

Factors Affecting Farmland Markets - 2017 and Beyond

Land Values and Lease Trends
ISPFMRA
Bloomington, IL - March 2017



Bruce J. Sherrick, Ph.D.
TIAA Center for Farmland Research,
University of Illinois

Advancing Farmland Markets through Research and Information

farmdocDAILY

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Advancing Farmland Markets through Research and Information

Goals: improve accuracy and understanding of asset class, and to provide unbiased research and useful tools for those involved with farmland investments.

Tools and articles at:

<http://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/>

<http://farmland.illinois.edu/>

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Balance Sheet of Ag Sector -- US

Table 1. Selected Balance Sheet Characteristics of US Agricultural Sector

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2012	2014	2016
	<i>(\$ millions, except ratios - source ERS-USDA)</i>							
Farm Assets	278,823	1,000,422	840,609	1,203,215	2,170,832	2,638,243	2,949,243	2,848,679
Real Estate	202,418	782,820	619,149	946,428	1,660,114	2,073,664	2,383,150	2,383,688
Non Real Estate	76,405	217,602	221,459	256,787	510,718	564,579	566,092	464,990
Farm Debt	48,501	162,432	131,116	163,930	278,931	297,521	345,201	375,395
Real Estate	27,238	85,272	67,633	84,724	154,065	173,369	196,780	226,733
Non Real Estate	21,263	77,160	63,483	79,206	124,865	124,152	148,421	148,662
Equity	230,322	837,990	709,493	1,039,285	1,891,902	2,340,722	2,604,041	2,473,283
Selected Indicators								
Debt/Equity	21.1%	19.4%	18.5%	15.8%	14.7%	12.7%	13.3%	15.2%
Debt/Assets	17.4%	16.2%	15.6%	13.6%	12.8%	11.3%	11.7%	13.2%
Real Estate/Equity	87.9%	93.4%	87.3%	91.1%	87.7%	88.6%	91.5%	96.4%
Real Estate/Assets	72.6%	78.2%	73.7%	78.7%	76.5%	78.6%	80.8%	83.7%
Real Estate D/Total I	56.2%	52.5%	51.6%	51.7%	55.2%	58.3%	57.0%	60.4%

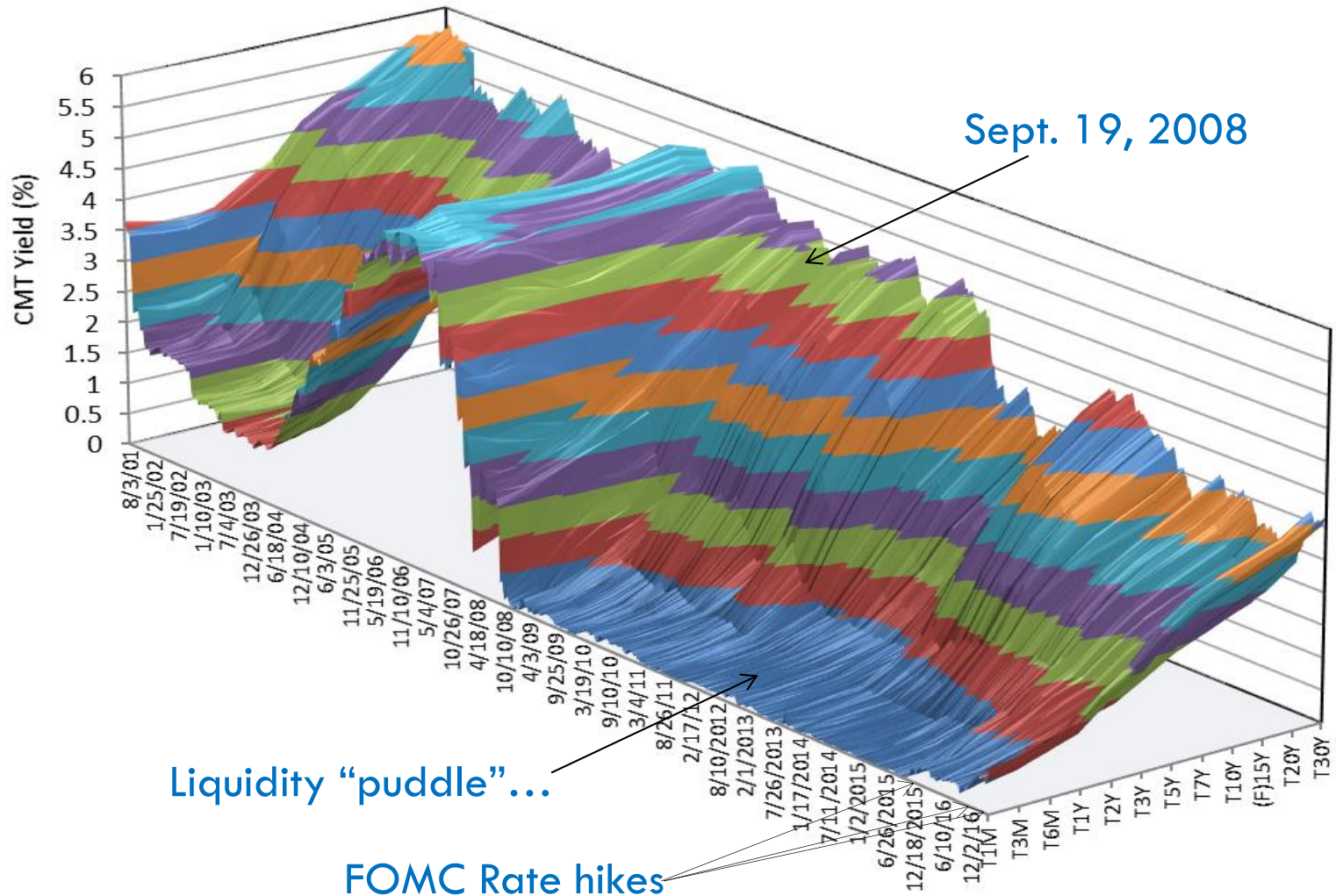
Ag Sector Balance Sheet -- US

- Farmland represents about 84% of farm assets
- Farm real estate debt only 60% of total farm debt
- Low aggregate leverage (approx. 13% D/A)
- Growth rates 1970-2016, continuous compounding:
 - Assets --5%
 - Real Estate -- 5.3%
 - Debt – 5%
 - Equity – 5%
- Absence of active equity market with “hedgeable” indices – key in future.
- Ag Balance sheet compared to corporate sector vastly different, especially in financial structure.
- Early stage “financialization” critical to improving efficiency of farmland market.

