

Sunshine Coast Community Foundation Vital Signs 2014  
 Indicators for **Food Security**

*Data in italics was included in the backup data (and in some cases the Vital Signs publication) in 2011. It is included here for context.*

**Climate**

<b>Weather Characteristics</b>			
Data	Gibsons	Merry Island (Halfmoon Bay)	Gambier Island
	Station Elevation (m)	34	6.1
Longitude	123°32'29.000" W	123°54'45.000" W	123°25'57.000" W
Latitude	49°23'08.090" N	49°28'03.000" N	49°26'35.000" N
Days per year with minimum temperatures less than 0°C	37.6	13.5	N/A
Days per year with maximum temperatures greater than 20°C	54.3	54.3	N/A
Days per year with maximum temperatures greater than 0°C	361.4	363	N/A
Days per year of rain	162.5	165.3	150.4
Days per year of snow	8.5	6.8	10.6
Degree days greater than 10°C	884.3	946.5	N/A
Degree days greater than 5°C	2066.9	2186.7	N/A
	N/A	1890.6	N/A

Source	Environment Canada, 2012, as reported by Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report. This Report was commissioned by the SCRCD and is available on its website <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>
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Climate Projections							
Notes	Growing degree days (GDDs) are a measure of heat accumulation to predict plant development rates.						
Data	Climate Projections for the Sunshine Coast in the 2020s, 2050s, and 2080s						
		2020 change from 1961-1990 baseline		2050 change from 1961-1990 baseline		2080 change from 1961-1990 baseline	
Characteristic	Season	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average
Average Temperature	Annual	+0.4°C to +1.4°C	+0.9°C	+1.0°C to +2.5°C	+1.6°C	+4.1°C	+2.7°C
Precipitation	Annual	-1% to +7%	+4%	-3% to +11%	6%	+1% to +17%	+9%
	Summer	-17% to +11%	-7%	-26% to +2%	-16%	-36% to -1%	-15%
	Winter	+3% to +9%	+3%	-4% to +16%	+6%	+0% to +23%	+9%
Snowfall	Winter	-43% to -3%	-21%	-54% to -17%	-34%	-74% to -24%	-49%
	Spring	-63% to -3%	-30%	-74% to -16%	-54%	-88% to -15%	-74%
Growing Degree Days			+206		+389		
	Annual	+89 to +311 degree days	degree days	+231 to +588 degree days	degree days	+347 to +1038 degree days	+650 degree days
Frost-free days	Annual	+5 to +22 days	+13 days	+13 to +33 days	+23 days	+18 to +48 days	+32 days
Source	Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>						

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## Farm Land

Land in the ALR, 1974- April 1, 2013						
Notes	Approximately 1% of the SCRCD is in the ALR, down from about 1.7% at the time of designation in 1974. For the most part, the net removal of land from the ALR occurred prior to 2000.					
Data		Total Area of Region	Area covered by ALR in 1974	Area as of April 1, 2013	% of Total Area	
	SCRD	377810	6,275	3981 ha	1%	
	BC	92,250,900	4,717,519	4,621,721	5%	
Source	Census, 2011, Area of the SCRCD; BC Agricultural Land Reserve, Annual Reports, Table 2, Area Included and Excluded by Regional District by Fiscal Year <a href="http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content.page?id=01F1670944E94F64981CB38D39D08E0F">http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content.page?id=01F1670944E94F64981CB38D39D08E0F</a>					

Land Use	
Note	<p>The Data below is from Statistics Canada's Census of Agriculture and from a land use inventory conducted in August, 2012 as part of the process leading to the Agricultural Area Background Report. This inventory suggests that</p> <p>The Agricultural Area Background Report notes the following about these two measures.</p> <p>A total of 650 properties were surveyed during the LUI. This includes all of the ALR (3,979 ha) as well as properties granted Farm Status by the BCAA. As a first step, primary land use was determined for each parcel. The term "Rural Residential" was used to describe properties where a residence was noted with no associated farming activity. In some cases, particularly in small lots, Rural Residential properties are unable to sustain farming activity because the house, garage, and other residential structures take up the</p>

