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# *Farms and Food Forever*

## **Grey County Agriculture**





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# Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

- ✓ Representing more than 38,000 farm families
- ✓ Advocate for farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations and lobby efforts
- ✓ Support 52 county and regional federations
- ✓ Member Service Representatives to provide front-line service to members
- ✓ Farm policy research staff to keep on top of regulatory and legislative matters



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# Grey Federation of Agriculture (GCFA)

- ✓ Celebrating 81 years
- ✓ Formed in 1940 to work on a local level to represent the voice of the farmer in Ontario
- ✓ 1,571 Grey County Members (2020)
- ✓ GCFA works to advance agriculture and the rural community through partnerships, education and advocacy
- ✓ Works with OFA to provide lobbying efforts and resources for local members



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# OFA Resources

[ofa.on.ca](http://ofa.on.ca)

[ofa.on.ca/GrowAg](http://ofa.on.ca/GrowAg)



## ***Agriculture Matters***

A Guide for Municipal Councillors and Staff



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## BOTH

- Regular County Meetings
- MP/MPP/Local Politician Meeting
- Information Meetings
  - Shed Talks
- Host All Candidates Mtgs
- Annual Ag Review Paper.
- Affiliated with: Farm and Food Care Ontario and AGSCAPE
- Elementary Public Speaking contest
- Ag Career Education
- Social Events

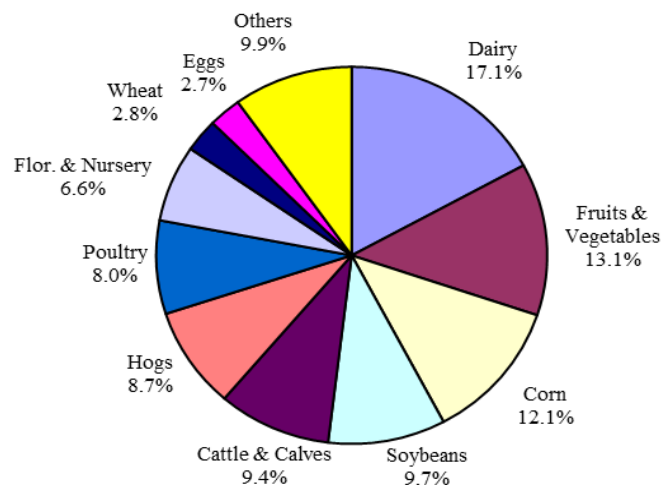
- Represent Grey County Members
- Advocate on issues, Legislation and Regulations
- Lobby Provincial & Federal Governments
- Advocate for agriculture
- Farmers working for farmers.

- Represent Ontario Members
- Grassroots Policy Development
- Farm Business Registrations
- Access to 21 Experienced, knowledgeable Member Service Representatives
- Exclusive discounts and promotions through OFA membership
- Highly skilled farm policy research staff.
- Educational opportunities province wide and webinars
- Training opportunities

# Share of Ontario's Farm Cash Receipts

## Comparison: 2011 vs 2016

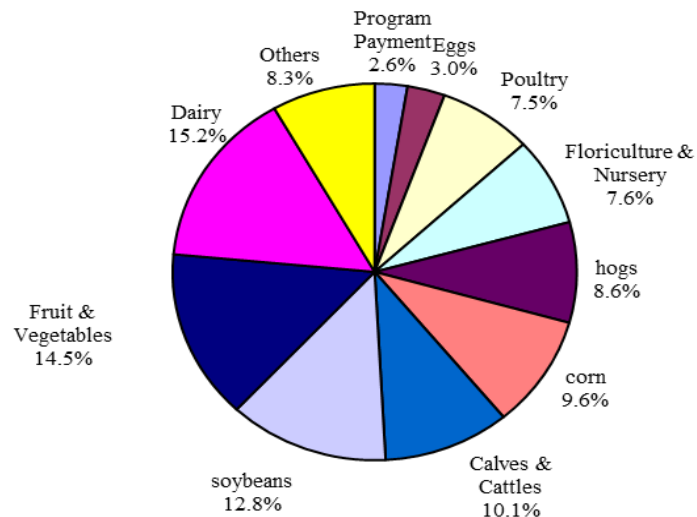
Share of Farm Cash Receipts by Commodity, Ontario, 2011



