

## Section 2 A Statistical Overview of Agriculture in Niagara

This section contains an updated profile of agricultural in Niagara generally, and in the twelve area municipalities that comprise the Region, based on 2006 Statistics Canada data. This statistical overview includes a discussion of number of farms, area of farmland, trends in farmland acreage, area of land in crops, farm tenure, farm types, farm size, farm employment and characteristics of farm operators. Also addressed are financial indicators such as gross farm receipts (GFR), farm operating costs and farm capital. In all cases, comparisons are made to the status of the industry in 2001. Where appropriate, comments are made on significant historic trends.



The format used in Chapter 4 of the 2003 report, **Agriculture Economic Impact Study**, is followed to facilitate comparisons and tracking of trends. However, it should be noted that between 2001

and 2006, Statistics Canada adjusted the reporting format for certain statistics. In these cases, direct comparisons with the 2003 report were not possible. Where this occurred, comparable statistics from 2001 are included in this report to facilitate a trend analysis.

### 2.1 Ranking the Total Number of Farms, Area of Farmland<sup>2</sup>, and Gross Farm Receipts in 2006

In assessing the rankings of number of farms, area of farmland and gross farm receipts, the relative size of Niagara, compared to other jurisdictions, must be considered. As shown on **Figure 2**, Niagara ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in geographic size out of 49 regions, counties and districts in Ontario; it is one of the smaller regions in the province. Despite its size, as shown on **Figure 3**, in 2006 it ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in number of farms, 25<sup>th</sup> in farmland acres and 3<sup>rd</sup> in gross farm receipts generated. For its size, Niagara contains a significant number of agricultural operations and generates a disproportionate amount in gross farm receipts.

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<sup>2</sup> NOTE: "Farmland acres" is actual land under production in 2006. It is not linked to land use designation.

**Figure 2 - Ranking by County, District and Municipality of Total Land Areas in km<sup>2</sup> 2006**

Rank	Geographic Location	Total Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Rank	Geographic Location	Total Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
1	Kenora District	407,193	25	County of Lambton	3,002
2	Cochrane District	141,247	26	Lanark County	2,979
3	Thunder Bay District	103,706	27	Haldimand-Norfolk County	2,894
4	Algoma District	48,735	28	City of Ottawa	2,778
5	Sudbury District	38,505	29	County of Lennox & Addington	2,776
6	District of Nipissing	17,065	30	Wellington County	2,657
7	Rainy River District	15,473	31	Regional Municipality of Durham	2,523
8	Timiskaming District	13,280	32	Chatham-Kent County	2,471
9	Parry Sound District	9,222	33	Perry County	2,218
10	Renfrew County	7,403	34	Oxford County	2,039
11	Hastings County	5,978	35	Prescott & Russell	2,001
12	Simcoe County	4,841	36	Northumberland County	1,903
13	Manitoulin District	4,760	37	Elgin County	1,881
14	Grey County	4,508	<b>38</b>	<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>1,854</b>
15	Bruce County	4,079	39	Essex County	1,851
16	Haliburton County	4,025	40	Regional Municipality of York	1,762
17	District Municipality of Muskoka	3,890	41	Dufferin County	1,486
18	Peterborough County	3,806	42	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	1,369
19	Frontenac County	3,672	43	Regional Municipality of Peel	1,242
20	Huron County	3,397	44	City of Hamilton	1,117
21	United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	3,350	45	Brant County	1,093
22	Middlesex County	3,317	46	Prince Edward County	1,050
23	Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry	3,307	47	Regional Municipality of Halton	967
24	City of Kawartha Lakes	3,059	48	City of Toronto	630

Source: Statistics Canada – 2006 Community Profiles – All Data – Population and Dwelling Counts – Land Area Category



**Figure 3 - Ranking by County, District and Municipality of Total Number of Census Farms, Farmland Acres and Gross Farm Receipts, 2006**

Rank	Geographic Location	Number of Farms	Rank	Geographic Location	Farmland Acres	Rank	Geographic Location	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>57,211</b>		<b>Ontario</b>	<b>13,310,216</b>		<b>Ontario</b>	<b>10,342,031,229</b>
1	Huron County	3,707	1	Huron County	723,533	1	Huron County	718,605,605
2	Grey County	2,738	2	Middlesex County	617,258	2	Perth County	702,715,748
3	Wellington County	2,588	3	Bruce County	613,156	3	Regional Municipality of Niagara	671,680,773
4	Middlesex County	2,525	4	Lambton County	589,407	4	Essex County	663,101,507
5	Perth County	2,438	5	Grey County	567,212	5	Haldimond-Norfolk County	619,360,433
6	Haldimond-Norfolk County	2,415	6	Chatham-Kent County	553,769	6	Oxford County	611,514,369
7	Simcoe County	2,402	7	Simcoe County	533,753	7	Middlesex County	594,259,965
8	Lambton County	2,281	8	Haldimond-Norfolk County	502,698	8	Wellington County	491,073,653
9	Chatham-Kent County	2,196	9	Perth County	498,161	9	Chatham-Kent County	433,318,307
10	Bruce County	2,259	10	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	494,589	10	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	396,374,602
11	Regional Municipality of Niagara	2,236	11	Wellington County	485,862	11	Lambton County	376,427,396
12	Oxford County	1,990	12	Oxford County	415,974	12	Bruce County	338,509,444
13	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	1,811	13	Refrew County	387,731	13	Simcoe County	326,632,604
14	Essex County	1,740	14	Elgin County	393,595	14	Elgin County	311,175,680
15	Regional Municipality of Durham	1,686	15	City of Kawartha Lakes	356,946	15	Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry	294,372,578
16	City of Kawartha Lakes	1,537	16	Essex County	329,776	16	Grey County	267,295,850
17	Elgin County	1,489	17	Leeds & Grenville	328,040	17	Regional Municipality of Durham	239,539,907
18	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	1,444	18	Regional Municipality of Durham	326,702	18	City of Hamilton	224,776,914
19	Leeds & Grenville	1,303	19	Hastings County	301,187	19	Prescott & Russell	222,216,527
20	Renfrew County	1,268	20	City of Ottawa	283,366	20	Regional Municipality of York	224,119,932
21	City of Ottawa	1,267	21	Prescott & Russell	296,476	21	City of Ottawa	164,692,496
22	Peterborough County	1,192	22	Peterborough County	249,429	22	Leeds & Grenville	115,222,834
23	Hastings County	1,146	23	Northumberland County	241,159	23	Brant County	166,744,203
24	Prescott & Russell	1,052	24	Lanark County	232,575	24	Regional Municipality of Halton	132,041,893
25	Northumberland County	1,031	25	Regional Municipality of Niagara	231,728	25	Northumberland County	125,919,704
26	City of Hamilton	975	26	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	226,384	26	Dufferin County	103,890,899
27	Regional Municipality of York	972	27	Rainy River District	211,625	27	City of Kawartha Lakes	97,624,922
28	Lanark County	874	28	Timiskaming District	205,800	28	Regional Municipality of Peel	81,629,248
29	Dufferin County	893	29	Frontenac County	197,128	29	Peterborough County	77,655,643
30	Brant County	818	30	Duffering County	190,607	30	Prince Edward County	76,727,274
31	Frontenac County	672	31	County of Lennox & Addington	185,835			
32	County of Lennox & Addington	617	32	Manitoulin District	178,144			
33	Regional Municipality of Halton	566	33	Brant County	167,356			
34	Prince Edward County	520	34	Regional Municipality of York	167,076			
35	Regional Municipality of Peel	483	35	Prince Edward County	145,610			
36	Timiskaming District	471	36	City of Hamilton	133,205			
			37	Algoma District	95,814			
			38	Regional Municipality of Peel	95,289			
			39	Regional Municipality of Halton	88,899			

NOTE: Data for number of farms, farmland area and gross farm receipts are calculated on all farms reporting. Ontario is included for comparison purposes only. It is not included in the ranking.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 – Catalogue No. 95-629-XWE



In 2006, there were 2,236 census farms<sup>3</sup> in Niagara occupying 231,728 acres and generating \$671,680,773 in gross farm receipts. As shown on **Figure 4**, this equates to gross farm receipts per acre of \$2,899, the highest in Ontario.

**Figure 4 - Ranking by County, District and Municipality by Total Gross Farm Receipts per Acre, 2006**

Rank	Geographic Location	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	Farmland Acres	Gross Farm Receipts Per Acre (\$)
<b>1</b>	<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>671,680,773</b>	<b>231,728</b>	<b>2,899</b>
2	Essex County	663,101,507	329,776	2,011
3	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	396,374,602	226,384	1,751
4	City of Hamilton	224,776,914	133,205	1,687
5	Regional Municipality of Halton	132,041,893	88,899	1,485
6	Oxford County	611,514,369	415,974	1,470
7	Perth County	702,715,748	498,161	1,411
8	Regional Municipality of York	224,119,932	167,076	1,341
9	Haldimond-Norfolk County	619,360,433	502,698	1,232
10	Wellington County	491,073,653	485,862	1,011
11	Brant County	166,744,203	167,356	996
<b>12</b>	<b>Huron County</b>	<b>718,605,605</b>	<b>723,533</b>	<b>993</b>
13	Middlesex County	594,259,965	617,258	963
14	Regional Municipality of Peel	81,629,248	95,289	857
15	Elgin County	311,175,680	393,595	791
16	Chatham-Kent County	433,318,307	553,769	782
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>10,342,031,229</b>	<b>13,310,216</b>	<b>777</b>
17	Prescott & Russell	222,216,527	296,476	750
18	Regional Municipality of Durham	239,539,007	326,702	733
19	Lambton County	376,427,396	589,407	639
20	Simcoe County	326,632,604	533,753	612
21	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	294,372,578	494,589	595
22	City of Ottawa	164,692,496	283,366	581
23	Bruce County	338,509,444	613,156	552
24	Northumberland County	125,919,704	241,159	522
25	Grey County	267,295,850	567,212	471
26	Leeds & Grenville	115,222,834	328,040	351

Ontario is included for comparison purposes only. It is not included in the ranking. Data for farmland area and gross farm receipts are calculated on all farms reporting. Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006 – Catalogue No. 95-629-ZWE

<sup>3</sup> The 2001 Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, defines a census farm as “an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops (field crops, tree fruit or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed); livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, exotic animals, etc.); poultry (hens, chickens, turkeys, exotic birds, etc.); animal products (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat); or other agricultural products (greenhouse or nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, sod, honey, maple syrup products)”. The inclusion of (1) commercial poultry hatcheries and (2) operations that produce only Christmas trees were added to the 1991 Census farm definition. The operation may consist of a number of parcels held in separate ownership.

It is notable that despite a small decline in number of farmland acres, the value of total gross farm receipts (GFR) and gross farm receipts per acre increased significantly in Niagara between 2001 and 2006. As shown on **Figure 5**, total GFR's were up from \$511,395,019 in 2001, to \$671,680,773 in 2006. Gross farm receipts per acre increased from \$2,197 in 2001, to \$2,899 in 2006. This was consistent with the trend in Ontario, which as a whole, experienced an increase in GFR and GFR per acre during the 5 year period. The value of GFR per acre in Niagara remains the highest in the province, confirming that farms in the Region continue to be extremely productive.

**Figure 5 - Comparison Ranking by County, District and Municipality of Total Gross Farm Receipts, Farmland Acres and GFR per acre, 2001 and 2006**

Rank	Geographic Location	2001			Rank	Geographic Location	2006		
		Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	Farmland Acres	Gross Farm Receipts Per Acre (\$)			Gross Farm Receipts (\$)	Farmland Acres	Gross Farm Receipts Per Acre (\$)
1	Regional Municipality of Niagara	511,395,019	232,817	2,197	1	Regional Municipality of Niagara	671,680,773	231,728	2,899
2	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	379,601,661	225,800	1,681	2	Essex County	663,101,507	329,776	2,011
3	City of Hamilton	222,342,429	138,879	1,601	3	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	396,374,602	226,384	1,751
4	Regional Municipality of Halton	141,473,312	98,758	1,433	4	City of Hamilton	224,776,914	133,205	1,687
5	Essex County	470,768,851	334,122	1,409	5	Regional Municipality of Halton	132,041,893	88,899	1,485
6	Oxford County	556,129,845	445,458	1,248	6	Oxford County	611,514,369	415,974	1,470
7	Regional Municipality of Peel	116,536,793	104,433	1,116	7	Perth County	702,715,748	498,161	1,411
8	Perth County	555,081,128	502,926	1,104	8	Regional Municipality of York	224,119,932	167,076	1,341
9	Haldimond-Norfolk County	541,430,839	515,099	1,051	9	Haldimond-Norfolk County	619,360,433	502,698	1,232
10	Regional Municipality of York	178,963,186	175,965	1,017	10	Wellington County	491,073,653	485,862	1,011
11	Wellington County	433,775,725	471,389	920	11	Brant County	166,744,203	167,356	996
12	Huron County	656,497,798	719,066	913	12	Huron County	718,605,605	723,533	993
13	Brant County	144,282,453	158,693	909	13	Middlesex County	594,259,965	617,258	963
14	Middlesex County	494,456,195	620,321	797	14	Regional Municipality of Peel	81,629,248	95,289	857
15	Chatham-Kent County	439,758,272	552,402	796	15	Elgin County	311,175,680	393,595	791
16	Regional Municipality of Durham	233,890,944	330,286	708	16	Chatham-Kent County	433,318,307	553,769	782
17	Elgin County	262,605,470	382,786	686		Ontario	10,342,031,229	13,310,216	777
	Ontario	9,115,454,790	13,507,357	675	17	Prescott & Russell	222,216,527	296,476	750
18	Prescott & Russell	183,265,517	297,384	616	18	Regional Municipality of Durham	239,539,007	326,702	733
19	Simcoe County	293,933,003	540,870	543	19	Lambton County	376,427,396	589,407	639
20	Lambton County	321,690,461	604,555	532	20	Simcoe County	326,632,604	533,753	612
21	City of Ottawa	151,877,673	297,644	510	21	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	294,372,578	494,589	595
22	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	252,046,737	496,498	508	22	City of Ottawa	164,692,496	283,366	581
23	Bruce County	309,996,102	611,461	507	23	Bruce County	338,509,444	613,156	552
24	Northumberland County	123,298,980	253,665	486	24	Northumberland County	125,919,704	241,159	522
25	Leeds & Grenville	144,744,197	336,650	430	25	Grey County	267,295,850	567,212	471
26	Grey County	240,606,873	593,121	406	26	Leeds & Grenville	115,222,834	328,040	351

Ontario is included for comparison purposes only. It is not included in the ranking.

Data for farmland area and gross farm receipts are calculated on all farms reporting.

Source: 2001 and 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order



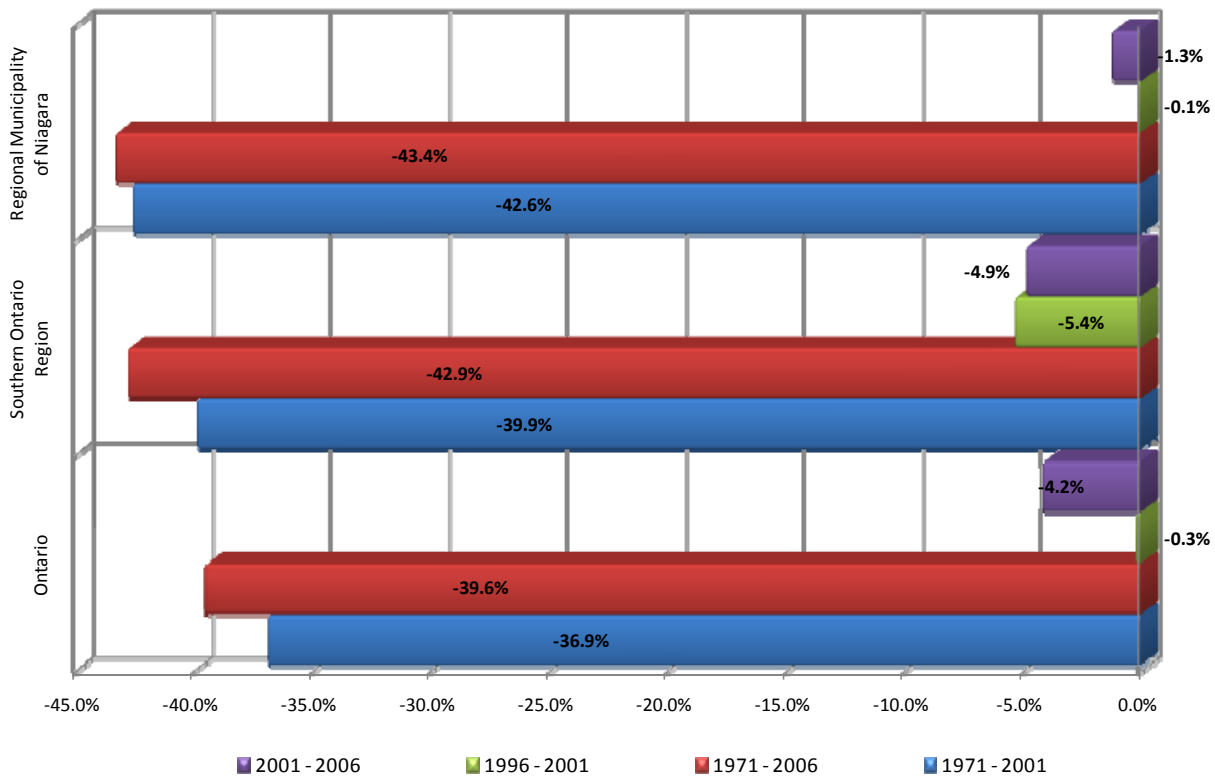
## 2.2 Change in Number of Farms and Area of Farmland between 2001 and 2006

As noted in the 2003 report, the number of farms declined by 43% (2266 from 3950) in Niagara between 1971 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the number declined by 38 (2236 from 2266), a change of 1.3%. Between 1971 and 2001, as shown on **Figures 6 and 7**, Niagara experienced a greater decline in number of farms than the area around it or the province generally. However between 2001 and 2006, the percentage decline in the number of farms (1.3%) was less than in the province generally (4.2%) or the southern Ontario region (4.9%).

