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INSIGHT - INDUSTRY FACTS



More than **14,295** dairy, poultry and egg farmers provide access to fresh, local, high-quality food for Canadians.¹

Canada's dairy, poultry and egg sectors:



SUPPORT
430,978
JOBS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.²



CONTRIBUTE
\$14.86B
IN TAXES.³



DELIVER
\$45.13B
TO CANADA'S GDP.⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024).
The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada [Data].

Message from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Once again this year, the Downtown Diner is setting up shop on Sparks Street in Ottawa, to recognize our egg, poultry and dairy farm families across Canada for working so hard each and every day to supply us all with the high-quality, sustainable, locally-produced food products that Canadians want and enjoy.

This year's theme—'Canadian food, raised by Canadian farmers'—underscores the invaluable contribution they make to our health, well-being and food security. In my home province of Prince Edward Island and right across this great country, they are the backbone of our rural communities, while driving our economy with over \$15 billion in farmgate sales and hundreds of thousands of good, local jobs.

Canada is leading the world in on-farm innovations to help producers reduce emissions, while strengthening animal welfare and improving on-farm food safety and biosecurity. It's time that our farmers get the credit they deserve. Our new government is working to build the strongest economy in the G7, but you can't get there without agriculture. It's nearly 7% of our GDP and 1 in 9 jobs across the country. It's time to seize opportunities, encourage more young people to see a future in the sector, and make sure more Canadians know where their food comes from, and the work that goes into it.

A big thanks to Egg Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada, and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers for your continued support of the Downtown Diner, which is such a great ambassador to Canadians of the tasty local food—brought to you by our hardworking farm families.

And thanks to everyone for stopping to sample some of our delicious and nutritious Canadian dairy, poultry and egg products. As Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, I will continue to do all I can to help Canadians recognize the enormous contribution that our farmers make to feeding our country—and our economy.



The Honourable Heath MacDonald is Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.



How supply management helps farmers produce dairy “the Canadian way”



A fifth-generation dairy farming family in New Brunswick.

In the midst of this year's uncertainty, all industries have seen a renewed interest from Canadians who want to learn more about where their food comes from and how Canadian farmers support Canada's food security.

Canada's dairy farmers have been delivering high-quality Canadian milk for generations, ensuring that the dairy Canadians love is readily available when they need it.

Simply put, *food security* means Canadians have a steady supply of nutritious foods like dairy. *Food sovereignty* means these foods

are made by Canadians, for Canadians to Canadian standards, with revenue supporting Canadians and the communities they live in.

For dairy, one of the country's five supply-managed sectors, this supports 270,000 jobs, contributes \$28 billion to our GDP, and generates \$9 billion in tax revenue.⁵ With supply management, we minimize the impacts of price fluctuations and help keep small family farms thriving across Canada.

Supply management protects our food supply because, rather than looking outward, we can count on our nation's farmers to deliver basic

staples. During the COVID-19 pandemic, dairy farmers were still delivering a reliable supply of nutritious, high-quality food to every corner of the country when other foods were missing from shelves. By maintaining its focus on Canadians, the system maintains its effectiveness when international trade and external supply chains are impeded.

And more Canadians than ever are looking to the Blue Cow quality milk logo or the words “product of Canada” on their dairy products. Recent data shows that 81% of Canadians report a preference for purchasing dairy products made from Canadian milk.⁶ They can do this with confidence because the Blue Cow is a certification beyond local production—it's an emblem of the industry's commitment to following some of the highest standards in the world.

Protecting the Canadian way of producing milk is about upholding these high standards, many of which begin at the farm level through the proAction® program. With 82 standards, Canadian dairy farmers establish specific processes and protocols to reduce risk and prevent food safety hazards on their farms. By following these requirements, farmers meet or exceed stringent safety protocols as well as federal and provincial regulations.

Canada's dairy farms play a key role in sustaining a strong domestic agricultural sector and healthy communities. For rural Canada, family-run dairy farms are essential to culture and communities. With over 9,000 farms from coast to coast, supply management fosters significant rural investment and helps to preserve the identity and future viability of these communities.

But most importantly, supply management ensures that all Canadians have reliable access to a steady stream of high-quality, nutritious food made right here in Canada.

After all, you can't put a true price on the value of a country's sovereignty and security, in the food sector and beyond.

To learn more about the Canadian dairy industry, visit dairyfarmersofcanada.ca.

⁵ Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024). *The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada [Data]*. <https://dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/en/dairy-in-canada/dairy-at-work/food-security>

⁶ IMI International. (2025, March).

From farm to community: Canadian turkey farmers' commitment to community and food security



The turkey industry in Canada generates \$5.6 billion in economic activity annually, supporting over 18,300 jobs across rural and urban centres. The turkey industry also contributes over \$1.9 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁷

Currently, there are more than 510 turkey farmers across Canada working year-round to supply nutritious, Canadian-made turkey to Canadians. These turkey farmers do more than producing high-quality, local turkey—they also play an active role in communities across the country. This is in part because of the stability provided by the system of supply management, which allows the farmers to invest in local economies, support local businesses and give back in meaningful ways.

