

# Colchester County Agricultural Profile

2021



# Colchester County

The county produced



Operating Revenues

\$83,293,201

Accounting for 11.5 percent of all farm operating revenues in the province, Colchester was the 3rd largest county in Nova Scotia out of 18, in terms of agricultural operating revenues.

## SOME NUMBERS

DID YOU KNOW?

Colchester County accounted for **13%** of the provinces Fruit Tree and Nut farms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cattle farming in Colchester increased **17%** from the previous census and comprised **13%** of the NS sector total. The most significant shift in Cattle farming was an **48%** increase in the number of Beef farms, while the number of dairy farms decreased by **15%**.

### FUN FACT:

Colchester county was home to **2** Hog and Pig farms in 2021, equal to **20%** of the provincial total.

## MOST SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN NUMBER OF FARMS

**40%**  
DECLINE IN THE  
NUMBER OF FRUIT  
AND TREE NUT  
FARMS.  
FROM 136 TO 82.

**44%**  
DECLINE IN THE  
NUMBER OF HORSE  
AND OTHER EQUINE  
FROM 18 TO 10.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021, the leading agriculture industry in terms of number of farms was Cattle Ranching and Farming (Beef & Dairy) at 728 farms, with the number of farms increasing by 53 from 2016.

**12%** Farms in  
Nova Scotia

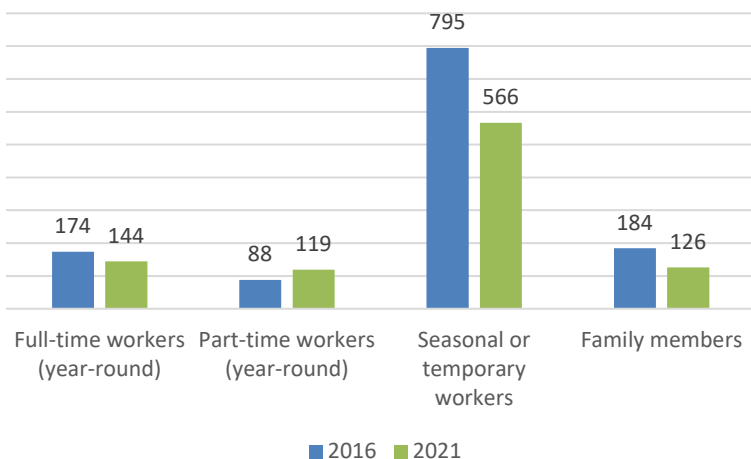
As of the past Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, Colchester County made up 12 percent of all farms in Nova Scotia.

	2011	2016	2021	% Change since 2016
Number of Farms	455	394	326	-17%
Total Farm Area (acres)	143,333	121,572	86,270	-29%
Average Farm Size (acres)	315	309	265	-14%
Gross Farm Receipts/ Operating Revenues*	\$60.8 million	\$82.5 million	*\$83.2 million	-
Average Per Farm	\$133,669	\$209,398	*\$282,638	-
Operating Expenses	\$49.7 million	\$72.1 million	\$69.7 million	-3%
Average Per Farm	\$112,496	\$183,160	\$228,539	+25%
Average Expense to Revenue Ratio	0.82	0.87	*0.84	-

\* In 2021, the Census of Agriculture reported farm operating revenues in lieu of farm cash receipts.

2021 Operator Characteristics	2016	2021	% Change since 2016
Total Number of Operators	530	440	-17%
Total Male Operators	385	305	-21%
Total Female Operators	145	135	-7%
Average Age of Principle Operator	56.9	58.2	+2%

### Paid labour by type

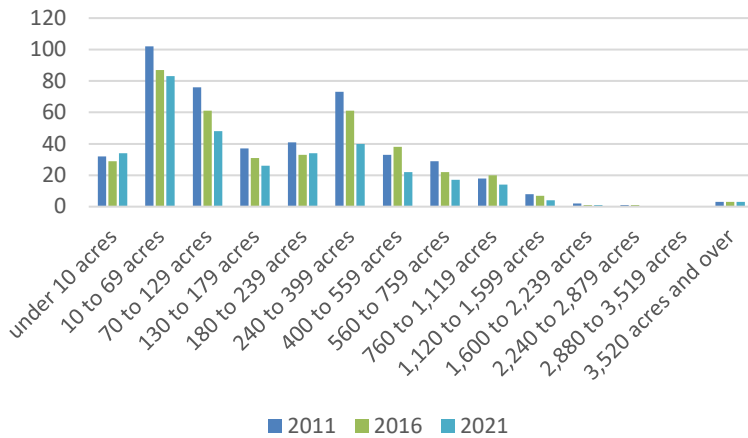


The number of full-time workers decreased 17% between 2016-2021.