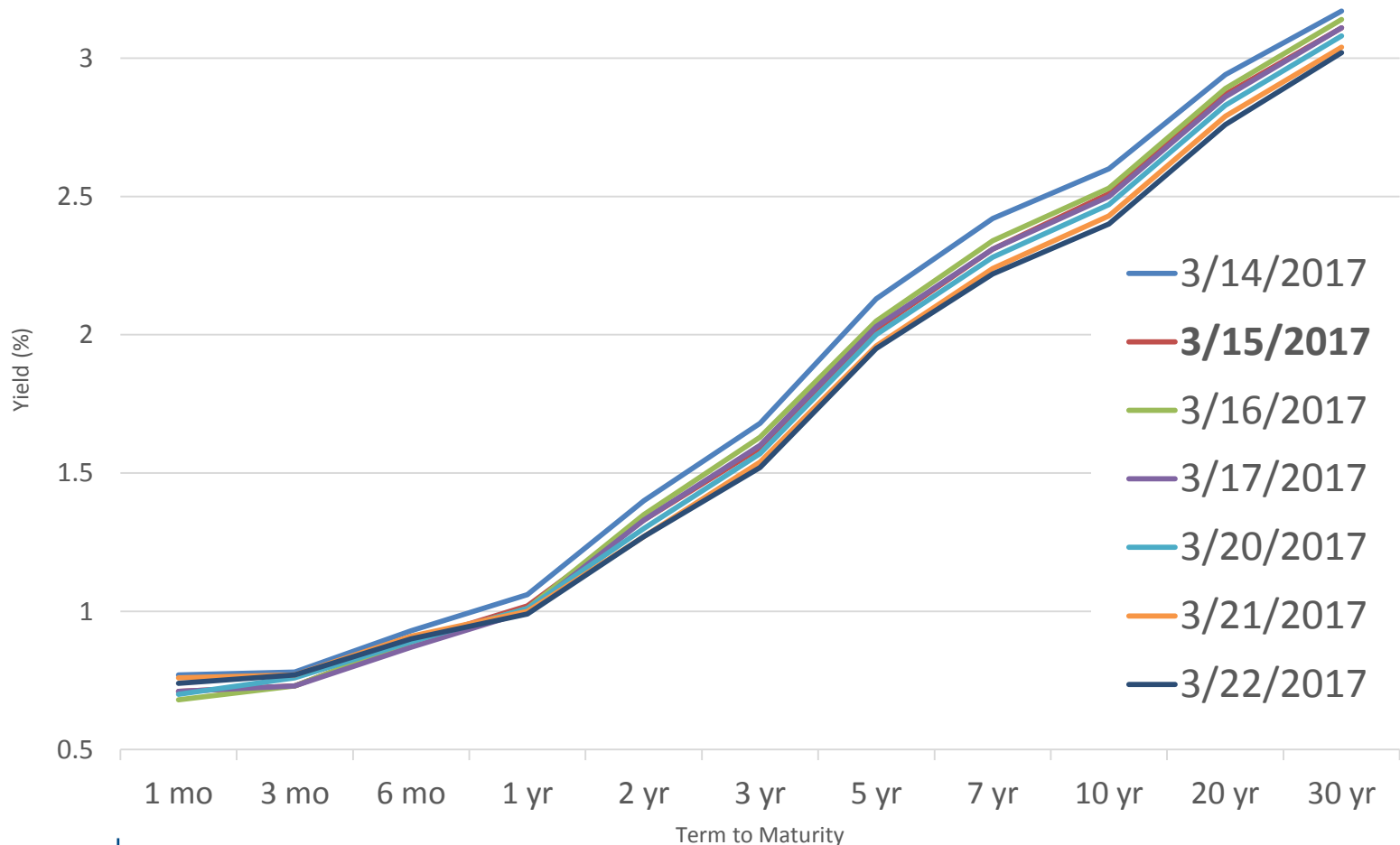
Remembering your Future's Past..

- Macro Market influences – *where to from here?*
 - Interest rates and strength of dollar, relative returns still attractive
 - Trade policy, world productivity changes, emerging market diets
- Agricultural Policy
 - Direct impacts (i.e., Farm Bill related, including crop insurance, conservation)
 - Indirect (Energy, RFS, nutrition, climate, and related)
- Efficiency vs consumer view of sustainability,
 - GMO and related debates reshaped into attribute demands
 - Water (policy and virtual trade) and locational usage by sector
 - Land Use, edge of field, 'downstream' liability, BMP and NMP
- Technological advances (more later)
- Emerging Financial Structures underlying modern production systems

