



Golden Horseshoe  
Food and Farming  
Alliance

# AGRICULTURE and AGRI-FOOD ECONOMIC PROFILE FOR THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE

2014

Presented By:  
Margaret Walton- Planscape



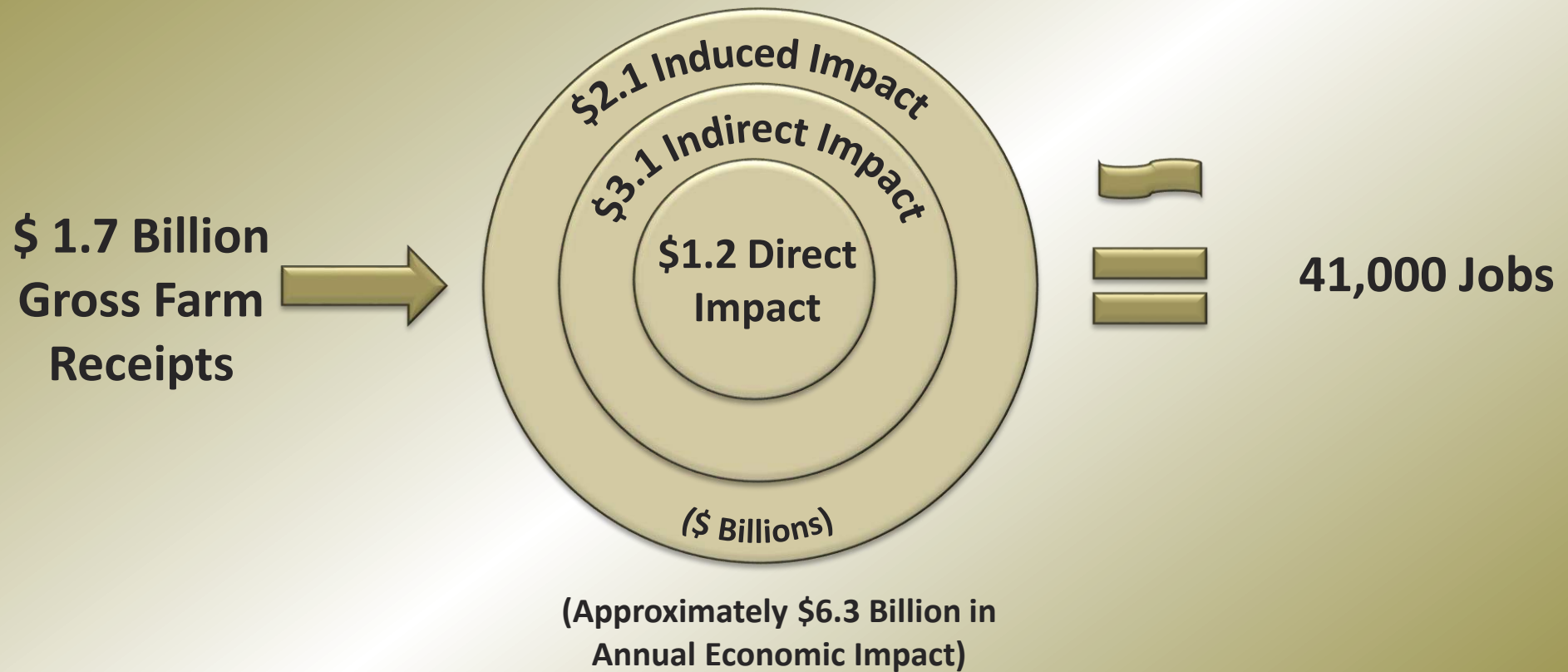


Golden Horseshoe Agriculture & Agri-Food Strategy

## Food & Farming: An Action Plan 2021



# Economic Impact - 2011



# Economic Impact by Region - 2011



Golden Horseshoe –  
Approximately \$6.3 Billion  
in Annual Economic Impact

GTA Includes

(Durham, York, Peel and Halton)

# Number of Farms - Regions

## Halton Region



1981 - 969  
1991 - 744  
2001 - 619  
2011 - 469

## Peel Region



1981 - 942  
1991 - 711  
2001 - 522  
2011 - 440

## York Region



1981 - 1,741  
1991 - 1,185  
2001 - 1,020  
2011 - 828

## Golden Horseshoe



1981 - 11,212  
1991 - 8,661  
2001 - 7,162  
2011 - 6,090

## Durham Region



1981 - 2,495  
1991 - 2,090  
2001 - 1,709  
2011 - 1,454

## Hamilton



1981 - 1,553  
1991 - 1,225  
2001 - 1,026  
2011 - 885

## Niagara Region



1981 - 3,512  
1991 - 2,706  
2001 - 2,266  
2011 - 2,014

# Farmland Area (Acres)- Regions

## Halton Region



1981 – 129,030  
1991 – 115,036  
2001 – 98,758  
2011 – 79,567

## Peel Region



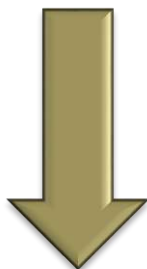
1981 – 136,856  
1991 – 115,352  
2001 – 104,433  
2011 – 93,843

## York Region



1981 – 248,945  
1991 – 190,274  
2001 – 175,965  
2011 – 153,559

## Golden Horseshoe



1981 – 1,295,616  
1991 – 1,112,205  
2001 – 1,081,138  
2011 – 977,481

## Durham Region



1981 – 373,611  
1991 – 337,222  
2001 – 330,286  
2011 – 297,012

## Hamilton



1981 – 158,519  
1991 – 138,382  
2001 – 138,879  
2011 – 130,589

## Niagara Region




1981 – 248,655  
1991 – 215,939  
2001 – 232,817  
2011 – 222,911




# Average Farm Size - Regions

## Halton Region




1991 – 155 Acres  
2001 – 160 Acres  
2011 – 170 Acres

## Peel Region




1991 – 162 Acres  
2001 – 200 Acres  
2011 – 213 Acres

## York Region




1991 – 157 Acres  
2001 – 173 Acres  
2011 – 185 Acres

## Golden Horseshoe




1991 – 128 Acres  
2001 – 151 Acres  
2011 – 161 Acres

## Durham Region




1991 – 161 Acres  
2001 – 193 Acres  
2011 – 204 Acres

## Hamilton



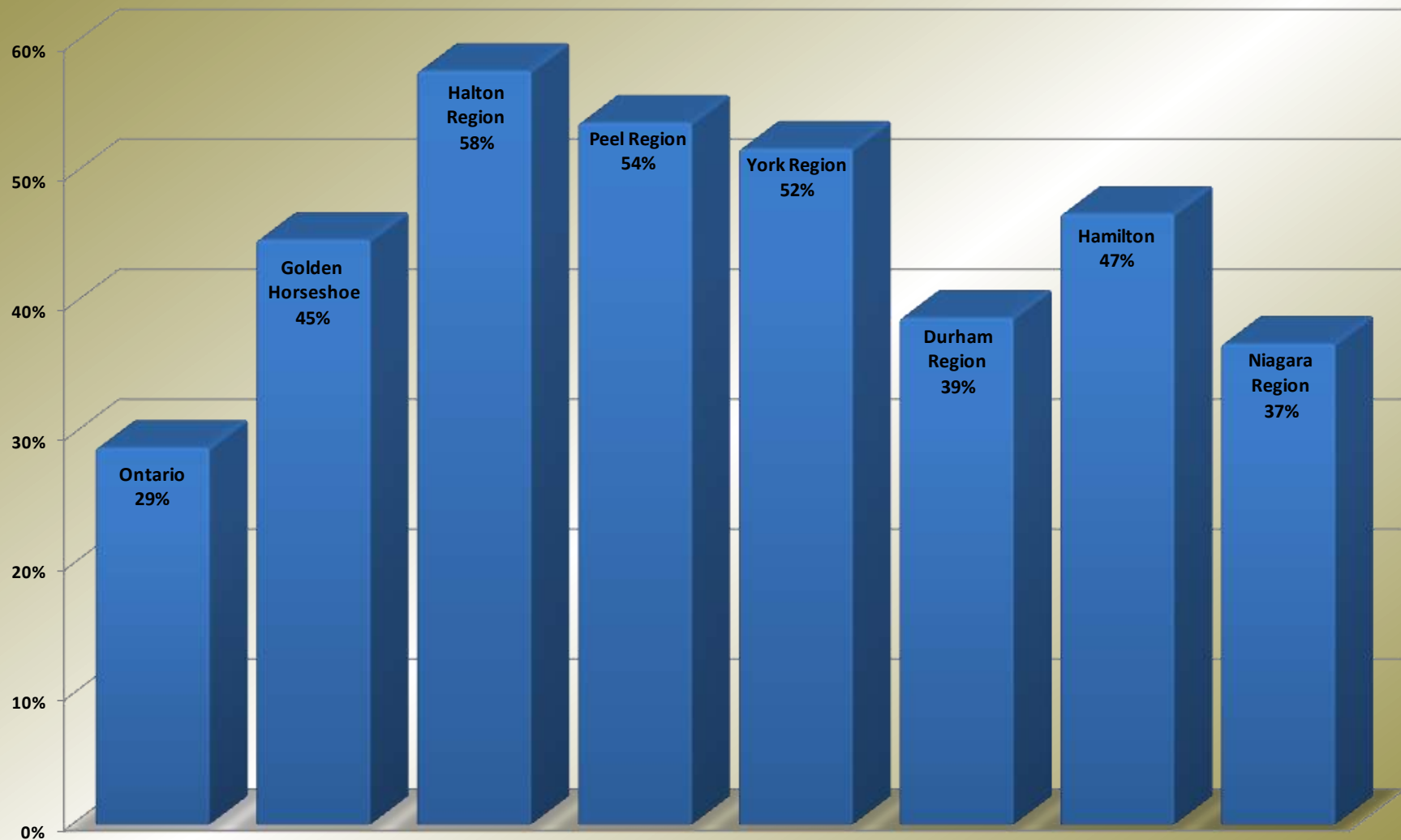
1991 – 113 Acres  
2001 – 135 Acres  
2011 – 148 Acres

