



Golden Horseshoe
Food and Farming
Alliance

AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS IN THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE

The Golden Horseshoe is a rich farming area producing a vast array of agricultural products. Even today, as the region with the largest concentration of urban development in Canada, the Golden Horseshoe (GH) continues to be home to in excess of 6,000 farms with 1 million acres of farmland producing over 200 commodities for local and international markets.

The full Agricultural Profile report, based on the 2011 Statistics data, including a breakdown by region, can be accessed on the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming website www.foodandfarming.ca

> GOLDEN HORSESHOE



> AVERAGE FARM SIZE

Farms are getting larger, but smaller farms with high value crops are common in the GH.



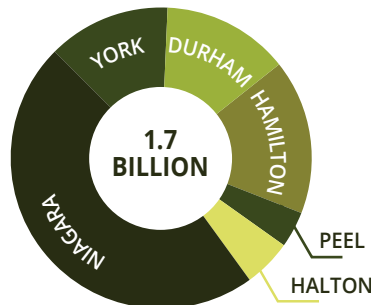
> NUMBER OF FARMS

Farms are disappearing. There are 46% fewer farms in 30 years.



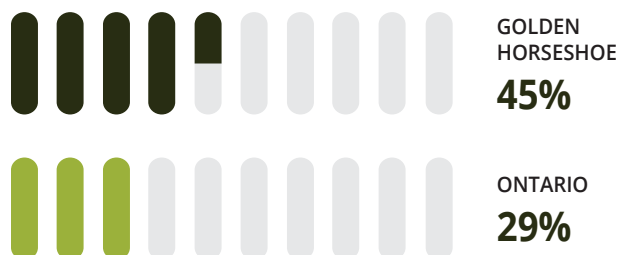
> GROSS FARM RECEIPTS

Combined Farm Gate sales add 1.7 Billion dollars to the economy. Farmers reinvest those dollars into their communities.



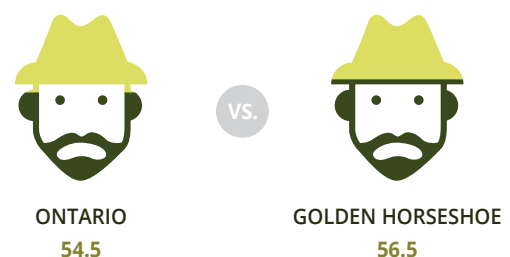
> RENTED FARMLAND

Many GH farmers farm on land that is not their own due to high cost of land in near urban areas.



> AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS

Farmers are getting older, but so are most small business owners.



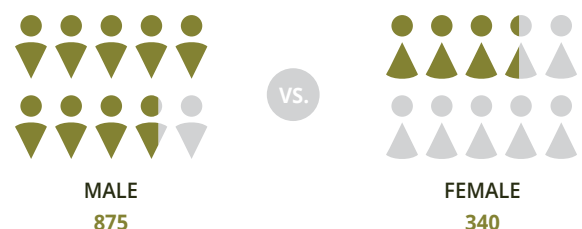
> NUMBER OF FARMLAND ACRES

Land is a finite resource. The GH has lost 300,000 acres of Canada's best farmland in 30 years!



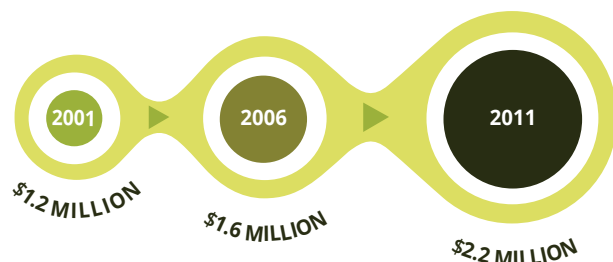
> NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE FARMERS

The number of female farmers is declining in the GH.



> AVERAGE FARM CAPITAL

The value and cost of land, buildings and equipment has almost doubled in the past 10 years. It takes a lot of money to farm in the GH.



> GROSS FARM RECEIPTS PER ACRE

GH farms grow higher value crops than most Ontario farms due to quality soils, great climate and proximity to markets.



> ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$1.7 Billion Gross Farm Receipts



DIRECT IMPACT = \$1.2 B



INDUCED IMPACT = \$2.1 B

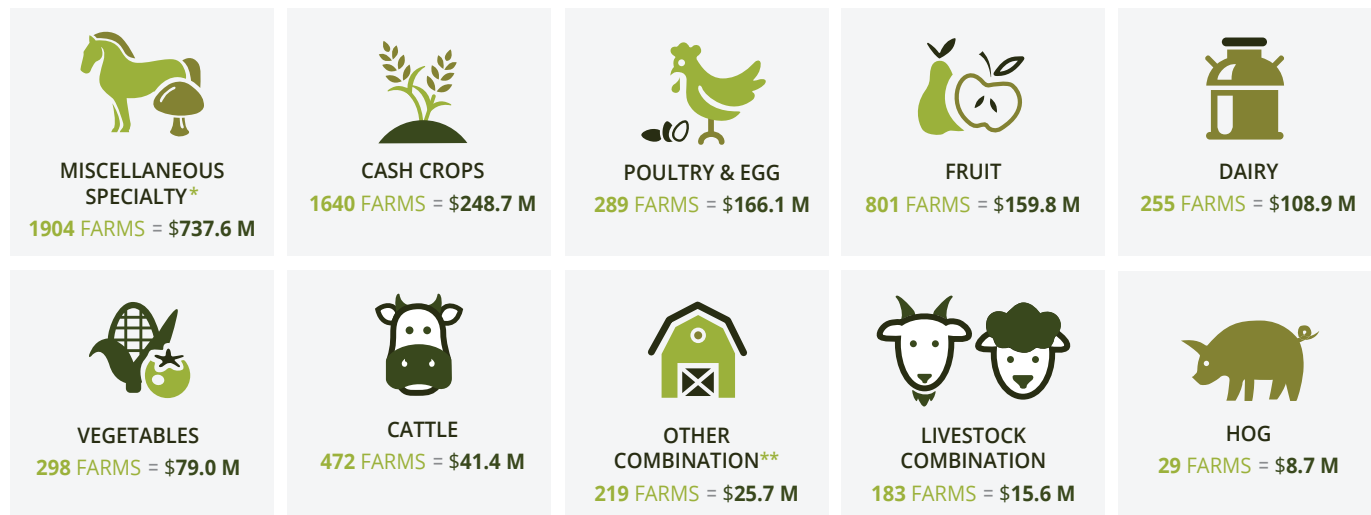


INDIRECT IMPACT = \$3.1 B



> NUMBER OF FARMS BY TYPE & GROSS FARM RECEIPTS

\$1.7 Billion Gross Farm Receipts



* Miscellaneous Specialty refers to : sheep farming, goat farming, horse & other equine production, fur bearing animal and rabbit production, apiculture, all other misc. animal production, mushroom production, other food crops grown under cover, floriculture production, nursery & tree production (including Christmas trees), maple syrup & products production.

** Other Combination refers to: fruit and vegetable combination and all other misc. fruit and vegetable crops.

> SUCCESSES



- Increased awareness of local food;
- Productive land base;
- Highly skilled workforce;
- Diversity driving demand for world crops;
- High export potential.

> CHALLENGES



- High land prices and operating costs prohibit new entrants to farming;
- Environmental benefits of agriculture not documented;
- Fewer farmers in the GH force farm suppliers to move outside the GH;
- Increased traffic makes machinery movement difficult.