

# Middlesex County Agricultural Snapshot

OMAFRA (2022)



# Executive Summary

The County of Middlesex is an upper-tier municipality comprised of eight local municipalities covering an area of **285,000** hectares, with a population of approximately **78,000** people. The County is situated in the heart of Southwestern Ontario and is bisected by two major transportation routes, Highways 401 and 402. Middlesex has some of the richest agricultural lands in Southwestern Ontario and has direct access to two major border crossings to the United States: Windsor/Detroit and Sarnia/Port Huron; and good access to Fort Erie/Buffalo. Data compiled by OMAFRA (2022) has illustrated that agricultural abundance and innovation are key contributors to Middlesex County's communities and economy.

Middlesex County's farmers make significant contributions to Ontario's agricultural sector by producing large amounts of major field crops, including: winter wheat, oats for grain, barley for grain, mixed grains, corn for grain, corn for silage and soybeans. In 2021 Middlesex farms grew **6.2%** of all of Ontario's total vegetables (by acre) including **23.7%** of Ontario's green peas and **11.1%** of Ontario's green and wax beans. In Middlesex County, 2021 saw **3,135** farm operators working **2,355** farms, with the County's crop land (excluding Christmas tree area) measuring **511,988** acres. The average age of a farm operator in Middlesex County was **57.3** years in 2021, which was **0.3** years higher than the provincial average.

The complexion of agriculture in the County of Middlesex has changed somewhat in the last decade. However, **corn, soybeans, swine, dairy, and poultry**, have remained key staples over the years. In addition, **field vegetables** are also key.

From 2016-2021 there was an increase in the number of Middlesex farms growing **carrots, spinach, and lettuce**. In addition, for this same time period there was 100% or more growth in the number of Middlesex farms growing **celery**, and **Chinese cabbage**.

Livestock is an extremely important part of Middlesex County agriculture. In 2021, Middlesex farmers housed **20.4%** more cattle and calves, **31%** more pigs, **74.9%** more hens and chickens, and **24.6%** more turkeys than in 2016. In 2021, Middlesex County was responsible for **32.9%** of Ontario's turkey inventories. Between 2016 and 2021 Middlesex County also saw an impressive **102.3%** increase in its number of honeybee colonies. In 2021 the market value of total farm capital in Middlesex County which includes land, buildings, livestock, and machinery was up **45.2%** from 2016 for a total of approximately **\$11.4 billion**; making the market value of total farm capital an average of approximately **\$4.83 million per farm**, across all Middlesex County farms that reported. This is significantly higher than the Ontario average of approximately **\$3.81 million per farm reporting**.

Although the number of farms is generally thought to decrease over the years, between 2016 and 2021 Middlesex County **saw the opposite occur**. Different than the province of Ontario which saw its number of farms drop from **49,600 to 48,346, decreasing 2.5% between 2016 and 2021**; Middlesex County **increased its number of farms by 7.1%, from 2,199 in 2016 to 2,355 in 2021**. Additionally, even though Ontario's acres of crop land (excluding Christmas tree area) only grew by **0.3% between 2016 and 2021**, for the same period and the same statistic, **Middlesex County's acreage grew by a rate of 2.2% from 500,925 acres in 2016 to 511,988 in 2021**.

The use of digital technology and software in agriculture is advancing at an unprecedented rate. There has been great innovation in Middlesex County with the integration of alternative fuel sources including solar and wind and the production of bioenergy. Precision farming, variable rate technology in crops, biotech enhanced crops and robotics on farms are all examples of technology currently being used by farms and the agri-business industry in the County of Middlesex. Farmers are also using technologies like computers for farm management, automated steering and GIS mapping. In addition, high-precision guidance and real-time sensors are used to customize planting location, distance, and depth and deliver inputs by location and amount.

# Farms and Operators



In 2021 there were **3,135** farm operators working **2,355** farms in Middlesex County. This accounts for **511,988** total acres of crop land (excluding Christmas tree area).

## Average Age

- The average age of a farm operator in Middlesex County was **57.3** years in 2021. This was up 1.2 years from 2016 when the average age of an operator in Middlesex was **56.1**. Across the province the average age of a farm operator was **57** in **2021**, up **2** years from **2016**.

