

NOVA SCOTIA

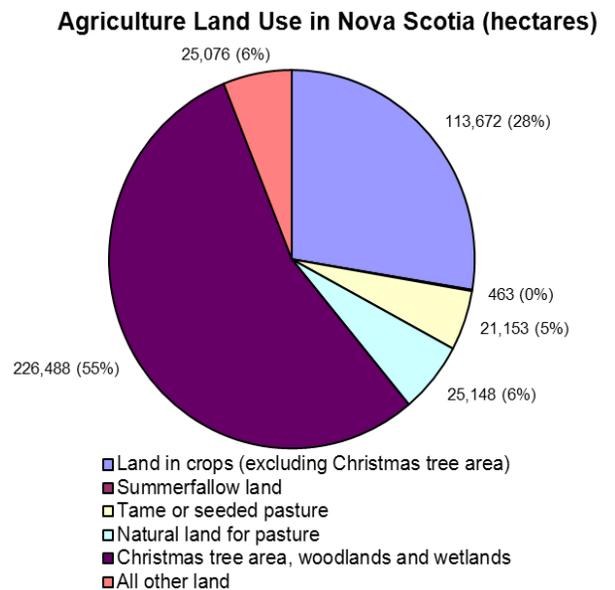
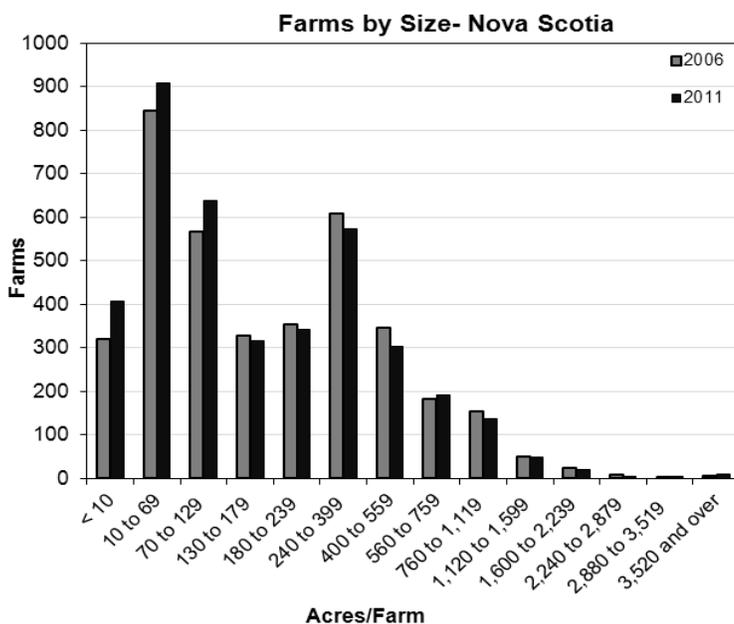


CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE PROFILE | 2011

As of the 2011 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, Nova Scotia was home to 1.9 percent of all farms in Canada, up slightly from 1.7 percent in 2006. In 2011, the leading agriculture sector in terms of number of farms was fruit farming. The province produced \$594.9 million in gross farm receipts (excluding forest products), accounting for 1.2 percent of all gross farm receipts in Canada, making Nova Scotia the 7th largest province (of 10) in terms of value of agricultural production, consistent with its rank in 2006.

	2006	2011	% change	Canada 2011	NS/CANADA
Number of farms	3,795	3,905	+ 2.9 %	205,730	1.9 %
Total farm area (hectares)	403,044	412,000	+ 2.2 %	64,812,723	0.6 %
Average size of farm (hectares)	106.2	105.5	- 0.7 %	315.0	33.5 %
Gross farm receipts*	\$509,520,691	\$594,903,481	+ 16.8 %	\$51,061,935,759	1.2 %
Average per farm	\$134,261	\$152,344	+ 13.5 %	\$248,199	61.4 %

* excludes forest products. Data listed in census are from 1 year previous (e.g. GFR data in the 2011 census are actually from 2010)



