

Agriculture in Halton



A Vibrant Farming Community



The agriculture sector is always evolving and continues to play a critical role in the development of Halton's economic, environmental and social prosperity. Farms in Halton Region are especially productive due to outstanding soils, favourable climate, freshwater availability, and proximity to urban centres.

The 2016 Census of Agriculture revealed some of the ways Halton farmers are adapting their farm practices to become more viable, strengthen the local economy, and employ measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

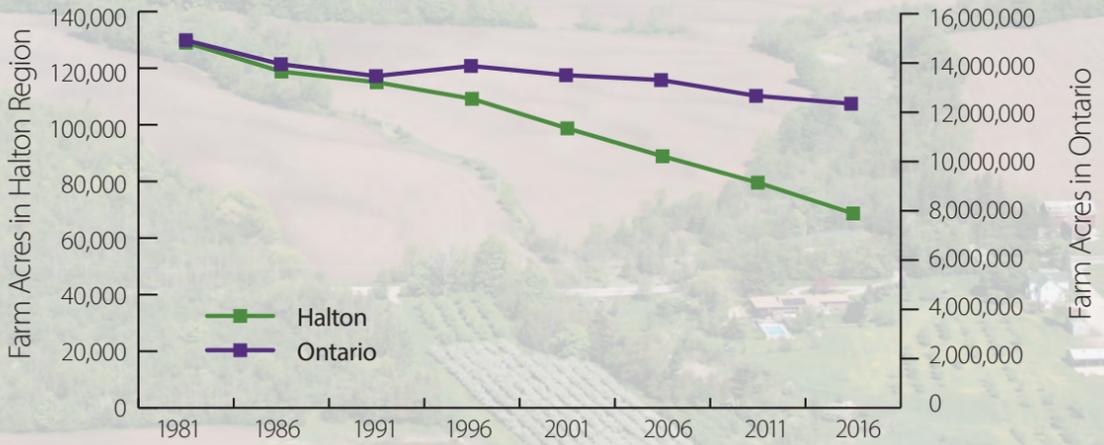
Agriculture in Halton means more than food



- The agriculture and food sector is responsible for approximately 24 per cent of employment in Halton Region
- Horse and equine farming accounts for over 20 per cent of farms in the region
- Horticulture, greenhouses, floriculture and nurseries make up 13 per cent of Halton farms
- Halton is home to Ontario's largest lavender farm
- Various agri-tourism and recreational uses are available on Halton farms

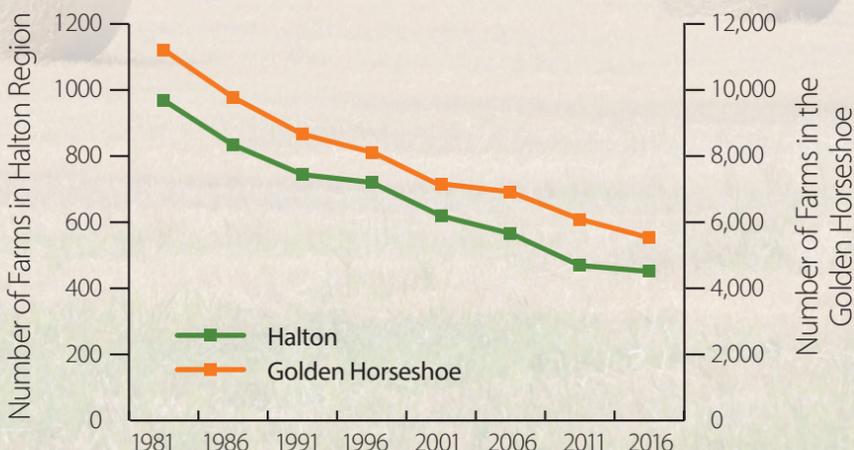
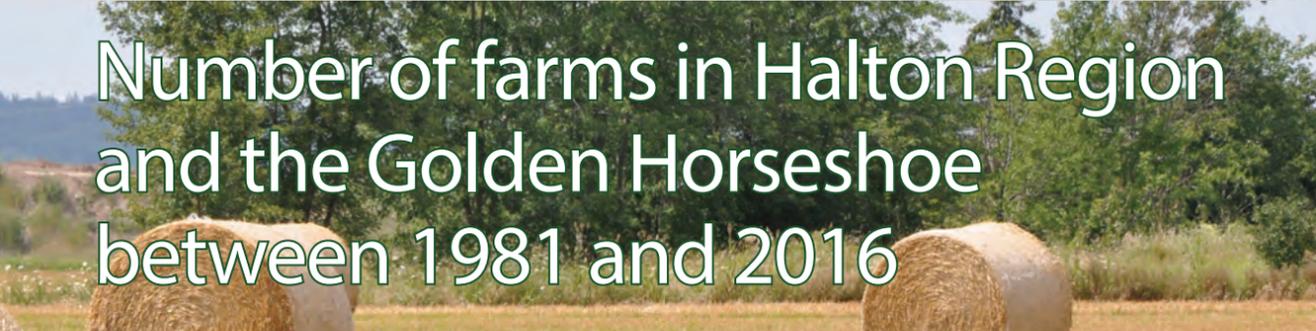


