

THINK AGRI-BUSINESS THINK DURHAM



Table of Contents



Meet Durham Region

3

Ready for Business

8

The Ideal Location

10

Post-Secondary Focus

11

Resources

14

Let's Connect

16



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Meet **Durham Region**

An Ideal Home for Agri-Businesses

Durham Region is located on the eastern edge of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and is a leading agricultural producer, contributing \$321.7 million to Ontario's total farm production*. It is one of the fastest-growing regions in North America; a strong sign of its competitive business costs and outstanding quality of life.

With a thriving agri-business sector, highly skilled workforce, premium quality of living, affordable urban and rural real estate, and abundance of agricultural land, Durham Region is a superior location for investment, relocation or expansion of agri-businesses.

Opportunities to support production— including processing, manufacturing, packaging and distribution—are readily available.

* Source: 2016 Census data



Population

2017
682,250
residents

2031
Projected to be
one million
residents

Cutting-edge leadership

Durham Region's agri-business industry prides itself on embracing technology and innovation, with some of the most progressive and skilled managers and owners in the industry.

Food processing

Food processing continues to expand in Durham due to its proximity to markets; safe, high-quality food inputs; and complementary industry clusters.

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is home to a major food processing industry that benefits Durham Region's agri-businesses, by providing a strong market, supplier network, supportive business community, skilled workforce, and central location.

Food and beverage packaging

Durham Region is home to innovative global companies that provide specialized packaging to the food industry. From metal beverage containers and paper products, to food wraps and films, a variety of packaging solutions are readily available. Opportunities for biodegradables, new materials, glass, and plastics are being explored.

Innovation

Durham Region's agriculture industry has diversified products to tap both local and global markets and invested in technology to maximize efficiency, productivity and quality. Farmers have expanded from traditional commodity crops to new crops to meet the growing demand of an ethnically diverse population.



Algoma Orchards

Kirk Kemp, President

"Durham is an excellent place for us to do business because we're right on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This makes a great area to grow apples, plus it's not very far for us to deliver to our customers who only live an hour away.

Durham region is an excellent place for businesses to relocate. There's a great talent pool of people here who could work in their facilities; it's a lovely place to raise a family; and we're very close to your potential customers.

I recommend to anybody to come to this area because of all the great attributes we have."



Agricultural Profile

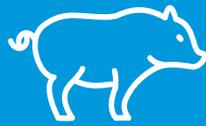
More than 118,497 hectares (292,813 acres) of rich agricultural land are in the region, making Durham a key player in agriculture commodities.

Type of Farm	Number of Farms
Oilseed and grain farming	278
Other animal production	280
Cattle ranching and farming	264
Other crop farming	211
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	101
Vegetable and melon farming	59
Poultry and egg production	48
Fruit and tree nut farming	43
Sheep and goat farming	39
Total number of farms	1,323

Farms by Type



Cattle: **20%**



Other Animals: **21%**



Oilseed and Grain: **21%**



Other Crop Farming: **16%**



Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture: **8%**



Poultry and Egg: **4%**



Vegetable and melon: **4%**



Sheep and Goat: **3%**



Fruit and Tree Nut: **3%**

Agri-business Companies in Durham Region

Approximately 9,000 employees work for agri-business companies in Durham Region. Leading companies that have attracted and nurtured professional agri-business talent in the region include:

Food and Beverage Processing

[Algoma Orchards](#)

[Archibald Orchards & Estate Winery](#)

[Brock Street Brewing Company](#)

[Brooks Farms](#)

[Carpe Diem Farm](#)

[Dare 2 Dream Farm](#)

[Derlea Brand Foods](#)

[Fresh Del Monte Produce](#)

[Great Canadian Meat Company](#)

[Geissberger Farmhouse Cider](#)

[Greenwood Mushroom Farm](#)

[Hela Spice Canada](#)

[Manantler Craft Brewing](#)

[Maple Leaf Consumer Foods](#)

