



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PRAIRIES

2018 DATA

Report By:



With Support From:



prairie organic
grain initiative



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This report was commissioned by the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative (POGI) and prepared by the Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA). All figures reported are best estimates using data provided by organic certification bodies.



Canada Organic Trade Association

The [Canada Organic Trade Association](#) is the membership-based trade association for the organic sector in Canada, representing growers, shippers, processors, certifiers, farmer associations, distributors, consultants, retailers, and all points along the organic value chain. COTA promotes and protects the growth of organics to benefit the environment, farmers, the public, and the economy.



prairie organic grain initiative

Prairie Organic Grain Initiative

The [Prairie Organic Grain Initiative](#) is a four-year program dedicated to achieving resiliency and stability in the Prairie organic sector by focusing on increasing the quantity and quality of organic grains and developing relationships across organic market value chains. The Prairie Organic Grain Initiative has strategic partnerships with the three Prairie provincial organic associations: [Organic Alberta](#), [SaskOrganics](#) and the [Manitoba Organic Alliance](#).

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Executive Summary

Now in its fifth year of publication, the Prairie Organic Agriculture Report provides up-to-date acreage and operator information for Canada's Prairie Provinces. Consumer demand for organic products continues to grow, encouraging more farms, processors, and retailers to choose to participate in the organic sector. This has resulted in an increase in certified organic operations, along with an expansion of certified organic acreage across the Prairie landscape. Organic operations and acreage constitute approximately two percent of farmland and two percent of farms, as measured by the 2016 Census of Agriculture. Organic farm numbers and acres continue to grow, despite the overall decline in non-organic farms and lack of overall acreage growth in the Prairies. Consumer behaviour is also shifting towards plant-based products, resulting in a decrease of livestock operations.

Key Findings

- The Prairies continue to be a key contributor to the organic sector in Canada with 56% of total certified organic acreage.
- Organic acreage was stable at 1.8 million acres between 2017 and 2018. All three Prairie provinces recorded over 28% growth in organic acreage between 2015 and 2018.
- Certified organic operations went up from 1,840 in 2017 to 1,975 in 2018.
- 63% percent of Prairie acreage is in Saskatchewan (SK), 30% in Alberta (AB), and seven percent in Manitoba (MB); 55% percent of Prairie producers are in SK, 35% in AB, and ten percent in MB.
- Overall, there was an increase in 123,300 field crop acres between 2017 and 2018, with much of that increase in wheat acres (113,513) followed by pulses (52,000). Barley saw the most significant decrease in production with a loss of 28,300 acres.
- The increase in wheat acres in 2018 occurred primarily in Saskatchewan with 93,200 more acres, followed by Alberta at 34,800 acres. Meanwhile 14,400 less acres were grown in Manitoba.
- The growth in pulses was primarily due to an increase of 33,300 more pea acres, 18,800 of which were in Alberta, 12,800 in Saskatchewan, and 1,700 in Manitoba.
- There was a notable decrease in organic livestock operations in 2018 from 125 to 114. This is likely due to the change of consumer consumption behavior and the preference for plant-based foods.
- Since 2009, the number of organic processors increased by 61, reaching 266 in 2018.
- The Prairie organic food and beverage markets are now collectively valued at over \$850 million. 74% percent of Albertan grocery shoppers choose organics weekly, while 62% of grocery shoppers in SK and MB do the same.[1]
- The quality of data provided by certifying bodies, as well as the aggregation methodology are improving. However, there is still much work to be done to establish more robust collection and analysis methods.

Methodology

Organic certification bodies across Canada and the United States voluntarily supply the operation and acreage data to COTA for analysis and release in aggregated format. This data is analyzed by COTA and examined by experts in the Prairie organic sectors. While the data submitted becomes more robust each year, it can still vary in detail, categorization, and format. For this reason, the numbers in this report represent a best estimate using the data provided. Ongoing efforts are in place to streamline and facilitate the data collection process and improve the quality and breadth of the data collected.

[1] Figures from the 2018 Organic Market Reports for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Contact Organic Alberta, SaskOrganics and Manitoba Organic Alliance to access these reports.

Important Notes:

- **ROUNDING:** All numbers presented are best estimates using data provided. In this year's report, all data is rounded. Due to rounding, some totals may not be equal to the sum of the rounded sub-categories.
- **HISTORICAL DATA:** Data is revised to account for any historical data errors or gaps that have been resolved. For this reason, the figures presented may not align with past reports released by the POGI or COTA.
- **MEASUREMENT:** Land use is measured in acres.
- **CERTIFIED ONLY:** This analysis includes only operations and acreage that are certified organic, as per the Canadian Organic Standards. Acreage and operators in transition are not included, as tracking is nearly impossible since operators are not required by law to register with a certifier until they are 15 months away from certification.
- **OPERATION TYPES:** There are three operation types. An operation may fall in multiple categories:
 1. "Processors" includes a spectrum of organic operations, including food and feed processors, handlers, seed cleaners, abattoirs, broker/buyer/importer/exporter, and operators with packaging and labelling certificates.
 2. "Crop producers" are defined as those who produce or collect crops (field crops, vegetables, fruits, nuts, wildcrafting, etc.).
 3. "Livestock operations" are those with certified organic livestock on the operation.
- **COLLECTION:** Data for 2009-2012 was collected by the Canadian Organic Growers. Data for 2013-2018 was collected and analyzed by COTA.

COTA would like to sincerely thank Laura Telford, Organic Development Specialist at Manitoba Agriculture, and all organic Certification Bodies and associations that provided the data used in this analysis. Their voluntary participation plays a valuable role in understanding and supporting the organic sector in the Prairies and across Canada.

A well-deserved thank you to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • CCOF Certification Services Inc. (CCOF) | • International Certification Services Inc. (ICS) |
| • Consorzio per il Controllo dei Prodotti Biologici Società a responsabilità limitata (CCPB) | • Oregon Tilth |
| • Centre for Systems Integration (CSI) | • Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) |
| • Certified Organic Association of BC (COABC) | • Organic Producers Association of Manitoba (OPAM) |
| • Ecocert | • Pacific Agricultural Certification Service (PACS) |
| • Global Organic Alliance (GOA) | • Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd. |
| • Fraser Valley Organic Producers Association (FVOPA) | • Quality Assurance International (QAI) |
| | • TransCanada Organic (TCO) Cert |

The Prairies in Context

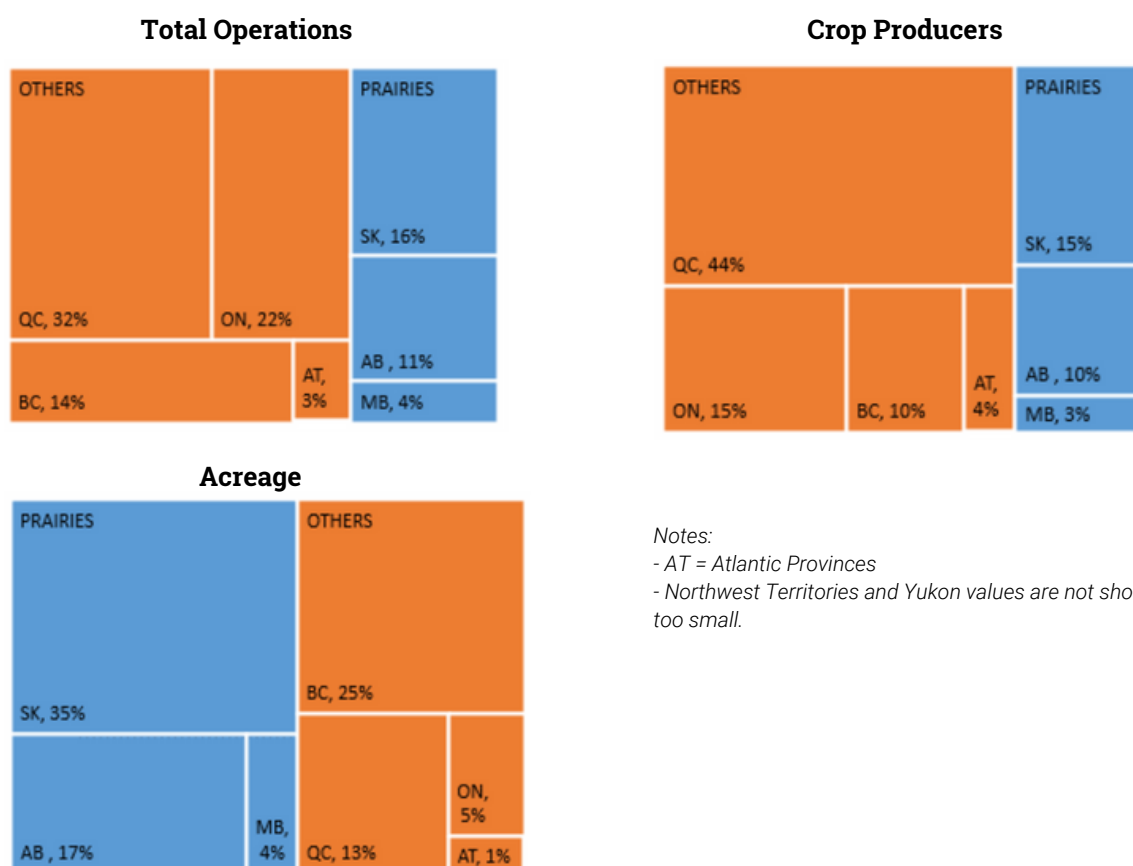
Growth in Canada's organic sector continues to be stable overall, with some increases and declines in particular areas of production. The overall agricultural land base remains stable at a time when non-organic farm operations and land base are declining. In Canada, there are now 7,263 certified organic operations, 5,704 organic producers and 3.3 million certified organic acres. Between 2011 and 2018, organic farmland increased by over 48%. The Prairies are reporting similar growth in organic operations and land base.