**Figure 6 – Historical – Number of Farms in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara showing Percentage Change, 1971 – 2006**

Geographic Location	Number of Farms								Percentage Change			
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	1971 - 2001	1971 - 2006	1996 - 2001	2001 - 2006
Ontario	94,722	88,801	82,448	72,713	68,633	59,887	59,728	57,211	-36.9%	-39.6%	-0.3%	-4.2%
Southern Ontario Region	32,665	30,299	27,975	24,914	23,034	20,756	19,631	18,665	-39.9%	-42.9%	-5.4%	-4.9%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	3,950	3,718	3,512	3,147	2,706	2,269	2,266	2,236	-42.6%	-43.4%	-0.1%	-1.3%

**Figure 7 – Historical – Number of Farms in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara showing Percentage Change, 1971 – 2006**



Source: 2001 and 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Catalogue No. 95F0301XIE & 95-629-XWE); 1996 Statistics Canada – Agriculture Profile of Ontario – Catalogue No. 95-177-XPB; 1991, 1981, 1941-1978 Agricultural Statistics for Ontario – OMAFRA – Publication 20.

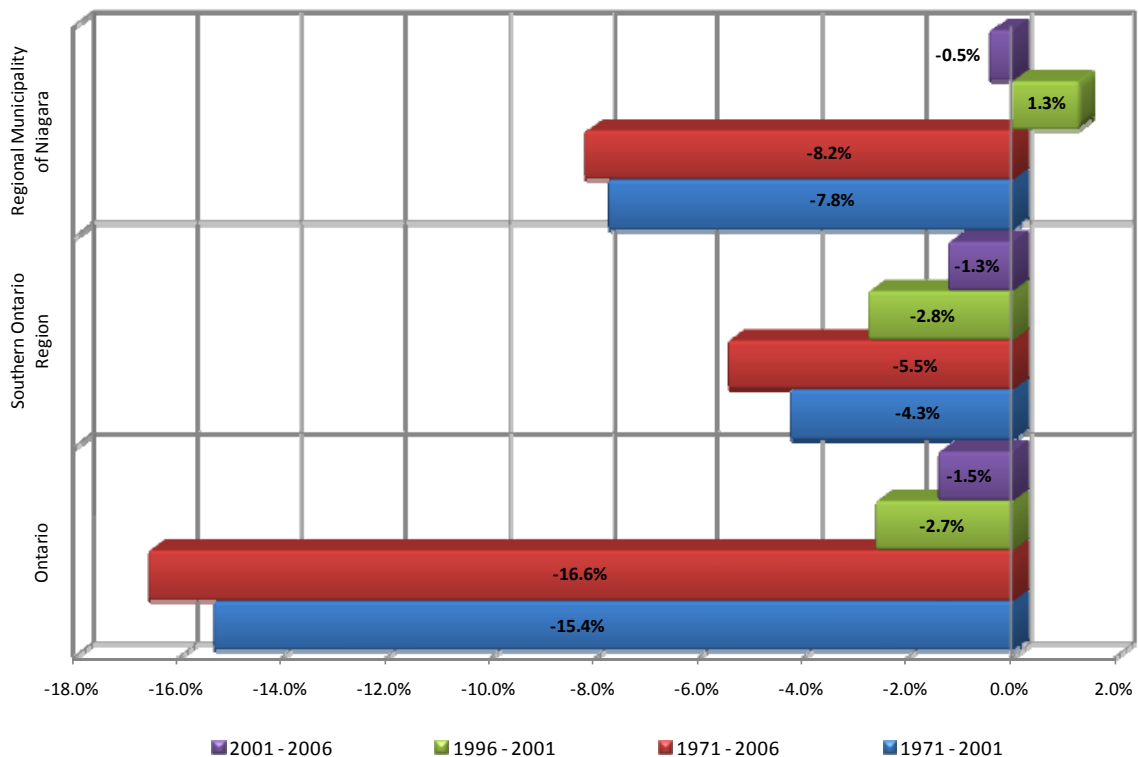
Due to the trend to larger farms and farm amalgamations that characterizes agriculture in Ontario, area of farmland is often a more realistic measurement of change in the sector than the change in the number of farms. Between 2001 and 2006, as documented in **Figures 8 and 9**, the amount of farmland reported in Niagara, declined by 1,089 acres. This represents a 0.5% decrease; less than the 1.3% decrease experienced between 1996 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the decrease in farmland was smaller in Niagara than in the surrounding area or the province as a whole. What the statistics reveal is that since 1971, farmland area has decreased by:

- 17% in the province;
- 6% in the southern Ontario region; and
- 8% in Niagara.

**Figure 8 – Historical – Farmland Area (Acres) for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara showing Percentage Change, 1971 – 2006**

Geographic Location	Farmland Area (Acres)								Percentage Change			
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	1971 - 2001	1971 - 2006	1996 - 2001	2001 - 2006
Ontario	15,963,056	15,473,011	14,923,280	13,953,009	13,470,653	13,879,565	13,507,357	13,310,216	-15.4%	-16.6%	-2.7%	-1.5%
Southern Ontario Region	4,164,494	4,106,658	4,079,868	3,930,710	3,902,841	4,100,912	3,985,132	3,934,766	-4.3%	-5.5%	-2.8%	-1.3%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	252,544	243,615	248,655	236,942	215,939	229,832	232,817	231,728	-7.8%	-8.2%	1.3%	-0.5%

**Figure 9 – Historical – Farmland Area for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara showing Percentage Change, 1971 – 2006**



Source: 2001 and 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Catalogue No. 95F0301XIE & 95-629-XWE); 1996 Statistics Canada – Agriculture Profile of Ontario – Catalogue No. 95-177-XPB; 1991, 1981, 1941-1978 Agricultural Statistics for Ontario – OMAFRA – Publication 20.

Since 1971, the decline in farmland area in Niagara has been consistently lower than in the province generally. It was higher than in the southern Ontario region until 1996 when the decline in Niagara slowed to less than the decline in the larger region.

Statistics for the period between 2001 and 2006, confirm that area of farmland in Niagara is relatively stable.

As shown on **Figure 10**, West Lincoln contains more than 25% of the total farmland in Niagara. During the 2001 to 2006 period, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Pelham, Welland, Thorold, NOTL, St. Catharines and West Lincoln experienced a decline in farmland areas. The decrease was the greatest in Pelham (1,838 acres) followed by Wainfleet (1,972) and NOTL (1,592)

As documented on **Figures 10** and **11**, during the period between 2001 and 2006, there was a small increase in farmland acres in Fort Erie (2,809 acres), Niagara Falls (397 acres), Lincoln (1,136 acres) and Grimsby (2,091 acres).

Overall, the decline in farmland was lower between 2001 and 2006, than it was between 1996 and 2001.

**Figure 10 – Farmland Area (Acres) for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Local Municipality, showing Percentage Change, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			Geographic Location	2006		
	Farmland Area (Acres)	Farmland Area as % of Total Provincial Area	Farmland Area as % of Total Municipal Area		Farmland Area (Acres)	Farmland Area as % of Total Provincial Area	Farmland Area as % of Total Municipal Area
Ontario	13,507,357			Ontario	13,310,216		
Southern Ontario Region	3,985,132	29.5%		Southern Ontario Region	3,934,766	29.6%	
Regional Municipality of Niagara	232,817	1.7%		Regional Municipality of Niagara	231,728	1.7%	
Fort Erie	9,847		4.2%	Fort Erie	12,659		5.5%
Port Colborne	13,379		5.8%	Port Colborne	12,814		5.5%
Wainfleet	40,062		17.2%	Wainfleet	38,090		16.4%
West Lincoln	67,118		28.8%	West Lincoln	67,078		28.9%
Pelham	19,536		8.4%	Pelham	17,698		7.6%
Welland	2,123		0.9%	Welland	1,525		0.7%
Thorold	11,537		5.0%	Thorold	10,799		4.7%
Niagara Falls	8,191		3.5%	Niagara Falls	8,588		3.7%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	22,031		9.5%	Niagara-on-the-Lake	20,439		8.8%
St. Catharines	4,755		2.0%	St. Catharines	4,573		2.0%
Lincoln	27,945		12.0%	Lincoln	29,081		12.5%
Grimsby	6,293		2.7%	Grimsby	8,384		3.6%

Source: 2001 and 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order.



### 2.3 Change in Number of Farms by Product Type

The trends which were evident in 2001, continued to impact the Regional agricultural profile in 2006. As shown on **Figure 12**, sectors with the largest decline in number of farms were those involving livestock; dairy, cattle, hog, poultry and egg. The number of fruit operations also declined. The largest increases in number of farms were experienced in operations reporting the majority of their production in vegetables, miscellaneous specialty, field crop, and nursery product and sod. These trends in number of farms were relatively consistent in the area municipalities with a few minor anomalies.





## 2.4 Land Ownership

The amount of rental land being farmed in Niagara increased slightly between 2001 and 2006, but the overall percentage did not change because of the changes in acreage under production. In 2006, 87,007 acres, or 37.5% of the farmland in Niagara was rented. This was higher than the provincial average of 31% or the southern Ontario average of 36% but considerably lower than the rates in the GTA which in 2006, for Halton and Peel Regions, exceeded 50%.

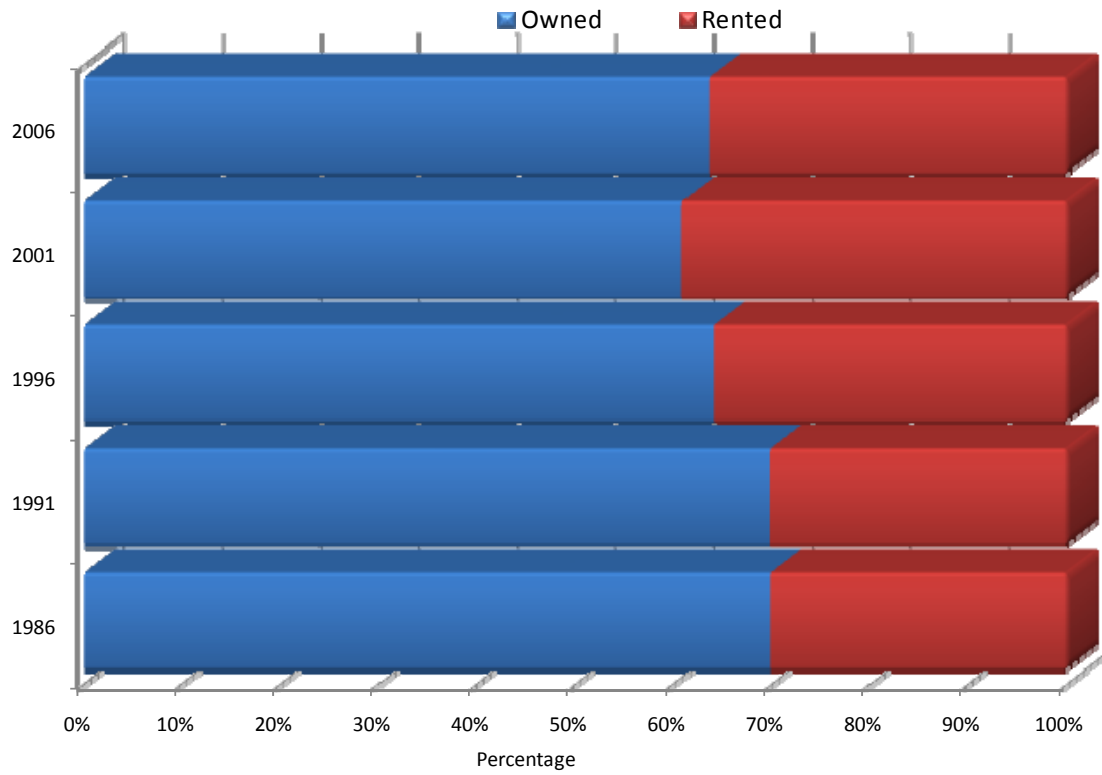
Historically, as shown in **Figures 13, 14 and 14b**, Niagara has experienced a fairly constant rate of rental land. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of land that was owned as opposed to rented actually increased. It will be interesting to track the rental land trends between 2006 and 2011 with the inception of the Greenbelt. The land base in Niagara has always been well protected and the implementation of the Greenbelt Plan will tighten that protection. If there are problems with the agricultural sector, they will likely be reflected in higher rental rates for agricultural land.

**Figure 13 – Historical – Farmland Area (in Acres) Owned and Rented in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara, showing Percentage Change 1986 to 2006**

Geographic Location	Total Area of Land Operated by This Operation (Acres)	Total Area Owned (Acres)	Percentage of Total Area Owned	Total Area Rented/ Leased/ Crop Shared From All Sources	% of Total Area Rented/ Leased/ Crop Shared From All Sources
<b>2006</b>					
Ontario	13,310,216	9,613,544	72.2%	4,090,794	30.7%
Southern Ontario Region	3,934,766	2,532,610	64.4%	1,402,156	35.6%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	231,728	152,459	65.8%	87,007	37.5%
<b>2001</b>					
Ontario	13,507,357	9,373,178	69.4%	4,134,179	30.6%
Southern Ontario Region	3,985,132	2,639,831	66.2%	1,345,301	33.8%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	232,817	141,716	60.9%	91,101	39.1%
<b>1996</b>					
Ontario	13,879,565	9,764,607	70.4%	4,114,958	29.6%
Southern Ontario Region	4,100,912	2,724,652	66.4%	1,376,260	33.6%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	229,832	147,355	64.1%	82,477	35.9%
<b>1991</b>					
Ontario	13,470,653	9,887,990	73.4%	3,582,663	26.6%
Southern Ontario Region	3,902,841	2,694,650	69.0%	1,208,191	31.0%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	215,939	150,702	69.8%	65,237	30.2%
<b>1986</b>					
Ontario	13,953,009	10,451,720	74.9%	3,501,285	25.1%
Southern Ontario Region	3,930,710	2,804,237	71.3%	1,126,473	28.7%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	236,942	165,453	69.8%	71,489	30.2%

Source: 2001 and 2006, Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order; 1996 Agriculture Profile of Ontario – Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 95-177-XPB; 1986, 1991 Agricultural Statistics for Ontario – OMAFRA – Publication 20.

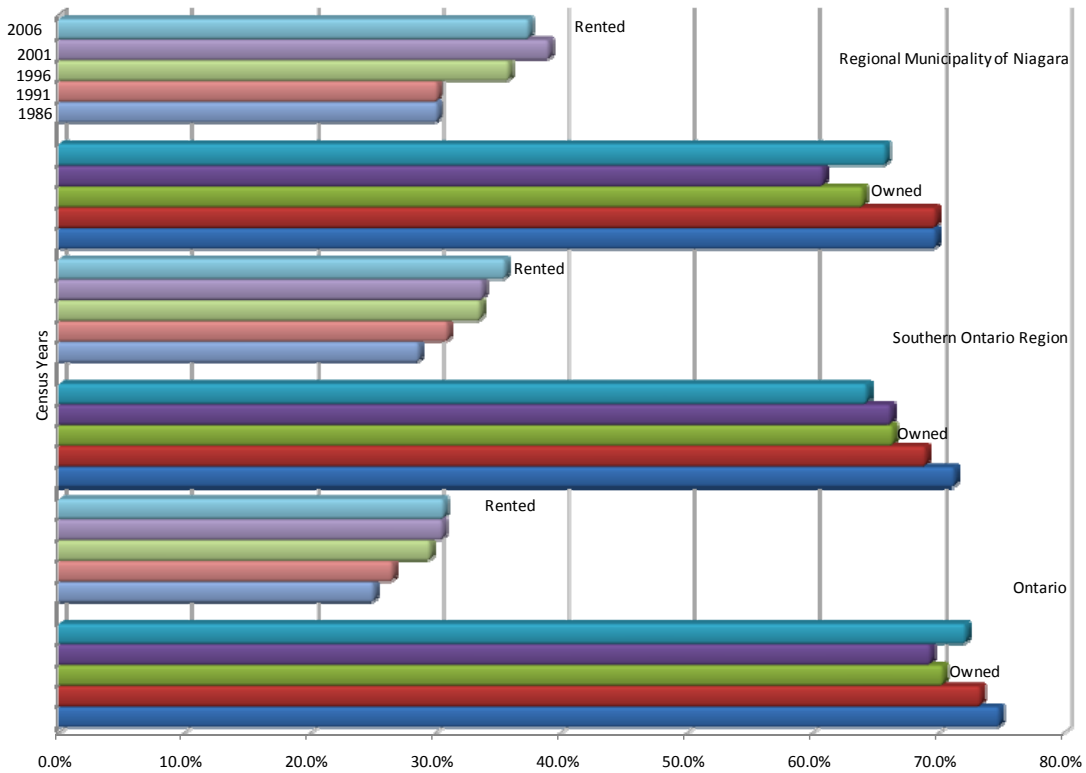
**Figure 14a** – Historical – Farmland Area, Owned and Rented in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 1986 – 2006.



Source: 2001 and 2006, Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order



**Figure 14b** – Historical – Farmland Area Owned and Rented in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 1986 – 2006



Source: 2001 and 2006, Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order; 1996 Agriculture Profile of Ontario – Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 95-177-XPB; 1986, 1991 Agricultural Statistics for Ontario – OMAFRA – Publication 20.

Rental land rates varied considerably between the area municipalities in 2006. As shown in **Figures 15 and 16**, over half of the land farmed in Thorold in 2006, was rented. In terms of area, the largest amount of rental land was in Pelham followed by Wainfleet. There was very little rental land in St. Catharines, a fact that is reflective of the type of agriculture that dominates there. Fruit production and greenhouse operations are the most numerous. These types of operations require large capital investment and multiple years to reach maximum production. Greenhouse and fruit production is not the type of agriculture that typically occurs on rental land.