## Niagara Region



1991 – 80 Acres  
2001 – 103 Acres  
2011 – 111 Acres

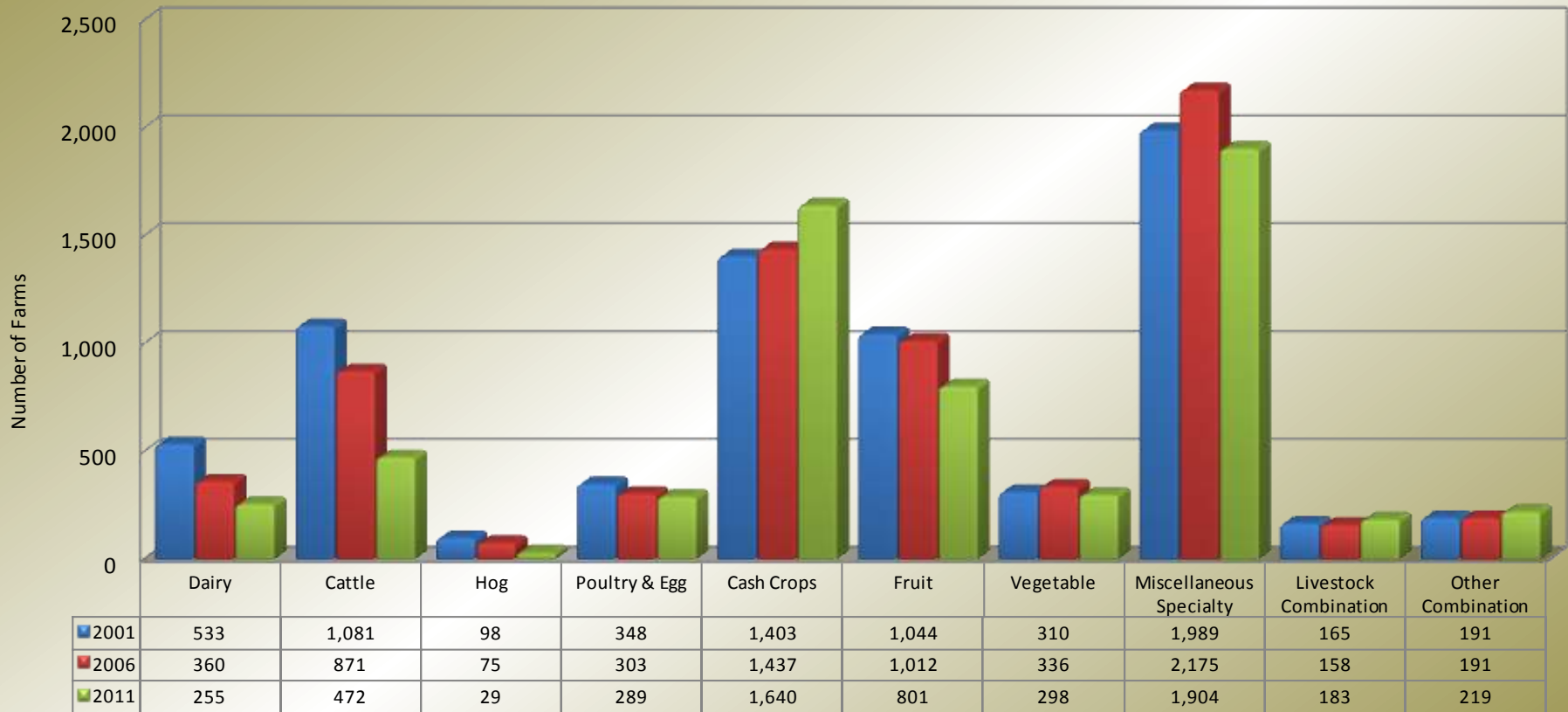
# Rental Land - Regions





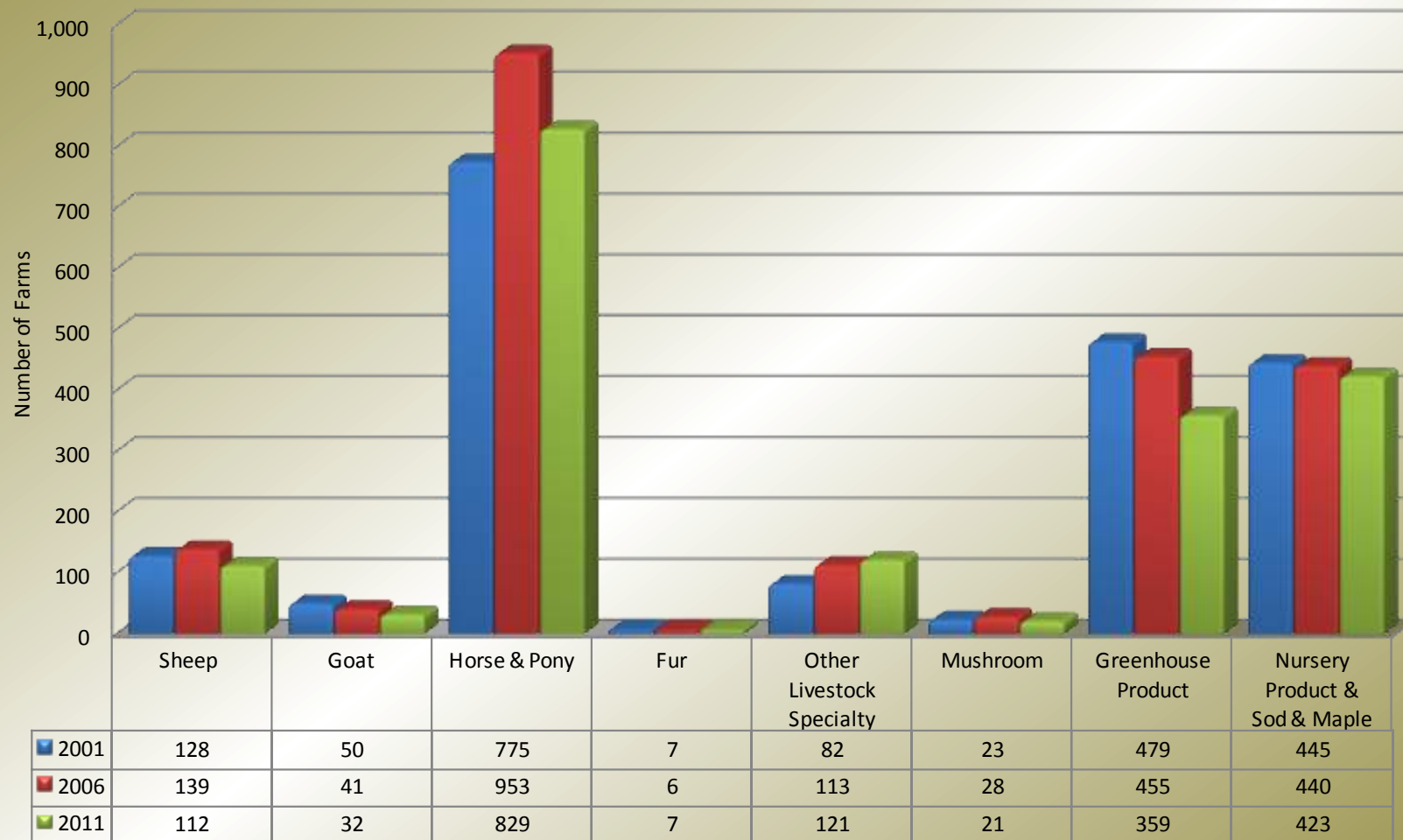
# Commodity Profile – Number of Farms (2011)