Total = \$11.1 billion

VS

Share of Farm Cash Receipts by Commodity, Ontario, 2016



Total = \$13.0 billion





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# Agriculture & Food Industry

- ✓ 1.4 % of Ontario's population are operating farms
- ✓ Agri-food sector is the #1 driver of the Provincial economy
- ✓ Generates 47.7 Billion to Ontario GDP
- ✓ Creates 837,000 jobs
- ✓ Ontario Farmers produce more than 200 farm and food products

## Economic Contributions of Grey Farm Production to the Provincial Economy in 2017

Number of Jobs	GDP (Millions of Dollars)
23,918	\$1,149.5

# Agriculture in Grey County



## ***Total Number of Farms***

2,304 farms



## ***Major Fruit Crop***

Apples 3,352 acres



## ***Total Farmland Area***

495,483 acres



## ***Major Vegetable Crop***

Sweet Corn 49 acres



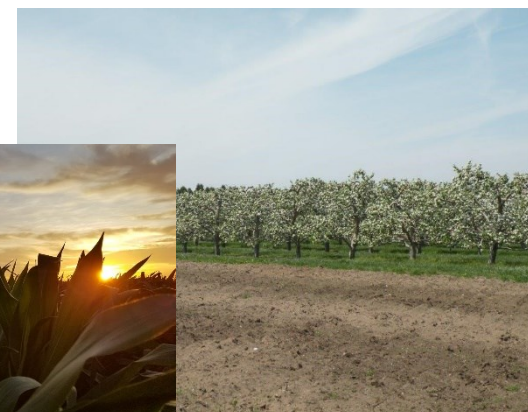
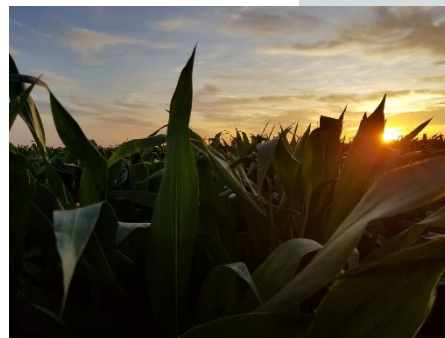
## ***Largest Farming Industry***