Farm area in Halton and Ontario between 1981 and 2016



Loss of farm area is more pronounced in Halton Region due to development required under the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Number of farms in Halton Region and the Golden Horseshoe between 1981 and 2016



The 2016 Census showed the smallest reduction in the number of farms in Halton Region since 1996, with a decrease of four per cent while the number of farms in the Golden Horseshoe decreased by nine per cent.

Successes vs. Challenges

Successes

- Variety of farm types
- Increase in gross farm receipts
- Increase in farm capital
- Climate change mitigation efforts
- Strong employment sector
- Increase in per cent of farm operators under the age of 35



Challenges

- Loss of farm area/growth pressures
- Increase in farm operating costs
- High proportion of rented farm land
- Farming in close proximity to urban areas increases the opportunity for conflict
- High capital required is an entry point barrier for young farmers



Average farm size in Halton



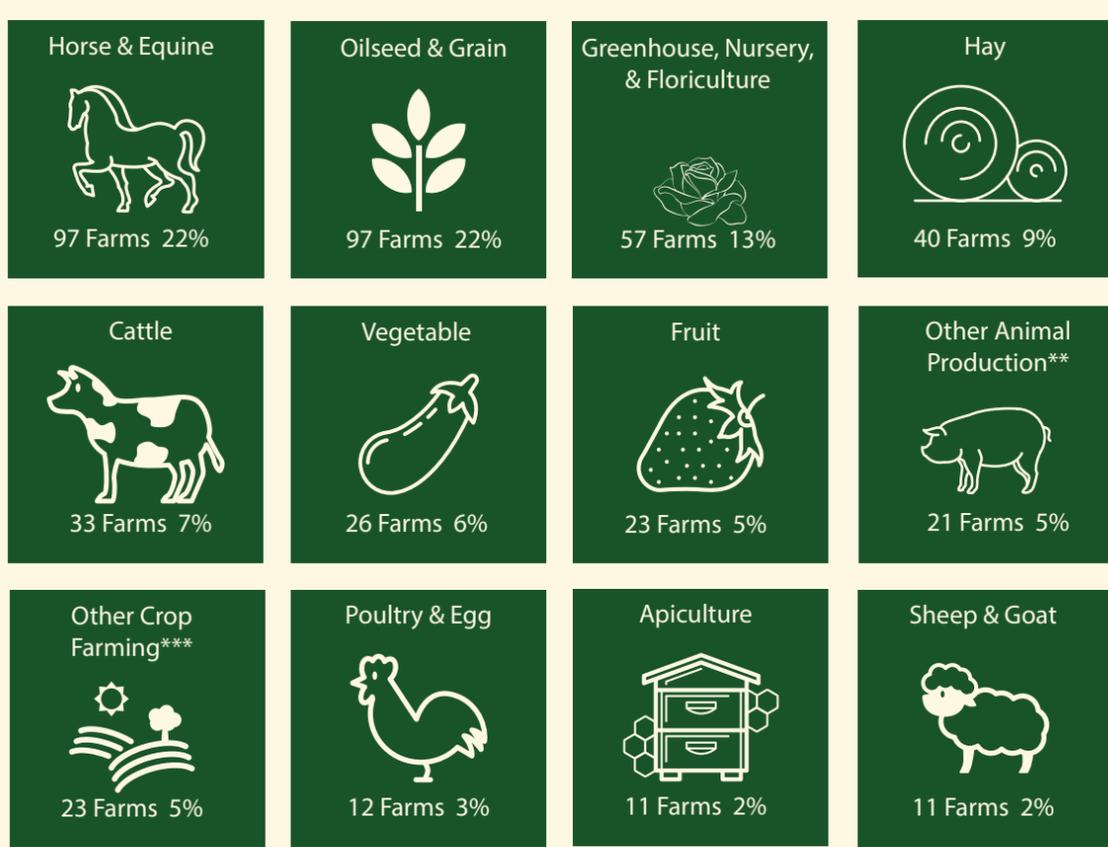
Halton Hills has the largest average farm size of 206 acres, while Burlington has the smallest average farm size of 98 acres.