**Figure 15 – Farmland Area (in Acres) Owned and Rented in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2006**

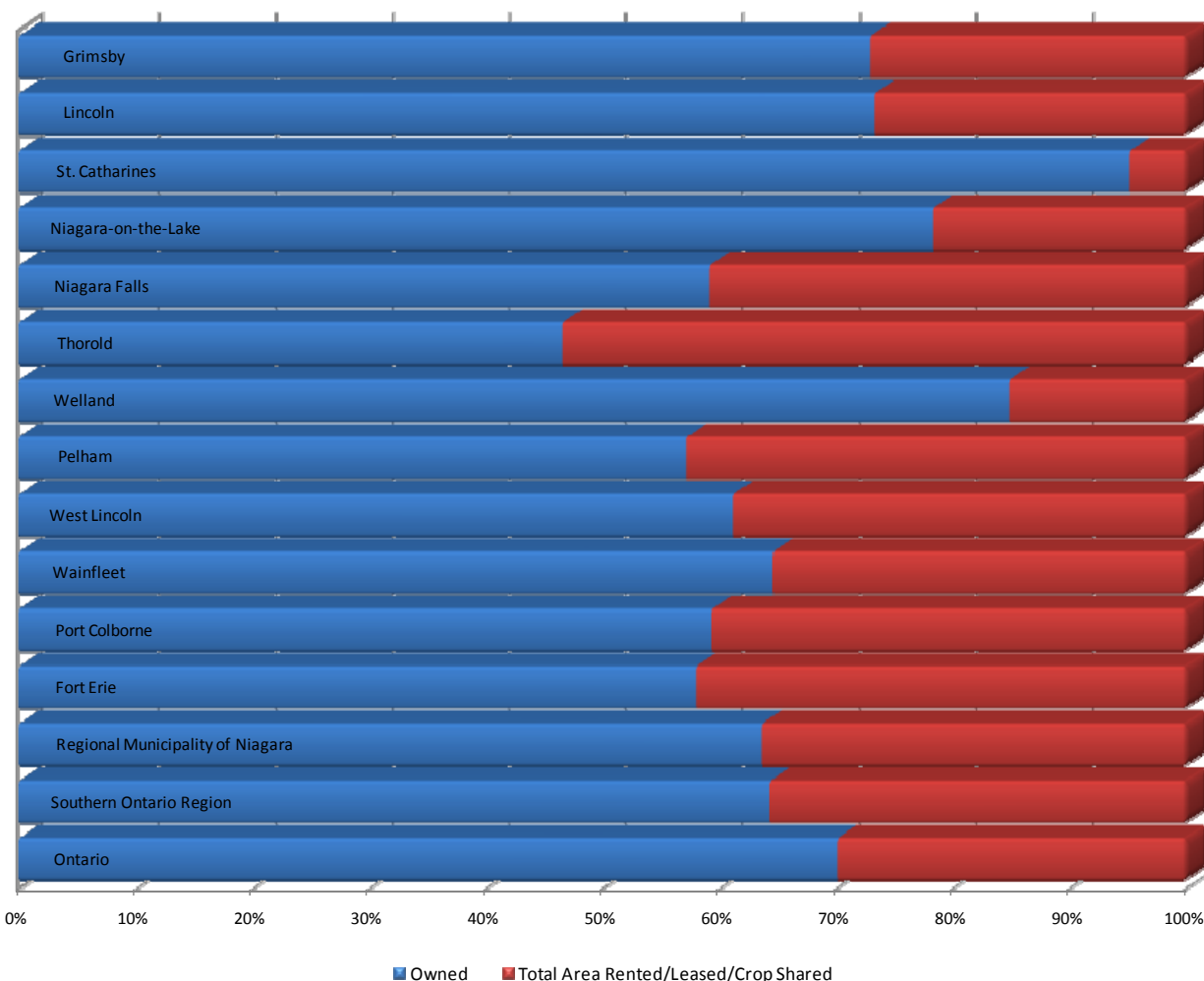
Geographic Location	Farmland Area (Acres)				
	Total Area Operated	Owned	Percentage of Total Area Owned	Total Area Rented / Leased / Crop Shared From All Sources	Percentage of Total Area Rented / Leased / Crop Shared From All Sources
Ontario	13,310,216	9,613,544	72.2%	4,090,794	30.7%
Southern Ontario Region	3,934,766	2,532,610	64.4%	1,402,156	35.6%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	231,728	152,459	65.8%	87,007	37.5%
Fort Erie	12,659	7,343	58.0%	x	42.0%
Port Colborne	12,814	7,434	58.0%	5,083	39.7%
Wainfleet	38,090	25,195	66.1%	13,791	36.2%
West Lincoln	67,078	42,253	63.0%	26,801	40.0%
Pelham	17,698	10,400	58.8%	7,773	43.9%
Welland	1,525	1,294	84.9%	x	15.1%
Thorold	10,799	4,788	44.3%	5,491	50.8%
Niagara Falls	8,588	5,135	59.8%	3,540	41.2%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	20,439	15,402	75.4%	4,253	20.8%
St. Catharines	4,573	4,353	95.2%	x	4.8%
Lincoln	29,081	22,460	77.2%	8,175	28.1%
Grimsby	8,384	6,311	75.3%	2,341	27.9%

X – Data is suppressed due to confidentiality – Percentage of Total Area Rented/Leased/Crop Shared is calculated by subtracting Percentage of Total Area Owned from 100.

Source: 2001 and 2006, Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order



**Figure 16 – Farmland Area (Acres) Owned and Rented in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2006**



Source: 2001 and 2006, Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture, Special Order

As noted, monitoring rates of rental land is important to understand the stability of the sector and track trends in ownership. There are many reasons for a higher incidence of rental land in particular areas. Higher land values, resulting from a variety of circumstances, can make it difficult for farmers to acquire land at a price that makes farming economically viable. Declining returns for commodities can make access to capital impossible. Uncertainty about the future for farming in an area makes investment in land less desirable. Land may be held by retired farmers, by speculators or by people seeking a rural lifestyle who do not want to farm. The ability to qualify for lower property tax rates if the land is under production makes it desirable for those not farming land, to rent it to operators who will farm it. This gives the farmer use of the land at a reasonable price and allows the owner to qualify for the agricultural property tax rate. Under the right circumstances, which include long term secure rental arrangements and enforcement of the “right to farm” legislation, access to rental land can help sustain agriculture in areas where land is very expensive.

Despite the potential benefits, a higher incidence of rented land often results in a less stable agricultural community. Farmers are less inclined to make the capital improvements required to maintain land if they do not own it or if the right to use is short term and informal. This is the point that is exemplified by the lower rental rates in St. Catharines where agriculture is dominated by greenhouse and fruit production. The type of commodities grown on rented land tends to be limited. A farmer with a year-to-year rental agreement is not going to plant a crop that requires large capital investment and a number of years to reach full production. Therefore rental land is often not managed to full efficiency, used to its full potential, or for the highest and best use. Surveys conducted by PLANSCAPE in the Golden Horseshoe over the past decade have confirmed that rental arrangements for farmland in the area are usually short term and informal.

In areas of high growth pressure or where growth is anticipated, agricultural land often lies idle or is underutilized. This can result in deterioration in the land base that is then used to build an argument that the land is not productive and as justification for removing it from an agricultural designation. Land lying idle can fragment an agricultural area, lead to a loss of services and make the business of farming more difficult.

## 2.5 Farm Size

As shown in **Figure 17a** the average farm size in Ontario is increasing steadily. This trend continued for the period from 2001 to 2006 during which time the average farm size in Ontario increased from 226 acres to 233 acres. Farm size in southern Ontario also increased between 2001 and 2006 from 203 acres to 211 acres.

As **Figure 17a** shows, although it is increasing (from 103 in 2001, to 104 in 2006), the average farm size in Niagara has always been considerably smaller than in the province or the southern Ontario region. As is discussed in the 2003 report, this is due to the profile of production that characterizes Niagara agriculture. The types of production that tend to dominate because of climate, growing conditions, proximity to market and urbanization (greenhouse, fruit and vegetable) can and usually do occur on a smaller land base.

**Figure 17a –Historical – Average Farm Size (Acres) for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara showing Percentage Change, 1976 - 2006**

Geographic Location	Average Farm Size (Acres)							Percentage Change		
	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	1976 -2006	1996 - 2001	2001 - 2006
Ontario	174	181	192	217	206	226	233	33.9%	13.1%	3.1%
Southern Ontario Region	136	146	158	170	183	203	211	55.1%	15.3%	3.9%
Regional Municipality of Niagara	66	71	75	80	101	103	104	57.6%	3.0%	1.0%

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order



Within the Region, the average farm size remained fairly constant in each of the area municipalities between 2001 and 2006. As **Figure 17b** shows, Thorold continued to have the largest average farm size of 220 acres in 2006; a decline from 235 acres in 2001 acres. However all of the area municipalities have average farm sizes smaller than the provincial average and the average size actually declined in six of them. The smaller average size is consistent with the production profiles. Those municipalities with the smallest average size tend to be dominated by commodities that can be produced viably on smaller acreages.

**Figure 17b –Average Farm Size (Acres) by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			2006		
	Number of Farms	Acreage	Average Farm Size	Number of Farms	Acreage	Average Farm Size
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>232,817</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>231,728</b>	<b>104</b>
Fort Erie	70	9,847	141	86	12,659	147
Port Colborne	70	13,379	191	71	12,814	180
Wainfleet	207	40,062	194	210	38,090	181
West Lincoln	454	67,118	148	431	67,078	156
Pelham	209	19,536	93	203	17,698	87
Welland	28	2,123	76	23	1,525	66
Thorold	49	11,537	235	49	10,799	220
Niagara Falls	82	8,191	100	79	8,588	109
Niagara-on-the-Lake	401	22,031	55	380	20,439	54
St. Catharines	108	4,755	44	103	4,573	44
Lincoln	473	27,945	59	483	29,081	60
Grimsby	115	6,293	55	118	8,384	71

Note: Data for average farm size (number of farms and farmland area) is calculated on all farms reporting.

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

## 2.6 Farm Type

There are two measures used to assess production profile. One focuses on number of operations by farm type; the other on production by gross farm receipts. Because of the diversity in size of operations, a profile of farm type based on number is often quite different from the profile based on gross farm receipts. Statistics Canada defines farm type on the basis of the commodity or group of commodities that represents more than 50% of the gross farm receipts generated. **Figures 18 (a & b)** and **19 (a & b)** provide a breakdown of the different number of types of farms by commodity in each of the area municipalities in the Region in 2001 and 2006. **Figure 19** shows the distribution of farm types in the Region graphically, and **Figure 20** maps it for the local municipalities.

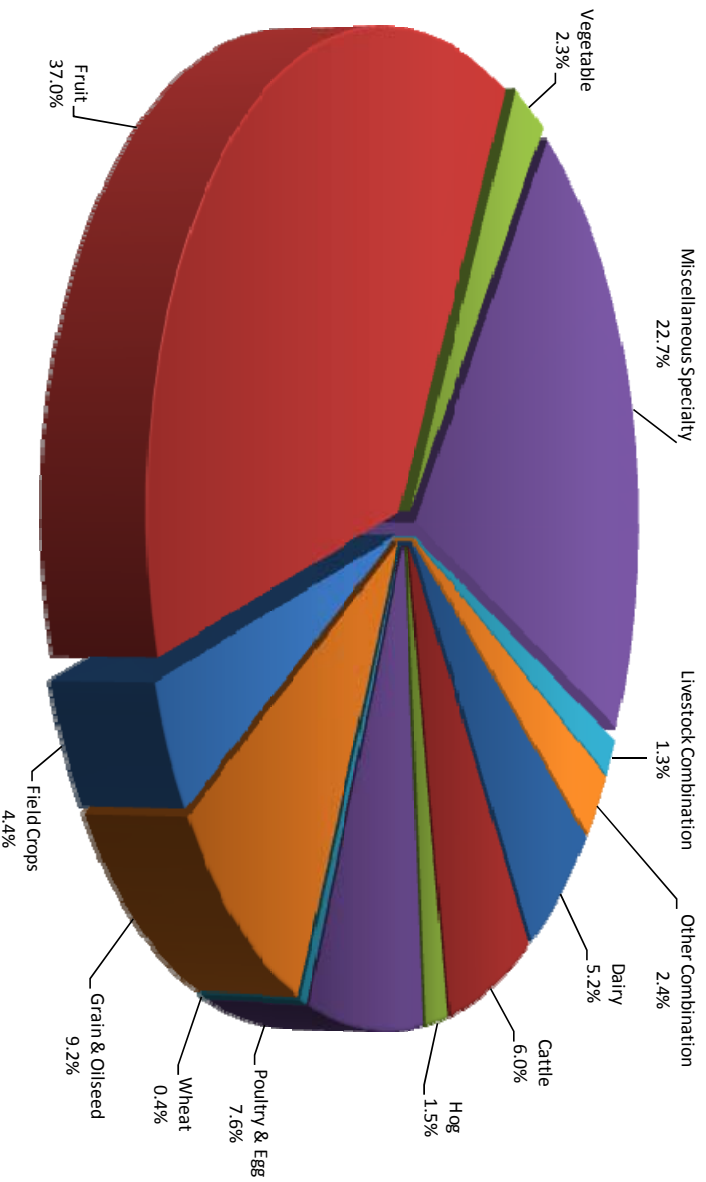
A comparison of the 2006 statistics with the 2001 statistics confirms that fruit has continued to dominate the number of farms although its percentage share declined between 2001 and 2006. Miscellaneous specialty, which includes greenhouse operations increased in share as did vegetable, grain and oilseed and field crops. Poultry and egg, dairy, cattle and hog declined.

Figure 18a – Number of Farms by Farm Type for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001

Geographic Location	Number of Farms	Farm Type - 2001											Gross Farm Receipts	
		Dairy	Cattle	Hog	Poultry & Egg	Wheat	Grain & Oilseed	Field Crops	Fruit	Vegetable	Miscellaneous Specialty	Livestock Combination		Other Combination
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$511,395,019</b>
Fort Erie	70	5	7	0	6	0	12	10	1	3	22	0	4	\$5,905,919
Port Colborne	70	4	9	0	9	0	14	8	3	1	16	3	3	\$7,544,540
Wainfleet	207	26	15	8	17	2	49	11	5	8	57	5	4	\$30,328,473
West Lincoln	454	64	65	17	80	3	59	34	23	5	74	15	15	\$68,058,325
Pelham	209	4	12	1	10	2	20	7	61	13	69	0	10	\$40,636,003
Welland	28	1	1	1	1	0	7	4	1	0	11	1	0	\$2,208,029
Thorold	49	3	2	0	3	0	12	0	11	1	14	0	3	\$7,428,360
Niagara Falls	82	3	9	1	5	1	6	9	10	2	32	1	3	\$6,133,914
Niagara-on-the-Lake	401	2	4	2	8	0	7	6	302	7	60	1	2	\$109,847,469
St. Catharines	108	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	65	3	36	0	1	\$46,178,766
Lincoln	473	4	7	3	23	1	17	8	301	8	90	3	8	\$160,372,708
Grimsby	115	2	4	0	9	1	4	3	56	1	33	1	1	\$26,752,513

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

Figure 18b – Percentage of Farm Types by Number of Farms for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001

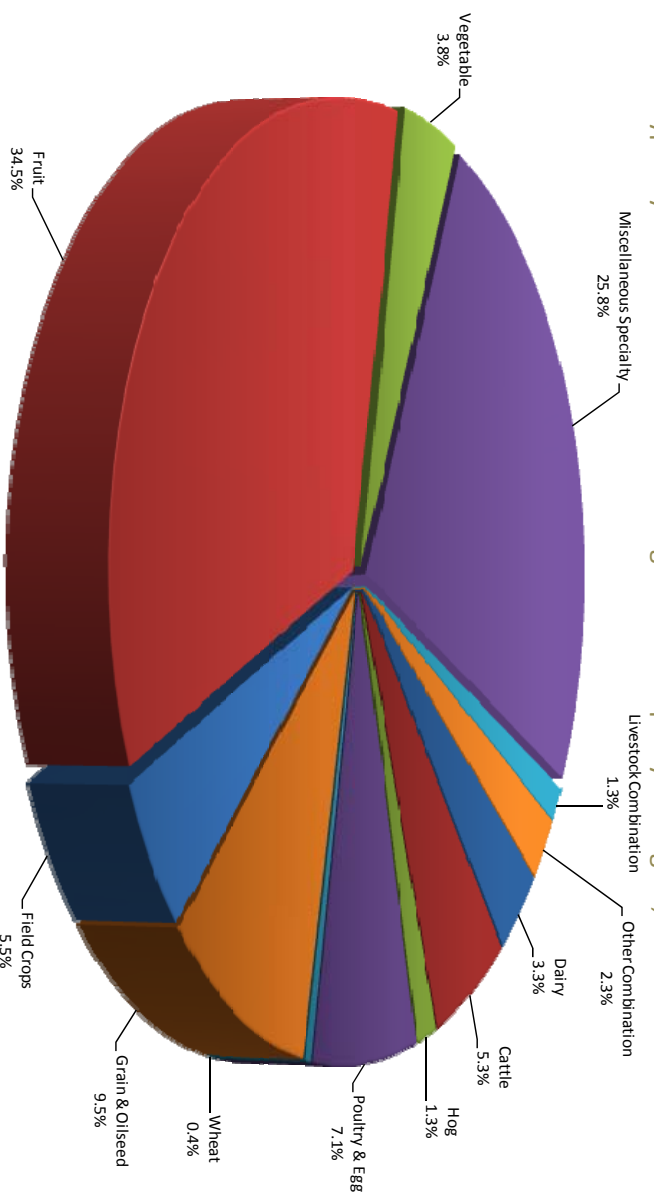


**Figure 19a – Number of Farms by Farm Types for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2006**

Geographic Location	Number of Farms	Farm Type - 2006											Gross Farm Receipts	
		Dairy	Cattle	Hog	Poultry & Egg	Wheat	Grain & Oilseed	Field Crops	Fruit	Vegetable	Miscellaneous Specialty	Livestock Combination		Other Combination
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$671,680,773</b>
Fort Erie	86	2	9	0	4	0	18	15	1	1	32	1	3	\$6,269,717
Port Colborne	71	3	10	0	6	0	16	6	1	4	21	3	1	\$7,704,231
Wainfleet	210	18	12	7	13	4	54	16	7	9	63	2	5	\$37,979,430
West Lincoln	431	37	51	19	81	4	58	42	22	7	87	12	11	\$112,271,660
Pelham	203	2	10	0	8	0	16	13	49	15	80	1	9	\$39,731,764
Welland	23	1	1	0	2	0	4	3	1	0	10	0	1	\$3,949,003
Thorold	49	4	3	0	0	0	11	1	9	1	17	1	2	\$11,975,511
Niagara Falls	79	2	5	1	6	1	7	11	9	4	30	1	2	\$9,800,302
Niagara-on-the-lake	380	1	4	0	7	0	4	4	272	18	65	0	5	\$143,297,060
St. Catharines	103	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	57	8	34	0	2	\$73,596,789
Lincoln	483	3	12	3	24	1	16	4	290	17	104	3	6	\$195,105,545
Grimsbly	118	1	2	0	6	0	7	7	53	0	33	4	5	\$29,999,761

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 19b – Percentage of Farm Types by Number of Farms for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2006**



Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 20** maps the breakdown of commodities by number of farms in the local municipalities. This map clearly shows the relationship between geography and farm profile. Those municipalities located north of, or on the Escarpment, are dominated by fruit and miscellaneous specialty (greenhouse). Those south of the Escarpment have a more diverse profile with a range of commodities and less of the type of operations that are dependent on the micro climate created by the Escarpment.

