

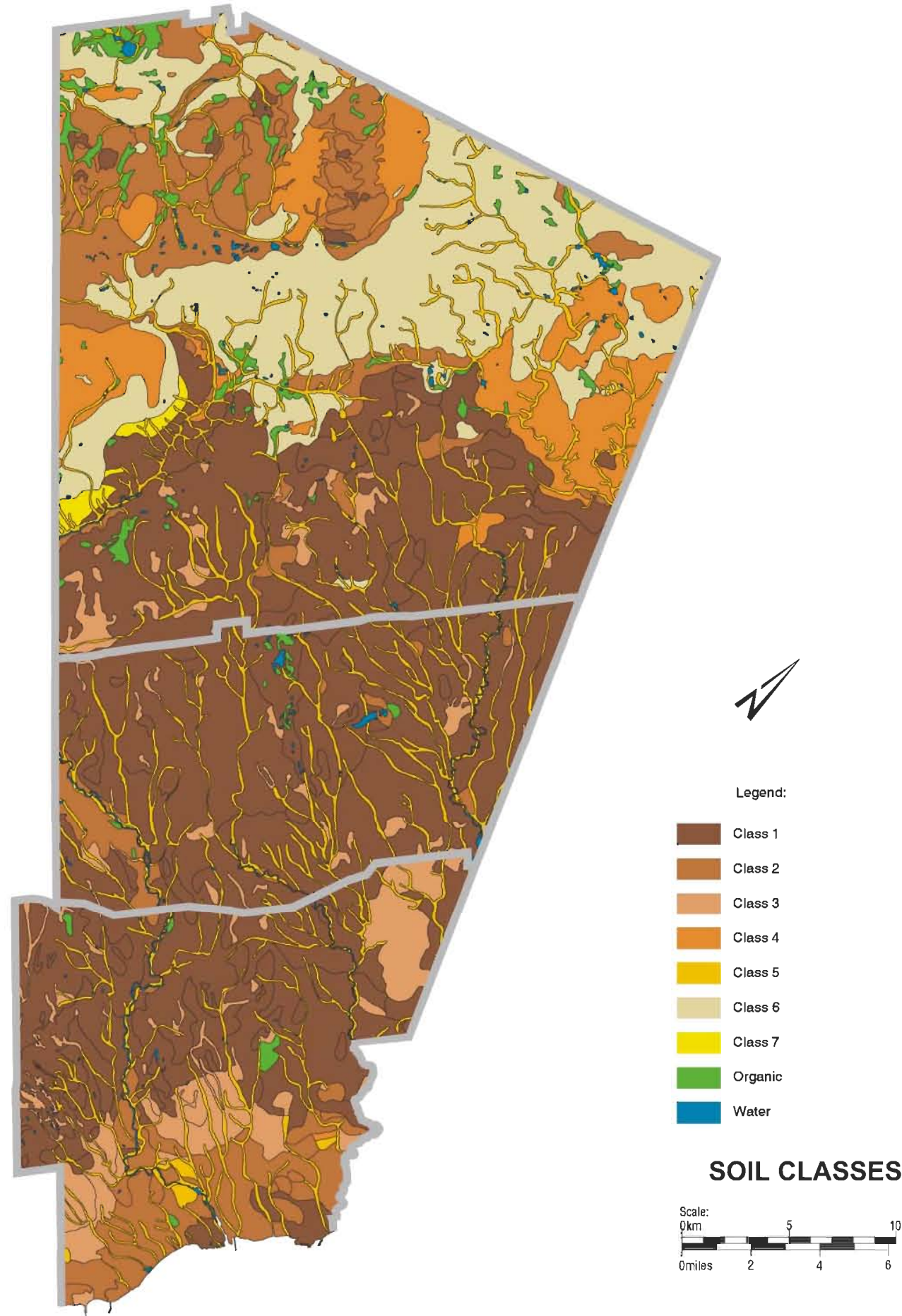
Agriculture/Soils

Despite the fact that Peel Region continues to experience steady urbanization, agriculture remains an important economic activity and way of life. Since around the turn of the century, the amount of agricultural land has generally been in a steady decline in Ontario. Urban areas have been expanding and some marginal farmlands have been abandoned to natural regeneration. Farmland located close to growing urban areas is under pressure for urban development. It is well suited to accommodate urban development as it is cleared of forest, level and well-drained.

