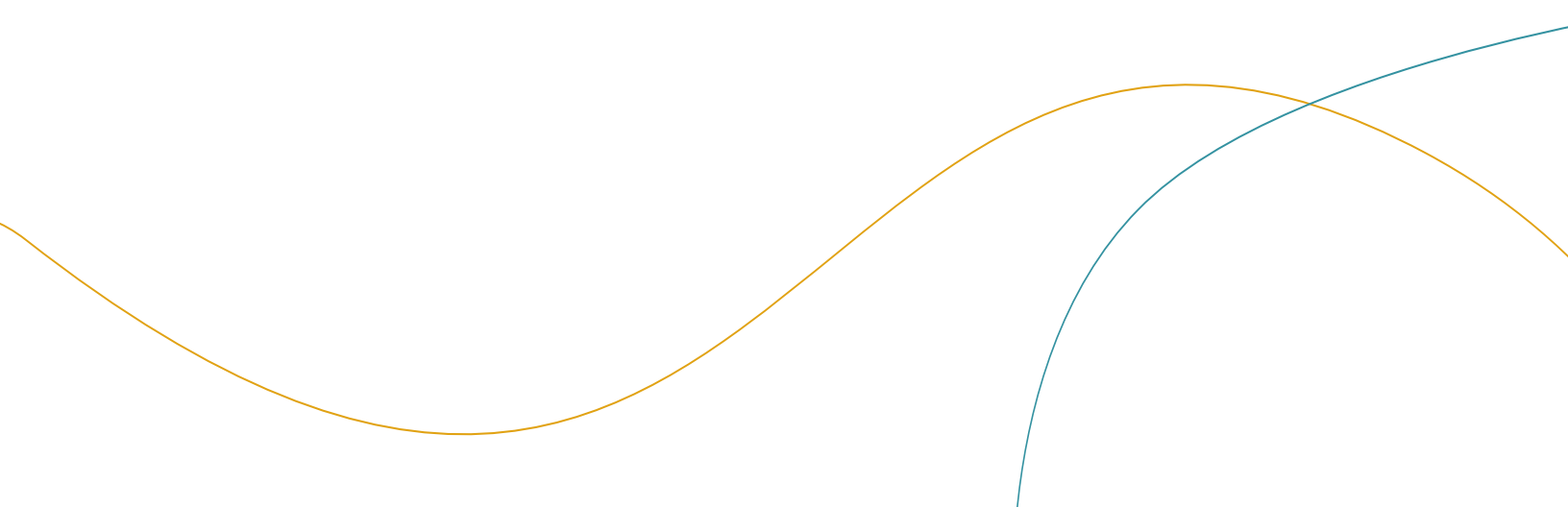




Agricultural Sector Review 2021 – Queens County

Region of Queens Municipality
September 28, 2021



Introduction

Queens County has opportunities to develop agricultural enterprises at a level higher than currently, however it is a challenge to create compelling unique selling points when compared to its neighbouring counties.

Registered Farms and Farmland

According to Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) records, in 2021, there are 155 registered parcels of land assessed as agricultural, amounting to a total acreage of 8394 acres. Compared to equivalent data from 2011, the numbers of assessed parcels of agricultural land has actually increased from 141, and the acreage has increased from 7873 acres. The distribution of agricultural land is mapped, and attached in Appendix A.

In the fiscal year 2019-2020, there were 22 registered farms in Queens County (<https://data.novascotia.ca/Agriculture-and-Agri-business/Farm-Registration-by-County/ay9f-ihu5>). This puts Queens County 15th out of 18 reporting counties in Nova Scotia for farm numbers. The federal **Census of Agriculture** also reports the number of registered farms, most recently from 2016 and 2011, including classification by total farm area;

	2011	2016
Total number of farms	37	34
Farms under 10 acres	5	6
Farms 10 to 69 acres	7	7
Farms 70 to 129 acres	4	2
Farms 130 to 179 acres	3	1
Farms 180 to 239 acres	0	1
Farms 240 to 399 acres	5	9
Farms 400 to 559 acres	6	4
Farms 560 to 759 acres	3	2
Farms 760 to 1,119 acres	4	1
Farms 1,120 to 1,599 acres	0	1

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) administers the Farm Registration Program, *"Farm Registration is a voluntary annual program that provides managed access to government programs by farm businesses, collection of farm information to develop agricultural policy and provide stable funding of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture."*

Confidentiality rules restrict access to any information listing who these registered farms are, where they are located, or what farming enterprises they practice. This information could be sourced by personal contact, but has not been done to date.

Available Land

There is no known source for information on potential agricultural lands. Anecdotally, there is a lot of land that has grown up in 'pasture pine', areas that were obviously previously open fields, now long abandoned. It is possible that survey data could be sourced, for example using LIDAR mapping, to ascertain the extent and location of these former fields. Dr. David Colville at the NSCC Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) would be a contact if we wanted to follow up this aspect.

The Canadian Land Inventory (CLI) classes land according to its suitability for agricultural production. CLI classes 2, 3, and 4 are most suitable. Queens has no CLI2 soils, and less than 1% of the province's CLI3 and CLI4 land.

Queens has lost a higher percentage of its potential agricultural land to urban development than other counties, but nearly all (98.4%) urban development in Queens is on land with poor capability for agriculture, which really just reflects the very small arable land base available. More data on this, and on general land classification and composition, including soil quality is contained in the Department of Agriculture *Profile of Agricultural Land Resources – Queens County*, attached as Appendix B.

It is clear from the NSDA document referenced above, that Queens has comparable soils to neighbouring counties, although overall, Nova Scotia is of relatively poor soil quality. Queens is utilizing only a small fraction of land classed as suitable for agriculture – therefore, it is safe to say that the agriculture industry

here is not limited by land availability. Indeed land availability and land affordability are positive factors for Queens.

Very little agricultural land is ever listed for sale with realtors. Occasionally, properties are listed for sale that have acreage with them, but it is not a feature the real estate agents have experienced sufficient demand for to concentrate efforts on. Only one realtor agency was identified as having a particular expertise and focus on agricultural land (<https://www.countryrealestatebroker.com/>).

Farm Revenues, Employment, and Economic Impact

With only 4% of arable land in Queens used for agriculture, compared to the Nova Scotia average of 13%, agriculture is not a dominant industry here in terms of employment or farm revenue. The potential for agricultural enterprises exist, given the comparable soil types and somewhat favourable climate data, but the industry also faces significant barriers to success.

Statistical data regarding the agricultural and economic profiles of Queens is attached as Appendix C. This *Statistical Profile of Queens County* was compiled by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture in 2014 and although it is several years old, the overall patterns remain much the same.

Climate Data Study

Between 2011-2015, an extensive climate data study was undertaken in South West Nova Scotia comprising a network of 74 weather stations reporting a multitude of climatic factors. The data was compiled into a report which is still available online at: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/document-library/business/2153-swns-weather-study-summary-2014/file>.

Measurements of frost-free period and growing degree days, winter minimum, solar radiation consistency, precipitation and more, showed the area as more

favourable for some agricultural enterprises than previously thought; *"many sites continued to demonstrate data comparable or superior to those obtained from the benchmark stations in the Annapolis Valley. Even more exciting were a number of truly exceptional sites located on the coast or in the deep interior that continued to show superior climate data in spite of the challenging conditions that 2014 presented."*

Training, Advice, and Funding

The established starting point for anyone contemplating an agricultural enterprise in Nova Scotia would be the provincial ThinkFarm website (<https://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/>). This project assists entrants with defining their farm vision, business planning and regulations which apply to new farm businesses. It is recommended as a starting point prior to contacting subject matter experts, and maintains extensive links to training, research, and funding resources.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture has a network of five regional offices with extension, business development, and outreach staff. Queens is covered by the Kentville office, though they also maintain an office in Lunenburg. Staff contacts are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/regional-services/>.