**Figures 21a, b and c** provide a breakdown of fruit and vegetable production by number of farms and area. These figures confirm that tender fruit production continues to be focused in NOTL and Lincoln. The area under production for peaches, sweet cherries, apricots, raspberries and grapes increased; acreage for pears, plums, prunes, apples, sour cherries and strawberries decreased. The statistics report a slight increase in overall regional acreage in fruit production and a decrease in the number of operations.



As illustrated by the statistics in **Figures 22a, b and c** the Niagara region is not a significant producer of field vegetables. However there was a slight increase in the acreage under production between 2001 and 2006, with growth in the production of tomatoes, cucumbers, green peas, green or waxed

beans peppers and squash pumpkins and zucchini. Pelham has the largest acreage of vegetable production followed by Lincoln and NOTL.

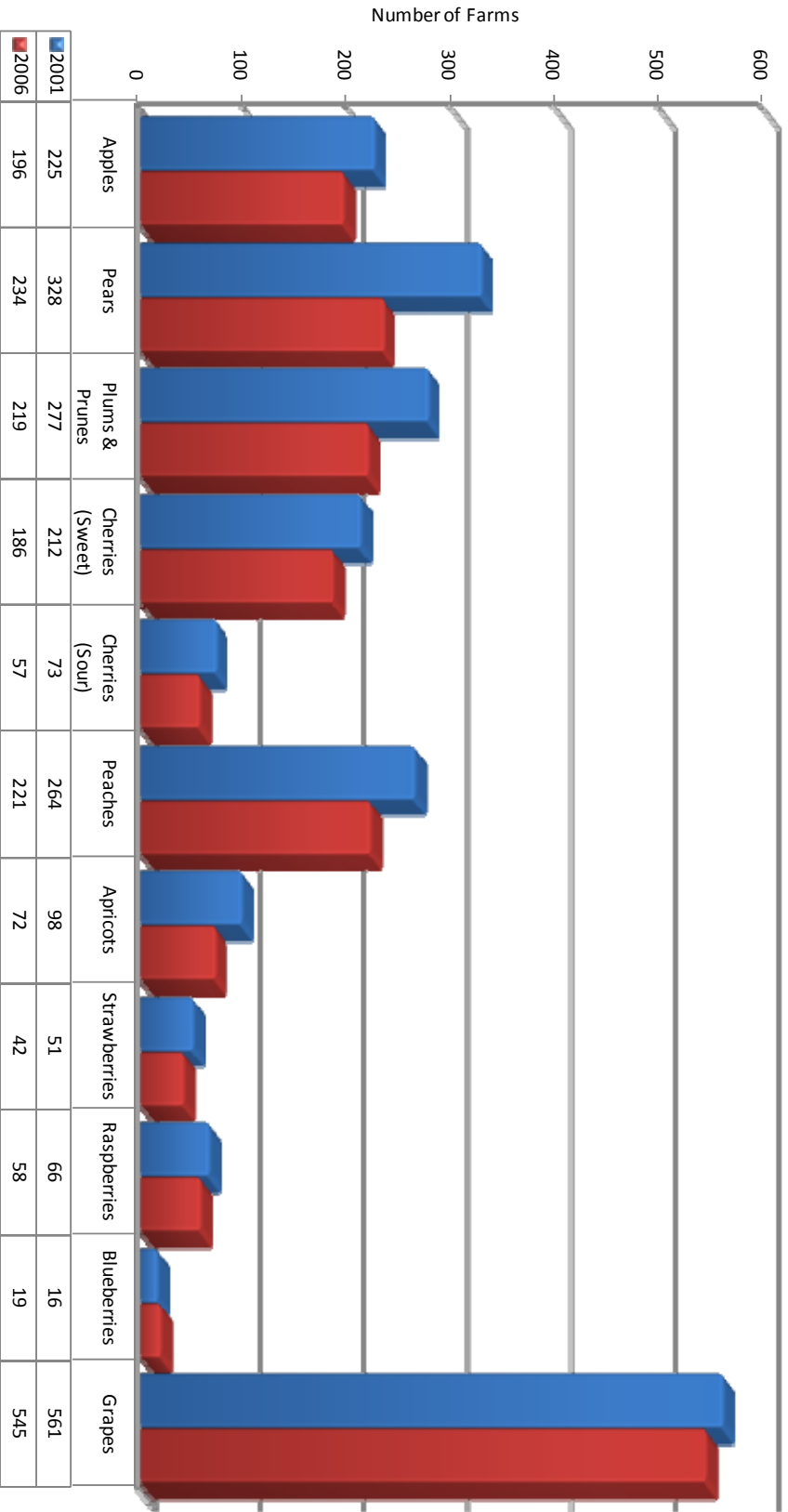


**Figure 21a – Number of Farm and Area (Acres) for Selected Fruits & Berries for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Total Number of Fruit Farms and Area (Acres) - 2001																									
	Total Fruits, Berries & Nuts		Apples		Pears		Plums & Prunes		Cherries (Sweet)		Cherries (Sour)		Peaches		Apricots		Strawberries		Raspberries		Blueberries		Grapes			
	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)		
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>28,111</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>5,280</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>15,616</b>		
Fort Erie	3	x	1	x	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0		
Port Colborne	6	21	1	x	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	2		
Wainfleet	10	44	4	x	2	x	1	x	2	x	0	0	1	x	0	0	3	10	2	x	0	0	0	0		
West Lincoln	29	322	10	79	8	28	3	3	1	x	1	1	x	0	0	2	x	3	3	1	1	1	16	201		
Pelham	75	1,513	35	214	36	197	13	20	20	32	16	563	9	55	1	x	9	35	13	22	4	5	21	368		
Welland	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	
Thorold	16	317	7	32	4	21	1	x	1	x	0	0	2	x	1	x	1	1	1	0	0	1	10	242		
Niagara Falls	13	94	4	8	5	5	3	1	3	4	1	x	2	x	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	73		
Niagara-on-the-Lake	324	12,422	49	79	82	340	127	626	158	11	183	115	3,331	39	29	15	70	16	x	x	4	x	214	6,999		
St. Catharines	70	1,984	13	25	25	66	18	35	12	32	3	x	27	467	7	9	7	37	6	x	0	0	41	1,251		
Lincoln	335	10,114	85	473	136	789	97	343	91	405	35	290	100	1,884	46	65	11	36	19	25	4	3	211	5,668		
Grimstby	61	1,265	16	112	28	172	12	21	16	60	6	x	7	30	4	x	2	x	4	8	0	0	38	806		
<b>Total Number of Fruit Farms and Area (Acres) - 2006</b>																										
<b>Total Fruits, Berries &amp; Nuts</b>																										
<b>Apples</b>																										
<b>Pears</b>																										
<b>Plums &amp; Prunes</b>																										
<b>Cherries (Sweet)</b>																										
<b>Cherries (Sour)</b>																										
<b>Peaches</b>																										
<b>Apricots</b>																										
<b>Strawberries</b>																										
<b>Raspberries</b>																										
<b>Blueberries</b>																										
<b>Grapes</b>																										
<b>Geographic Location</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>29,319</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>16,822</b>		
Fort Erie	3	x	1	x	2	x	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	
Port Colborne	4	x	3	x	2	x	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	2	x	
Wainfleet	14	130	5	8	3	6	2	x	3	3	2	2	x	1	x	4	9	3	2	0	0	0	2	x		
West Lincoln	28	311	14	75	8	23	6	4	3	2	0	1	x	1	x	1	x	2	2	5	4	13	189			
Pelham	59	1,437	28	161	25	174	12	21	23	34	15	583	9	64	3	1	10	57	8	19	5	6	17	312		
Welland	2	x	1	x	4	24	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x		
Thorold	14	264	6	30	4	24	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	203			
Niagara Falls	13	72	4	9	2	x	1	x	2	x	0	0	1	x	0	0	1	x	2	x	0	0	5	48		
Niagara-on-the-Lake	297	13,088	40	81	46	225	87	514	122	8	130	91	3,629	26	56	9	32	12	12	x	2	x	211	7,857		
St. Catharines	64	2,480	12	25	20	73	14	59	13	32	2	x	21	663	4	x	4	22	6	12	0	0	39	1,525		
Lincoln	324	10,076	64	254	100	719	82	399	83	438	23	226	90	2,068	35	58	10	27	20	25	5	x	203	5,745		
Grimstby	61	1,380	18	174	21	195	11	22	13	55	6	x	26	2	x	1	x	3	4	x	0	0	42	838		

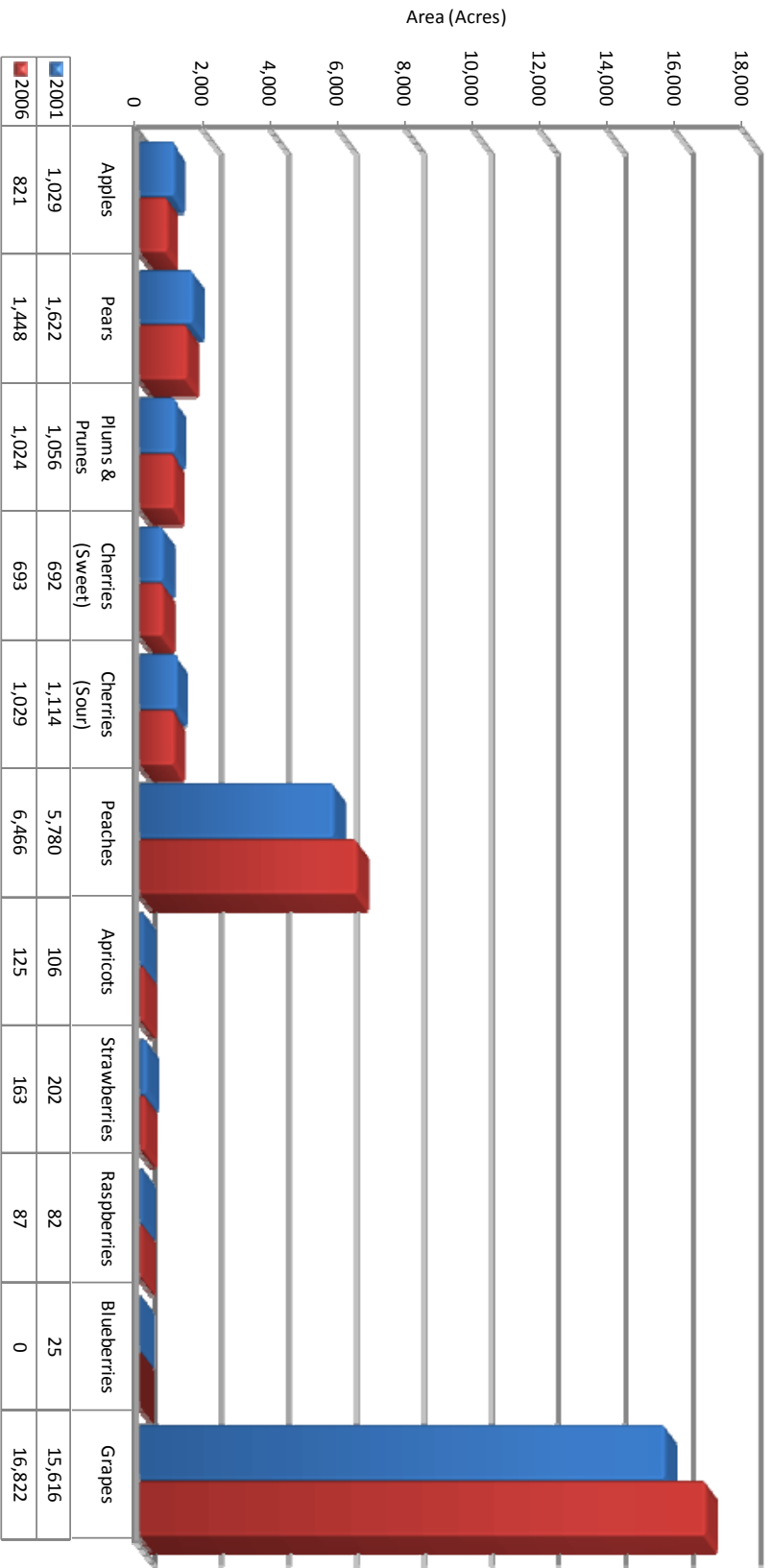
Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 21b – Number of Farms for Selected Fruits & Berries for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006**



Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 21c – Area of Farms (Acres) for Selected Fruits & Berries for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006**



NOTE: Value of 0 on the chart represents a suppressed value.  
 Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

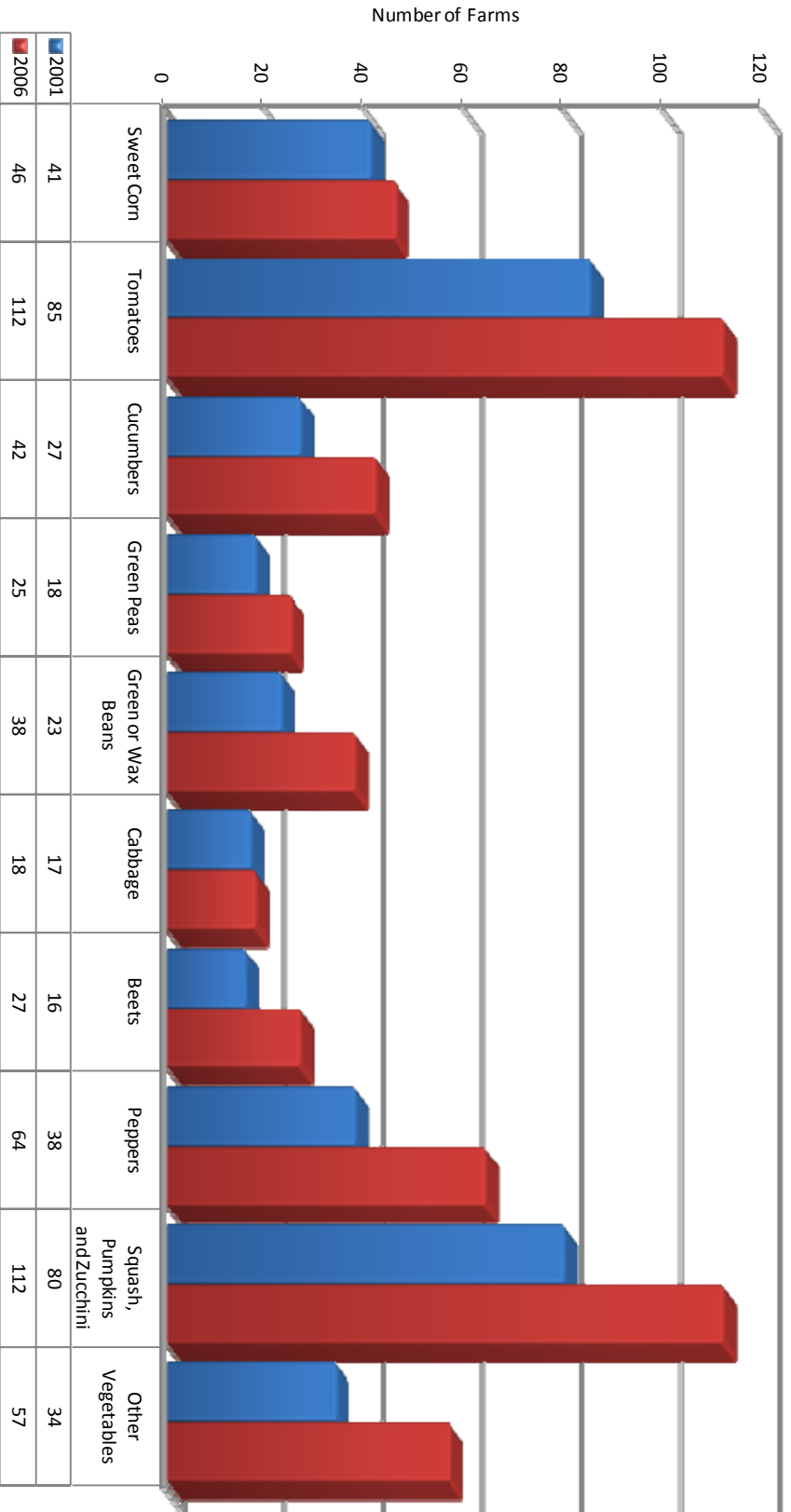
Figure 22a – Number of Farms and Area (Acres) for Selected Vegetable for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006