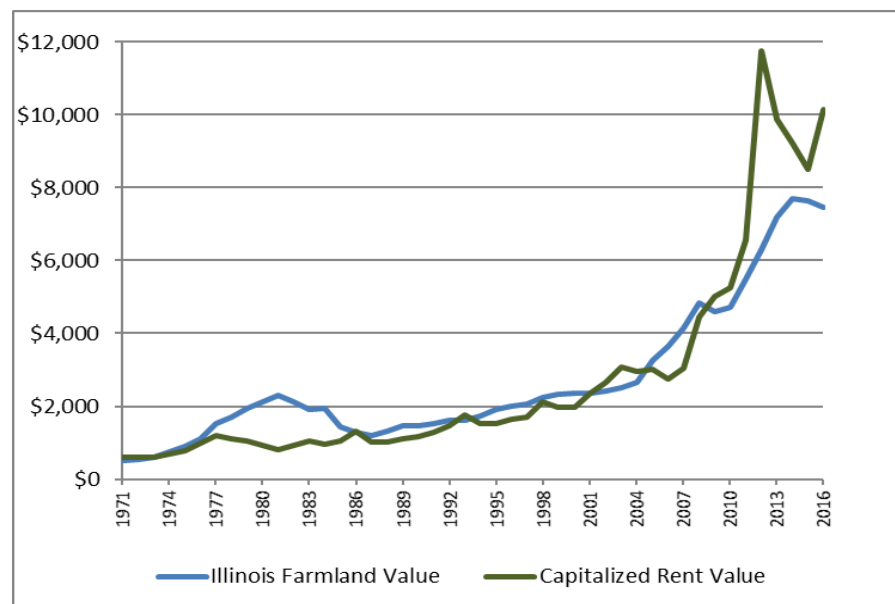
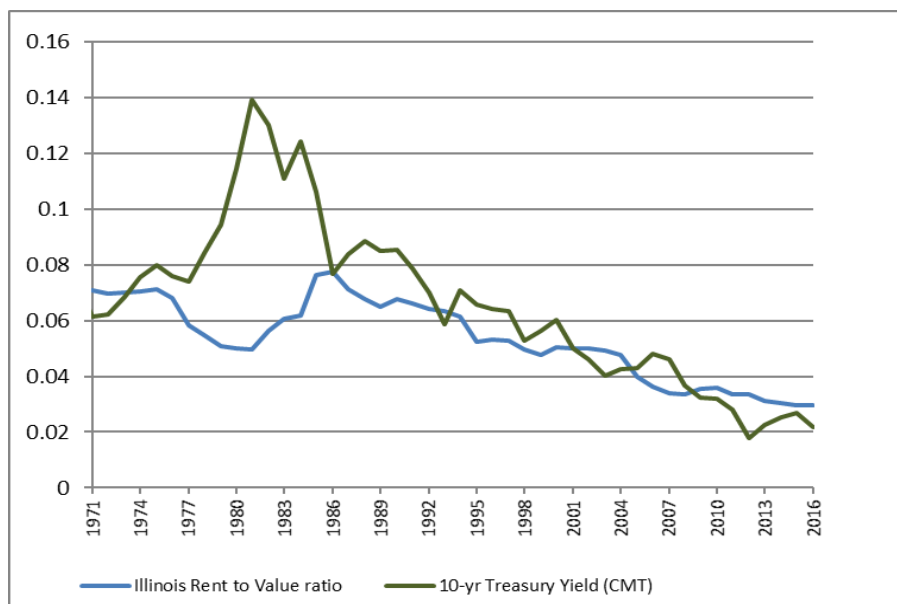
Yield Curve August 2001 - March 17, 2017 (weekly)



What rates did 'they' raise?



“Does the farmland market make sense?”



Historic comparison of implied cap rate and CMT-10 – One period in 1980’s where conditions that might be considered “bubble” formation existed.

Implied asset value from capitalization of income to q2:16. Recent asset values show that the market did not consider income levels in recent years to be “permanent”

Farmland Returns in context – 1970-2016

Table 1. Asset Return Characteristics

Asset/Index	Annual Ave. Return	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation	Correlation
	----- 1970 - 2016 -----			
US Ave Farm (all)	10.27%	6.48%	0.631	1
S&P500	6.79%	16.57%	2.440	-0.252
NASDAQ	9.63%	25.14%	2.611	-0.133
EAFE	6.04%	20.49%	3.394	-0.219
TCM10Y	6.57%	2.93%	0.447	0.140
AAA	7.70%	2.54%	0.330	0.070
Mort30F	8.25%	3.10%	0.376	0.095
All REITS	9.09%	20.11%	2.213	-0.136
Gold	7.41%	22.79%	3.075	0.306
CPI	3.95%	2.85%	0.721	0.659

Farmland Returns in context – 1980-2016

Table 2. Asset Return Characteristics

Asset/Index	Annual Ave. Return	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation	Correlation
	----- 1980 - 2016-----			
US Ave Farm (all)	8.23%	5.29%	0.642	1
S&P500	8.19%	15.87%	1.936	-0.130
NASDAQ	9.63%	25.14%	2.611	-0.133
EAFE	6.11%	20.61%	3.375	-0.233
TCM10Y	6.32%	3.23%	0.510	0.023
AAA	7.56%	2.82%	0.374	-0.028
Mort30F	8.10%	3.40%	0.420	0.009
All REITS	10.29%	17.08%	1.659	-0.033
Gold	2.18%	16.09%	7.391	-0.086
CPI	3.10%	2.10%	0.679	0.410

