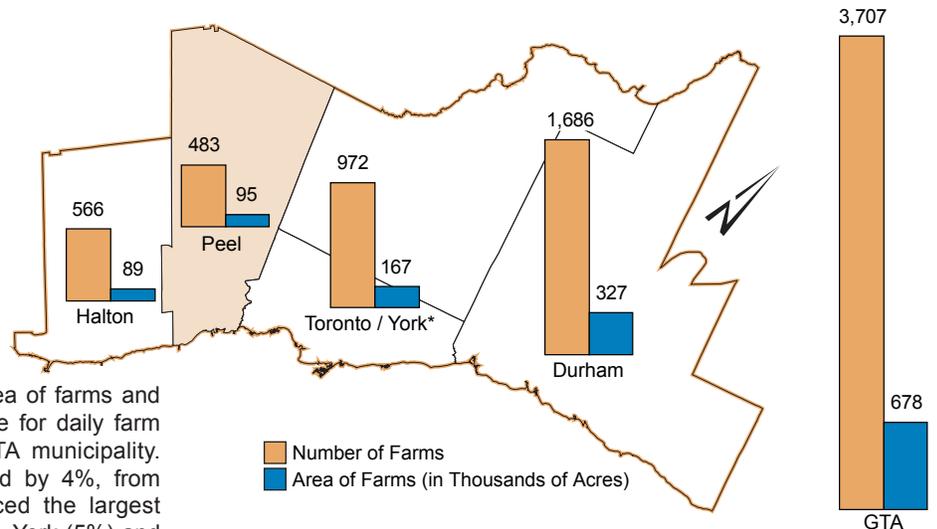


Statistics Canada released data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture on May 16, 2007. This bulletin provides a summary of a portion of the datasets that were included in this release. For confidentiality reasons, Statistics Canada has aggregated data for farms within the City of Toronto with data for farms in York Region.

Number of Farms and Area of Farms (in Thousands of Acres) in the GTA

Highlights

- From 2001 to 2006, the number of farms, the area of land used for farming and the number of farm operators decreased across the GTA
- Peel had the highest average farm market value in the GTA
- Over 85% of the land used for farming in Peel is located in Caledon



From 2001 to 2006, the number of farms, the area of farms and the number of farm operators (people responsible for daily farm management decisions) decreased in every GTA municipality. Within the GTA, the number of farms decreased by 4%, from 3,870 farms to 3,707 farms. Halton experienced the largest decrease in this figure (9%) followed by Peel (7%), York (5%) and Durham (1%). Durham had the largest share of the GTA's farms (46%) followed by York (26%), Halton (15%) and Peel (13%).

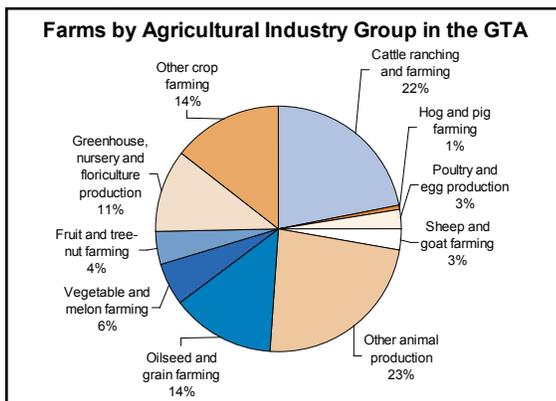
The total area of land used for farming in the GTA decreased by 4% from 709,000 acres in 2001 to 678,000 acres in 2006. Over two-thirds of all farms in the GTA were less than 130 acres in size. Durham has the highest percentage of farmer-owned land in the GTA (60%), followed by York (49%), Halton (48%) and Peel (47%). Peel's remaining farmland is either rented or leased (49%), crop shared (1%) or used through other arrangements (3%).

Though the total number of farm operators decreased in the GTA as a whole, the number of female farm operators increased 3% (from 1,530 to 1,575) between 2001 and 2006. Almost 30% of all 2006 farm operators in the GTA were female. Halton had the highest percentage of farm operators aged 55 years and older (55%) followed by Peel (50%) Durham (47%) and York (45%).

In 2006, the average market value of a farm in the GTA was just over \$2.0 million – a 29% increase compared to 2001. Farms in Peel had the highest average market value in the GTA (\$3.9 million). Durham recorded the lowest average market value (\$1.3 million). From 2001 to 2006, average farm business operating expenses increased in Durham (9%) and York (29%) but fell in Peel (29%) and Halton (4%). During the same time period, gross farm receipts rose in every GTA municipality except Peel, where this figure fell by nearly 25%.

