



Indicator list for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Food System Task Force

Goals	Indicators
People	1. Number of people employed in the agriculture and food sector
	2. Number and size of farms
	3. Types of crops and livestock being generated in the region
	4. Number of farms with BC Farm Class Tax Status
	5. Support for a local or regional food charter
	6. Number of applications to the ALC in the last 5 years
Planet	7. Types of retail options for farms
	8. Number of certified organic farms
	9. Number of local and regional curbside organic pickup services
	10. Number of Farmers Markets
Prosperity	11. Farm gate sales
	12. Number of farms with succession plans
	13. Value of non-land and non-building farm assets
	14. Cost of a nutritious food basket
	15. Number of people accessing food banks



GOAL: People

INDICATOR 1: Number of people employed in the agriculture and food sector

Total number of Farm Employees: 126¹

According to the Statistics Canada 2016 Census Profile for the SLRD, there were 720 people employed in the NAICS category of “Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.” Unfortunately the combination of forestry and agriculture make it difficult to see how many specifically are involved in farming, however it is expected to be on the low end, based on the number of farms (138) and the fact that they do not all have farm employees.

Other NAICS categories that may overlap with food sector employment include “Accommodation and food services” (4,660 people – although this also includes those working in hotels) and “Health care and social assistance” to capture Vancouver Coastal Health and Interior Health initiatives (2,165 people – although this also includes those working in hospitals and clinics).

The number of food and beverage businesses in the SLRD is available based on Statistics Canada data.

Business Type	Number of Businesses
Bakery	8
Coffee and tea manufacturing	5
Brewery	4
Snack manufacturing	2
Winery	2
Distillery	2
Seafood preparation and packaging	1
Chocolate manufacturing	1
Seasoning and dressings	1

*Data Source:
2016 Census of Agriculture and the
Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet
Regional District.*

INDICATOR 2: Number and size of farms

Number of farms in the SLRD in 2016: 138 and average farm size: 135 acres (55 hectares)

Farm Size (acres)	Number of Farms
< 10	32
10 to 69	58
70 to 129	8
130 to 179	10
180 to 239	4
240 to 399	10
400 to 559	10
> 560	6

The majority of farms are under 70 acres, and 23% are under 10 acres.

*Data Source:
This information is based on the 2016
Census of Agriculture. Farms classified by
total farm area and the
Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet
Regional District.*

¹Reported by 28 out of 138 farms, indicating that not all farms have employees.

INDICATOR 3: Types of crops and livestock being generated in the region

All numbers are from 2016 Census of Agriculture for the SLRD.

Crop Type	Hectares
Hay Crops	1642
Field Crops	464
Fruits, Berries, Nuts	38
Vegetables (field)	49
Nursery Products	x
Greenhouse Flower Production	x
Greenhouse Vegetable Production	x
Other Greenhouse Production	x
Christmas Trees	x

x - indicates farms reporting but information suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Animals on Farms	Farms Reporting	Number of Animals
Cattle & Calves	46	2,425
Hens & Chickens	45	2,275
Horses & Ponies	42	174
Beef Cows	32	x
Colonies of Bees for Honey	19	642
Sheep & Lambs	13	215
Pigs	7	59
Goats	4	25
Turkeys	3	65
Dairy Cows	2	x

x - indicates farms reporting but information suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Data source: Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. 2016 Census. BC Ministry of Agriculture.

INDICATOR 4: Number of farms with BC Farm Class Tax Status

According to 2015 data, there were a total of 111 farms with Farm Class tax status within the SLRD. This represents 80% of the 138 farms reporting.

Data Source: BC Farm Tax Data. 2015. BC Assessment. District of Squamish, Squamish Rural, District of Lillooet, Lillooet Rural, Village of Pemberton.

INDICATOR 5: Support for a local or regional food charter

Squamish Food Charter

Adopted by District of Squamish, July 2015, this charter has been signed by several organizations and individuals.

Neither the SLRD nor the municipalities of Pemberton, Lillooet, and Whistler have adopted Food Charters.

INDICATOR 6: Number of applications to the Agricultural Land Commission in the last 5 years

Applications from July 2015 – April 2019 for the SLRD (including member municipalities)

Application Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Number
Non-Farm Use	0	1	0	2	1	4
Soil Deposit/Fill	0	1	0	0	0	1
Subdivision	0	0	1	1	0	2
Exclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0

It is worthwhile noting that this indicator will be a bit of a moving target, as the new ALR General Regulation and ALR Use Regulation now require applications for homes larger than 500 m² and for any secondary farm dwellings (including those for farm workers). This may result in an increase in applications.

Data Source:

Agricultural Land Commission online application portal.

INDICATOR 7: Types of retail options for farms

55 Farmers reported they sell directly to consumers using the following (or a combination of the following) methods:

Farms Reporting Sales of Unprocessed Agricultural Products	54
Farms Reporting Using Farm Gate, Stands, Kiosks, U-pick	43
Farms Reporting Using Farmers' Markets	22
Farms Reporting Using Community Supported Agriculture	10
Farms Reporting Sales of Value-added Products	6

There is a lack of data regarding use of local food products at restaurant establishments.

Data source:

Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. 2016 Census. BC Ministry of Agriculture.

