JASON FROESE
LANGLEY/hyphen.case
THE FARM continues to be a big property, I really enjoyed growing up,” said Bathe, 35. “I want my children to have that, too. And hopefully their children.”

Meanwhile, the number of non-family corporations grew from 493 from 348. “You have to get bigger than that,” Vercammen said. “In other sectors, you need to have a bigger amount of debt to start operations.”

If you are going to make a living, you need to have a bigger operation. “If you are going to make a living, you need to have a bigger operation,” said Bathe. “That alone is going to drive people.”

The business of agriculture may be changing, but in B.C., the family farm continues to survive. “People would like to live on the farm with a big property,” said Bathe, 35. “It seemed a little bit more secure.”

According to government figures, the agricultural sector provides 12,000 jobs in the province and generates $1.5 billion a year in revenues. “There is a lot of opportunity for the whole industry,” said Bathe. “If we can’t survive … if we can’t afford her,” he said. “We need to feed our country, and the way we feed people has completely different.”

The businesses of agriculture and resource economics are getting supply management could signal the end of some family farms. “I think even some of the (big) corporations,” he said. “B.C. farm operations on an eight-week cycle. He buys chicks for about 75 cents each and raises them for five to six weeks. The birds are sold to a processor when they weigh between two and two-and-a-half kilograms. He is paid about $8.50 a kilogram. After the birds are sold, the next couple of weeks are spent washing and disinfecting the barn.

The B.C. poultry industry took a hit in 2004 when about 19 million chickens and turkeys were ordered killed to battle the avian flu. The B.C. poultry industry took a hit in 2004 when about 19 million chickens and turkeys were ordered killed to battle the avian flu. “It was a big eye-opener for the entire industry,” said Bathe. “We realized we have to take better care of our farms.”

Ravi Bathe has made bio-security changes at his Abbotsford turkey farm to prevent avian flu. "We realized we have to take better care of our farms," said Bathe. "If you are going to make a living, you need to have a bigger operation."