Farms classified by industry (N. American Industry Classification System), census year 2011

Sector	Farms	Change 06 to 11	% of Canada
Total farms	3,905	+ 110	2 %
Fruit & tree-nut farming	971	+ 64	12 %
Hay farming	485	+ 206	2 %
Beef cattle ranching & farming, inc feedlots	441	- 275	1 %
Nursery and tree production	428	+ 6	9 %
Dairy cattle and milk production	257	- 40	2 %
Horse and other equine production	199	+ 15	1 %
Livestock combination farming	172	+ 16	2 %
Fur-bearing animal and rabbit production	128	+ 33	33 %
Other veg (exc potatoes) & melon farming	127	+ 2	4 %
All other miscellaneous crop farming	110	n/a new category	2 %
Sheep farming	80	+ 26	3 %
Broiler and other meat-type chicken production	77	+ 10	4 %
Floriculture production	75	- 22	3 %
Chicken egg production	57	+ 8	3 %
Other food crops grown under cover	43	+ 12	5 %
Maple syrup and products production	36	n/a new category	1 %
Apiculture	35	+ 10	2 %
Fruit and vegetable combination farming	34	+9	5 %
Goat farming	24	+ 2	2 %
Hog and pig farming	21	- 30	1 %
Other grain farming	21	+ 6	0 %
All other miscellaneous animal production	16	- 3	1 %
Corn farming	13	+ 7	0 %
Potato farming	13	- 4	1%
Soybean farming	12	+ 12	0 %
Turkey production	9	+ 1	3 %
Combination poultry and egg production	8	+ 2	5 %
Mushroom production	4	+ 1	3 %
Wheat farming	4	+ 1	0 %
Other poultry production	3	+ 2	2 %
Poultry hatcheries	2	0	4 %

Farms classified by gross farm receipts	# farms (%)
Under \$10,000	1,643 (42%)
\$10,000 to \$24,999	799 (21%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	418 (11%)
\$50,000 to \$99,999	273 (7%)
\$100,000 to \$249,999	277 (7%)
\$250,000 to \$499,999	199 (5%)
\$500,000 to \$999,999	154 (4%)
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	92 (2%)
\$2,000,000 +	50 (1%)

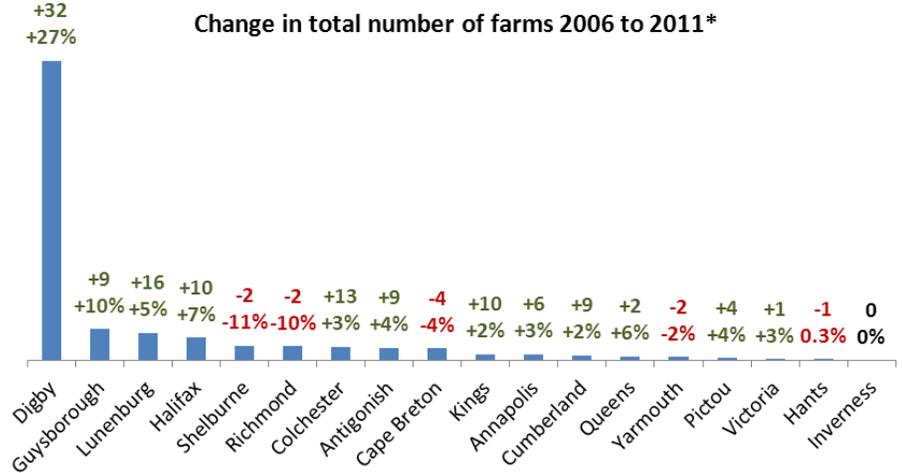
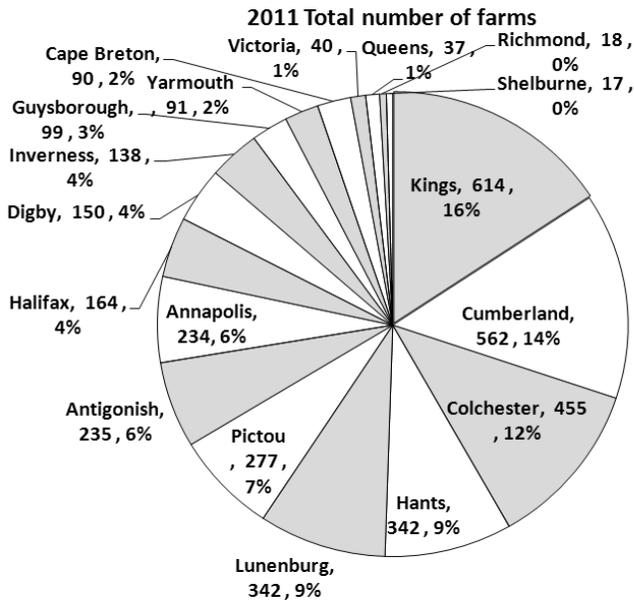
Operator characteristics*		
Total number of operators (change from 06)	5,225	(+125)
Total male operators (change from 06)	3,865	(+30)
Total female operators (change from 06)	1,335	(+80)
Average age of principle operator (change from 06)	55.4	(+2.2)