Farmland Returns in context – 1990-2016

Table 3. Asset Return Characteristics

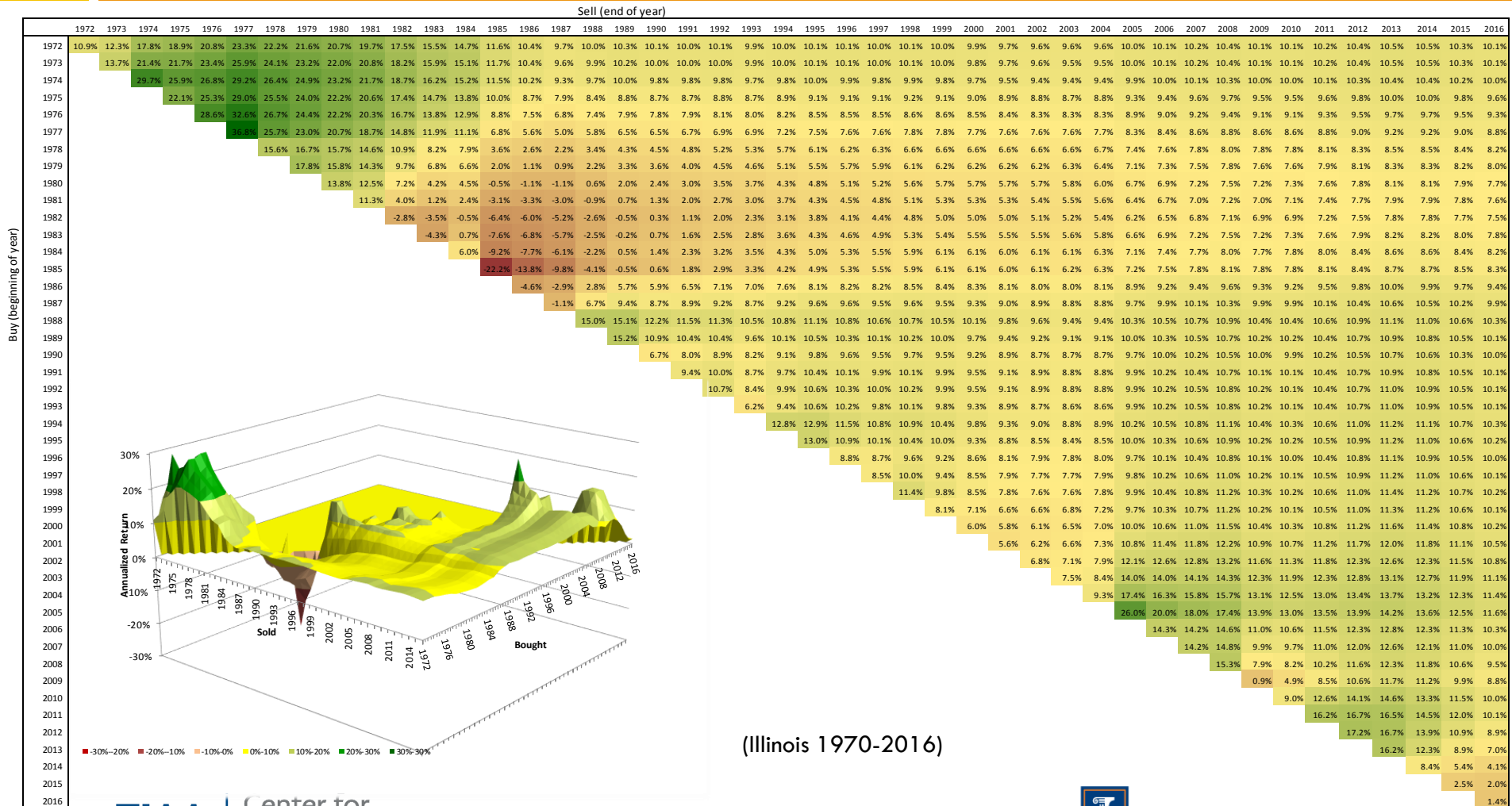
Asset/Index	Annual Ave. Return	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation	Correlation
	----- 1990 - 2016 -----			
US Ave Farm (all)	8.84%	3.88%	0.439	1
S&P500	6.84%	17.22%	2.519	-0.132
NASDAQ	9.15%	26.93%	2.942	-0.162
EAFE	1.76%	19.99%	11.377	0.060
TCM10Y	4.74%	1.85%	0.391	0.305
AAA	6.15%	1.57%	0.254	0.205
Mort30F	6.39%	1.76%	0.275	0.303
All REITS	9.74%	18.68%	1.918	-0.104
Gold	3.91%	14.29%	3.654	0.064
CPI	2.41%	1.13%	0.471	0.259

Farmland Returns in context – 2000-2016

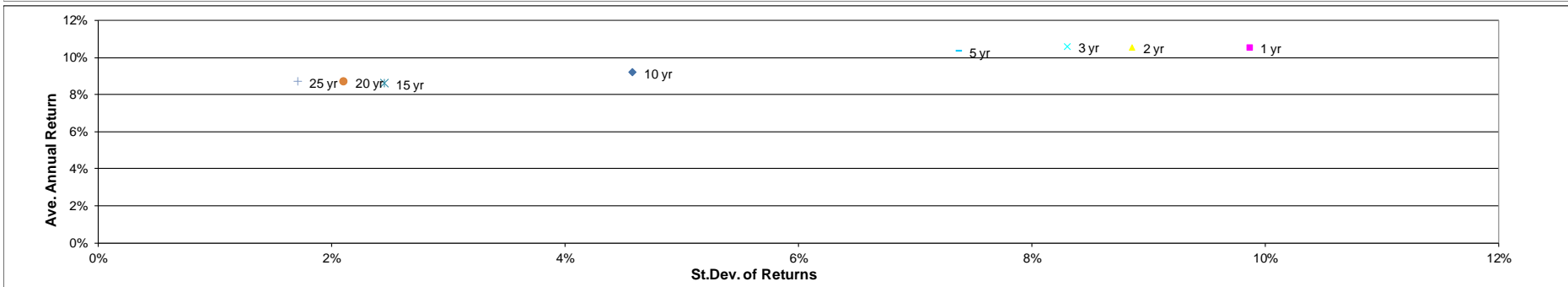
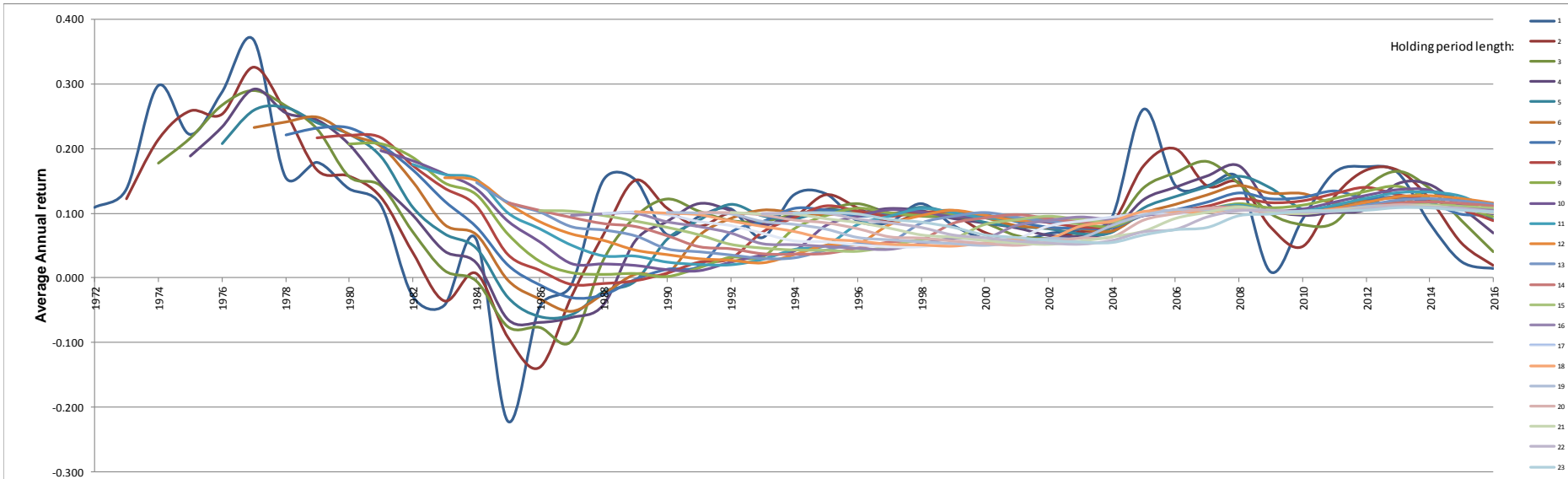
Table 4. Asset Return Characteristics