For specific advice, consultancy, and training on particular areas of agriculture, product development and lab services, Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. is a provincial development agency with the mission *"to support growth, transformation and economic development in Nova Scotia's agriculture, seafood, and food and beverage sectors"*. Perennia has an extensive staff of subject matter experts (<https://www.perennia.ca/about/our-team/>), and is a primary source for learning and training (<https://www.perennia.ca/learning/>).

In addition to specialized agri-business advice from the sources above, general and specific business advice can be requested from banks, e.g. Business Development Bank of Canada (<https://www.bdc.ca/en>), or from specialist consultants.

Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI) have an active interest in agricultural enterprise, especially where it involves export potential, innovation, and technology. They have a network of Business Development Advisers who can advise and assist with product and market development. They maintain a list of provincial and federal programs and incentives, and summarize how they help agriculture industry in this infogram:

<https://nsbi.infogram.com/1p3ekqq5n7d75ws0lymqzrk20jid7p12wnd>

Business advice and funding for agricultural enterprises has long been an area of focus for the Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC). Nova Scotia is covered by a network of thirteen CBDCs, and Queens is in scope for South Shore Opportunities CBDC (<https://www.cbdc.ca/en>), who have staff in Liverpool and Bridgewater. In addition to business counselling, business management skills training, and a variety of loans, they also administer the Consultant Advisory Services (CAS) fund, which gives clients financial help accessing expert assistance with business development challenges.

FarmWorks Investment Co-operative Limited (<https://farmworks.ca/>) was established specifically to address concerns about Nova Scotia food security. It operates a Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) which sells shares to private investors and loans the revenue to client entrepreneurs in various sectors of the Nova Scotian food supply chain including farmers, processors, retailers, and restaurateurs.

Current Agricultural Enterprises in Queens

When assessing the state of the agricultural sector in Queens, one has to take into account that there are various issues with definition - the terms 'farm' and 'farmer' can be loosely defined. Registering as a *bona fide* farm in Nova Scotia is voluntary and restricted by acreage, level of revenue from on-farm enterprises, and history of operation. However, there are more unregistered 'farms' who produce foodstuffs for sale, and there are 'farmers' who engage in agriculture without public sales. Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) have assessment criteria for agricultural land, but the RQM MPS/LUB does not include specific separate zoning for agriculture.

Christmas trees are currently considered to be an agricultural enterprise in Nova Scotia, so Christmas tree producers can be registered farmers, are eligible for agricultural programs and can be members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture if they choose.

Current commercial agricultural enterprises in Queens include; dairy farm, aquaponic cannabis producer, blueberry grower and processor, greenhouse and market garden operation, Christmas trees, seaweed compost producer, beef producer, mixed livestock producer, several smaller scale growers, egg producers, and livestock producers. In addition to the primary producers, we have value-added baked products, jams and jellies, honey, processed meat, brewery, and non-timber forest products (such as mushrooms, berries, wreaths).

As the statistics referenced above show, Queens has few people fully employed in agriculture or agriculture-related enterprise, and farm receipts are almost balanced by deficits. The overall picture, other than a few notable exceptions, is one where many people keep a few hens, meat birds, a couple pigs or beef cattle, grow a garden for produce, or bake extra to sell locally. There is probably a degree more 'food security' in Queens than evidenced by official statistics. Most of these operations are not registered or regulated and 'fly under the radar', and the operators have no intention or desire to grow their enterprise. Part of the reason for that is a perception that regulations around food production are onerous and restrictive, or that profitability is not sufficient for the amount of work involved. Advice and supports for those who are interested in growing an agricultural enterprise exist, but often 'talk a different language'.

There are relatively few markets for local produce in Queens. Outlets, such as restaurants, have established integrated supply chains, and small producers have difficulty matching fluctuations in demand with profitability and continuity of high quality produce. Some shops will sell local produce on an ad-hoc basis, but breaking into supermarket chains is almost impossible for a variety of reasons. Direct to consumer sales has become the established pattern for many, e.g. farmers' market, farm gate, Community Supported Agriculture. Shipping to Halifax outlets can work, especially if your product has an 'experiential' component, a compelling story, or a unique selling point.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Affordable land for agricultural use
- Available land for agricultural use

Weaknesses

- Unsuitable topography / field sizes for mechanized row cropping
- Seasonal climate despite favourable in-season conditions and somewhat ameliorated winter conditions
- Aging infrastructure
- Aging workforce demographic
- Distance to market centres

Opportunities

- No major competitors locally for many products
- Agri-tourism and experiential agriculture, artisan and craft marketing
- Lifestyle factors offer attractive 'value proposition' for prospective residents

Threats

- Global nature of food supply – expectations of consumers
- Other Nova Scotia domestic competition
- Home growers for personal supply

Recommendations

There is an established chain of support existing in Nova Scotia to help growers, producers and processors - there is no obvious gap in learning, training or funding resources. RQM, in collaboration with other municipal units, and the agencies identified in previous sections, have hosted an annual Agriculture Day which acts as a touchpoint with "farmers, dreamers and interested public". Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this could not take place in 2020 or 2021. The same regional collaboration group created the website landing site at <https://www.growsouthwestnovascotia.ca/> and have discussed joint initiatives to create a promotional video series. The **recommendation** would be to re-instate Agriculture Day, hosted next in Queens in Spring 2022, or whenever

pandemic restrictions allow, and develop a video series either singly or in collaboration.

There are no obvious show-stopping factors to prevent many agricultural operations from taking place in Queens, which can be successfully undertaken elsewhere in Nova Scotia. The corollary presents an opportunity as Queens has affordable and available agricultural land that might not be as available elsewhere. The challenge here is finding the land. **Recommendation** is to evaluate mapping solutions to publicize available commercial property, which could also apply to agricultural land.