[Nutty Chocolatier](#)

[Ocala Winery](#)

[Old Flame Brewing](#)

[Pefferlaw Creek Farms](#)

[Second Wedge Brewing](#)

[White Feather Country Store](#)

[Willowtree Farm](#)

[Williams Chocolate](#)

Grain Elevators

[Lockie Farms Grain Elevator](#)

[Reesor Elevators](#)

[Sunderland Co-op](#)

Logistics

[Atlas Logistics](#)

[Sobeys Inc. Distribution Centre](#)

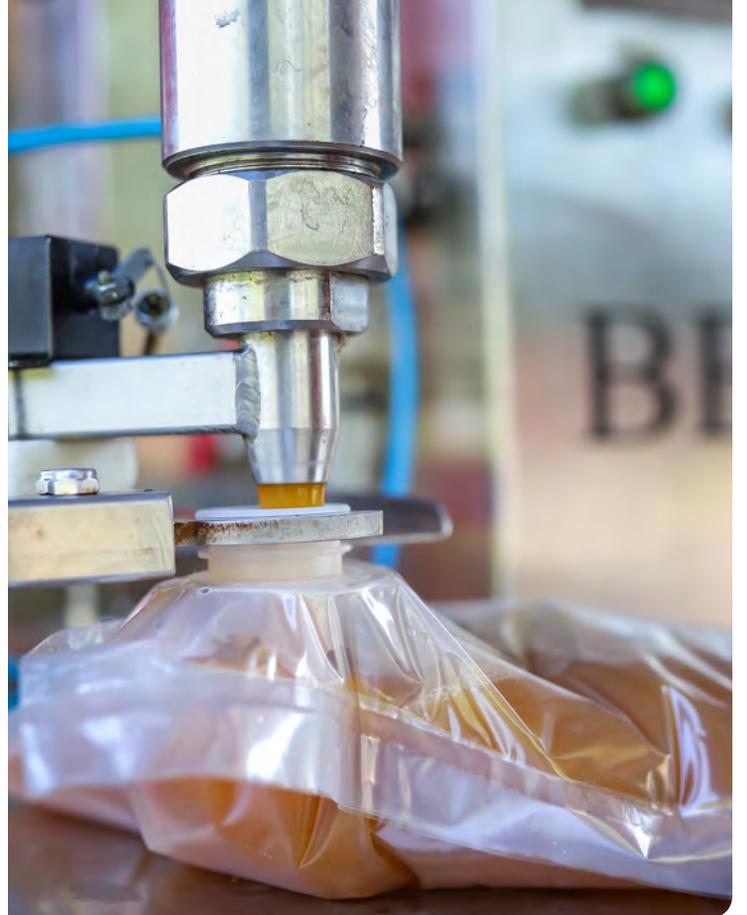
[Flanagan Foodservice](#)

Packaging

[Ball Packaging Products Canada](#)

[Exopack Performance Films](#)

[MeadWestvaco](#)



Ready **for Business**

→ The cities of Oshawa and Pickering; towns of Ajax and Whitby; Municipality of Clarington; and townships of Brock, Scugog, and Uxbridge are all poised for continued economic growth. Agri-businesses can benefit from a skilled workforce, numerous market opportunities, and mutually profitable relationships with existing businesses.

With approximately 682,250 residents in 2017, and a forecasted population of one million by 2031, Durham Region has one of the fastest growing populations in Canada. Through its close proximity to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)—with a population of more than five million—the region offers prime access to Canada’s largest market, its key service providers and 135 million American and Canadian customers within a day’s drive or two-hour flight.

In addition to agri-business, Durham’s diverse economy includes strengths in:

- Energy, environment, and engineering (EN3)
- Life sciences
- Innovative technology
- Manufacturing
- Professional and technical services
- Tourism

This sector diversification, educated workforce, affordable real estate and development, and extensive transportation system have created an economy that’s thriving and is ready for continued growth.

