



# CENSUS BULLETIN

## FAST FACTS

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Agriculture conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent Census was conducted in May of 2006, in conjunction with the Census of Population.
- The “headquarters rule” assigns all data collected for an agricultural operation to the geographic area where the farm headquarters is located, regardless of the actual location of the parcels of land being farmed. As a result, the data could include land located outside Waterloo Region. Conversely, land farmed in Waterloo Region may be reported with a farm headquarters outside the Region.
- To ensure confidentiality, data for the City of Waterloo has been included together with data from the City of Kitchener. Kitchener had 23 farms while Waterloo had 12 farms in 2006.
- Farm business characteristics are collected for the calendar year prior to the Census, in this case, 2005.

For more information on Census statistics please refer to Statistics Canada’s website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

## Agriculture

### Statistics from the 2006 Census for Waterloo Region

#### Farms

Agriculture represents the largest land use activity in the Region of Waterloo. In 2006, over 65% of all land classified by Statistics Canada was farmland, representing 226,384 acres (91,614 hectares). Woolwich had the largest share of farmland in Waterloo Region, in 2006 reporting over 73,000 acres (29,500 hectares) of land being farmed, and accounting for almost one-third of the Region’s total farm area. Across the Region, the number of farms between 2001 and 2006 stabilized after the large decrease in the previous 5-year timeframe. Meanwhile, in 2006 the total area of farmland (acreage) included within farm operations based in Waterloo Region has increased by just over 1,000 acres compared to 2001. Over a ten year timeframe, the number of farms decreased by 9% and farm area by just 3% as shown in Table 1. Similarly, trends over a twenty year time period show a decline of about 12% in the number of farms whereas the area of farmland only decreased by 5%.

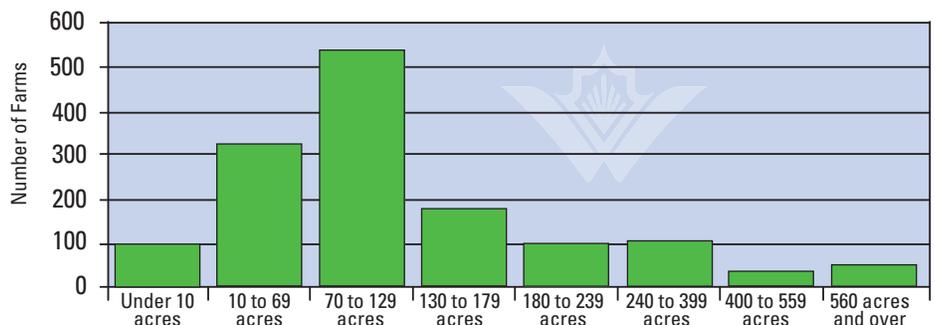
**Table 1: Number of Farms by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 1996-2006**

	# of Farms			Total Area of Farms (acres)		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
<b>Region of Waterloo</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>234,406</b>	<b>225,800</b>	<b>226,384</b>
Cambridge	42	32	31	5,816	5,001	7,836
Kitchener-Waterloo	43	29	35	5,638	4,329	4,802
North Dumfries	134	117	117	28,706	25,069	27,530
Wellesley	522	501	518	61,867	60,393	64,210
Wilmot	307	271	247	52,784	53,839	48,697
Woolwich	542	494	496	79,595	77,169	73,309

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Most farms fall in the size range of between 70 to 129 acres, as shown in Figure 1. The average size of all farms across the Region was 155 acres (63 hectares), which is much smaller than the provincial average of 234 acres (94 hectares) and the national average of 728 acres (295 hectares).

**Figure 1: Size of Farms in Waterloo Region, 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

## Farm Operations

There were 1,444 farm operations based out of Waterloo Region in 2006, employing approximately 3,510 people and accounting for 1.3% of the total labour force. The total number farm operators across the Region increased from 1,955 reported in 2001 to 2,035 in 2006. The average age for a farm operator in 2006 was 47 years, below both the provincial and national averages. Half (51%) of all farm operators work full-time on their operation, spending on average more than 40 hours per week working on the farm. Of the remaining operators, 23% spend between 20 and 40 hours, while 27% spend less than 20 hours per week.

