



## Cultivating a Fertile Environment for Urban Agriculture in the Greater Peterborough Area

*Urban Agriculture is a dynamic concept that includes a multitude of activities, all of which connect growing, processing, and distribution of local food and food- related products in and around cities. As Urban Agriculture takes different forms in different cities, it is best defined locally.*



## Urban Agriculture:





# Community Gardens



**2015: 700+ gardeners**

**2010: 225+ gardeners**

**41 Local  
Community  
Gardens**

**509  
PLOTS**

**Community Garden Locations:**

**School Lands - 10**

**Municipal Land - 9**

**Church Lands - 8**

**Community Housing - 7**

**Private Lands - 5**

**Federal & Provincial - 2**

**8  
County  
Gardens**

**#Local Community Gardens**



14

29

41

2010

2013

2015





## Harvests

• One Community Garden •

1,883

Lbs donated

1,679

Lbs. Personal Use

3453 lbs

Total lbs harvested

Total Value Harvested

\$8,738

## Potential Harvests

• 41 Community Gardens •

141,548 lbs

Approx. Lbs. Harvestable

Approx. \$ Value Harvested

\$358,240

How Much Do We Grow?

## Edible Landscaping, Gleaning & Foraging



# FOOD FOREST

A food forest is an urban approach to food production that involves the creation of a perennial garden that mimics a woodland ecosystem. These communities of plants are intentionally placed together to optimize space, nutrient exchange, pollination, productivity, and biodiversity.

### Benefits:

- Promotes community food production and security
- Creates habitat for wildlife and insects, including pollinators
- Increases public awareness about seasonal fruits, vegetables and nuts
- Provides an accessible space for foraging, gleaning and eating
- Supports biodiversity in an urban setting

### Ingredients:

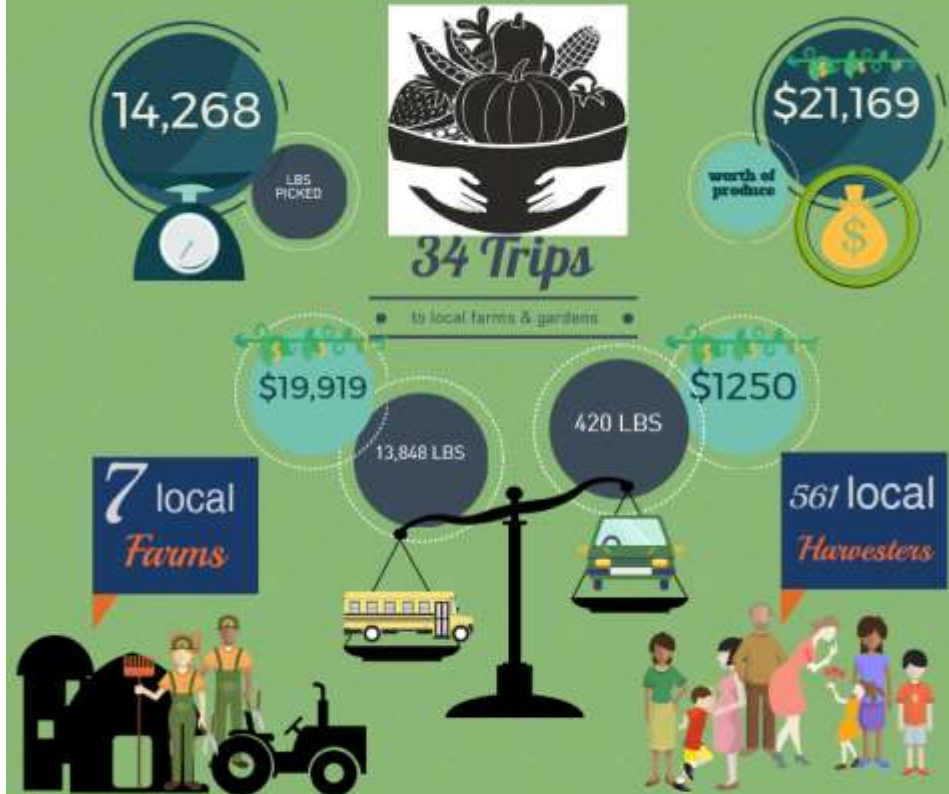
1. **Canopy** (large fruit trees)
2. **Low Tree Layer** (dwarf fruit trees)
3. **Shrubs** (currants & berries)
4. **Herbaceous** (herbs)
5. **Rhizosphere** (root vegetables)
6. **Soil Surface** (ground cover)
7. **Vertical Layer** (vines and climbers)