Hela Spice Canada

Paul Hoogenboom, President

Dr. Thomas Varga, Senior Vice President

“As the Greater Toronto Area is becoming more and more saturated, busy and congested, Durham Region provides a much welcomed ‘breath of fresh air.’ Easily accessible, and a beautiful country-side settings for doing business.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of this community for the last 19 years. Providing employment opportunities and business to local vendors and service providers is key to maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship between our company and the social environment in which we operate. One of our most exciting endeavours is focusing on the future of the workforce, via close co-operation with local schools, Durham College and Ontario Tech University (plant trips, co-op placements, keystone projects, summer placements, etc.).

In parallel with our rapidly growing business, we are looking forward to improvements and expansions in Durham Region’s services and amenities.”

Ready **for Business**

Publicly funded health care and the workers' compensation system—providing employers and employees with no-fault accident insurance—add to Durham Region's attractiveness as a prime location for industry and commerce. The competitive Employment Health Tax and labour costs in Canada are amongst the lowest in the G7 countries.

Durham's transportation infrastructure is made up of an integrated network of:

- Provincial and regional highways
- Cargo-loading and deep-sea shipping ports connected to the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence Seaway
- Transcontinental and commuter railway lines
- Local and international airports

With eight municipalities ranging from large, urban centres to small towns, hamlets, and villages, Durham offers a rare, sought-after mix of cosmopolitan and rural living. Access to ample green space, three lakes (Ontario, Scugog and Simcoe) and extensive urban amenities, Durham Region offers a high-quality standard of living for both city and rural dwellers.

Enniskillen Jerseys

Sharyn Sargent and Bruce Sargent

"Our proximity to highways 401 and 407 makes travel very easy for us to access meetings and our service providers. It also makes our farm accessible to customers and visitors from around the world.

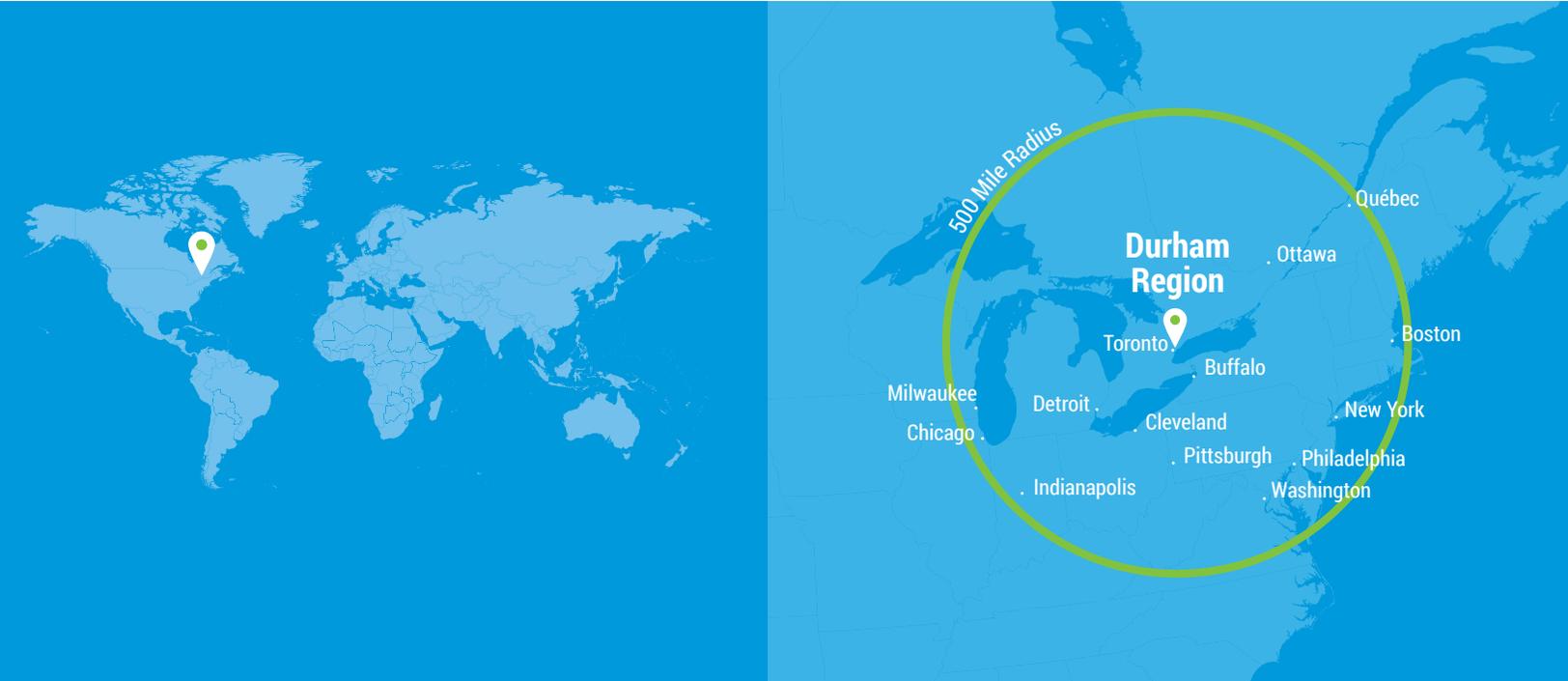
Being in the Durham Region portion of the Greenbelt, we have security and stability to grow our farm.