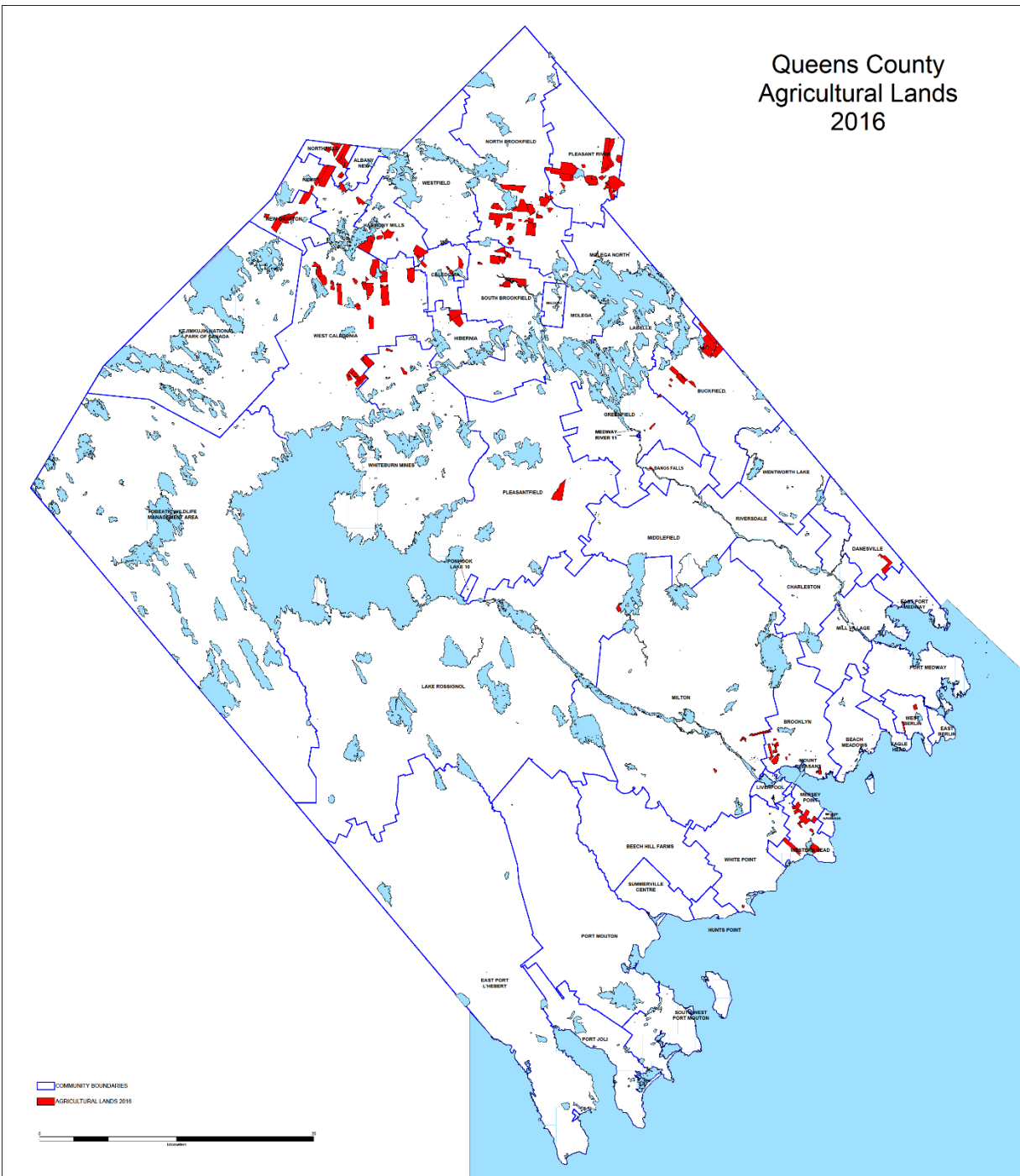
Promoting existing farms and farm enterprises can be done by supporting the annual Open Farm Day when it is reinstated, and other events organized by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (<https://meetyourfarmer.ca/>).

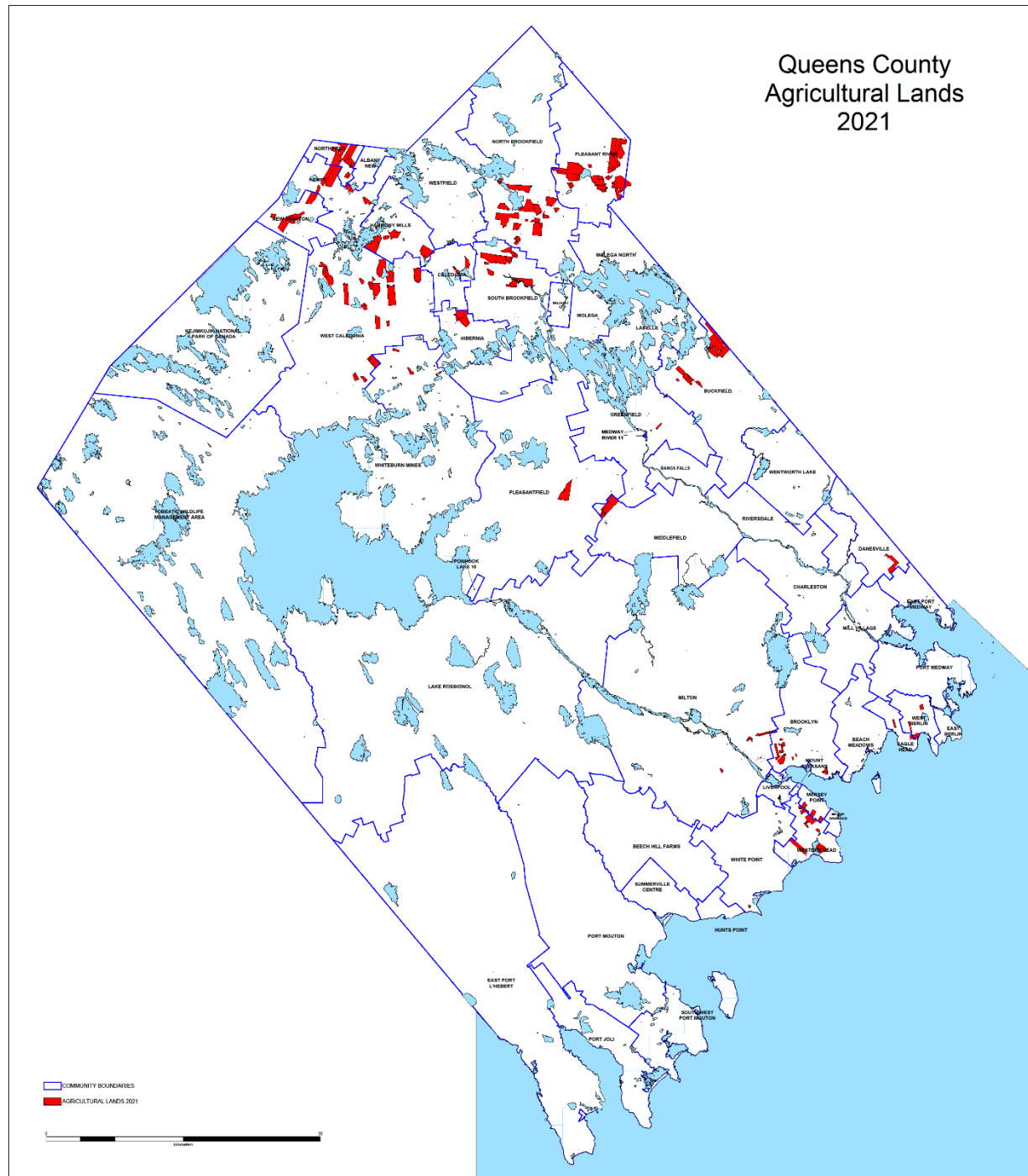
Recommendation also to attend and promote the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Minister's Conference (<https://www.perennia.ca/agriconference/>).

Perhaps the greatest opportunity in agriculture remains the potential to attract newcomers to Queens with the promise of affordable property with acreage, allowing part-time or supplementary income to be made whilst testing markets for produce. A small proportion of these will develop into fully commercial operations, and we can ensure that supports exist, and are known about, for them.

Appendices

Please note that the maps and reports contained in these Appendices are externally produced pdf files included here for brevity – they have not been edited for accessibility. Larger copies of maps can be printed on request, but are best viewed electronically where they can be zoomed in for detail.

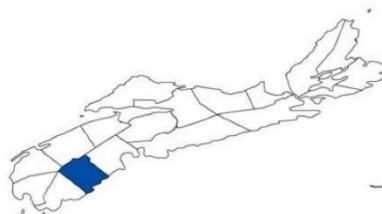




Appendix B

Profile of Agricultural Land Resources – Queens County

QUEENS COUNTY



PROFILE of AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES

Overview of county land resources

Land most suitable for agricultural production (Canadian Land Inventory (CLI) classes 2,3 and 4¹) covers less than 1 percent of Queens County (see Table 1). Queens has no CLI 2 soils, and less than 1 percent of the province's CLI 3 and CLI 4 land. Queens has the smallest amount of arable land in the province.

