



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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AGRICULTURAL PROFILE UPDATE

PETERBOROUGH COUNTY AND KAWARTHA LAKES

1 Executive Summary

Both the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County contain significant areas of farmland reflecting a history of over 200 years of robust and ever-evolving agricultural operations. In 2023, the Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture in cooperation with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture retained Planscape to update the understanding of the state of agriculture in these two municipalities.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the agricultural profile of the County of Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes. In 2006, an extensive Agricultural Economic Impact and Development Study was completed by Planscape, followed by a partial update in 2016 called Farmland, Farmers and Food Production in Peterborough County by Sustainable Peterborough Future of Food and Farming Working Group Farmland Task Force. This report uses these two historical reports as well as the 2011, 2016 and 2021 Agricultural Census data to provide a clear and relevant picture of the status of agricultural in the study area. The report also describes some of the broader trends affecting the agricultural industry. The intent is to identify relevant trends that will support decision-making regarding future agricultural policies and initiatives. This report does not include an update to the economic impact analysis of the agricultural sector.

The study area for this report is the geographical County of Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes¹. The reporting is structured based on the Statistics Canada Census Divisions, which include the area municipalities of:

- Kawartha Lakes
- Peterborough, broken down by;
 - Township of Asphodel-Norwood
 - Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
 - Township of Cavan Monaghan
 - Township of Selwyn (now contains the City of Peterborough)
 - Township of Douro-Dummer
 - Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
 - Township of Trent Lakes (now contains North Kawartha)

¹ References to Peterborough throughout this report are references to the County, not the City. References to Kawartha Lakes or the City are references to the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Data for the City of Kawartha Lakes has been presented for one unit. When the former municipalities that comprised the County of Victoria were amalgamated into the City, the area was consolidated as one census unit. It should also be noted that due to reliability issues, Statistics Canada has suppressed the data for certain factors in the Townships of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Trent Lakes. Where a column is blank, it is because the data is not reliable, not because there are no farming operations in the area. A more detailed explanation of Statistics Canada's approach to handling of data for these municipalities is contained in Appendix 1².

In conducting this study, several observations have been made about the agriculture sector in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes. Based on our previous work in this area, and in other areas of southern Ontario, these observations are organized as strengths, concerns, opportunities, and thoughts about ongoing support for the sector. **Executive Summary Figure 1** provides a snapshot of the key characteristics of the agricultural sector in the study area. **Executive Summary Figure 2** provides a summary table of all the agricultural profile statistics that form this update. **Executive Summary Figures 3 and 4** graphically illustrate the key profile statistics for Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough.

1.1 Strengths

Agriculture in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes continues to be a major component of the regional economy and the dominant land use. It is a strong, well-established industry with deep historic roots and a varied production profile. Agriculture is well supported by municipal policy and through programs focused on the agri-food sector. Both jurisdictions have economic development functions to support and enhance the operations and profile of agriculture. Historically, Kawartha Lakes has had a dedicated rural economic function that excels at supporting agriculture and related activities.

In the 2006 economic assessment of the impact of agriculture and agriculturally related businesses conducted by Planscape, it was determined that the economic output of the primary agricultural sector in the study area had a significant impact on the regional economy. Given the growth of economic returns generated by the sector, the number of agricultural-related businesses in the area, and the strong link to tourism and other economic sectors, it is expected that this impact continues and may have increased.

² Appendix 1, pg. 128. Statistics Canada - Frequently asked questions on random tabular adjustments (RTA) https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/statistical-programs/document/3438_D4_V4

The profile of agriculture in the study area is diverse, providing flexibility to respond to evolving opportunities. The geography of the study area, particularly in Peterborough, has limited the trend of farm consolidation to ever larger farming operations, which can reduce the rural population and negatively impact rural communities. Maintaining smaller farm sizes focused on a diverse range of commodities supports local services and retains community.

Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes are areas with a strong agricultural tradition. This strength should not be taken for granted. There are many pressures impacting the agricultural industry today as it struggles to cope with international competition, government regulation and various crises. Management of the resource, coupled with progressive economic development policies, will be critical to allow this resource to adapt and flourish.

1.2 Concerns

The decline in the agricultural land base and number of operations reported in the 2021 agricultural census is concerning. While it may be exaggerated due to the change made to the definition of a farm or agricultural operation for the 2021 agricultural census, there is still a significant ongoing decline in the amount of land used for agriculture. To provide further insight into this issue, data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) was reviewed. Although still reporting a decline in area, the MPAC data reports a larger area of farmland in 2021 than Statistics Canada.