We have grown our herd and land base to sell our dairy genetics around the world.

We like that Durham Region is very supportive of the agricultural sector and aware that farmland is needed to feed cities. We would certainly recommend that businesses set up operations in Durham Region. There is a strong population of customers and access to any support business you would need, from skilled trades to office services."



The Ideal **Location**



Post-Secondary Focus

Ontario's publicly funded universities and colleges are among the best and most highly ranked in the world. Of the more than 400,000 students enrolled in 18 post-secondary institutions in the area, five are in Durham Region and all are within 84 miles (135 kilometres) of the region.

These institutions offer a wide array of programs focused on teaching agri-business science and skills, as well as business acumen. This prepares students to be leaders and efficient employees in agri-business and related industries such as culinary, hospitality, horticulture, and tourism.

For example, the W. Galen Weston Centre for Food (CFF) at Durham College follows the field-to-fork concept and is home to a suite of post-secondary programs focused on the culinary, hospitality, tourism, agriculture and horticulture sectors.



Post-Secondary Focus

Programs available in Durham Region include:

Ontario Tech University

- **Applied Bioscience** (M.Sc., PhD)
- **Biological Science** (B.Sc.)
- **Chemistry** (B.Sc.)
- **Manufacturing Engineering** (B.Eng.)
- **Mechanical Engineering** (B.Eng., M.ASc., M.Eng., PhD)

Durham College

- **Horticulture**, Food and Farming, Ontario college diploma
- **Horticulture Technician**, Ontario college diploma
- **Siebel Institute Brewing Certificate program**

Trent University

- **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems** (B.A., B.Sc.)
- **Water Sciences** (B.Sc.)

Centennial College

- **Nutrition and Food Services Management**, Ontario College Diploma
- **Food Service Worker**, one-semester certificate program

University of Guelph

- **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture** (B.Sc.(Agr.))
- **Bachelor of Bio-Research Management** (BBRM)
- **Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences** (B.Sc. (Env.))