## Golden Horseshoe



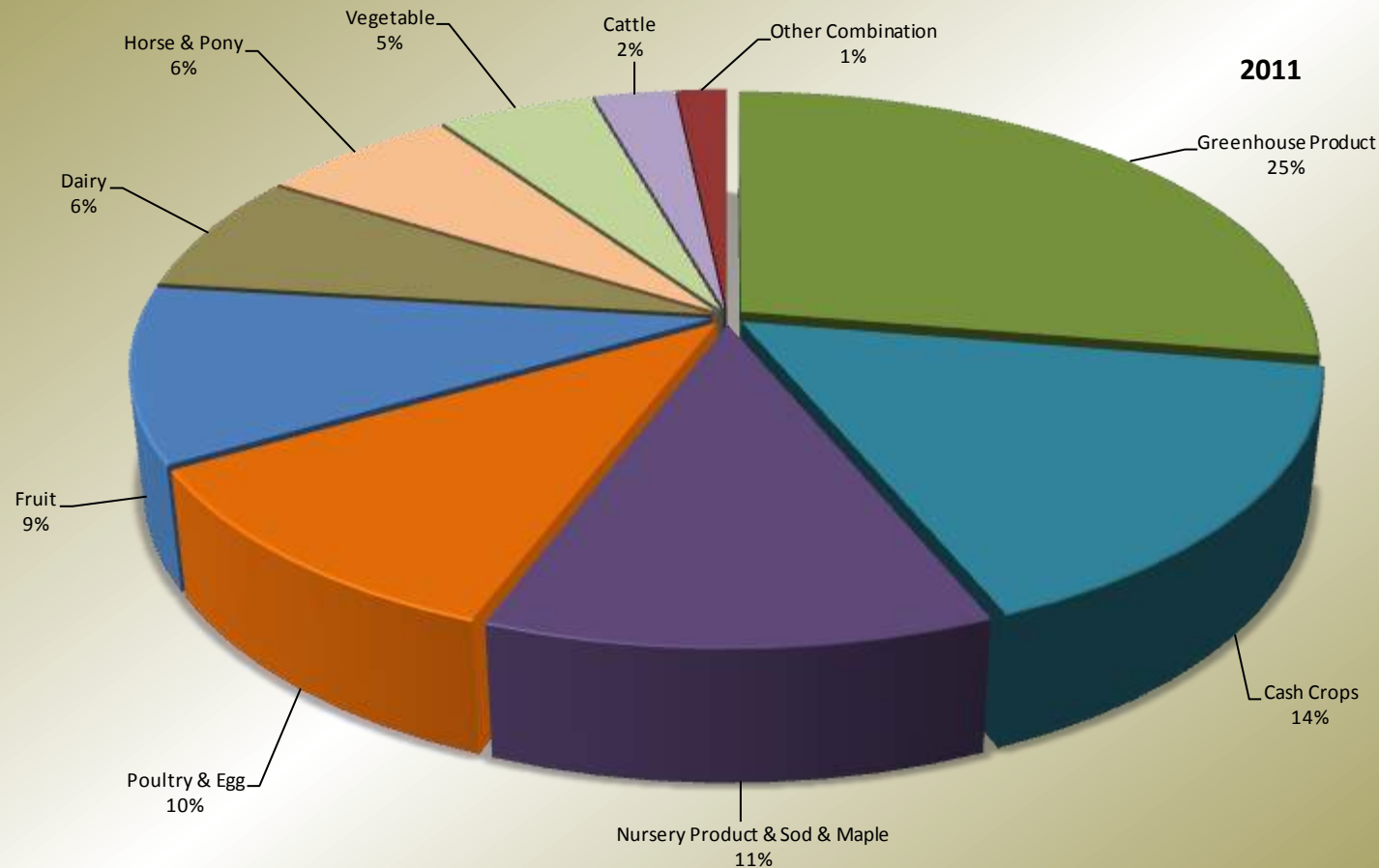
# Commodity Profile – Miscellaneous Specialty (2011)

## Golden Horseshoe



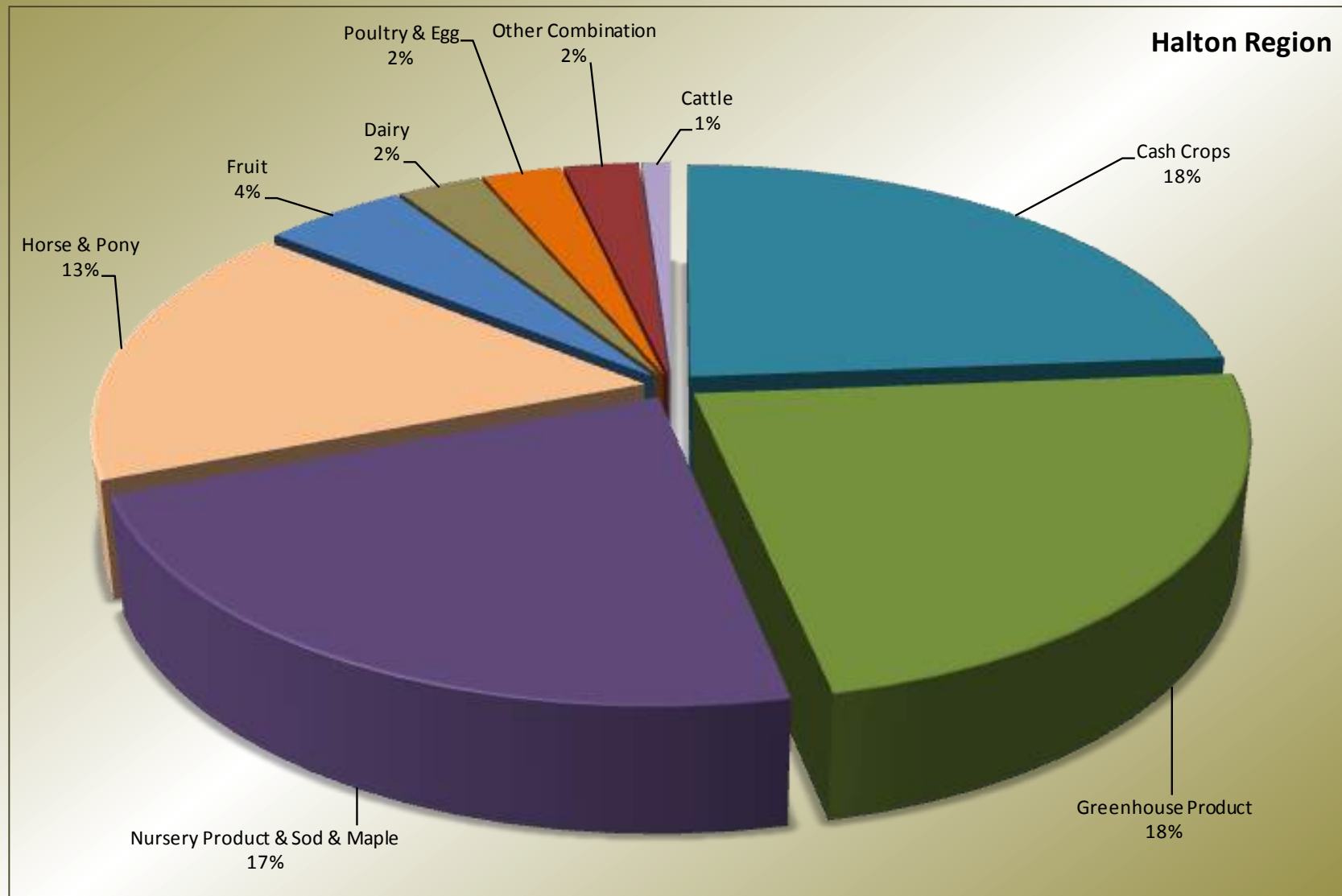
# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts

## Golden Horseshoe

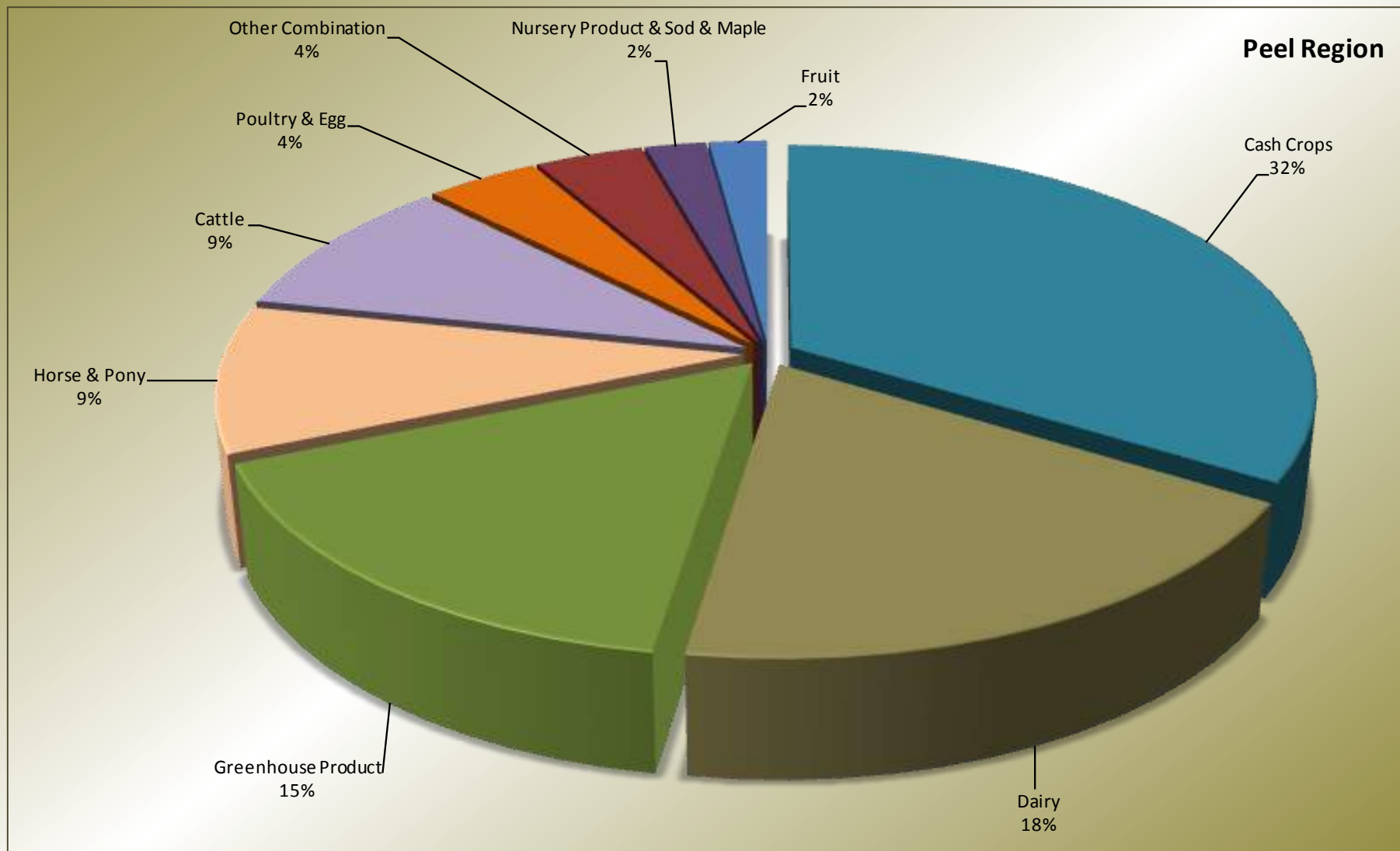




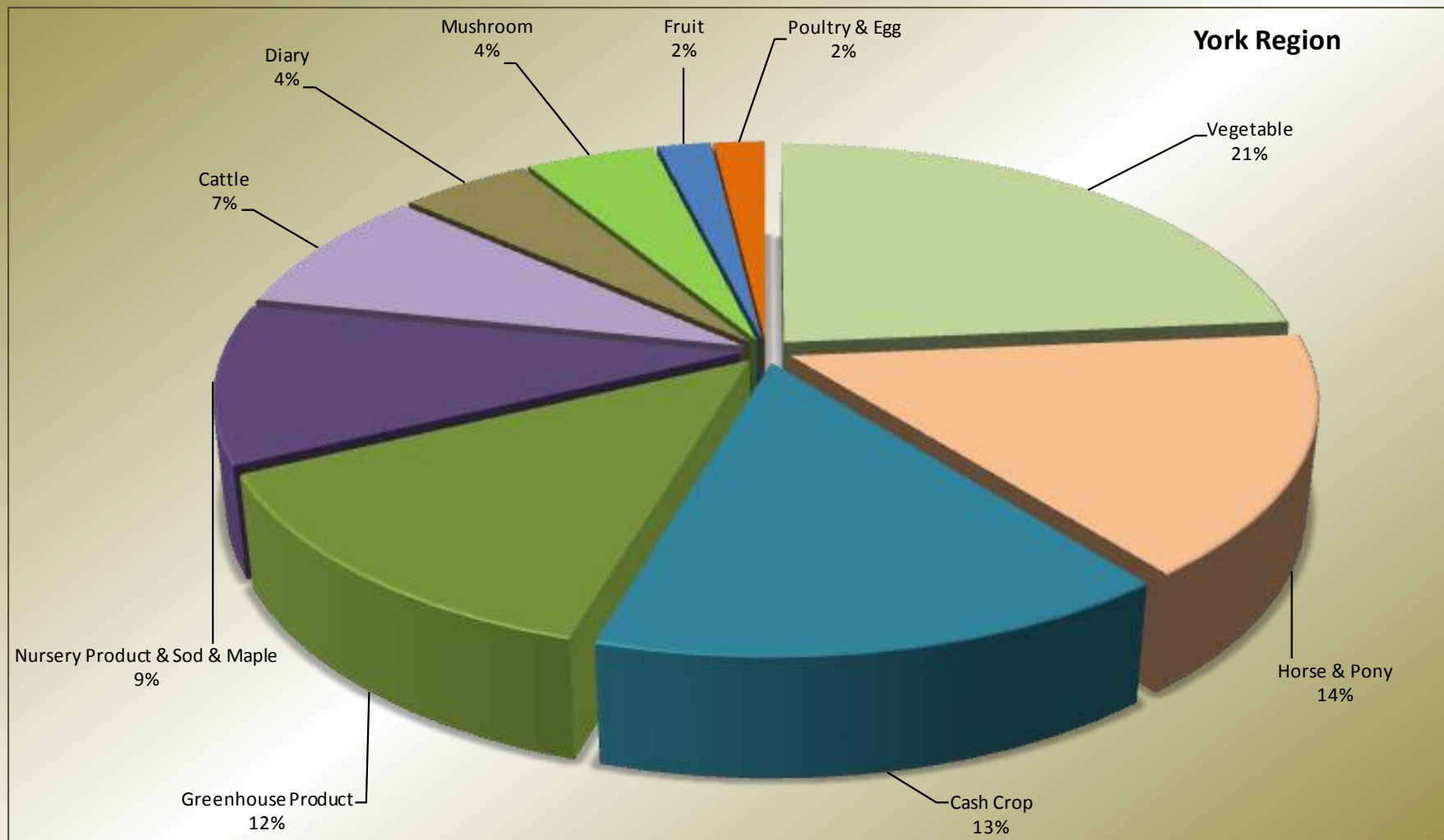
# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts– 2011



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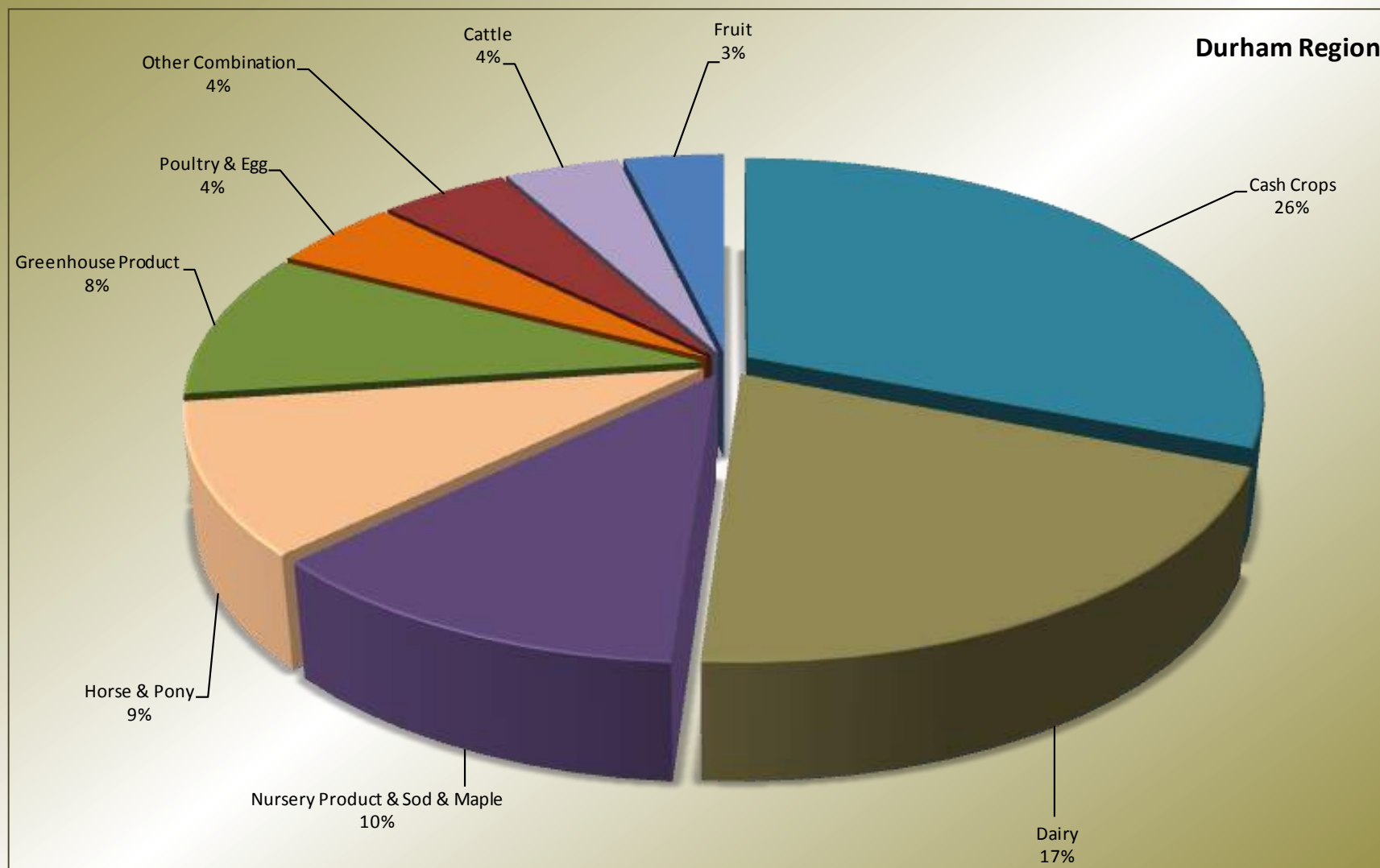


# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts– 2011

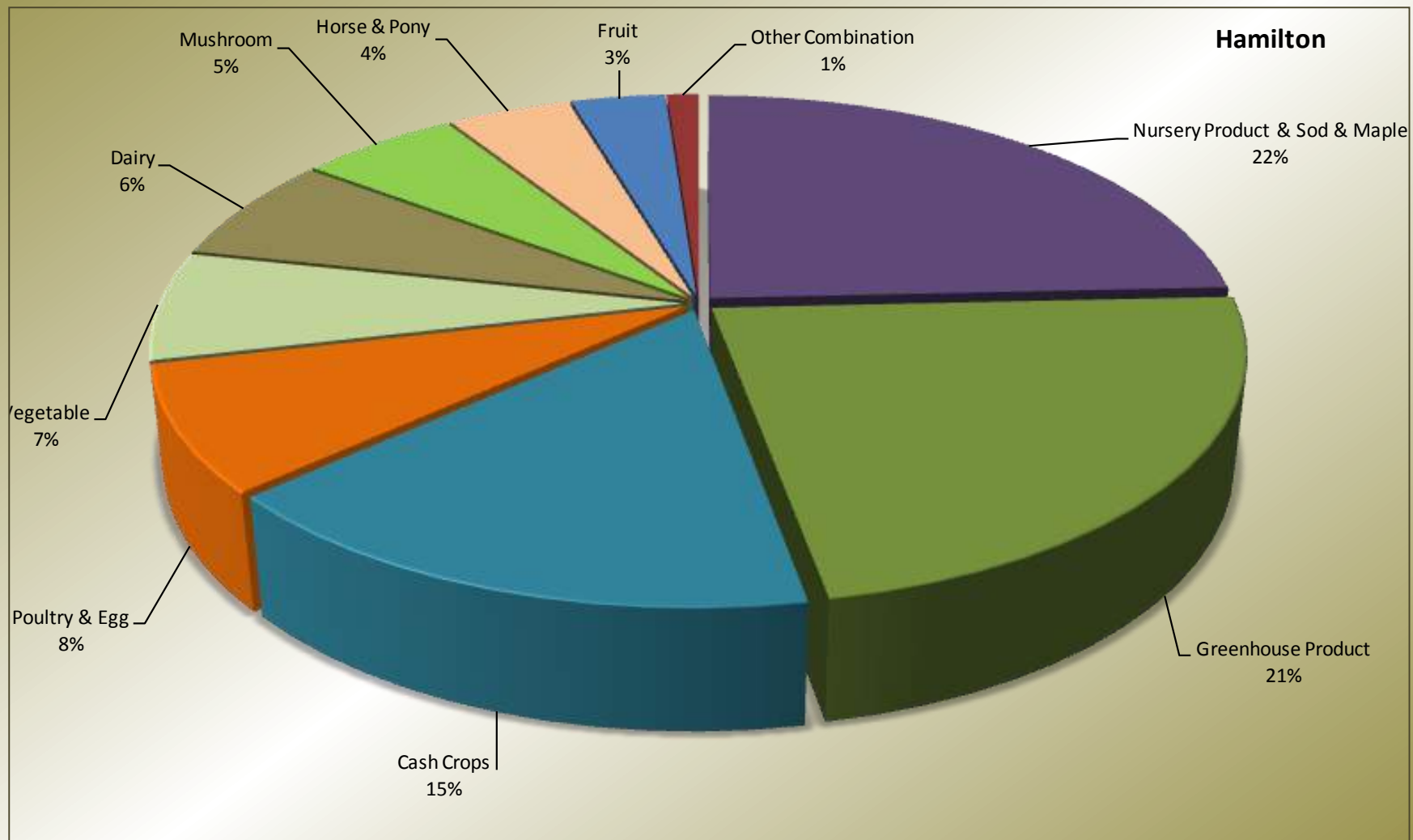




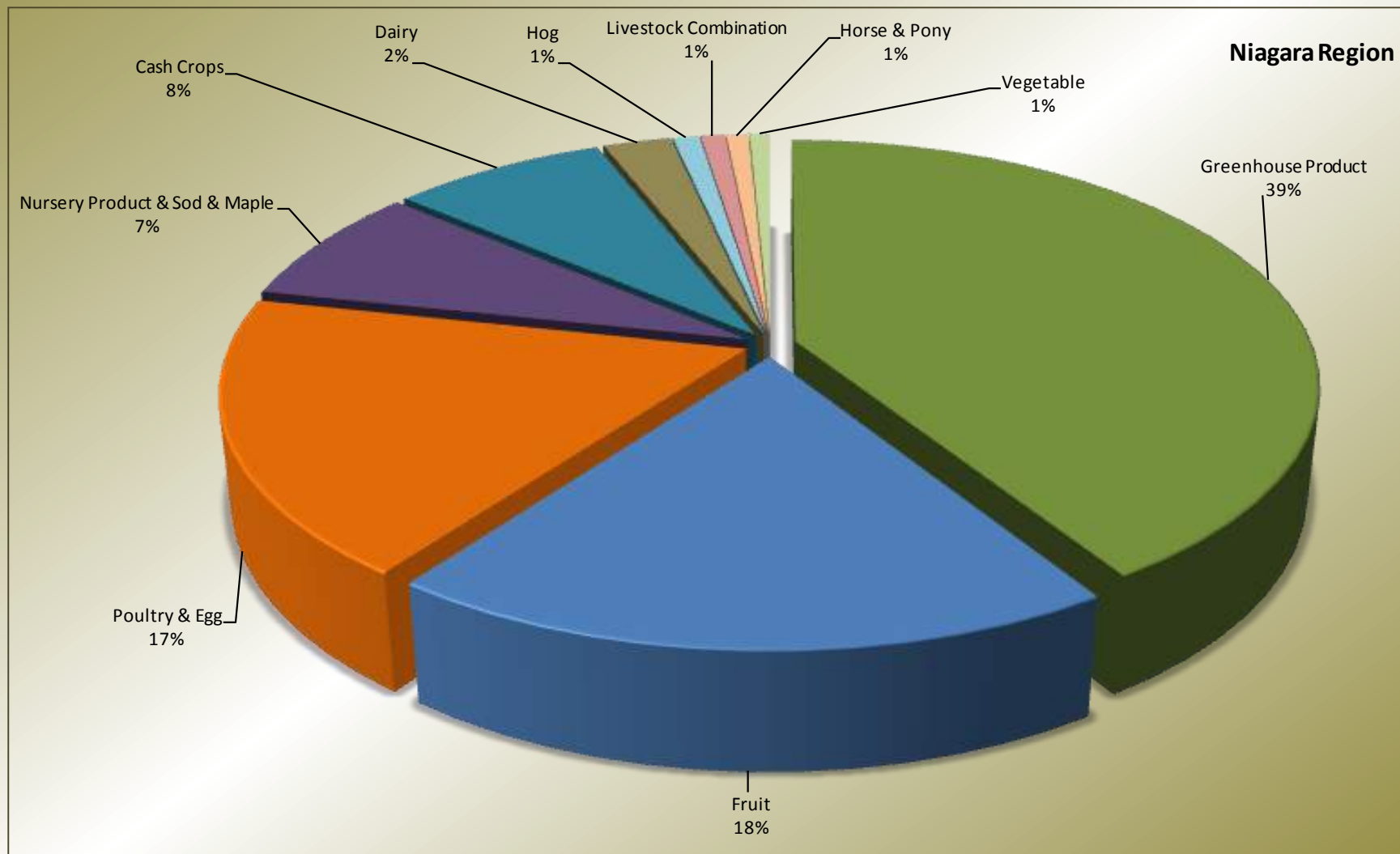
# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts– 2011



# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts– 2011



# Top Ten Commodities by Gross Farm Receipts– 2011





# Change in Commodity Profile - \$ and % Change

Commodity	Gross Farm Receipts (\$)			Change (\$)		Percentage Change	
	2001	2006	2011	2001 - 2006	2006 - 2011	2001 - 2006	2006 - 2011
Greenhouse Product	\$324,196,969	\$424,136,761	\$424,088,772	\$99,939,792	<b>-\$47,989</b>	31%	0%
Nursery Product & Sod & Maple	\$134,376,055	\$159,847,859	\$183,563,898	\$25,471,804	\$23,716,039	19%	15%
Poultry & Egg	\$187,876,260	\$187,858,633	\$166,182,033	<b>-\$17,627</b>	<b>-\$21,676,600</b>	0%	<b>-12%</b>
Fruit	\$126,448,288	\$152,637,667	\$159,750,554	\$26,189,379	\$7,112,887	21%	5%
Cash Crops	\$106,959,530	\$154,091,311	\$248,733,186	\$47,131,781	\$94,641,875	44%	61%
Dairy	\$128,476,497	\$116,627,975	\$108,956,699	<b>-\$11,848,522</b>	<b>-\$7,671,276</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Horse & Pony	\$76,790,281	\$97,612,449	\$99,501,338	\$20,822,168	\$1,888,889	27%	2%
Vegetable	\$58,754,677	\$62,568,393	\$79,020,825	\$3,813,716	\$16,452,432	6%	26%
Cattle	\$80,138,610	\$66,979,195	\$41,443,639	<b>-\$13,159,415</b>	<b>-\$25,535,556</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-38%</b>
Other Combination	\$12,481,861	\$41,736,051	\$25,731,192	\$29,254,190	<b>-\$16,004,859</b>	234%	<b>-38%</b>
Mushroom	\$34,170,266	\$29,840,358	\$23,719,535	<b>-\$4,329,908</b>	<b>-\$6,120,823</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-21%</b>
Hog	\$24,031,897	\$24,787,472	\$8,655,278	\$755,575	<b>-\$16,132,194</b>	3%	<b>-65%</b>
Livestock Combination	\$14,747,292	\$16,111,217	\$15,578,805	\$1,363,925	<b>-\$532,412</b>	9%	<b>-3%</b>
Sheep	\$1,841,319	\$1,901,856	\$3,917,252	\$60,537	\$2,015,396	3%	106%
Goat	\$796,706	\$1,089,459	\$1,395,883	\$292,753	\$306,424	37%	28%
Other Livestock Specialty	\$3,003,327	\$4,307,336	\$1,380,662	\$1,304,009	<b>-\$2,926,674</b>	43%	<b>-68%</b>
Fur	\$1,517,107	\$2,912,524	x	\$1,395,417	x	92%	x
TOTAL	\$1,404,601,683	\$1,573,787,767	\$1,716,206,729	\$169,186,084	\$142,418,962		

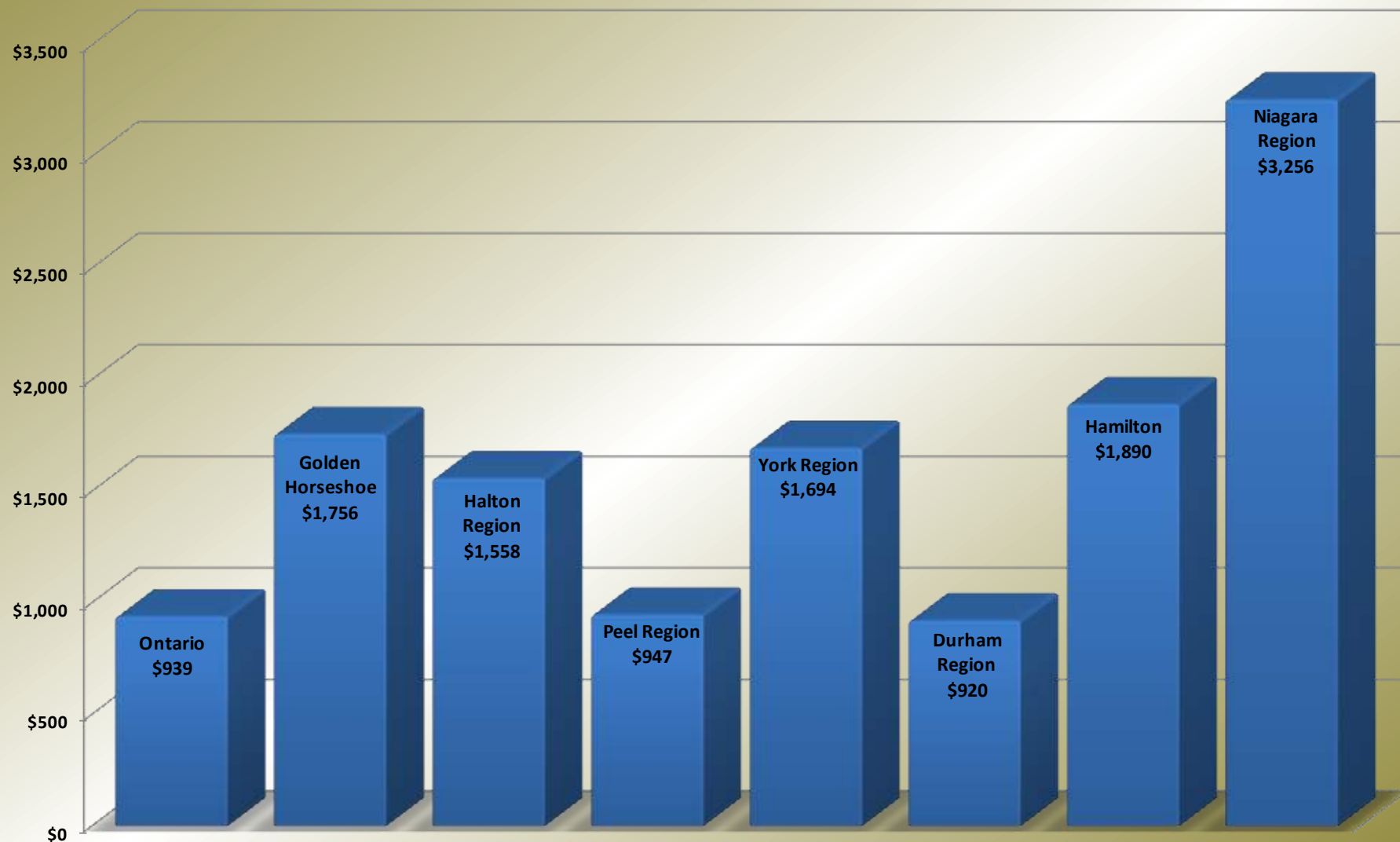


# Share of Production

2011	Number of Farms	Farmland Area			Gross Farm Receipts		
Geographic Location		Acres	Average Size (Acres)	% of Total Provincial Area	Total (\$)	Per Acre (\$)	% of Total Provincial
Ontario	51,950	12,668,236	243		\$11,890,835,395	\$939	
Halton Region	469	79,567	170	1%	\$123,942,913	\$1,558	1%
Peel Region	440	93,843	213	1%	\$88,856,378	\$947	1%
York Region	828	153,559	185	1%	\$260,121,662	\$1,694	2%
Durham Region	1,454	297,012	204	2%	\$273,237,098	\$920	2%
Hamilton	885	130,589	148	1%	\$244,217,225	\$1,870	2%
Niagara Region	2,014	222,911	111	2%	\$725,831,453	\$3,256	6%
Golden Horseshoe	6,090	977,481	161	8%	\$1,716,206,729	\$1,756	14%