Queens has approximately 1,000 hectares in agricultural production. This amounts to less than 1 percent of Nova Scotia land in agriculture. Farming in Queens uses less than 1 percent of the county land area.

Table 1. Agricultural land statistics- Queens County

	Hectares	Percent of provincial total	Percent of county land area
CLI 2,3,4 TOTAL	470	0.03	0.2
CLI 2	0.0	0.0	0.0
CLI 3	265	0.03	0.1
CLI 4	205.4	0.1	0.1
Agricultural land (ALIP)*	989	0.4	0.4
Agricultural land (DNR)**	1,018	0.4	0.4
Blueberry land (DNR)**	33	0.2	0.01

* As indicated by the NSDA Agricultural Land Identification Project.

** Based on forest coverage files from NS Natural Resources (blueberry land is low-bush/ wild)

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Queens has a small amount of wild blueberry production (33 hectares). This amounts to a small fraction of the provincial total.

Figure 1a. Agricultural lands in Queens County

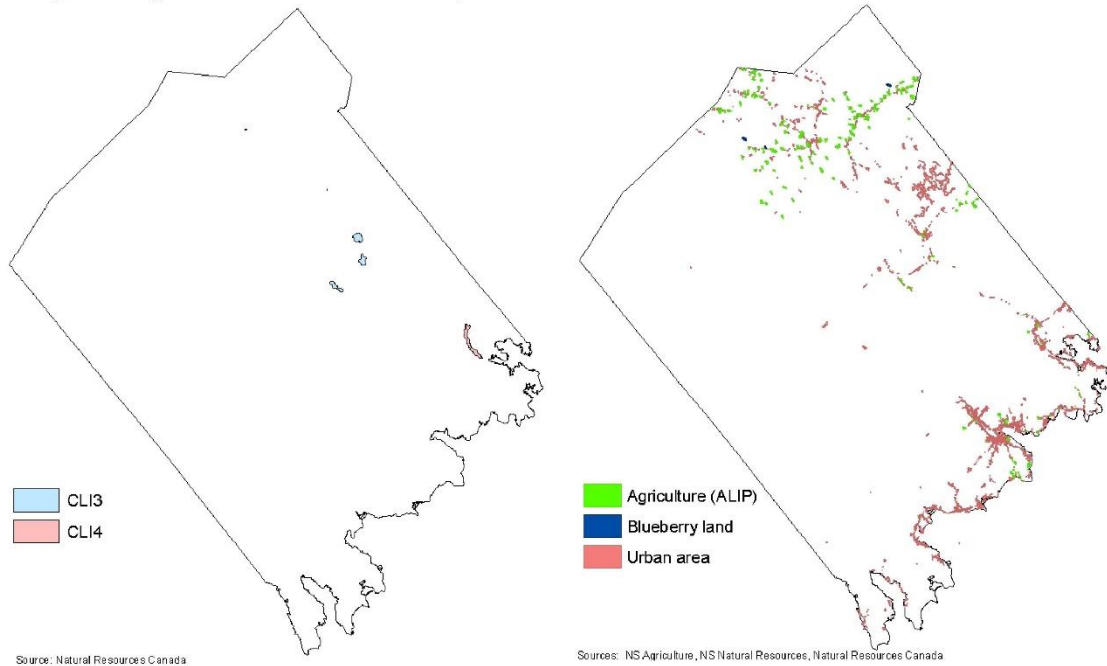
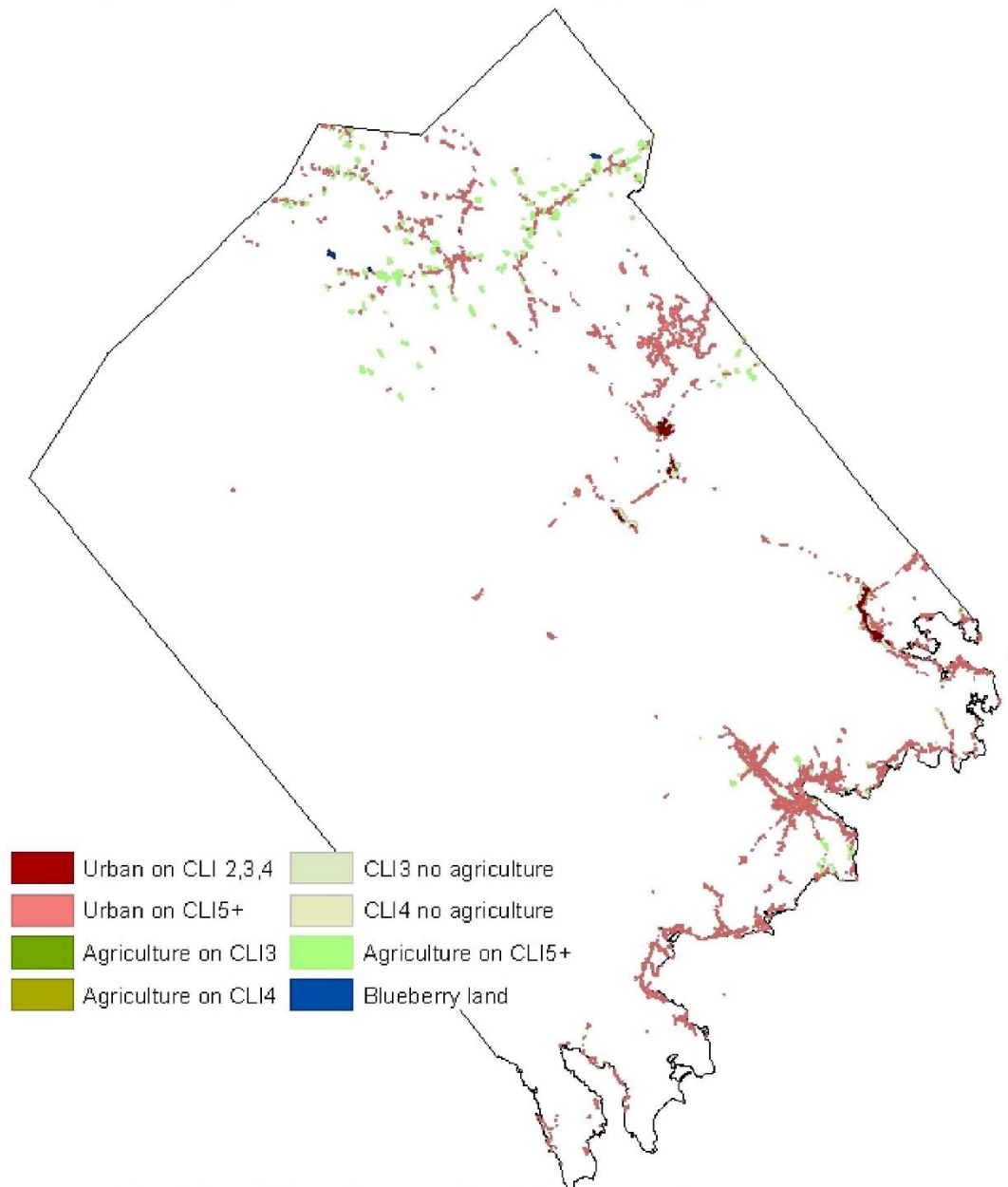


Figure 1b. Agricultural lands in Queens County (overlay)

