

LEEDS AND GRENVILLE



Total Land Area (Census 2016)¹: 338,289 ha
Area of Census Farms (2001)²: 136,237.4 ha
Area of Census Farms (2016)²: 111,743 ha
Gross Farm Receipts (2016)⁴: \$153,254,801
Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm: \$ 1371
Population (2016)¹: 100,546
Growth Rate 2006-2011⁵: -1.4 %
Growth Rate 2011-2016¹: 1.2 %

Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (Including Urban, Residential, And Employment) 2000–2017	186 ha
Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation 2000–2017	12 ha
Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With A Site-Specific Amendment To Allow Additional Uses 2000–2017	7 ha
Total Amount of Prime Agricultural Land Loss 2000-2017	205 ha
Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss as a Percentage (Per Census Farm Area 2001)	0.0008%

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 17-year study period from 2000–2017. This summary is meant to provide detail of the findings in the United County of Leeds and Grenville. 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 Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) approved by the United County of Leeds and Grenville, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and/or the Ontario Municipal Board for the County of Leeds and Grenville during the years 2000–2017. The first Official Plan for the County was adopted in 2015 and later approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in 2016. Before 2015, all thirteen lower municipalities were governed by their respective local

official plans and OPAs were processed and stored by local planning departments. Data between 2000–2014 was collected from the following lower-tier municipalities: Township of Augusta, City of Brockville, Township of Edwardsburgh/ Cardinal, Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley, Township of Front of Yonge, Gananoque, Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands, Township of Merrickville-Wolford, Prescott, Township of Rideau lakes and Village of Westport. Access to electronic data for the lower-tier municipalities was provided by staff at each of the individual planning departments. The assistance of staff at Leeds and Grenville’s lower-municipalities’ planning departments 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 Official Plan schedules are updated to align land use designations with more accurate parcel lines, or to reflect existing physical features.

Agricultural Land Use Designations in the United County of Leeds and Grenville

In Leeds and Grenville’s OP there are two agricultural land use designations. The *Agricultural* designation reflects prime agricultural lands with predominantly Soil Classes 1, 2 and 3 as defined in the Canada Land Inventory of soil capability for agriculture. Agricultural uses are also permitted in the *Rural* designation, where agricultural activities remain active but dispersed, where soils are predominately shallow and where non-agricultural development has taken place over time. Lands in this designation are predominantly blocks of land consist primarily of soil classes 5, 6 and 7 of soil capability for agriculture and are not considered prime agricultural lands. For this study, only amendments affecting the *Agricultural* designation were collected from the county Official Plan. The land-use designations used by the lower-tier municipalities across Leeds and Grenville were largely consistent with the county’s official plan designation framework. In this study only official plan amendments affecting the lands defined as in the agriculture designation were collected.

Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion

Development Designations: in Leeds and Grenville, only amendment that converted agricultural lands to development designation was captured from 2000–2017, which was a comprehensive official plan

review that converted 186 hectares of agricultural lands to various development uses in 2006. This amendment is listed in category 1 of Table 1.

Rural Designation: Over the course of the study period, one amendment in Leeds and Grenville was captured which converted 12 hectares of prime agricultural land to rural designation in 2007. This amendment is listed in category 2 of Table 1.

Site-Specific Amendments: From 2000–2017, only one site-specific amendment affecting agricultural lands in Leeds and Grenville was captured, which added commercial use on a 7-hectare agricultural parcel. This amendment is captured in category 3 of Table 1.

Table 1. Prime Agricultural Area Converted Through OPAs In the United County of Leeds and Grenville By Adoption Date (2000-2017)

Year of 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	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	1	186	0	0
2007	1	0	12	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
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	1	0	0	7
2017	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	3	186	12	7

**Totals may not add due to rounding.

Provincial Land Use Plans: The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville does not fall into the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, nor the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Official Plan Amendments in Leeds and Grenville County are not subject to the policies of these provincial land use plans.

¹ Statistics Canada. 2017. Leeds and Grenville, CTY [Census division], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released May 3, 2017.

² 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.

³ MMAH. 2005. “Greenbelt Outer Boundary” and MMAH, 2012. “Municipal Boundary - Upper Tier and District” data projected in UTM 17N.

⁴ 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).

⁵ Statistics Canada. 2012. Leeds and Grenville, Ontario (Code 3531) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.