



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 of Agriculture was conducted in May of 2011, 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.
- Farm business characteristics are collected for the calendar year prior to the Census, in this case, 2010.

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



Agriculture

Statistics from the 2011 Census of Agriculture for Waterloo Region

Farm Operations

In 2011, there were slightly fewer farms and less farmland based in Waterloo Region. Despite the decline, agricultural land is still the dominant land use across the Region, accounting for 65 per cent of all land as counted by Statistics Canada in the most recent Census. A total of 1,398 farms were headquartered in Waterloo Region in 2011, a net decline of 46 farms, or four per cent, compared to 2006. As expected, the largest percentage decrease in the number of farms occurred in the urban areas of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo which lost a total of 29 farm operations as shown in Table 1. North Dumfries was the only municipality to gain farms over this time period. The decrease measured in Waterloo Region (four per cent) was noticeably lower than the national (10 per cent) and provincial (nine per cent) declines over the same time period. Fewer farms may be the result of farm consolidation or land conversion.

Table 1: Total number of farms reported for Waterloo Region, 2001-2011

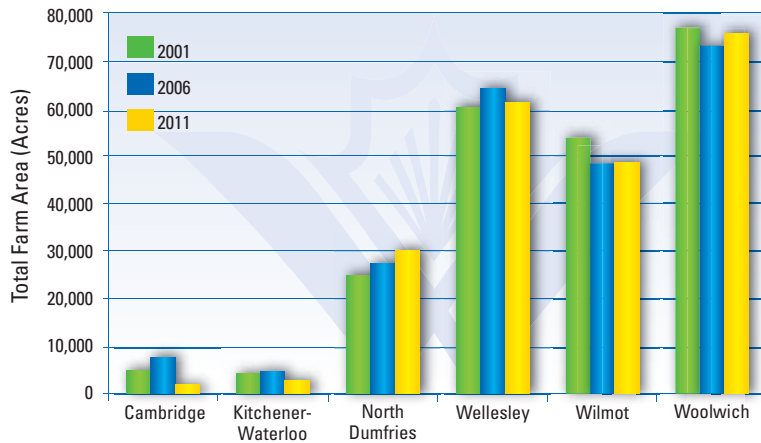
Region	Total Number of Farms			% Change 2006-2011
	2001	2006	2011	
Waterloo Region	1,444	1,444	1,398	-4%
Cambridge	32	31	21	-32%
Kitchener-Waterloo	38	35	16	-54%
North Dumfries	117	117	124	6%
Wellesley	501	518	502	-3%
Wilmot	271	247	234	-5%
Woolwich	494	496	492	-1%
Canada	–	229,373	205,730	-10%
Ontario	–	57,211	51,950	-9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2001-2011

The total land area of farms headquartered in Waterloo Region decreased by about 5,000 net acres (2.3 per cent), to a total of 221,087 acres for 2011. The biggest losses were measured in the urban municipalities (cities) which decreased by 62 per cent from 2006. Despite the number of farms decreasing in the Region’s townships, there was an increase in the total agricultural land area in these areas in 2011 as illustrated in Figure 1.



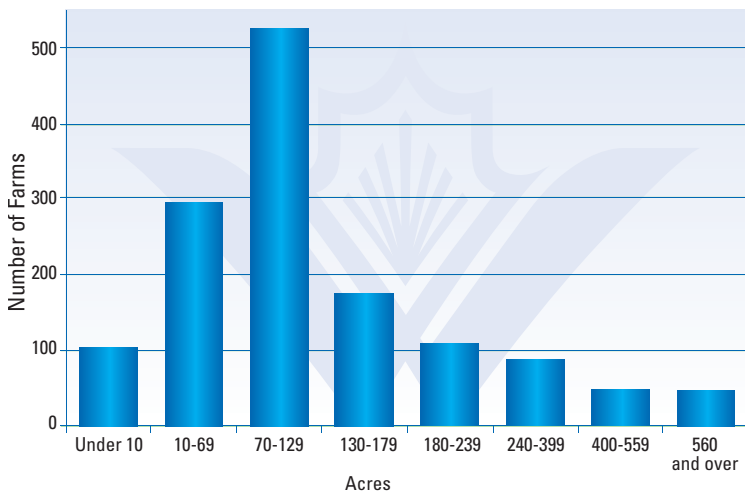
Figure 1: Total area of farms in Waterloo Region, 2001-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2001-2011

There has been an increase in the average farm size across the Region as the total farm area continues to fall at a slower pace than the total number of farms. The average farm size in Waterloo Region increased from 155 acres to 159 acres between 2006 and 2011. Nonetheless, regional farms are still much smaller than the average provincial and national farm size of 243 and 778 acres respectively. The increasing average farm size was also a trend seen throughout Ontario. Just less than 40 per cent of farms across the Region fall between 70 and 130 acres, while less than one hundred farms are larger than 400 acres, as can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Size of farms in Waterloo Region, 2011