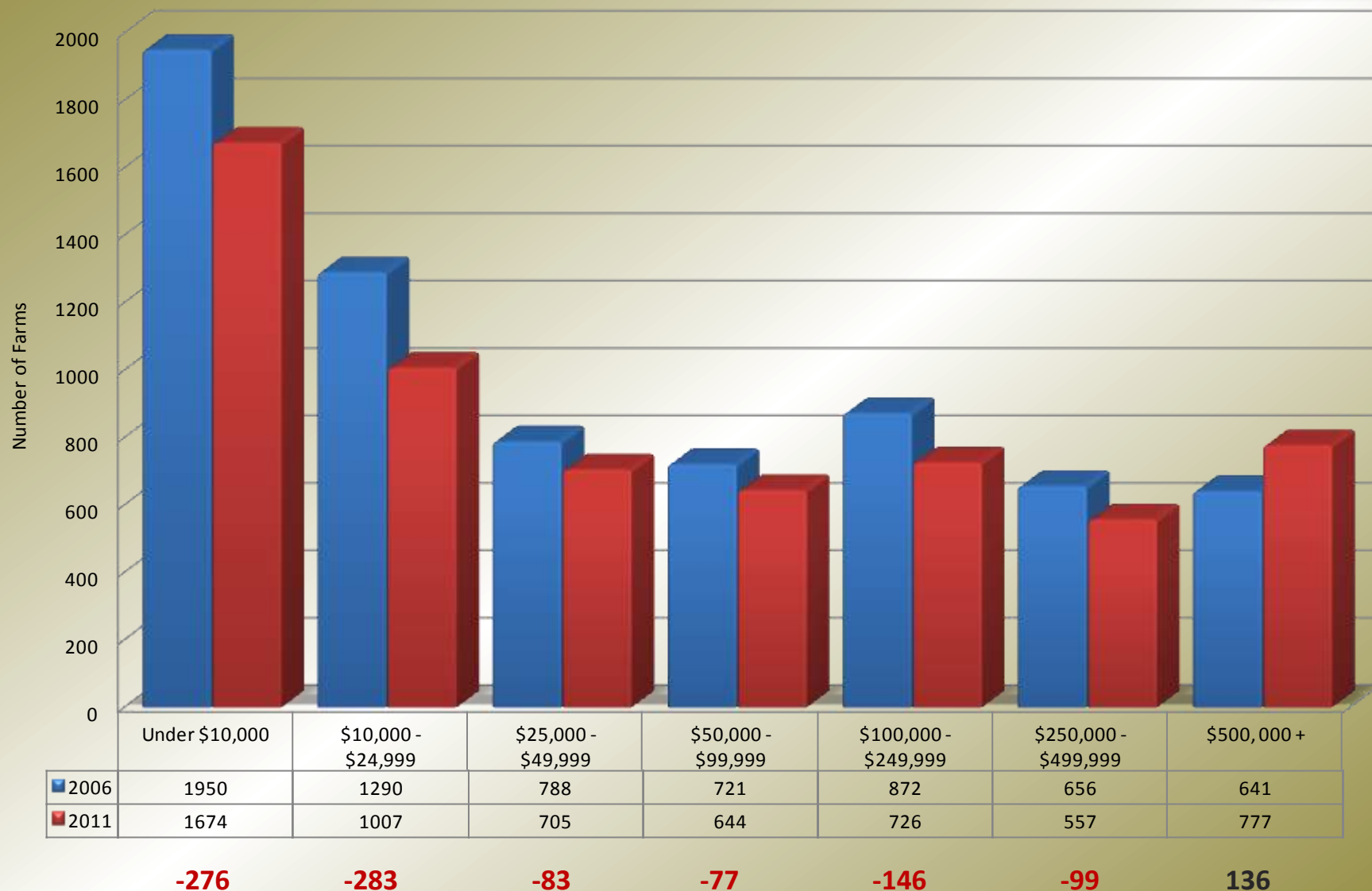


# Gross Farm Receipts (GFRs) per Acre - 2011





# Number of Farms by GFRs - 2011



# Farm Operating Costs

## Per Acre (\$)

2011 - \$1,527

2006 - \$1,309

Ontario

2006 - \$664

2011 - \$787

## Per Farm (\$)

2011 - \$245,047

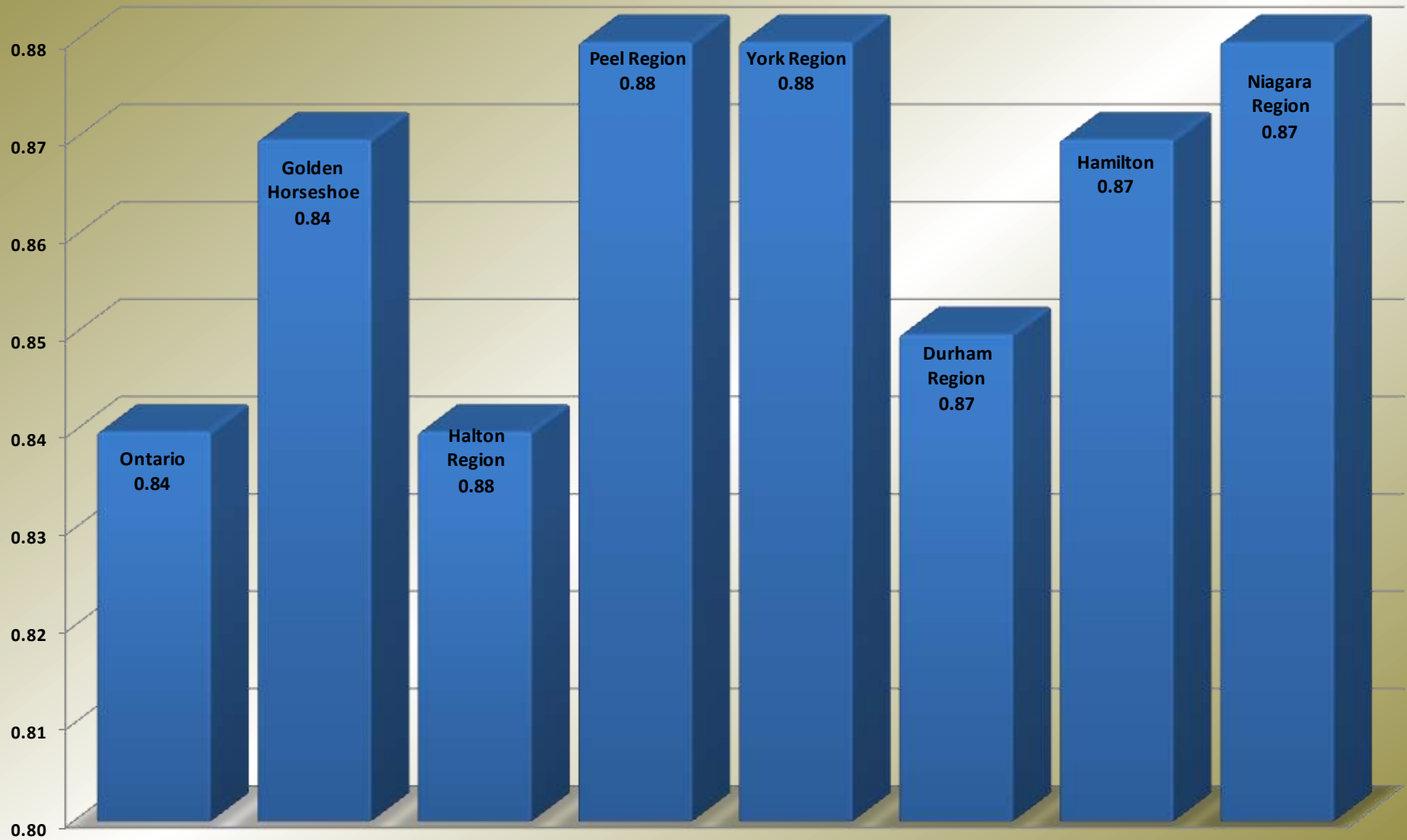
2006 - \$197,360

Ontario


2006 - \$154,584

2011 - \$191,836

# Ratio of Costs



# Average Farm Capital (Millions)



## Halton Region

2001 – \$1.6

2006 – \$2.0

2011 – \$3.2



## Peel Region

2001 – \$2.7

2006 – \$3.9

2011 – \$5.7



## York Region

2001 – \$2.0

2001 – \$2.2

2011 – \$2.9



## Golden Horseshoe

2001 – \$1.2

2006 – \$1.6

2011 – \$2.2



## Durham Region

2001 – \$0.9

2006 – \$1.3

2011 – \$1.8




## Hamilton

2001 – \$0.8

2006 – \$1.1

2011 – \$1.6



## Niagara Region

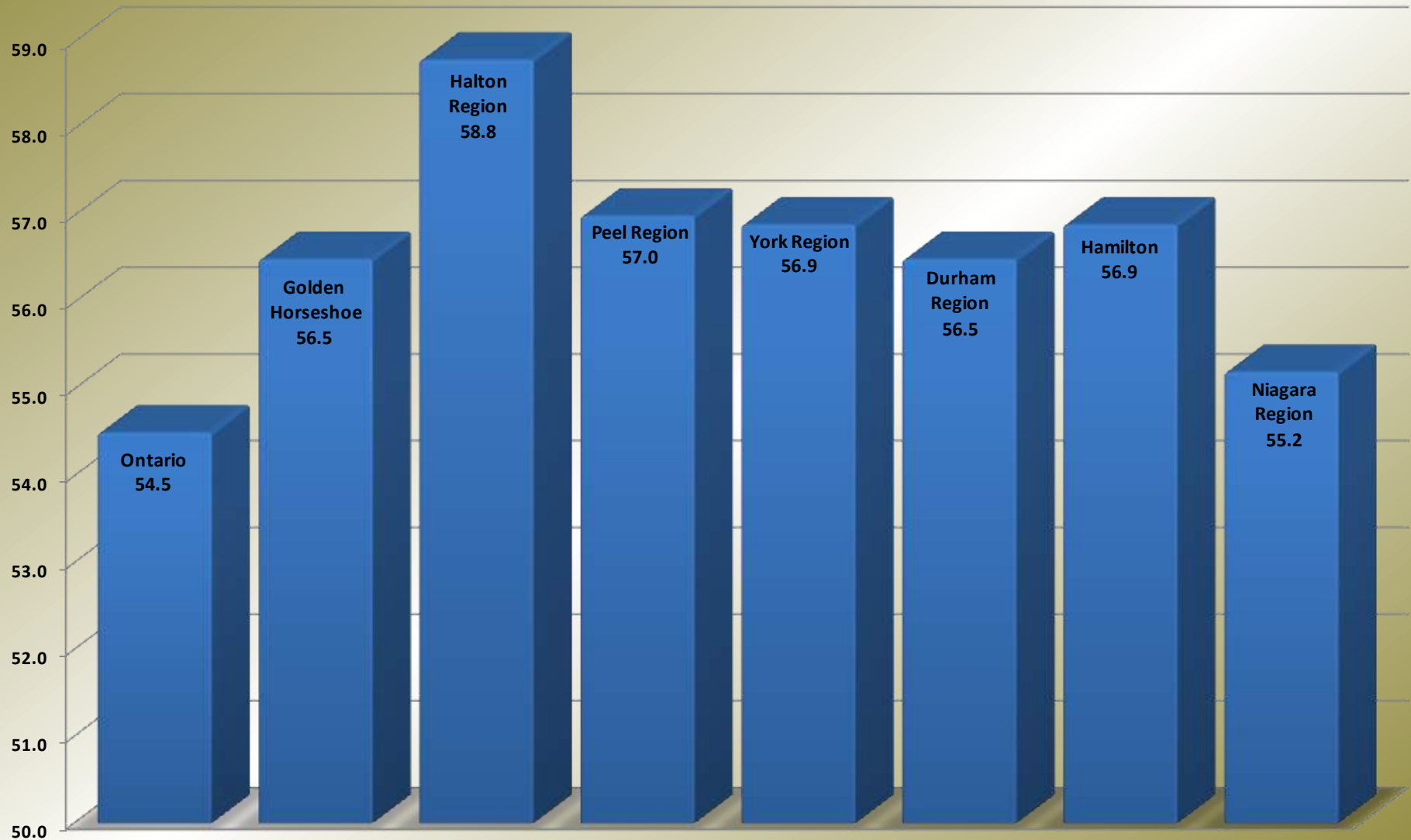
2001 – \$0.8

2006 – \$1.0

2011 – \$1.4



# Average Age of Farm Operators





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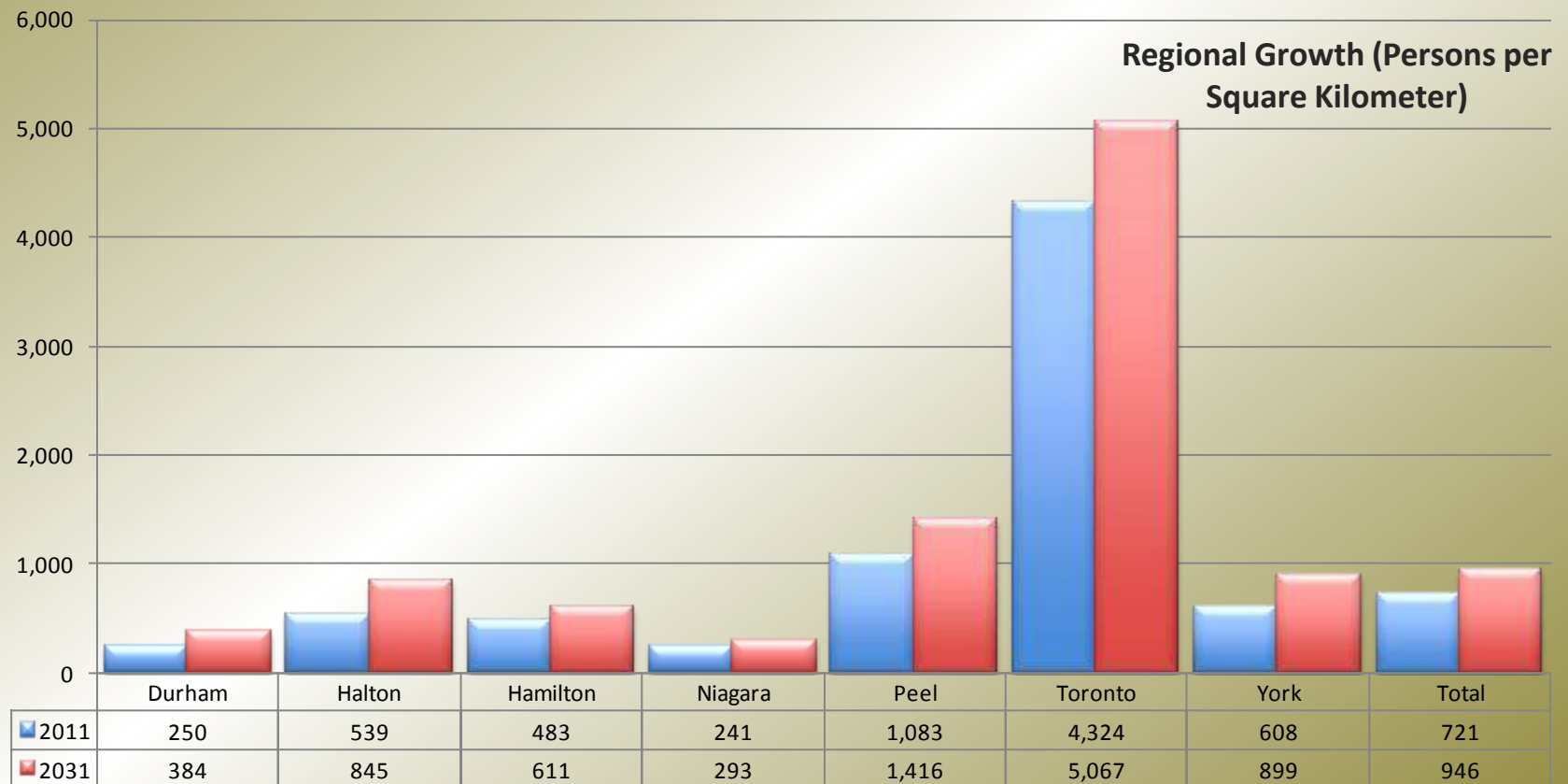
## OTHER ISSUES

**SOCIAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CULTURAL  
DEMOGRAPHIC**



# Population Growth

2011 – 7.0 Million  
2006 – 6.5 Million



## Demand – Side Trends

a)	General public's understanding of economics of farming, importance of farming and food systems to urban society (e.g. 'Farmers Feed Cities')	→↘
b)	Demand for healthy and local foods (organic, GM-free, 100-mile radius, etc.) in stores and markets	↗↗
c)	Rise in popularity of niche restaurants (having access to their own farms, having preferred suppliers from within 100-mile radius, etc.)	↗
d)	Perceived importance of food access and food security issues (food desert / food oasis concepts; the right to food)	↗
e)	Popularity of urban gardening (community gardens, container gardens, urban orchards, gardening on green roofs; etc.)	↗↗
f)	Demand for fresh, locally-produced food	↗↗

## Supply – Side Trends

a)	Identification of 'Urban Agriculture' as topic area; professionalism of the field (books, courses, etc.)	↗↗
b)	Development of 'new industry' catering to desires of urban farmers	↗
c)	Popularity of agri-tourism, and demand for farm experiences	→↗
d)	Agriculture incorporated into building design	↗
e)	Planning and regulatory policy that recognizes, responds to changing demand	→↗