**GLEANNING:** the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest.

## 2016 Report: Peterborough Gleans



Peterborough Gleans is possible with support from:



Peterborough Faith Communities

## Green Roofs







Backyard Chickens & Urban Beekeeping





Urban Start-Up Farms & Shared Infrastructure



## Municipal Context & Considerations







1. Are these types of initiatives relevant and appropriate for the GPA, in the light of its “unique situation” and the factors outlined in the [Background](#) section (p.6)?
2. What are the costs of implementation?
3. Are the costs of implementation commensurate with the gains in terms of the benefits of urban agriculture?
4. What are the implications of soil quality in urban areas like the City of Peterborough for food production?
5. What are the implications of commercial production of food within urban areas?
6. How do the opportunities presented here support neighbourhood-centred planning?





1. What role should municipalities play in funding urban agriculture programs?
2. What opportunities can current municipal grant programs provide to urban agriculture ventures?
3. How can the municipality and the development community collaborate to support urban agriculture in new developments and in existing neighbourhoods?
4. How can we enhance the partnership between the municipality and community groups to support the maintenance and stewardship of green spaces?
5. How can urban agriculture be best positioned in upcoming projects, such as the Urban Park, Bethune St. reconstruction, and the Lily Lake Plan?







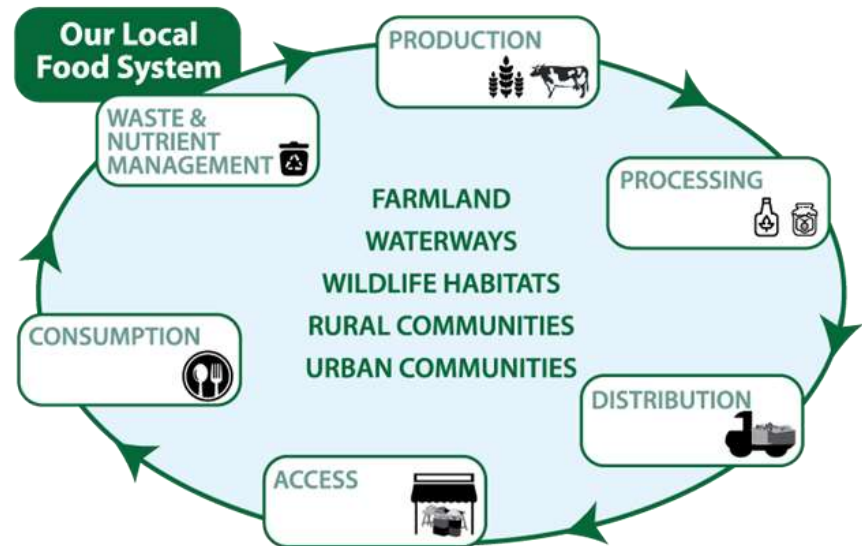
# What is a Food Charter?

- Local food charter development began after Board of Health suggestion in September 2015
- Examples of Food Charters supporting community action



