Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Notes on Geography

The 2016 Census of Agriculture uses what it defines as “census agricultural regions” as its statistic boundaries when collecting data. Census agricultural regions are composed of groups of adjacent census divisions. This is unlike the 2016 Census which uses traditional boundaries of “census metropolitan area”, “census division”, and “census sub-division”. For the purposes of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, its agricultural region is comprised of the consolidated census sub-divisions of North Stormont, South Stormont, North Dundas, South Dundas, North Glengarry, and South Glengarry. There are significant refinements in the geographic assignment of agricultural operations and changes in census consolidated subdivision boundaries between censuses.

Data from the 2016 Census of Agriculture has been analyzed for the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry census agricultural region and Ontario and is presented below.

Declining Farms and Farmers (Total Number of Farms and Farm Operators)

The total number of farms and farm operators within the agricultural region of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) declined from 2011. In 2016, there were a total of 1,464 farms with 2,205 farm operators in SDG. Since 2011, farms in SDG have declined by 7.2% (down from 1,577), while farm operators have declined by 7.5% (down from 2,385). The decline in farms and farm operators in SDG closely mirrors similar declines that the Province of Ontario has experienced as a whole (4.5% decline in farms; 5.8% decline in farm operators).

Farmers Increasingly Near Retirement (Farm Operators by Age)

Farmers are slightly older in SDG in 2016, where the average age of farm operators has increased from 54.1 in 2011 to 55.6 in 2016. This increase in average age is slightly greater than the average age increase of farm operators within all of Ontario. In 2016, 56% of all farm operators within SDG were aged 55 years and over. While 37% were aged between 35 to 54 years old, and the other 7% were less than 35 years old. When compared to Ontario, SDG has a higher percentage of its farm operators who are aged 55 years and older (56% vs. 55%) and a lower percentage of its farm operators who are under 35 years old (7% vs. 9%). Based on this data, it is expected that farmers in SDG will retire sooner than those in Ontario as a whole. This census release highlights the growing concern that on average more than half of the farm operators in Ontario are expected to retire within the next 10 years.

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Concerns Over Farm Succession (Farms and Succession Planning)

As farmers continue to age, it has become even more important for farms to develop succession plans to ensure the future viability of their operations. However, based on a new data indicator collected for the 2016 Census of Agriculture, farm succession planning has not been happening. In 2016, a total of 120 farms (8.2% of total farms) in SDG reported that they have a current succession plan. 118 of these farms in SDG indicated that the identified successor is a family member. Although only 8.2% of farms in SDG have a succession plan, this is similar to the province as a whole where only 8.5% of farms in Ontario have a succession plan. Overall, with very few farms having succession plans while at the same time the average age of farm operators continues to rise, these concerns will need to be addressed to ensure the continued viability of farming operations in Ontario.

Farms Increasing in Size (Farms by Total Farm Area)

Similar to national trends, the 2016 Census of Agriculture shows that the overall agriculture industry continues to consolidate in SDG and Ontario. There were a total of 1,464 farms in SDG in 2016, which is down 7.2% (1,577 farms in 2011) from the previous census in 2011. This decline was faster than that of Ontario which saw a 4.5% decline in the number of farms (from 51,950 in 2011 to 49,600 in 2016). Between 2011 and 2016 (with the exception of farms under 10 acres), all farms 759 acres and under saw a decline in SDG. While all farms (with the exception of farms between 1,600 to 2,239 acres) with 760 or more acres saw an increase in the number of those farms operating in SDG. This again reiterates the trend of the declining number of farms, while at the same time the size of farms has been increasing. With that being said, farms with less than 10 acres in SDG have increased by 33% since 2011, while they have only increased by 11.3% in Ontario since 2011. Overall in 2016, 40% of the farms in SDG were less than 130 acres, 55% of farms were between 130 and 1,119 acres, and the remaining 5% of farms had more than 1,120 acres.

