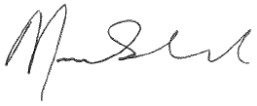




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 18, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Agriculture Profile - 2021 Census of Agriculture Update (PED23092) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Tyson McMann (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5780
SUBMITTED BY:	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

On May 11, 2022 Statistics Canada released the results from the 2021 Census of Agriculture, with additional data being released as recent as December 23, 2022. Every five years, the Census of Agriculture provides a comprehensive and integrated profile of the physical, economic, social and environmental aspects of Canada's agriculture industry. It collects a wide range of data at the national, provincial and municipal levels, such as the number of farms and farm operators, farm area, farm size, farm type, land use, crop areas, land management practices, livestock inventories, business operating arrangements, farm operating revenues, farm operating expenses, farm capital, and farm machinery.

Following the release of the 2021 Census of Agriculture, Economic Development staff developed the Hamilton Agriculture Profile found in Appendix "A" to Report PED23092. Using the statistical results of the 2021 Census of Agriculture, the Hamilton Agriculture Profile provides an overview of the agricultural sector in the City of Hamilton. This overview includes data relating to Hamilton's farmland, the types of farms, financial performance, characteristics of farm operators, and the economic impact of agriculture

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.

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in the City. All data in this document is derived from the 2021, 2016 and 2011 Census of Agriculture unless otherwise stated. Any comparative data is made between Ontario and the Golden Horseshoe (i.e. the regions of Niagara, Peel, Halton, Durham, York and Hamilton).

This document will not only serve as a statistical overview of the agriculture sector in the City of Hamilton, but will be used to assist in the promotion of the industry as well as the attraction of new investment within the sector. Moving forward, Staff will provide an updated Agriculture Profile to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee, following each release of the Census of Agriculture.

Hamilton Agriculture Snapshot

- 679 farms operate within the City of Hamilton with a total combined farm area of 118,070 acres;
- The average size farm being 174 acres;
- 32% of farms in Hamilton are oilseed and grain farming (the most in the City), followed by other animal production (16%), greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production (15%);
- 2,207 individuals are employed in Hamilton’s agricultural sector. This includes full-time, part-time, and seasonal workers;
- Total operating revenues for farms in Hamilton was \$366 million in 2021, while total operating expenses for farms in Hamilton was \$299 million in 2021;
- Hamilton's farms are the most profitable in the Golden Horseshoe (average of \$104,764 per farm); and,
- The gross output impact of Hamilton’s agricultural sector is roughly \$1.3 billion.

2021 Hamilton’s Farmland

- Total number of farms: 679
- Total Farm Area: 118,070 acres
- Average Farm Size: 174 acres

Hamilton houses approximately 1.0% of Ontario's total farm area (approximately 13.2% of the Golden Horseshoe's farm area) and 1.4% of Ontario's total number of farms (approximately 13.7% of the Golden Horseshoe's farms). Total farmland in Hamilton has declined by approximately 8.1%, down from 128,532 acres in 2016 to 118,070 acres in 2021. Total farmland in the Golden Horseshoe also declined by 4.3% between 2016 and 2021.

Between 2016 and 2021, the number of farms in Ontario declined by 2.5%. In Hamilton, the number of farms declined by 16.2% from 810 in 2016 to 679 in 2021. The average size of a Hamilton farm has increased from 159 acres in 2016, to 174 acres in 2022, representing an increase of 9.4% - this is compared to a 2.8% increase for the entirety of the Golden Horseshoe. Approximately 54.2% of farmland was owned, compared to 45.8% that was leased, rented, or crop shared.

2021 Farm Types in Hamilton

- Oilseed and grain farming: 217 farms
- Other animal production: 108 farms
- Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production: 104 farms
- Cattle ranching and farming: 65 farms
- Other crop farming: 60 farms
- Vegetable and melon farming: 43 farms
- Poultry and egg production: 35 farms
- Fruit and tree nut farming: 33 farms
- Sheep and goat farming: 11 farms
- Hog and pig farming: 3 farms

More than half of Hamilton's farms (approximately 63.2%) are engaged in either oilseed and grain farming, animal production, or greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production. Oilseed and grain farming is the only farm-type to show an increase in the number of farms between 2016 and 2021.

2021 Farm Operating Revenues, Expenses, and Profits

- Total Farm Operating Revenues: \$366,266,571
- Total Farm Operating Expenses: \$299,008,283
- Total Farm Revenue over Expenses: \$67,258,288

Statistics Canada previously recorded agricultural operating revenue as "gross farm receipts" where gross farm receipts were directly reported to the Census of Agriculture by farm operators. For the 2021 Census of Agriculture, revenue and expense data are extracted from the Agricultural Taxation Data Program and reflect the revenues and expenses that farms have reported to the Canada Revenue Agency. As a result of the change in the method of data collection, a time series analysis of 2021 to previous years is not applicable.

2021 Farm Operator Profile

- Average Age of Farm Operators: 57.9 years
- Farm Operators Aged 55 and older: 64.8%
- Farm Operators that are Male: 68.3%
- Farm Operators that are Female: 31.7%
- Farms with written succession plan: 13.8%

In 2021, the average age of Hamilton's farm operators was 57.9 years old. In Ontario, the average age of farm operators was 56.7 years old. This has increased from 54.9 years old in 2006. Almost 65% of Hamilton's farm operators are age 55 and older. Hamilton's proportion of farm operators in the age 55 and older cohort is slightly higher than the average of 62.3% for Ontario. Although Hamilton has a slightly higher proportion of farms with both written and verbal succession plans, the vast majority of Hamilton and Ontario farms are operating without any defined succession plan.

2021 Economic Impact of Agriculture in Hamilton

Direct Impact	\$239,836,952
Indirect Impact	\$653,418,649
Induced Impact	\$444,353,145
Gross Output Impact	\$1,339,558,451
GDP Impact	\$616,014,627

Data from the 2021 Census of Agriculture allows for an update of the economic impact model, that was developed with the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance that generated this number in 2016. As is the case with all exercises in economic modelling, these figures should be treated as strong estimates given the best data and methods currently available. With 2021 numbers, an updated estimate of \$1,339,558,451 in gross output impact is attributed to Hamilton's agricultural sector.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PED23092 – Agriculture in Hamilton, An Update Based on the 2021 Census of Agriculture