The area of land reported by Statistics Canada is land that is farmed, not land that is designated agricultural and protected under planning policy. Comparing the area farmed to the area designated for protection in the local planning documents would provide additional insight into the future of the agricultural land base. Often land designated for future development is farmed until that development occurs. This can distort conclusions about the health of the sector.

Addressing the ongoing decline in the agricultural land area must be a major focus for sustaining the sector. Good agricultural land is a limited non-renewable resource that must be protected. Canada may be a huge country but in 2016, Statistics Canada reported that only 7% of its land mass was farmland, much less is prime agricultural land. Much of the prime land that can produce a wide range of commodities is in southern Ontario. The steady, ongoing decline in farmland is depleting this resource and reducing the ability to produce food.

There are significant differences in the requirements of farms related to factors including the type of crop produced and the size of the operation. Despite these differences, the planning controls imposed on agricultural land often operate on a “one size fits all” basis, based on the historic farm unit of one hundred acres with a house and a barn. Given the current trends to farm consolidations, advancing technology that allows smaller operations to thrive, different infrastructure requirements and the differences between those who farm full time and produce a significant amount of product and those who farm on a part time or recreational basis, this uniformity can create issues for farmers.

As in other parts of Ontario, the age profile of operators is rising in the study area with fewer younger operators moving in. The price of land, the cost of operating and uncertainty about revenue are deterrents to new operators. While there are factors including technology, which allow fewer farmers to run larger operations, this aging profile is a concern. In addition to fewer intergenerational transfers, younger people, not involved in agriculture, are often unaware of the opportunities the sector can offer. Circumstances need to be created which allow young people and other groups including recent immigrants, to be aware of the farming opportunities and enter the sector.

While climate change offers opportunities, it also introduces additional challenges. Issues related to increasing numbers of invasive species, changing weather patterns and extreme weather events require constant adjustments.

The study area is part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe and access to it has been vastly improved by upgrades in the provincial transportation system. This improved access, coupled with the cost and scarcity of housing in Toronto and its surrounding urban areas is driving up land prices and putting additional pressure for non-farm development in the study area. Changes under the current provincial government are proposed to many of the provincial policies designed to protect the agricultural land base and support the sector. Over the past decade, changes to provincial policy were designed to bring certainty to the sector. The recent actions of the current provincial government to reverse these controls have increased uncertainty for both farmers and municipal governments. Uncertainty about provincial direction makes it difficult to do business and is putting negative pressure on the land base.

Livestock related operations dominate the study area. To be successful, livestock operators need protection from non-farm development and general understanding of the resources and regulations these types of operations require to operate and expand. Often, livestock

operations can successfully operate on rural land, they do not require the soil capability of prime land for grazing. However, controls to protect the integrity of farming areas are less stringent on rural lands. With minimum distance separation requirements, and the conflict that can arise between livestock operators and non-farm residents, it is essential to provide separation. With the relatively small average farm size that characterizes much of the study area, this issue needs to be addressed on an on-going basis. If the proposed changes to provincial policy proceed, it may make it more difficult to maintain agricultural areas and separation of uses. This will have a negative impact on livestock operations.



Edge management at the interface between settlement areas and rural areas needs to be addressed to protect the integrity of the rural and agricultural areas. Buffers between urban and rural land uses of sufficient size to be effective, are necessary to protect agricultural lands and create a permanent separation between agricultural and urban uses.

In Kawartha Lakes, the amalgamation of the area into one census division has impacted the ability to understand trends in different parts of the City. Certainly, the nature of the land in the southern part of the City is better for crop producing agriculture. However, it is also the area closest to the Toronto centered urban area and therefore subject to pressure for non-farm development. By not having access to a better geographical breakdown of statistics related to the different areas, it is difficult to conduct a detailed analysis of area specific impacts.

As noted previously, suppression of data in Trent Lakes and Havelock- Belmont-Methuen creates similar problems and results in an underreporting of activity in those municipalities.



The increasing age profile of farmers and the lack of young farmers entering the sector, combined with a lack of succession planning, offers no certainty that existing farmers are formally planning to pass their operations to others.

Other conclusions reached as result of the analysis of the statistics confirm that while agriculture remains a dominant

sector in the study area, growth in the sector has been moderate. Although revenues have increased, so have expenses. There may be mitigating factors that help to explain the decline in the number of farms, in the number of operators, the aging profile and the smaller land base but these are concerning trends.