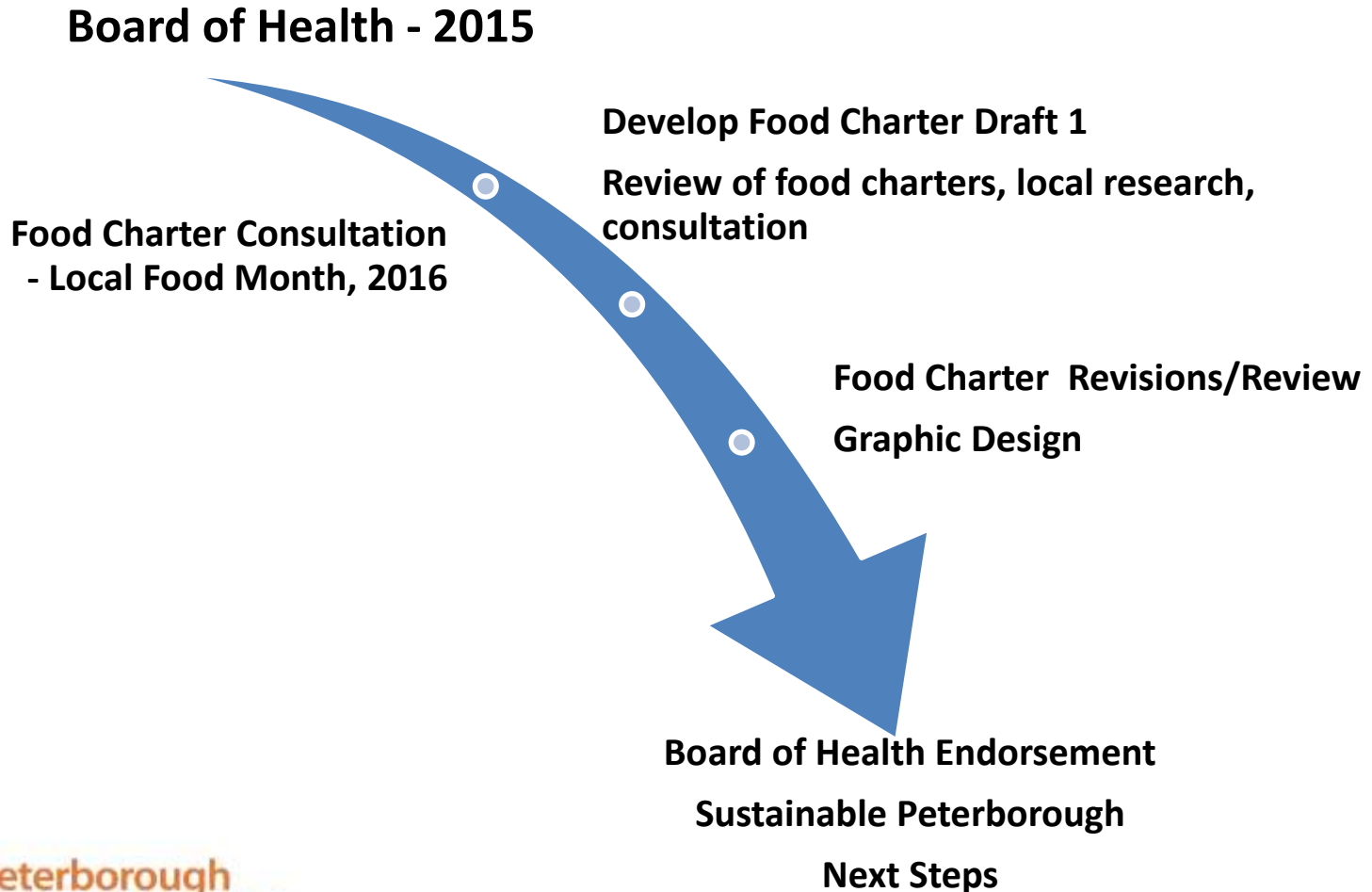
# Peterborough Food Charter

- Recognizes assets of our community
  - Working together
  - Years of local research and projects
- Acknowledges food insecurity and need to implement change
- Collaboration key
- Based on local food system





# Food Charter Development

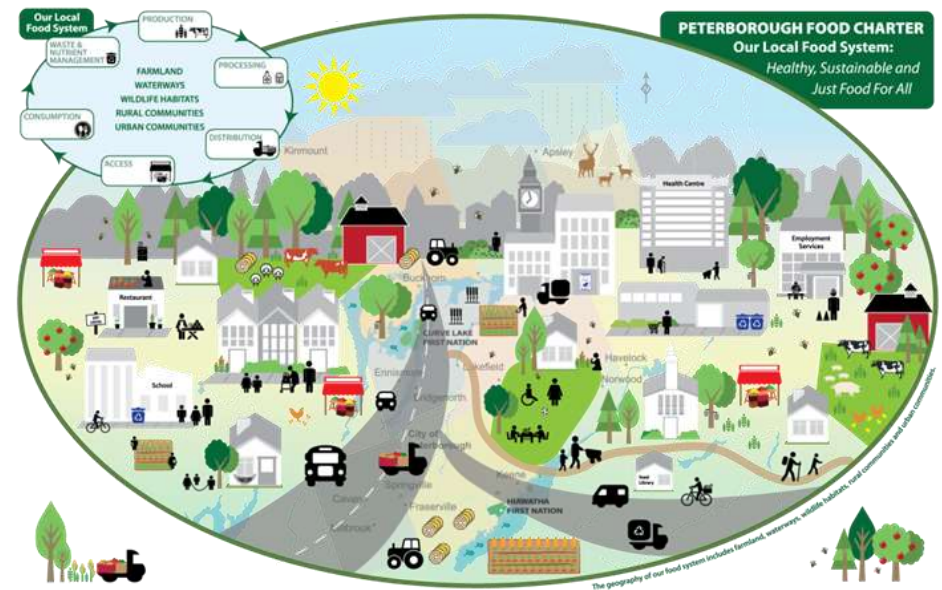


# Peterborough Food Charter

## For All Residents of Curve Lake, Hiawatha First Nations and the County & City of Peterborough

### Visionary Statements:

- Local Food System
- Health
- Social Justice
- Culture & Community
- Education
- Economic Sustainability
- The Environment