Beef Cattle Farming 693 farms



## ***Major Field Crop***

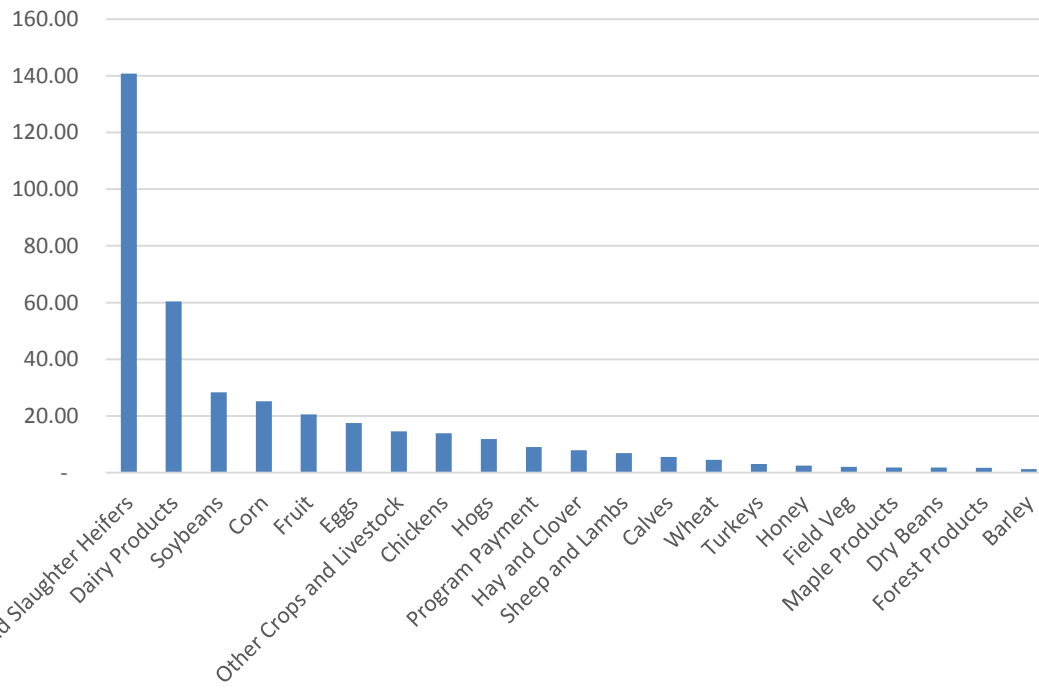
Hay 120,581 acres





# Estimated Farm Cash Receipts (FCR) by County and Crop (\$ Million)- 2018

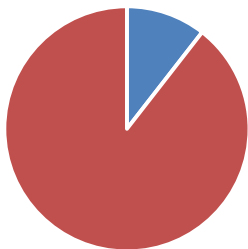
Estimated Farm Cash Receipts (FCR) by County and Crop (\$ Million)- 2018 Grey County



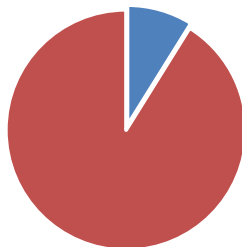
# Grey County's Top Commodities (blue) as a percentage of Provincial total - 2018

Steers and Slaughter

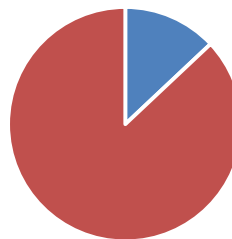
Heifers  
12%



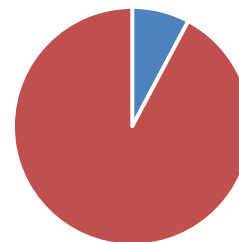
Honey  
10%



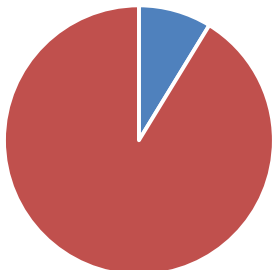
Barley  
15%



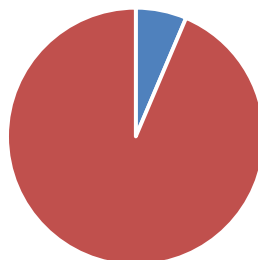
Calves  
8%



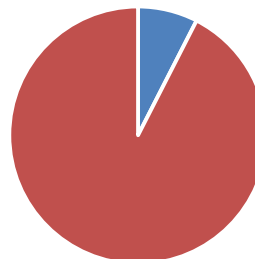
Sheep and Lambs  
10%



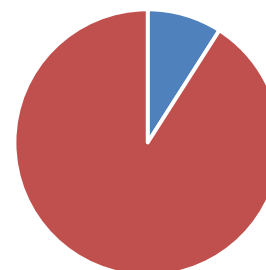
Fruit  
7%



Maple Products  
8%



Forest Products  
10%



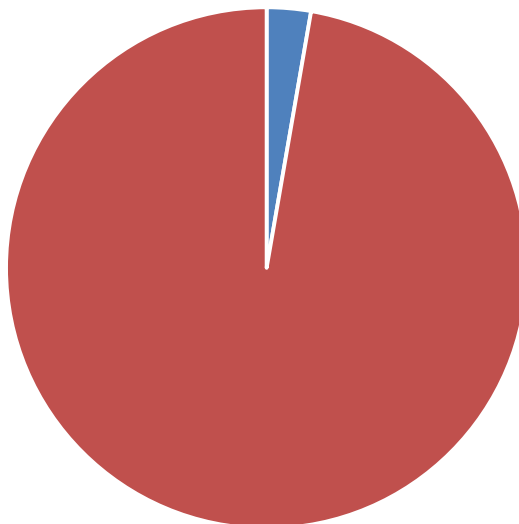


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# Grey County Farm Cash Receipts as a Percentage of the Province - 2018