In 2018, the Prairies represent:

- 27% of organic operations in Canada;
- 30% of organic crop producers (including grain, fruit, and vegetable producers);
- 15% of organic processors;
- 16% of organic livestock operations and;
- 56% of organic acres.

The distribution of organic operators, producers, and acreage across the provinces in 2018 is shown below in Figure 1. Prairie provinces are shown blue, while the remaining provinces are in orange. As in 2017, Quebec has the largest portion of operations and producers. Saskatchewan ranks third for operations and second for producers, at the same level as Ontario. Alberta ranks fourth for operators and fourth for producers, while Manitoba is ranked lowest nationally for producers when Atlantic provinces are taken as a group. In terms of acreage, Saskatchewan is in the top spot followed by British Columbia, then Alberta. Manitoba is positioned right before the Atlantic provinces.

FIGURE 1 | DISTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC OPERATIONS, CROP PRODUCERS AND ACREAGE NATIONALLY, 2018

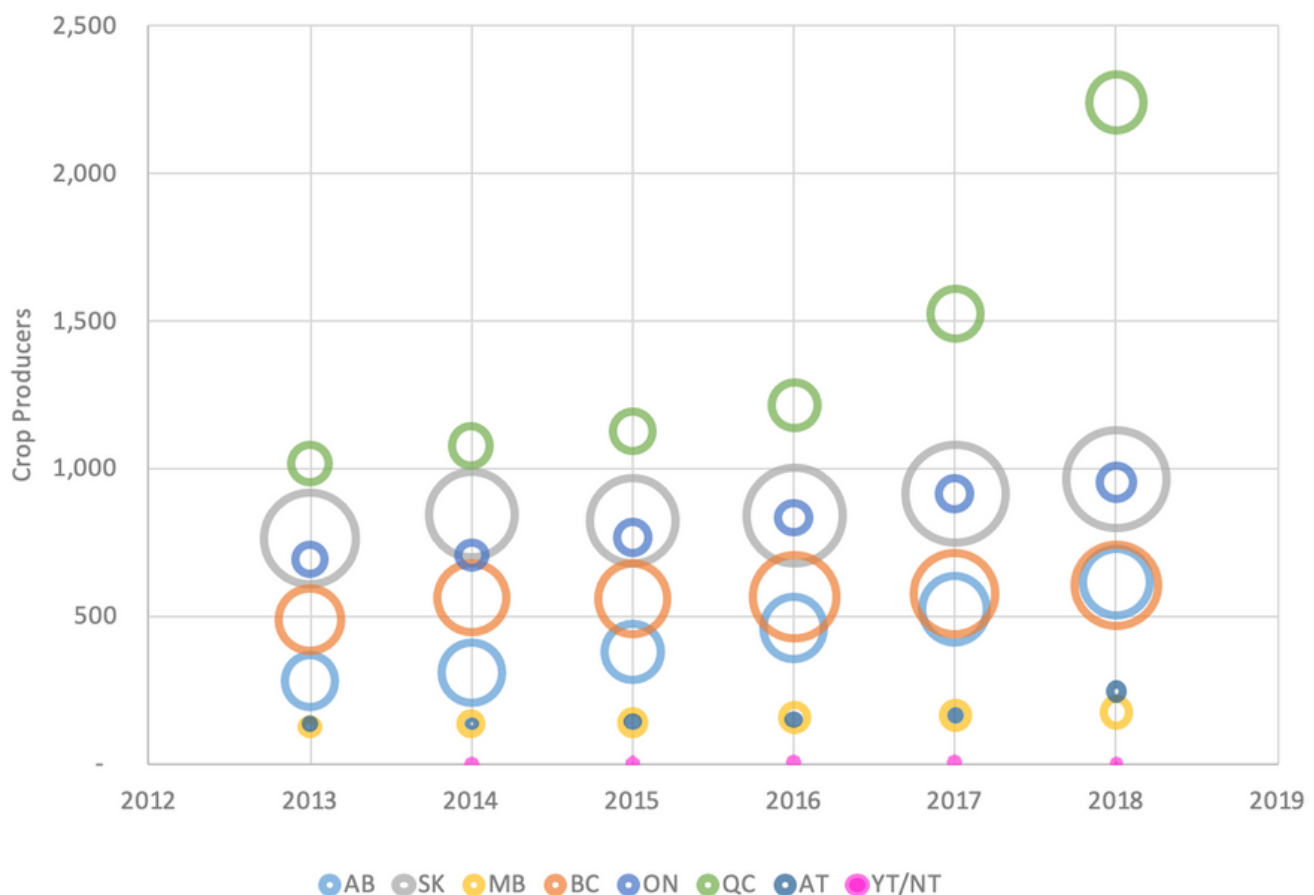


These three tables show that most operations are in Quebec and Ontario, due in part to greater numbers of processors and producers in these two provinces. The Prairie provinces, when grouped together represent 1/3 of crop producers, which includes those who produce grain, fruits, vegetables, wild collection, and more. The acreage table shows that the Prairies represent a higher portion of Canada's organic farmland than operators or producers.

There is no direct link between the number of producers and acreage in each province, since different types of agriculture require different land allotments to be viable as shown in Figure 2. Similarly, in 2017, Quebec comprises the largest number of producers but ranks behind Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia in total percentage of acreage. In contrast, Saskatchewan still holds the highest percentage of farmland, while ranking second in number of producers and third in total operations.

Alberta's producer numbers have been growing, along with a moderate increase in acreage. Manitoba is more stable and on par with the Atlantic provinces regarding producer numbers, though MB has more acres.

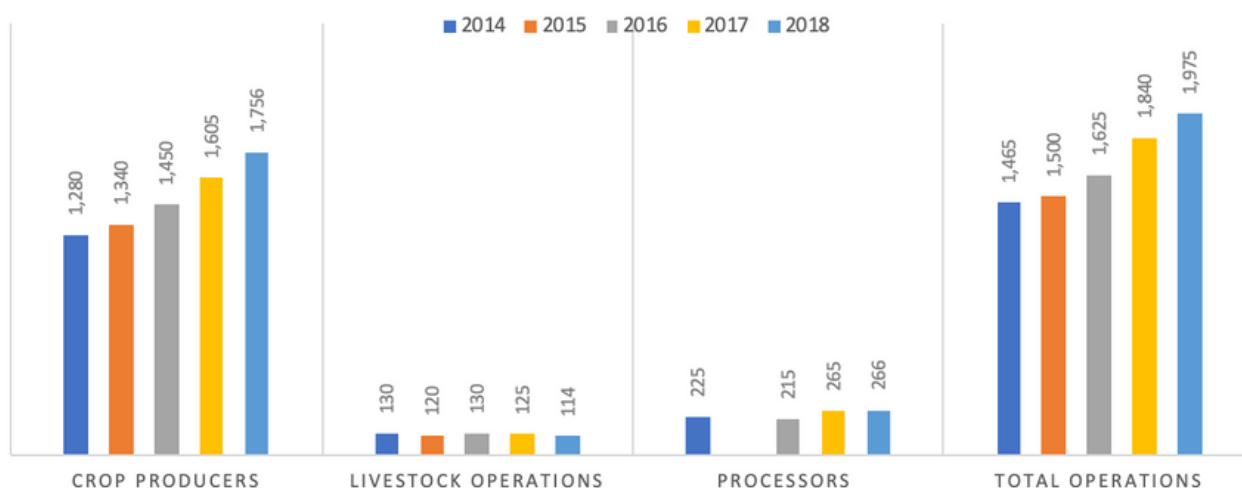
FIGURE 2 | GROWTH OF CROP PRODUCERS AND ACREAGE BY PROVINCE, 2013 – 2018



The x-axis is the timeframe and the y-axis shows producer numbers. Bubbles vary in size according to total organic acreage and are colour-coded by province. For reference, Saskatchewan's 2018 acreage (grey) is 1,156,000 for 2018. On the other end of the spectrum, the Atlantic provinces (dark blue circle) had only 248,000 acres in 2018.

Operations

FIGURE 3 | Prairie Organic Operations by Operation Type, 2014 - 2018

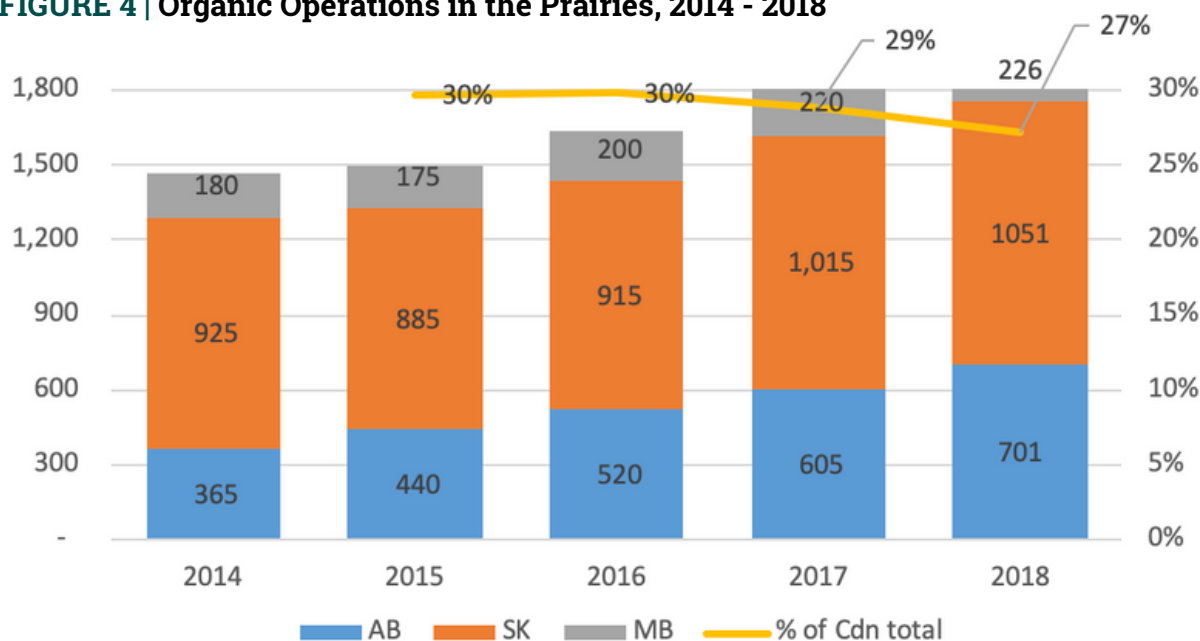


* See analysis notes for processor definitions. Processor estimate for 2015 removed due to likely data error.