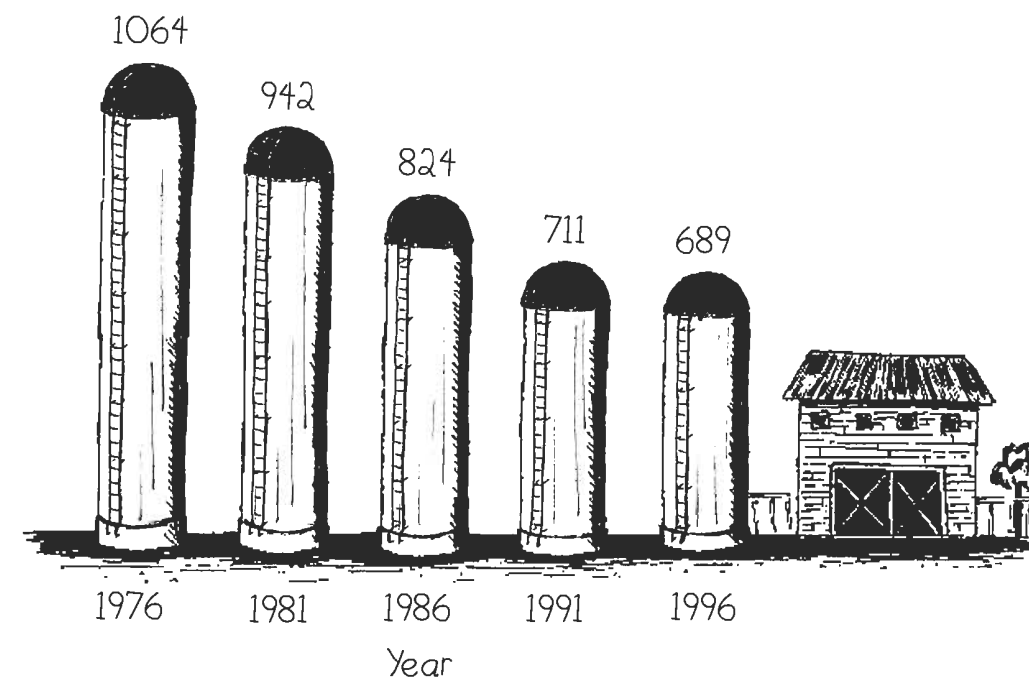
A prime agricultural area is one that has the best soils for agriculture. The best soils are classified as Canada Land Inventory Class 1-3. Only 0.5 per cent of Canada's land is designated as Class 1, and half of this land is located in southern Ontario. The Region of Peel has identified a large part of the remaining prime agricultural land in the Region as Prime Agricultural Area in order to preserve it for agricultural uses. This area includes the majority of the land in the southern part of Caledon, as well as the land outside the urbanized area on the west of Brampton.

Question 2:

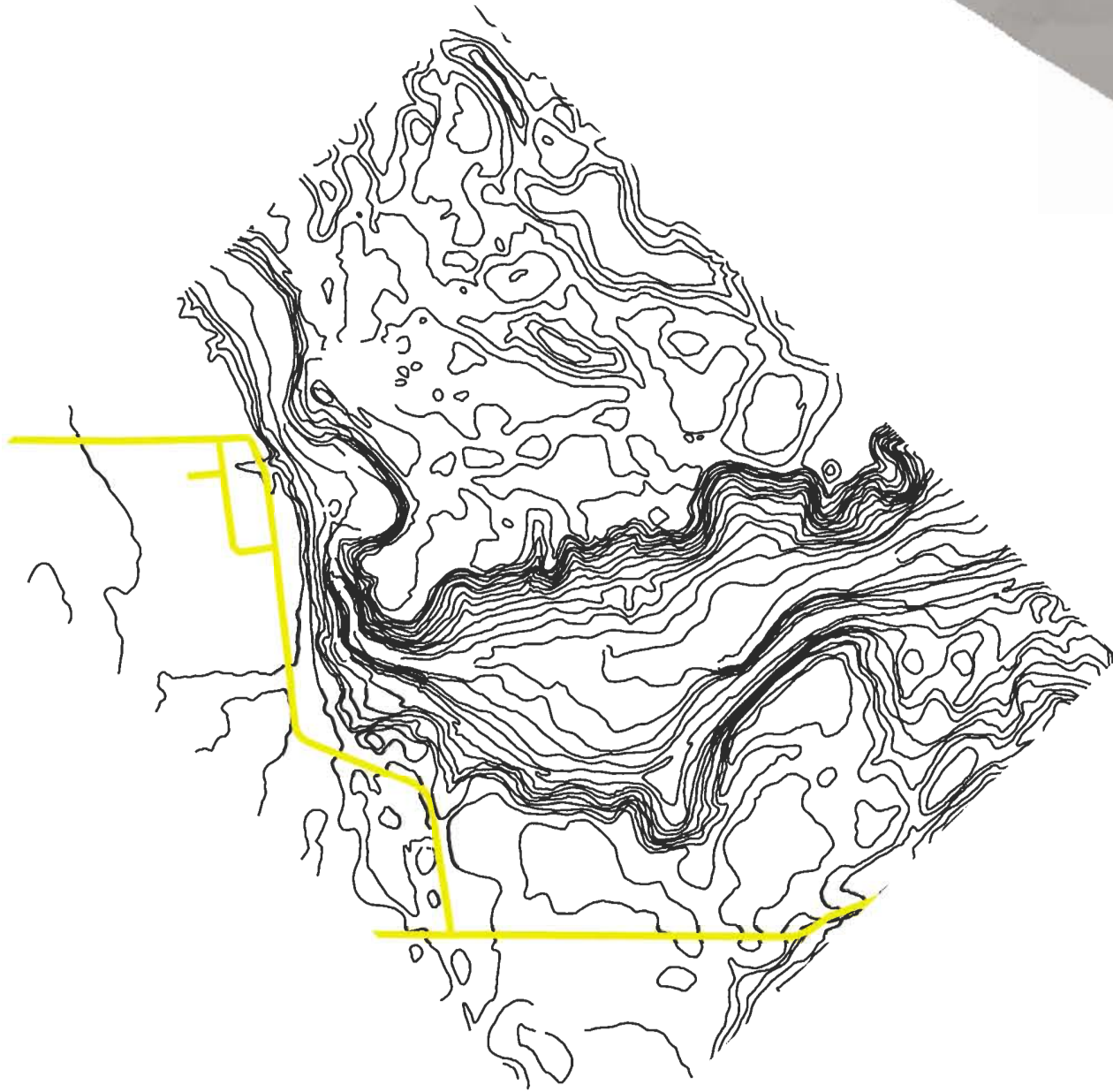
If the total area of farms in Peel was 155,507 acres in 1976 and 120,026 acres in 1996, what was the change in the average farm size in the Region over that time period? Answer on page 31