1.3 Opportunities

The study area has an established history of agriculture with local understanding and support. There is a strong historical and cultural network for the farming community and continued agricultural economic development efforts that enhance farms' profile and profitability. The economic impact assessment conducted in 2006, concluded that for each \$1 generated by the agricultural sectors there was a \$3 impact in the economy³. While this analysis is dated, it is likely given the growth in the sector, that this positive impact has been sustained.

The agri-food sector is the largest economic sector in the Ontario economy and a significant presence in the study area. Operations that sustain and support the growth of this sector strengthen the local economy while providing access to a local, safe food supply. Programs are in place to promote the local food system. As public interest in safe, healthy, local food continues to grow there is an opportunity to expand these programs.

Due to the topography of the study area, smaller farms predominate. This could provide an opportunity for new farmers to enter the sector at a lower cost.

³ Planscape, City of Kawartha Lakes and Greater Peterborough Area Agricultural Impact and Development Study, 2006, pgE3.

The diversity of products should continue to be encouraged as it buffers the industry from the negative impacts of a decline in price or demand for certain commodities.

The study area maintains the circumstances to support livestock operations. These opportunities are disappearing in other parts of the Greater Golden Horseshoe so operators in those areas are looking for alternative locations. There may be opportunities to encourage expansion of this form of agriculture. The more marginal lands in the northern part of the study area, which may be lower priced than more southerly prime land, may provide such an opportunity. There exists an established livestock sector with available resources, including grass lands for grazing and a large community pasture that can support additional livestock production.

Policies supporting communal facilities to support farm business such as abattoirs, cold storage, grain elevators, fertilizer mixing facilities, farm equipment mechanics and equipment dealers are key to sustainability and prosperity in the farm community. These services currently exist in the study area and will be attractive to farmers from other areas where these services are disappearing. Ongoing consultation with the agricultural sector will assist in protecting the existing infrastructure and addressing future needs.

Technology is constantly improving, providing opportunities for operations to increase efficiencies. Access to affordable, high-speed internet, three phase power, transportation networks and other modern infrastructure is critical for agricultural operations. Flexibility is essential to capitalize on technological advances. Understanding and responding to these needs will support ongoing modernization of the sector.

Canadian farmers are educated and progressive. Tracking of the adoption of new technologies for allowing more mechanization and environmentally sustainable practices confirms that farmers in the study area are part of this progressive movement.



Climate change is a reality and there is potential for Canadian agriculture to benefit because of it. A warming climate may provide opportunities for agriculture in certain regions with an expansion of the growing season due to milder and shorter winters. This could increase productivity and allow the production of new and potentially more profitable crops. For a high-latitude country like Canada, future warming is expected to be more pronounced than the global average. Northern regions and the southern and central Prairies will see more warming than other regions. Most regions will likely be warmer with longer frost-free seasons. Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO²) concentrations are expected to increase in the future which promotes the growth of small grains and oilseeds by increasing photosynthesis and crop water use efficiency. Corn will mostly benefit from increased water use efficiency and less from increases in photosynthesis.⁴ Temperatures will rise, leading to longer growing seasons and with sustained access to water will increase productivity.

Conversely, other major growing areas of the world are expected to see a decline in productivity because of the warming climate and shortages of water. Canada is already a major exporter of agricultural products. With increased productivity, its role as a food basket for the world is expected to increase.

Covid, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world have increased public understanding of the importance of sustaining a local food supply. This increased awareness may be an opportunity to expand education regarding food supply and local agriculture and the importance of supporting it.

There has been considerable advancement in the provincial policies related to on-farm and farm diversified uses. Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County must consider how to benefit from the flexibility these policies offer while ensuring that such uses remain secondary or accessory to the main agricultural use. Scale and impact, both present and future, must be carefully considered in controlling these uses.

Farm enterprise zones, focused on existing settlements and planned through a secondary planning process could be used to accommodate agri-related businesses and support services, provide alternative locations for housing, focus on unique sectors in the agricultural area and support rural communities. It may be possible to apply a type of community improvement plan process to implement this approach.

⁴ [Climate change impacts on agriculture - agriculture.canada.ca](https://www.agriculture.canada.ca)

Both the County and City governments understand and support agriculture. The policies they have developed support the sector. This is a benefit when compared to more urban municipalities where the agriculture sector has little profile, is sometimes not as well understood and may not be appropriately addressed or protected in policy.