Asset/Index	Annual Ave. Return	Standard Deviation	Coefficient of Variation	Correlation
	----- 2000 - 2016 -----			
US Ave Farm (all)	8.58%	4.71%	0.549	1
S&P500	2.48%	18.31%	7.390	-0.157
NASDAQ	1.65%	26.69%	16.216	-0.225
EAFE	-0.26%	21.85%	-84.108	0.014
TCM10Y	3.60%	1.20%	0.334	0.470
AAA	5.23%	1.11%	0.212	0.253
Mort30F	5.37%	1.27%	0.237	0.429
All REITS	10.88%	19.19%	1.763	-0.118
Gold	8.08%	14.99%	1.855	0.075
CPI	2.12%	1.03%	0.487	0.344

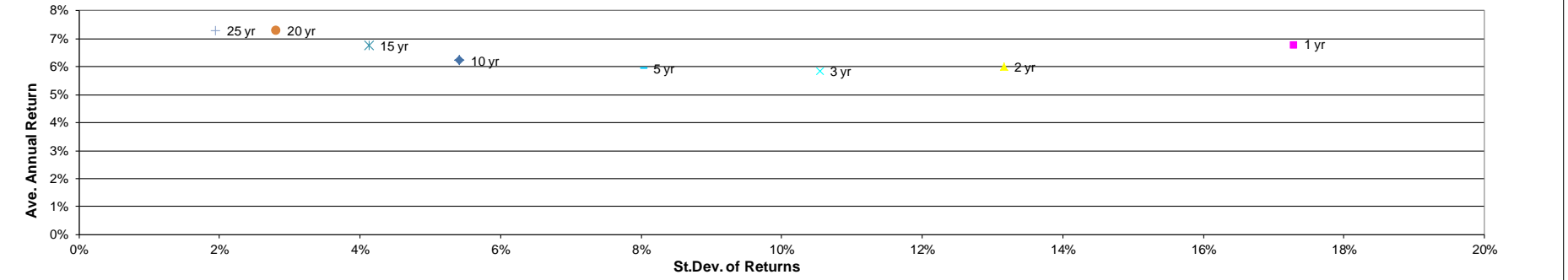
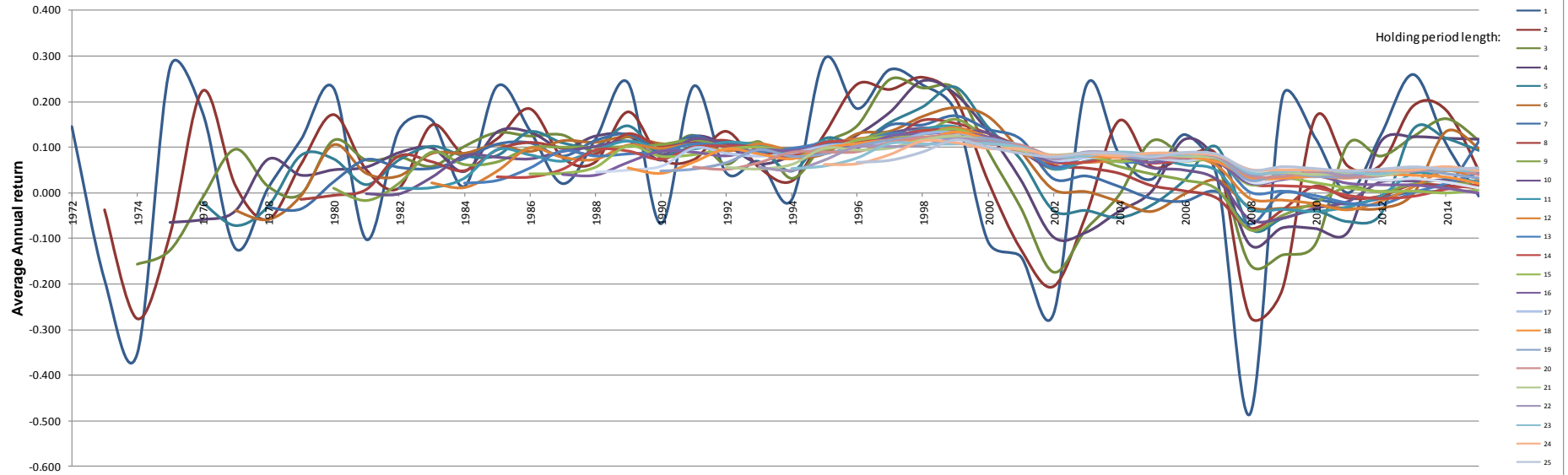
Farmland: time and holding periods