** Total operations is not a sum of the other categories as some operations fit into multiple categories.

The number of organic operations in the Prairies has increased steadily since 2014. There are now 1,978 organic operations in the Prairie provinces. Compared with 2017, the number of processors has remained steady in 2018. The decrease in number of organic livestock operations is more significant and mirrors the overall decrease in livestock operations in mainstream farming across the country.

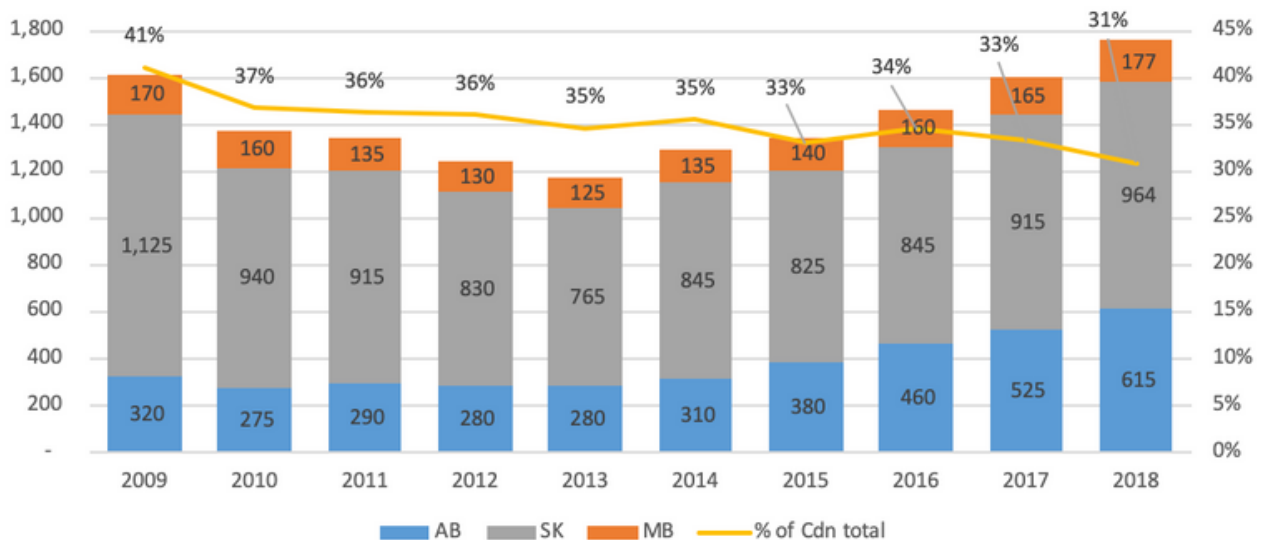
FIGURE 4 | Organic Operations in the Prairies, 2014 - 2018



* There was no Canadian total for organic operations in 2014 so a Prairie percentage could not be calculated.

Since 2014, there has been a steady increase in organic operations across the Prairies region. Manitoba's total operations increased by 46, while Saskatchewan's total operations increased by 126. Alberta has seen the largest growth, with 336 more operators than in 2014. Despite steady growth, the percentage of organic operations that are based in the Prairie region has declined in 2018 from 29% of total operations to 27%. This is due in large part to the higher growth rate of operations in Quebec compared to the Prairies.

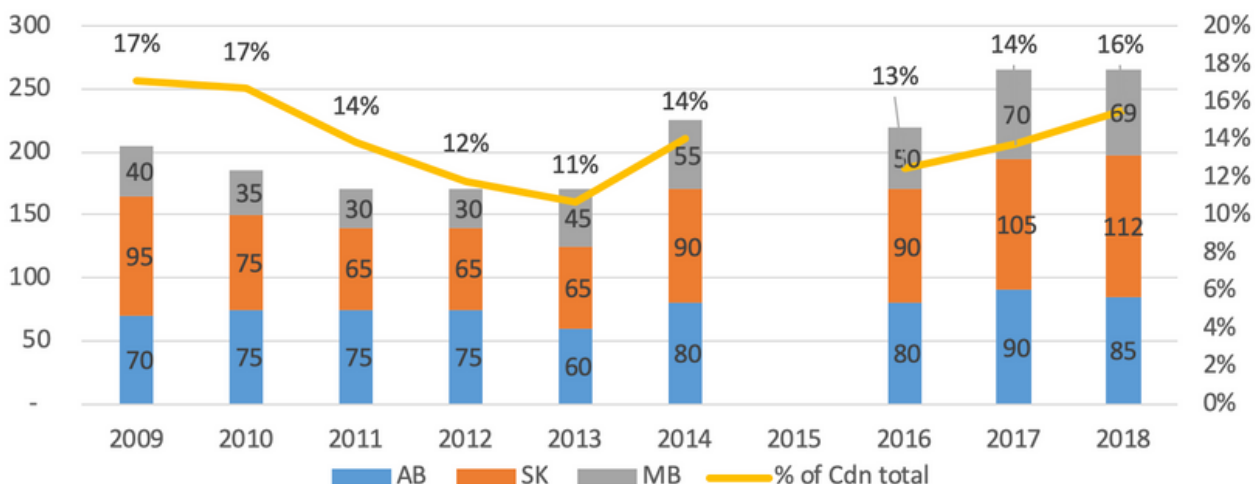
FIGURE 5 | ORGANIC CROP PRODUCERS IN THE PRAIRIES, 2009 – 2018



The category of organic crop producers includes primary producers who grow field crops, fruits and vegetables, or participate in wild collection. Of all the data sets, this category has been tracked the longest. In the Prairies and nationally, there was a significant decrease in producer numbers following the 2008 recession (from 41 % of total Canadian producers in 2007 to 35% in 2013). However, since 2013, the number of Prairie crop producers has been steadily increasing in all three provinces.

Saskatchewan has not yet surpassed its previous peak producer number achieved in 2009, although growth has been steady since 2012. In 2018, despite the reduced number of overall operations in the province, the number of crop producers increased by 49 from 2017. Alberta surpassed the 2009 number in 2015 and has continued to increase in the two years following. In 2018, Manitoba surpassed the 2009 number for the first time. The percentage of Canadian organic producers in the Prairies has fallen since 2009, but has remained steady in the last few years, with a moderate 2% decrease in 2018 compared to the previous year.

FIGURE 6 | ORGANIC PROCESSORS IN THE PRAIRIES, 2009 – 2018



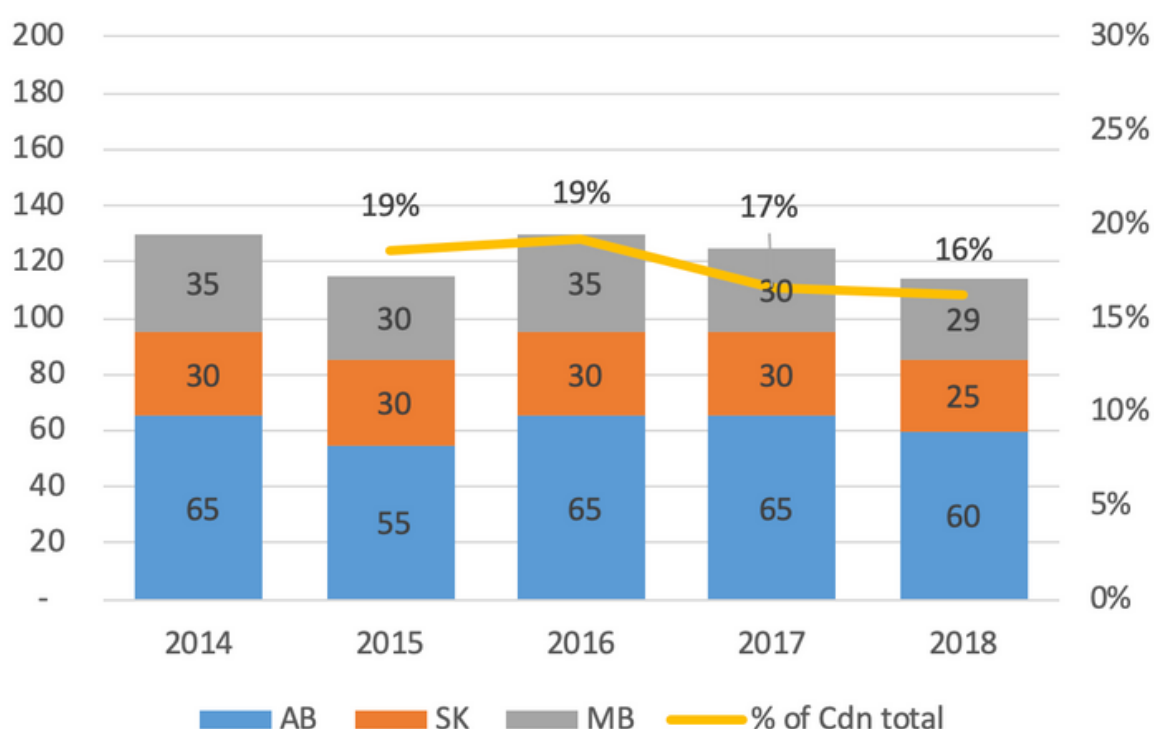
* 2015 numbers excluded due to likely data error.

