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CENSUS SHOWS YOUNG FARMERS BEING PUSHED OUT

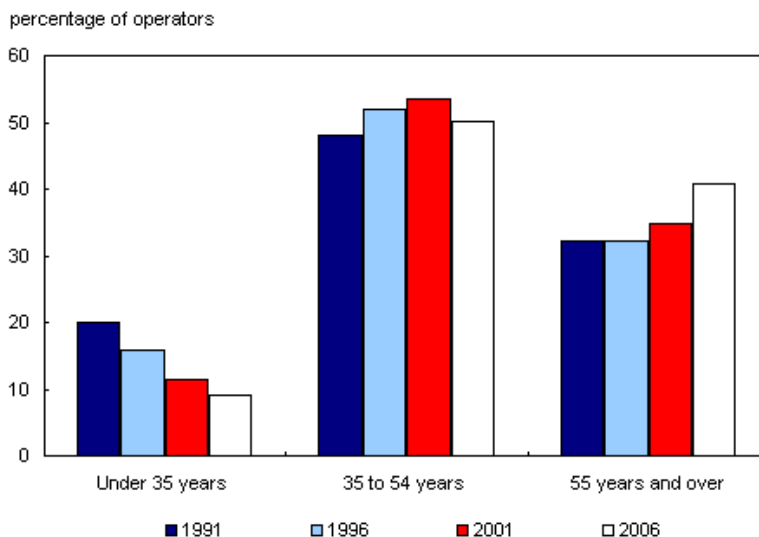
LAIRD, Sask.— 2006 Census of Agriculture numbers released today reveal a dramatic and disturbing decline in the number of young farmers in Canada. The fastest decline in farm operators are among those under 35 years of age.

According to “Snapshot of Canadian Agriculture,” a background document released with the Census, there were 77,910 operators under the age of 35 on farms in 1991. Today, there are just 29,762 farm operators under the age of 35.

“In half a generation, dysfunctional markets and ill-concieved government policies reduced the number of farm operators under 35 by three-fifths. Young farmers are being pushed out faster than any other group. These are the young people who are supposed to be taking over Canadian farms. If young people can’t farm, if we’re forced out, we’ll have dramatically fewer farms in Canada in the future,” said NFU Youth Vice-President Kalissa Regier. Regier farms near Laird, Saskatchewan.

The graph below is reproduced from Statistics Canada’s “Snapshot of Canadian Agriculture” released today. It shows that the bulk of the loss of farm operators comes from the category of operators under 35.

Figure 10 Trend to fewer young operators continues, Canada, census years 1991 to 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1991 to 2006

For More Information:

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