In 2006, the most common agricultural industry group in the GTA was the production of animals other than cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats. This group includes the production of horses, bees and fur-bearing animals. More than 20% of all farms in each GTA municipality fell into this industry group. In 2001, the most common industry group in the GTA was cattle ranching and farming. From 2001 to 2006, the number of farms in this category decreased in each GTA municipality. The largest decrease (40%) occurred in Halton, while Durham recorded the smallest decrease (24%). Only 33 GTA farms reported producing organic products – 4 of these farms were located in Peel.

Many environmentally friendly forms of farming are being used in the GTA. The most common forms of soil conservation practices in 2006 were crop rotation followed by the use of windbreaks or shelterbelts. From 2001 to 2006, the farmland on which no-till or zero-till seeding was used increased by almost 20%. Just under two-thirds of farms in the GTA reported either using or producing manure.



Agricultural Statistics for the GTA

	Number of Farms			Area of Farms (in Acres)			Number of Farm Operators, 2006	Average Market Value (in \$Million), 2006	Average Farm Business Operating Expenses, 2006	Gross Farm Receipts (in \$Million), 2006
	2001	2006	Growth, 2001 to 2006	2001	2006	Growth, 2001 to 2006				
Peel	522	483	-7%	104,433	95,289	-9%	700	\$3.93	\$140,030	\$81.63
Halton	619	566	-9%	98,758	88,899	-10%	785	\$2.05	\$191,370	\$132.04
Durham	1,709	1,686	-1%	330,286	326,702	-1%	2,475	\$1.35	\$127,600	\$239.54
York*	1,020	972	-5%	175,965	167,076	-5%	1,400	\$2.26	\$199,730	\$224.12
GTA	3,870	3,707	-4%	709,442	677,966	-4%	5,360	\$2.03	\$157,869	\$677.33

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada: 2001 and 2006.

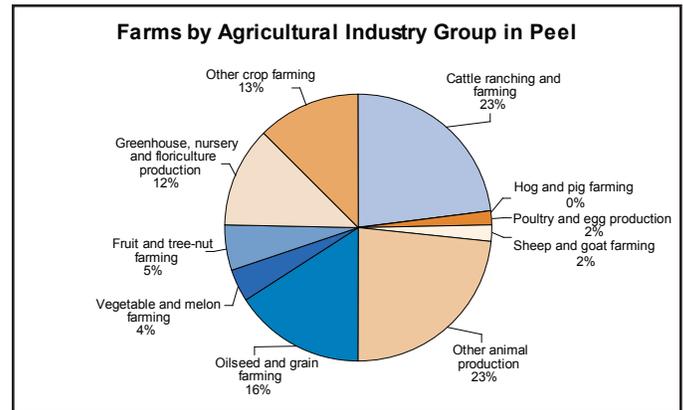
*For confidentiality reasons, Statistics Canada has aggregated data for farms within the City of Toronto and York Region.

BULLETIN: 2006 Census of Agriculture

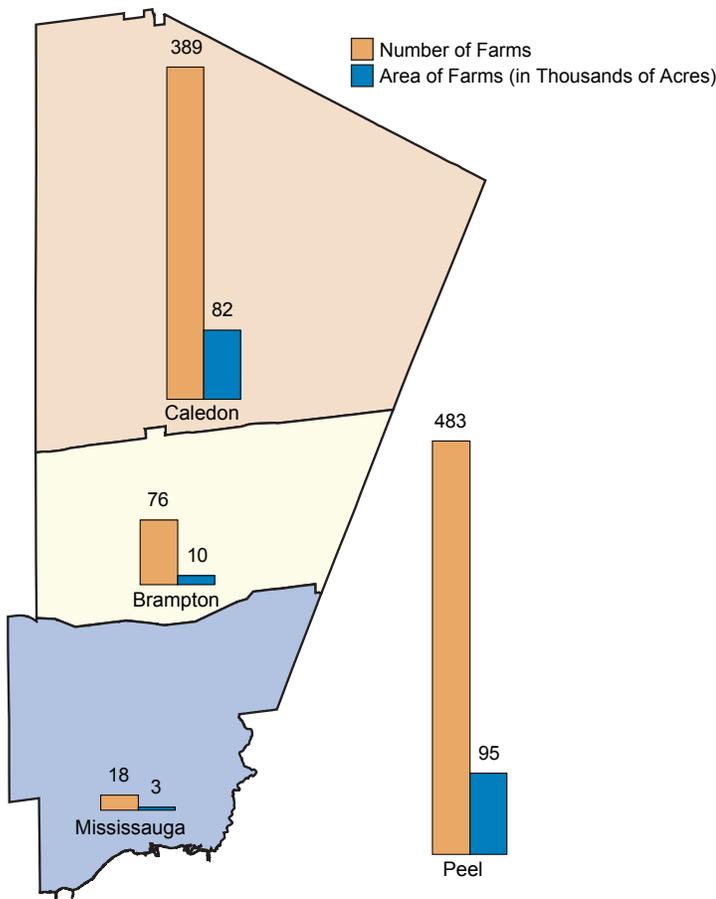
According to the 2006 Census of Agriculture, there were 483 farms in Peel in May 2006 – a 7% decrease compared to 2001. Statistics Canada did not provide data from the 2001 Census of Agriculture for the area municipalities because the boundaries used to disseminate these data changed in numerous places between 2001 and 2006.