* Operator numbers rounded to base 5 (5 or 0)

Farms and farm operators

Number of farms

Kings continues to have the most farms in the province. Four counties (Kings, Cumberland, Colchester and Hants) account for over half of the farms in Nova Scotia. Between 2006 and 2011, Digby County exhibited the most significant changeⁱ in farm numbers, increasing by 32 farms (27 percent). The increase in Digby was mostly due to fur farming (mink production)



*Chart displays significance of change in variable ranked by magnitude of change score (see end notes)

Farm by industry group

As in 2006, fruit farming is the industry group that has the largest number of farms. The top five industry groups by number of farms in 2011 is the same as in the previous Census, however, hay farming now has the second most farms (up from fifth), beef farms have fallen to third (from second), nursery and tree production has fallen to fourth (from third) and dairy farming has fallen to fifth (from fourth).

As shown in the following table, Kings leads in terms of number of farms in 17 out of 31 industry groups. Hants and Colchester both lead in more than 5 industry groups.

Leading counties by industry group- 2011	
County	Industry group(s)
Kings	1. Beef, 2. Chicken/poultry, 3. Eggs, 4. Combination poultry and egg production, 5. Corn, 6. Fruit & vegetable combination farming, 7. Goats, 8. Hogs, 9. Mushrooms (T)*, 10. Other grains, 11. Other poultry (T), 12. Other vegetables/melons (exc potato), 13. Potatoes, 14. Poultry hatcheries (T), 15. Soybeans, 16. Turkeys, 17. Wheat.
Hants	1. Dairy (T), 2. Hay, 3. Horse/equine, 4. Livestock combination farming (T), 5. Other food crops grown under cover, 6. Poultry hatcheries (T).
Colchester	1. Apiculture, 2. Dairy (T), 3. Floriculture, 4. Mushrooms (T), 5. Sheep (T).
Cumberland	1. Miscellaneous animal production (T), 2. Miscellaneous crop farming, 3. Fruit farming, 4. Maple.
Pictou	1. Livestock combination farming (T), 2. Other poultry (T), 3. Sheep (T).
Lunenburg	1. Nursery and tree production, 2. Mushrooms (T).
Digby	1. Fur farming, 2. Other poultry (T).
Cape Breton	1. Mushrooms (T)
Notes: * T= tied with another county	

The following table shows the largest industry group (in terms of number of farms) by county. Fruit farming is the main agricultural industry in eight counties (and in the province as a whole). Hay farming is the main

industry group in five counties, followed by nursery/tree production (three counties), and beef and fur farming (one county each). In 2006, beef farms were the main farming type in eight counties, followed by fruit farming (five counties), nursery/tree production (three counties) and fur farming (one county). Fruit farming and nursery/tree production shared top spot in one additional county in 2006.