These meaningful contributions include turkey farmers' donations to local food banks and their participation in local economies for their operational needs, whether it's purchasing materials for barn construction or supporting costs for software and insurance. This is all part of a ripple effect powered by a stable, made-in-Canada food system that focuses on providing high-quality food to consumers from coast to coast.

Turkey Farmers of Canada in partnership with the processing sector also created the **Wishbone Project**, a charitable arm of Canada's turkey industry. Initially launched in 2020 in response to rising food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wishbone Project has continued to grow.

In 2023, recognizing the continued economic pressures Canadians faced, the Canadian turkey industry introduced the Wishbone Awards: a national initiative to recognize eight individuals who go above and beyond to fight hunger in their communities, awarding them with grants to fund their efforts.

“The Wishbone Awards are about recognizing the everyday heroes who remind us that food is about more than sustenance, it's about connection, too,” says Darren Ference, turkey farmer and Chair of Turkey Farmers of Canada. “Now more than ever, it's important to champion and celebrate the local heroes supporting our communities.”

To learn more about Canadian turkey and turkey farms, visit turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca.

⁷ Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024). *The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada [Data]*. https://www.eggfarmers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-06-26_Economic-impact_Poultry-and-egg.pdf

From egg to chick: How Canada's Hatching Egg Producers are keeping Canadian chicken on our tables



From coast to coast, every broiler chicken starts with a fertilized egg supplied by a hatching egg producer.

When it comes to the poultry supply chain, there's no question whether the chicken or the egg came first: from our point of view, it all starts with a *broiler hatching egg*. An integral part of Canada's food system, hatching egg producers play a vital role in delivering a steady supply of fertilized eggs that hatch into the broiler chickens for chicken farmers to raise, and for Canadians to enjoy year-round. The ability of these farmers to deliver a reliable, domestic broiler egg supply is a critical first step in Canada's poultry supply chain.

Earlier this year, that reliability was tested with avian influenza outbreaks and trade tensions creating strains on hatching egg production and supply across multiple provinces. From Nova Scotia to British Columbia,

producers faced challenges head-on, including delays in replacing flocks and difficulty for Canadian Hatcheries to meet import quotas as the United States faced its own avian influenza outbreaks.

For Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) and its hatching egg farming members, Canada's system of supply management was a vital tool in maintaining a strong and resilient supply chain throughout these ups and downs. Essentially, supply management allows for coordination across provinces between hatching egg producers and with partner organizations like Chicken Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Hatchery Federation, helping stabilize supply and ensure Canadians continue to have access to domestically produced chicken no matter what.

"The strength of our supply-managed system is that it enables this kind of cross-country collaboration," says Brian Bilkes, hatching egg farmer and Chair of Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. "When one area faces pressure, others step in to help. That's how we maintain continuity across the entire poultry sector."

The recent passage of Bill C-202 reflects just how seriously the Canadian government sees this need for food sovereignty and a flexible and adaptable food system. CHEP and Canada's egg, poultry and dairy industries welcome this support as it reinforces the importance of Canada's homegrown food systems.

To learn more about the Canadian hatching egg industry, visit chep-poic.ca.

Resilient by design: How Canadian egg farmers strengthen our food system and food security



Roger Pelissero, a third-generation egg farmer and Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada, is part of a network of over 1,200 regulated Canadian egg farmers from coast to coast.

In a world facing trade uncertainty, economic volatility and climate events, Canadian egg farmers from coast to coast are making a powerful impact, delivering a stable, year-round supply of fresh, high-quality Canadian eggs for Canadians. This level of dependability on Canadian egg farmers and eggs—a nutritious staple food we can all rely on—is thanks in part to Canada's system of supply management, a system that a majority (91% of Canadians) believe must be preserved.⁸ Time and time again, supply management has proven to be a cornerstone of a stable domestic food supply and Canada's food sovereignty, and an enabler of economic and community resilience. Here is why:

Canadian egg farmers collaborate to ensure fresh, high-quality eggs are available right here at home. The spirit of collaboration is baked into supply management, ensuring Canadians always have access to high-quality eggs. For example, when avian influenza outbreaks impacted British Columbia last year, egg farmers in other parts of Canada were able to help. Eggs were shipped from neighbouring provinces safely and quickly, helping to maintain the local supply of eggs while further demonstrating the

strength of Canada's agricultural sector and the adaptability of our supply chain.

Canadian egg farmers produce eggs with care. Supply management plays a crucial role in underpinning Canadian food safety standards and maintaining food quality, given that all regulated Canadian egg farmers from coast to coast adhere to rigorous food safety and animal welfare programs that further strengthen our national food system. The stability of the system allows farmers to reinvest in their operations and seek new and innovative farming practices, while giving Canadians peace of mind.