# Farmland, Farmers and Food Production in Peterborough County

**Prepared by:  
Sustainable Peterborough  
Future of Food and Farming Working Group  
Farmland Task Force  
May 2017**



# Agriculture and Food



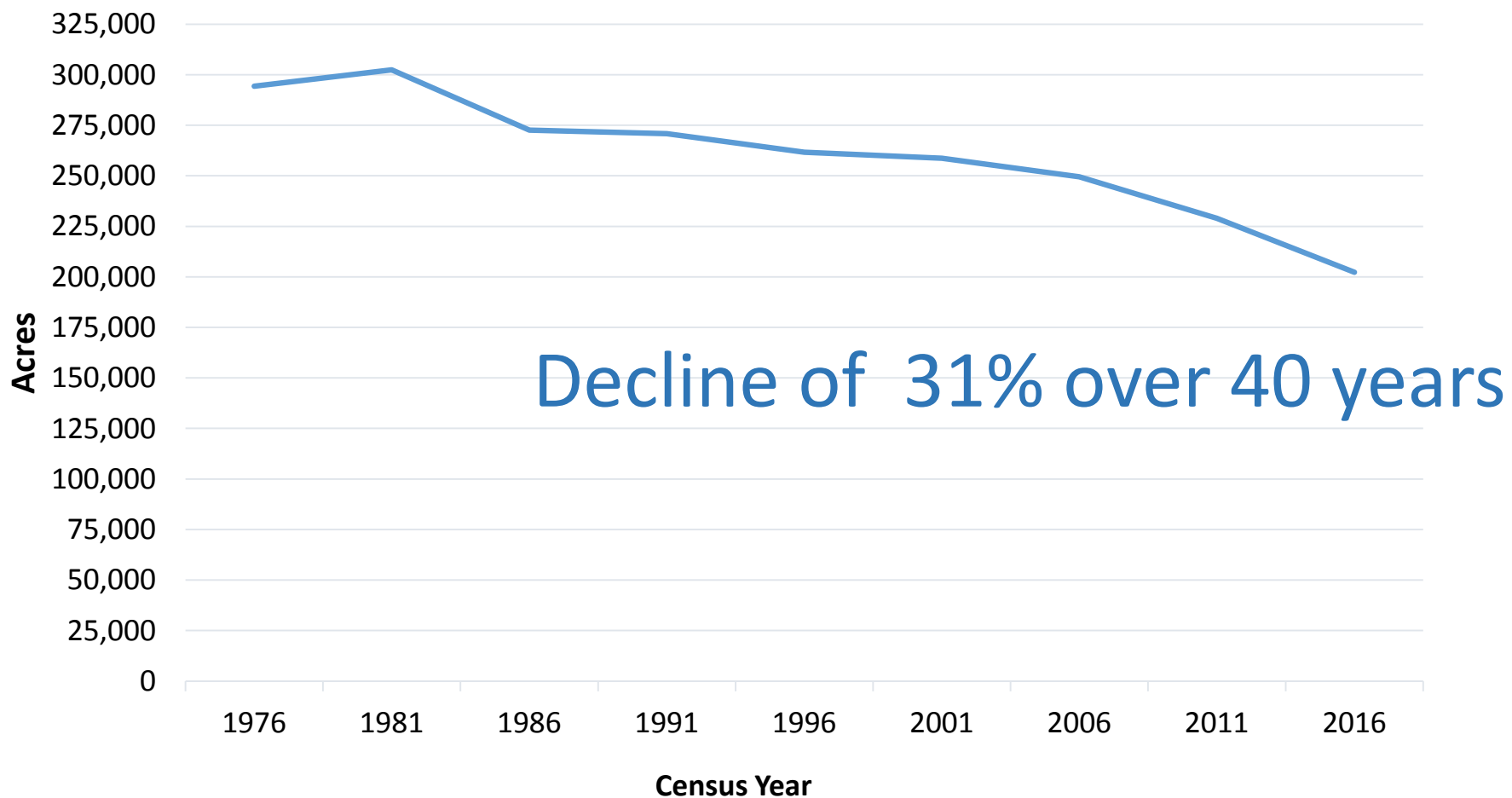