The total area of land under agricultural production in Canada was estimated by Statistics Canada in 2016 at less than 7.3%⁵. Of that, less than 5% is prime agricultural land, Class 1, 2 and 3, and only approximately .05% is Class 1⁶. Good agricultural land is a non-renewable resource that needs to be managed and protected. Strong tools including rigorous, enforced planning policies, the registration of agricultural easements, and access to land under circumstances that farmers can afford are required.

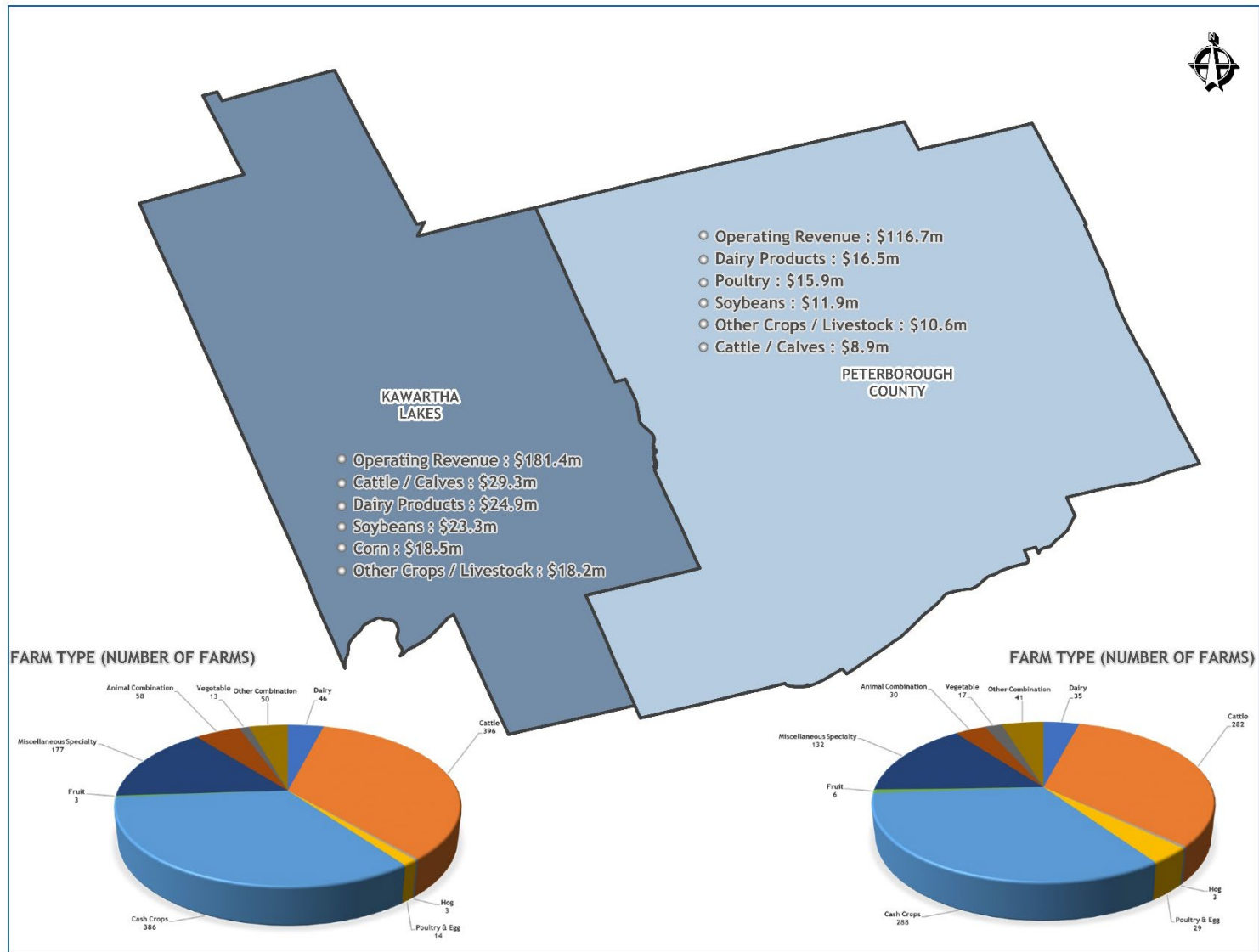
Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough are characterized by certain features that impact the type of agriculture that will thrive. With the exception of certain areas including the south part of Kawartha lakes and Selwyn, the varied topography tends to make large cash crop operations more difficult. A range of land types, including a large community pasture in Kawartha Lakes, supports livestock operations. The strong agricultural heritage attracts non rural residents to experience the rural lifestyle. These features should be the building blocks upon which programs to support agriculture are based. Threats such as non-farm development in agricultural areas must be controlled.

