

Growing Municipal Capacity to Promote and Support Agriculture in the Niagara Region

**“A thriving
agriculture industry
depends on
knowledge and
support provided by
municipal
governments”**



Enhancing Municipal Capacity to Support Agriculture in the Greenbelt



Possibility grows here.

Dr. Wayne J. Caldwell, Elise Geschiere,
Emily Sousa and Regan Zink

Greenbelt Foundation Occasional Papers
March 2021

Project Objectives

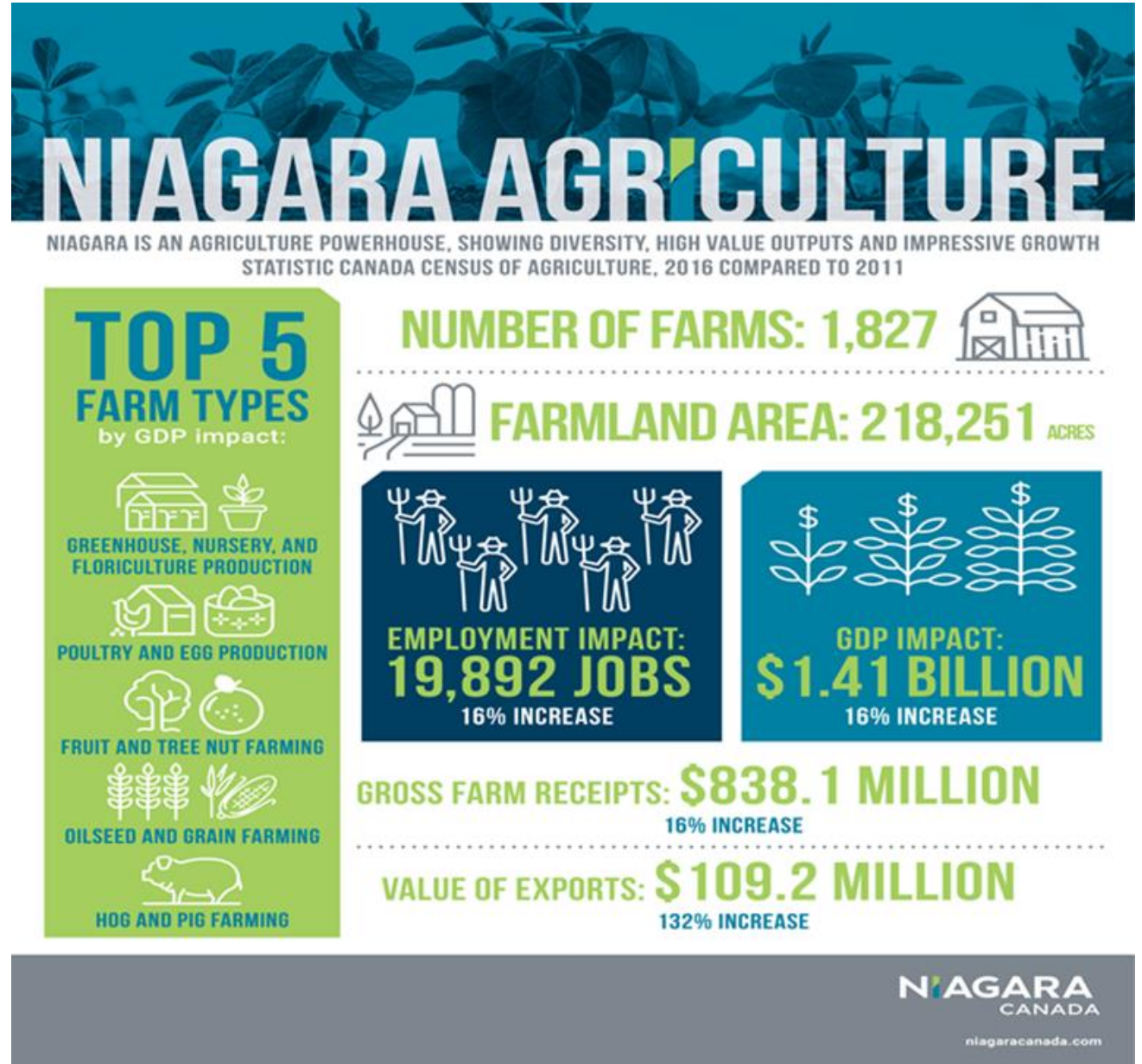


- **share information, research, resources, tools to...**
- **enhance capacity to support growth and competitiveness of Niagara's agriculture industry**

4.2% total farms in Ontario

5.5% gross provincial farm receipts

Highly diversified



Agriculture is different...



Industrial sector: local & global markets

- Produce food, feed, fibre, fuel
- Drive economy
- External forces

Public Good: social-ecological system

- Climate change mitigation
- Environmental sustainability
- Social/cultural identity
- Food security

Challenges for Supporting Niagara Agriculture

With less than 1 full-time staff dedicated to agriculture issues, there is limited capacity for:

- **using information and resources**
- **responding to agriculture issues**
- **building relationships**
- **capitalizing on new opportunities**
- **making evidence-based decisions**

Growing Capacity to Support Niagara Agriculture

**Improving access to and sharing
knowledge and resources:**

- **Niagara Agriculture Municipal Learning Network**
- **Briefing Notes**
- **Research Summaries**
- **Farm Tours**

Niagara Agriculture Municipal Learning Network

- Portal for curating
- Platform for accessing
- Forum for exchanging
- Opportunity for learning

Briefing Notes



- Focus on priorities for Niagara agriculture
- Build awareness and understanding
- Support evidence-based policy, planning, programming
- 5 Briefing Notes: July 2022 – January 2023
- Resources & content
- Optional online Discussion Session

Research Summaries

- **Profile Brock agri-food research**
- **Establish collaborations to support municipal priorities**
- **3 Research Summaries: July 2022 – January 2023**
- **Optional online Discussion Session with Researchers**

Farm Tours



- Engage with local farmers
- Experience diversity of Niagara agriculture
- See first-hand realities of farming
- 2 Farm Tours: September 8 & 28
- Registration through Eventbrite

Benefits

- **Access latest knowledge & research on key agriculture issue & priorities**
- **Grow capacity for evidence-based policy, programming and planning**
- **Discover new ways for supporting Niagara agriculture**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands wearing bright yellow rubber gloves, carefully holding a small green seedling with dark soil. The background is blurred, showing more of the person and some foliage.

NAMLN Website

**[brocku.ca/niagara-
community-
observatory/namln/](https://brocku.ca/niagara-community-observatory/namln/)**