Geographic Location	Total Number of Vegetable Farms and Area (Acres) - 2001														Total Number of Vegetable Farms and Area (Acres) - 2006													
	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)	Number of Farms	Area (Acres)				
Regional Municipality of Niagara	168	1,725	41	377	85	130	27	x	18	13	23	20	17	93	16	65	38	39	80	428	34	128						
Fort Erie	5	41	2	x	5	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	x	x	1	x	2	x	x	3	4	1	x					
Port Colborne	6	x	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0				
Wainfleet	20	282	5	7	7	16	7	5	1	x	3	1	3	x	4	x	5	2	8	18	5	5						
West Lincoln	19	150	5	78	7	4	4	2	1	x	3	1	1	x	3	1	2	2	8	22	3	x						
Pelham	32	400	9	152	13	48	5	8	6	4	6	12	5	19	4	x	9	23	19	91	12	20						
Welland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Thorold	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0					
Niagara Falls	8	28	0	0	3	x	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	19	1	x					
Niagara-on-the-Lake	25	212	3	x	23	32	3	1	1	x	2	x	2	x	2	x	11	9	9	8	5	x						
St. Catharines	12	67	6	33	8	9	1	x	4	2	2	x	1	x	1	x	4	1	5	16	3	2						
Lincoln	35	301	9	75	16	13	2	x	4	1	4	3	3	2	1	x	4	2	2	19	189	3	2					
Grimsby	5	59	1	x	2	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	1	x					
Total Number of Vegetable Farms and Area (Acres) - 2006																												
Total Vegetables																												
Number of Farms	209	1,815	46	253	112	183	42	36	25	30	38	122	18	75	27	70	64	63	112	443	57	106						
Area (Acres)	1,815	47	2	x	2	x	1	x	2	x	3	x	0	0	1	x	1	x	1	x	2	x	1					
Sweet Corn																												
Number of Farms	6	131	2	x	2	x	1	x	2	x	2	x	2	x	2	x	3	x	3	6	2	3	1					
Area (Acres)	131	47	2	x	2	x	1	x	2	x	2	x	2	x	2	x	3	x	3	6	2	3	1					
Tomatoes																												
Number of Farms	7	164	3	x	9	17	5	7	3	1	2	2	4	40	3	x	4	5	8	11	2	x						
Area (Acres)	164	83	3	5	6	4	5	5	2	x	2	x	1	x	1	x	3	3	8	15	5	48						
Cucumbers																												
Number of Farms	18	504	14	168	16	54	9	10	8	13	9	106	2	x	7	4	10	18	19	85	13	21						
Area (Acres)	504	168	14	168	16	54	9	10	8	13	9	106	2	x	7	4	10	18	19	85	13	21						
Green Peas																												
Number of Farms	2	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x					
Area (Acres)	x	38	2	x	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	24	2	x				
Green or Wax Beans																												
Number of Farms	10	330	5	x	25	60	7	x	2	x	7	x	4	x	4	1	18	11	17	12	12	18						
Area (Acres)	330	83	5	13	14	14	4	2	2	x	2	x	1	x	2	2	7	4	4	12	38	5	4					
Cabbage																												
Number of Farms	45	361	6	17	28	27	6	4	3	3	7	6	3	10	6	6	11	9	9	24	188	10	9					
Area (Acres)	361	6	17	28	27	6	4	3	3	7	6	3	10	6	6	11	9	9	24	188	10	9						
Beets																												
Number of Farms	2	x	1	x	1	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Area (Acres)	x	38	2	x	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	24	2	x				
Peppers																												
Number of Farms	36	330	5	x	25	60	7	x	2	x	7	x	4	x	4	1	18	11	17	12	12	18						
Area (Acres)	330	83	5	13	14	14	4	2	2	x	2	x	1	x	2	2	7	4	4	12	38	5	4					
Squash, Pumpkins and Zucchini																												
Number of Farms	23	361	6	17	28	27	6	4	3	3	7	6	3	10	6	6	11	9	9	24	188	10	9					
Area (Acres)	361	6	17	28	27	6	4	3	3	7	6	3	10	6	6	11	9	9	24	188	10	9						
Other Vegetables																												
Number of Farms	10	x	2	x	4	2	1	x	1	x	2	x	0	0	1	x	4	2	8	11	2	x						
Area (Acres)	x	2	x	4	2	1	x	1	x	2	x	0	0	0	1	x	4	2	8	11	2	x						

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

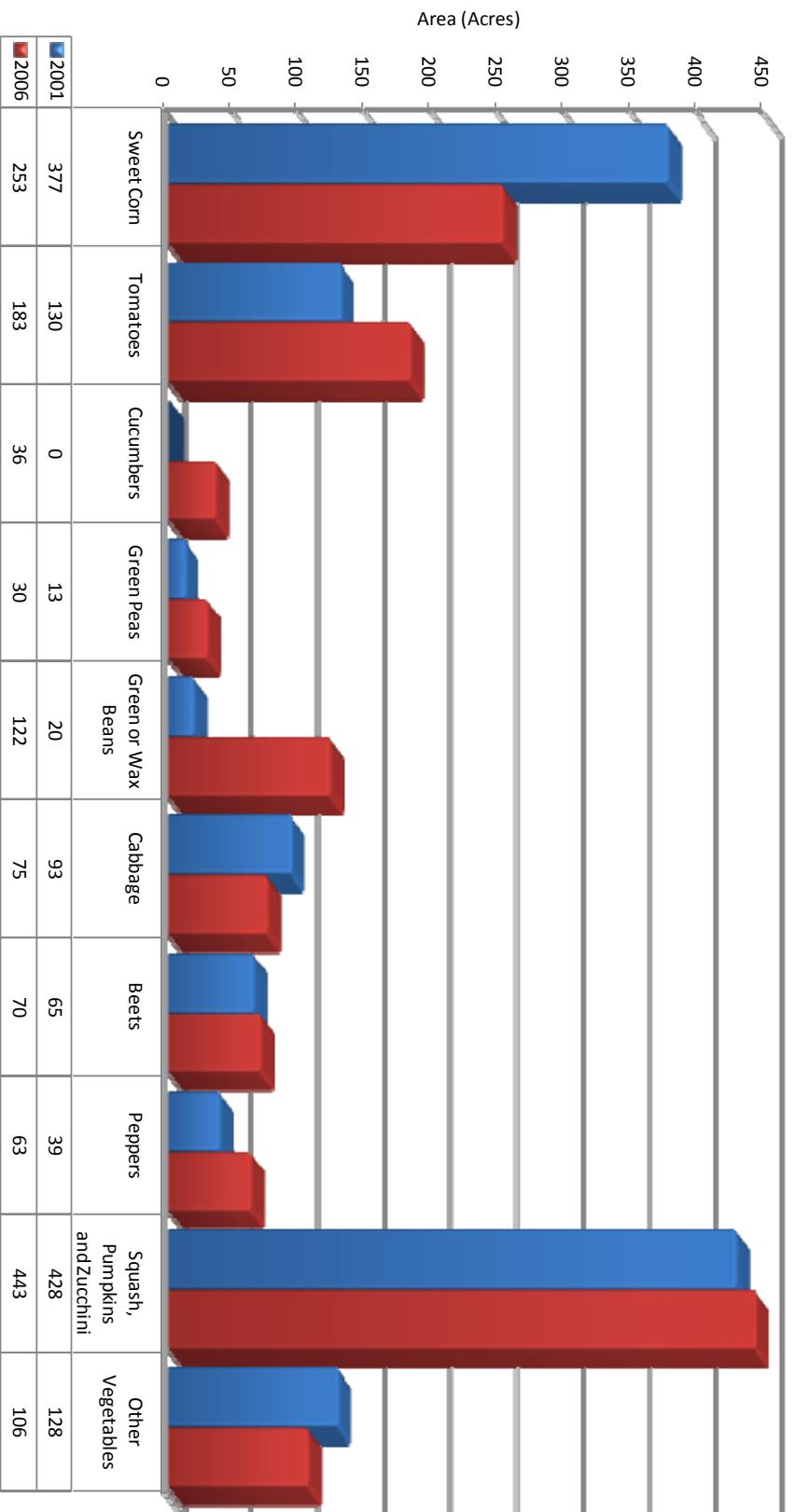


**Figure 22b** – Number of Farms for Selected Vegetables for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006



Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 22c – Area of Farms (Acres) for Selected Vegetables for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006**



NOTE: Value of 0 on the chart represents a suppressed value.

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

The miscellaneous sector continues to be important in Niagara and has experienced growth both in number of farms and GFR's since 2001. As shown on **Figures 23** and **24**, the dominate sector in terms of number of operations continues to be greenhouse, followed by horse and pony and nursery. The sector which experienced the most growth in terms of number of operations is horse and pony. Nursery experienced a small increase in numbers; the number of greenhouse operations declined.

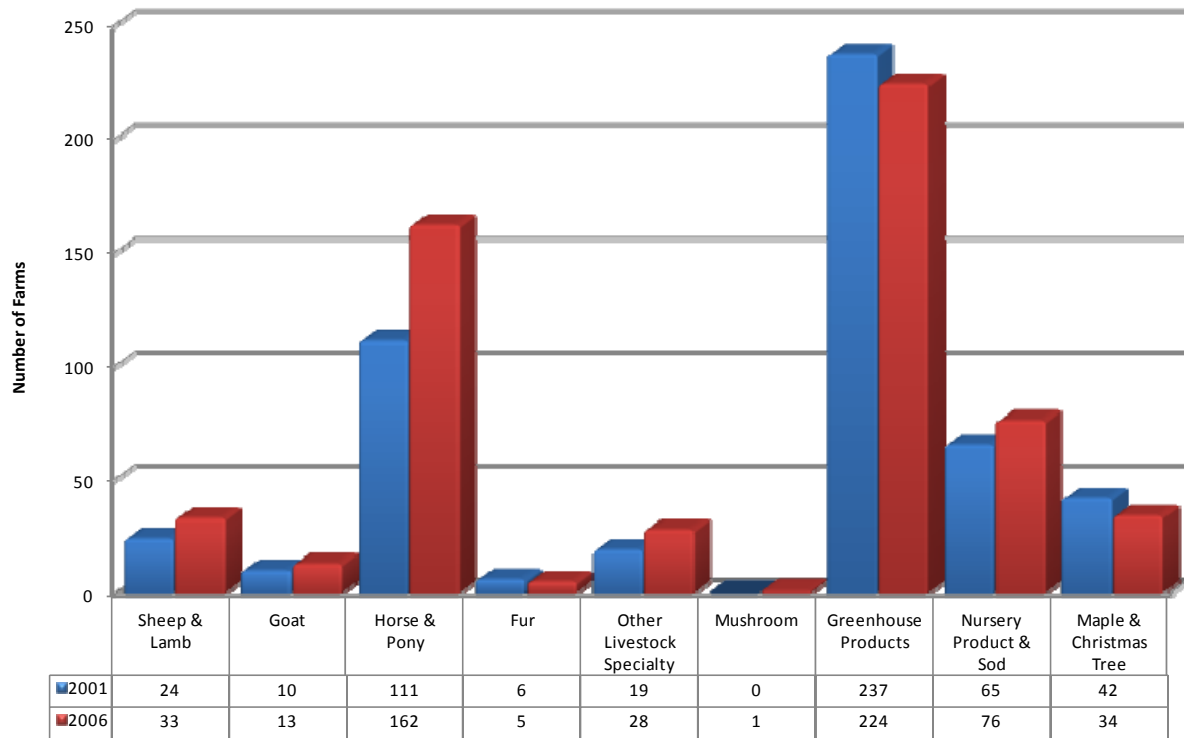


**Figure 23 – Miscellaneous Specialty Farm Types by Number of Farms for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Miscellaneous Specialty - 2001										
	Number of Farms	Sheep & Lamb	Goat	Horse & Pony	Fur	Other Livestock Specialty	Mushroom	Greenhouse Products	Nursery Product & Sod	Maple & Christmas Tree	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>252,537,457</b>
Fort Erie	22	0	1	11	0	0	0	4	3	3	2,060,707
Port Colborne	16	2	0	6	0	0	0	4	2	2	909,980
Wainfleet	57	4	0	18	4	1	0	22	6	2	7,383,664
West Lincoln	74	13	7	20	0	7	0	17	2	8	6,902,400
Pelham	69	0	0	19	0	0	0	25	15	10	26,543,350
Welland	11	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3	2	1,558,540
Thorold	14	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	2	1	3,118,463
Niagara Falls	32	4	0	8	1	4	0	7	5	3	1,729,693
Niagara-on-the-Lake	60	1	2	4	0	0	0	40	9	4	55,099,863
St. Catharines	36	0	0	1	0	2	0	28	5	0	39,170,425
Lincoln	90	0	0	12	1	3	0	58	11	5	88,688,060
Grimsby	33	0	0	5	0	1	0	23	2	2	19,372,312
Geographic Location	Miscellaneous Specialty - 2006										
	Number of Farms	Sheep & Lamb	Goat	Horse & Pony	Fur	Other Livestock Specialty	Mushroom	Greenhouse Products	Nursery Product & Sod	Maple & Christmas Tree	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>352,078,435</b>
Fort Erie	32	1	3	19	0	1	0	4	3	1	2,485,345
Port Colborne	21	1	0	11	0	1	0	2	4	2	1,313,632
Wainfleet	63	5	1	22	4	2	0	19	8	2	12,277,589
West Lincoln	87	19	6	29	0	6	0	18	6	3	10,064,074
Pelham	80	2	0	29	0	5	0	21	14	9	28,511,803
Welland	10	0	0	4	0	1	0	3	1	1	3,288,168
Thorold	17	0	1	8	0	0	0	6	0	2	7,389,064
Niagara Falls	30	2	0	13	1	2	0	6	5	1	3,634,248
Niagara-on-the-Lake	65	1	0	8	0	2	1	41	9	3	80,407,355
St. Catharines	34	0	0	1	0	2	0	22	6	3	65,023,754
Lincoln	104	0	2	16	0	4	0	61	17	4	116,398,102
Grimsby	33	2	0	2	0	2	0	21	3	3	21,285,301

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 23b**– Miscellaneous Specialty Farm Types by Number of Farms for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006



**Figure 24** confirms that greenhouse dominates in Niagara North, horse and pony in Niagara South.



**Figure 25** provides a breakdown miscellaneous specialty by local municipality.

**FIGURE 25a – TABLE – Miscellaneous Specialty Farm Types by Gross Farm Receipts by Area Municipality, 2006**

Geographic Location	Gross Farm Receipts - Miscellaneous Specialty - 2001								
	Sheep & Lamb	Goat	Horse & Pony	Fur	Other Livestock Specialty	Greenhouse Products	Nursery Product & Sod	Maple & Christmas Tree	Total Miscellaneous Specialty Gross Farm Receipts (\$)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>233,042</b>	<b>129,084</b>	<b>4,220,708</b>	<b>1,517,107</b>	<b>843,300</b>	<b>217,609,442</b>	<b>27,717,140</b>	<b>267,634</b>	<b>252,537,457</b>
Fort Erie	0	x	847,418	0	0	1,139,263	66,221	x	2,060,707
Port Colborne	x	0	x	0	0	778,864	x	x	909,980
Wainfleet	26,911	0	409,286	x	x	5,704,925	41,787	x	7,383,664
West Lincoln	121,340	121,766	376,609	0	83,055	6,143,404	x	x	6,902,400
Pelham	0	0	1,095,030	0	0	20,558,144	4,773,628	116,548	26,543,350
Welland	0	0	x	0	x	1,502,018	31,500	x	1,558,540
Thorold	0	0	x	0	0	2,870,779	x	x	3,118,463
Niagara Falls	x	0	95,245	x	14,950	980,814	266,937	24,547	1,729,693
Niagara-on-the-Lake	x	x	x	0	0	39,054,542	15,903,862	4,645	55,099,863
St. Catharines	0	0	x	0	x	34,699,191	4,401,741	0	39,170,425
Lincoln	0	0	728,541	x	716,320	84,975,948	2,208,901	x	88,688,060
Grimsby	0	0	152,124	0	x	19,201,550	x	x	19,372,312

Geographic Location	Gross Farm Receipts - Miscellaneous Specialty - 2006								
	Sheep & Lamb	Goat	Horse & Pony	Fur	Other Livestock Specialty	Greenhouse Products	Nursery Product & Sod	Maple & Christmas Tree	Total Miscellaneous Specialty Gross Farm Receipts (\$)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>440,591</b>	<b>7,849,642</b>	<b>2,912,524</b>	<b>1,591,807</b>	<b>289,099,652</b>	<b>48,902,783</b>	<b>739,464</b>	<b>352,078,435</b>
Fort Erie	x	20,029	1,531,312	0	x	x	36,896	x	2,485,345
Port Colborne	x	0	618,791	0	x	x	x	x	1,313,632
Wainfleet	89,893	x	1,131,384	x	x	8,144,983	277,709	x	12,277,589
West Lincoln	213,071	145,369	776,797	0	70,412	8,814,025	36,015	8,385	10,064,074
Pelham	x	0	1,547,213	0	x	14,361,167	12,495,868	44,304	28,511,803
Welland	0	0	199,474	0	x	2,969,237	x	x	3,288,168
Thorold	0	x	152,756	0	0	6,976,253	0	x	7,389,064
Niagara Falls	x	0	521,569	x	x	1,853,458	679,946	x	3,634,248
Niagara-on-the-Lake	x	0	259,968	0	x	58,302,740	21,350,712	211,400	80,407,355
St. Catharines	0	0	x	0	x	55,930,166	8,852,213	182,000	65,023,754
Lincoln	0	x	1,008,053	0	1,037,108	109,405,296	4,878,208	x	116,398,102
Grimsby	x	0	x	0	x	20,824,577	160,500	216,947	21,285,301



The number of greenhouse operations declined between 2001 and 2006, but the area under cover increased by 4,689,330 sq. feet. This increase (**Figure 26**) shows that the expansion was split between flower and vegetable production but the ratio of flower to vegetable production remained constant at approximately 3 to 1.

**Figure 26 – Greenhouse Operations – Statistics for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Greenhouse Operations - 2001									
	Total Operations In Use		Under Glass, Plastic or Other		Flowers		Vegetables		Other Products	
	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>18,000,720</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>18,192,060</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>15,330,642</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2,364,744</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>305,334</b>
Fort Erie	5	x	5	x	3	107,000	2	x	0	0
Port Colborne	7	121,365	7	121,600	3	x	3	x	3	x
Wainfleet	22	742,646	22	743,646	15	482,246	8	x	1	x
West Lincoln	21	676,844	21	752,174	16	485,874	6	x	3	x
Pelham	31	1,651,677	31	1,671,345	23	1,242,156	4	358,895	6	50,626
Welland	3	x	3	x	3	x	0	0	0	0
Thorold	6	300,660	6	300,660	5	x	0	0	1	x
Niagara Falls	8	x	8	113,900	6	94,700	0	0	2	x
Niagara-on-the-Lake	46	2,839,457	46	2,844,277	41	2,771,757	4	x	5	x
St. Catharines	29	3,027,867	29	3,039,963	26	2,912,579	2	x	3	x
Lincoln	62	6,849,210	62	6,923,902	52	5,491,282	9	1,188,208	3	169,720
Grimsby	25	1,508,553	25	1,508,553	22	1,308,553	3	200,000	0	0

Geographic Location	Greenhouse Operations - 2006									
	Total Operations In Use		Under Glass, Plastic or Other		Flowers		Vegetables		Other Products	
	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Farms	Area (Square Feet)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>22,690,050</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>22,820,226</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>18,727,743</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3,526,149</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>436,158</b>
Fort Erie	6	x	6	95,660	3	x	2	x	3	x
Port Colborne	4	x	4	x	2	x	2	x	0	0
Wainfleet	19	909,950	19	910,350	13	606,350	5	x	1	x
West Lincoln	20	881,095	20	914,743	16	613,011	6	x	1	x
Pelham	25	1,405,468	25	1,405,918	19	1,009,167	5	x	3	x
Welland	3	70,000	3	x	3	70,000	0	0	0	0
Thorold	6	451,470	6	451,470	6	x	0	0	1	x
Niagara Falls	7	187,720	7	232,800	6	x	0	0	1	x
Niagara-on-the-Lake	46	4,524,058	46	4,535,558	40	4,141,500	4	x	3	x
St. Catharines	26	4,497,084	26	4,497,084	20	x	3	x	4	x
Lincoln	64	7,902,101	64	7,940,199	56	7,672,341	9	187,600	6	42,160
Grimsby	23	1,658,680	23	1,659,180	17	1,387,500	4	x	2	x

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



## 2.7 Gross Farm Receipts

Figures 27a - d summarize and maps the distribution of the \$672 million in gross farm receipts generated in the Region of Niagara in 2006. Despite a slight decrease of approximately 1,000 acres of farmland during the period from 2001 to 2006, GFR's generated in 2006, were \$160 million higher than in 2001.