Farms, Operators, Middlesex County	Middlesex County (2021)
Number of Farms	<b>2,355</b>
Number of Operators	<b>3,135</b>
Average age of Operator	<b>57.3</b>



# Farm Capital Value



The market value of total farm capital in Middlesex County rose considerably from 2016 to 2021. In 2021 in Middlesex County this figure which includes land, buildings, livestock, and machinery was up **45.2% from 2016**, totaling approximately **\$11.4 billion**. This means that the average market value of total farm capital across the Middlesex County farms that reported in 2021, was approximately **\$4.83 million per farm**, significantly higher than the Ontario average of approximately **\$3.81 million per farm that reported**.

<b>Farm Capital - Middlesex County (Market Value)</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% of Change</b>	<b>Average Per Farm Reporting-2021</b>
Total farm capital	<b>\$11,379,336,325</b>	<b>\$7,836,692,254</b>	<b>+45.2%</b>	<b>\$4,831,990</b>
Total value of land and buildings	<b>\$10,508,420,562</b>	<b>\$7,160,451,947</b>	<b>+46.8%</b>	<b>\$4,462,174</b>
Value of all farm machinery and equipment	<b>\$664,501,104</b>	<b>\$494,486,625</b>	<b>+34.4%</b>	<b>\$314,334</b>
Value of livestock and poultry	<b>\$206,414,659</b>	<b>\$181,753,682</b>	<b>+13.6%</b>	<b>\$201,184</b>

# Crops

Middlesex County is home to a diverse collection of crops (see chart p. 6-8).

By acre, Middlesex County is dominated by three main crops: **corn, soybeans and wheat.**

In 2021, Middlesex County's acres of crop land (excluding Christmas tree area) accounted for a **5.66% share of the Ontario figure.** This 2021 share increased **1.87%** from Middlesex County's share of the provincial total in 2016.



## Key Growing Region

In 2021 Middlesex farms grew **6.2% of Ontario's total vegetables (by acre) including 23.7% of Ontario's green peas, 11.1% of Ontario's green and wax beans and 9.5% of Ontario's sweet corn.**

## Some Significant Changes in Plantings

Between 2016 and 2021, Middlesex County's acreage of cabbage increased **708.3%**, with dry white beans increasing **46.9%** and carrots up **35.2%**.

On the other hand between 2016 and 2021 in Middlesex County, the acreage of green and wax beans decreased by **43.7%** and the acreage of green peas decreased by **31.1%**.

Although the above crops dropped significantly in their Middlesex County acreage from 2016-2021, Middlesex is still responsible for a large percentage Ontario's acreage of these 2 crops.

## Grains & Oilseed

In 2021 in Middlesex County **corn for grain was the largest crop by acre, with soybeans following as a close second.** The County's acreage of **corn for grain increased from 2016 to 2021, while acreage of soybeans decreased slightly over the same period. Total rye greatly increased in acreage from 2016 to 2021 while total wheat acreage increased only very slightly.**

## Greenhouse

Total area of greenhouses in use in Middlesex County **decreased significantly from 1,582,733 square feet in 2016 to 630,682 square feet in 2021.**