The study area has a valuable resource in its agricultural sector, which is and should continue to be, a major element in regional and local economic development strategies. In developing these strategies, a commitment to supporting the agricultural and agri-food sector developed in consultation with the agricultural community will be key.

⁵ [Snapshot of Canadian agriculture \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/26-289-x/2016001/article/14861-eng.htm)

⁶ <https://neptis.org/publications/chapters/where-are-significant-agricultural-lands-located>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FIGURE 1: SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF FARMS BY TYPE, OPERATING REVENUES AND KEY COMMODITIES' CASH RECEIPTS, 2021

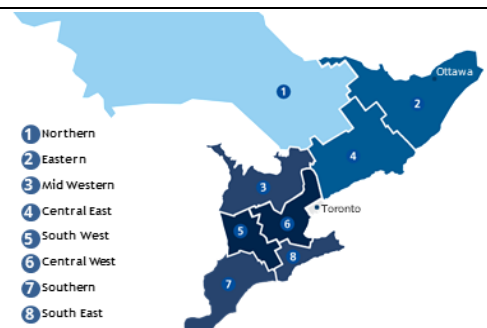


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FIGURE 2: SUMMARY TABLE OF KEY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes					Peterborough				
Number of Farms	There were 1,146 farms in 2021, 1,265 in 2016 and 1,366 in 2011. There was a reported decrease of 220 farms (19.2% between 2011 and 2021). The significant decline in number of reported farms may be due to the change in how Statistics Canada defines a farm.					There were 863 farms in 2021, 941 in 2016 and 1,053 in 2011. There was a reported decrease of 190 farms (22.0%) between 2011 and 2021. The significant decline in number of reported farms may be due to the change in how Statistics Canada defines a farm.				
Area of Farmland	There were 277,793 acres of farmland reported in the 2021 census, 309,405 acres in 2016 and 326,092 acres in 2011. Area of farmland has decreased by 48,299 acres (15%) between 2011 and 2021.					There were 180,372 acres of farmland reported in the 2021 census, 202,240 acres in 2016 and 228,936 acres in 2011. Area of farmland decreased by 48,564 acres (21%) between 2011 and 2021.				
Average Farm Size	Average Farm size in 2021 was reported as 242 acres, 245 acres in 2016 and 239 acres in 2011. Average area fluctuated from 239 Acres in 2011 to 245 Acres in 2016 with a slight decrease in 2021 to 242 Acres.					Average Farm size in 2021 was reported as 209 acres, 215 acres in 2016 and 217 acres in 2011. A slight decrease during the census years from 217 Acres in 2011 to 215 Acres in 2016 to 209 Acres in 2021.				
Farms Classified by Total Farm Area	Farm Area Class	2011	2016	2021		Farm Area Class	2011	2016	2021	
	Under 10 acres:	36	45	25		Under 10 acres:	26	38	28	
	10 to 69 acres:	253	238	247		10 to 69 acres:	182	175	172	
	70 to 129 acres:	410	356	320		70 to 129 acres:	331	289	268	
	130 to 179 acres:	161	134	132		130 to 179 acres:	104	84	95	

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes				Peterborough			
	180 to 239 acres:	148	141	116	180 to 239 acres:	128	100	72
	240 to 399 acres:	160	166	148	240 to 399 acres:	133	120	111
	400 to 559 acres:	74	67	59	400 to 559 acres:	74	65	56
	560 to 759 acres:	47	46	39	560 to 759 acres:	30	32	28
	760 to 1,119 acres:	40	32	21	760 to 1,119 acres:	28	19	19
	1,120 to 1,599 acres:	14	17	17	1,120 to 1,599 acres:	11	14	8
	1,600 to 2,239 acres:	15	11	12	1,600 to 2,239 acres:	6	3	4
	2,240 to 2,879 acres:	3	10	6	2,240 to 2,879 acres:	0	2	2
	2,880 to 3,518 acres:	4	1	2	2,880 to 3,518 acres:	0	0	0
	3,520 acres and over:	1	1	2	3,520 acres and over:	0	0	0
Land Tenure (owned or rented)	The percentage of Farmland Area Owned and Rented has remained the same between 2011 and 2021 - Kawartha Lakes at 68% of land being Owned and 32% being Rented.				The percentage of Farmland Area Owned and Rented has remained constant with at least 70% of the lands being owned.			
Farms by Main Farm Type	Cattle operations have increased in Kawartha Lakes since 2016. Cash crops and horse and pony farms show the most significant decline. The main commodities in Kawartha Lakes based on Number of Farms Reporting: 2011: Cash Crops (438), Cattle (411), and Miscellaneous Specialty (240). 2016: Cash Crops (438), Cattle (367), and Miscellaneous Specialty (197).				Cattle and sheep are the only farm types showing growth since 2011. Horse and pony, cash crops and miscellaneous specialty farms show the greatest decline. The main commodities are: 2011: Cash Crops (351), Cattle (272), and Miscellaneous Specialty (198). 2016: Cash Crops (319), Cattle (247), and Miscellaneous Specialty (166).			