Caledon had the largest share of Peel's farms (with 80%, or 389 farms) followed by Brampton (with 16%, or 76 farms) and Mississauga (with 4%, or 18 farms). Of the 95,000 acres used for farming in Peel, over 85% (or 82,000 acres) are located in Caledon, 11% (or 10,000 acres) are located in Brampton and 4% (or 3,000 acres) are located in Mississauga.

Most farms in Brampton and Mississauga were smaller than farms in Caledon. Over 80% of Mississauga's farms were smaller than 130 acres. Almost 70% of Brampton's farms fell into this size range. However, in Caledon, more than one in three farms was larger than 130 acres. Almost 70% of the land used for farming in Mississauga is leased or rented. Half of Brampton's farmland falls into this category. In Caledon, 49% of the land is owned while 47% is rented or leased.



**Number of Farms and Area of Farms
(in Thousands of Acres)**



There were 700 farm operators in Peel in 2006. Almost 30% (or 200) of Peel's farm operators were female. Caledon had the largest percentage of female farm operators (31%) followed by Brampton (26%) and Mississauga (20%). None of the farm operators in Mississauga and Brampton were under the age of 35 years while only 5% of Caledon's farm operators fell into this category. Mississauga had the largest proportion of farm operators over the age of 55 years (80%) followed by Brampton (60%) and Caledon (47%).

Though Caledon had 80% of Peel's farms and over 85% of the land used for farming in Peel, only 78% of Peel's farm capital was located in this area municipality. The average market value of farms in Caledon (\$3.8 million) is also significantly lower than the average market value of farms in Brampton (\$4.3 million) or Mississauga (\$5.7 million). Caledon also recorded a disproportionately lower share of gross farm receipts (only 77% of Peel's total), but had lower than average annual operating costs (\$133,000 compared to \$145,000 in Mississauga and \$174,000 in Brampton).

In 2006, the top three agricultural industry groups in Peel were the production of animals other than cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats, cattle ranching and farming and oilseed and grain farming. In Mississauga and Brampton, about 45% of farms practiced oilseed and grain farming or greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production. In Caledon, over half of all farms practiced cattle ranching and farming or the production of animals other than cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats.

Many farms in Peel use environmentally friendly farming practices. Soil conservation practices (such as the use of shelterbelts or windbreaks) are used by over half of the farms in Brampton and Caledon but only 39% of farms in Mississauga. In Brampton and Caledon, 1 in 10 farms used no-till or zero-till seeding, though none of the farms in Mississauga used this practice. Over 65% of Caledon's farms reported using manure. In Brampton and Mississauga, this figure dropped to 45% and 22% respectively.

Agricultural Statistics for Peel

	Number of Farms		Area of Farms (in Acres)		Number of Operators		Farm Capital (in \$Million)		Average Market Value (in \$Million), 2006	Average Farm Business Operating Expenses, 2006	Gross Farm Receipts (in \$Million), 2006
	2006	Percent	2006	Percent	2006	Percent	2006	Percent			
Mississauga	18	4%	3,468	4%	25	4%	103	5%	\$5.71	\$144,913	\$2.83
Brampton	76	16%	10,173	11%	115	16%	323	17%	\$4.26	\$173,797	\$15.84
Caledon	389	80%	81,648	86%	555	79%	1,473	78%	\$3.79	\$133,207	\$62.96
Peel	483	100%	95,289	100%	700	100%	1,899	100%	\$3.93	\$140,030	\$81.63