More Oilseed and Grain Farming (Farms by NAICS Code)

Although the number of farms has declined in SDG, there are a number of farming operations that have seen increases. Between 2011 and 2016, four farm types saw an increase in the number of farming operations in SDG: Hog and pig farming (20%), Poultry and egg production (41%), Oilseed and grain farming (6.3%), and Vegetable and melon farming (45%). The increases experienced in these four farm types in SDG outperformed the increases

2016 Census of Agriculture

experienced in the same farm types for Ontario as a whole. The farm types that saw the greatest declines in SDG were: Sheep and goat farming (-34.1%), Cattle ranching and farming (-24.5%), and Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production (-20.7%). In each case, these decreases were greater in SDG than they were for Ontario as a whole. Overall in 2016, 38% of farms were involved in oilseed and grain farming, 27% were involved in cattle ranching and farming, and 17% were involved in other crop farming such as hay farming and maple syrup production.

Farms Continue to Consolidate (Farms by Total Farm Capital and Total Gross Farm Receipts)

Another indication of farm consolidation in SDG is the significant growth of farms with total farm capital of $3.5 million and over. In 2016, there were a total of 388 farms in SDG that had a total farm capital of $3.5 million and over. This was an increase of 110%, up from 185 farms in 2011. Ontario saw similar increases between 2011 and 2016; however the provincial increase was only 77%.

Overall total gross farm receipts in SDG totalled $ 436 million in 2016, up 15.2% from $378.8 million in 2011. This increase was slightly below the total farm receipt growth in Ontario, which grew by 27.2% to $15 billion in 2016. While there was minimal or declining growth for farms with total gross farm receipts of $499,999 or less, farms with total gross farm receipts of $500,000 or more grew significantly. Farms with total gross farm receipts of $2 million and more grew by 52.9% to a total of 26 farms in 2016 (up from 17 in 2011). This growth is similar to that of Ontario which saw its farms with total gross farm receipts of $2 million or more grow by 53.5% between 2011 and 2016.

More Than Half of Farms Are Now Using Computers (Farms and Adoption of Technologies)

More than half of the farms in SDG (57.5%) have used computers and/or laptops for farm management, while 41.4% have used smartphones and/or tablets for farm management. In both cases, this is higher than in Ontario (56.3% and 39.4% respectively). As well, 29.4% of farms in SDG have used GPS technology while 12.5% have used GIS mapping and 11.5% have used automated steering. With the exception of automated steering, greenhouse automation, and other technologies, farms in SDG have adopted the use of technology in farm management more readily than Ontario as a whole.

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Renewable Technology Still Lagging (Farms and Renewable Energy Systems)

Unlike technologies, farms in SDG have been underperforming in the use of renewable energy systems when compared to Ontario. In 2016, 6.5% or 95 farms reported using renewable energy systems compared to 10.4% or 5,180 farms in Ontario. Of those farms that reported using renewable energy systems, 91.6% (87 farms) reported using solar panels and 13.7% (13 farms) reported using wind turbines. This data suggest that farms in SDG are not introducing and using renewable energy systems at the same rate as Ontario.

Farms Producing for Local Consumption (Products Sold Directly to Consumers)

In 2016, 12.2% of farms in SDG reported selling their farm product directly to consumers. This is slightly below Ontario, where 15.1% of farms reported selling directly to consumers. 11.7% of farms in SDG sold unprocessed agricultural products to consumers. This is compared to Ontario, where 14.6% of farms sold unprocessed agricultural products to consumers. Overall, for each method of selling product directly to consumers, SDG underperformed compared to Ontario. This provides the indication that there is market growth potential for more farms in SDG to sell directly to consumers.