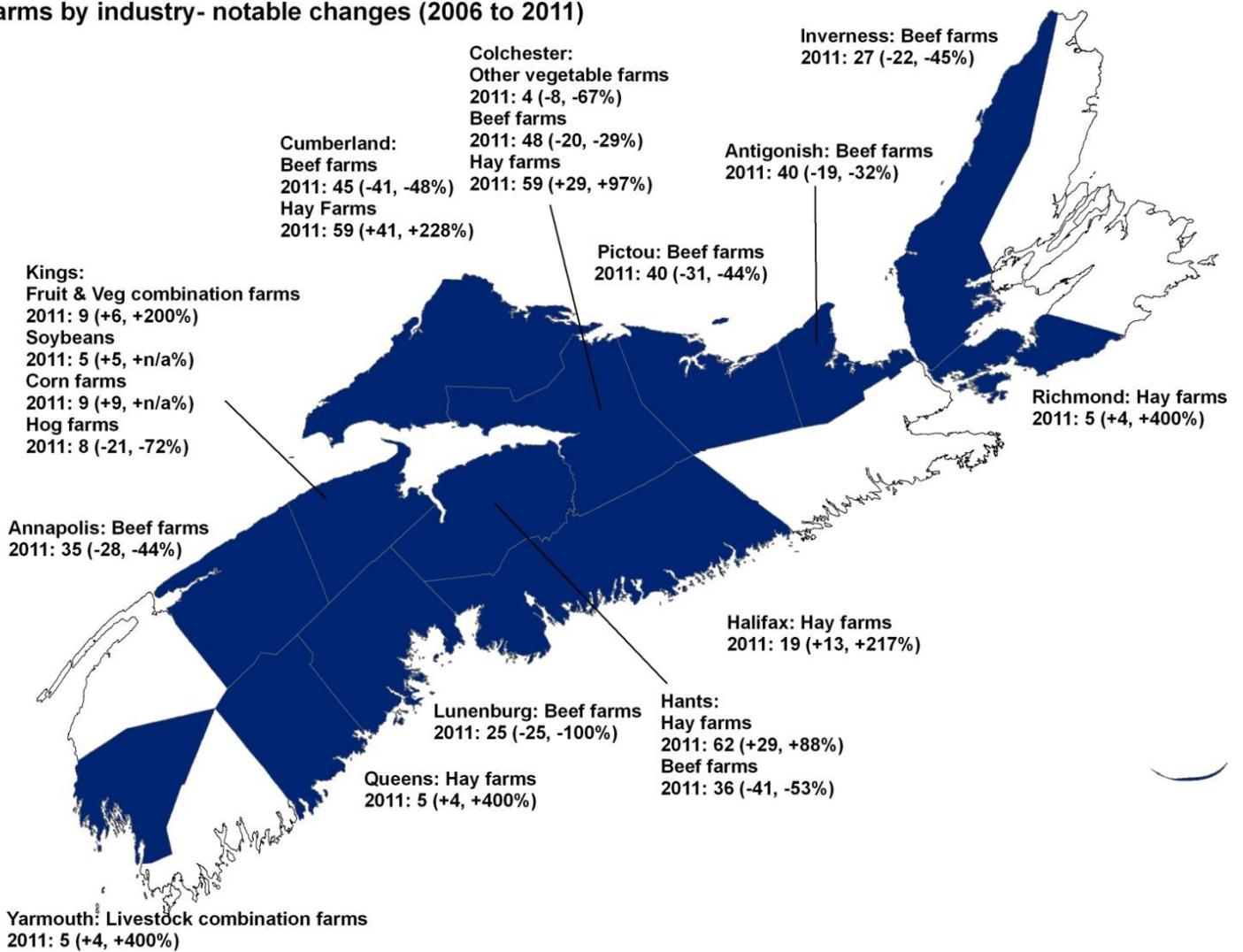
Largest industry group (by number of farms) by county- 2011	
County	Industry group(s)
Kings	Fruit farming
Cumberland	Fruit farming
Colchester	Fruit farming
Hants	Hay farming
Lunenburg	Nursery and tree production
Pictou	Fruit farming
Antigonish	Fruit farming
Annapolis	Hay farming
Halifax	Fruit farming
Digby	Fur production
Inverness	Beef farming and feedlots
Guysborough	Nursery and tree production
Yarmouth	Fruit farming
Cape Breton	Hay farming
Victoria	Hay farming
Queens	Nursery and tree production
Richmond	Hay farming
Shelburne	Fruit farming