<b>Chart: Crops In Middlesex County</b>	Acres (or sq.ft or number if noted in left column) (2021)	Acres (or sq.ft or number if noted in left column) (2016)	% Change Acres (or sq.ft or number) 2016-2021	Farms Reporting (2021)	Farms Reporting (2016)	% Change Farms Reporting 2016-2021
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures	<b>24,687</b>	<b>25,633</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>-11.7%</b>
All other tame hay and fodder crops	<b>8,054</b>	<b>4,887</b>	<b>+64.8%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>+27.8%</b>
Apples	<b>592</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>
Apricots	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Asparagus, non-producing	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>+17.6%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+50%</b>
Asparagus, producing	<b>37</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+44.4%</b>
Barley	<b>556</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>+69.5%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Beets	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>+6.7%</b>
Blueberries	<b>21</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+150%</b>
Broccoli	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+1450.0%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-22.2%</b>
Brussels sprouts	<b>1</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Buckwheat	<b>2</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Cabbage	<b>97</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>+708.3%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Canola	<b>307</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+200.0%</b>
Carrots	<b>706</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>+35.2%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>+13.3%</b>
Cauliflower	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-62.5%</b>
Celery	<b>1</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+700.0%</b>
Cherries (sour)	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+100.0%</b>
Cherries (sweet)	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
Chinese cabbage	<b>1</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+300.0%</b>
Christmas trees	<b>99</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>-27.2%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-35.7%</b>
Corn for grain	<b>187,738</b>	<b>174,460</b>	<b>+7.6%</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>+4.3%</b>
Corn for silage	<b>11,116</b>	<b>13,264</b>	<b>-16.2%</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>-26.7%</b>
Cucumbers	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-89.5%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-21.1%</b>
Dry field peas	<b>386</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>+144.3%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+100.0%</b>
Dry onions, yellow, Spanish, cooking, etc.	<b>1</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>-99.3%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-35.3%</b>

Dry white beans	<b>4,046</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>+46.9%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>+5.7%</b>
Flaxseed	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-50.0%</b>
Fruits, berries and nuts (other)	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-29.2%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>
Fruits, berries and nuts (producing and non-producing)	<b>765</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-20.9%</b>
Ginseng	<b>189</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>+28.6%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Grapes	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>+100.0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Green and wax beans	<b>969</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>-43.7%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-29.4%</b>
Green peas	<b>3,335</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>-31.1%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>
Greenhouses in use (total area) (sq. ft.)	<b>630,682</b>	<b>1,582,733</b>	<b>-60.2%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>
Greenhouse Flowers (sq. ft.)	<b>55,702</b>	<b>957,071</b>	<b>-94.2%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-85.7%</b>
Greenhouse products (other) (sq. ft.)	<b>160,580</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Greenhouse Veg (sq. ft.)	<b>67,901</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+37.5%</b>
Lettuce	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>+40.0%</b>
Maple Taps (number)	<b>37,120</b>	<b>57,529</b>	<b>-35.5%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-21.3%</b>
Mixed Grains	<b>511</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>-54.4%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-51.0%</b>
Mushrooms (sq. ft.)	<b>55,653</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Nursery (total)	<b>979</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>+112.0%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-92.1%</b>
Oats	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-21.3%</b>
Peaches	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-75.0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-80.0%</b>
Pears	<b>8</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>
Peppers	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-57.9%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-25.0%</b>
Plums and prunes	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>
Potatoes	<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-83.7%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-64.3%</b>
Pumpkins	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-23.5%</b>
Radishes	<b>1</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>+33.3%</b>
Raspberries	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>+8.3%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>+120.0%</b>
Rutabagas and turnips	<b>100</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-71.4%</b>
Rye (total)	<b>2,996</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>+65.3%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-37.5%</b>

Shallots and green onions	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>
Sod	<b>276</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>-74.5%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>+220.0%</b>
Soybeans	<b>167,247</b>	<b>167,918</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
Spinach	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-80.0%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+50.0%</b>
Squash and zucchini	<b>114</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-14.3%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-28.6%</b>
Strawberries	<b>106</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>-10.2%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-50.0%</b>
Sunflowers	<b>55</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>-28.6%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Sweet corn	<b>1,947</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>-14.3%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
Tomatoes	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-80.0%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>
Triticale	<b>0</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
Vegetables (total)	<b>7,868</b>	<b>13,303</b>	<b>-40.9%</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>-19.3%</b>
Vegetables (other)	<b>437</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>-60.5%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-53.8%</b>
Wheat (total)	<b>83,323</b>	<b>83,170</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>+0.6%</b>

x – no data available



# Livestock

Livestock is an extremely important aspect of Middlesex County's agriculture sector; most notably turkey, poultry, pigs and cattle. In fact, in **2021 Middlesex County was responsible for 32.9% of Ontario's turkey inventories.**

The average market value of livestock and poultry per Middlesex farm reporting in **2021 was about \$201,184.** Across Ontario, that same figure was only about **\$137,795.**



Middlesex County farmers housed more **cattle and calves and pigs and turkeys** in 2021 than they did in 2016, while their inventories of **sheep and lambs and horses and ponies** decreased over the same time period. The number of honeybee farms reporting increased by **29.7%** from 2016-2021.

