

Workforce Focus

From the Niagara Training & Adjustment Board
 ...Niagara's Workforce Development Board

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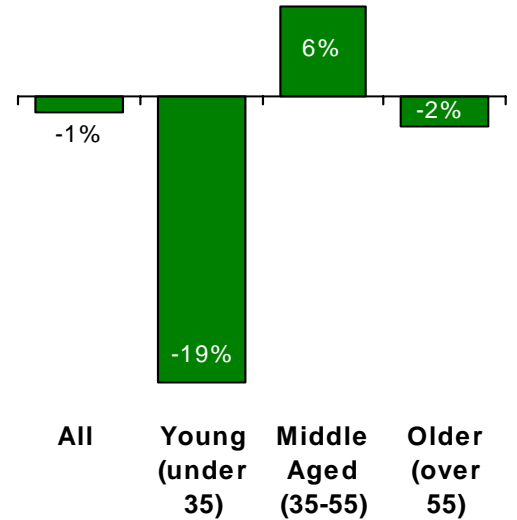
Reasons for a declining number of farmers:

- Farms consolidating and mechanizing.
- Strong demand in other industries where farmers can apply their skills.
- Fewer spouses combining their farming efforts.
- Lack of farm profit growth while operating expenses continue to rise.
- Farmers operating their farm as a second job.

Source: Bowlby, Statistics Canada, 2002.

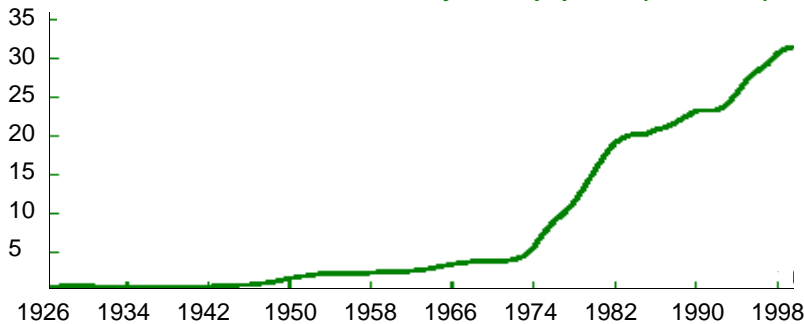
Young farmers dropping fastest

Farming employment change by age group
 1996-2001 South Western Ontario



Source: 2001 Census Data, Statistics Canada

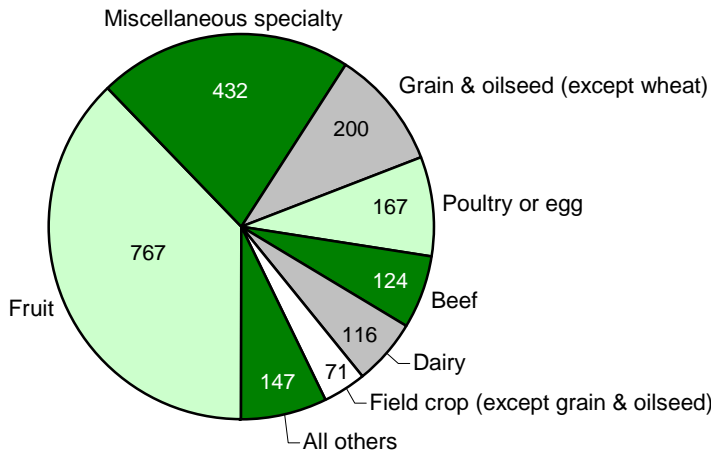
Value of Canadian farm machinery and equipment (\$ '000,000)



Farmers mechanized in the years leading up to accelerated drops in main-job farm employment.
 Source: Bowlby, Statistics Canada, 2002.

Agriculture Composition

Farms by type, Niagara 2001



Computers on the farm

Use on the rise

The share of farms using a computer to help manage the farm has doubled every five years since 1991, now standing at almost 40%.

Most common users

Farm operations where a computer is used in its management tend to be larger farms, have younger operators who are female, their operators work off the farm, are part tenant/part owner operators and produce certified organic products.

Computer applications used on farms

- Accounting (31% of farms)
- Internet (28%)
- Word processing (25%)
- E-mail (25%)
- Livestock and/or record keeping (16%)

Source: Sabuhoro and Wunsch, Statistics Canada, 2003.

Growth at the top

In terms of farm numbers, only farms with receipts of over \$250,000 were more numerous in 2001 than in 1996. However, these accounted for only 14% of all Canadian farms.

Source: Farming Facts, Statistics Canada, 2003.

Lagging incomes

Farmers' average total income from all sources is between 60% and 80% of that of all tax-filers.