The most significant change in farms by industry group was in hay farming (+206, +74%). The industry listed for a farm is that which generates the largest revenues for that farm. It is likely that the decline in farms with beef as the largest revenue generator (-275, -38%) played an important role in the increase in farms classified as hay farms as the latter became a relatively more important part of these farms.

Corn farming also exhibited significant change between census years, mostly due to an increase in these farms in Kings from 0 to 9. High global grain prices between 2006 and 2011 likely played an important role in this increase.

Hog production declined significantly between 2006 and 2011. As a whole, farms reporting hogs as the main source of revenue declined by 30 (-59%). Seven counties saw declines in hog farms while two (Inverness and Pictou) increased from no hogs farms to one.

Farms by industry- notable changes (2006 to 2011)

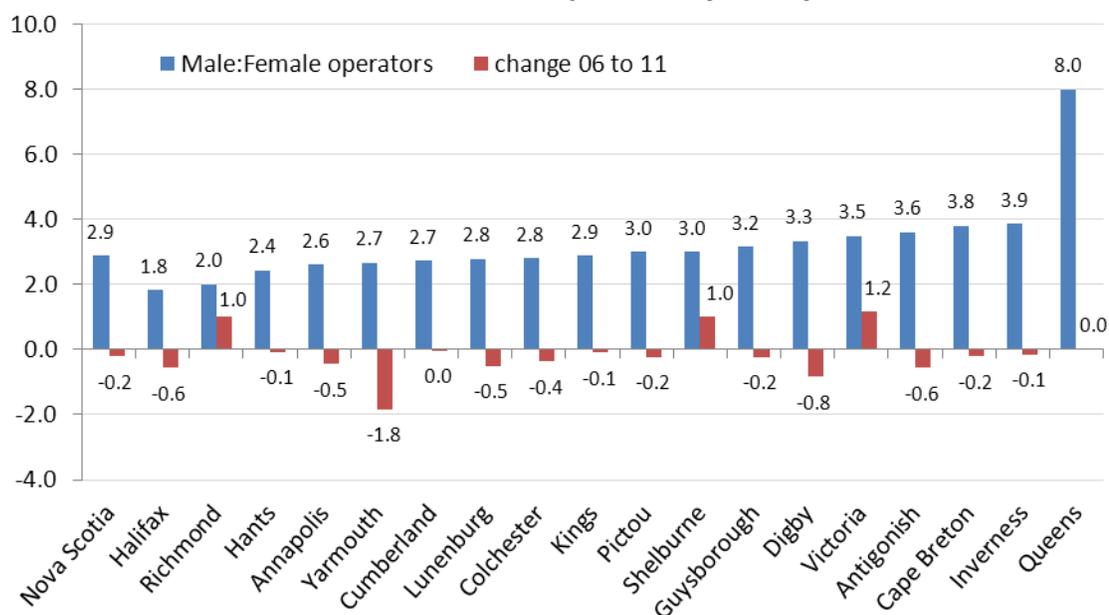


Farm operators-gender

As of the 2011 census, Nova Scotia reported a ratio of 2.9 male operators to female operators, down 0.2 from 2006. In most counties, women are increasing their share of farm operators with 13 of 18 counties reporting declines in the male to female ratio. Yarmouth had the largest increase in female operators as a share of total farm operators, followed by Digby. Richmond, Shelburne and Victoria had increases in the male to female farm operator ratio.

