



# Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Annual Update

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# About DAAC

- DAAC provides advice to the Region of Durham on agricultural matters and rural matters as they relate to agriculture.
- Matters, projects and consultations can be referred/presented to DAAC for information or to gather feedback.
- DAAC provides agricultural perspectives and shares the impacts or benefits to agriculture related to the topic.
- DAAC has 17 members including members at large, a representative from each local municipality, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture and Durham Farm Fresh. There are also 3 non-farming representatives on the committee.



# Agriculture at a Glance

AS OF 2024



**1,200**  
farms



**264,518**  
acres of farmland



**220 acres**  
is the average sized farm

## Local Snapshot

Durham Region  
CENSUS DIVISION



## Local Farm Sales

**24%**  
sell farm  
products directly  
to the  
consumer:



**18**  
farms operate a CSA  
(Community Supported Agriculture)



**32** farms sell  
at farmers' markets



**191** farms sell directly from their  
farm, at stands, or pick-your-own

## Economic Contributions in 2021

### Local Impact



The local agri-food sector employed **27,105** people through **3,360** local agri-food business establishments

### Farm Cash Receipts



**\$354 million** In Farm Cash Receipts

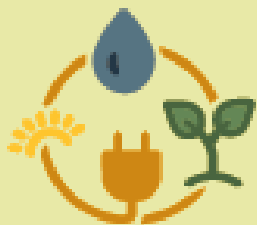


- Grains & Oilseeds
- Floriculture & Sod
- Dairy

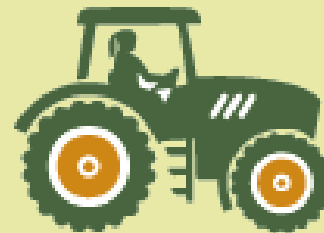
### Across the Province

Farm cash receipts generated by local farms supported **\$775 million** in GDP and **11,638** employees in the agri-food sector from farm to fork across Ontario

## Farm Facts



**16.4%** generate renewable energy, including solar, bioenergy and wind power



**31.6%** of farm operators are female



**68.1%** are small farms (less than \$100,000 in revenue)

# Activities at DAAC in 2025

- Annual Farm Tour & Agriculture Focused Mental Health Training
- North Durham On-Farm Diversified Uses Project undertaken between Scugog, Brock, Uxbridge and Regional Community Growth and Economic Development;
- Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve;
- The Rural Clean Water program at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;
- Local Planning Issues (Official Plan Reviews, Official Plan Amendments)
- Regional Issues
  - Economic Development initiatives
  - Transportation issues – road design, culverts

# Major Issues Facing Agriculture in the Region

- On farm diversified uses
- Transportation of goods
- Price of agricultural land
- Need for more food processing capacity
- Challenges to global markets (tariffs, etc.)
- Planning policy changes
- Agricultural Education



# DAAC as a Resource

- Gather an agricultural perspective on new projects, strategies and more.
- Ensure local decisions consider the impacts to agriculture businesses
- Liaise between the Region and agricultural businesses

## **Example of where DAAC provides feedback**

- Regionals and Local Strategies or Plans
- Economic Development Projects and Strategies
- Agricultural Land-Use Matters
- Works Departments Matters (roundabouts, intersections, ditches, roadwork, etc.)

## How Can DAAC help you?