers who are committed to producing safe and healthy products for our families to enjoy. Check out this **blog** to meet some of these incredible women!

## 3. B.C. farms produce 200+ different commodities!

B.C.'s unique climate means there is an unbelievable variety of products grown and raised in the province. In grocery stores, markets and farm stands you can find locally produced food to fit any taste and preference. But it's not only about food. B.C. also produces a gorgeous assortment of cut flowers and nursery plants and is home to **Canada's only commercial rose grower!**

## 4. B.C. is a leader in Canadian production.

Did you know? Over 95% of sweet **cherries** and high-bush **blueberries** in Canada are produced in B.C.? B.C. farmers also rank first in Canada for sales of raspberries, garlic and apricots. And they are second nationally in farm sales of greenhouse vegetables, floriculture products, nursery products, mushrooms, grapes, cranberries, and many more.

## 5. B.C. farmers and ranchers care deeply about the environment.

Caring for the environment is a key priority for B.C. farmers and ranchers. Whether it is protecting waterways, building soil health, or promoting biodiversity, they are working hard all year round to farm responsibly and sustainably. Over 5,200 B.C. farms, like **Copper T Ranch**, have completed an Environmental Farm Plan which helps to identify ways that farmers and ranchers can minimize their impact on the environment.

Learn more about local B.C. farmers and ranchers online at [weheartlocalbc.ca](http://weheartlocalbc.ca) and join the conversation on **Facebook** or **Instagram!**