Halifax County reported the highest share of female farm operators in 2011, up from fourth in 2006 when Richmond had the lowest ratio. Queens has the highest ratio of male to female operators at eight, consistent with 2006.

Ratio of male to female operators by county- 2011

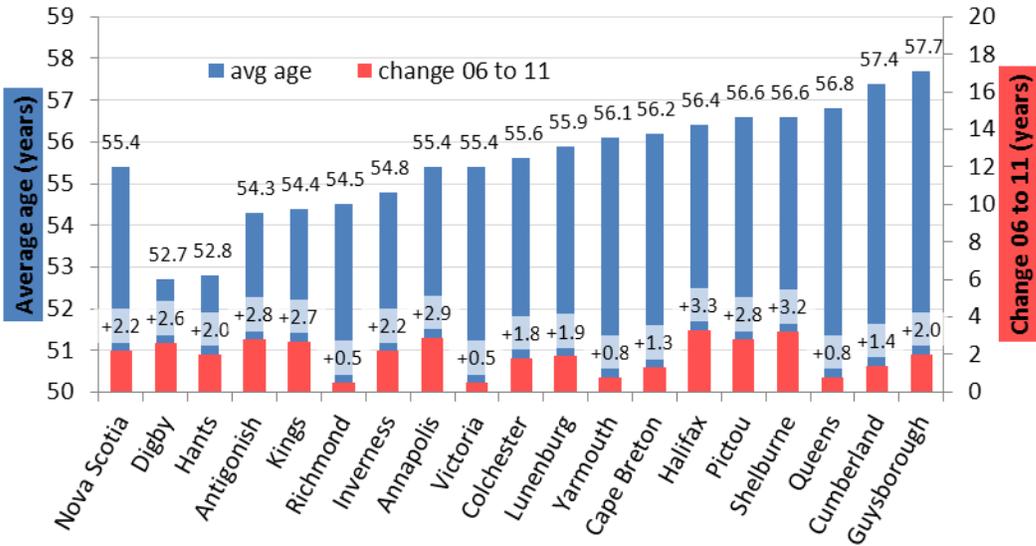


Farm operators-age

The average reported age of farm operators in Nova Scotia was 55.4 in 2011, up 2.2 years from 2006. The youngest farmers are in Digby County (a main site of the rapidly growing mink sector) with an average age of 52.7 while Guysborough has the highest average age of 57.7. Digby also had the lowest average age in 2006 while Queens had the highest.

Halifax exhibited the largest increase in average farmer age (+3.3). No counties reported a decrease in average age between census years. Richmond and Victoria had the smallest increase at ½ year each.