Niagara College

- **Brewmaster and Brewery Operations Management**

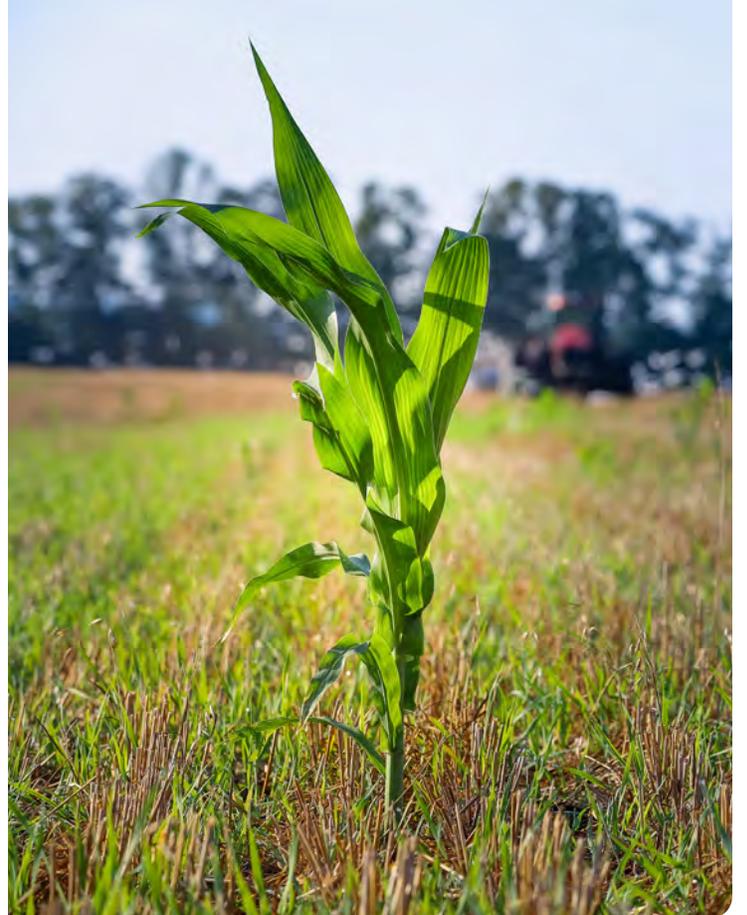
Fleming College

- **Sustainable Agriculture**, three-semester Ontario college graduate certificate

Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association

Tom Coleman, President

“Durham Region is home to some of the most talented and innovative farmers in Canada. Many of the farms have been family owned and operated for generations. Farming is truly in the blood of Durham Region, and we are proud to represent such a dynamic group of farmers.”



Many **Resources Available**

Agri-businesses expanding or locating in Durham can collaborate with local organizations committed to helping businesses achieve growth and strategic development.



Spark Centre provides advisory services to early stage or growing innovation and technology companies. Executive coaching, functional advisory, co-location, incubation and day-to-day operational support are just a few of the services available.

Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD)

provides business advisory services and guidance to individuals, entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing businesses in Durham Region.



Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) drives the development of Ontario's economy by helping create new jobs, products, services, technologies and businesses. In partnership with industry, OCE co-invests to commercialize innovation.

National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP)

offers technical and business advisory services, as well as funding programs, to help Canadian businesses build their innovation capacity, overcome barriers to growth, identify opportunities and turn great ideas into commercial success at home and abroad.



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national de
recherches Canada

Many **Resources Available**

Other support networks and services are:

- **Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association** brings together farmers, livestock producers, chefs and farm organizations who care about locally produced food.
- **Durham Farm Connections** works to enhance the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the agri-business industry in Durham Region.
- **The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance** is made up of municipalities, governments, organizations, and local representatives from the food and farming value chain.
- **Leading Livestock Genetics** is an alliance of dairy cow and dairy goat breeders, in Durham Region, City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough County, who provide quality livestock genetics to many countries around the world offering live animals and embryos.
- **Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development**
- **Export Development Canada**
- **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**



Durham Region, the right choice for a bright future.



Let's Connect

Durham Region's Economic Development and Tourism Division loves nothing more than showing off our dynamic community.

Find out how Durham Region can work with you to achieve your business goals and aspirations by contacting us today. For questions and other inquiries, please contact **Stacey Jibb**, Manager, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development at 905-668-7711 or stacey.jibb@durham.ca.

THINK BIG
THINK DURHAM

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DURHAM REGION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CANADA



**DURHAM
REGION**