

# Brant County

---



**Total Land Area (Census 2016)<sup>1</sup>:** 84, 325

**Area of Census Farms (2016)<sup>2</sup>:** 66,882.40 Ha

**Area of Region in the Greenbelt<sup>3</sup>:** 0 ha

**Percent of Region in the Greenbelt:** 0%

**Gross Farm Receipts (2016)<sup>4</sup>:** \$253.5 million

**Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm:** \$3,789.55

**Population (2016)<sup>1</sup>:** 36, 707

**Growth Rate 2006-2011<sup>5</sup>:** 3.6%

**Growth Rate 2011-2016<sup>1</sup>:** 3%

<b>Prime agricultural area redesignated to a development designation (including urban, residential, and employment)</b>	<b>47 ha</b>
<b>Prime agricultural area redesignated to a rural designation</b>	<b>0 ha</b>
<b>Land designated as a prime agricultural area with a site-specific amendment to allow additional uses</b>	<b>0 ha</b>

## **Purpose of the Summary**

This county summary is part of a wider study on farmland availability in Ontario. The study quantifies the conversion of prime agricultural areas based on Official Plan Amendments in upper and single-tier municipalities across the province over a 14-year study period from 2000-2014. This summary is meant to provide detail of the findings in Brant County. In conjunction with similar case studies from other counties/regions in Ontario, these findings will form the basis of the University of Guelph's *Measuring Farmland Conversion* research project.

## **Methods in Brief**

The study involved the examination of the Brant County Official Plan (OP) and Official Plan Amendments (OPA). In Brant, the files which document OPAs adopted and approved by the

county and/or the Ontario Municipal Board during the years 2000 to 2014 were compiled by Brant County Planning staff and accessed during a meeting with staff at the Brant Customer Service Office in Paris, Ontario. The assistance of staff at Brant County is appreciated in making this research possible. Changes in farmland availability have been captured in three categories:

- 1) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a development designation (including but not limited to urban, residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational designations);
- 2) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a rural designation;
- 3) Land designated as a prime agricultural area with a site-specific amendment to allow additional uses.

Housekeeping type amendments have not been tallied as contributing to farmland conversion. Housekeeping type amendments arise as county OP schedules are updated to align land use designations with more accurate parcel lines, or to reflect existing physical features.

### **Agricultural Land Use Designations in Brant County**

Prime agricultural lands are captured in the Brant County Official Plan under the *Agriculture* designation. This designation specifically applies to Canada Land Inventory class 1, 2 and 3 lands and is intended to permit only those uses that will ensure prime agricultural land is protected.

### **Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion**

**Development Designations:** Within the 2000 – 2014 time frame, four amendments to the Brant County OP were permitted to convert land within the *Agriculture* designation to a development use. Of these, two were approved for residential development, while the remaining two amendments converted agricultural lands for commercial and industrial uses. The conversion of agricultural lands through OPA 12b to the “Heavy Industrial” was the largest conversion at 36 ha and also permitted the expansion of the South Paris Settlement Area Boundary. These amendments are captured in category 1 of **Table 1**.

**Rural Designation:** Brant County does not use a rural land use designation to define areas not considered prime agricultural lands but where agriculture remains the primary use. This type of amendment was not seen in Brant County, and zero OPAs were captured under category 2 of **Table 1**.

**Site-Specific Amendments:** Site-specific policies were not used in Brant County’s OP to permit additional uses in areas in the *Agriculture* designation. No amendments were captured under category 3 of **Table 1**.

**TABLE 1 PRIME AGRICULTURAL AREA CONVERTED THROUGH ROPAS IN BRANT COUNTY BY ADOPTION DATE (2000-2014)**

Year of Regional OPA adoption or approval by the OMB	Number of OPAs related to the conversion of prime agricultural area	CATEGORY 1 Prime agricultural area redesignated to a development designation (ha)	CATEGORY 2 Prime agricultural area redesignated to a rural designation (ha)	CATEGORY 3 Land designated as a prime agricultural area with additional site-specific permitted uses (ha)
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	1	3	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	2	8	0	0
2006	1	36	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*\*Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Provincial Land Use Plans:** Brant County is not covered by the Greenbelt Plan<sup>3</sup> at the time of conducting this study. As such, no amendments were captured that demonstrated the effect of this provincial land use plan.

**TABLE 2 PRIME AGRICULTURAL AREA CONVERTED THROUGH OPAS IN BRANT COUNTY BY APPLICATION DATE AND LOCATION RELATIVE TO THE GREENBELT PLAN**

	Outside the Greenbelt		Within the Greenbelt		Total
	Application date		Application Date		
	Pre 2005	2005-2014	Pre 2005	2005- 2014	
Prime agriculture area redesignated to a development or rural designation (ha)	44	3	0	0	47
Prime agricultural area with site-specific policies allowing additional uses (ha)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>

\*Table 1 includes files based on their approval date within the 2000-2014 study time frame. Table 2 is organized based on application date so that we can determine what policy regime the approved amendments were evaluated under, and may include files that were initiated prior to the 2000-2014 study time frame.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. 2017. *Brant, CY [Census subdivision], Ontario and Brant, CDR [Census division], Ontario* (table). *Census Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> OMAFRA (adopted). 2017. Area of Census Farms (Acres) by County, Ontario: 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. With data from Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture.

<sup>3</sup> MMAH. 2005. “Greenbelt Outer Boundary” and MMAH, 2012. “Municipal Boundary – Upper Tier and District” data projected in UTM 17N.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. *Table 004-0233 – Census of Agriculture, farms classified by total gross farm receipts in the year prior to the census, every 5 years (number of farms reporting unless otherwise noted)*, CANSIM (database).

<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. 2012. *Brant, Ontario (Code 3529005) and Brant, Ontario (Code 3529)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-WXE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.