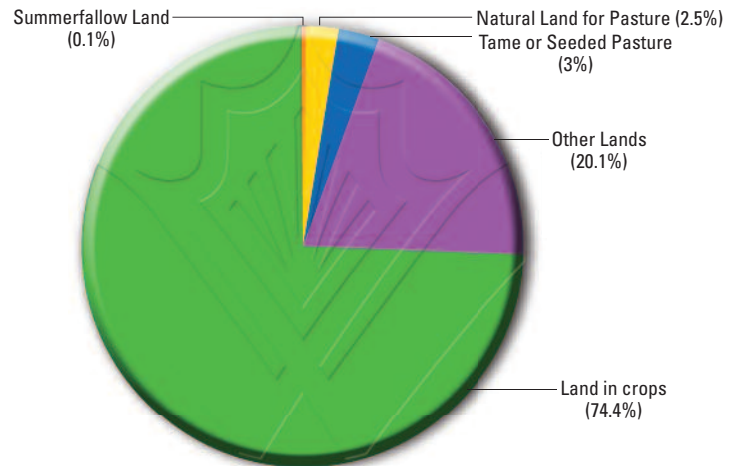
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2011

The average age of *farm operators* is younger in Waterloo Region than across Canada and Ontario. Farm operators across the Region on average are 48.4 years old, much younger than Ontario's average of 54.5 years. The average age did increase from 47 years as reported in 2006. Most frequently, operators spend full time hours working on farms, with 45 per cent of all operators spending 40 or more hours per week on farms. This figure is down from 51 per cent in 2006. Less than one third of operators work fewer than 20 hours per week on a farm.

Agricultural Land Use

Croplands were the predominant land use type for all agricultural lands in the Region. As shown in Figure 3, three quarters of agricultural land in 2011 was being used to grow field crops, hay, fruits, field vegetable, and sod or nursery crops. This was down slightly from 2006, where 78.2 per cent of lands were croplands. The largest increase in land use types was in 'other lands' which include Christmas trees, woodlands and wetlands, up 20 per cent since 2006.

Figure 3: Agricultural land use type, Waterloo Region, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2011

Of the *total farm area by all land tenures* in the Region, 68 per cent was owned by operators in Waterloo Region. This figure remained relatively unchanged from values in 2006. The remaining land was leased, rented, crop shared or used through other arrangements.

Crops and livestock

In 2011, 70 per cent of all farms were considered livestock farms. The most common type of livestock farms were cattle (beef and dairy) farms, accounting for 37 per cent of all farms in the Region. Similar to trends identified in 2006, sheep and goat farms increased, while hog and pig farms decreased significantly in 2011. Overall, the number of livestock farms has decreased since 2006 while the number of crop farms has increased. Nonetheless, livestock farms remain the principal farm type in Waterloo Region as shown in Table 2.



A total of 418 crop-orientated farms were counted in the Region this Census year. As a percentage of all farms, crop-producing farms increased by four per cent from 2006 to 2011. The majority of these farms were classified as oilseed and grain (canola, soybean, corn, wheat etc.) establishments. These, along with vegetable and fruit farms, all saw notable increases as a percentage of the total farms compared to 2006.

Table 2: Farm types in Waterloo Region, 2006-2011

Farm Type	2006	2011		Change 2006-2011
	No. of farms	No. of farms	% of total farms	
Livestock Farms				
Cattle ranching and farming	545	508	37%	-6.8%
Hog and pig farming	185	99	7%	-46.5%
Poultry and egg production	91	89	6%	-2.2%
Sheep and goat farming	30	35	3%	16.7%
Other animal production	217	240	17%	10.6%
Crop Farms				
Oilseed and grain farming	194	239	17%	23.2%
Vegetable and melon farming	23	30	2%	30.4%
Fruit and tree nut farming	13	17	1%	30.8%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	44	34	2%	-22.7%
Other crop farming	102	98	7%	-3.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2006 and 2011

The number of farms reporting the sale of certified organic products rose from 35 farms in 2006 to 40 farms in 2011. An additional 44 farms reported that they sold uncertified products, while seven more farms were actively adopting practices that comply with organic standards (*transitional organic*).

Farm business

Total *gross farm receipts* rose again, to a high of \$473 million for 2010. Figure 4 illustrates that the gross farm receipts and total expenses each rose about 19 per cent from 2005 to

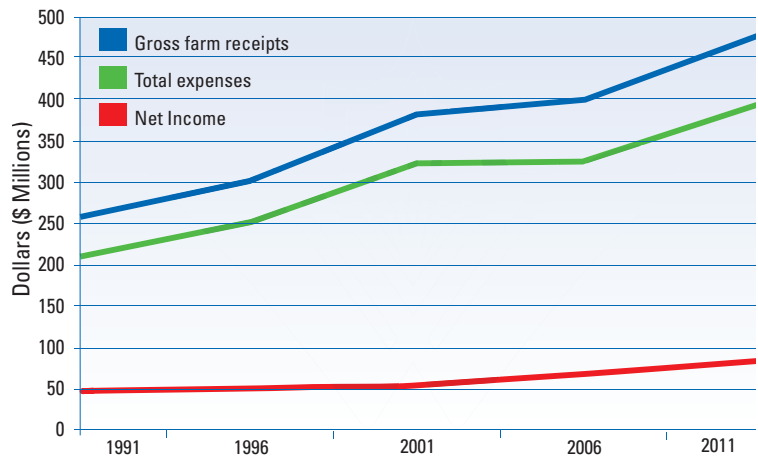
2010, with most municipalities measuring growth in their gross farm receipts. *Net income* was up about 18 per cent across the Region over the same time period, a smaller increase than was seen previously in the 2006 Census. With just over 70 per cent of all farms headquartered in the Region, the townships of Woolwich and Wellesley combined for two thirds of all gross farm receipts, and just over 70 per cent of the Region's net income as shown in Table 3. Waterloo Region as a whole accounted for four per cent of Ontario's total gross farm receipts.