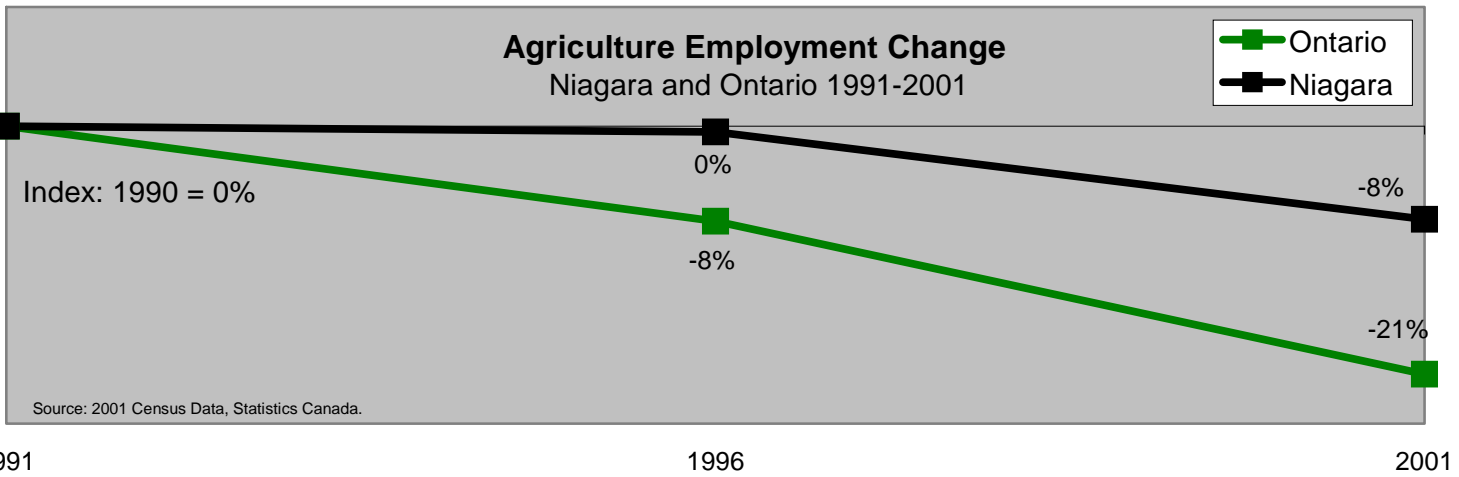
Source: Farming Facts, Statistics Canada, 2003.



For more information contact the Niagara Training and Adjustment Board at:
 1 St. Paul Street, Suite 605, St Catharines ON L2R 7L2 Canada (905) 641-0801 ntab@ntab.org

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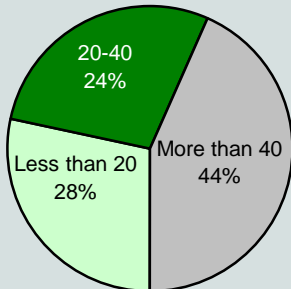
Created by : Dane Rice



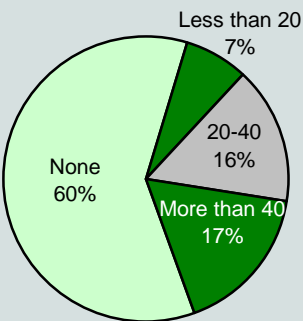
Local agriculture employment has declined but at a rate slower than that of the provincial average.

On and off farm hours Niagara, 2001

On Farm:
Local farmers by hours spent farming per week.



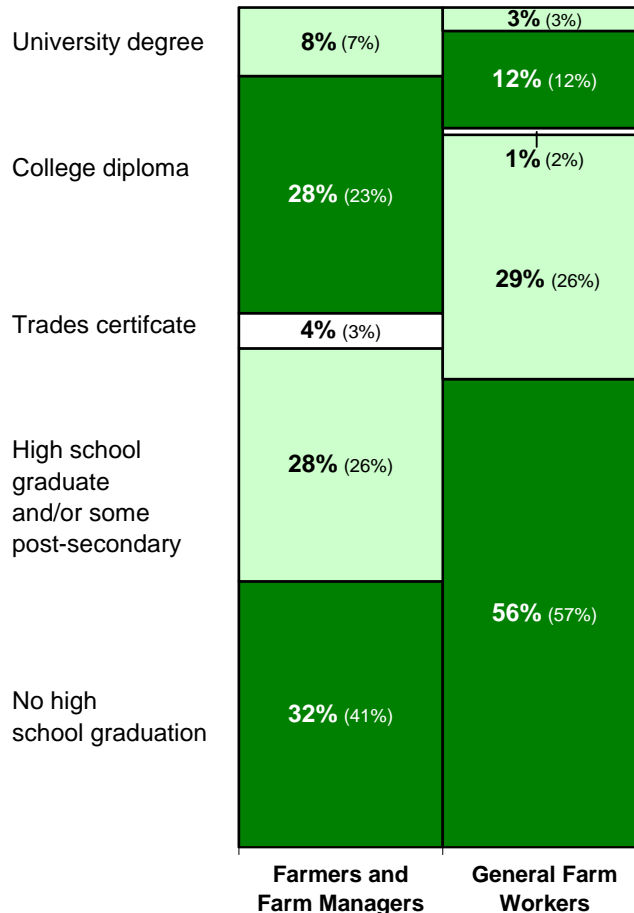
Off Farm:
Local farmers by hours spent working outside of agriculture per week.



Source: 2001 Census of Agriculture, Statistics Canada.

Agricultural Educational Attainments

Niagara 2001
(Ontario figure in brackets)

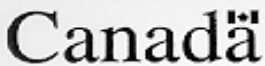


Source: 2001 Census Data, Statistics Canada.

Organics

- Rising demand**
 Supermarkets are setting aside larger portions of their produce sections for organics and natural food stores are rapidly expanding, despite a very small Canadian organic industry.
- Good returns**
 Organic yields are generally inferior to those grown with mainstream production methods, yet consumer demand provides a price premium. The result is a larger gross return on about half the organically grown crops in Canada.
- Computer use**
 As high standards for land management, environment sustainability and food quality are required to be a certified organic producer, these farmers are often more likely to adopt the use of a computer.

Source: Sabuhoro and Wunsch, Statistics Canada, 2003.



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