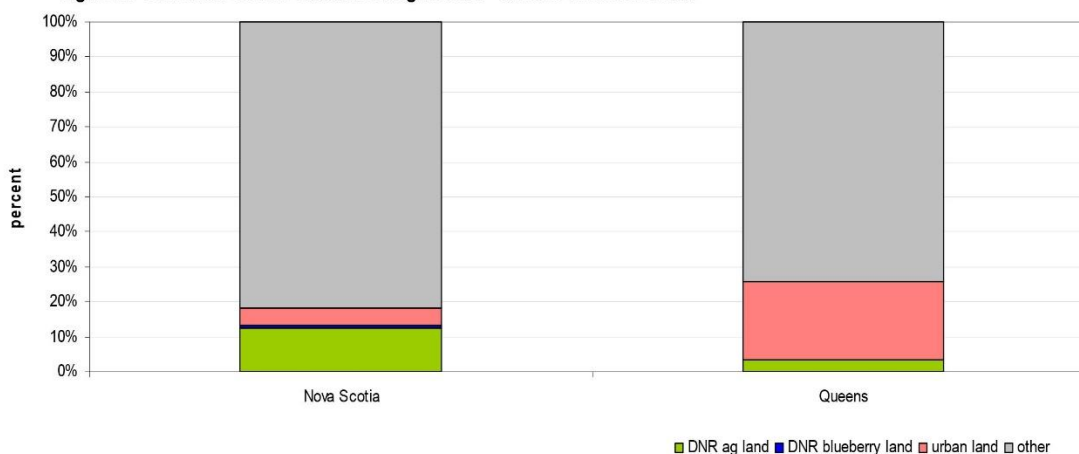


Sources: NS Agriculture, NS Natural Resources, Natural Resources Canada

Usage of arable land and composition of farmed land

Land most suitable for agricultural production (CLI classes 2, 3 and 4) are used for agriculture in Queens County at a significantly lower rate than the provincial average (see Figure 2 and Table2). About 4 percent of suitable agricultural land is used for agricultural production in Queens compared with 13 percent provincially. This places Queens 15th among the 18 counties in terms of utilization of arable land for farming.

Figure 2. Utilization of soils suitable for agriculture- Queens vs Nova Scotia



Queens has lost the highest percentage of its potential arable land to urban development of any county at 22 percent. The high percentage is due to the very small arable land base that Queens is endowed with.

Table 2. Use of agricultural soils (CLI classes 2,3,4) in Queens County and Nova Scotia

	CLI 2		CLI 3		CLI 4		TOTAL CLI 2,3,4	
	Queens	Nova Scotia	Queens	Nova Scotia	Queens	Nova Scotia	Queens	Nova Scotia
	Percent							
Agricultural land (DNR)*	n/a	29.3	6.2	12.0	0.0	7.9	3.5	12.7
Blueberry land (DNR)*	n/a	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.7
Urban area	n/a	6.9	18.3	5.4	27.0	4.6	22.1	5.4
Other	n/a	63.3	75.5	82.3	73.0	85.7	74.4	81.2
* Based on forest coverage files from NS Natural Resources (blueberry land is low-bush/ wild) Source: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.								

Looking at the land base from a slightly different perspective (the composition of lands in agriculture, Table 3) it is apparent that almost all agriculture in Queens takes place on poorer than class 4 land. The approximately 1.5 percent of agriculture that occurs on better than class 4 land is the lowest in Nova Scotia.

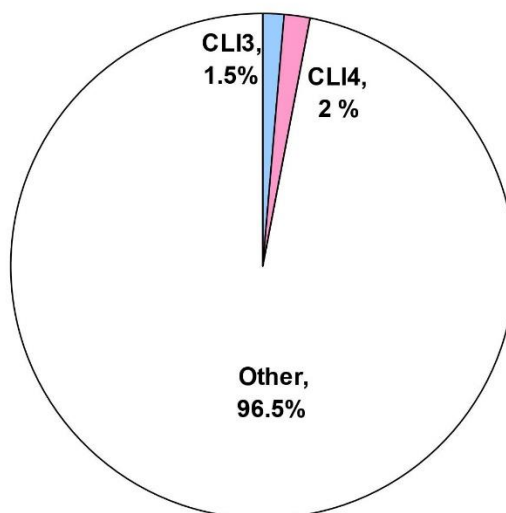
Table 3. Composition of lands in agriculture- Queens County

	Agricultural land (ALIP)*		Agricultural land (DNR)**		Blueberry land (DNR)**	
	Queens	Nova Scotia	Queens	Nova Scotia	Queens	Nova Scotia
	Percent					
CLI 2	n/a	20.5	n/a	21.1	n/a	4.7
CLI 3	1.2	49.4	1.6	51.8	0.0	16.4
CLI 4	0.0	16.3	0.0	14.5	0.0	44.5
Other	98.8	13.8	98.4	12.7	100	34.4
* As indicated by the NSDA Agricultural Land Identification Project. ** Based on forest coverage files from NS Natural Resources (blueberry land is low-bush/ wild) Source: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.						

Urban use and property fragmentation of the agricultural land base

As shown in Figure 3, nearly all urban development in Queens is on land with poor capability for agriculture. Approximately 3.5 percent of urban development is on class 3 or 4 land combined, making Queens the least intensive user of arable land for urban development of any county in the province, due mostly to the small amount of arable land available.

**Figure 3. Composition of urban land-
Queens**



Some lands currently in agriculture may be relatively easily removed for other forms of development. A contributing factor is lot size. Queens County is the only county in the province without any small properties (less than two hectares in area) that are centered in ALIP lands (Table 4).

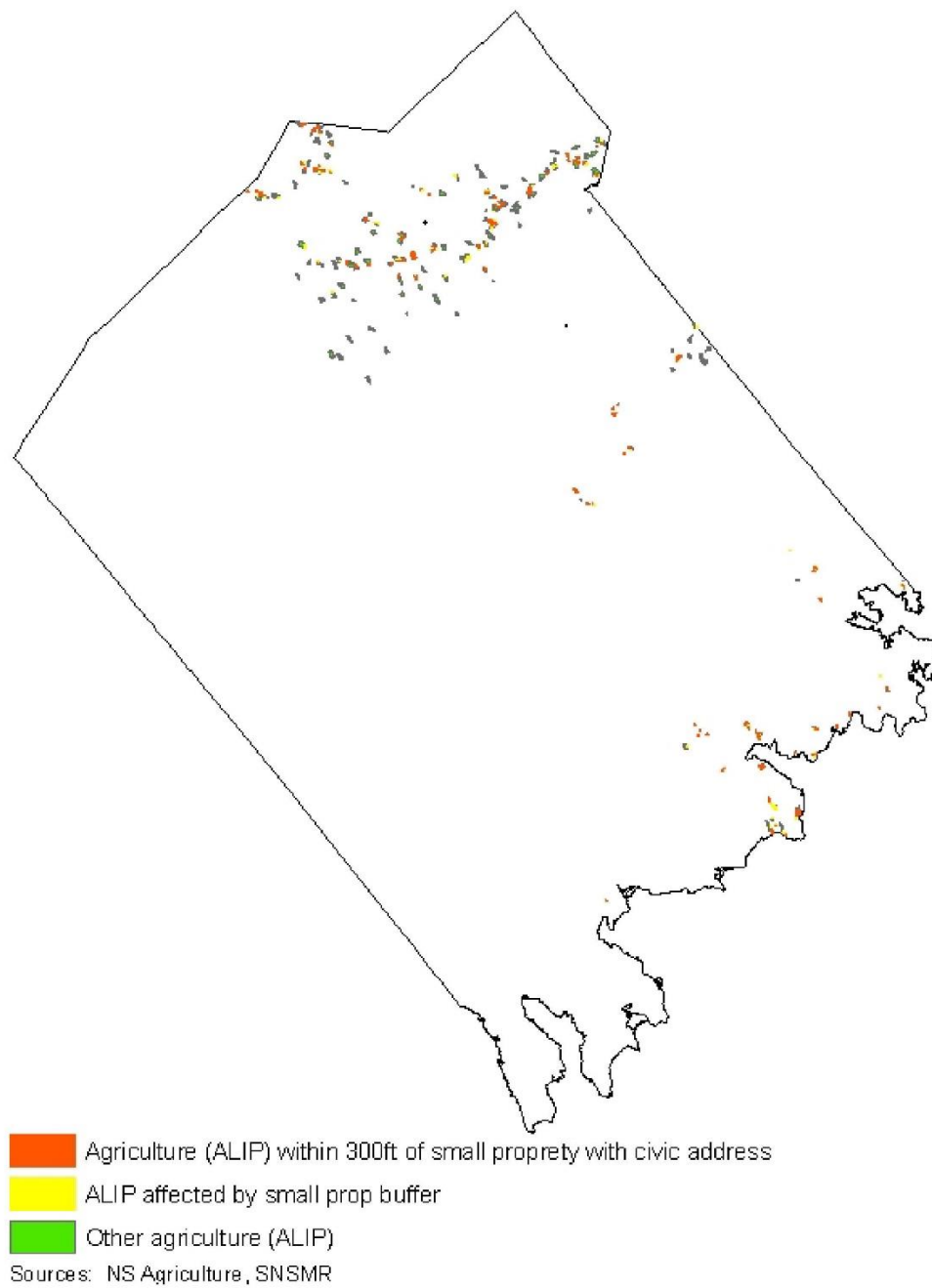
Table 4. Analysis of small properties (< 2ha) encroaching on farm land- Queens County, Nova Scotia						
	Vacant properties		Properties with civic address		TOTAL of small properties (< 2 ha)	
	# properties	Hectares	# properties	Hectares	# properties	Hectares
Centered in ALIP farmland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area in farmland of properties centered in ALIP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Within 10 meters of ALIP farmland	70	48	122	78	192	126
Source: Provincial PID data, NSDA (ALIP data)						