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes	Peterborough
	2021: Cash Crops (386), Cattle (396), and Miscellaneous Specialty (177).	2021: Cash Crops (288), Cattle (282) and Miscellaneous Specialty (132).
Estimated Farm Cash Receipts (by farm and commodity)	There has been a significant increase in farm cash receipts. The greatest percent increases in farm cash receipts by commodity are Other Crops and Livestock (1483%), wheat (274% and Corn (113%). Cannabis is reported as Other Crops and Livestock and may explain the significant increase in this commodity classification. The decreases in farm cash receipts by commodity are Eggs (-100%) and Nursery (-37%).	There has been a significant increase in farm cash receipts. The greatest percent increases in farm cash receipts by commodity are Other Crops and Livestock (1488%), Eggs (324%) and Wheat (162%). Cannabis is reported as Other Crops and Livestock and may explain the significant increase in this commodity classification. The decreases in farm cash receipts by commodity are Nursery (-100%) and Dairy Products (-4%).
Operating Revenue	Total Operating Revenues increased from \$110,704,607 in 2011 to \$181,437,003 in 2021. Operating Revenues per Acre increased from \$339 per acre in 2011 to \$653 per acre in 2021.	Total Operating Revenues increased from \$78,543,529 in 2011 to \$116,692,862 in 2021. Operating Revenues per Acre increased from \$343 per acre in 2011 to \$647 per acre in 2021.
Operating Expenses	Farm Operating Expenses Per Acre has seen an increase from \$321 per acre in 2011 to \$609 per acre in 2021. Farm Operating Expenses Per Farm has seen an increase from \$76,705 per farm in 2011 to \$147,509 per farm in 2021.	Farm Operating Expenses Per Acre has seen an increase from \$296 per acre in 2011 to \$584 per acre in 2021. Farm Operating Expenses Per Farm has seen an increase from \$64,339 per farm in 2011 to \$122,008 per farm in 2021.
Gross Profit	Gross Profit per farm decreased \$1103 between 2016 and 2021.	Gross Profit per farm increased \$6,673 between 2016 and 2021. This trend is due to the significant increases in Otonabee-South Monaghan, Selwyn and Asphodel-Norwood. Otonabee-South Monaghan (\$19,921), Selwyn (\$8,910) and Asphodel-Norwood (\$7,379)

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes	Peterborough
		experienced the largest increase in gross farm profit. Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Trent Lakes no longer generate sufficient gross profit from their agricultural activities to be reported.
Farm Capital	Average Farm Capital Per Farm has seen an increase from \$953,350 per farm in 2011 to \$1,476,127 per farm in 2016 to \$2,349,707 per farm in 2021.	Average Farm Capital Per Farm has increased from \$914,989 per farm in 2011 to \$1,266,461 per farm in 2016 to \$1,959,193 per farm in 2021.
Land Prices (Central East reporting area includes Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough)	Land prices in Central East (that includes the study area) have increased by 32% between 2011 and 2021. Land prices per acre in Central East rose another \$2,400 per acre between 2021 and 2022. Across Ontario, land prices in Central West and Southwest show the steepest price increases while the northern area reports the slowest increase.	
Farm Operators (number, age and characteristics)	Total Number of Operators [All Farms] has seen a constant decline in the number of operators from 1,920 in 2011 to 1,105 in 2021. Total Number of Operators by Age Category [All Farms] has remained constant from 2011 to 2021 with the majority of operators being in the 55 year and older category. Average Age of Operators [All Farms] has increased slightly from 55.6 years in 2011 to 56.7 years in 2016 to 57.9 years in 2021.	Total Number of Operators [All Farms] has seen a constant decline in the number of operators from 1,460 in 2011 to 810 in 2021. Total Number of Operators by Age Category [All Farms] has remained constant from 2011 to 2021 with the majority of operators being within the 55 year and older category. The Average Age of Operators [All Farms] has increased from 56.5 years in 2011 to 57.3 years in 2016 to 58.7 years in 2021.