## **Our Goal:**

- We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

## **Strategic Directions:**

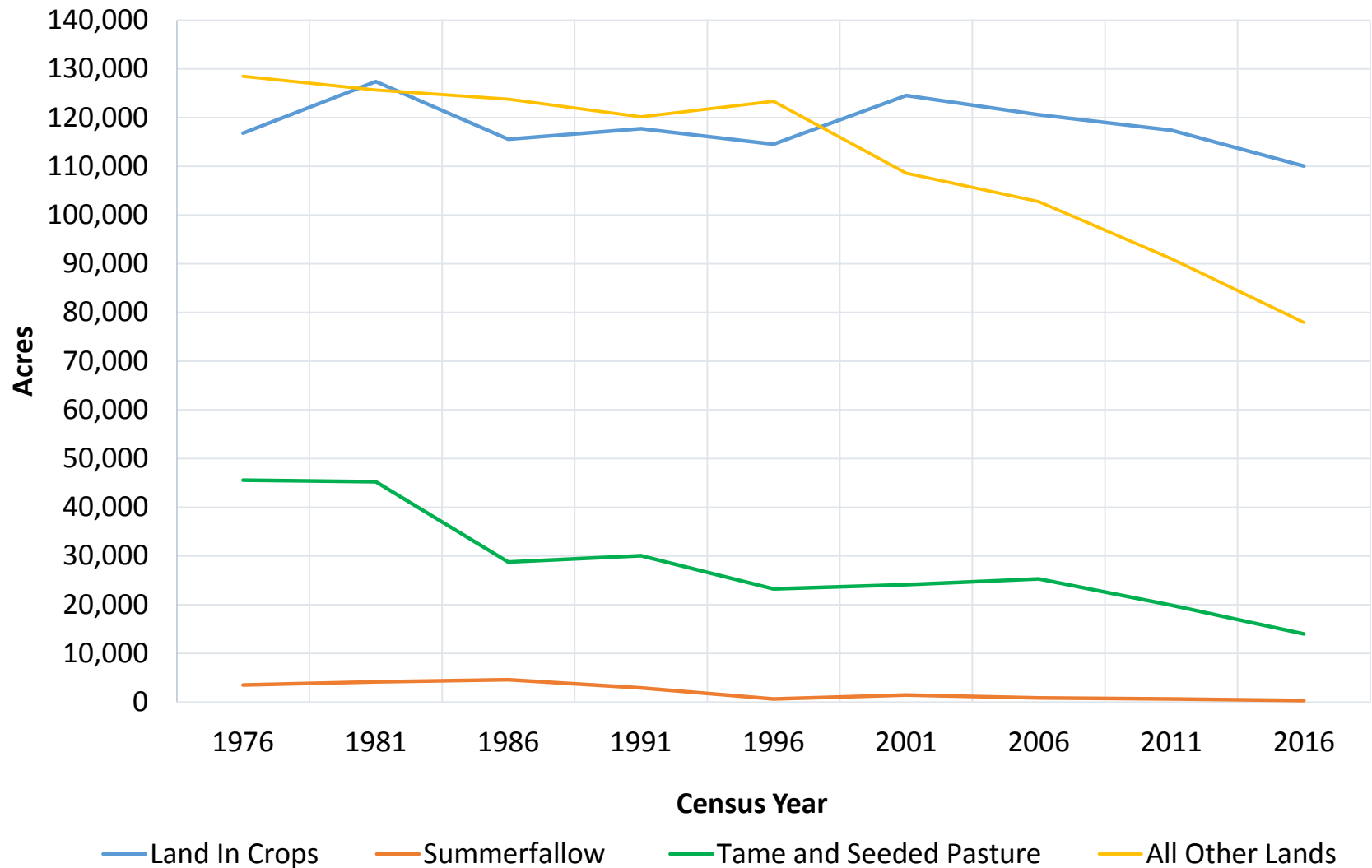
- Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
- Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
- Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