Livestock Middlesex County	Count (2021)	Count (2016)	% Change Count (2016-2021)	Farms Reporting (2021)	Farms Reporting (2016)	% Change Farms Reporting (2016-2021)
Cattle and calves	75,378	62,617	+20.4%	516	523	-1.3%
Sheep & Lambs	7,003	8,505	-17.7%	84	92	-8.7%
Pigs	439,813	335,852	+31.0%	140	140	0.0%
Horses and ponies	1,764	2,645	-33.3%	202	358	-43.6%
Goats	3,352	2,829	+18.5%	43	59	-27.1%
Llamas and Alpacas	234	147	+59.2%	13	20	-35.0%
Rabbits	44	1,194	-96.3%	2	21	-90.5%
Bisons (buffalo)	0	x	x	0	1	-100.0%
Elk (wapiti)	0	x	x	0	x	x
Deer (excluding wild deer)	201	x	x	12	2	+500.0%
Mink	0	x	x	0	1	-100.0%
Hens and Chickens	4,317,671	2,468,503	+74.9%	288	245	+17.6%
Turkeys	806,865	647,816	+24.6%	22	27	-18.5%

x – no data available

Table Egg Production (year prior-dozens)	<b>33,310,007</b>	<b>14,528,254</b>	<b>+129.3%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
Colonies of Honeybees	<b>2,592</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>+102.3%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>+29.7%</b>

## Farmland and Uses



Middlesex County prides itself on its agricultural practices. Its rich soils and relatively flat land make it the perfect location to maximize crop production and agricultural success. **Middlesex County accounts for about 5% of Ontario's total farm acreage (based on farms reporting).**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Total farm area (Acres) (2021)</b>
Ontario	<b>11,766,071</b>
Middlesex County	<b>593,411</b>
Southwest Middlesex	<b>78,694</b>
Strathroy-Caradoc	<b>64,434</b>
Thames Centre	<b>74,962</b>
Middlesex Centre	<b>135,833</b>
North Middlesex	<b>134,970</b>
Adelaide Metcalfe	<b>54,681</b>
Lucan Biddulph	<b>49,837</b>

# No-Till Practices

Environmentally friendly and sustainable practices are readily observed in Middlesex County. No-till agricultural practices leave the soil and land undisturbed, preventing soil erosion and runoff contamination. **6.4% of Ontario's no-till/zero-till seeding practices (by acre, based on farms reporting) occur in Middlesex County.**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>No-till/zero-till seeding (Acres) (2021)</b>
Ontario	<b>2,344,551</b>
Middlesex County	<b>150,498</b>
Southwest Middlesex	<b>26,982</b>
Strathroy-Caradoc	<b>13,238</b>
Thames Centre	<b>12,030</b>
Middlesex Centre	<b>35,045</b>
North Middlesex	<b>32,703</b>
Adelaide-Metcalf	<b>14,771</b>
Lucan Biddulph	<b>15,729</b>

# Woodlands and Wetlands

Middlesex County contains a wide variety of agricultural divisions. It's close proximity to Lake Huron and Lake Erie provides a moderating effect resulting in a comfortable four season climate, perfect for growing Spruce, Pine and Fir trees. **In fact, 3.3% of Ontario's acreage of woodland and wetlands (based on farms reporting) are located in Middlesex County.**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Woodlands and Wetlands (Acres) (2021)</b>
Ontario	<b>1,261,484</b>
Middlesex County	<b>41,849</b>
Southwest Middlesex	<b>7,033</b>
Strathroy-Caradoc	<b>4,670</b>
Thames Centre	<b>6,199</b>
Middlesex Centre	<b>9,112</b>
North Middlesex	<b>8,231</b>
Adelaide-Metcalf	<b>4,319</b>
Lucan Biddulph	<b>2,285</b>

# Maple Syrup and Products Production

Other unique agricultural practices are rapidly growing in Middlesex County. This can be seen by the increasing number of farms engaged in **maple syrup and products production**. There has been a **100% increase in the number of Middlesex farms reporting in this category over the last 5 years**.