The processing category includes food and feed processors, handlers, seed cleaners, abattoirs, brokers/buyers/importers/exporters, as well as entities certified for packaging and labelling. The category does not include entities that hold attestations for inputs such as compost and fertilizers [2]. In 2018, there were an estimated 269 organic processors in the Prairies. This number has remained essentially the same as 2017. Like crop producers, the portion of national organic processors located in the Prairies has declined since 2009, settling at around 14% since 2014. 2015 data has been excluded due to analysis issues.

The increase in numbers of producers did not entail an increase in the number of processors. While the lack of processors is a constraint for producers who would otherwise choose to certify, the number of processors is largely related to the local economy and market.

Similarly, the number of livestock operations in the Prairies has not grown over time. This could be explained as a change in consumer choice in source of protein. Organic consumers are generally decreasing their consumption of meat and are increasingly choosing to consume more of a plant-based diet. Our 2018 data shows a 40% increase in pea acreage and a 70% increase in pulses such as chickpea and fava over 2017. Lack of organic abattoirs in the Prairies also likely contributes to the problem. A forthcoming report to be released by COTA will provide an in-depth analysis of organic food processing in Canada.

FIGURE 7 | ORGANIC LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS IN THE PRAIRIES, 2014 – 2018



The number of organic livestock operations in the Prairies has been slowly decreasing since 2016, reaching its lowest numbers for all Prairie Provinces in 2018 since 2009. Data reflect the overall decline in cattle inventories in the country[3]. Saskatchewan shows the most significant decline in livestock operations, followed by Alberta. Manitoba's numbers remain relatively stable.

The organic livestock sector has been growing in other regions - primarily in ON and QC. As a result, the Prairie organic livestock sector dropped slightly from 17% to 16% of total Canadian organic livestock operations in 2018.

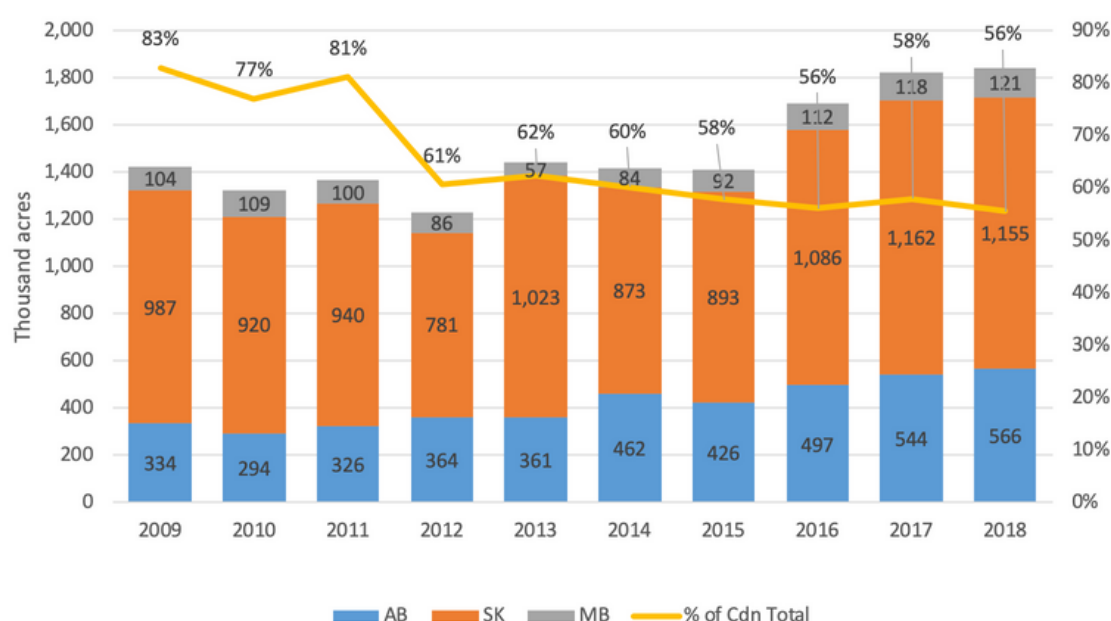
[2] COTA will be releasing an in-depth report on organic food processing in Canada. Because this report uses a different definition of processors, the numbers will not align.

[3] <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190301/dq190301d-eng.htm>

Acreage Overview

Prairie organic acreage has been stable for the last two years at approximately 1.8 million acres in 2018, there was a 17,500 increase in acres across the three Prairie provinces. Similar to operation numbers, there was a decline in organic acres between 2009 and 2013. There was a total overall jump in acres in 2013 and gain in 2016, both resulting from significant increases in Saskatchewan's acres. Between 2013 and 2015, acreage remained stable, with demonstrable growth recorded in 2016 and 2017.

FIGURE 8 | ORGANIC ACREAGE IN THE PRAIRIES, 2009 – 2018



The portion of Canadian organic acres based in the Prairies has ranged between 56% and 58% for the past three years, settling at 56% in 2018. Prior to this, the Prairies represented a larger portion of national acres, peaking at 83% in 2009.

Saskatchewan represents 63% of Prairie organic acreage, followed by Alberta with 31%, and Manitoba with 6.5 percent. In terms of how organic acreage is used, all three provinces have a similar composition to the rest of the country. Field crops comprise the most acres, followed by pasture, forage, and natural areas. In 2018, for the first time, land used for organic field crop production exceeded that used for livestock forage, green manures, wild crafting, and ecological acres. This shift reflects the growing economic importance of organic field crop production and the relative decline in livestock production.

TABLE 1 | ORGANIC ACREAGE IN THE PRAIRIES BY CATEGORY AND PROVINCE, 2018

	AB	SK	MB	Prairie Total	Cdn Total	% Cdn Total
Field crops	295,808	616,703	50,494	963,005	1,125,812	86%
Cereals	188,106	434,204	30,519	652,830	745,658	88%
Pulses	82,415	104,796	5,424	192,635	199,188	97%
Oilseeds	7,762	64,321	5,787	77,870	77,806	59%
Other field crops*	17,524	13,382	8,764	39,670	39,713	43%
Pasture, forage and natural areas	268,338	535,174	68,886	872,398	937,638	93%
Fruits and vegetables	1,826	2,657	1,604	6,087	78,450	7%
TOTAL	565,972	1,154,534	120,984	1,841,491	3,303,512	56%

Field crops represent 53% of Prairie organic acreage. Cereals represent 68% of organic field crop acreage in the region. Pulses make up ten percent of organic acres in the Prairies but, represent 97% of all organic pulse acres grown in Canada. Pasture, forage, and natural areas make up most of the remaining organic land in the Prairie region with 883,000 acres, representing 48% of Prairie organic acreage. At the other end of the spectrum, only seven percent of Canada's organic fruit and vegetable acreage is in the Prairies.

Table 2 provides an overview of the key organic land uses in the Prairie region between 2015 and 2018. All categories show growth in acreage since 2015 apart from fruits and vegetables. However, this exception has been flagged as likely being due to a data error (fruit and vegetable acreage was likely overestimated).

TABLE 2 | ORGANIC ACREAGE IN THE PRAIRIES BY CATEGORY, 2015 – 2018

	2015	2016	2017	2018	Growth 2015-2018 (%)
Field Crops	664,600	762,300	839,700	963,005	45%
Cereals	499,000	564,900	574,700	652,830	31%
Pulses	88,500	117,500	141,000	192,635	117%
Oilseeds	69,100	63,800	90,700	77,870	12%
Other Field Crops	7,900	16,100	33,200	39,670	402%
Forage, Green manure and natural areas	734,200**	921,300	973,400	872,398	19%
Fruits and vegetables	11,600 *	5,500	6,400	6,087	-45%
Total	1,410,400	1,693,800	1,824,000	1,841,491	29%

*Suspected data error.