The percentage distribution of GFR's in 2006 remained relatively constant across the Region with Lincoln, NOTL and West Lincoln accounting for 67% of GFR's. With respect to distribution, there was a slight decrease in the percentage share accounted for by Lincoln and a slight increase in the percentage share accounted for by West Lincoln.

**Figure 27a – Percentage Breakdown of Total Gross Farm Receipts (excluding forest products sold) for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

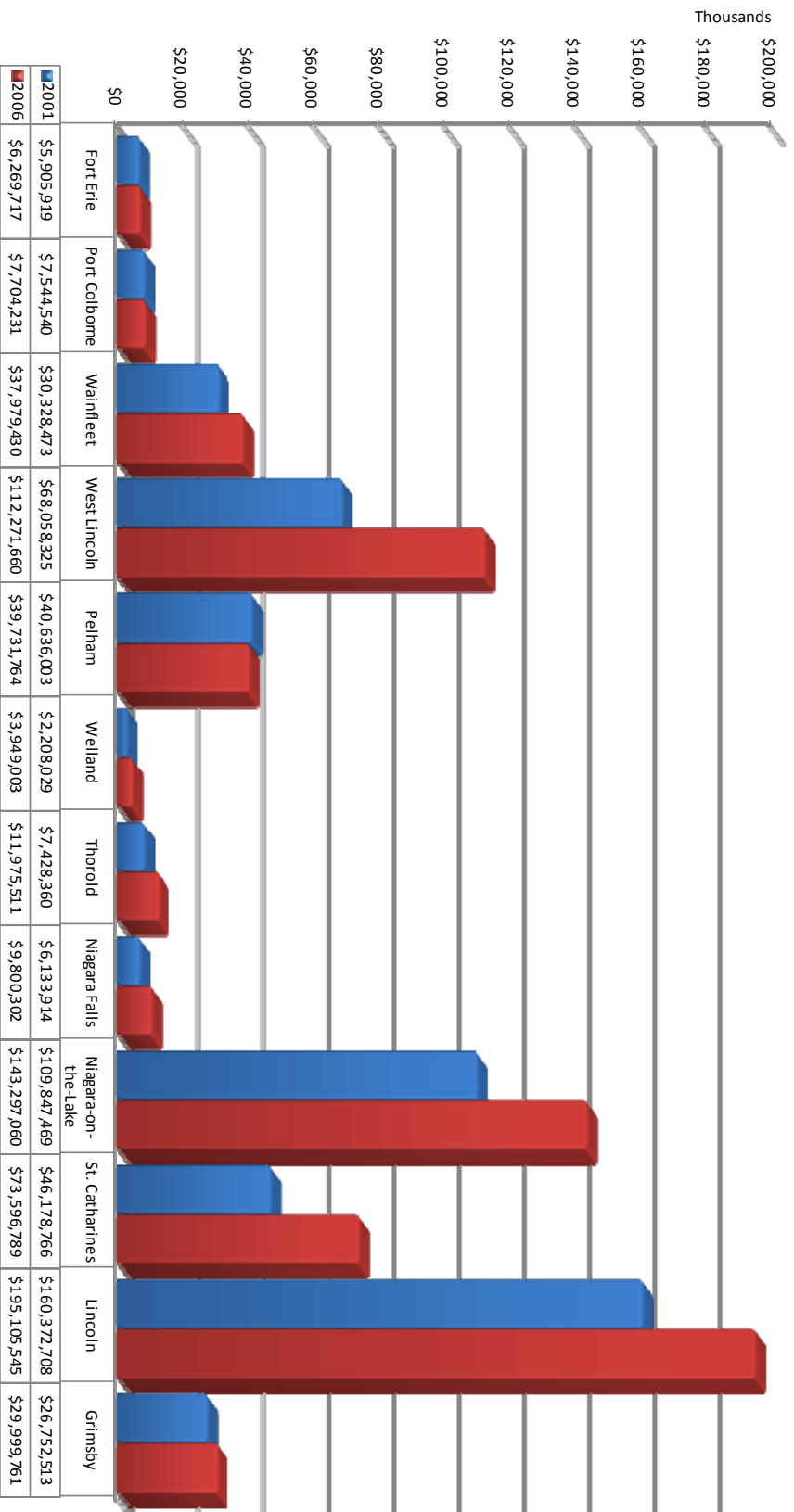
Geographic Location	2001		2006	
	Gross Farm Receipts		Gross Farm Receipts	
	Total (\$)	Percentage of Region	Total (\$)	Percentage of Region
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>511,395,019</b>		<b>671,680,773</b>	
Fort Erie	5,905,919	1.2%	6,269,717	0.9%
Port Colborne	7,544,540	1.5%	7,704,231	1.1%
Wainfleet	30,328,473	5.9%	37,979,430	5.7%
West Lincoln	68,058,325	13.3%	112,271,660	16.7%
Pelham	40,636,003	7.9%	39,731,764	5.9%
Welland	2,208,029	0.4%	3,949,003	0.6%
Thorold	7,428,360	1.5%	11,975,511	1.8%
Niagara Falls	6,133,914	1.2%	9,800,302	1.5%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	109,847,469	21.5%	143,297,060	21.3%
St. Catharines	46,178,766	9.0%	73,596,789	11.0%
Lincoln	160,372,708	31.4%	195,105,545	29.0%
Grimsby	26,752,513	5.2%	29,999,761	4.5%

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

In dollar terms between 2001 and 2006, West Lincoln increased GFR's by \$44 million, Lincoln by 35 million, NOTL by \$33 million and St. Catharines by \$27 million.



**Figure 27c – Total Gross Farm Receipts (excluding forest products sold) for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**



Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



**Figure 27d – Total Gross Farm Receipts (excluding forest products sold) showing Increase/Decrease between 2001 and 2006 for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality**

Geographic Location	2001	2006	Change
	GFR Total (\$)	GFR Total (\$)	(\$)
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>\$511,395,019</b>	<b>\$671,680,773</b>	<b>\$160,285,754</b>
Fort Erie	\$5,905,919	\$6,269,717	\$363,798
Port Colborne	\$7,544,540	\$7,704,231	\$159,691
Wainfleet	\$30,328,473	\$37,979,430	\$7,650,957
West Lincoln	\$68,058,325	\$112,271,660	\$44,213,335
Pelham	\$40,636,003	\$39,731,764	<b>-\$904,239</b>
Welland	\$2,208,029	\$3,949,003	\$1,740,974
Thorold	\$7,428,360	\$11,975,511	\$4,547,151
Niagara Falls	\$6,133,914	\$9,800,302	\$3,666,388
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$109,847,469	\$143,297,060	\$33,449,591
St. Catharines	\$46,178,766	\$73,596,789	\$27,418,023
Lincoln	\$160,372,708	\$195,105,545	\$34,732,837
Grimsby	\$26,752,513	\$29,999,761	\$3,247,248

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

Based on gross farm receipts per acre, the Region of Niagara continued to have the high productivity in Ontario in 2006. As shown on **Figures 28 a & b**, the average per acre rate for Niagara in 2006 was \$2,899 as compared to the provincial average of \$777 per acre and the average for the southern Ontario region of \$1,187 per acre. On a provincial basis, Niagara ranks first followed by Essex and Waterloo in value of GFR's per acre. This will be due to the type of agriculture which occurs in Niagara which tends to be highly productive on a per acreage basis.

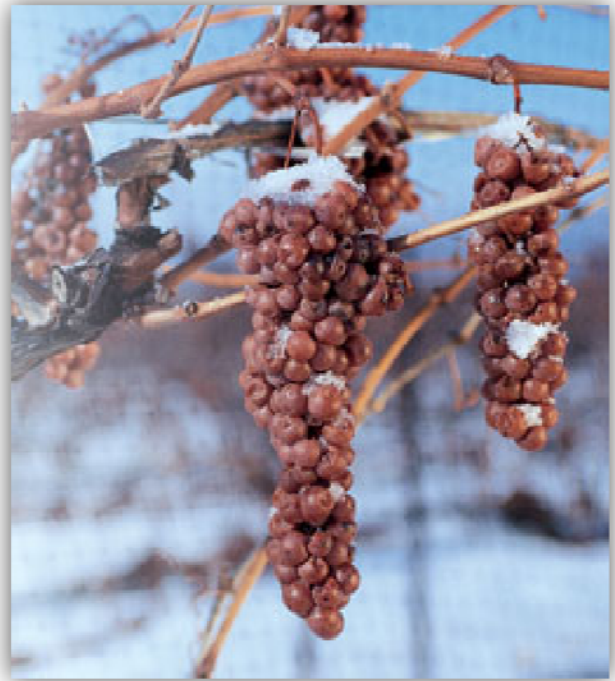
**Figure 28a – Total Gross Farm Receipts (excluding forest product sold) per Acre for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			2006		
	Farmland Area (Acres)	Gross Farm Receipts		Farmland Area (Acres)	Gross Farm Receipts	
		Total (\$)	Per Acre (\$)		Total (\$)	Per Acre (\$)
Ontario	13,507,357	9,115,454,790	675	13,310,216	10,342,031,229	777
Southern Ontario Region	3,985,132	3,964,859,834	995	3,934,766	4,672,359,547	1,187
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>232,817</b>	<b>511,395,019</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>231,728</b>	<b>671,680,773</b>	<b>2,899</b>
Fort Erie	9,847	5,905,919	600	12,659	6,269,717	495
Port Colborne	13,379	7,544,540	564	12,814	7,704,231	601
Wainfleet	40,062	30,328,473	757	38,090	37,979,430	997
West Lincoln	67,118	68,058,325	1,014	67,078	112,271,660	1,674
Pelham	19,536	40,636,003	2,080	17,698	39,731,764	2,245
Welland	2,123	2,208,029	1,040	1,525	3,949,003	2,590
Thorold	11,537	7,428,360	644	10,799	11,975,511	1,109
Niagara Falls	8,191	6,133,914	749	8,588	9,800,302	1,141
Niagara-on-the-Lake	22,031	109,847,469	4,986	20,439	143,297,060	7,011
St. Catharines	4,755	46,178,766	9,712	4,573	73,596,789	16,094
Lincoln	27,945	160,372,708	5,739	29,081	195,105,545	6,709
Grimsby	6,293	26,752,513	4,251	8,384	29,999,761	3,578

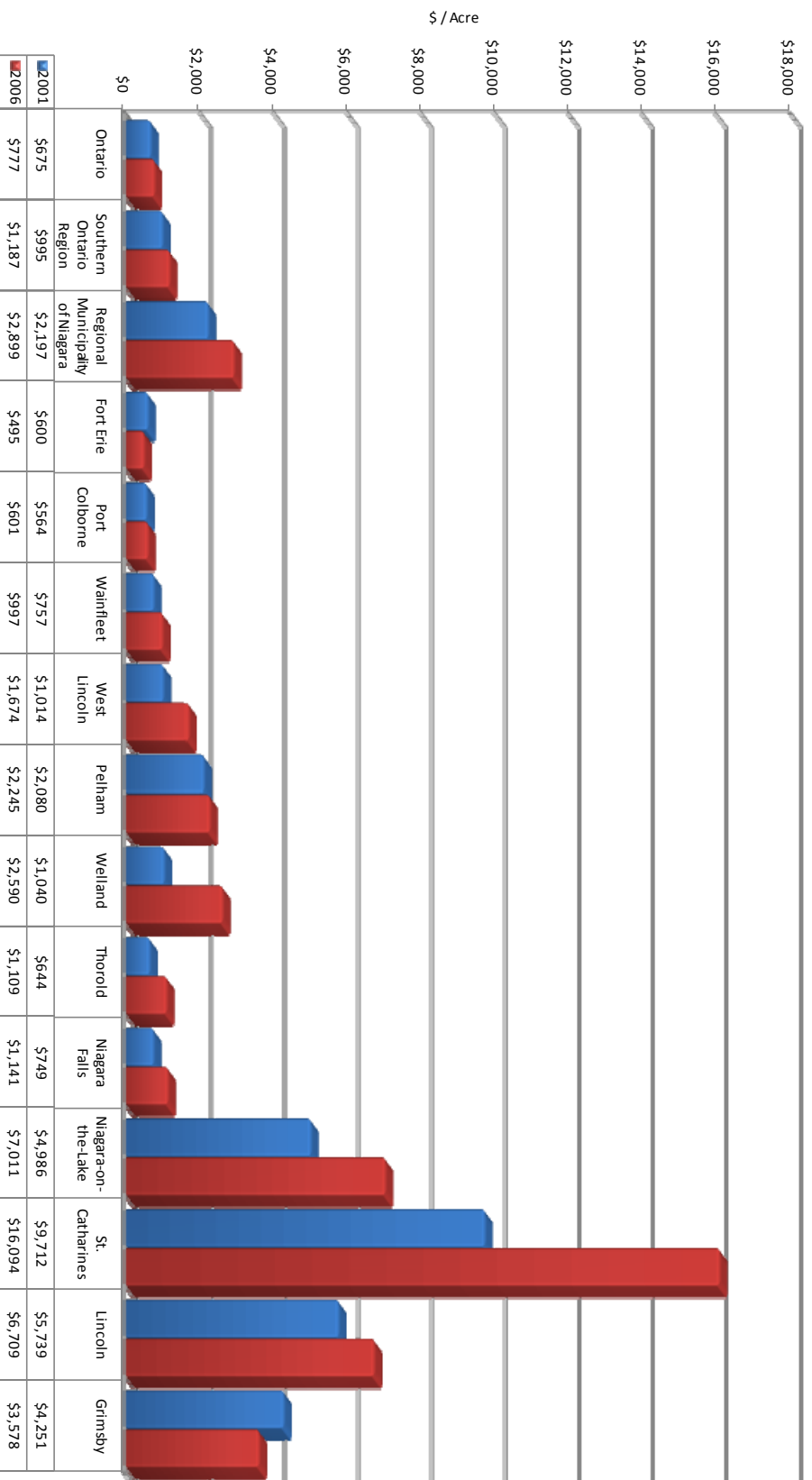
Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

The municipalities with the highest per acre rates in 2006 in descending order were St. Catharines (\$16,094), NOTL (\$7,011), Lincoln (\$7,011) and Grimsby (\$3,578). St. Catharines experienced the largest increase in GFR's per acre, from \$9,712 to \$16,094. The high per acre rate will be due to the fact that greenhouse production, which has a very high production value per acre, dominates in the City. The increase in GFR's per acre is consistent with the fact that the area under cover in St. Catharines increased by approximately 1.5 million square feet between 2001 and 2006.

The two municipalities where there was a decrease in GFR's per acre were Fort Erie and Grimsby. The decrease in Fort Erie was relatively minor; the decrease in Grimsby was somewhat higher despite the fact that there was an increase in area of farm land, gross farm receipts and area under glass between 2001 and 2006. In reviewing the profile of agriculture in Grimsby it becomes apparent that the type of agriculture shifted slightly between 2001 and 2006. In 2006, there were fewer fruit, dairy and poultry and egg operations, which tend to have higher value per acre, and more grain and oilseed operations which tend to have a lower value per acre. Given Grimsby's location in the tender fruit belt, this shift raises some concerns about what is happening and is a situation that should be monitored.



**Figure 28b** – Total Gross Farm Receipts (excluding forest products sold) per Acre for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006



Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

A review of the commodity profile in Niagara confirms that in 2006, based on GFR's it continued to be somewhat less diverse than other regions in the Golden Horseshoe. Because of climate, Niagara is able to produce commodities (tender fruit) not easily produced elsewhere. Therefore there is a focus on those products. As **Figures 29** and **30a** illustrate, the lead commodity based on GFR's in the municipalities above the Escarpment is poultry and egg; below the Escarpment it is greenhouse products followed by fruit (except in NOTL where the order is reversed).

Greenhouse is absolutely dominant in terms of gross farm receipts. The value of greenhouse production in 2006 at \$289.1 million, was more than double the value of second leading commodity, fruit (\$116.5 million). The third ranking group, "poultry and egg" (\$98.3), accounted for 14.6% of GFR's, followed by "nursery and sod" (48.9 million) which accounted for 7.3%.



Figure 30a – Top Ten Ranking by Total Gross Farm Receipts for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001

Rank	Regional Municipality of Niagara	Fort Erie	Port Colborne	Mainfleet	West Lincoln	Pelham	Thorold/Welland	Niagara Falls	Niagara-on-the-Lake	St. Catharines	Lincoln	Grimsey
1	Greenhouse Products	Poultry & Egg Greenhouse	Poultry & Egg	Poultry & Egg	Poultry & Egg	Greenhouse Products Nursery	Greenhouse Products	Poultry & Egg Greenhouse	Fruit Greenhouse	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products
2	Fruit	Greenhouse Products	Oilseed	Dairy	Dairy	Product & Sod	Oilseed	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
3	Poultry & Egg Nursery Product & Sod	Dairy	Greenhouse Products Other Small Grain	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Poultry & Egg	Fruit	Dairy Other Small Grain	Nursery Product & Sod	Nursery Product & Sod	Nursery Product & Sod	Poultry & Egg Nursery Product & Sod
4	Oilseed	Oilseed	Oilseed	Oilseed	Hog	Fruit	Other Small Grain	Nursery Product & Sod	Poultry & Egg	Vegetable	Nursery Product & Sod	Horse & Pony
5	Dairy	Horse & Pony	Dairy	Hog	Other Small Grain	Hay & Fodder	Hay & Fodder	Nursery Product & Sod	Vegetable	Vegetable	Cattle	Cattle
6	Oilseed	Cattle	Cattle	Other Small Grain	Livestock	Dairy	Nursery Product & Sod	Fruit	Oilseed	x	Hog	Hay & Fodder
7	Other Small Grain	Other Small Grain	Hay & Fodder	Com For Grain	Cattle	Oilseed	x	Cattle	Cattle	x	Horse & Pony	x
8	Hog	Nursery Product & Sod	Livestock	Vegetable	Oilseed	Horse & Pony	x	Horse & Pony	Maple & Christmas Tree	x	Other Livestock Specialty	x
9	Cattle	Hay & Fodder	All Other Types - Combination	Horse & Pony	Other Field Crop	Vegetable	x	Maple & Christmas Tree	x	x	Dairy	x
10	Horse & Pony	Other Field Crop	x	Cattle	All Other Types - Combination	All Other Types - Combination	x	Other Livestock Specialty	x	x	All Other Types - Combination	x

For the purposes of this table Miscellaneous Specialty has been broken down into: horse & pony; other livestock specialty; greenhouse products; nursery product & sod and maple & christmas trees. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

For the purposes of this table Grain & Oilseed has been broken down into: oilseed; com for grain; and other small grain. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

For the purposes of this table Field Crops has been broken down into: hay & fodder. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

For the purposes of this table Other Combination has been broken down into: other field crop combination and all other types- combination. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

x - Data suppressed to protect confidentiality  
Data for number of farms is calculated on all farms reporting.