Geography	2016	2021
<b>Middlesex County</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Southwest Middlesex	x	2
Strathroy-Caradoc	x	1
Thames Centre	1	0
Middlesex Centre	1	1
North Middlesex	1	2
Adelaide-Metcalf	x	0
Lucan Biddulph	x	0

x – no data available

## Irrigation

In Middlesex County, the number of farms that reported irrigating in the calendar year prior to the reporting year decreased by 18.2% between 2016 and 2021; from 66 farms in 2016 to 54 farms in 2021.

For the same period and statistic across Ontario, the number of farms increased by 0.6% and the acres that these farms reported irrigating increased by 10%.



# Tenure

In terms of tenure, most farm land in Middlesex County is owned by the farm operator: 431,005 acres in 2021 (based on farms reporting). In 2021 (based on farms reporting) the area rented or leased from others was 158,247, while the area crop-shared from others was 37,451 acres and the area of land used by others was 38,220 acres.



# Non-Farm Work

Non-farm Work	2021	2016	% Change (2016-2021)
0 hours/week	1,515	1,600	-5.3%
Less than 20 hours/week	290	225	+28.9%
Between 20-29 hours/week	205	175	+17.1%
Between 30-40 hours/week	500	425	+17.6%
More than 40 hours/week	630	650	-3.1%

The above table explains the average time spent by number of farm operators for all other paid work during the calendar year prior to the reporting years listed above.

# Succession Planning

In Middlesex County, in 2021 368 farms reported having a written succession plan for the operation. These plans are in place for farms to be passed down to other family members or investors in order to sustain the operation. **With the average age of local farmers sitting at 57.3, succession planning is becoming increasingly important for sector sustainability.**

# Farm Sales & CSAs

Community supported agriculture programs (CSAs) are an alternative model of local food distribution that sees consumers sharing the risk of production with the grower or producer. This type of program greatly reduces the waste involved in blindly growing food for an indeterminate number of people. **In 2021, 4 Middlesex County based farms reported using the CSA method of distribution, 17 reported selling at farmers' markets and 108 farms sold directly to consumers through farm gate sales, stands, kiosks, or U-pick.**



# Innovation

Innovation comes naturally to many operators in Middlesex County and the agriculture sector leads the way in the age of alternative energy and fuel technologies. Farmers have begun to embrace alternative technologies in their farming practices including solar, wind and bio-fuel crops. Working in collaboration with agencies - including the Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and Natural Resource & Conservation Service - farmers in Middlesex County are consistently at the forefront of technology adoption.



## Number of Farms Involved in Using Technological Advancements in Middlesex County (2021) (Based on farms reporting):

Technological Advancements	Number of Farms Using Technology
Automated steering (auto-steer)	815
GIS mapping (e.g., soil mapping)	621
Robotic milking	21

# Renewable Energy Production

In 2021 the use of renewable energy producing systems, was reported by 407 Middlesex farms.

# Raising Awareness

Middlesex County's Economic Development and Tourism Department will be utilizing the information in this report to raise awareness among citizens, businesses, visitors and investors.

This report has been upload to our website at: <https://www.investinmiddlesex.ca/>. A series of infographics and blogs to highlight key aspects of this report will be released in the near future, and will be shared via our social media channels, website and quarterly newsletter.

# The Data

This report utilized data from a **custom Middlesex County profile prepared by OMAFRA (2022)**. There may be some margin of error in the data due to OMAFRA making some data fields into a figure of 0 where there was no data or where there was a suppression of data. Another note to make is that some First Nations' data may be included in the above report even though these communities are not part of Middlesex County. The reason for this is that neighbouring First Nations were grouped into Strathroy-Caradoc data for some fields. Finally, although Newbury is not mentioned, much of their data is included as they were grouped into Southwest Middlesex data for many fields.