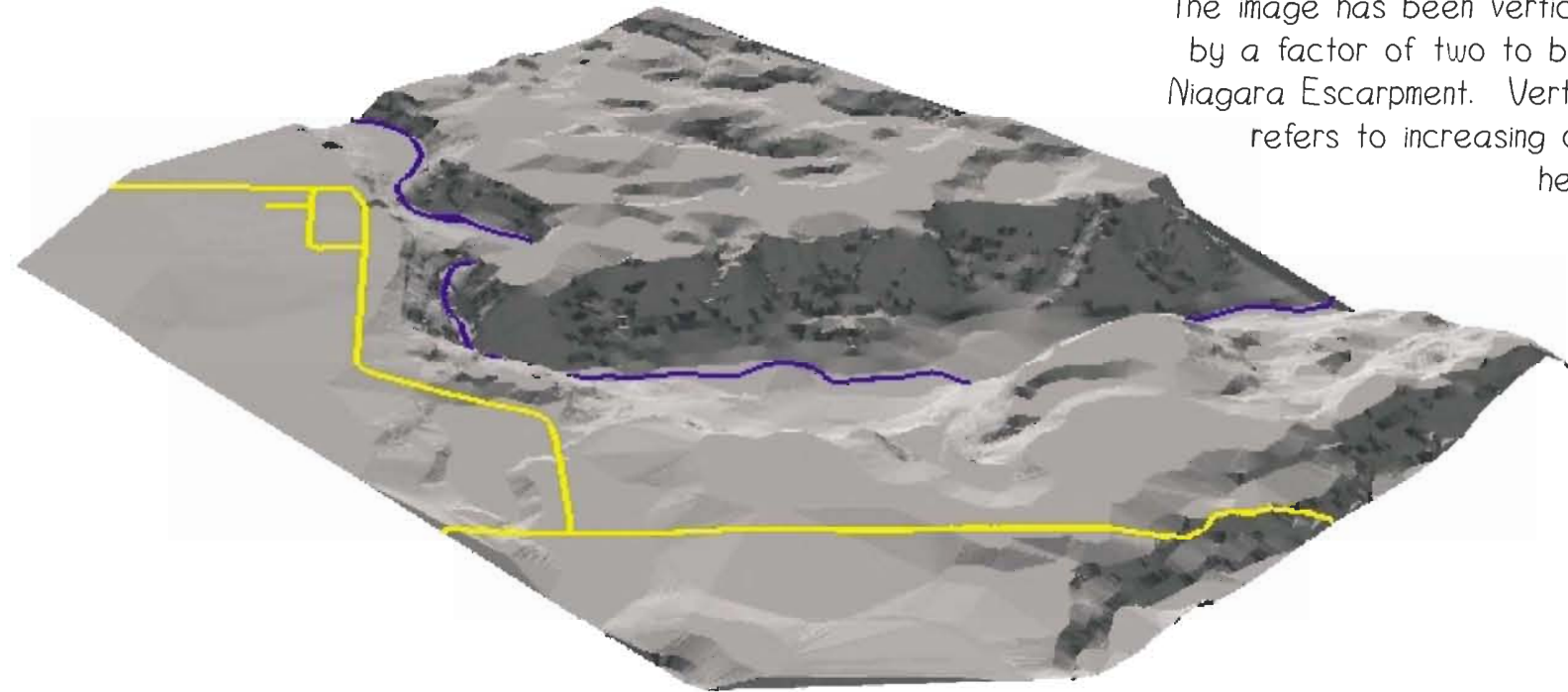
Number of Farms in Peel, 1976 - 1996



A contour map featuring part of the Niagara Escarpment near the Hamlet of Cataract. Each contour line represents a 5-metre difference in elevation (height).



This is a three-dimensional (3D) plot of the same area. The image has been vertically exaggerated by a factor of two to better highlight the Niagara Escarpment. Vertical exaggeration refers to increasing or decreasing the height in the scene.



This 3D plot, as shown, has a 1999 ortho-digital photo "draped" over the same area.

