

Farming in Halton



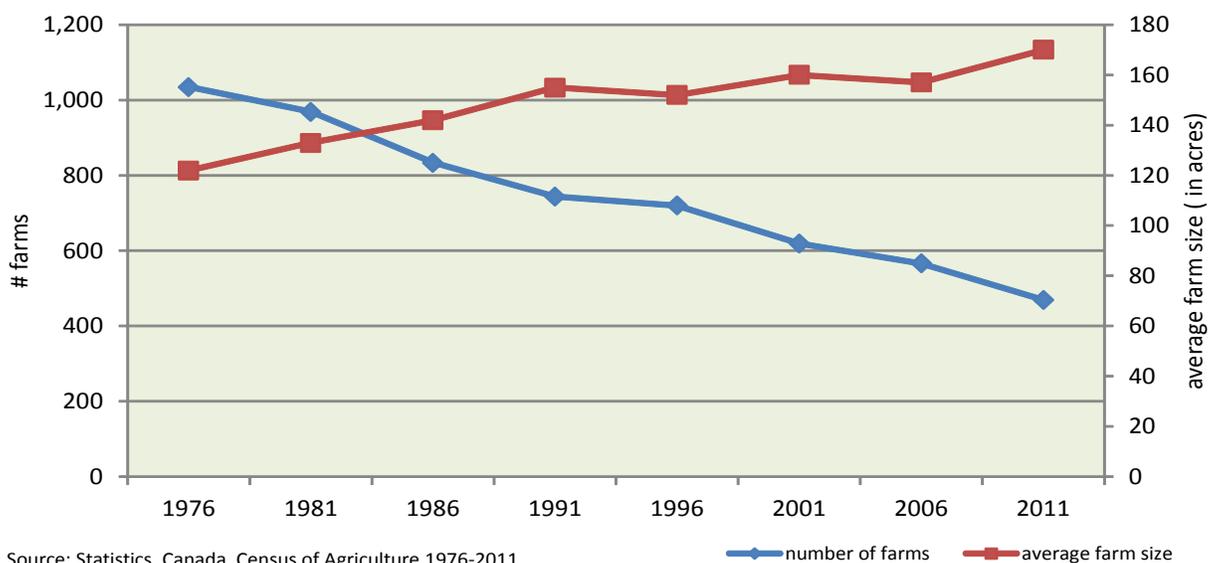
The Canadian agricultural sector is changing and evolving. Some of the driving factors include world commodity market, global economic condition, advances in agricultural technology, urbanization and government interventions.

In Halton, the majority (over 80%) of the farms are located in Milton and Halton Hills. Burlington has 70 farms and Oakville has 21 farms representing 15% and 4.5% of the regional total respectively.

At the local level, some of the noticeable changes are the number of farms, size of farms and farming activities. Following the national trend, the number of farms in Halton Region continue its historical decline. Between 2001 and 2011, the region has lost about 150 farms representing a decrease of 24%. The farm area has also dropped by about 19% to less than 80,000 acres. Almost 19,000 acres of farmland have vanished.

On the other hand, the average farm size grew from 160 to 170 acres due to farm amalgamation and/or expansion.

Number of farms and average farm size Halton Region, 1976-2011



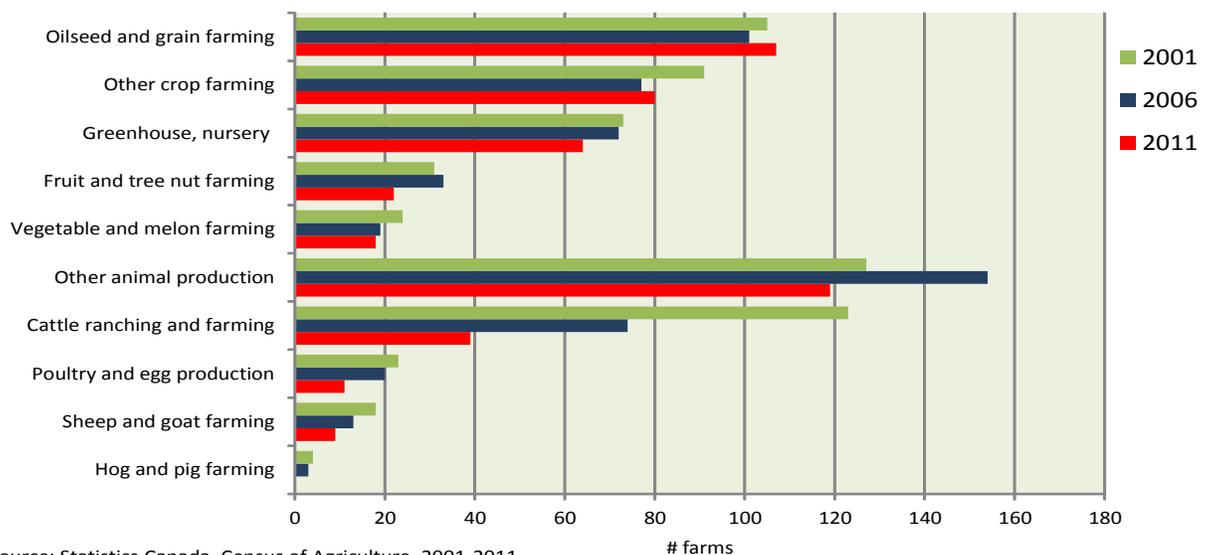
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1976-2011

Parallel with the changes in the number and average size of farms, there is also a shift away from animal production¹ to crop production² farming. In 2001, slightly over half (52%) of the farms in Halton were engaged in crop production. By 2011, its proportion has increased to 62% as the result of the rapid disappearance of animal production farms. The oilseed and grain farming is the only group that has grown in the number of farms between 2001 and 2011. About 45% of the oilseed and grain farms are devoted to soybean farming.

Although vegetable and melon farms represent about only 6% of crop production farms, their existence provides residents with good access to locally grown produce. The region lost five vegetable and melon farms between 2001 and 2006 and one between 2006 and 2011.

Within the animal production subsector, the cattle ranching and farming experienced the largest decrease, experiencing a drop of 68%. The number of cattle ranching farms decreased from over 120 farms to less than 40. The other animal production³ farms, after a 21% increase between 2001 and 2006, decreased by 22% between 2006 and 2011. Hog and pig farming in Halton has completely disappeared.

Number of farms by industry group, Halton Region, 2001-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001-2011

¹This subsector comprises establishments, such as ranches, farms and feedlots, primarily engaged in raising animals, producing animal products and fattening animals.

²This subsector comprises establishments, such as farms, orchards, groves, greenhouses and nurseries, primarily engaged in growing crops, plants, vines, trees and their seeds (excluding those engaged in forestry operations)

³Other Animal Production includes : horses and ponies, goats, wild boards, mink, fox, bison (buffalo, llamas and alpacas, deer (do not include wild deer), elk and other livestock (rabbits, donkeys, mules, chinchillas, beefalo, etc)



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