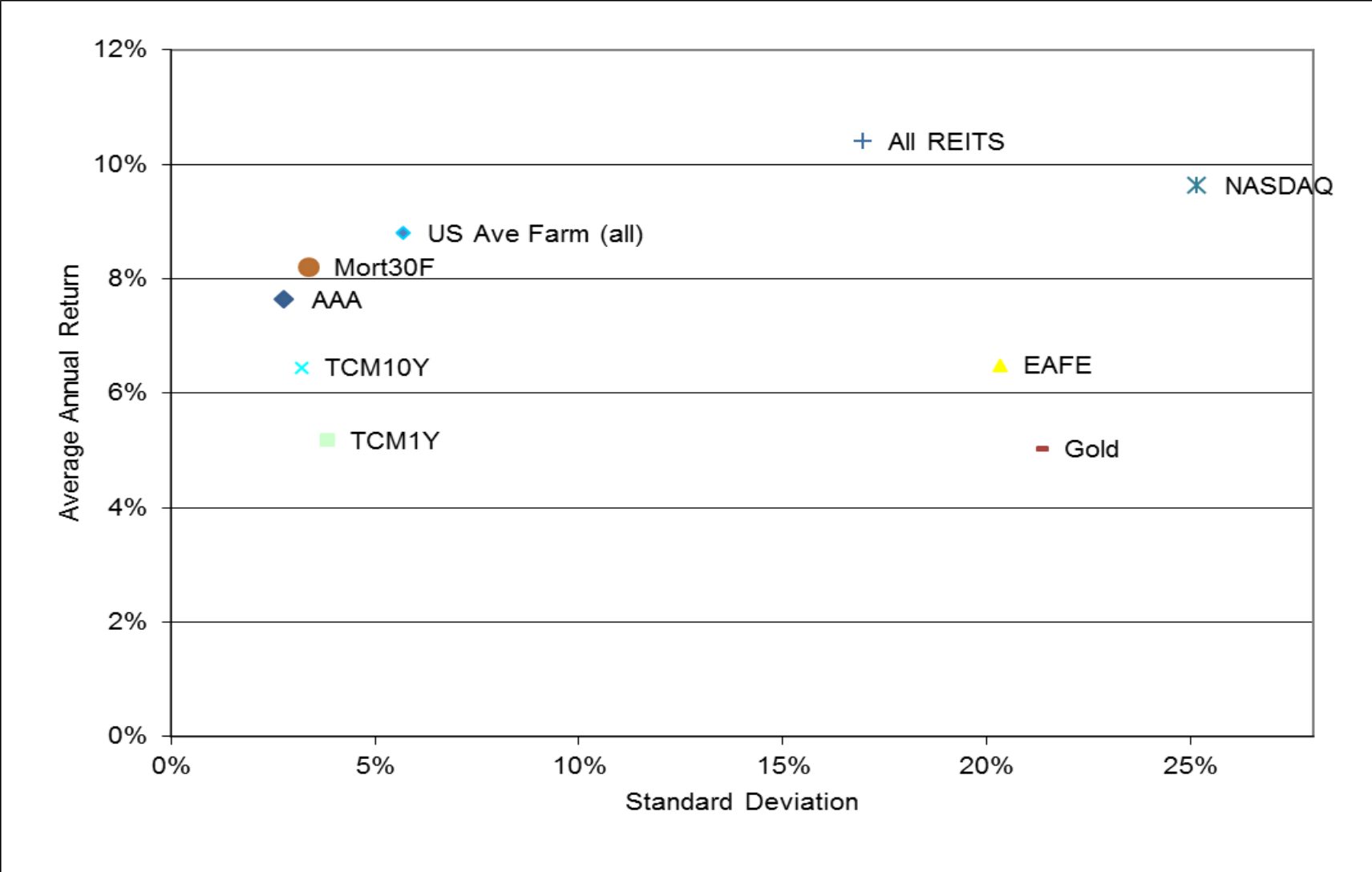
Farmland risk stability measures



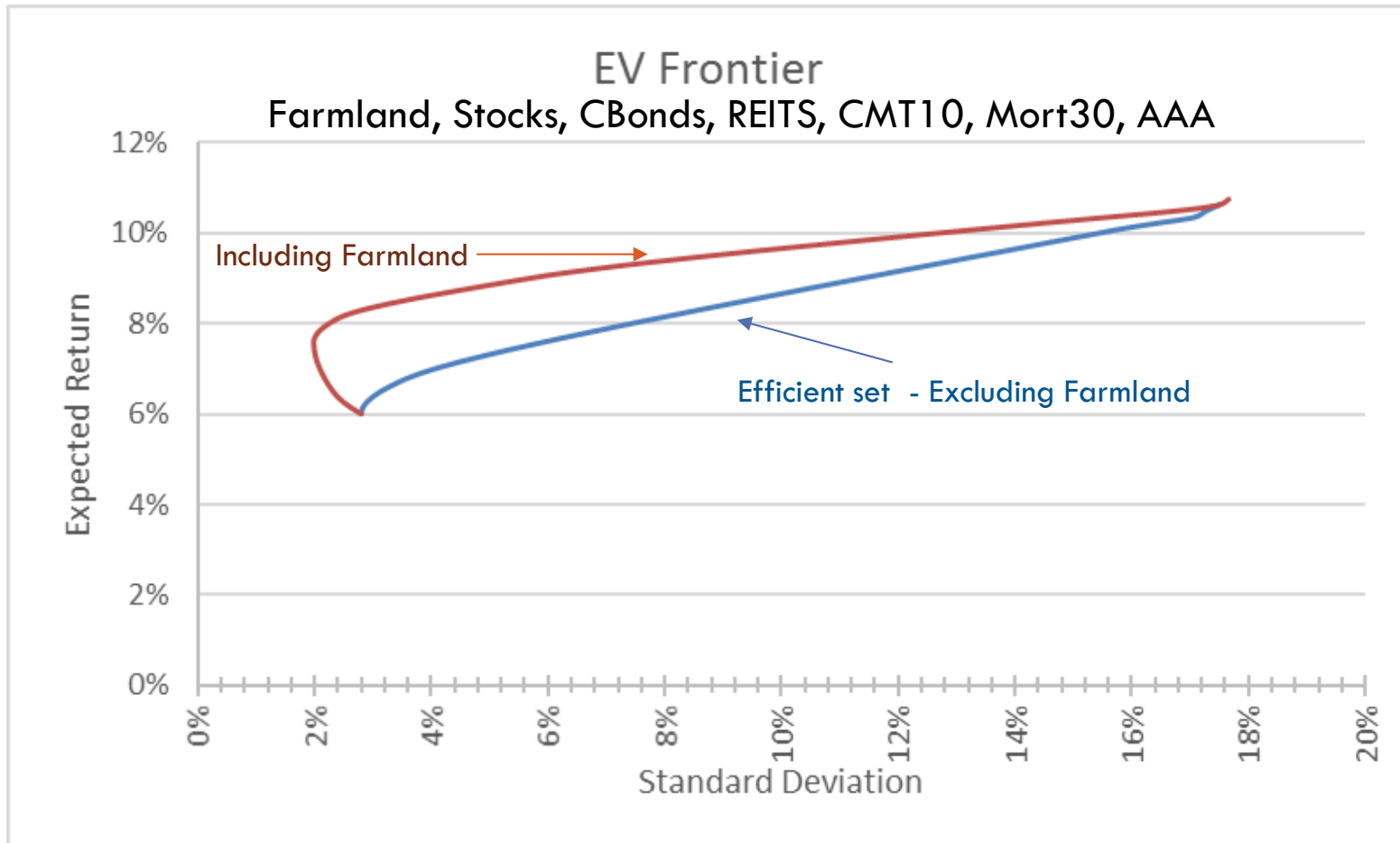
S&P 500 risk stability measures



Role in Mixed Asset Portfolio