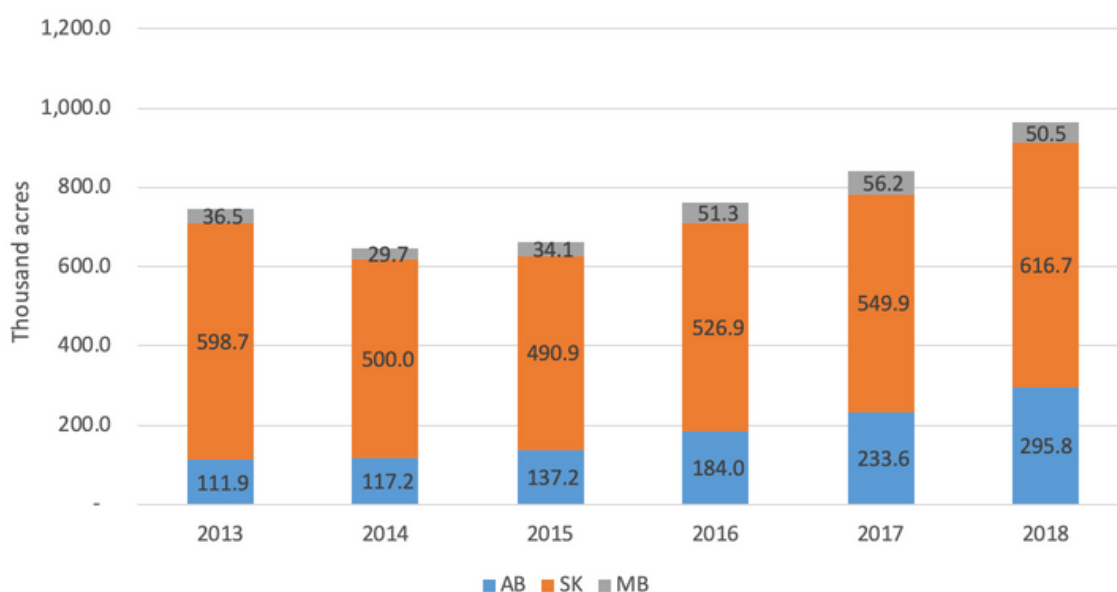
** The category includes perennial and annual forages, permanent pasture, fallow land, green manures, wild collection and natural areas.

Although pulses comprise just eight percent of the total organic Prairie acreage, they have experienced significant growth (117%) since 2015. The greatest growth (402%) was recorded in the "Other field crops" category. This category includes hemp, corn, buckwheat, field crops and forage seeds, and other field crops with no details provided by the certifiers. This growth was driven in large part by the expansion of organic hemp acreage which was responsible for over half of the increase in the category between 2016 and 2018. However, hemp production decreased 34% between 2017 and 2018. Organic buckwheat acreage counts for the highest increase between 2017 and 2018, with a 318% increase from the previous year. The Prairies account for 40% of Canada's organic buckwheat acreage and 87% of Canada's organic hemp acreage.

Detailed Acreage

FIELD CROPS

FIGURE 9 | ORGANIC FIELD CROPS, 2013 – 2018



Field crops continue to play a central role in the organic sector in the Prairies. This category includes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and other field crops like hemp, buckwheat, and corn. Field crop acres declined between 2013 and 2014 but, have been on the rise ever since. The dip in field crop production in 2014 was primarily due to a drop in Saskatchewan's field crop acreage. In 2018, Saskatchewan's field crop production surpassed 2013 numbers (by 3%) for the first time. Alberta has seen a steady rise, while Manitoba's field crop acreage decreased in 2018 but still exceeded 2013 numbers.

CEREALS

Cereals are the largest subcategory of field crops in the Prairies, representing 66% of national organic field crop acreage. In organic and mainstream agriculture, the Prairies lead overall cereal production. 88% of Canada's organic cereals are grown in the Prairie region and the numbers have been rising steadily in recent years. Saskatchewan is home to roughly two-thirds of organic cereal acreage in the Prairies.

The portion of national acreage based in the Prairies varies for different crops. 90% percent of organic oat acreage are on the Prairies. Almost all Kamut® acreage is in Alberta and Saskatchewan, making up 99% of national organic Kamut® acreage.

Figure 11 shows changes within the top cereal categories of wheat, oats, and barley. Wheat production has been steadily increasing in the Prairies, despite 2018 decreases in Manitoba. Spring wheat accounts for 54% of total wheat production in the Prairies, and it is very likely that a large percentage of the wheat that was not categorized by certifiers was also spring wheat. Oat acreage has shown gradual expansion, while barley acreage in the region decreased significantly, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Note that certifiers do not provide details on how crops are utilized. Much of the rye grown in the Prairie is likely used for animal forage and as a fall cover crop. In this report, we have categorized the entire rye crop under field crops.

TABLE 3 | ORGANIC CEREAL ACREAGE BY PROVINCE, 2018

	AB	SK	MB	Prairie Total	Cdn Total	% Cdn Total
Barley	16,669	27,780	4,992	49,441	58,519	85%
Oats	85,173	112,510	13,670	211,354	234,717	90%
Rye	2,343	10,669	2,315	15,326	21,857	70%
Wheat	83,566	262,451	9,097	355,113	399,500	89%
Other cereals*	355	2,770	446	3,572	22,851	16%
CEREAL TOTAL	188,106	434,204	30,519	652,830	745,658	88%

* Other cereals include millet, quinoa and other cereals with no details listed.

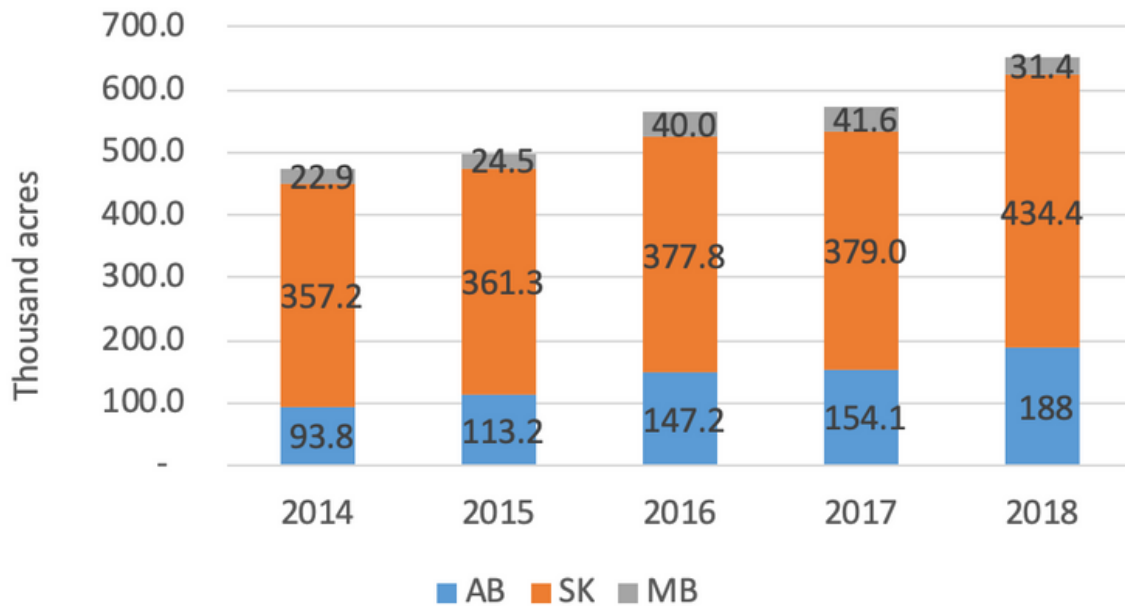
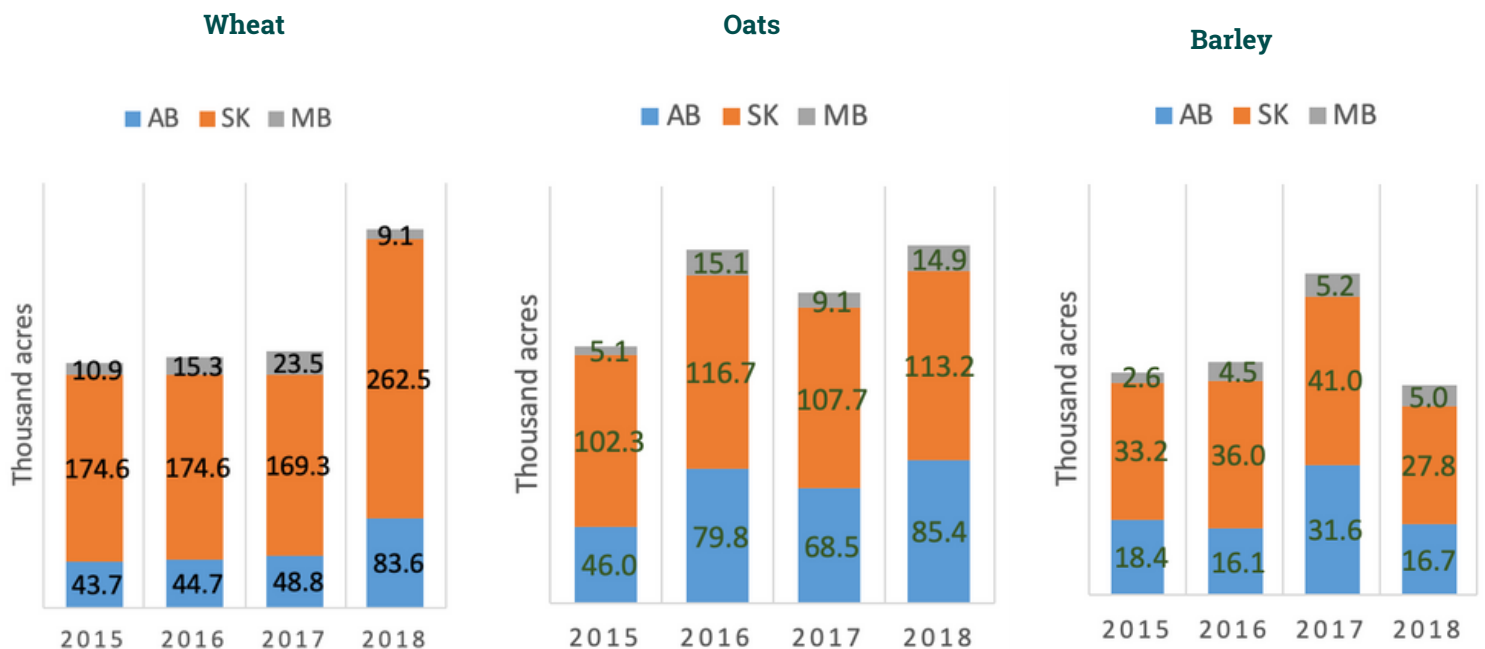
FIGURE 10 | TOTAL ORGANIC CEREAL ACREAGE, 2013 – 2018**FIGURE 11 | WHEAT, OAT AND BARLEY ACREAGE, 2013 – 2018**