## Land

In 2006, of the *total farm area for all land tenure types*, 69% was owned by operators in Waterloo Region, while 31% of the land was leased, rented, crop shared or used through other arrangements. For agricultural land, crop production was the predominant land use in 2006, representing almost 80% of agricultural land. This is down slightly from its share in 2001 as shown in Table 2. The only land use to see an increase between Census years were lands categorized as 'other.'



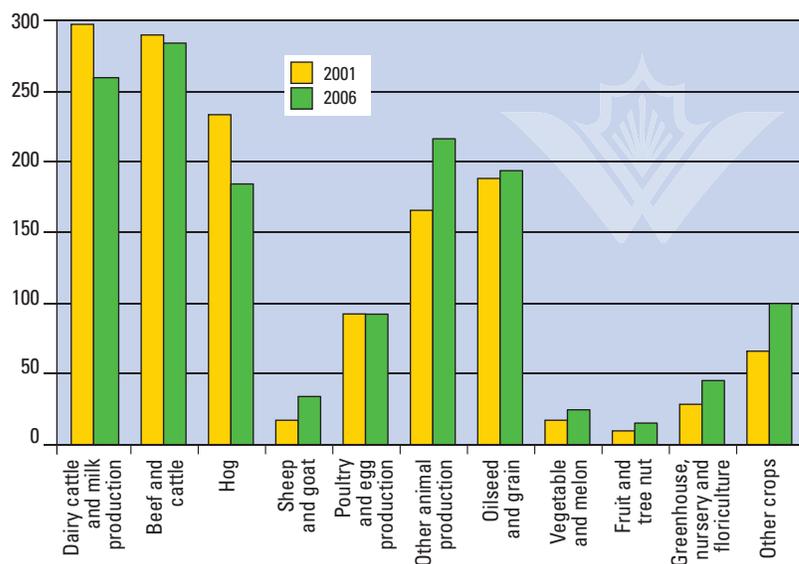
**Table 2: Agricultural Land Use in Waterloo Region, 2001 - 2006**

Agricultural Land Use	2001		2006		Percent Change
	Acres	%	Acres	%	
Land in crops	180,274	79.8	177,072	78.2	-1.6
Summerfallow land	822	0.4	558	0.2	-0.1
Tame or seeded pasture (improved pasture)	9,344	4.1	8,249	3.6	-0.5
Natural land for pasture (unimproved pasture)	8,402	3.7	7,996	3.5	-0.2
Other lands*	26,958	11.9	32,509	14.4	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>225,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>226,384</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Other lands include Christmas tree area, woodlands, and wetlands.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

**Figure 2: Farm Types in Waterloo Region, 2001 - 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

## Crops and Livestock

Livestock farming was the predominant *farm type* in 2006, accounting for about 74% of all farms or 1,068 total farms throughout Waterloo Region, as illustrated in Figure 2. Within livestock farming, beef and dairy farms were the most common, each accounting for just less than 20% of farms in the Region. Sheep and goat farms experienced the largest percentage increase, growing by 144%. This was contrasted by the largest decrease which came in hog farming which was down by 20%. Dairy, cattle, milk, and beef also declined, *while other livestock farming types*, which includes mixed livestock, increased. Poultry and egg farming remained stable over the same time period. While there was a net decrease in livestock farms from 2001 to 2006, the intensified use of the land resulted in growth in the average number of livestock per farm. Over twenty years (1986 to 2006) the number of chickens per farm increased 80% and the number of sheep and lambs per farm increased 70% in Waterloo Region. Woolwich Township again demonstrated the strength of its agricultural sector having 47% of all dairy farms and 42% of all chicken egg production farms in Waterloo Region.