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 30b – Top Ten Ranking by Total Gross Farm Receipts for the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2006**

Rank	Regional Municipality of Niagara	Fort Erie	Port Colborne	Mainfleet	West Lincoln	Pelham	Thorold/Welland	Niagara Falls	Niagara-on-the-Lake	St. Catharines	Lincoln	Grimmsby
1	Greenhouse Products	Oilseed	Poultry & Egg	Greenhouse Products	Poultry & Egg	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products	Greenhouse Products
2	Fruit	Horse & Pony	Oilseed	Poultry & Egg	Greenhouse Product	Nursery Product & Sod	Dairy	Greenhouse Products	Fruit	Nursery Product & Sod	Fruit	Fruit
3	Poultry & Egg	Poultry & Egg	Other Small Grain	Dairy	Dairy	Fruit	Oilseed	Nursery Product & Sod	Nursery Product & Sod	Fruit	Poultry & Egg	Poultry & Egg
4	Nursery Product & Sod	Other Small Grain	Vegetable	Oilseed	Hog	Poultry & Egg	Fruit	Horse & Pony	Poultry & Egg	Vegetable	Nursery Product & Sod	Oilseed
5	All Other Types - Combination	Hay & Fodder	Horse & Pony	Hog	Other Small Grain	Horse & Pony	Horse & Pony	Cattle	Vegetable	Maple & Christmas Tree	Other Small Grain	Maple & Christmas Tree
6	Dairy	Cattle	Dairy	Other Small Grain	Oilseed	Oilseed	Hay & Fodder	Fruit	Hay & Fodder		Oilseed	Nursery Product & Sod
7	Oilseed	Nursery Product & Sod	Cattle	Horse & Pony	Cattle	Crop Combination	Cattle	X	Horse & Pony	X	Other Livestock Speciality	X
8	Other Small Grain	Goat	Hay & Fodder	Vegetable	Livestock Combination	Vegetable	X	X	Maple & Christmas Tree	X	Horse & Pony	X
9	Hog	X	Livestock Combination	Corn for Grain	Fruit	All Other Types Combination	X	X	Cattle	X	Dairy	X
10	Horse & Pony	X	X	Hay & Fodder	Horse & Pony	Hay & Fodder	X	X	X	X	Cattle	X

For the purposes of this table Miscellaneous Specialty has been broken down into: horse & pony; other livestock specialty; greenhouse products; nursery product & sod and maple & christmas trees. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

For the purposes of this table Grain & Oilseed has been broken down into: oilseed; corn for grain; and other small grain. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

For the purposes of this table Field Crops has been broken down into: hay & fodder. None of the remaining commodities in this grouping were significant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

In the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Thorold/Welland - Combined to protect confidentiality

x - Data suppressed to protect confidentiality

Data for number of farms is calculated on all farms reporting.

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

The commodity production profile in Niagara remained relatively constant between 2001 and 2006 as is illustrated by **Figures 31 and 32**. The top four commodities continued to be greenhouse product, fruit, “poultry and egg” and “nursery product and sod”. More significant changes occurred in the lower ranking commodities. Dairy dropped to seventh and grain and oilseed rose to fifth. Although the number of vegetable operations and the value of production increased, this commodity dropped in ranking from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. The value of production based on GFR’s, increase for all commodities except dairy, livestock combination, wheat and “sheep and lamb”.

**Figure 31 – Breakdown of Commodity Groups by Gross Farm Receipts for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2001 and 2006**

Commodity Type	2001		Commodity Type	2006	
	Gross Farm Receipts	Percentage of Total		Gross Farm Receipts	Percentage of Total
Greenhouse Product	217,609,442	42.6%	Greenhouse Product	289,099,652	43.0%
Fruit	96,707,070	18.9%	Fruit	116,594,220	17.4%
Poultry & Egg	90,835,580	17.8%	Poultry & Egg	98,308,509	14.6%
Nursery Product & Sod	27,717,140	5.4%	Nursery Product & Sod	48,902,783	7.3%
Dairy	23,296,554	4.6%	Grain & Oilseed	31,363,866	4.7%
Grain & Oilseed	20,799,197	4.1%	Other Combination	28,044,916	4.2%
Hog	8,084,580	1.6%	Dairy	18,218,970	2.7%
Cattle	4,459,614	0.9%	Hog	10,760,297	1.6%
Horse & Pony	4,220,708	0.8%	Horse & Pony	7,849,642	1.2%
Other Combination	4,115,918	0.8%	Cattle	5,241,407	0.8%
Vegetable	3,536,701	0.7%	Field Crops	4,250,755	0.6%
Field Crops	3,520,469	0.7%	Vegetable	4,071,928	0.6%
Livestock Combination	2,763,084	0.5%	Fur	2,912,524	0.4%
Fur	1,517,107	0.3%	Livestock Combination	2,481,080	0.4%
Other Livestock Specialty	843,300	0.2%	Other Livestock Specialty	1,591,807	0.2%
Wheat	738,795	0.1%	Maple & Christmas Tree	739,464	0.1%
Maple & Christmas Tree	267,634	0.1%	Goat	440,591	0.1%
Sheep & Lamb	233,042	0.0%	Wheat	266,390	0.0%
Goat	129,084	0.0%	Sheep & Lamb	x	x
Mushroom	0	0.0%	Mushroom	x	x
<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>511,395,019</b>		<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>671,680,773</b>	

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



At the local municipal level, the most significant change that has occurred since 2001 is an increase the value of grain and oilseed production. This is partially accounted for by prices but can also be attributed to increase in area of production. Value of greenhouse production also increased in all municipalities except Pelham, value for fruit increased everywhere except Thorold. Vegetable production was the most variable with a significant drop in value in Wainfleet, West Lincoln and Pelham and an increase in St. Catharines, NOTL and Lincoln.

**Figure 33 – Total Gross Farm Receipts by Commodity Type for Region and Area Municipalities of Niagara, Percentage of Change, 2001 and 2006**

Commodity Type	Regional Municipality of Niagara			Fort Erie			Port Colborne		
	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change
Dairy	23,296,554	18,218,970	-21.8%	928,440	x	x	384,606	219,717	-42.9%
Cattle	4,459,614	5,241,407	17.5%	310,157	99,689	-67.9%	130,317	109,089	-16.3%
Hog	8,084,580	10,760,297	33.1%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Poultry & Egg	90,835,580	98,308,509	8.2%	1,264,705	1,009,187	-20.2%	3,417,949	2,513,400	-26.5%
Wheat	738,795	266,390	-63.9%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Grain & Oilseed	20,799,197	31,363,866	50.8%	1,037,688	2,089,983	101.4%	2,131,694	2,760,407	29.5%
Field Crops	3,520,469	4,250,755	20.7%	53,952	x	x	68,185	69,647	2.1%
Fruit	96,707,070	116,594,220	20.6%	x	x	x	x	x	x
Vegetable	3,536,701	4,071,928	15.1%	8,505	x	x	x	682,580	x
Miscellaneous Specialty	2,990,167	6,226,358	108.2%	7,805	20,029	156.6%	x	x	x
Horse & Pony	4,220,708	7,849,642	86.0%	847,418	1,531,312	80.7%	x	618,791	x
Greenhouse Product	217,609,442	289,099,652	32.9%	1,139,263	x	x	778,864	x	x
Nursery Product & Sod	27,717,140	48,902,783	76.4%	66,221	36,896	-44.3%	x	x	x
Livestock Combination	2,763,084	2,481,080	-10.2%	0	x	x	16,772	31,259	86.4%
Other Combination	4,115,918	28,044,916	581.4%	x	25,500	x	26,509	x	x
<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>511,395,019</b>	<b>671,680,773</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>5,905,919</b>	<b>6,269,717</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>7,544,450</b>	<b>7,704,231</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Commodity Type	Wainfleet			West Lincoln			Pelham		
	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change
Dairy	5,892,186	5,443,149	92.4%	11,726,867	8,789,768	-25.0%	1,709,974	x	x
Cattle	261,921	224,459	85.7%	2,000,039	2,974,949	48.7%	137,251	146,036	6.4%
Hog	2,132,317	2,864,714	134.3%	3,784,898	6,298,308	66.4%	x	0	x
Poultry & Egg	7,112,907	7,349,372	103.3%	31,758,034	7,349,372	-76.9%	3,570,757	2,602,422	-27.1%
Wheat	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	x
Grain & Oilseed	6,319,095	7,990,248	26.4%	5,312,760	8,545,592	60.9%	2,057,513	1,978,905	-3.8%
Field Crops	83,355	538,421	545.9%	628,413	1,032,534	64.3%	1,948,969	330,615	-83.0%
Fruit	27,788	333,242	1099.2%	564,830	895,970	58.6%	3,494,965	4,110,349	17.6%
Vegetable	848,572	687,728	-19.0%	255,254	62,333	-75.6%	803,549	609,228	-24.2%
Miscellaneous Specialty	26,911	89,893	234.0%	326,161	437,237	34.1%	116,548	44,304	-62.0%
Horse & Pony	409,286	1,131,384	176.4%	376,609	776,797	106.3%	1,095,030	1,547,213	41.3%
Greenhouse Product	5,704,925	8,144,983	42.8%	6,143,404	8,814,025	43.5%	20,558,144	14,361,167	-30.1%
Nursery Product & Sod	41,787	277,709	564.6%	x	36,015	x	4,773,628	12,495,868	161.8%
Livestock Combination	48,529	x	x	2,608,439	2,337,577	-10.4%	0	x	x
Other Combination	x	204,227	x	2,338,010	1,603,498	-31.4%	254,539	1,216,756	378.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,328,473</b>	<b>37,979,430</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>68,058,325</b>	<b>112,271,660</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>40,636,003</b>	<b>39,731,764</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Commodity Type	Welland			Thorold			Niagara Falls		
	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change
Dairy	x	x	x	673,087	1,485,288	120.7%	597,419	x	x
Cattle	x	x	x	x	97,199	x	166,652	470,477	182.3%
Hog	x	0	x	0	0	0.0%	x	x	x
Poultry & Egg	x	x	x	x	0	x	2,166,259	2,697,451	24.5%
Wheat	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	x	x	x
Grain & Oilseed	x	x	x	1,562,749	2,101,221	34.5%	469,700	762,605	62.4%
Field Crops	59,176	158,200	167.3%	0	x	x	269,719	1,141,570	323.2%
Fruit	x	x	x	713,801	498,714	-30.1%	179,171	195,117	8.9%
Vegetable	0	0	0.0%	x	x	x	x	x	x
Miscellaneous Specialty	x	x	x	0	x	0.0%	39,497	x	x
Horse & Pony	x	199,474	x	x	152,756	x	95,245	521,569	447.6%
Greenhouse Product	1,502,018	2,969,237	97.7%	2,870,779	6,976,253	143.0%	980,814	1,853,458	89.0%
Nursery Product & Sod	31,500	x	x	x	0	x	266,937	679,946	154.7%
Livestock Combination	x	0	x	0	x	x	x	x	x
Other Combination	0	x	x	486,635	x	x	25,894	x	x
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,208,029</b>	<b>3,949,003</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>7,428,360</b>	<b>11,975,511</b>	<b>61.2%</b>	<b>6,133,914</b>	<b>9,800,302</b>	<b>59.8%</b>



Commodity Type	Niagara-on-the-Lake			St. Catharines			Lincoln		
	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change
Dairy	x	x	x	0	0	0.0%	634,352	633,230	-0.2%
Cattle	166,763	23,484	-85.9%	0	0	0.0%	1,211,394	539,166	-55.5%
Hog	x	0	x	0	0	0.0%	1,068,534	x	x
Poultry & Egg	5,468,484	4,045,528	-26.0%	x	x	x	31,941,321	29,506,438	-7.6%
Wheat	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	x	x	x
Grain & Oilseed	288,725	381,313	32.1%	x	x	x	1,117,195	3,231,733	189.3%
Field Crops	363,929	363,577	-0.1%	0	0	0.0%	36,992	208,383	463.3%
Fruit	46,152,609	56,471,607	22.4%	6,595,048	7,833,287	18.8%	34,901,757	42,321,281	21.3%
Vegetable	875,195	958,838	9.6%	6,610	300,084	4439.8%	134,120	455,275	239.5%
Miscellaneous Specialty	4,645	211,400	4451.1%	x	182,000	x	716,320	1,037,108	44.8%
Horse & Pony	x	259,968	x	x	x	x	728,541	1,008,053	38.4%
Greenhouse Product	39,054,542	58,302,740	49.3%	34,699,191	55,930,166	61.2%	84,975,948	109,405,296	28.7%
Nursery Product & Sod	15,903,862	21,350,712	34.2%	4,401,741	8,852,213	101.1%	2,208,901	4,878,208	120.8%
Livestock Combination	x	0	x	0	0	0.0%	19,674	20,932	6.4%
Other Combination	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	483,721	x
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,847,469</b>	<b>143,297,060</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>46,178,766</b>	<b>73,596,789</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>160,372,708</b>	<b>195,105,545</b>	<b>21.7%</b>

Commodity Type	Grimsby		
	2001 (\$)	2006 (\$)	% Change
Dairy	x	x	x
Cattle	24,417	x	x
Hog	0	0	0.0%
Poultry & Egg	3,074,278	2,015,501	-34.4%
Wheat	x	0	x
Grain & Oilseed	x	1,400,710	x
Field Crops	7,779	260,594	3250.0%
Fruit	3,601,402	3,920,381	8.9%
Vegetable	x	0	x
Miscellaneous Specialty	x	216,947	x
Horse & Pony	152,124	x	x
Greenhouse Product	19,201,550	20,824,577	8.5%
Nursery Product & Sod	x	160,500	x
Livestock Combination	x	35,168	x
Other Combination	x	228,347	x
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,752,513</b>	<b>29,999,761</b>	<b>12.1%</b>

x - data suppressed to protect confidentiality.  
 Grain & Oilseed includes: oilseed; corn for grain; dryfield pea & bean; and other small grain.  
 Field Crops includes: hay & fodder; forage seed; tobacco; potato; and other field crop.  
 Miscellaneous Specialty includes: sheep & lamb; goat; fur; other livestock specialty; mushroom and maple & christmas tree.  
 Livestock Combination includes: cattle & hog; cattle; hog & sheep; and other livestock combination.  
 Other Combination includes: fruit & vegetable combination; other field crop combination; and all other types.  
 Data for Gross Farm Receipts are calculated on all farms reporting.  
 Commodity Total may not add up to 100% due to the suppression of data.

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



Finally, with reference to GFR's, in examining trends it is important to examine the specific earning categories (see **Figure 34**) to get a true picture of the industry. Statistics Canada generally defines farms as any operation generating more than \$7,500 per year in gross farm receipts; therefore, there are numerous very small operations included in the statistics. These are generally the life style or hobby farms whose operators do not rely on agriculture for a living. To fully understand the strength of the industry it is important to look beyond these operations and consider the number of farms generating gross farm receipts of significant value.

As in 2001, based on number of operations in Niagara, the majority of farms in 2006, continued to be in the classes that generated \$50,000 in gross farm receipts or less. In accordance with the decline in number of farms between 2001 and 2006, there was a decline in the number of farms in each economic category with the exception of \$10,000 to \$24,999, \$250,000 to \$499,999 and \$500,000 plus category which all increased.

The increase in the higher value operations is encouraging since these are the operations that produce significant amounts of product. However it is also disconcerting that the category from \$10,000 to \$24,999 increased. Niagara has always been viewed as an attractive place to live because of the benevolent climate and numerous amenities. The farm sizes are smaller making them attractive as rural estates. For the health of the agricultural industry it is important to ensure that those living on farms are actively and productively farming.



**Figure 34 – Trends for Farms Classified by Total Gross Farm Receipts\* by Ontario and the Region of Niagara, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Census Years							
	Total	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$24,999	\$25,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$249,999	\$250,000 to \$499,999	\$500,000 and Over
<b>2001</b>								
Ontario	59,728	15,370	11,378	7,862	6,542	9,587	5,493	3,496
Percentage (%)		25.7%	19.0%	13.2%	11.0%	16.1%	9.2%	5.9%
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>223</b>
Percentage (%)		29.3%	15.5%	10.9%	9.8%	13.9%	10.8%	9.8%
<b>2006</b>								
Ontario	57,211	14,500	10,828	7,397	6,521	7,965	5,589	4,411
Percentage (%)		25.3%	18.9%	12.9%	11.4%	13.9%	9.8%	7.7%
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>264</b>
Percentage (%)		26.4%	17.0%	10.5%	9.8%	12.9%	11.5%	11.8%

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

In comparison with Ontario generally, Niagara has a very higher percentage of farms in the top GFR's categories. This emphasizes the highly productive value of agriculture in the Region. Production in Niagara generates strong economic returns and is focused on high value production.



## 2.8 Farm Operating Costs

As noted in the 2003 report, farm operating costs represent an important contribution that farms make to the broader community through the purchase of goods and services. They are also an indication

of the challenges faced by farmers in making a good return on their investment. In 2001, the average operating cost per farm in Niagara was \$192,348 (per farm reporting total farm expenses) and the average operating cost per acre was \$1,872. In 2006, the average operating cost per farm had increased significantly to \$260,970 and the average operating cost per acre to \$2,518, illustrated in **Figure 35**.

The much higher values for Niagara will be due to the type of agriculture. Fruit and greenhouse production is very expensive and will drive up average costs. A review of the breakdown by area municipality confirms this. The costs in St. Catharines, Lincoln, Grimsby and NOTL, where this type of production dominates, are significantly higher.