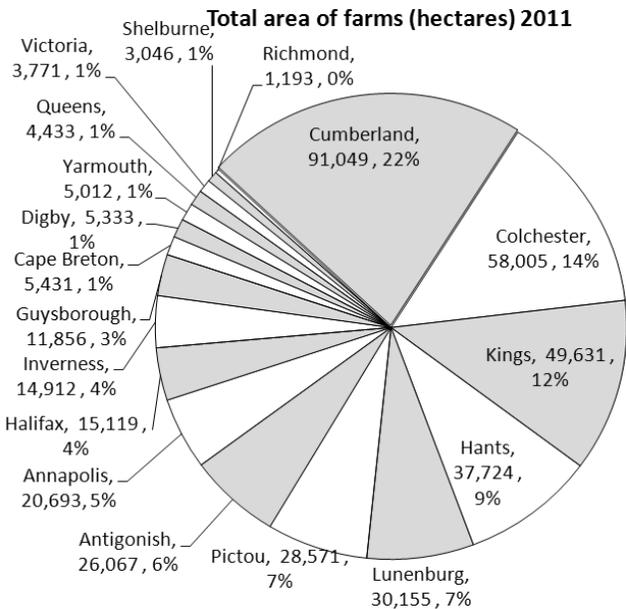
Age of farm operators by county- 2011



Land use

Total farm area

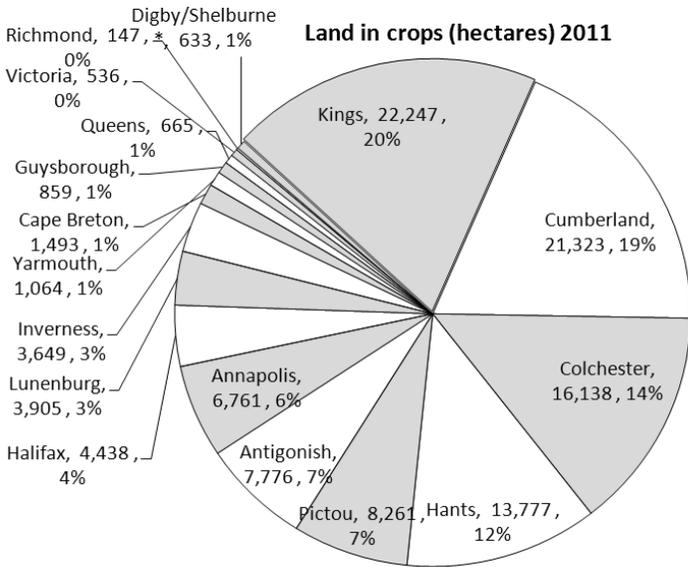
Cumberland County continued to have the largest total farm area in the province in 2011. The eight largest counties by this measure are the same as in 2006 and account for 83 percent of total farm area. Shelburne increased its total farm area per farm by 72 percent and is now has the largest farms by this measure. Victoria County had the largest decrease (-48%) between 2006 and 2011. Digby continues to have the smallest farms by total farm area, not surprising due to its concentration of mink farms which require a relatively small land base.



Total farm area per farm by county – 2011		
County	Average total farm area (ha)	Change from 2006 (%)
Shelburne	179.2	+75.1 (+72.2%)
Cumberland	162.0	+30.0 (+22.7%)
Colchester	127.0	+13.0 (+11.4%)
Queens	119.8	-31.2 (-20.7)
Guysborough	119.8	-6.0 (-4.8%)
Antigonish	110.9	-17.5 (-13.6%)
Hants	110.3	+3.7 (+3.5%)
Inverness	108.1	-22.2 (-17.0%)
Pictou	103.1	-6.8 (-6.1%)
Victoria	94.3	-87.2 (-48.0%)
Halifax	92.2	-0.5 (-0.6%)
Annapolis	88.0	-39.0 (-30.4%)
Lunenburg	88.2	-4.6 (-4.9%)
Kings	80.8	+0.4 (+0.4%)
Richmond	66.3	+9.7 (+17.2%)
Cape Breton	60.3	-4.7 (-7.2%)
Yarmouth	55.1	-9.0 (-14.0%)
Digby	35.6	-7.1 (-16.7%)



The average crop area per farm in Nova Scotia is 29.1 hectares, down from 30.7 hectares in 2006. All counties except Kings, Halifax and Richmond reported decreases in average crop areas. The largest average crop area was reported in Hants County at 40.3 hectares. The most significant changes in average crop area were in Queens (-9.1 ha, -34%), Guysborough (-5.9 ha, -41%) and Richmond (+2.5 ha, +45%).