A total of 192 properties less than two hectares in size are on or adjacent to ALIP lands, 64 percent of which have civic addresses (i.e. are not vacant). This amounts to 1 percent of the provincial total of these properties. Relative to the amount of farming in Queens, the county has the 8th highest rate of small developed properties that are adjacent to farmland.

Ultimately, approximately 5 hectares (0.5 percent) of ALIP lands in Queens has been lost to urban development since 1998. This places Queens 17th in terms of both percentage farmland lost to development and area of farmland lost.

While physical occupancy of land by non farm development or land with the potential for non-farm development can be used to estimate potential loss of land to the sector, the effect of development on adjacent agricultural lands is probably of greater significance in terms of area affected. In order to estimate the area of farm land that is at risk due to the proximity of development, a 300 ft (91.44m) buffer was drawn around each small (<2ha) property and the amount of ALIP farm land falling under this zone was calculated (Figure 4). Queens has approximately 22 percent of its ALIP farmland falling under this category, the 2nd lowest in the province in both percent and absolute terms. Approximately 16 percent of Queens farmland is within 300 feet of a small property with a civic address (i.e likely a developed property), the smallest percentage in the province.

Figure 4. Agriculture (ALIP) within 300 feet of small properties (< 2ha)



ⁱ Nova Scotia does not have any CLI class 1 soil. Class 2 to 4 soils have moderate to severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices or both. Class 5 soils and below have very severe limitations for agriculture.

Sources

Natural Resources Canada. Canada Land Inventory. Available from: <http://geogratis.gc.ca/CLI/frames.html>. Accessed [25 January 2010].

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Land Identification Project (ALIP).

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. Forest Inventory - Geographic Information Systems. Available from: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/gis/forest-inventory.asp. Accessed [25 January 2010].

SNSMR (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations). 2009. NS Civic Address File and property polygons.

Appendix C

Statistical Profile of Queens County

Statistical Profile of Queens County



Prepared by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Contents

1.0	Introduction	2
	Agriculture in the Local Economy	2
2.0	Population and Population Change	3
3.0	Economic Profile	3
4.0	Agricultural Profile of Queens County	5
4.1	Number of Farms	5
4.2	Farm Revenue	6
4.3	Farm Expenses	7
4.4	Land Use	9
4.5	Farm Size	10
	Bibliography	11
	Appendix	12

1.0 Introduction

Agriculture in the Local Economy

Queens County is home to several types of farm production activities such as greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production and cattle ranching. In 2010, Queens County farms reported a total of approximately \$1.13 million in farm receipts which accounted for 0.19% of all receipts reported in Nova Scotia. In the same year, farms in Queens County reported a total business operating expense of approximately \$1.16 million. Thus, agriculture in Queens experienced a deficit of \$0.03 million.

In terms of employment, health care, trade, manufacturing, and natural resources are the dominant industries in the Southern region. Low employment in the agricultural industry may be due to geographical limitations, climate, and a focus on other industries. Although the agri-tourism industry is not established in Queens to the same extent that it is in other parts of Nova Scotia, there are still several events that promote local agriculture. These agri-tourism projects include the farmers' market, U-cut Christmas trees and the annual Queens County Fair.

Despite an increase in farms since 2006, Queens County has experienced a decrease in the number of acres used for farming purposes. Indeed, Queens County ranks 15th among all counties in regard to its use of arable land ("Queens County," para. 3). With 4% of arable land being used for agricultural production, Queens falls below the provincial average of 13% ("Queens County," para. 3). It is clear that although agriculture is not a dominant industry in Queens, there is potential for economic growth through agriculture.

2.0 Population and Population Change

Between the years 2006 and 2011, Queens County experienced a total population decline of 2.2% or a total of 252 people. Table 1 demonstrates that, for the most part, Queens experienced a decrease in population across the census subdivisions. The only area to experience an increase was the Wildcat reserve with a population increase of 65%. Queens County's rate of population change (-2.2%) fell below that of Nova Scotia's (0.9%).

Table 1: Population of Queens and Census Subdivisions, 2006-2011

Area	2011	2006	% Change
Queens County	10,960	11,212	-2.2
Queens (RGM)	10,917	11,177	-2.3
Ponhook Lake 10 (Reserve)	10	15	-33.3
Wildcat 12 (Reserve)	33	20	65

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

Since Queens County is amalgamated under a regional municipality, there are no subdivisions like the other counties. Thus, it is difficult to determine the population distribution in terms of rural and population centres.

3.0 Economic Profile

In 2013, the Southern region (including Digby, Yarmouth, Queens, Shelburne, and Lunenburg)¹ represented approximately 15% of the agricultural industry in Nova Scotia. Although, an estimate for Queens County is not specifically given, the data indicates that its geographic region is an important component to the agricultural industry in Nova Scotia.

In comparison to the other industries in the Southern region, agriculture accounted for approximately 1.63% of all jobs in the region, which is higher than the provincial average of 1.17%. The industries with the highest employment in the Southern region were trade, health care and social assistance, manufacturing and natural resources (i.e. forestry, fishing, etc.).

Table 2: Southern Region, Total Employment by Industry, 2013

¹ The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) divides Nova Scotia into 5 geographical regions. The Southern region includes Digby, Yarmouth, Queens, Shelburne, and Lunenburg counties. According to the Labour Force Survey Estimates (LFS), some areas are too small to enable production of independent estimates from the survey. Thus, smaller regions with similar economic characteristics are grouped together.