# Total Farmland in Peterborough County 1976- 2016

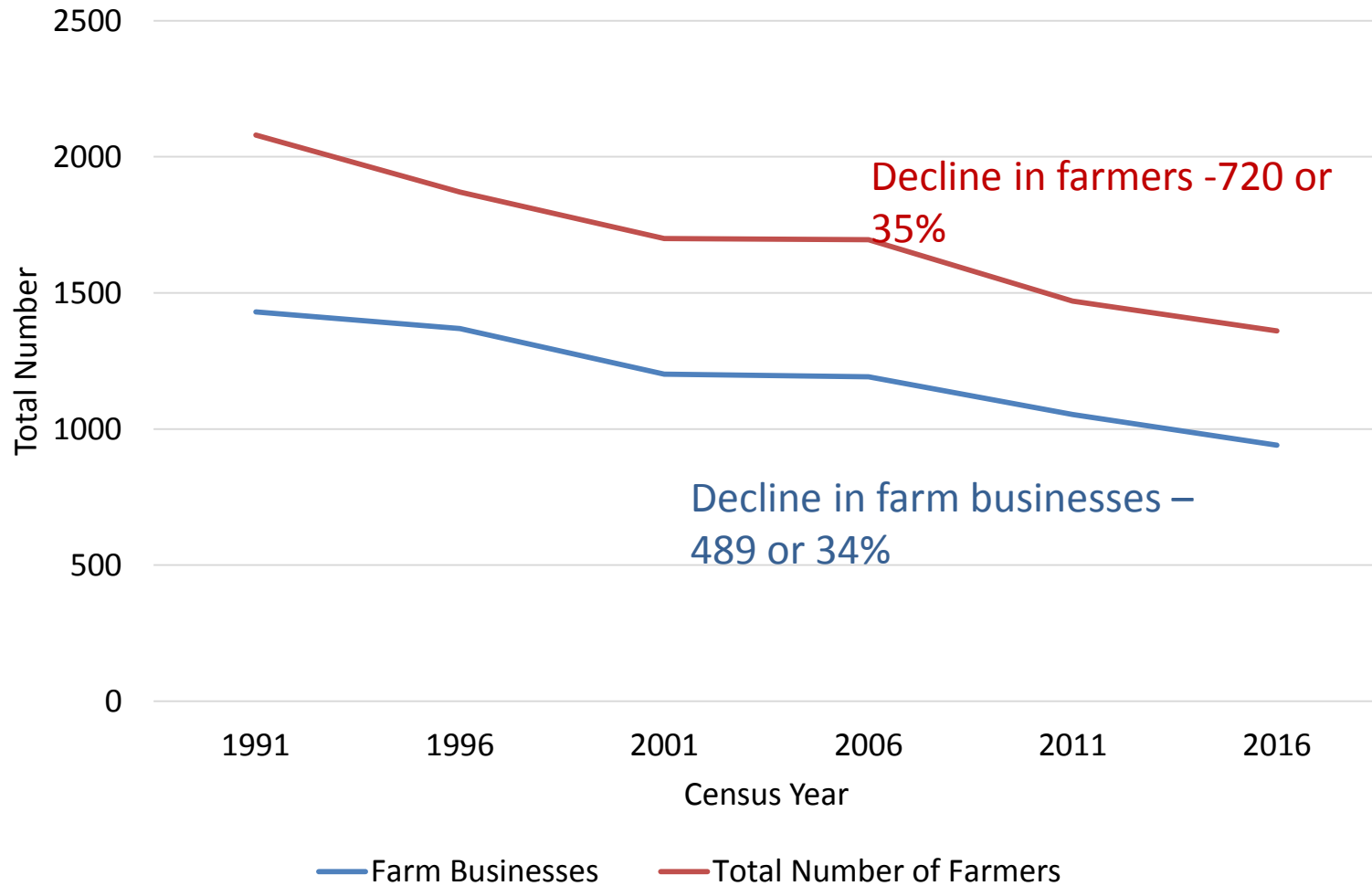




## Use of Farmland in Peterborough County

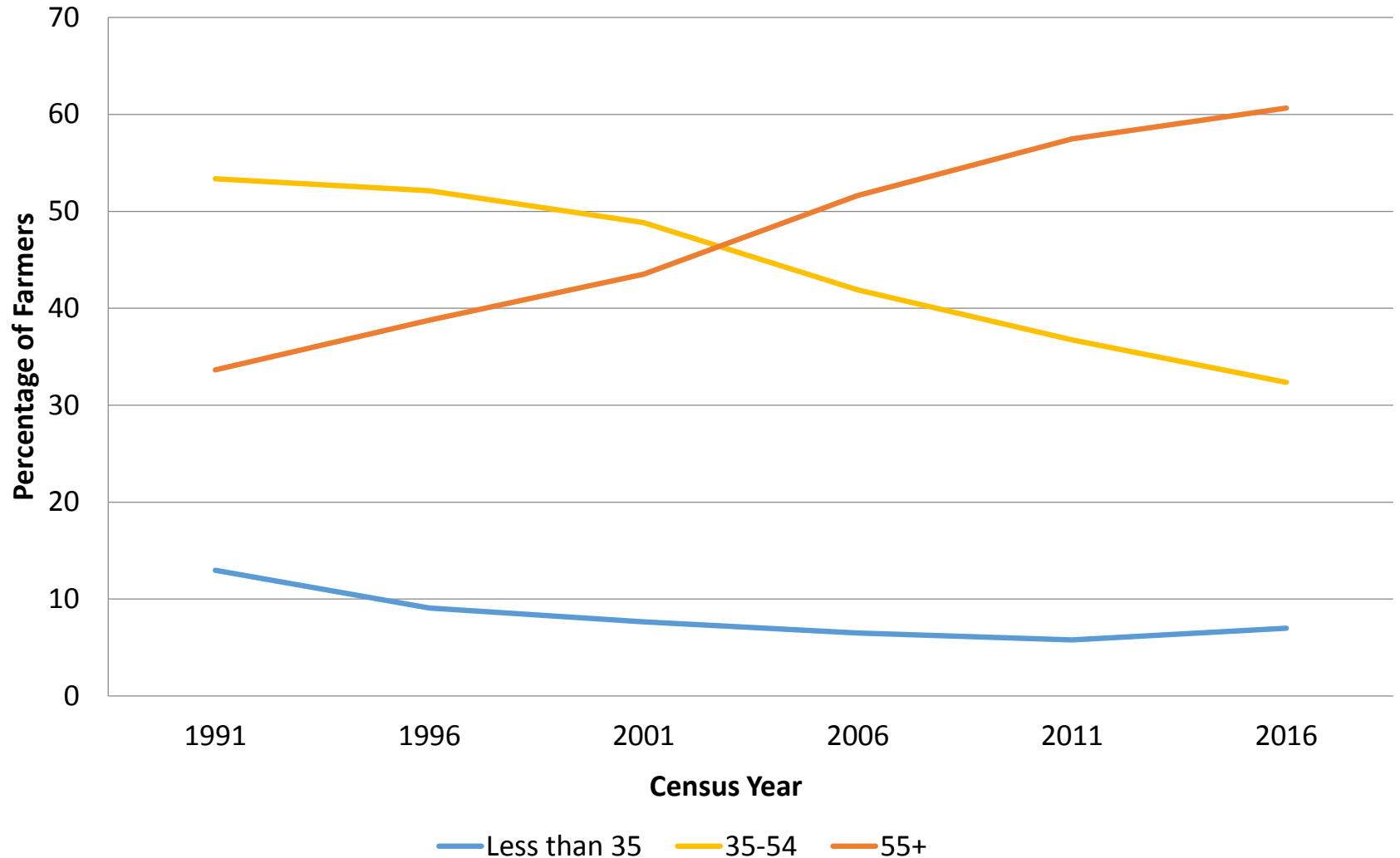


# Farmers and Farm Businesses, 1991 to 2016

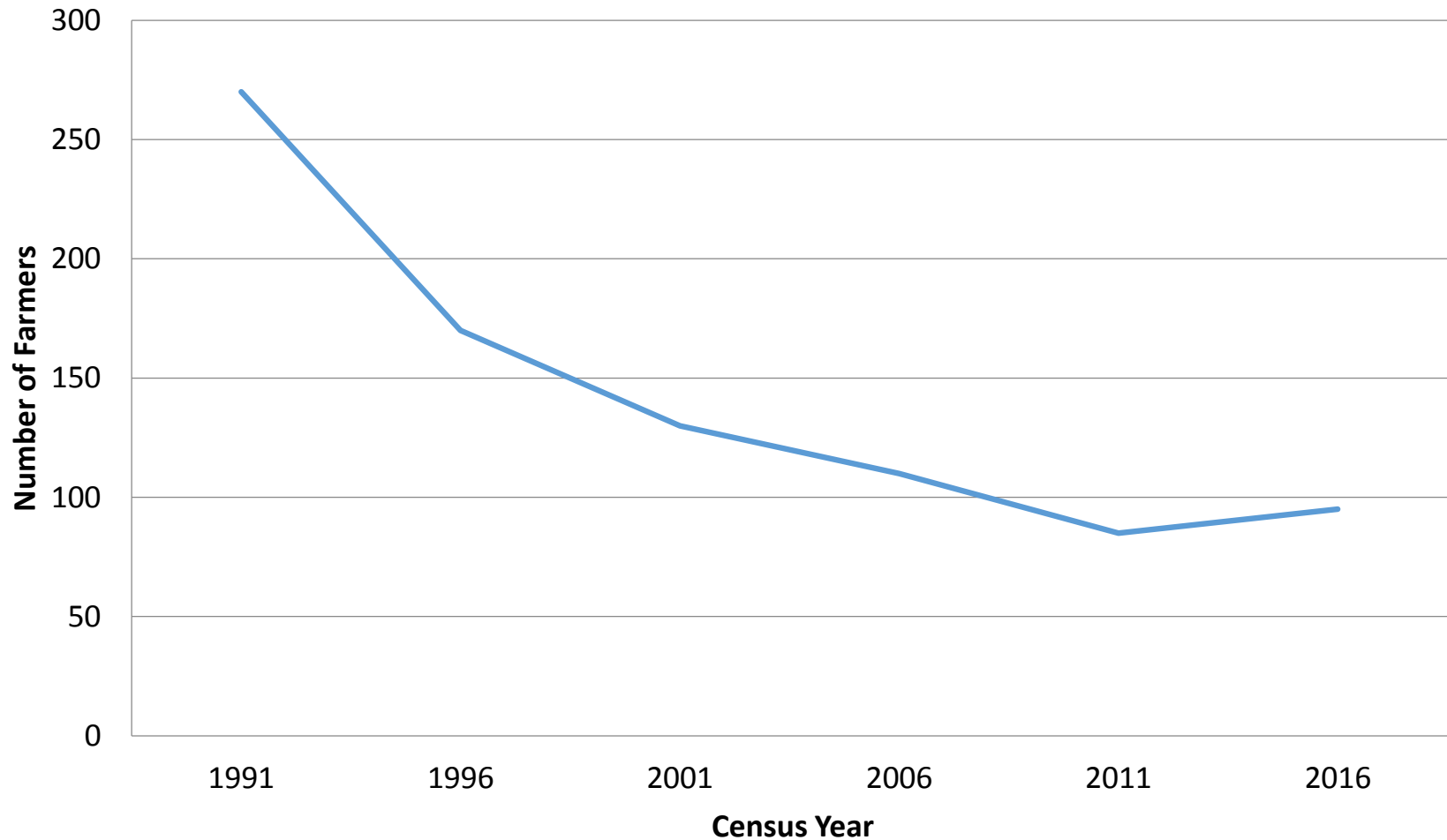




## Percentage of Farmers in three age groups in Peterborough County, Ontario: 1991-2016



# Peterborough County Farmers Under 35 Years: 1991-2016





# Projected # of farmers in Peterborough County, 2036

	2016	2026?	2036?	20 Year Percentage Change
Under 35	95	95	95	Kept constant
35-54	440	418	383	-13 %
Over 55	825	633	525	-36 %
Total	1360	1146	1003	-26 %