# SWOT

## SUCCESSSES



Increase awareness  
and consideration  
about where food  
comes from



Cost of getting into  
farming prohibitive



Many new food  
processing, distribution  
& retail outlets,  
education programs  
(etc...) to look at local  
foods



- Reputation for safe food
- Wide diversity of products
- Productive land base
- Highly skilled workforce
- Proximity to markets
- New opportunity with growing world crops



- Increased Operating Costs
- Aging Farm Population
- Small Farm Size
- Lack of Knowledge about Agriculture
- Fragmentation & Conflicting Land Uses



BUT



Environmental Protection  
Regulations/Legislation/  
Policy/Rules /Guidelines

Little data available on  
success of implementation/  
ongoing monitoring

Agricultural Census Data  
Requirement Changing



Increasing difficulty to  
compare & contrast  
previous years

## CHALLENGES

Hard to Track  
Statistics in the  
Greenbelt

## STRENGTHS

- \*Productive land base
- \*Unique micro climates
- \*Access to water
- \*Proximity to markets
- \*Highly skilled workforce
- \*Growth in high return commodities
- \*Transportation infrastructure
- \*Cluster of younger operators

## WEAKNESSES

- \*Increasing urbanization
- \*Aging farm population
- \*Small farm size
- \*Public lack of knowledge about agriculture
- \*Lot fragmentation
- \*Expanding number of conflicting land uses
- \*Number and complexity of regulations
- \*Disjointed regulations
- \*Lack of rural infrastructure

## OPPORTUNITIES

- \*Diverse and sophisticated market
- \*Diversity of commodity profile
- \*Farmland as essential part of natural heritage system
- \*Educational cluster to support agriculture
- \*Link to international markets
- \*Canadian reputation for safe food
- \*Associated with largest food processing cluster in North America
- \*World leader in agriculture
- \*Opportunity for systems approach

## THREATS

- \*Capital cost of entering farming
- \*Land prices
- \*Fragmentation
- \*Limited access to capital
- \*Uncertainty about future
- \*Government decisions impacting agriculture (racetracks)
- \*Changes to census reporting
- \*Operating costs
- \*Loss of farm services
- \*Urban Services (Road Salt)



Golden Horseshoe Agriculture & Agri-Food Strategy

## Food & Farming: An Action Plan 2021