The State of Bees (Number of Bees)

The number of farms in SDG reporting that they have colonies of honeybees has increased by 21.4% to 34, up from 28 in 2011. This is less than the increase in Ontario, which saw a 40.8% increase in farms reporting colonies of honeybees. While the number of farms reporting honeybees has increased in SDG, the number of colonies has declined. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of honeybee colonies in SDG has declined by 16.87% to 1,761 colonies, down from 2,116 in 2011. This decrease is in contrast to the 27.4% increase in the number of honeybee colonies in Ontario. This provides the indication that greater attention maybe needed to ensure that the declining amount of honeybee colonies does not threaten the larger agricultural ecosystem.

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Data Tables

Total Number of Farms and Farm Operators

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Farms	1577	1464	-7.2%	51950	49600	-4.5%
Operators	2385	2205	-7.5%	74840	70470	-5.8%

Farm Operators by Age

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
All ages	2385	2205	-7.5%	74840	70470	-5.8%
under 35 years	140	160	14.3%	6130	6610	7.8%
35 to 54 years	1105	810	-26.7%	31830	25010	-21.4%
55 years and over	1140	1230	7.9%	36885	38850	5.3%
Average age of farm operators	54.1	55.6	2.8%	54.5	55.3	1.5%

Farms and Succession Planning

	SDG		Ontario	
	2016	% of Total Farms	2016	% of Total Farms
All farms reporting a succession plan	120	8.2%	4206	8.5%
Successor(s) - family member(s)	118	8.1%	4054	8.2%
Successor(s) - non-family member(s)	2	0.1%	163	0.3%

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms by Total Farm Area

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Total number of farms	1577	1464	-7.2%	51950	49600	-4.5%
Farms under 10 acres	43	57	32.6%	2741	3051	11.3%
Farms 10 to 69 acres	274	269	-1.8%	12681	12625	-0.4%
Farms 70 to 129 acres	295	259	-12.2%	11779	10742	-8.8%
Farms 130 to 179 acres	153	132	-13.7%	4969	4592	-7.6%
Farms 180 to 239 acres	174	132	-24.1%	4801	4282	-10.8%
Farms 240 to 399 acres	283	252	-11.0%	6460	6008	-7.0%
Farms 400 to 559 acres	129	129	0.0%	3359	3093	-7.9%
Farms 560 to 759 acres	98	86	-12.2%	2026	1990	-1.8%
Farms 760 to 1,119 acres	70	81	15.7%	1587	1593	0.4%
Farms 1,120 to 1,599 acres	30	35	16.7%	788	801	1.6%
Farms 1,600 to 2,239 acres	21	18	-14.3%	436	457	4.8%
Farms 2,240 to 2,879 acres	4	8	100.0%	152	168	10.5%
Farms 2,880 to 3,519 acres	0	3	200.0%	79	88	11.4%
Farms 3,520 acres and over	3	3	0.0%	92	110	19.6%

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms by NAICS Code

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Cattle ranching and farming	518	391	-24.5%	11141	10225	-8.2%
Hog and pig farming	10	12	20.0%	1235	1229	-0.5%
Poultry and egg production	22	31	40.9%	1619	1816	12.2%
Sheep and goat farming	41	27	-34.1%	1446	1097	-24.1%
Other animal production	141	129	-8.5%	6966	5902	-15.3%
Oilseed and grain farming	527	560	6.3%	15818	16876	6.7%
Vegetable and melon farming	20	29	45.0%	1531	1856	21.2%
Fruit and tree nut farming	21	19	-9.5%	1548	1362	-12.0%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	29	23	-20.7%	2372	2050	-13.6%
Other crop farming	248	243	-2.0%	8274	7187	-13.1%

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms by Total Farm Capital

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Farms, under $100,000	20	21	5.0%	696	888	27.6%
Farms, $100,000 to $199,999	82	35	-57.3%	1866	1254	-32.8%
Farms, $200,000 to $349,999	228	126	-44.7%	5914	3261	-44.9%
Farms, $350,000 to $499,999	220	127	-42.3%	7080	4172	-41.1%
Farms, $500,000 to $999,999	332	286	-13.9%	15276	12500	-18.2%
Farms, $1,000,000 to $1,499,999	190	173	-8.9%	7012	7052	0.6%
Farms, $1,500,000 to $1,999,999	126	101	-19.8%	3632	4260	17.3%
Farms, $2,000,000 to $3,499,999	194	207	6.7%	5234	6946	32.7%
Farms, $3,500,000 and over	185	388	109.7%	5240	9267	76.9%