Canadian egg farmers make contributions beyond quality, nutritious food. Egg farmers are not only feeding Canadians with the eggs they want and enjoy, they are also contributing to local and national economies by supporting 19,827 jobs, contributing \$1.9 billion to Canada's GDP, and generating \$675 million in tax revenue.⁹ Egg farmers support other local businesses and many give back to their communities through partnerships with food banks, school breakfast programs and other community organizations. Bottom line: Canadian egg

farmers are part of a resilient, self-reliant food system built for the long-term success of Canada's rural and urban communities nationwide and our national interest.

"A dependable Canadian food supply chain remains critical not just for farmers but for all Canadians," says Roger Pelissero, egg farmer and Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada. "Supply management is an essential part of that equation, allowing us to feed our fellow Canadians today and for generations to come. That's why we're calling on our country's leaders to continue championing this critical system, because we cannot afford to compromise on our ability to deliver food for Canadians—Canada's food security, and the vitality of all our communities depends on it."

To learn more about egg farming in Canada, visit eggfarmers.ca.

⁸ KPMG in Canada. (2025, March 4). *KPMG in Canada Tariff Survey [Survey data]*. <https://kpmg.com/ca/en/home/media/press-releases/2025/03/two-thirds-can-weather-a-trade-war-for-12-plus-months.html>

⁹ Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024). *The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada [Data]*. https://www.eggfarmers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025-06-27_Economic-contribution_Egg-sector.pdf

Sustainability in action: New life cycle assessment highlights ongoing progress on the farm



Chicken barn in Wellesley, Ontario. Canadian chicken farmers are committed to continued improvement on environmental sustainability.

Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) has released the results of its latest life cycle assessment (LCA), offering a clear snapshot of the sector's continued progress on environmental sustainability.

The assessment, conducted by Groupe AGÉCO, reviewed greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and on-farm practices across the chicken sector, updating data first collected in 2016 and helping inform the industry's long-term planning.

Since the last review, the carbon footprint of producing one kilogram of chicken has dropped by 6%, thanks in

large part to improvements in feed efficiency and on-farm management.¹⁰ While the reduction may seem modest, it adds up significantly across the entire sector.

"Canadian chicken farmers are committed to continuous improvement," says Tim Klomp maker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada. "This LCA shows that while chicken is already one of the lowest-carbon emitting animal proteins, our sector continues to find ways to further reduce emissions and use resources more responsibly."

The data also shows that chicken production in Canada represents just 0.4% of the country's total greenhouse gas

emissions—a relatively small footprint, with room for further gains.¹¹ According to the LCA, many farmers are already planning upgrades in the next five years, including improved barn ventilation, insulation, smart automation, and energy-efficient lighting.

"These results are part of a long-term journey," adds Klomp maker. "We are proud of what our farmers have achieved so far, and we remain committed to working with our partners to continue driving meaningful improvements."

Supply management plays a key role in making these investments possible. By offering farmers the stability they need to plan for the future, it helps ensure the industry can continue to meet growing sustainability expectations from consumers, retailers, and regulators alike.

To learn more about chicken farming in Canada, visit chickenfarmers.ca.

¹⁰ Groupe AGÉCO. (2025). *Canadian chicken production life cycle assessment update*. Report prepared for Chicken Farmers of Canada.

¹¹ Groupe AGÉCO. (2025). *Canadian chicken production life cycle assessment update*. Report prepared for Chicken Farmers of Canada.

How does supply management work?

To work efficiently and effectively, supply management is built on three important pillars: Production management, import control, and producer pricing. Each pillar is equally important in ensuring the system operates smoothly, bringing benefits to Canadians and farmers alike.



Production Management



- To match the supply of dairy, poultry, and egg production with demand in the Canadian marketplace, a quota system is used. This ensures there are no surpluses or shortages by accounting for a variety of factors such as per capita consumption, trends in the market, and changes in our Canadian population.
- This approach avoids under and overproduction, and builds important stability in the supply chain of staple food items. This is a key factor in ensuring domestic food security for our communities and the food sovereignty of our country.

Import Control



- Canada uses Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) to keep imports predictable, and these quotas are based on negotiated trade agreements with other countries.
- This pillar ensures our system considers current trade agreements and import volumes of foreign dairy, poultry, and egg products. The predictability of imports plays a crucial role in determining how much dairy, poultry and egg products must be produced domestically to satisfy Canadian needs.

Producer Price



- To ensure farmers receive a fair price for their product that covers their cost of production, producer prices are based on the expenses necessary for its production, such as input costs (e.g. animal feed, fuel, equipment and labour).
- By ensuring farmers are paid fairly and predictably for their work, supply management supports the long-term sustainability of their farming operations and rural economies.