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes	Peterborough
Operating Arrangements	Sole Proprietorship, although decreasing over time, has remained the dominant operating arrangement for farms in Kawartha Lakes. Over 60% of the farms reporting in 2021 are operating under a sole proprietor.	Sole Proprietorship, although decreasing over time, has remained the dominant operating arrangement for farms within Peterborough. Over 58% of the farms reporting in 2021 are operating under a sole proprietor.
Paid Labour	Data was only recorded in the 2016 and 2021 Agricultural Census. 11% of farms have either full or part-time employees (131 of 1,146 farms). The number of operations employing seasonal or temporary workers declined from 26% to 13% (325 to 152 farms). The number of family members working in the farm unit is higher than the provincial average with 24% in 2021.	Data was only recorded in the 2016 and 2021 Agricultural Census. 9% of farms have either full or part-time employees (79 of 863 farms). 14% of farms in Otonabee-South Monaghan have paid employees. The number of operations employing seasonal or temporary workers declined from 36% to 19% (337 to 160 farms). The number of family members working in the farm unit is higher than the provincial average with 20% in 2021. The number is as high as 47% in Asphodel-Norwood and as low as 10% in Selwyn.
Farming Practices	In-field winter grazing of livestock remained steady at around 202 farms Land Practices of Shelterbelts or Windbreaks (Natural or Planted) within Kawartha Lakes has seen an increase from 345 (farms reporting) in 2011 to 585 (farms reporting) in 2021.	Land Practices of Shelterbelts or Windbreaks (Natural or Planted) within Peterborough has seen an increase from 267 (farms reporting) in 2011 to 439 (farms reporting) in 2021.
Succession Planning	821 farms out of 1,146 farms in Kawartha Lakes have no succession plan. Verbal succession plans are more prevalent than written succession plans.	614 farms out of 863 farms in Peterborough have no succession plan. Verbal succession plans are more prevalent than written succession plans.

Characteristic	Kawartha Lakes	Peterborough
Technologies	In Kawartha Lakes, automated guidance steering systems has increased 4%, GIS Mapping has increased 3% and 8 more farms were using robotic milking between 2016 and 2021. Adoption of new digital and robotic technology is quickly evolving in Ontario. Robotic milking equipment has seen a 112% increase in adoption from 2016 to 2021 provincially. Adoptions of GIS mapping system has increased by 58% from 2016 to 2021 provincially.	In Peterborough, automated guidance steering systems has increased 4%, GIS Mapping has increased 4% and 6 more farms were using robotic milking between 2016 and 2021. Adoption of new digital and robotic technology is quickly evolving in Ontario. Robotic milking equipment has seen a 112% increase in adoption from 2016 to 2021 provincially. Adoptions of GIS mapping system has increased by 58% from 2016 to 2021 provincially.
Renewable Energy	Solar energy adoption across the study area has been significant and widespread with adoption rates generally above the provincial average. 190 farms are producing renewable energy, 108 farms are selling it, 5 farms have wind power, 128 farms have solar, 51 have bioenergy, 48 have biomass combustion energy, 3 have biomethane, 2 have another type of bioenergy (other biogas) and 32 farms have geothermal.	Solar energy adoption across the study area has been significant and widespread with adoption rates generally above the provincial average. Trent Lakes has increased n from 3 to 10 sites (+233%) and Cavan-Monaghan from 9 to 18 sites (+100%). 169 farms are producing renewable energy, 87 farms are selling it, 0 farms have wind power, 128 farms have solar, 33 have bioenergy, 32 have biomass combustion energy, 0 have biomethane, 2 have another type of bioenergy (other biogas) and 24 farms have geothermal.
Business Location Counts	Agri-food businesses grew from 1,056 to 1,062 between 2016 and 2021. The number of businesses with employees grew by 20. The increases are seen in crop production operations (229 operations in 2016 to 324 in 2021). All other business types decreased over the same period.	Agri-food businesses declined by 97. Crop production businesses increased by 31 and Food, Beverage & Tobacco Manufacturing rose by 5 businesses. All other business types decreased between 2016 and 2021.

AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES

Agriculture is a key contributor to life within Kawartha Lakes. Economic activity that is generated by agriculture and related businesses significantly strengthens the community.

Kawartha Lakes physical characteristics are best suited for livestock operations that require foraging and pasturelands. All commodity groups benefit from a strong agricultural service network within the region.

Agriculture is an integral part of the City as it successfully optimizes resources and people to achieve a community that is innovative, diverse, balanced, sustainable and prosperous.

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES

Operating revenues have increased by \$70,732,396 or 63.8% over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
\$110,704,607	\$149,554,820	\$181,437,003

OPERATING REVENUE PER FARM

Operating revenues per farm has increased by \$77,279 per farm or 95.3% over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
\$81,043	\$118,225	\$158,322

OPERATING REVENUE PER ACRE

Operating Revenue has increased for farmers by \$314 or 92.6% over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
\$939	\$1,125	\$1,676

NUMBER OF FARMS

Farms are disappearing. There are 16.1% fewer farms over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
1,366	1,265	1,146

AVERAGE FARM SIZE

Farms are remaining stable in size in Kawartha Lakes.

2011	2016	2021
239 ACRES	245 ACRES	242 ACRES

OWNED FARMLAND

Many farmers farm on land that is their own.

2011	2016	2021
326,092 Acres	309,405 Acres	277,793 Acres

NUMBER OF FARMERS

The number of farmers is declining in Kawartha Lakes.

MALE			FEMALE		
2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
1,380	1,250	1,105	770	680	505

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS (2021)

Kawartha Lakes Farmers average age is higher than that of the Provincial Average.

Province	Average Age
Ontario	56.7
Kawartha Lakes	57.9

AVERAGE FARM CAPITAL

The value and cost of land, buildings and equipment has increased by 146% in the past 10 years.

2011	2016	2021
\$953,350	\$1,476,127	\$2,349,707

LAND PRACTICES AND LAND FEATURES

Windbreaks and Shelterbelts help to protect lands from wind and erosion, crops from physical damage, and help irrigation efficiency.

2011	2016	2021
345	429	585

69.5% Increase

SUCCESSION PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

Farm Operators may not have access to resources that can help them create a succession plan. Without a succession plan, farmland may be bought for non-agricultural development.

No Succession Plan	Written Succession Plan
821 Farms (66%)	96 Farms (8%)
Verbal Succession Plan Only	1 or More Family Members
229 Farms (18%)	90 Farms (7%)

NUMBER OF FARMS BY TYPE - 2021

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIALTY* 177 FARMS	CASH CROPS 386 FARMS	POULTRY & EGG 14 FARMS	FRUIT 3 FARMS	DAIRY 46 FARMS
VEGETABLES 13 FARMS	CATTLE 396 FARMS	OTHER COMBINATION** 50 FARMS	ANIMAL COMBINATION 58 FARMS	HOG & PIG 3 FARMS

OPERATING EXPENSES - PER FARM

Operating expenses on farm level has increased by \$70,804 per farm or 92.3% over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
\$76,705	\$106,309	\$147,509

OPERATING EXPENSES - PER ACRE

Operating costs per acre has increased by \$288 per acre or 89.7% over a 10-year period.

2011	2016	2021
\$321	\$435	\$609

OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

Sole Proprietorship has remained the main form of operating a farm within Kawartha Lakes. Although, Partnership has been increasing as Sole Proprietorship is decreasing.

2011	2016	2021
883	821	707

Sole Proprietorship

2011	2016	2021
399	316	357

Partnership

* Miscellaneous Specialty refers to: Sheep Farming, Goat Farming, Horse & Other Equine Production, Fur Bearing Animal & Rabbit Production, Apiculture, All Other Miscellaneous Animal Production, Mushroom Production, Other Food Crops Grown Under Cover, Floriculture Production, Nursery & Tree Production and Maple Syrup & Products Production

** Other Combination refers to: Fruit & Vegetable Combination Farming and All Other Miscellaneous Crop Farming

SUCCESSSES

- Productive land base
- Average farm size appears to be stable
- Revenues continue to exceed operating costs

CHALLENGES

- Increasing land prices and operating costs deter new entrants to farming
- Continual decrease in farmland available for production
- Increased farm operating costs

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FIGURE 4: COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH INFOGRAPHIC OF KEY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE STATISTICS