Census Made Simple Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Farms, under $10,000	374	292	-21.9%	12263	9536	-22.2%
Farms, $10,000 to $24,999	223	207	-7.2%	9098	8376	-7.9%
Farms, $25,000 to $49,999	165	140	-15.2%	6720	6755	0.5%
Farms, $50,000 to $99,999	147	154	4.8%	6189	6263	1.2%
Farms, $100,000 to $249,999	210	217	3.3%	6985	7022	0.5%
Farms, $250,000 to $499,999	245	183	-25.3%	5086	4707	-7.5%
Farms, $500,000 to $999,999	145	170	17.2%	3248	3689	13.6%
Farms, $1,000,000 to $1,999,999	51	75	47.1%	1558	2019	29.6%
Farms, $2,000,000 and over	17	26	52.9%	803	1233	53.5%
Total gross farm receipts (excluding forest products sold) (dollars)	$378,813,971	$436,451,040	15.2%	$11,890,835,395	$15,126,845,283	27.2%

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms and Adoption of Technologies

	SDG		Ontario	
	2016	**% of Total Farms**	**2016**	**% of Total Farms**
Computers/laptops for farm management	842	57.5%	27904	56.3%
Smartphones/tablets for farm management	606	41.4%	19532	39.4%
Automated steering (auto-steer)	168	11.5%	6851	13.8%
GPS technology	431	29.4%	13851	27.9%
GIS mapping (e.g., soil mapping)	183	12.5%	5436	11.0%
Greenhouse automation	3	0.2%	636	1.3%
Robotic milking	30	2.0%	337	0.7%
Automated environmental controls for animal housing	131	8.9%	3270	6.6%
Automated animal feeding	99	6.8%	2914	5.9%
Other technologies	4	0.3%	250	0.5%

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Farms and Renewable Energy Systems

	SDG		Ontario	
	2016	**% of Total Farms**	**2016**	**% of Total Farms**
All farms reporting	95	6.5%	5180	10.4%
Solar panels	87	5.9%	4429	8.9%
Wind turbines	13	0.9%	909	1.8%
Anaerobic biodigester (biogas or methane)	0	0.0%	29	0.1%
Biodiesel production systems	0	0.0%	5	0.0%
Geothermal electric power generator	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hydro electric power generator	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other renewable energy producing systems	3	0.2%	138	0.3%

Products Sold Directly to Consumers

	SDG		Ontario	
	2016	**% of Total Farms**	**2016**	**% of Total Farms**
All farms reporting	178	12.2%	7474	15.1%
Farms reporting unprocessed agricultural products sold	172	11.7%	7265	14.6%
Farms reporting value-added products sold	19	1.3%	907	1.8%
Farms reporting using farm gate sales, stands, kiosks, U-pick	162	11.1%	6709	13.5%
Farms reporting using farmers' markets	27	1.8%	1619	3.3%
Farms reporting using Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	8	0.5%	403	0.8%
Farms reporting using other methods	8	0.5%	323	0.7%

Census Made Simple
Release 4

2016 Census of Agriculture

Number of Bees

	SDG			Ontario		
	2011	**2016**	**% Change 2011-2016**	**2011**	**2016**	**% Change 2011-2016**
Colonies of honeybees						
Number of farms reporting	28	34	21.4%	1068	1504	40.8%
Number	2116	1761	-16.8%	67563	86083	27.4%
Gallons of other pollinating bees						
Number of farms reporting	4	1	-75.0%	70	109	55.7%
Number	5	x	N/A	1746	2489	42.6%

x Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act