	<p>majority of the property.</p> <p>The LUI identified 498 ha (12%) being used actively as farmland. This number compares favourably to the Statistics Canada Ag Census, where 621 ha (16%) is listed as actively farmed in 2011 (Table 8). The discrepancy in numbers is possibly due to the fact that up to 293 ha of land was not easily observed during the LUI process; therefore the designation of 498 ha is likely an underestimation. Regardless, there is well under 20% of the available farmland being actively used for farming...</p> <p>The Background Report indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• of all the ALR land on the Coast, about 60% (or 2,340 hectares) is forested and uninhabited.</li> <li>• of the lands outside of the ALR, fewer than 10 Sunshine Coast properties have farm (tax) status.</li> <li>• more ALR land on the Sunshine Coast is used for residential purposes than for farming.</li> <li>• horses are kept on 76 farms, of which 52 do not appear to be producing any food.</li> </ul>																		
<p>Data</p>	<p>Land Use on the Sunshine Coast as Reported to the Ag Census</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="420 776 1150 1068"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Area (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Sunshine Coast Area</td> <td>381,712</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total ALR</td> <td>3979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Area Actively Farmed</td> <td>621</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land in Crops</td> <td>145</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Managed Pastures</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Land for pasture</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodlands and wetlands</td> <td>267</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other lands (including Christmas trees)</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Area (ha)	Total Sunshine Coast Area	381,712	Total ALR	3979	Total Area Actively Farmed	621	Land in Crops	145	Managed Pastures	68	Natural Land for pasture	75	Woodlands and wetlands	267	All other lands (including Christmas trees)	66
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Primary Land Use Identified During Land Use Inventory				
	Total Area (ha)	% of Area	# of Lots	% of Lots
Forested/shrubland	2563	60%	122	19%
Rural residential	544	13%	285	44%
Farmland	498	12%	190	29%
Other (unable to identify)	293	7%	12	2%
Parks/recreation area	134	3%	11	2%
Campground/Scout camp	103	2%	3	0%
Golf courses	66	2%	5	1%
Gravel extraction	25	1%	2	0%
Cleared land	23	1%	9	1%
Commercial	14	<1%	3	0%
Storage	12	<1%	3	0%
Water distribution	11	<1%	2	0%
School	2	0%	1	0%
Airport	1	0%	1	0%
Government	0.1	0%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4289</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source

Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report

<http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf>

<b>Number and Size of Farms</b>																																																			
Note	<p>The total number of farms in the SCRCD has declined from 96 in 2006 to 89 in 2011.</p> <p>59 of these farms are less than 10 acres and another 25 are between 10 and 69 acres. The average farm size has decreased from 6.1 acres in 1996 to 2.8 acres in 2011. During the same period, the average farm size in BC has increased from 46.9 to 53.5 acres.</p>																																																		
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<b>Farms by Farm Type</b>					
Notes					
	Farm Types by Number of Farms Reporting				
		2001	2006	2011	
	Nursery and Tree	22	24	19	
	Mixed Vegetable	6	6	12	
	Horse and Pony	5	10	11	
	Fruit and Tree nut	8	11	9	
	Chicken (Layers)	9	5	8	
	Floriculture	3	9	7	
	Animal combination (no predominant livestock)	8	6	6	
	Food Crops under polyhouses And greenhouses	4	1	4	
	Beef Cattle	5	4	2	
	Fruit and Veg. Combo	4	6	2	
	Misc. Animal Production (llamas, Alpacas, etc)	3	2	2	
	Apiculture (bees(	3	2	2	
	Sheep	1	1	2	
	Hay	5	1	1	
	Misc Crops	2	6	1	
	Turkeys	1	1	1	



	Goats	1	2	0	
	Pigs	1	1	0	
	Mushrooms	1	0	0	
	Chicken (broilers)	0	2	0	
	Statistics Canada, Agricultural Census, as reported in Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>				

<b>Estimated Crop Areas</b>				
Data	Table 12: Estimated Crop Areas by Acres and Hectares Based on the LUI (2012)			
		# of parcels	Acres	Hectares
	Pasture / Forage	95	365	147
	Mixed Vegetables	65	19	8
	Fruit Trees	31	15	6
	Speciality	8	9	4
	Nurseries	8	7	3
	Berries	30	7	3
	Greenhouses	18	2	0.65
	Floriculture	2	<0.5	<0.5
	Herbs	5	<0.5	<0.5
	Garlic	2	<0.5	<0.5
Source	Land Use Inventory, Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>			

<b>Number of Farms by Farm Enterprise</b>									
Notes	Farm Enterprises are farms which produce products for sale.								
Data	Number of Farms by Farm Enterprise								
		1996		2001		2006		2011	
		Farms	Ha/#	Farms	Ha/#	Farms	Ha/#	Farms	Ha/#
	Field Crop	n/a	206 ha	28	142	14	74	15	81
	Fruits, Berries and Nuts	n/a	17 ha	29	27	29	34	28	14
	Vegetables	n/a	14 ha	27	27	19	12	29	16
	Nursery	n/a	22 ha	24	14	24	34	17	16
	Poultry	75	637 ha	66	4,976	57	3,269	54	3,764
	Cattle and Calves	12	226	12	102	10	156	5	40
	Pigs	12	130	14	65	6	45	4	X
	Sheep and Lambs	17	330	10	227	11	114	8	83
	Horses and Ponies	12	63	12	57	16	102	20	109
Source	Statistics Canada, as reported by Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>								