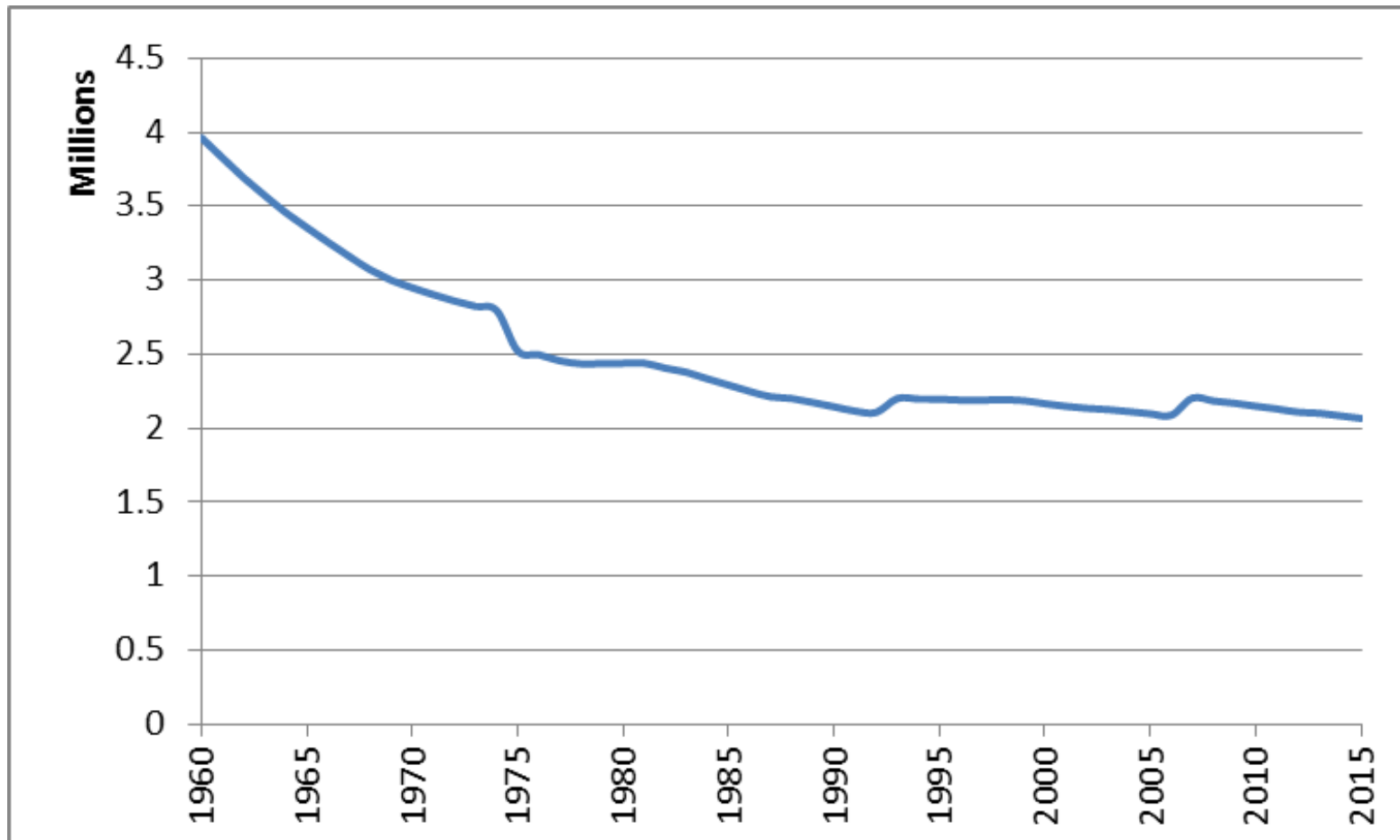
Role in Mixed Asset Portfolio



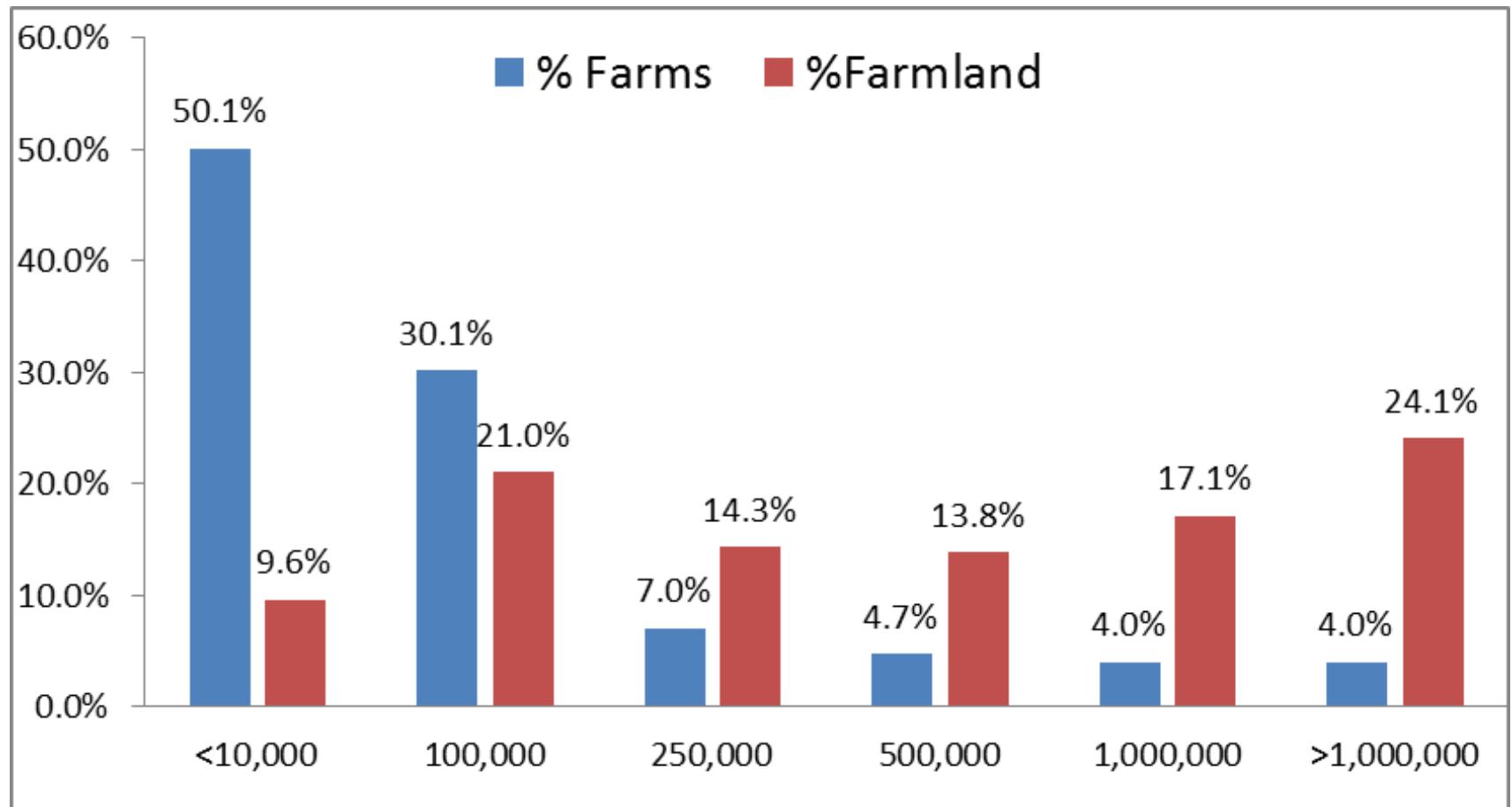
Farmland impacts on portfolio efficiency