INDICATOR 8: Number of certified organic farms

There were 19 farms that were either fully certified or transitioning to organic certification. This represents approximately 14% of farms in the SLRD.

Farms Reporting Certified Products	15
Farms Reporting in Transition Products	4

Data source:

Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. 2016 Census. BC Ministry of Agriculture.

INDICATOR 9: Number of local and regional curbside organic pickup services

As of 2019:

District of Squamish

Provides residential curbside organic pick-up

Resort Municipality of Whistler

No residential curbside pick-up for organics.

- Organic wastes can be dropped off at the local waste depots
- Businesses and strata properties must separate organics from recycling and garbage – 2017 Bylaw
- They are responsible for separating the three waste streams and delivering organics to an SLRD composting facility

Village of Pemberton

No residential curbside pick-up (for any waste)

- Organic wastes can be dropped off at the Transfer Station

District of Lillooet

No residential curbside pick-up (for any waste), no organics drop-off depots.

SLRD

Website says curbside composting is coming to Furry Creek and Britannia Beach soon

GOAL: Prosperity

INDICATOR 10: Number of Farmers Markets

There are 4 farmers markets operating in the SLRD in 2019:

- Lillooet Farmers Market
- Pemberton Farmers Market
- Whistler Farmers Market
- Squamish Farmers Market

Shoppers at farmers' markets in BC spend an average of \$28.81 per visit (2012 data).

Highlights of results for the 2012 Squamish Farmers' Market study (similar studies were not conducted for Lillooet, Pemberton, or Whistler markets):

- The estimated economic benefit of the Squamish Farmers' Market to the local economy is approximately \$1.8 million annually
- The estimated number of market customers on assessment day: 2,550 customers
- Average hourly crowd at peak of the season was estimated to be between 500-600 people
- Average customer spending per visit: \$27.78
- 51.2% of the survey respondents visit the market either 'regularly' (almost weekly) or 'frequently' (2-3 times per month)

Data source:

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS ASSESSMENT. 2012. David Connell, University of Northern British Columbia.

INDICATOR 11: Farm gate sales

Farm gate sales, or total gross farm receipts (the value of goods sold by farms), for all SLRD farms was \$10,308,917 in 2016. With 138 farm reporting, this represents an average of \$74,700 per farm. However, the average is not necessarily the best indicator, as a wide range of farm gate sales exist (see table). Nearly half of all farms reported farm gate receipts of under \$10,000.

Total gross farm receipts (excluding forest products sold)	Number of Farms
< \$10,000	66
\$10,000 to \$24,999	16
\$25,000 to \$49,999	19
\$50,000 to \$99,999	11
\$100,000 to \$249,999	12
\$250,000 to \$499,999	9
> \$500,000	5

Data Source:

Statistics Canada. 2016. Farms classified by total gross farm receipts in the year prior to the census.

INDICATOR 12: Number of farms with succession plans

In 2016, five farms in the SLRD farms reported having written succession plans, all with family members as the successors. This represents 3.6% of farms reporting to the Census.

Data source:

Agriculture in Brief, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. 2016 Census. BC Ministry of Agriculture.

INDICATOR 13: Value of non-land & non-building farm capital (assets)

This indicator represents the value of farm operations aside from the land buildings. It includes equipment, livestock, and other assets, and these are generally free from the influence of non-farming speculation, unlike land.

Capital Asset	Total Value (2016)	Number of Farms Reporting	Average Value per Farm
Farm machinery and equipment	\$13,043,896	138	\$94,520
Total tractors	\$4,679,482	118	\$39,657
Pick-ups, cargo vans, other farm vehicles	\$2,584,250	104	\$24,849
Forage harvesters, balers, mower-conditioners, etc.	\$1,202,100	50	\$24,042
Tillage, cultivation, seeding, and planting equipment	\$1,055,300	59	\$17,886
Irrigation equipment	\$1,838,864	77	\$23,881
Livestock and poultry	\$4,880,133	107	\$45,609

Data Source:

Statistics Canada. 2016. Total farm capital, SLRD.

INDICATOR 14: Cost of 'Nutritious Food Basket'

The average cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in BC, in 2017, was \$1,019 per month.

In the SLRD, food basket costs were highest in Pemberton (\$1,038) and lowest in Lillooet (\$979).

Data Source:

Food Costing in BC 2017: Assessing the affordability of healthy eating. 2018. BC Centre for Disease Control.

INDICATOR 15: Number of people accessing food banks

Squamish:

In 2016, the Squamish Food Bank helped 440 single adults, 154 families (including 255 children), and 73 seniors. An average day sees the food bank may 20 deliveries to users who are unable to access the food bank due to medical or transportation issues.

Whistler:

Whistler Community Services Society Food Bank (2016 numbers):

- The Food Bank served people 2,804 times, 733 of them were children
- 64% of users only needed the food bank 1-2 times in 2016

Pemberton:

No data was found regarding the use of the Pemberton Food Bank: sscs.ca/programs/pemberton-food-bank

Lillooet:

Lillooet Friendship Centre hosts the Lillooet Food Bank but no data was found regarding use.

Data Sources:

Whistler Community Services Society Food Bank. 2016.

Squamish Foundation, Squamish Vital Signs Report, 2017.