**Figure 35 – Total Farm Operating Expenses and Operating Costs Per Acre for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001					2006				
	Number of Farms	Farmland Area (Acres)	Farm Business Operating Expenses (\$)	Operating Cost Per Acre (\$)	Operating Cost Per Farm (\$)	Number of Farms	Farmland Area (Acres)	Farm Business Operating Expenses (\$)	Operating Cost Per Acre (\$)	Operating Cost Per Farm (\$)
Ontario	59,728	13,507,357	7,829,246,574	580	131,082	57,211	13,310,216	8,843,882,426	664	154,584
Southern Ontario Region	19,631	3,985,132	3,349,000,014	840	170,598	18,665	3,934,766	4,027,246,530	1,024	215,765
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>232,817</b>	<b>435,859,856</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>192,348</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>231,728</b>	<b>583,529,110</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>260,970</b>
Fort Erie	70	9,847	5,317,387	540	75,963	86	12,659	5,276,392	417	61,353
Port Colborne	70	13,379	6,861,958	513	98,028	71	12,814	7,248,410	566	102,090
Wainfleet	207	40,062	25,706,688	642	124,187	210	38,090	33,258,179	873	158,372
West Lincoln	454	67,118	57,089,015	851	125,747	431	67,078	95,269,535	1,420	221,043
Pelham	209	19,536	33,533,458	1,716	160,447	203	17,698	37,457,633	2,116	184,520
Welland	28	2,123	2,280,836	1,074	81,458	23	1,525	2,108,969	1,383	91,694
Thorold	49	11,537	5,980,131	518	122,043	49	10,799	11,013,800	1,020	224,771
Niagara Falls	82	8,191	5,481,298	669	66,845	79	8,588	8,752,758	1,019	110,794
Niagara-on-the-Lake	401	22,031	90,429,689	4,105	225,510	380	20,439	122,340,116	5,986	321,948
St. Catharines	108	4,755	38,894,451	8,180	360,134	103	4,573	66,989,649	14,649	650,385
Lincoln	473	27,945	140,719,048	5,036	297,503	483	29,081	169,629,669	5,833	351,200
Grimsby	115	6,293	23,565,897	3,745	204,921	118	8,384	24,184,000	2,885	204,949

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 36** summarizes net revenue which increased slightly in Niagara between 2001 and 2006. Expenses also increased. The ratio of costs to revenues quantifies the proportion of revenues that are consumed by costs. For Niagara in 2006, this ratio, increased slightly between 2001 and 2006 from .85 to .87. This ratio is .01 higher than the provincial and southern Ontario region ratios.

Amongst the area municipalities the ratio fluctuates considerably from a low of .81 in Grimsby to a high of .94 in Fort Erie and Pelham. This fluctuation can be due to a number of factors. Where land is being held and just farmed to qualify for the agricultural property tax rate, there is often little incentive to earn a profit. The returns per acre will reflect this. Conversely where there has been a very high investment in infrastructure or expansion, such as was apparent in St. Catharines between 2001 and 2006, there will be increased carrying costs reflected in the ratios. These costs should be reduced over time which will be reflected in the ratio. Where operations are well established and stable and the market is sound, the ratio should be stable or decreasing.

**Figure 36 – Ratio of Cost/Revenues for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001				2006			
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Revenue	Ratio Costs/Revenues	Receipts	Expenses	Net Revenue	Ratio Costs/Revenues
Ontario	9,115,454,790	7,829,246,574	1,286,208,216	0.86	10,342,031,229	8,843,882,426	1,498,148,803	0.86
Southern Ontario Region	3,964,859,834	3,349,000,014	615,859,820	0.84	4,672,359,547	4,027,246,530	645,113,017	0.86
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>511,395,019</b>	<b>435,859,856</b>	<b>75,535,163</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>671,680,773</b>	<b>583,529,110</b>	<b>88,151,663</b>	<b>0.87</b>
Fort Erie	5,905,919	5,317,387	588,532	0.90	6,269,717	5,276,392	993,325	0.84
Port Colborne	7,544,540	6,861,958	682,582	0.91	7,704,231	7,248,410	455,821	0.94
Wainfleet	30,328,473	25,706,688	4,621,785	0.85	37,979,430	33,258,179	4,721,251	0.88
West Lincoln	68,058,325	57,089,015	10,969,310	0.84	112,271,660	95,269,535	17,002,125	0.85
Pelham	40,636,003	33,533,458	7,102,545	0.83	39,731,764	37,457,633	2,274,131	0.94
Welland	2,208,029	2,280,836	-72,807	1.03	3,949,003	2,108,969	1,840,034	0.53
Thorold	7,428,360	5,980,131	1,448,229	0.81	11,975,511	11,013,800	961,711	0.92
Niagara Falls	6,133,914	5,481,298	652,616	0.89	9,800,302	8,752,758	1,047,544	0.89
Niagara-on-the-Lake	109,847,469	90,429,689	19,417,780	0.82	143,297,060	122,340,116	20,956,944	0.85
St. Catharines	46,178,766	38,894,451	7,284,315	0.84	73,596,789	66,989,649	6,607,140	0.91
Lincoln	160,372,708	140,719,048	19,653,660	0.88	195,105,545	169,629,669	25,475,876	0.87
Grimsby	26,752,513	23,565,897	3,186,616	0.88	29,999,761	24,184,000	5,815,761	0.81

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

**Figure 37** summarizes net revenue per acre. In 2001, net revenue per acre was lower than the Ontario average in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Welland and Niagara Falls and considerably higher in all of the rest. This trend continued in 2006 with the exception of Welland where the value increased significantly between 2001 and 2006.

Net revenue per acre declined between 2001 and 2006 in St. Catharines, Thorold, Pelham and Port Colborne. The significantly higher per acre values in Grimsby, St. Catharines, Lincoln and NOTL will be reflective of the presence of greenhouse and fruit operations which have both higher costs and higher revenues per acre.

**Figure 37 – Net Revenue Per Acre for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			2006		
	Gross Farm Receipts Per	Operating Cost Per Acre (\$)	Net Revenue Per Acre (\$)	Gross Farm Receipts Per	Operating Cost Per Acre (\$)	Net Revenue Per Acre (\$)
Ontario	675	580	95	777	664	113
Southern Ontario Region	995	840	155	1,187	1,024	164
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>380</b>
Fort Erie	600	540	60	495	417	78
Port Colborne	564	513	51	601	566	36
Wainfleet	757	642	115	997	873	124
West Lincoln	1,014	851	163	1,674	1,420	253
Pelham	2,080	1,716	364	2,245	2,116	128
Welland	1,040	1,074	-34	2,590	1,383	1,207
Thorold	644	518	126	1,109	1,020	89
Niagara Falls	749	669	80	1,141	1,019	122
Niagara-on-the-Lake	4,986	4,105	881	7,011	5,986	1,025
St. Catharines	9,712	8,180	1,532	16,094	14,649	1,445
Lincoln	5,739	5,036	703	6,709	5,833	876
Grimsby	4,251	3,745	506	3,578	2,885	694

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

Farm capital represents the total value of capital held by farms. It is not a measure of capital investment, but rather the total value of all capital from machinery to land and buildings as well as livestock and poultry. It does not include cost of quota for supply management systems.

As **Figure 38** shows, farm capital values in Niagara increased significantly between 2001 and 2006. There is considerable variation in the values across the Region with some being higher, some being lower than the provincial and southern Ontario averages.

**Figure 38 – Farm Capital Data in Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			2006		
	Number of Farms	Farm Capital (\$)	Average Capital (\$)	Number of Farms	Farm Capital (\$)	Average Capital (\$)
Ontario	59,728	50,529,783,505	845,998	57,211	65,336,796,501	1,142,032
Southern Ontario Region	19,631	19,328,708,521	984,601	18,665	24,502,536,917	1,312,753
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>1,764,362,508</b>	<b>778,624</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>2,411,945,808</b>	<b>1,078,688</b>
Fort Erie	70	39,584,603	565,494	86	64,503,322	750,039
Port Colborne	70	34,328,141	490,402	71	62,496,656	880,235
Wainfleet	207	169,917,712	820,859	210	228,732,459	1,089,202
West Lincoln	454	291,232,698	641,482	431	412,675,855	957,485
Pelham	209	145,229,142	694,876	203	197,871,876	974,738
Welland	28	12,061,592	430,771	23	12,382,185	538,356
Thorold	49	53,532,497	1,092,500	49	64,890,001	1,324,286
Niagara Falls	82	48,822,392	595,395	79	66,884,739	846,642
Niagara-on-the-Lake	401	340,287,353	848,597	380	471,517,677	1,240,836
St. Catharines	108	115,743,149	1,071,696	103	137,863,155	1,338,477
Lincoln	473	442,398,183	935,303	483	581,130,139	1,203,168
Grimsby	115	71,225,046	619,348	118	110,997,744	940,659

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

Average per farm capital per acre for the Region as a whole also increased between 2001 and 2006 and Niagara's ranking provincially, remained at fourth. Despite its relatively small size, Niagara has a relatively high total farm capital value as shown on **Figure 39**.

**Figure 39 – Farm Capital Per Acre, a Comparison of Various Municipalities, Counties and Districts, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	2001			Geographic Location	2006		
	Total Farm Capital (\$)	Farmland Area (Acres)	Farm Capital Per Acre (\$)		Total Farm Capital (\$)	Farmland Area (Acres)	Farm Capital Per Acre (\$)
Regional Municipality of Peel	1,433,724,388	104,433	13,729	Regional Municipality of Peel	1,899,013,166	95,289	19,929
Regional Municipality of York	2,053,980,635	175,965	11,673	Regional Municipality of York	2,196,500,117	167,076	13,147
Regional Municipality of Halton	1,009,980,734	98,758	10,227	Regional Municipality of Halton	1,162,905,055	88,899	13,081
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>1,764,362,508</b>	<b>232,817</b>	<b>7,578</b>	<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>2,411,945,808</b>	<b>231,728</b>	<b>10,409</b>
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	1,386,845,041	225,800	6,142	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	1,150,076,588	133,205	8,634
City of Hamilton	845,093,210	138,879	6,085	City of Hamilton	1,854,827,886	226,384	8,193
Oxford County	2,703,747,784	445,458	6,070	Oxford County	3,343,431,050	415,974	8,038
Essex County	1,939,358,469	334,122	5,804	Essex County	2,559,092,935	329,776	7,760
Perth County	2,842,655,094	502,926	5,652	Perth County	3,760,488,182	498,161	7,549
Norfolk County	1,440,549,857	292,703	4,922	Norfolk County	2,276,879,803	326,702	6,969
Wellington County	2,259,725,987	471,389	4,794	Wellington County	3,282,276,494	485,862	6,756
Regional Municipality of Durham	1,577,423,794	330,286	4,776	Regional Municipality of Durham	1,117,592,951	167,356	6,678
Brant County	752,565,852	158,693	4,742	Brant County	3,675,270,246	617,258	5,954
Middlesex County	2,922,927,721	620,321	4,712	Middlesex County	1,682,080,582	284,247	5,918
Huron County	3,190,430,260	719,066	4,437	Huron County	3,023,654,719	533,753	5,665
City of Chatham-Kent	2,398,770,451	552,402	4,342	City of Chatham-Kent	1,035,870,767	190,607	5,435
Elgin County	1,582,995,090	382,786	4,135	Elgin County	3,733,820,496	723,533	5,161
Simcoe County	2,081,575,843	540,870	3,849	Simcoe County	2,819,302,472	553,769	5,091
Lambton County	2,320,498,969	604,555	3,838	Lambton County	1,987,339,254	393,595	5,049
Dufferin County	695,659,045	193,162	3,601	Dufferin County	2,843,368,830	589,407	4,824
City of Ottawa	1,004,782,672	297,644	3,376	City of Ottawa	1,177,594,505	283,366	4,156
United Counties of Prescott & Russell	906,827,886	297,384	3,049	United Counties of Prescott & Russell	2,145,770,842	567,212	3,783
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	1,416,021,581	496,498	2,852	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	1,094,882,011	296,476	3,693
Bruce County	1,591,157,380	611,461	2,602	Bruce County	1,822,021,368	494,589	3,684
Grey County	1,470,519,861	593,121	2,479	Grey County	2,246,918,825	613,156	3,665
City of Kawartha Lakes	773,233,853	360,690	2,144	City of Kawartha Lakes	1,054,550,266	356,946	2,954

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



## 2.9 Characteristics of Farm Operators

The Census of Agriculture defines farm operators as “those persons responsible for the day-to-day management decisions made in the operation of a census farm or agricultural operation”. There can be up to three operators per operation. In 2001, there were 3,335 farm operators in Niagara. In 2006 this number had increased to 3,355 of which 2,310 were male and 1,035 were female. This represents a considerable increase in the percentage of female operators. The largest increase in numbers was in the 55 years and over category. **Figure 40** illustrates the age and gender characteristics for 2001 and 2006.



The average age of operators in 2001 was 51.3 years, higher than the average age in Ontario of 50.7 years. This trend continued in 2006. The average age in Niagara rose to 53.1 years, in Ontario it was 52.6.

**Figure 40** – Characteristics of Farm Operators for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006

Geographic Location	Total Number of Operators		Gender				Age						Average Age of Operators			
	2001	2006	Male		Female		Under 35 Years			35 to 54 Years			55 Years and Over		2001	2006
			2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006		
Ontario	85,020	82,410	62,215	58,875	22,800	23,530	8,975	7,070	44,150	40,280	31,890	35,065	50.7	52.6		
Southern Ontario Region	28,140	26,970	20,775	19,470	7,360	7,490	2,805	2,075	14,565	13,285	10,765	11,615	51.0	53.1		
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>53.1</b>		
Fort Erie	100	115	70	85	35	40	10	10	50	60	45	50	52.7	53.5		
Port Colborne	105	110	70	70	30	40	5	5	50	45	45	50	53.2	53.9		
Wainfleet	315	310	225	215	90	90	35	40	190	170	90	100	48.1	49.7		
West Lincoln	680	680	495	470	185	210	90	65	365	350	225	255	49.5	51.5		
Pelham	295	315	205	215	85	105	20	15	150	150	125	150	52.7	54.1		
Welland	40	30	25	25	10	10	5	0	25	5	10	20	49.1	58.5		
Thorold	75	70	60	55	10	20	10	0	35	40	30	30	51.5	54.4		
Niagara Falls	105	105	75	75	30	35	5	5	50	45	55	55	55.1	55.2		
Niagara-on-the-Lake	595	545	420	385	175	165	45	25	310	285	245	235	52.9	54.1		
St. Catharines	165	165	130	120	35	45	15	10	80	80	70	75	51.9	55.5		
Lincoln	690	720	490	490	200	225	70	40	350	385	265	295	51.2	53.3		
Grimsby	170	185	120	130	50	60	10	15	85	100	80	75	53.4	53.5		

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

As indicated on **Figure 41**, 43.5% of operators in Niagara worked in excess of 40 hour per week on the farm in 2006. This is slightly higher than the 43.3% who reported working 40 plus hours on the farm in 2001.

**Figure 41 – Average Hours Per Week Spent Working for Agricultural Operations for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Average Hours per Week Spent Working for Agricultural Operation in Previous Calendar Year							
	Total Number of Operators		Less than 20		20 to 40		More than 40	
	Census Years							
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
Ontario	85,020	82,410	23,850	24,480	23,625	22,400	37,540	35,520
Southern Ontario Region	28,140	26,970	8,210	8,425	7,555	6,850	12,370	11,695
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,460</b>
Fort Erie	100	115	30	40	35	45	35	35
Port Colborne	105	110	40	30	30	35	35	45
Wainfleet	315	310	85	95	95	80	130	135
West Lincoln	680	680	185	190	200	200	295	290
Pelham	295	315	75	95	75	80	140	140
Welland	40	30	20	10	10	10	10	15
Thorold	75	70	25	25	20	15	35	35
Niagara Falls	105	105	45	35	30	35	35	35
Niagara-on-the-Lake	595	545	155	155	175	150	265	240
St. Catharines	165	165	40	50	40	40	90	85
Lincoln	690	720	195	210	185	175	305	340
Grimsby	170	185	50	65	50	50	70	70

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.

Although the percentage dropped from 60% to 56% between 2001 and 2006, the majority of farm operators in Niagara in 2006 continued to report that they did not work off farm.

**Figure 42 – Average Hours Per Week Spent Working for Non-Farm Work (not related to agricultural operation) for Ontario, Southern Ontario Region and the Regional Municipality of Niagara by Area Municipality, 2001 and 2006**

Geographic Location	Average Hours per Week for Non-Farm Work (non related to agricultural operation) in Previous Calendar Year									
	Total Number of Operators		None		Less than 20		20 to 40		More than 40	
	Census Years									
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
Ontario	85,020	82,410	46,355	41,550	6,740	7,325	15,255	15,205	16,655	18,320
Southern Ontario Region	28,140	26,970	16,140	14,345	2,170	2,345	4,595	4,505	5,230	5,775
<b>Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>635</b>
Fort Erie	100	115	50	60	10	5	20	20	25	35
Port Colborne	105	110	55	55	10	5	20	15	15	35
Wainfleet	315	310	185	165	25	20	45	55	60	65
West Lincoln	680	680	400	365	40	60	115	120	120	135
Pelham	295	315	175	190	20	35	45	45	55	55
Welland	40	30	20	15	0	0	5	10	10	10
Thorold	75	70	40	35	5	10	5	15	20	15
Niagara Falls	105	105	60	50	10	10	10	25	25	25
Niagara-on-the-Lake	595	545	370	335	40	50	100	80	90	85
St. Catharines	165	165	125	110	10	15	15	20	20	20
Lincoln	690	720	430	400	55	55	100	125	100	135
Grimsby	170	185	110	110	15	25	25	25	25	30

Source: 2001 & 2006 Statistics Canada – Census of Agriculture – Special Order.



## 2.10 Summary

The preceding analysis of 2006 Statistics Canada data for Niagara, and the comparison to the findings of the 2003 Region of Niagara Agricultural Economic Impact Study, confirms that agriculture continues to be an extremely important sector of the Region of Niagara economy. While there are some small decreases in agricultural activity in terms of number of farms and farmland acres the financial returns have increased and the production profile has remained relatively constant.

Over the last few years there has been a growing demand from Ontario residents for locally grown food. Niagara has always been recognized as a leader in agriculture in the province, the Region has the soil, climate and established agricultural sector to continue to be a leader. Its ability to produce crops that no other regions of the province can produce, ensures that its role as a leader will continue.

Despite the fact that the economic returns for agriculture in Niagara continue to grow, there are some indication of vulnerability. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of farms and acreage under production declined slightly, average age of operators increased and there were some minor, but disturbing shifts in production. The Region has always been vigilant in maintaining support for the agricultural sector. It needs to uphold this vigilance and work with the agricultural community to sustain and support this important element of the Region.

