

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 18, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Hamilton Agriculture Profile Update (PED19075) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
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<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:** Not Applicable.

## INFORMATION

Agriculture continues to be an important primary sector and economic driver in Hamilton. While Hamilton is known as a growing and diverse urban centre, its historical and vibrant rural economy is often overshadowed.

The City has tracked statistics related to agriculture within its boundaries over time starting with The City of Hamilton Agricultural Economic Impact and Development Study (2003), Hamilton Agriculture Profile (2008), and most recently as part of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Economic Profile for The Golden Horseshoe (2014). These profiles and updates have all followed the release of Census of Agriculture statistics produced by Statistics Canada (every five years). With each iteration, the information has helped inform the City on economic development strategies, policy planning and strategic initiatives such as the Rural Hamilton Official Plan, Rural Hamilton Zoning Bylaw Consolidation, and The Hamilton Food Strategy to name a few.

This most recent Hamilton Agriculture Profile and Economic Impact Update (attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED19075) provides a statistical overview of the agriculture sector in the City of Hamilton and describes the land base, the production profile, financial indicators, farm operating costs, characteristics of farm operators and the economic impact of this agricultural production in the City. The basis of this overview is the 2016 Census of Agriculture produced by Statistics Canada. Where possible in the profile, comparisons are made to past profiles, and in particular, data from the 2011 Census of Agriculture to identify changes in agricultural production. Comparisons are also made to

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Regional Municipalities that make up the Golden Horseshoe as an extension of the Agriculture Profile Update from 2014.

Some of the key findings are highlighted below:

- The number of farms (810) and total farmland area (128,532 acres) in Hamilton continue to decrease while the average farm size continues to increase (159 acres);
- Oilseed and grain farming is the most common farm type while greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production is the highest value commodity grouping;
- Total Gross Farm Receipts (GFR) increased to \$259,909,162;
- Average farm operating costs increased to \$272,647;
- The average age of farm operators is 57.5 years of age;
- Hamilton represents 13.3% of the total gross farm receipts in the Golden Horseshoe and 1.7% of the Provincial total;
- The gross economic output (economic impact) of agriculture in Hamilton is \$950,574,095; and,
- The GDP Impact of agriculture in Hamilton is \$437,134,749.

Hamilton continues to maintain a strong agricultural base and primary agriculture continues to be a valuable and productive economic activity. This significant sector is not without its challenges as the number of farm operations is declining and the age of operators continues to increase in an urbanizing municipality.

Staff will continue to monitor trends in the agriculture sector and work to grow the cluster through various initiatives including the Golden Horseshoe Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy – Food and Farming: An Action Plan 2021.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A”-Hamilton Agriculture Profile and Economic Impact

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