

AGRIBUSINESS

With direct access to a strong agricultural base, Calgary and Southern Alberta is a well-connected region with clear collaboration across geographic areas, industries, and research and training institutions. We have experts in all things ag – including primary production, protein development, agtech innovation, and food safety and traceability, making this a hotspot for Canadian and global food and technology suppliers.

THE CALGARY ADVANTAGE

Anchor Firms Call Calgary Home

Calgary offers proximity to customers and primary agricultural commodities. In fact, with a 20-minute drive you can go from major metropolitan city to being on an actual farm. With the strength of our agriculture sector, multinational industry leaders have major operations in the region. These firms represent key decision makers in the industry, employers of high-value jobs and are leaders in agricultural innovation.



Proximity to Agricultural Base

Southern Alberta has historically been an agricultural area, with large-scale production of acreage crops, protein crops, livestock and some greenhouses. The region has ample access to water and enjoys a sunny climate favourable to growing.

Western Canada's Inland Port

With one of Canada's busiest airports, two Class 1 railroads, and road access to key North American and international markets, Calgary is an ideal distribution hub for firms to sell their products globally to millions of consumers. Within a one-day drive, you can access a market of more than 11 million customers and rail transit from west coast ports averages only 48 hours. Alberta exports primary and processed agricultural and food products to over 150 countries.

\$11.2B

of Canada's total agrifood exports in 2018 were from Alberta, representing 19.3% of the country's agrifood exports

70%

of Canada's total irrigated land is in Alberta

50,350,183

acres of farm land in Alberta, covering about one-third of the province.

Primary farm type in Alberta:

30% - cattle/beef

26% - grain and oilseed farms

16% - other animal production

16% - other field crops

7% - wheat

calgary

be part of the energy™

LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Calgary is a hub for precision agriculture and agricultural technology, with more than 22 facilities in Alberta playing an important role in ag research and innovation. Closely linked to these institutions is a strong research and innovation presence in the region, specifically within the production element of the agricultural value chain. The area is known for rapid adoption of new technology, with a strong applied research presence.

\$246M

With a growth projection at 13 per cent year-over-year, Calgary's agribusiness sector is projected to invest \$246 million in digital transformation by 2024.

Calgary Economic Development and IDC Canada

DEEP TALENT POOL

In 2018, Alberta's agri-food industry employed 75,600 people, throughout various subsectors and specialties. In Alberta, 64% of the province aged 25-64 has a postsecondary education, the largest proportion of Canada's Western provinces. The region's agricultural training institutions also help to create a potential workforce with relevant knowledge and training in agriculture.



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT



Creative Destruction Labs Rockies

Launched CDL Ag, a new stream designed to help grow seed-stage science and technology-based startups in the agriculture and food space.



SAIT

Offers programs in food and beverage leadership and advanced manufacturing.



District Ventures

Accelerator program for companies in the food and beverage, and health and wellness industries.



University of Calgary

Veterinary medicine program is ranked in the top 50 worldwide. Recently launched the Simpson Centre for Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public Education.



Lethbridge College

Offers agricultural sciences and enterprise management programs.



University of Lethbridge

Offers programs in agriculture studies and business.



Olds College

Living lab for hands-on learning, innovation, validation, demonstration and scaling of smart, connected ag technology through industry partnerships.



Zone Startups Calgary

Partnership with UFA will help to connect startups with an avenue to market validation and commercialization of agriculture technology solutions.