

ALBERTA BY NUMBERS

I



Servings of fruits and vegetables consumed daily by the average Albertan: 3.8
Number of farms in Alberta: 53,000
Percentage of Alberta's total land used for crop and livestock production: 30
Amount of chicken the average Albertan eats in a year: 30.3 kg
Percentage increase of greenhouse production in Alberta since 1994: 90
Number of Albertans employed in growing or processing food: 90,000+
Rank of Alberta as an agricultural producer among provinces in Canada: 2
Percentage of Canada's wheat that is produced in Alberta: 30;
of Canada's sugar beets: 100

II



Rank of food processing in Alberta's manufacturing sector: 1
(bigger than oil and gas)
Proportion of Alberta's agri-food exports that went to the U.S. in 2002:
60%/\$3-billion
Value of vegetables processed in Alberta: \$151-million per year
Potatoes' share of commercial vegetable production: 93%
Alberta mushroom operations' contribution to the economy: \$21-million
Rank of Albertans in per capita restaurant spending: 1

III



Number of cases of mad cow disease found in Alberta in May 2003: 1
Price per hundredweight of cattle ready for slaughter before BSE found: \$107;
price just weeks later after more than two dozen countries closed borders to
Canadian beef: \$65
Value of Alberta farm cash receipts from cattle in 2002: \$3.8-billion;
in 2003: \$2.5-billion
Profit per head of cattle for Alberta's "big three" packers—Lakeside,
Cargill and XL—before BSE crisis began: \$70; profit afterward: \$216; percentage
increase, before taxes and interest: 281
Of \$402-million in government aid distributed in Alberta as of June 2004, amount
paid to Lakeside: \$33-million; to Cargill: \$9-million
2002 sales by Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, owners of \$150-million Lakeside Packers
plant in Brooks: \$23.4-billion US
Lakeside's hourly wages: \$10-\$17; their annual payroll in Brooks: \$90-million;
rank among the town's largest employers: 1
Number of Lakeside workers, mostly Sudanese refugees, who claim they were
dismissed for "sticking up for workers' rights" in Apr 2004: 60

IV



Year the Canadian Wheat Board Act was passed: 1935
WT0 member nations voting in 2004 to declare that the wheat board constitutes an
unfair subsidy for Canadian farmers: 146;
countries voting against the declaration: 1 (Canada)
Amount the Alberta government spent in past two years on campaign urging farmers
to fight for "free choice" in grain marketing: \$650,000
Number of Canadian farmers charged with breaking wheat board rules by selling
gain directly to buyers in Montana in 1996: 14;
range of fines they paid: \$1,000-\$7,500
Amount federal government paid Canadian farmers to make up for wheat board
shortfalls in 2002-03 fiscal year: \$85-million