Industry	Nova Scotia	% of Nova Scotia's Total Employment	Southern	% of Southern Region's Total Employment
Total employed, all industries	453,800	100	49,100	100
Agriculture	5,300	1.17	800	1.63
Forestry, fishing, mining, etc.	11,200	2.47	4,200	8.55
Utilities	4,600	1.01	N/A	N/A
Construction	33,500	7.38	4,100	8.35
Manufacturing	30,600	6.74	5,900	12.02
Trade	73,000	16.09	8,000	16.29
Transportation and warehousing	19,600	4.32	1,400	2.85
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	22,100	4.87	1,000	2.04
Professional, scientific and technical services	27,800	6.13	1,500	3.05
Business, building and other support services	23,500	5.18	2,300	4.68
Educational services	36,700	8.09	3,900	7.94
Health care and social assistance	69,400	15.29	6,700	13.65
Information, culture and recreation	19,300	4.25	1,700	3.46
Accommodation and food services	29,000	6.39	3,300	6.72
Other services	18,600	4.1	2,300	4.68
Public administration	29,400	6.48	1,700	3.46

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2013.

Figure 1 displays a clear comparison of the percentages of total employed by each industry in Nova Scotia and the Southern region.

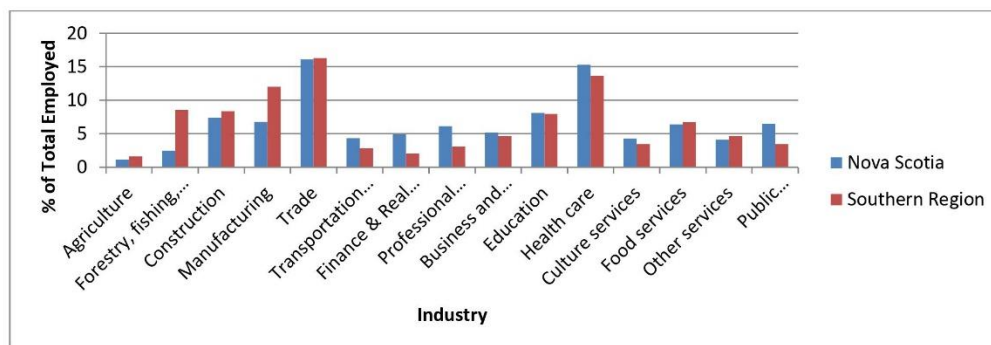


Figure 1: % of Total Employed by Industry: Southern Region vs. Nova Scotia, 2013.

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2013.

4.0 Agricultural Profile of Queens County

4.1 Number of Farms

From 2006 to 2011, the total number of farms in Queens County had increased by two. Table 3 indicates that the predominant farm type in Queens County was greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production (37.8%). Although greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production remains a dominant farm activity in Queens, it had decreased from 15 to 14 farms (-6.67%) since 2006. Similarly, cattle ranching and hog and pig farming had also decreased since 2006. All other types of farm production had either increased or remained the same.

Table 3: Queens County, Total Number of Farms by Farm Type, 2006-2011

Farm Type	2011		2006		% Change
	# of Farms	% of Total	# of Farms	% of Total	
Cattle ranching and farming	7	18.9	8	22.9	-12.5
Hog and pig farming	0	0	1	2.8	-100
Poultry and egg production	0	0	0	0	0
Sheep and goat farming	0	0	0	0	0
Other animal production	6	16.3	5	14.3	20
Oilseed and grain farming	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetable and melon farming	0	0	0	0	0
Fruit and tree nut farming	5	13.5	4	11.4	25
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	14	37.8	15	42.9	-6.67
Other crop farming	5	13.5	2	5.7	150
<i>Total farms</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>5.71</i>

Note: Retrieved from Statistics Canada, 2011.

In comparison to Nova Scotia, Queens County had a higher percentage in cattle ranching, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production, and animal production. It is evident that the percentage of greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production (37.8%) in Queens County was significantly higher than that of the provincial percentage of 14.1%. On the other hand, the percentage of fruit and tree nut farming in Queens County fell below that of the provincial average by 11.3%.

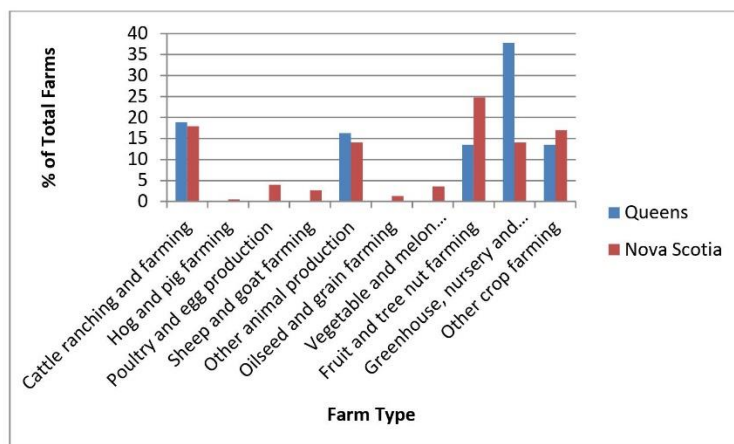


Figure 2: % of Total Farms by Farm Type: Queens County vs. Nova Scotia, 2011

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

4.2 Farm Revenue

Farms in Queens County reported approximately \$1.1 million in farm receipts in 2010 which had decreased from approximately \$1.8 million in 2006. In addition to Queens County's decrease in revenue, its percentage of Nova Scotia's total farm receipts also decreased. In 2006, Queens County's revenue formed 0.36% of Nova Scotia's total revenue. Meanwhile in 2010, Queens County's revenue constituted 0.19% of Nova Scotia's total revenue.

Table 5: Total Farm Receipts for Queens County and Nova Scotia, 2006-2010

	2010	2006	% Change
Nova Scotia	\$ 594,903,481.00	\$ 509,520,691.00	16.76
Queens County	\$ 1,134,116.00	\$ 1,812,319.00	-37.42
% of Nova Scotia's receipts	0.19	0.36	

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

In 2010, 86.49% of farms in Queens County reported receipts of an amount less than \$50,000. Farm receipts under \$10,000 appeared to be the most popular category with 19 farms reporting receipts of this amount. These reports constituted 51.35% of the total farm receipts for Queens County.

Table 6: Total Number of Farms in Queens County by Farm Receipts, 2006-2010

Farm Receipts Category	2010		2006	
	# of Farms	% of Total	# of Farms	% of Total
Under \$10,000	19	51.35	18	51.43
\$10,000 to \$24,999	7	18.92	7	20
\$25,000 to \$49,999	6	16.22	1	2.86
\$50,000 to \$99,999	3	8.11	5	14.28
\$100,000 to \$249,999	1	2.7	3	8.57
\$250,000 to \$499,999	0	0	0	0
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	2.7	1	2.86
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	0	0	0	0
\$2,000,000 and over	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Farms</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>100</i>

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

Figure 3 demonstrates that the percentage of farm receipts for Queens and Nova Scotia were similarly distributed across all categories.