Total Farm Cash Receipts  
3%



■ Grey County ■ Province



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# Grey County Federation Supports OFA's Provincial Priorities



Natural Gas



Broadband



Schools



Transportation

# GCFA's 3 Key Priorities for 2021

- ✓ Membership Engagement
- ✓ Youth in Farming
- ✓ Healthy Farms and Environment



# Youth/Member Engagement

- ✓ According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, Grey County added young farmers at more than double the national rate with a 20% increase in farmers under 35. We saw a 61% increase in gross farm receipts between 2011 and 2016.
- ✓ Young Farmers are the key to agriculture's future, we want to ensure they feel supported and welcome into the OFA farm community.
- ✓ We know that our strength and our capacity to influence policy is tied to our members and their willingness to participate.







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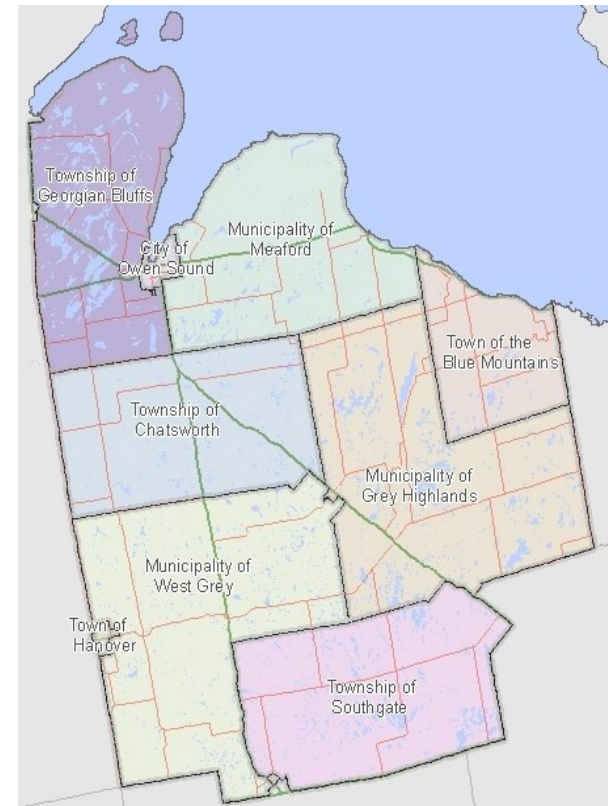


# Healthy Farm and Environment

- ✓ Farmers in Grey County, represented by the Grey Federation of Agriculture (GCFA) support the philosophy that farmers play a lead role as stewards of a healthy land, air and water environment.
- ✓ Farmers in Grey County have a strong history of embracing initiatives that promote a healthy environment, programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan, ALUS and farm practices that include cover cropping, no till and others that are gaining momentum
- ✓ GCFA is advocating for more communication between the Conservation Authorities and the farm community

# Grey County Federation Directors

- ✓ Paul Wettlaufer - West Grey
- ✓ Mike Ryan - West Grey
- ✓ Kevin Raszmann - West Grey
- ✓ Allen Hughes - Meaford
- ✓ Keith Reid - Meaford
- ✓ Dianne Booker - Meaford
- ✓ Jackie Pennings - Southgate
- ✓ Hugh Simpson - Grey Highlands
- ✓ Paul McQueen - Grey Highlands





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# Our Professional Team is Ready to Help Contact us:

Grey County President

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Hanover

Admin - Jackie Pennings

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OFA Zone 2 Director

Grey/Bruce:

Paul Vickers

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OFA Member Service

Representative Grey/Bruce

Joanne Hughes

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Thank you for your interest in Grey  
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Any Questions?