For crop producing farms across the Region, the principal farm type was oilseed and grain farms, accounting for 194 farms (13%). Crops grown on these types of farms include wheat, corn, bean and soybeans. All crop farms experienced growth between 2001 and 2006, with the largest growth in greenhouses, nursery and floriculture farms, which increased by 63%.

There were 86 reported organic farms across Waterloo Region in 2006, of which 35 were considered to grow certified organic products, seven farms reported transitional organic while 53 grew uncertified products. The majority of certified organic farms were hay or field crop farms.

## Farm Business

Total *gross farm receipts* in 2005 for all farms in Waterloo Region totaled almost \$400 million. The average of approximately \$275,000 per farm, is surpassed provincially only by Niagara Region. Waterloo Region's gross farm receipts represent about 10% of the total gross farm receipts reported by all the municipalities within the *Greater Golden Horseshoe* (Statistics Canada, 2006). Within Waterloo Region, Woolwich, with almost one third of all farm land, reported the highest share of gross farm receipts at \$124 million, representing 31% of all receipts, followed by Wellesley at 26% and Wilmot at 25% as shown in Table 3.

From 2001 to 2006 there was a large increase in the total *net income* of farms. Despite an increase in total expenses from 2000 to 2005 there was a 24% increase in farm net income in Waterloo Region.

Over a twenty year time period, net farm income in Waterloo Region increased 82%. The largest increase between census years occurred between 2001 and 2006, as shown in Figure 3. Over the same time frame, total expenses increased only 1% and gross farm receipts only 4%. Since 1986, total net income for farms in Waterloo Region reached a high of 70.5 million dollars in 2005.



Figure 4 illustrates the division of gross farm receipts for all farms in Waterloo Region. Almost half of all farms had gross receipts between \$100,000 and \$500,000. Less than 5% of all farms had receipts totaling more than one million dollars.

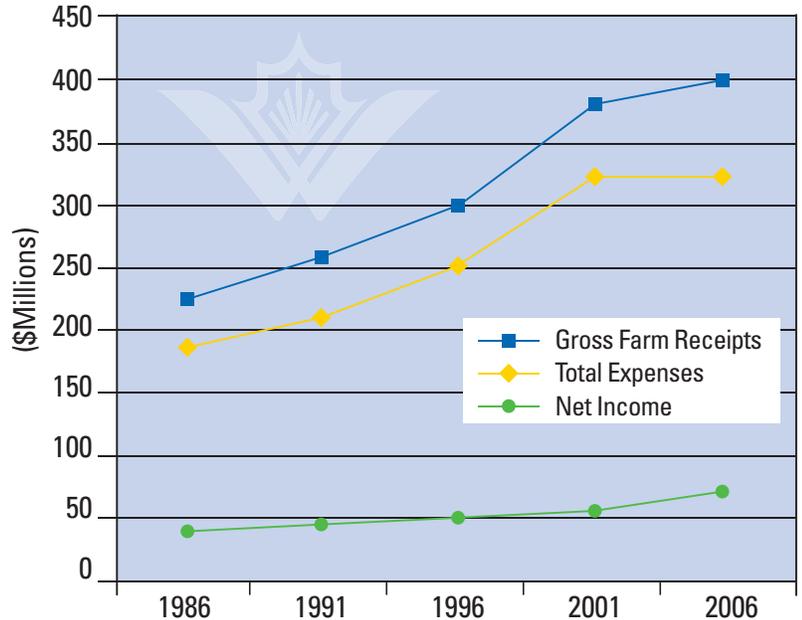


**Table 3: Municipal Financial Summary, 2005**

Municipality	Gross Farm Receipts (\$ millions)	Total Expenses (\$ millions)	Net Income (\$ millions)
<b>Region of Waterloo</b>	<b>396.4</b>	<b>325.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Cambridge	12.1	11.3	0.8
Kitchener-Waterloo	10.6	10.3	0.3
North Dumfries	46.9	37.2	9.7
Wellesley	104.3	85.3	19.0
Wilmot	98.5	84.9	13.6
Woolwich	124.0	96.9	27.1