## Assumptions

1. Number of young farmers under 35 is constant
2. 25% of retiring farmers have successors age 35-54 who have previously been employees
3. Everyone gets older one year every year!

# Percentage of Farmed Land Protected in Official Plans, 2014

Township	# of Farms Reporting in Census, 2011	# of Acres Farmed, 2011 Census	# Acres Designated as Agriculture in the OP, 2014	% Protected
Cavan-Monaghan	186	36,311	36,311	100%
Otonabee-South Monaghan	223	51,007	43,000	84%
Asphodel-Norwood	136	28,903	17,500	61%
Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield (now Selwyn)	188	36,845	12,500	34%
Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	58	13,435	1,500	11%
Douro-Dummer	206	45,074	0	0%
Galway-Cavendish and Harvey (now Trent Lakes)	56	17,361	0	0%
<b>COUNTY TOTAL:</b>	1053	228,936	110,811	48%



# Food production vs need

	Planted in 2011	For 2011 population	For 2036 population
<b>Fruit &amp; Vegetables</b>	500 ac	2700 ac short	3600 ac short
<b>Cereals</b>	15,000 ac	3500 ac excess	1500 ac excess

Food Group in Canada's Food Guide	2011 Shortfall in Servings	Equivalent in Tonnes	2036 Shortfall in Servings	Equivalent in Tonnes
<b>Dairy products</b>	48,002,001	12,006	95,123,655	23,781
<b>Meat, eggs and dry beans</b>	40,808	4	33,688,880	3470