* Estimated. Digby and Shelburne crop area suppressed to ensure confidentiality

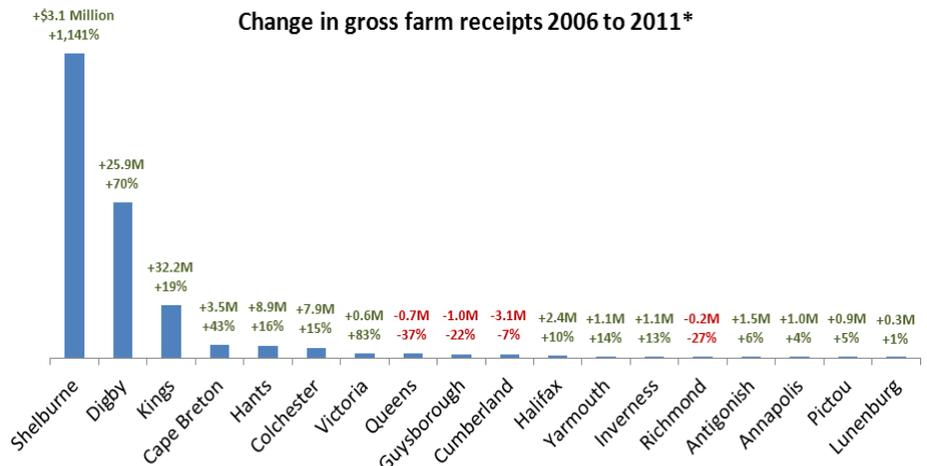
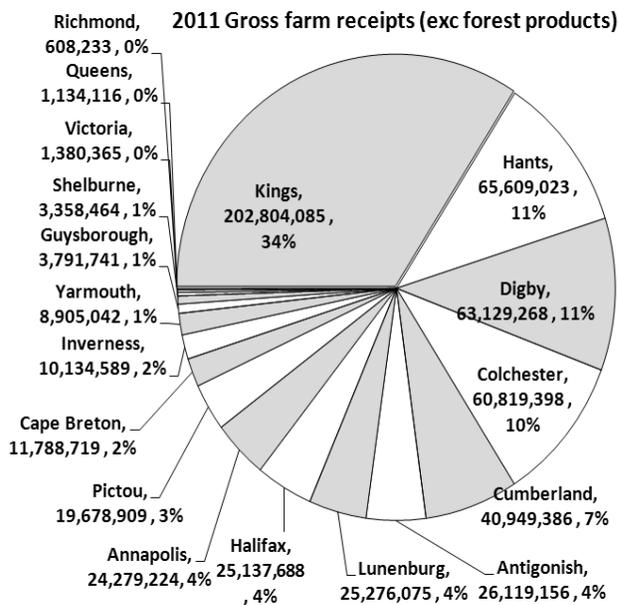
Land in crops per farm by county – 2011		
County	Average crop area (ha)	Change from 2006 (%)
Hants	40.3	-0.9 (-2.3%)
Cumberland	37.9	0 (0%)
Kings	36.2	+0.7 (+2.1%)
Colchester	35.5	-2.0 (-5.3%)
Antigonish	33.1	-2.6 (-7.2%)
Pictou	29.8	-3.4 (-10.1%)
Annapolis	28.9	-4.3 (-12.9%)
Halifax	27.1	+0.8 (+3.2%)
Inverness	26.4	-4.0 (-13.1%)
Queens	18.0	-9.1 (-33.6%)
Cape Breton	16.6	-3.2 (-16.1%)
Victoria	13.4	-4.5 (-25.0%)
Yarmouth	11.7	-1.4 (-10.9%)
Lunenburg	11.4	-0.1 (-1.1%)
Guysborough	8.7	-5.9 (-40.7%)
Richmond	8.2	+2.5 (+44.5%)
Digby/Shelburne	3.8	-1.1 (-22.4%)

Farm financial statistics

Gross farm receipts (excluding forest products)

Kings accounts for over one-third of provincial gross farm receipts (GFR). The top six counties: Kings, Hants, Digby, Colchester, Cumberland and Antigonish combine to over three-quarters of GFR.

Shelburne had the most significant change in GFR between 2006 and 2011, increasing by \$3.1 million and 1,141 percent. Digby, with its growing mink industry had the second most significant increase at \$25.9 million and 70 percent. All counties except for Queens, Guysborough, Cumberland and Richmond saw increases in GFR between 2006 and 2011.



* Chart displays significance of change in variable ranked by magnitude of change score (see end notes)

ⁱ Significance of change is measured by the following “change score”. Absolute change (‘06 to ‘11) x percentage change (‘06 to ‘11). Where the change in the variable is negative, the change score is multiplied by two (to address the fact that % change is limitless on increases while limited to 100% for a decrease).