



# USE **statistics** TO IDENTIFY **farm trends**



## Think About

How do you think changes in farms and farming affect the foods that you eat? How do you think changes in people's food preferences or food trends affect the foods that are available to you?

Hand-drawn style writing area with three horizontal dashed lines.



## Investigate

Statistics Canada identified the following four **trends** in agriculture in 2017 that were based on the 2016 census. Think about each trend. Which one surprised you the most? Do you think these are still trends? Why do you think this? Use the next page to respond.

Canadian agriculture has changed over time. However, the **contribution** that agriculture makes to the economy and quality of life in Canada has grown and is likely to continue to grow.

Sales of agricultural products or commodities are currently the **highest** they have ever been. Canada is one of the world's largest agricultural **exporters** – a sender of agricultural commodities to another country for sale.

Changes in **consumer food demands** and the **market** - the ways that goods and services are purchased and sold - have led to more **variety** in types of farms, the technology used on farms, the mixes of crops that are planted and livestock herd size.

Farmers emphasis on **innovation** has contributed to higher levels and more efficient food production.

**What do farming statistics tell us about ways of life?** Go to [www.projectagriculture.ca/elementary](http://www.projectagriculture.ca/elementary) to find the carousel slide with this guiding question in the **trending** NOW topic. Use the information in the carousel slide and the **What's Trending Learning Source** to help you complete these learning tasks.

A **trend** is a pattern of change or a movement that occurs over time.

From Statistics Canada: An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System 2017 - Highlights: Trends in Canadian Agriculture. [www.agr.gc.ca/eng/canadas-agriculture-sectors/an-overview-of-the-canadian-agriculture-and-agri-food-system-2017/?id=1510326669269](http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/canadas-agriculture-sectors/an-overview-of-the-canadian-agriculture-and-agri-food-system-2017/?id=1510326669269)

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**Statistics** involves the collection and analysis of data. Statistics can help people to identify trends. Look at the bar graphs in the **What's Trending Learning Source**. **What farming trends can you identify from these graphs?**

1. How would you describe the changes in the number of farms? Over what time period has this change occurred?

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2. What has happened to the number of young farmers? What effect do you think this trend could have?

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3. Look at the number of farms and farm size in Alberta. What do you notice about the average size of farms in Alberta? What do you notice about the number of farms in Alberta?

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Why do you think this change in farm size and numbers has happened?

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What changes do you think might result from these trends?

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### Self-Check

	Yes	Sometimes	Not yet
I organize and evaluate multiple pieces of information to build my understandings.			
I interpret the information to make my own conclusions.			
I describe how numeric information is used to build understandings.			