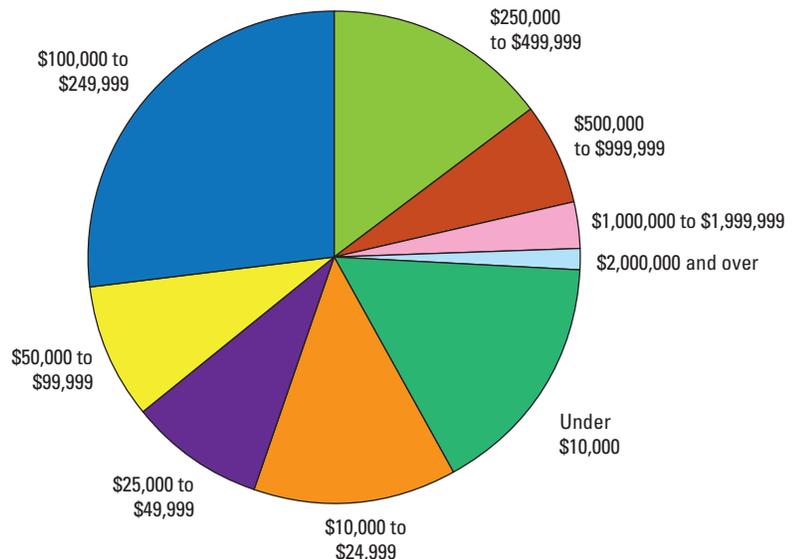
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

**Figure 3: Regional Financial Summary, 1986-2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1986 - 2006

**Figure 4: Farms in Waterloo Region Classified by Total Gross Farm Receipts, 2005**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006



**Farm operator** - this is a count of distinct operators; operators of two or more separate farms were included only once in the total.

**Total farm area for all land tenures** – the total farm area in Waterloo Region owned, leased from governments, rented, leased or crop shared from others or used through other arrangements. Total farm area is the difference between ‘total area for all land tenures’ minus ‘total area used by others.’

**Farm type** – is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) farm-typing categories. NAICS is revised periodically. The 2001 farm-type data were derived using NAICS1997 and 2006 farm-type data were derived using NAICS2002. Both classifications are the same for the Canadian agriculture industry, making the data from the two reference years directly comparable.

**Greater Golden Horseshoe** – geographic area consisting of the following areas; Region of Niagara, Haldimand County, City of Brantford, County of Brant, Region of Waterloo, City of Hamilton, Region of Halton, City of Guelph, County of Wellington, County of Dufferin, Region of Peel, City of Toronto, Region of York, City of Barrie, County of Dufferin, County of Simcoe, City of Orillia, Region of Durham, City of Kawartha Lakes, County and City of Peterborough and County of Northumberland.

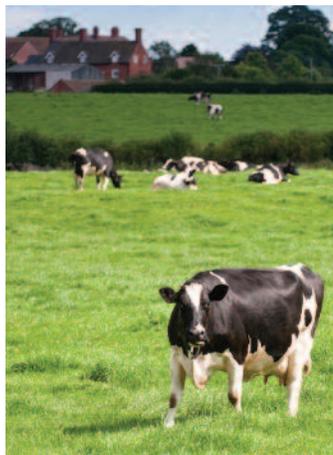
**Other crops** – includes crops such as hay and tobacco.

**Other livestock farming** – includes apiculture, horse and other equine production, fur-bearing animal and rabbit production, livestock combination farming and all other miscellaneous animal production.

**Net income** – gross farm receipts minus total expenses.

**Gross farm receipts** – includes income from agricultural product sales, program payments and rebates, dividends and income from custom work. It does not include the sale of capital items or sales of forest products.

*Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, 2006*



Region of Waterloo

For further information  
please contact:



Planning, Housing and  
Community Services

Planning Information  
and Research

[planninginfo@region.waterloo.on.ca](mailto:planninginfo@region.waterloo.on.ca)  
[www.region.waterloo.on.ca](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca)

519-575-4047