

# AGRICULTURE IN DURHAM REGION

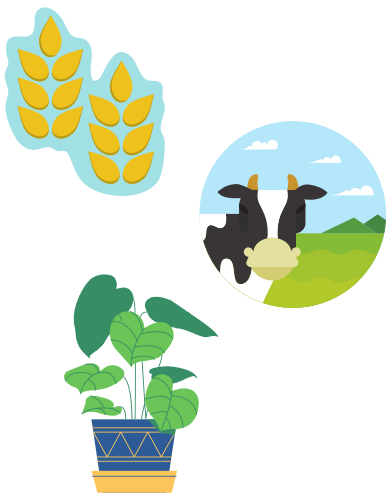


## WHAT IS AGRICULTURE?

The agriculture sector includes the farms and companies that grow, harvest, produce and distribute food, beverages and other agricultural products. It also includes companies that supply farm equipment and sell animal feed or seeds. Together, they are what's known as Agri-businesses.

## WHY DO FARMS AND AGRI-BUSINESSES THRIVE IN DURHAM REGION?

The majority of the 5,604 farms in the Greater Golden Horseshoe are found in the Niagara and Durham Regions. 84% of the Durham Region is rural, and being close to major trade routes like the 401 and 407 Highways and the Port of Oshawa make the area attractive to agricultural businesses.



## WHAT AGRI-BUSINESSES AND FARMS ARE LOCATED IN DURHAM REGION?

The 1,323 farms in Durham include 287 oilseed & grain farms, 183 beef cattle ranches, and 101 greenhouse nursery & floriculture farms. Durham Region farms also include milk, poultry, eggs, sheep, goats, pigs, fruit, tree nuts, vegetables and fruit. There are many businesses connected to Durham's agricultural sector, including growers, food processors, and support services like transportation and education.

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## HOW IS TECHNOLOGY IMPACTING AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-BUSINESS?

Tasks such as milking cows and tilling fields are being automated, and the future of farming may see self-driving vehicles and tablets becoming common pieces of farm equipment. The agricultural sector needs workers with strong digital literacy skills who are comfortable working with technology and automation.



## WHAT ARE BIOPRODUCTS?

Bioproducts are chemicals, materials and energy made from renewable biological resources, including plant and animal waste. Creating products and power from renewable resources is environmentally responsible, and it is expected that bioproducts could replace many fuels, chemicals, and plastics that are currently made from non-renewable resources like petroleum.

## WHERE CAN I GET THE EDUCATION I NEED FOR A JOB IN AGRICULTURE OR AGRI-BUSINESS?

Contact the Literacy Network of Durham Region to learn about free programs where you can upgrade your skills and work towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or General Educational Development (GED) certificate. When you're ready for further education, Ontario Tech University and Durham College offer a number of degree and diploma programs related to the agriculture sector.

