



# Agri-Food Exports

## Our Location Advantages

Strategically located along the CANAMEX trade corridor, Foothills County offers direct access to major highways, CP rail lines, and Calgary International Airport. Adjacent to a metro population of 1.7 million, the region connects industry with global markets and a skilled workforce. Southern Alberta is one of the world's best food growing locations making our region perfect for your next expansion.

## The Foothills Advantage

Foothills County offers a prime location for agrifood processing and export businesses. Situated at the gateway to Calgary—a global logistics hub with air, rail, and highway access—businesses here benefit from proximity to both high-volume crop production and international transportation networks. The region draws from a metro population of over 1.7 million for labour, customers, and innovation, while surrounding farmland supplies quality inputs at scale. Just south, Alberta's vast irrigated growing zones produce nearly any crop imaginable, offering year-round sourcing potential. With strong infrastructure and access to global markets, Foothills is where Alberta-grown meets world-bound.

## Export Crop Opportunities

- ✓ **Malting Barley**  
 Alberta is a global leader in malting barley, and Foothills producers grow premium varieties. With export markets in Asia and North America, barley offers strong margins and stable returns.
- ✓ **Canola**  
 Canola is Alberta's top cash crop, prized for oil and meal exports. Foothills growers benefit from processing access and shipping routes to Asia, Europe, and the U.S.
- ✓ **Wheat**  
 Hard red spring and durum wheat thrive in Foothills' soils. Close to grain terminals and international rail, the region supports efficient export to global buyers.
- ✓ **Forage (Timothy & Alfalfa)**  
 Foothills produces high-quality hay for Japan, Korea, and the Middle East. Its dry climate and clean fields support export-grade forage with premium pricing.
- ✓ **Pulses (Peas & Lentils)**  
 Demand for plant-based protein is rising globally. Foothills farms can rotate pulses into existing systems, targeting exports to India and Asia.
- ✓ **Specialty Crops (Hemp & Mustard)**  
 Niche crops like hemp and mustard are growing export markets. Foothills' regulatory environment and strong logistics support these emerging sectors.
- ✓ **Other Opportunities**  
 Wheat, pulses, barley, and oats all offer strong investment potential in this expanding agricultural hub.

### Feeding a Hungry World

- 2024 top 3 exports: beef (\$3.8B), wheat (\$2.8B), canola seed (\$1.7B).
- 2024 top international export markets: USA (\$9.3B), China (\$2.4B), Japan (\$1.4B), Mexico (\$570M), India (\$389.4M)
- Key exports to China: canola seed, oilseed cake and meal, and barley.
- In 2022, Alberta exported \$386.29M of dry peas, \$407.34M worth of barley.
- Alberta is Canada's largest producer of honey and hemp.