Table 3: Farm receipts, expenses and income for Waterloo Region, 2010

Municipality	2010		
	Gross Farm Receipts (\$ millions)	Total Expenses (\$ millions)	Net Income (\$ millions)
Waterloo Region	472.9	390	82.9
Cambridge	3.5	3.5	0.0
Kitchener-Waterloo	13.8	12.0	1.8
North Dumfries	66.7	59.5	7.2
Wellesley	128.9	108.8	20.1
Wilmot	110.5	94.3	16.2
Woolwich	149.5	112.0	37.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2011

Figure 4: Farm receipts, expenses and income for Waterloo Region, 2006-2011

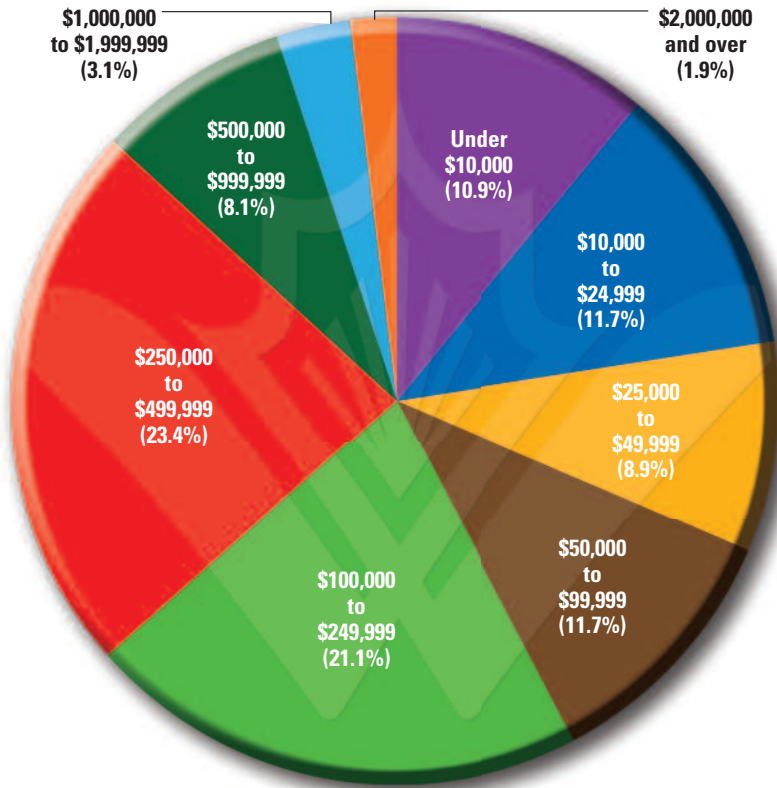


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 1991-2011



Data from 2010 shows that there are more farms across Waterloo Region reporting higher gross farm receipts compared to 2005. The total number of farms with gross farm receipts totaling \$500,000 or more increased by 34 per cent over this time frame. Conversely, all farms reporting less than \$100,000 in gross receipts decreased by 8 per cent from 2005 to 2010. Overall, just less than half of all farms in Waterloo Region reported receipts valued between \$100,000 and \$500,000 as exhibited in Figure 5. Seventy farms (five per cent) registered receipts over one million dollars, 14 more farms than in 2005.

Figure 5: Total farms classified by total gross farm receipts for Waterloo Region, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2011

Note: farm business characteristics are collected for the calendar year prior to the Census, in this case, 2010.



Farm operator – any person responsible for the management decisions made for an agricultural operation. This is a count of distinct operators; operators of two or more separate farms were included only once in the total.

Transitional organic – used by certifying agencies to indicate fields in transition to becoming certified organic.

Total farm area for all land tenures – the total farm headquartered 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 – Farm types for the 2006 Census of Agriculture were derived using NAICS 2002 whereas farm-type data for the 2011 Census of Agriculture were derived using NAICS 2007. Both classifications are almost the same for the Canadian agriculture industry, making the data from the two reference years directly comparable in most cases.

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.

Total expenses – Any cost associated with producing crops or livestock, except the purchase of land, buildings or equipment. Includes the cost of seed, feed, fuel, fertilizers, etc. Does not include depreciation or capital cost allowance.

Net income – gross farm receipts minus total expenses.

Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, Census of Agriculture 2011



For further information please contact:

Planning, Housing and Community Services
 Planning Information and Research

www.regionofwaterloo.ca
planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca

519-575-4047

TTY: 519-575-4608