



Agriculture is at the heart of East Gwillimbury (EG)'s economy and identity, including traditional family farms, equine operations, and innovative agri-businesses.

EG accounts for approximately **17.5%** of all farms in York Region, supporting a robust local food system and a growing agri-tourism sector.

The Holland Marsh, a designated specialty crop area within the Greenbelt, extends into EG, offering some of the most nutrient-dense and productive soils in Ontario.

This landscape supports vegetable processing facilities and large-scale farms such as **Lakeview Vegetable Processing** and **ATV Farms**, as well as equine facilities like the **Royal Canadian Riding Academy**.



WHY EG?

- Strategic location within the **Greenbelt's Holland Marsh** specialty area, offering premium farmland and access to regional distribution networks
- Known as "Ontario's Salad Bowl," the Holland Marsh alone contributes **\$450 million** annually to Ontario's GDP
- Supportive municipal environment promoting **farm diversification** and **agri-tourism**
- Access to **York Region's Food and Beverage Accelerator Program** through York University's YSpace, supporting scale-up and innovation for food entrepreneurs

FAST FACTS (2024)



103 AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES
operating across **23,000+** acres



387 JOBS
(+88% growth over 10 years)

\$9.8M in local wages paid



\$235M
in annual sales



\$168M
in exports



83% of goods purchased locally

2014-2024 AGRICULTURE JOB COUNTS AND SHIFT SHARE ANALYSIS

AGRICULTURE SECTOR	2014 JOBS	2024 JOBS	2014 - 2024 CHANGE
East Gwillimbury	205	387	182
Greater York Region	2,574	3,143	569

Source: 2025 Target Sectors Analysis, McSweeney & Associates, Lightcast Analyst 2024.3.

2024 AGRICULTURE BUSINESS COUNTS

AGRICULTURE SECTOR	1-9 EMPLOYEES	10-49 EMPLOYEES	50+ EMPLOYEES	INDETERMINATE	TOTAL
East Gwillimbury	15	10	3	75	103
Greater York Region	177	57	12	674	920

Source: 2025 Target Sectors Analysis, McSweeney & Associates, Canadian Business Counts, June 2024.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Expansion of farm-to-table and local food processing ventures
- On-farm **diversification**: agri-tourism, value-added production, farm experiences
- Partnerships** in sustainable agriculture, greenhouse operations, and vertical farming
- Investment** in climate-smart and precision agriculture technologies to boost efficiency and resilience



WHAT'S NEXT?

- National trends show rising demand for organic, sustainable, and locally sourced products.
- Climate-resilient farming and adaptive technologies will drive competitiveness.
- Funding opportunities through various levels of government