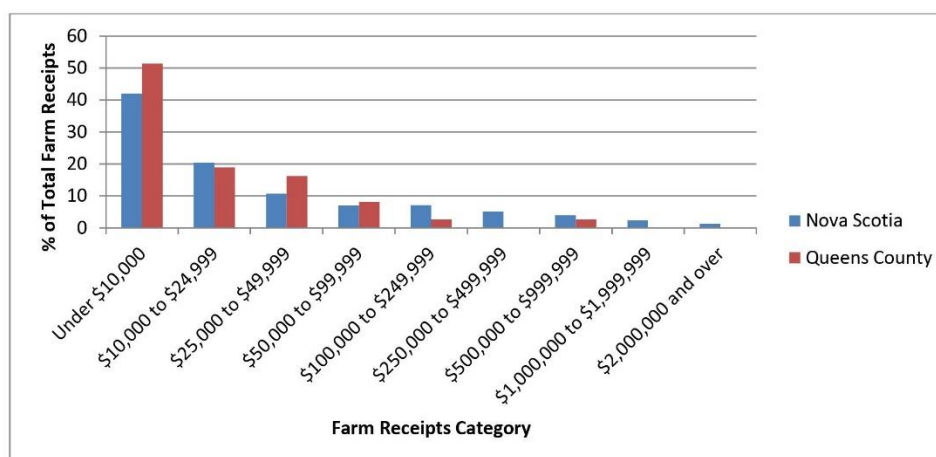


Figure 3: % of Total Farms by Farm Receipts Category: Queens County vs. Nova Scotia, 2010

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

4.3 Farm Expenses

In 2010, the total farm business operating expense for Queens County was \$1,166,467. In Queens, the average business operating expense per farm was approximately \$31,500 which was lower than the provincial average of approximately \$128,000. It is evident that the greatest expenses for farms

were other expenses excluding depreciation and capital cost allowance (\$332,868), total wages and salaries (\$274,792), and repairs and maintenance to farm machinery (\$104,617).

Table 2: Farm Business Operating Expenses for Queens County and Nova Scotia, 2010

	Nova Scotia		Queens County	
	<i>Farms Reporting</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>	<i>Farms Reporting</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>
Fertilizer and lime purchases	1,957	\$ 13,201,434.00	21	\$ 46,953.00
Purchases of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.	1,459	\$ 11,734,327.00	13	\$ 44,135.00
Seed and plant purchases (excluding materials purchased for resale)	1,286	\$ 10,952,683.00	12	N/A
Total feed, supplements and hay purchases	1,825	\$ 108,870,856.00	20	\$ 49,388.00
Livestock and poultry purchases	1,067	\$ 30,507,684.00	9	\$ 9,114.00
Veterinary services, drugs, semen, breeding fees, etc.	1,517	\$ 8,710,636.00	15	\$ 8,095.00
Custom work, contract work and hired trucking	1,665	\$ 28,483,557.00	16	\$ 63,241.00
Total wages and salaries	1,521	\$ 101,190,562.00	15	\$ 274,792.00
All fuel expenses (diesel, gas, etc.)	3,644	\$ 26,035,222.00	32	\$ 81,137.00
Repairs and maintenance to farm machinery, equipment and vehicles	3,344	\$ 22,441,124.00	30	\$ 104,617.00
Repairs and maintenance to farm buildings and fences	2,301	\$ 10,367,519.00	21	\$ 33,550.00
Rental and leasing of land and buildings	581	\$ 4,145,716.00	7	\$ 27,783.00
Rental and leasing of farm machinery, equipment and vehicles	515	\$ 5,818,991.00	3	N/A
Electricity, telephone and all other telecommunication services	2,898	\$ 11,790,016.00	27	\$ 39,815.00
Farm interest expenses	1,579	\$ 26,107,223.00	9	\$ 21,512.00
All other expenses (excluding depreciation and capital cost allowance)	3,352	\$ 80,190,026.00	30	\$ 332,868.00
<i>Total farm business operating expenses</i>	<i>3,905</i>	<i>\$ 500,547,576.00</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>\$ 1,166,467.00</i>

Note: Retrieved from Statistics Canada, 2011.

In 2006, Queens County farms reported a total of \$1,501,642 in farm business expenses with an average expense per farm of approximately \$43,000. On the other hand, in 2010, farms reported an

amount of \$1,166,467 with an average expense per farm of approximately \$32,000. Therefore, farms in Queens County decreased their average operating expense by approximately \$11,000 in four years.

Table 83: Total Farm Business Operating Expenses Queens County, 2006-2010

Total Farm Business Operating Expenses	Farms Reporting	Amount (\$)	Average Operating Expense per Farm
2010	37	\$ 1,166,467.00	\$ 31,526.14
2006	35	\$ 1,501,642.00	\$ 42,904.06

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

4.4 Land Use

In 2011, area in Christmas trees, woodlands and wetlands accounted for most of the land use in Queens County (67.75%). Furthermore, land in crops made up 15.01% of the land use. Summer fallow, tame of seeded pasture, natural land for pasture, and other land composed the remaining farmland (17.24%).

In comparison to provincial land use, Queens County had a higher percentage in Christmas trees, woodlands, and wetlands and all other land.

Table 94: Land Use for Queens County and Nova Scotia, 2011

Land Use	Queens County		Nova Scotia	
	# of Acres	% of Total	# of Acres	% of Total
Land in Crops (excluding Christmas tree area)	1,644	15.01	280,889	27.59
Summer Fallow	0	0	1,145	0.11
Tame of Seeded Pasture	535	4.88	52,271	5.13
Natural Land for Pasture	438	4	62,142	6.11
Area in Christmas trees, Woodlands and Wetlands	7,421	67.75	559,664	54.97
All Other Land	916	8.36	61,964	6.09
Total	10,954	100	1,018,075	100

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

The number of acres used for farming purposes had decreased since 2006 from 13,060 acres to 10,954 acres. Since 2006, there had been an increase in the percentage of total land used for Christmas trees, woodlands and wetlands and tame of seeded pasture.

Table 10: Land Use in Queens County, 2006-2011

Land Use	2011		2006	
	# of Acres	% of Total	# of Acres	% of Total
Land in Crops (excluding Christmas tree area)	1,644	15.01	2,339	17.91
Summer Fallow	0	0	0	0
Time of Seeded Pasture	535	4.88	302	2.31
Natural Land for Pasture	438	4	1,052	8.06
Area in Christmas trees, Woodlands and Wetlands	7,421	67.75	7,949	60.87
All Other Land	916	8.36	1,418	10.85
<i>Total</i>	<i>10,954</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>13,060</i>	<i>100</i>

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

4.5 Farm Size

In 2011, the average farm size in Queens County was approximately 296 acres which was higher than the provincial average of approximately 260 acres.

Table 11: Total Acres and Average Farm Size in Queens County and Nova Scotia, 2011

	Total Farms	Total Acres	Average Farm Size (acres)
Nova Scotia	3,905	1,018,075	260.71
Queens County	37	10,954	296.05

Note: Adapted from Statistics Canada, 2011.

In Queens County, approximately 43% of reporting farms owned less than 129 acres. Indeed, the most common acreage sizes in Queens were between 10 to 69 acres (7 farms reported). In total, the farms with these acreage sizes accounted for almost 19% of Queens County farms.

Table 52: Total Farms by Farm Size Category for Queens County and Nova Scotia

	Total Farms	Under 10 acres	10-69 acres	70-129 acres	130-179 acres	180-239 acres	240-399 acres	400-559 acres	560-759 acres	760 acres and over
Nova Scotia	3,905	406	907	637	317	343	574	302	192	227
Queens County	37	5	7	4	3	0	5	6	3	4

Note: Retrieved from Statistics Canada, 2011.

Bibliography

(2013). *Queens County: Profile of Agricultural Land Resources*. Retrieved from <http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/business-research/AL1013%20Queens.pdf>

Ancestry.com. (2004). *Queens County*. [Image]. Retrieved from <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kvgene/maps/queens.jpg>

Statistics Canada. (2011). *Farm and farm operator data* [Table]. Retrieved from <http://www29.statcan.gc.ca/ceag-web/eng/index-index;jsessionid=D68BABE4379BC41D58B112C4B2FAFFB8>

Statistics Canada. (2013). *Labour force survey estimates* [Table 282-0061]. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a47>

Statistics Canada. (2011). *Population and dwelling counts* [Table]. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/hlt-fst/pd-pl/Table-Tableau.cfm?LANG=Eng&T=304&PR=12&S=51&O=A&RPP=10>

Map of Queens County