Increase in the number of farm operators under 35 in Halton Region in 2016



The 2016 Census marks the first time there has been an increase in the number of farm operators under the age of 35 in Canada since 1991.

Farm types in Halton in 2016, by number and per cent* of total farms

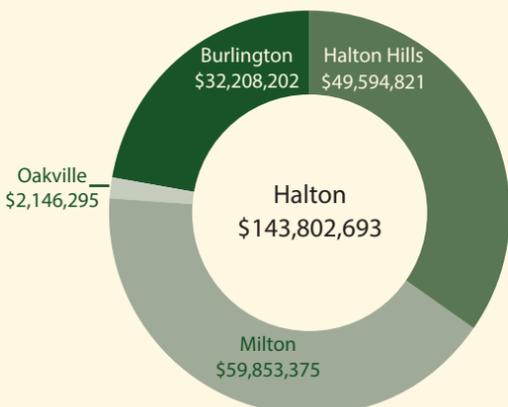


* Percentages are approximate.

** Other Animal Production refers to animal combination farming and all other miscellaneous animal production.

*** Other Crop Farming refers to fruit and vegetable combination farming, maple syrup and products production.

Gross farm receipts for Halton Region in 2016



Gross farm receipts in Halton Region increased by 16 per cent in 2016.

*Values do not include gross farm receipts for mushroom production.

Fact:

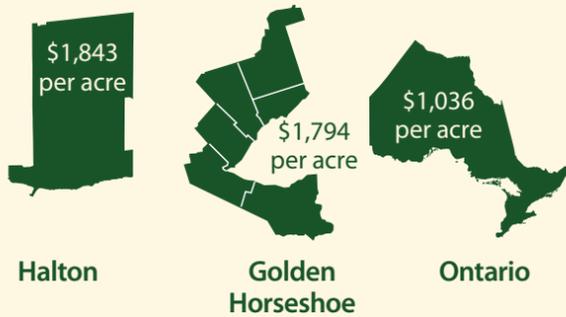


Mushroom farming produces the highest gross farm receipts in Halton Region.

20%

of farms in Halton Region reported selling product directly to consumers.

Farm operating costs in Halton, the Golden Horseshoe, and Ontario in 2016



Farming in Halton Region continues to be more costly than farming in other parts of Ontario.

Climate Change Mitigation



Solar panels
8%



No-till seeding
28%



Windbreaks
29%



Winter cover crops
13%

Many farms are using the above strategies to optimize farm productivity while helping to mitigate the effects of climate change in Halton Region now and into the future.

For more information on agriculture in Halton, visit halton.ca/agriculture