### Health of Farms

<b>Farms using Chemical Inputs</b>				
Note	Most farms do not use chemical inputs.			
Data	Number of Farms Using Chemical Inputs			
		2001	2006	2011
	Herbicides	7	7	4
	Insecticides	6	2	3
	Fungicides	5	3	4
	Commercial Fertilizer	21	18	9

	Lime	na	16	8
	Total Number of Farms	97	96	89
	In a survey of local farmers, 10 % said they were certified organic but an additional 73% said they use organic methods and principles.			
Source	Statistics Canada and a survey of local farmers, both as reported by Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>			

<b>Number of Farms Reporting Sustainable Land Practices</b>				
Data	Number of Farms reporting sustainable land practices			
		1996	2001	2011
	Crop rotation	26	24	26
	In field winter grazing or feeding	na	na	15
	Rotational grazing	na	16	18
	Plowing down green crops	12	12	12
	Winter cover crops	14	12	11
	Nutrient management planning	na	na	17
	Windbreaks or shelterbelts	6	28	19
	Buffer zones around water bodies	na	16	14
	Total number of farms on Sunshine Coast	97	96	89
Source	Statistics Canada, as reported by Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>			

**Farm Operators**

<b>Number of Farm Operators</b>					
Note					
Data	Number of Operators in the SCRD				
		1996	2001	2006	2011
	Number of Operators	145	135	145	130
Source	Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, <a href="http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export">http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export</a>				

<b>Age of Farmer Operators</b>							
Note	The average age of farmers is 55.7 years old, two years older than it was in 2006. This average is similar to the average age of farm operators in the Lower Mainland / Southwest and in BC generally.						
Data							
		SCRD 2006	SCRD, 2011	SCRD 2006 %	SCRD %, 2011	Lower Mainland / Southwest 2011	BC 2011
	Under 35	5	5	3%	4%	7%	5%
	35 - 54	80	60	53%	46%	44%	40%
	55 and over	65	65	43%	50%	49%	54%
	Average Age	53.7 years	55.7 years			54.2 yrs	55.7 yrs
Source	Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011, <a href="http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export">http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export</a>						

### The Economics of Farming

#### Proportion of Paid Farm Work

Data	Number of farm operators:					
		SCRD 2006	SCRD 2011	SCRD 2006 %	SCRD 2011 %	Lower Mainland / Southwest
Working less than 20 hours per week on farm	75	70	52%	54%	46%	44%
Not doing paid non-farm work	55	50	38%	38%	50%	47%
Less than 20 hours paid non-farm work	20	15	14%	12%	9%	10%
20 hours for more of paid non farm work	75	75	52%	58%	41%	43%
Source	Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011 and 2006, <a href="http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export">http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&amp;dataType=1#export</a>					

#### Gross Farm Receipts and Expenses

Data	Total Gross Farm Receipts, SCR D (2006 Census) = \$2,583,742 Total Farm Business Operating Expenses SCR D (2006 Census) = \$2,486,876
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Total Gross Farm Receipts SCRD (2011 Census) = \$2,551,191  
 Total Farm Business Operating Expenses SCRD (2011 Census) = \$2,601,165

Number of Farms in each band of Gross Receipts

	SCRD 2006 Census	SCRD 2011 Census	SCRD 2006 %	SCRD 2011 %
Under 10,000	59	61	61%	69%
\$10,000 to 24,999	18	12	19%	13%
25,000 – 49,999	8	8	8%	9%
\$50,000 – 99,999	5	2	5%	2%
100,000 – 249,999	4	2	4%	2%
250,000 – 499,999	1	4	1%	4%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	0	1%	0

Source

Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 and 2011 <http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/community-agriculture-profile-profil-agricole.action?geoId=590229018&dataType=1#export>

<b>Farm Employment</b>			
Data		SCRD 2006	SCRD 2010
	Number of Employees working year round (full or part time)	NA	32
	Number of Employees working on a seasonal or temporary basis	NA	38
	Total weeks of paid work	888	1641
Source	Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2011 and 2006		

<b>Average Revenue per hectare and per Farm</b>						
Note	Revenue on a per hectare basis and on a per farm basis increased on the Sunshine Coast from 2001 to 2011.					
Data	Average Revenue per Hectare on the Sunshine Coast					
		# of Farms	Gross Receipts (\$)	Average per Farm (Ha)	Average per Hectare (\$)	
	2001	96	\$2,183,011	811	\$2,692	
	2006	97	\$2,583,742	867	\$2,980	
	2011	89	\$2,551,191	621	\$4,108	

