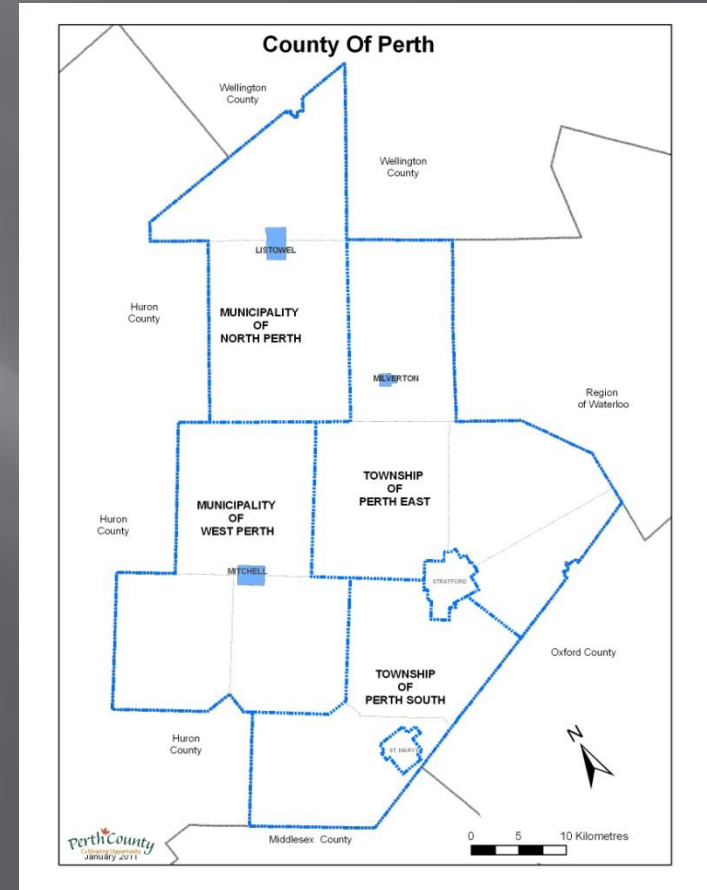


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## Perth County Context

- west of Waterloo Region, north of Middlesex County, east of Huron County, and south of Wellington County.
- largely an agricultural area with various sized settlement areas throughout the County (Listowel, Milverton, Mitchell, St. Marys, Stratford, various villages and hamlets).





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## Perth County – Farmland/Agricultural Characteristics

- 91 % of Perth County area has Class 1, 2, and 3 soil capability for agriculture and is considered as prime farmland.
- 92 % of Perth County area was farmed in 2006 (498,161 ac.).
- total gross farm receipts:
  - 2001 = \$555,081,128.00
  - 2006 = \$702,715,748.00 (+26.6 %)
- total farm capital:
  - 2001 = \$2,842,655,094.00
  - 2006 = \$3,733,820,496.00 (+32.2 %)



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## Perth County – Farmland/Agricultural Characteristics

- total number of hog/pig farms (2006) = 379
- total number of pigs (2006) = 664,508
- total number of milk producers (2009) = 394
- total number of dairy cows (2006) = 30,904
- total number of hens and chickens (2006) = 3,732,504
- total number of goat farms (2006) = 114
- number of jobs in agriculture and other resource-based industries (2000) = 3,880 (18 % of total labour force)
- County wide jobs tied to agriculture = 29 %



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## Ideas for Improving Local Agricultural Economies

1. Establish clear and understandable policies and provisions in local planning documents (Official Plans and Zoning By-laws) that:
  - protect and preserve prime farmlands for farming purposes for use by current and future generations of farmers.
  - provide agriculture with an area free from conflicting and/or incompatible land use activities.
  - support the needs of agriculture by permitting land use activities that are complimentary to and supportive of agriculture.



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## Ideas for Improving Local Agricultural Economies

2. The rural landscape is the site of a number of settlement areas (e.g. towns and villages). Local planning documents (Official Plans and Zoning By-laws) should:
  - direct non-farm development to settlement areas and provide sufficient areas for new non-farm development growth, where impacts on and conflicts with farming activities can be minimized.
  - be updated on a regular basis to ensure that issues such as land needs, land supply, and servicing needs are addressed on an ongoing basis.



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## Ideas for Improving Local Agricultural Economies

3. Make provision in local planning documents (Official Plans and Zoning By-laws) for farm-related agri-business uses and secondary uses to locate in agricultural areas, such as:
  - agricultural commercial/industrial uses.
  - secondary farm occupation uses.
  - home occupation uses.
  - value-added agricultural uses.





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## Ideas for Improving Local Agricultural Economies

4. Be forward thinking when looking at farming and agricultural development, not backwards to yesterday.

All too often, we have a tendency to get caught up on tradition. Farming/agriculture has experienced major changes in the last few decades and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Look towards the future and be prepared.

Look at new ways of doing things and “look outside of the box”.



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## Ideas for Improving Local Agricultural Economies

5. Communications → Knowledge → Sound decisions.

Numerous individuals/groups have a stake and a voice in renewing rural economies. Be as inclusive as possible, take time to listen, and receive and consider their input.