TABLE 4 | ORGANIC WHEAT ACREAGE BY TYPE AND PROVINCE, 2018

	AB	SK	MB	Prairie Total	% Total Wheat
Spring Wheat	46,600	140,600	4,100	191,400	54%
Durum Wheat	8,300	27,800	0.00	36,100	10%
Kamut®	1,801	18,025	0.5	19,827	5%
Ancient Wheats	2,700	1,700	2,000	6,400	2%
Winter Wheat	800	2,100	55	3,000	1%
Wheat - other	23,400	90,200	2,900	116,500	33%

PULSES

Pulses are the edible seeds of plants in the legume family and are harvested when dried. Pulses are a top Canadian organic export. 97% percent of Canada's organic pulse acreage is in the Prairie region, including 98% of organic lentils and 95% of organic dried peas. Pulse acres have increased significantly since 2015, from under 90,000 acres to over 192,000 in 2018. In terms of total acreage, peas are the largest category in the Prairies at over 124,000 acres and have seen a steady increase since 2015, with Alberta having the highest number of acreages. Keep in mind that certifiers do not provide details about the end use of crops. We have included all peas as field crops except for those specifically designated as fresh peas which are included under vegetables and forage peas, which have been categorized as green manures although it is likely that some of the forage peas are grown for livestock fodder. Lentils have less than half the acreage of peas and experienced a slight drop between 2016 and 2017, decreasing again in 2018 but still surpassing 2016 numbers.

Saskatchewan has by far the largest acres of organic lentils, with 98% of the Canadian total. Pea acreage has seen dramatic growth, driven by expansion in Alberta, especially in McKenzie County in the far north.

TABLE 5 | ORGANIC PULSE ACREAGE BY PROVINCE, 2018

	AB	SK	MB	Prairie Total	Cdn Total	% Cdn Total
Beans	1,100	1,700	200	2,900	4,619	43%
Lentils	3,822	54,229	-	58,051	58,966	98%
Peas	75,325	46,193	3,178	124,696	130,017	96%
Other pulses*	600	1,500	2,500	4,600	9,002	87%
PULSE TOTAL	61,415	75,526	4,072	192,635	199,188	97%

* Other pulses include chickpeas and fava beans, as well as pulses with no details provided.. Note that soybeans are not included in pulses as they are considered an oilseed.

FIGURE 12 | TOTAL ORGANIC PULSE ACREAGE, 2015 – 2018

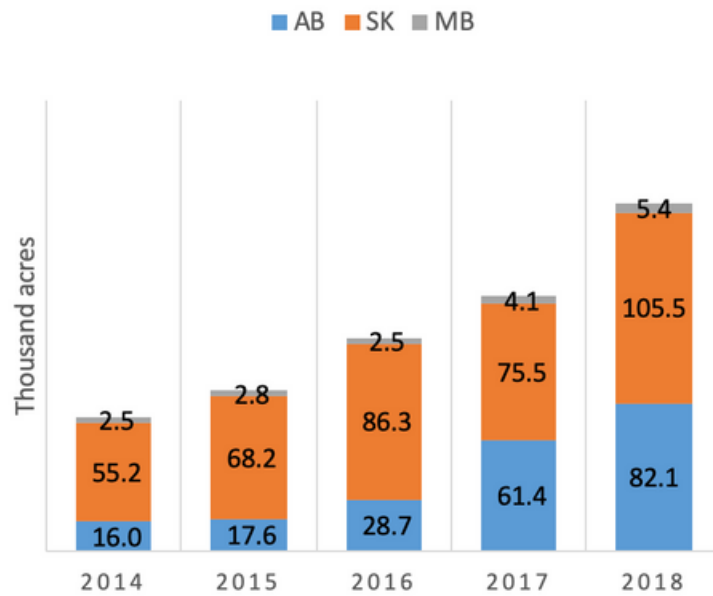
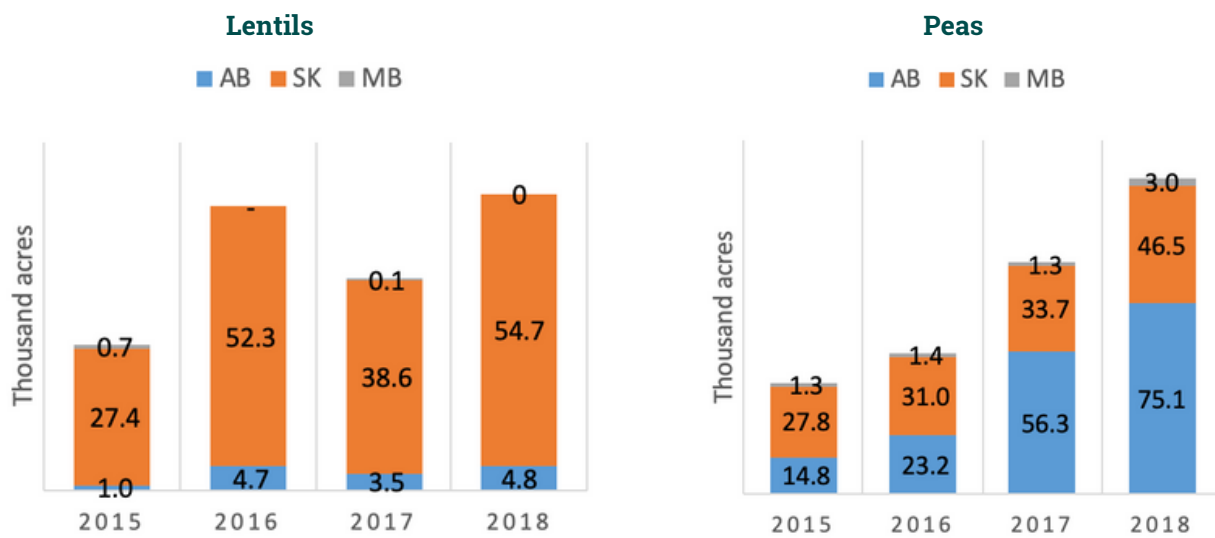


FIGURE 13 | ORGANIC LENTIL AND PEA ACREAGE, 2013 – 2018



Oilseeds

Oilseed crops play an important role in crop rotations helping to diversify both the rotation and the income stream. Nationally, 59% of organic oilseed acreage are in the Prairies, with most of the acres located in Saskatchewan. Nearly all of Canada's flax and mustard acreage is in the Prairies.

Very little organic canola is grown in Canada. The Canadian Organic Standards prohibit the use of genetically engineered (GE) crops and include separation requirements to reduce the risk of contamination. Because of the prevalence of GE canola in non-organic production in the Prairies, there are very few locations where organic canola can be grown.

TABLE 6 | ORGANIC OILSEED ACREAGE BY PROVINCE, 2018

	AB	SK	MB	Prairie Total	Cdn Total	% Cdn Total
Flax	5,157	51,104	4,384	60,645	61,363	99%
Mustard	1,595	11,977	486	14,058	14,866	95%
Other oilseeds*	1,010	1,241	916	3,168	56,575	6%
OILSEED TOTAL	7,762	64,321	5,787	77,870	132,804	59%

* Other oilseeds include camelina, sunflower, canola, soy and oilseed crops with no details listed.

FIGURE 14 | TOTAL ORGANIC OILSEED ACREAGE, 2013 – 2018

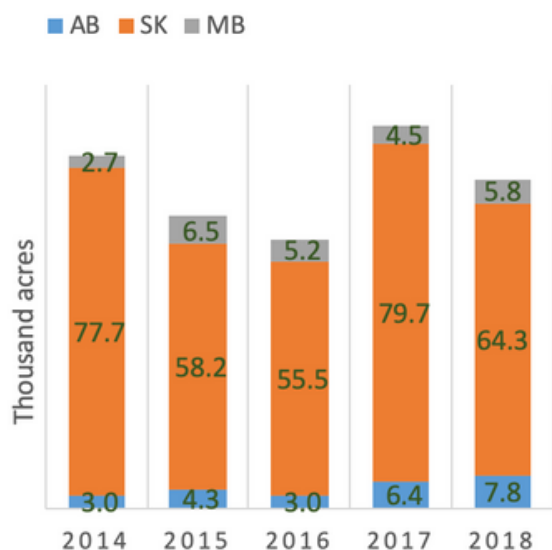
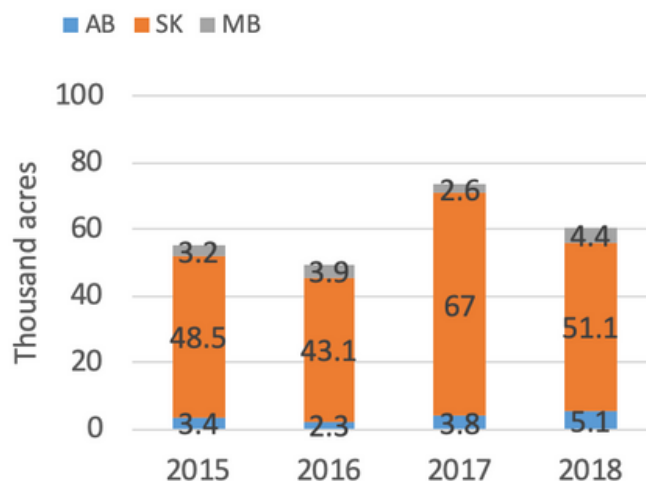