Average Revenue per Hectare on Vancouver Island and Coastal BC							
Regional District	# of Farms	Total Farm Area (ha)	Gross Farm Receipts (\$ million)	Expenses (\$ million)	Average Gross Revenue per Farm	Average Gross Rev. per ha	Net Revenue Margin
Comox Valley	432	8,727	\$31.21	\$28.01	\$72,252	\$3,576	10.20%
Cowichan Valley	685	8,801	\$48.07	\$44.89	\$70,175	\$5,461	6.60%
Nanaimo	478	6,461	\$26.91	\$24.34	\$56,297	\$4,164	9.60%
Alberni - Clayoquot	93	1,363	\$4.50	\$4.83	\$48,387	\$3,302	-7.30%
Capital	1,093	10,741	\$50.87	\$49.67	\$46,542	\$4,746	2.40%
Powell River	94	811	\$1.35	\$1.53	\$14,361	\$1,664	-13.30%
Sunshine Coast	89	621	\$2.55	\$2.60	\$28,652	\$4,106	-1.90%
Source	Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report <a href="http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf">http://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Community/Planning/Projects/AAP%20Background%20Report%20Jan%2030%202013%20compressed.pdf</a>						



## Food Consumption

<b>Production Needs</b>			
Note	The Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report estimates the production needs to satisfy the Sunshine Coast population in 2011 and in 2031. We have reproduced below estimates for a few items.		
Data	Estimated Production needs to satisfy population (in kg)		
		2011	2031 (projected)
	Broccoli	87,732	104,601
	Carrots	218,267	260,235
	Lettuce	302,963	361,216
	Onions and Shallots	297,802	355,063
	tomatoes	225,553	268,921
	Apples	366,713	437,224
	blueberries	35,214	41,985
	Wheat flour	1,880,009	2,241,494
	Butter	81,357	97,000
Source	Sunshine Coast Agricultural Area Plan Background Report		

<b>Food Bank Usage and Cost</b>																																																													
Notes	<p>Usage was highest in 2011, but has remained above its pre-2009 rates. Costs for food have increased markedly over the last three years.</p> <p>The number of visits represents the number of people provided for. For example, as food recipients are eligible to come once per week, a single person could pick up 4 times per month and be counted as 4 visits. A family of five picking up 4 times in a month would be counted as 20 visits.</p>																																																												
Data	<p>Number of Visits to SC Food Bank:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="514 589 1129 1159"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>YEAR</b></th> <th><b>ADULTS</b></th> <th><b>CHILDREN</b></th> <th><b>TOTAL</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2000</td><td>4834</td><td>3980</td><td>8814</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>5311</td><td>4029</td><td>9340</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td></td><td>N/A</td><td>9309</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>6142</td><td>4341</td><td>10483</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>4941</td><td>2980</td><td>7921</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>4752</td><td>2858</td><td>7610</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>3941</td><td>2348</td><td>6289</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>5801</td><td>2301</td><td>8102</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>5,755</td><td>3,003</td><td>8,758</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>6922</td><td>4,151</td><td>11,073</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>8,273</td><td>3,873</td><td>12,146</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>8,760</td><td>4797</td><td>13,557</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>8,840</td><td>3821</td><td>12,661</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>8,148</td><td>4211</td><td>12,359</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ADULTS</b>	<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	2000	4834	3980	8814	2001	5311	4029	9340	2002		N/A	9309	2003	6142	4341	10483	2004	4941	2980	7921	2005	4752	2858	7610	2006	3941	2348	6289	2007	5801	2301	8102	2008	5,755	3,003	8,758	2009	6922	4,151	11,073	2010	8,273	3,873	12,146	2011	8,760	4797	13,557	2012	8,840	3821	12,661	2013	8,148	4211	12,359
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Year	Cost of Food	Number of clients	Cost per bag
2010	\$24,188.00	12,146	\$1.99
2011	\$36,456.00	13,557	\$2.68
2012	\$34,199.00	12,661	\$2.70
2013	\$38,724.00	12,359	\$3.13

Total number times person assisted in one month by the four Sunshine Coast Food Banks = 1855

Pender Harbour Community Church	90 persons
St Bartholomew's Anglican Church	90 persons
Harvest of Hope Salvation Army	483 times per month
Sunshine Coast Food Bank	1192 times average 2013( as each person could pick up once a week which would equal 4 times in a month )

Source	Sunshine Coast Food Bank
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