The number of seasonal or temporary workers decreased by 29% between 2016-2021.

While the number of part-time workers increased by 35%, the number of paid family members decreased by 32% between 2016-2021.

## Farms by size - Acres

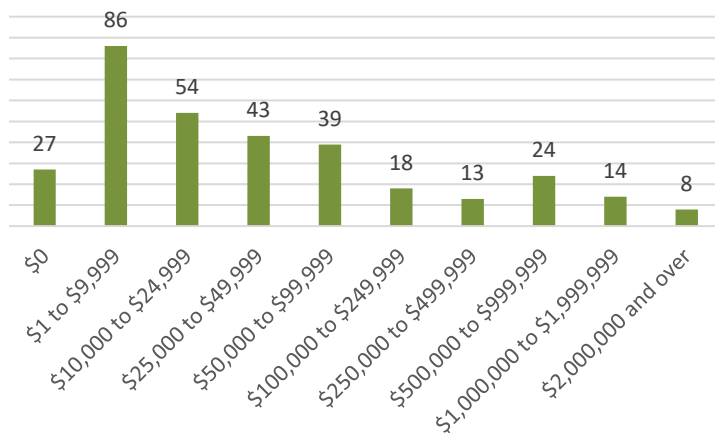


The most significant shift was in the number of farms sized 240-399 acres from 61 to 40.

Other notable changes include a reduction of 16 farms sized 400-559 acres and 13 fewer farms sized 70-129 acres.

The most significant increase was in the number of farms sized under 10 acres, from 29- farms.

## Farms by revenue - 2021



The largest concentration of farms by a revenue category was 86 farms in the \$1 to \$9,999, accounting for 26% of the total share of farms.

There were 22 farms earning revenues over \$1,000,000.

23% of farms were earning revenues above \$100,000.

	2011	2016	2021	% Change since 2016	Provincial Share (%)
Total number of Farms	455	394	326	-17%	12%
Cattle ranching and farming	98	83	97	17%	13%
Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots	48	42	62	48%	12%
Dairy cattle and milk production	50	41	35	-15%	17%
Hog and pig farming	4	2	2	0%	20%
Poultry and egg production	4	7	6	-14%	4%
Chicken egg production	3	3	5	67%	11%
Broiler and other meat-type chicken production	1	0	1		1%
Turkey production	0	0	0		0%
Poultry hatcheries	0	1	0	-100%	0%
Combination poultry and egg production	0	2	0	-100%	0%
All other poultry production	0	1	0	-100%	0%

	2011	2016	2021	% Change since 2016	Provincial Share (%)
Sheep and goat farming	16	9	9	0%	13%
Sheep farming	13	8	9	13%	15%
Goat farming	3	1	0	-100%	0%
Other animal production	49	47	41	-13%	15%
Apiculture	10	11	16	45%	25%
Horse and other equine production	22	18	10	-44%	14%
Fur-bearing animal and rabbit production	2	0	1		4%
Animal combination farming	14	18	14	-22%	13%
All other miscellaneous animal production	1	0	0		0%
Oilseed and grain farming	6	13	8	-38%	15%
Soybean farming	2	1	1	0%	7%
Oilseed (except soybean) farming	0	0	0		0%
Wheat farming	0	1	0	-100%	0%
Corn farming	0	9	2	-78%	17%
Other grain farming	4	2	5	150%	23%
Vegetable and melon farming	4	9	4	-56%	3%
Potato farming	0	0	0		0%
Other vegetable (except potato) and melon farming	4	9	4	-56%	3%
Fruit and tree nut farming	163	136	82	-40%	13%
Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production	37	27	23	-15%	7%
Mushroom production	1	1	1	0%	20%
Other food crops grown under cover	5	8	5	-38%	9%
Nursery and tree production	19	12	17	42%	7%
Floriculture production	12	6	0	-100%	0%
Other crop farming	74	61	54	-11%	15%
Hay farming	59	41	33	-20%	14%
Fruit and vegetable combination farming	2	3	2	-33%	12%
Maple syrup and products production	5	7	7	0%	18%
All other miscellaneous crop farming	8	10	12	20%	16%