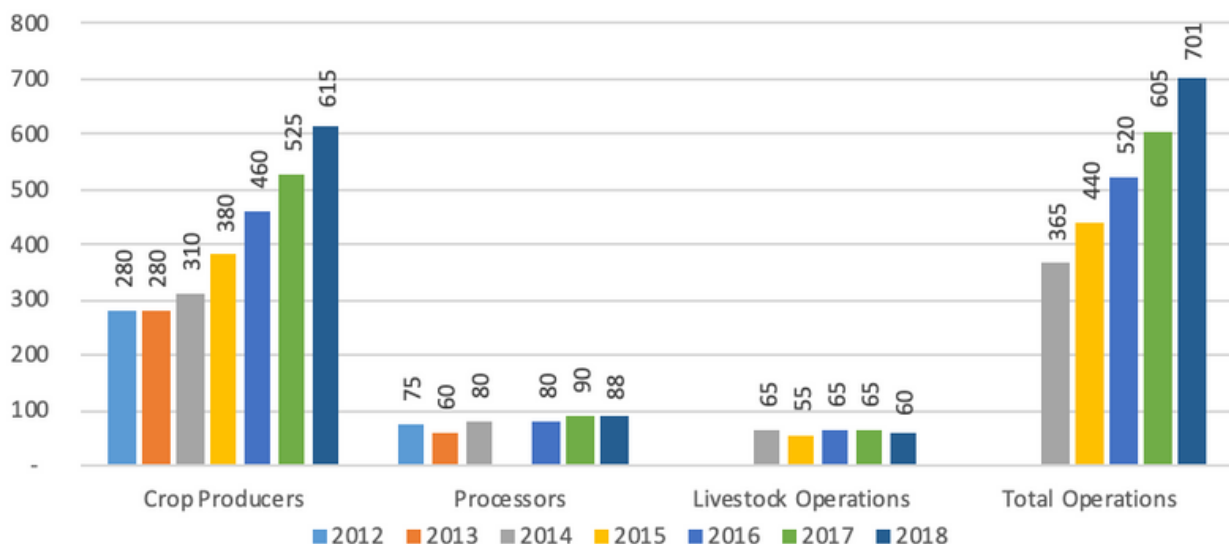
FIGURE 15 | ORGANIC FLAX ACREAGE, 2013 – 2018



Provincial Reports

ALBERTA

The number of organic operators in Alberta continues to grow at a rapid rate. Between 2014 and 2018, the province added 333 operations. This growth has been mainly driven by a large increase in the number of organic crop producers; 335 new producers have been certified since 2012. Although there has been an increase in number of organic operations in all regions of the provinces, the bulk of that increase has been in the Mackenzie County region. Between 2012 and 2018, processor numbers grew by 17 % despite the decrease between 2017 and 2018. The number of livestock operations decreased by seven percent between 2012 and 2018.



Significant acreage gains have been recorded in Alberta throughout the last four years, across most categories. Pulses, followed by "other field crops," have seen the greatest growth amongst all categories, with an impressive 368% acreage increase between 2015 and 2018. Peas, in particular, have become a very popular crop in Alberta with an increase of 280% in acreage from 2016 to 2018. Close to 61% of all organic peas grown in the Prairies are now in Alberta, with almost all of that growth occurring in the Mackenzie County region.

With an impressive 188,100 acres dedicated to cereal production, cereal crops remain the most widely grown crop in Alberta, an increase of 66% over 2015. The categories with the most acres are oats and wheat, followed by barley. Wheat has seen the greatest growth with an increase of 87% in comparison to 2015. Oats are a close second with growth of 85%.

Oilseeds remain a small crop in Alberta with an overall total of 7,800 acres, despite significant increases over the last four years. The categories that have seen the greatest growth are mustard and flax with an increase of 1,400 acres (700%) and 1,800 acres (53%), respectively.

Other field crops also remain a relatively small proportion of Alberta crop production with a total of 17,500 acres. Overall hemp acres have increased since 2015 by 2,800 acres, despite a decrease in 2018. Pasture, forage, and natural areas shrunk by about nine percent over the previous year. This may reflect the declining numbers of cattle that are certified to organic standards.

TABLE 6 | ALBERTA ORGANIC ACREAGE, 2015 - 2018

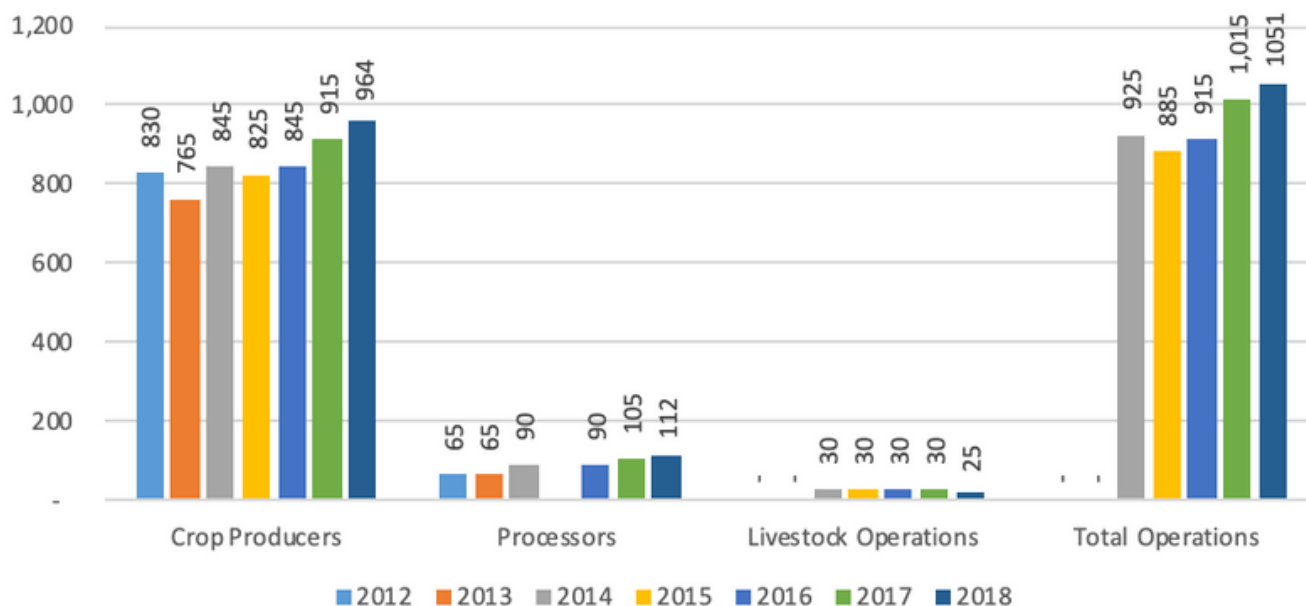
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2015 - 2017	% change 2015 - 18
Field Crops	137,900	184,000	233,600	295,900	158,000	115%
Cereals	113,200	147,200	154,100	188,100	74,900	66%
Barley	18,400	16,100	31,600	16,700	-1,700	-9%
Kamut®	1,800	2,800	2,500	1,800	-	0%
Oats	46,000	79,800	68,500	85,200	39,200	85%
Rye	2,000	2,300	2,000	2,300	300	15.0%
Wheat	43,700	44,700	48,800	81,800	38,100	87%
Other Cereals	1,300	1,500	800	355	-500	-73%
Pulses	17,600	28,700	61,400	82,400	64,800	368%
Beans	500	800	1,100	842	600	68%
Lentils	1,000	4,700	3,500	3,900	2,900	290%
Peas	14,800	23,200	56,300	75,300	60,500	280%
Other Pulses and Protein Crops	1,400	-	600	2,400	1,000	71%
Oilseeds	4,300	3,000	6,400	7,800	3,500	49%
Flax	3,400	2,300	3,800	5,200	1,800	53%
Mustard	200	400	2,300	1,600	1,400	700%
Other Oilseeds (camelina, sunflower, canola, soy)	700	-	300	1,010	310	44%
Other Field Crops	2,800	5,200	11,600	17,500	14,700	314%
Hemp	2,400	2,500	6,000	5,200	2,800	117%
Buckwheat	63	153	29	444	381	86%
Other Field Crops	400	2,600	5,600	8,300	7,900	1975%
Forage, Green manure and natural areas	305,900	305,900	306,300	278,576	-27,324	-8%
Fruits and vegetables	6,400	2,000	2,100	1,800	(4,600)	-72%
TOTAL	425,700	496,600	543,700	566,000	140,300	33%



For more resources and information on organics in Alberta,
visit the [Organic Alberta website](#).

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan has the largest organic sector in the Prairie region. Total organic operations have increased from 885 in 2015 to 1,051 in 2018. The province has also experienced a steady increase in the number of organic crop producers from 765 in 2013 to 964 in 2018. It is interesting to note, that although the number of total operations has increased by 18% since 2015, the number of crop producers increased by 26%. From 2017 to 2018 alone, the number of organic crop producers increased by 49. The number of organic processors has shown the most dramatic increase (72%) from 65 in 2013 to 112 in 2018. Livestock operations have remained stable at around 30 until 2018, when the number decreased to 25.



In Saskatchewan, in 2018, there were 1.155 million acres under organic management up from 893,200 acres in 2015. Organic acres in Saskatchewan have increased 29% since 2014. 35% of all organic acres in Canada (the most organic acres of any of the province) are in Saskatchewan and 63% of the organic acres in the Prairies Region. The province continues to be a key producer of organic field crops with 616,703 organic acres in cereals (70%), pulses (17%), oilseeds (11%), and other field crops (2%).

With an impressive 262,500 acres in organic wheat production in 2018, organic wheat is the most widely grown crop in Saskatchewan. From 2017 to 2018, there were an additional 93,000 organic wheat acres in Saskatchewan, representing a 55% growth in acres. Oat acres saw a more modest increase from 107,700 in 2017 to 113,200 in 2018. In the same time period Kamut® and barley acres experienced a significant decline. The decline in Kamut® acres reflects the interruption of the export market to Europe that has resulted from the unreasonable low-level presence (LLP) requirements for glyphosate that have been imposed. The LLP requirements have had an impact on all organic grain being exported to Europe. This restriction has had the most negative impact on Kamut® because Europe has been a significant market for the cereal. The decline in barley acres can most likely be attributed to the organic feed market dropping off due to organic soy and organic corn imports into the United States filling this market.

Pulses have seen the most growth in field crop acres between 2015 and 2018. The acres grew from 68,200 in 2015 to 104,800 in 2018 representing a 54% increase. There were 54,229 acres of organic lentils and 46,193 acres of organic peas grown in the province in 2018. Ninety-three per cent (93%) of Canada's organic lentil production is in Saskatchewan. Although the organic flax acres were down from 2017, the crop represents

80% of organic oilseed acres in the province. The “other field crop” category has seen the most growth with a 205% increase between 2015 and 2018. The largest crop in this category is hemp which saw a 239% increase from 2,300 acres in 2015 to 7,800 acres in 2018.

Pasture, forage, and natural areas increased 34% over the last five years in Saskatchewan, and the province ranks first in the Prairies in terms of acreage in this category, particularly in fallow land, crop rotation, grass plough down, as well as acres dedicated for livestock.

TABLE 7 | SASKATCHEWAN ORGANIC ACREAGE, 2015 - 2018

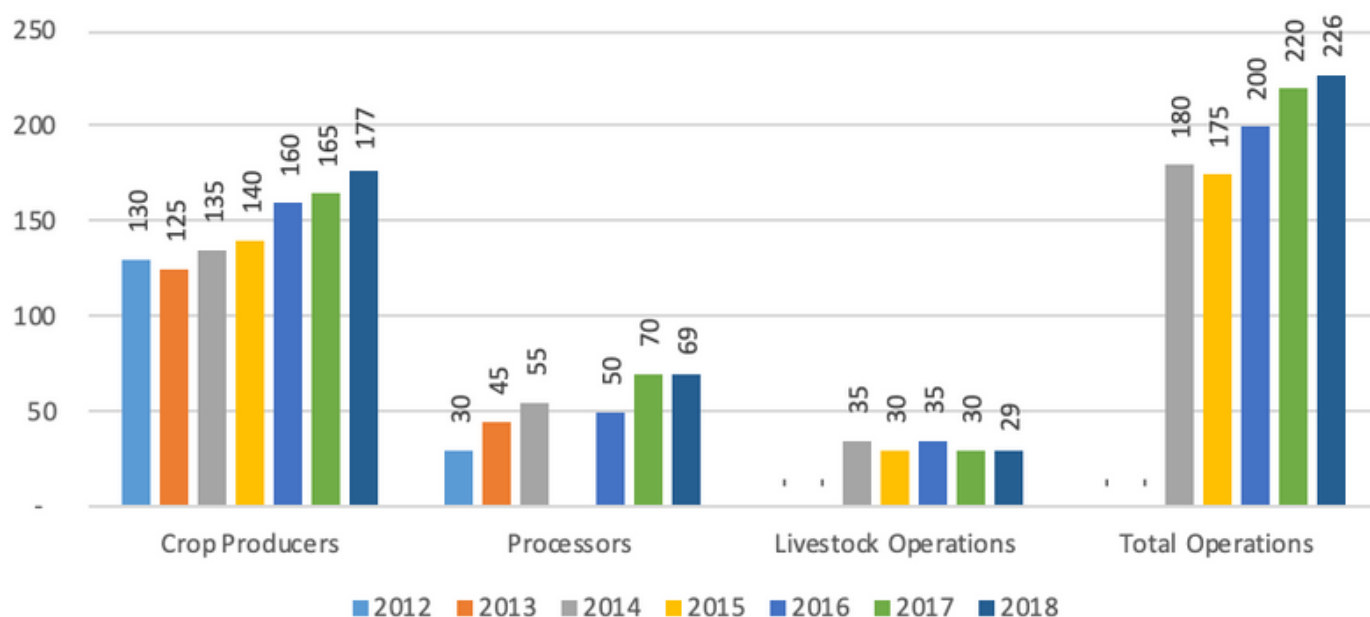
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2015 - 2018	% change 2015 - 2018
Field Crops	492,000	526,900	549,900	616,700	124,700	25%
Cereals	361,300	377,800	379,000	434,200	72,900	20%
Barley	33,200	36,000	41,000	27,800	-5,400	-16%
Kamut®	27,700	30,900	42,400	18,000	-9,700	-35%
Oats	102,300	116,700	107,700	112,500	10,200	10%
Rye	17,200	15,800	13,800	10,700	-6,500	-38%
Wheat	174,600	174,600	169,300	262,500	87,900	50%
Other Cereals	6,200	3,800	4,900	2,800	-3,400	-55%
Pulses	68,200	86,300	75,500	104,800	36,600	54%
Beans	200	2,500	1,700	555	355	178%
Lentils	27,400	52,300	38,600	54,200	26,800	98%
Peas	27,800	31,000	33,700	46,200	18,400	66%
Other Pulses and Protein Crops	12,700	500	1,500	3,900	-8,800	-69%
Oilseeds	58,200	55,500	79,700	64,300	6,100	10%
Flax	48,500	43,100	67,000	51,100	2,600	5%
Mustard	8,400	11,400	12,200	12,000	3,600	43%
Other Oilseeds	1,400	900	600	1,200	-200	-14%
Other Field Crops	4,400	7,300	15,600	13,400	9,000	205%
Hemp	2,300	2,300	7,800	3,440	1,140	50%
Buckwheat	567	2,020	769	935	368	65%
Other Field Crops	2,100	5,100	7,800	13,400	11,300	538%
Forage, Green manure and natural areas	396,700	556,600	607,900	535,200	138,500	34%
Fruits and vegetables	4,500	1,900	1,900	2,700	-1,800	-40%
TOTAL	893,200	1,085,500	1,162,300	1,155,000	261,800	29%



For more resources and information on organics in Saskatchewan, visit the [SaskOrganics website](https://www.saskorganics.ca).

Manitoba

Manitoba has a relatively small organic sector in comparison to the other Prairie provinces. Nonetheless, its total operations have increased from 180 in 2014 to 226 in 2018. The province has also witnessed a steady increase in the number of producers from 125 in 2013 to 177 in 2018. Processors have shown a more pronounced increase from 30 in 2012 to 69 in 2018. Livestock operations have remained stable at around 29. Overall, Manitoba represents three percent of organic operations in Canada.



Manitoba is home to over 121,000 organic acres. The total number of acres increased by 32% from 2015 to 2018. The main driver of this increase is the cereal category (15,900 acres added since 2015) and the forage, green manure, and natural areas category (13,700 acres added since 2015).

Although there was a decrease in acreage for rye, wheat, and other cereals, there was an overall increase of 24% in cereal acreage. This is mainly due to a significant increase in the area planted to oats (169%) and barley (92%) between 2015 and 2018.

Pulses also saw a significant increase of 93%, rising from 2,800 acres in 2015 to 5,400 in 2018. Oilseeds saw a significant decrease in acreage of 11% over the same period.

Other field crops saw a significant increase of 1,157% between 2015 and 2018. The area planted to buckwheat in 2018 was 4,112 while hemp was 2,812 acres, representing 1,185% and 1,133% growth, respectively since 2015.

TABLE 8 | MANITOBA ORGANIC ACREAGE, 2015 - 2018

	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2015 - 2018	% Change 2015 - 18
Field Crops	34,600	51,300	56,200	50,500	15,900	46%
Cereals	24,500	40,000	41,600	30,500	6,000	24%
Barley	2,600	4,500	5,200	5,000	2,400	92%
Kamut®	-	-	-	0.5	-	0%
Oats	5,100	15,100	9,100	13,700	8,600	169%
Rye	3,500	3,100	3,700	2,300	-1,200	-34%
Wheat	10,900	15,300	23,500	9,100	-1,800	-17%
Other Cereals	2,400	2,000	100	446	-1,954	-81%
Pulses	2,800	2,500	4,100	5,400	2,600	93%
Beans	400	1,000	200	625	225	56%
Lentils	700	-	100	-	-700	-100%
Peas	1,300	1,400	1,300	3,200	1,900	146%
Other Pulses and Protein Crops	400	-	2,500	1,600	1,200	300%
Oilseeds	6,500	5,200	4,500	5,800	-700	-11%
Flax	3,200	3,900	2,600	4,400	1,200	38%
Mustard	1,500	500	700	485	-1,015	-68%
Other Oilseeds (camelina, sunflower, canola, soy)	1,800	800	300	916	-884	-49%
Other Field Crops	700	3,600	6,000	8,800	8,100	1157%
Hemp	300	2,200	4,900	3,700	3,400	1133%
Buckwheat	319	961	513	4,100	3,781	1185%
Other Field Crops	500	1,400	1,100	11,300	10,800	2160%
Forage, Green manure and natural areas	56,200	58,800	59,100	69,900	13,700	24%
Fruits and vegetables	800	1,600	2,400	1,600	800	100%
TOTAL	91,600	111,700	117,900	121,000	29,400	32%



For more resources and information on organics in Manitoba,
visit the [Manitoba Organic Alliance website](#).