- Diversification effect drives inclusion in efficient portfolios including real assets and farmland – key driver in institutional interest
- Higher shares are “optimal” than normally found in holdings
 - Thin markets, high transactions costs, variance smoothing bias
 - Holding period effects differ from other assets
- Improves Sharpe ratio significantly- See TIAA report
- Fairly robust to time periods examined (including present...)
- Other real assets may do similarly, but tend to have less diversification benefit, more idiosyncratic risk (e.g. timber).
- How to “move the needle” in funds remains difficult.
- High net worth individuals often have greatest benefit

Number of Farms 1960-present

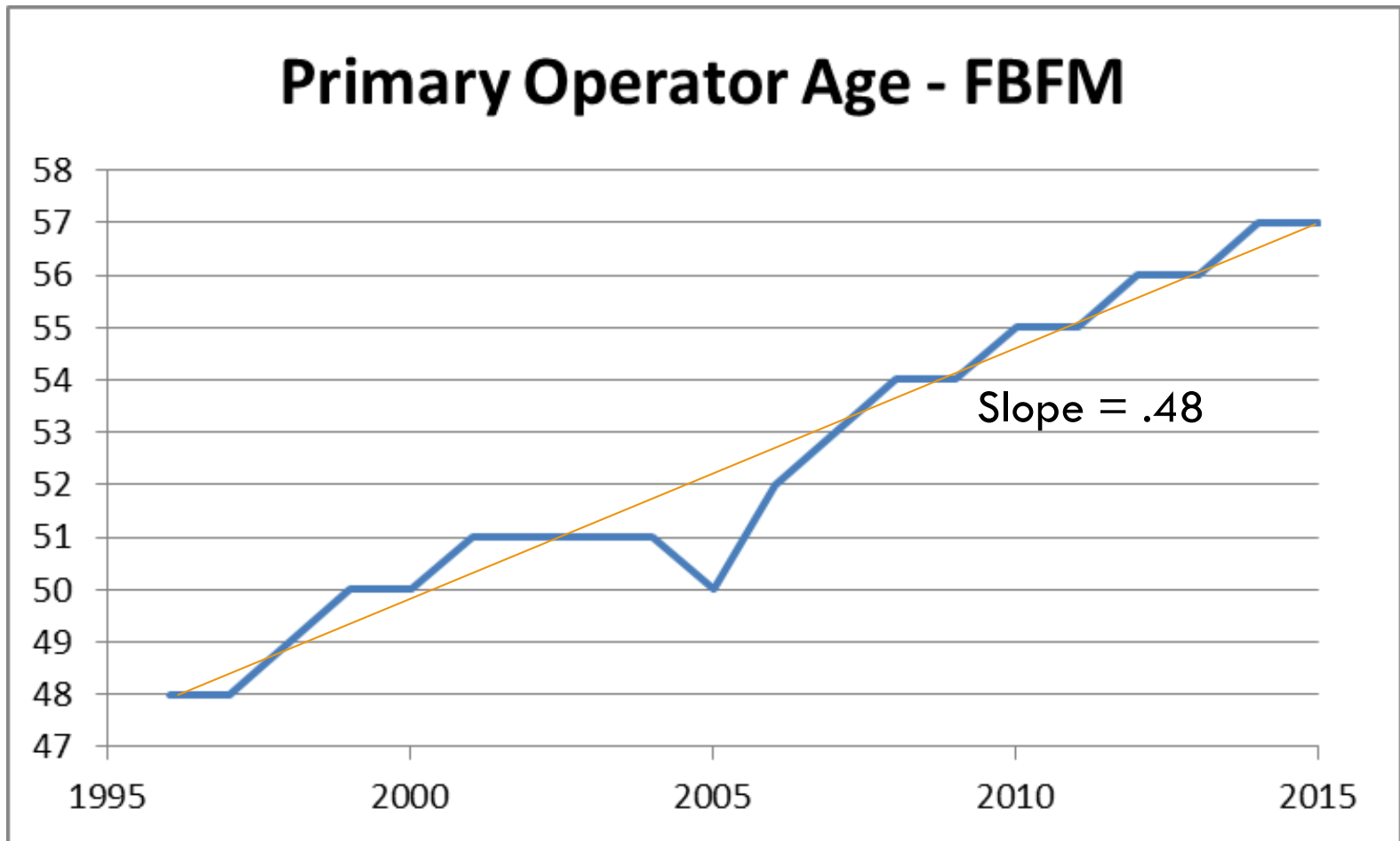


Distribution by Sales Class

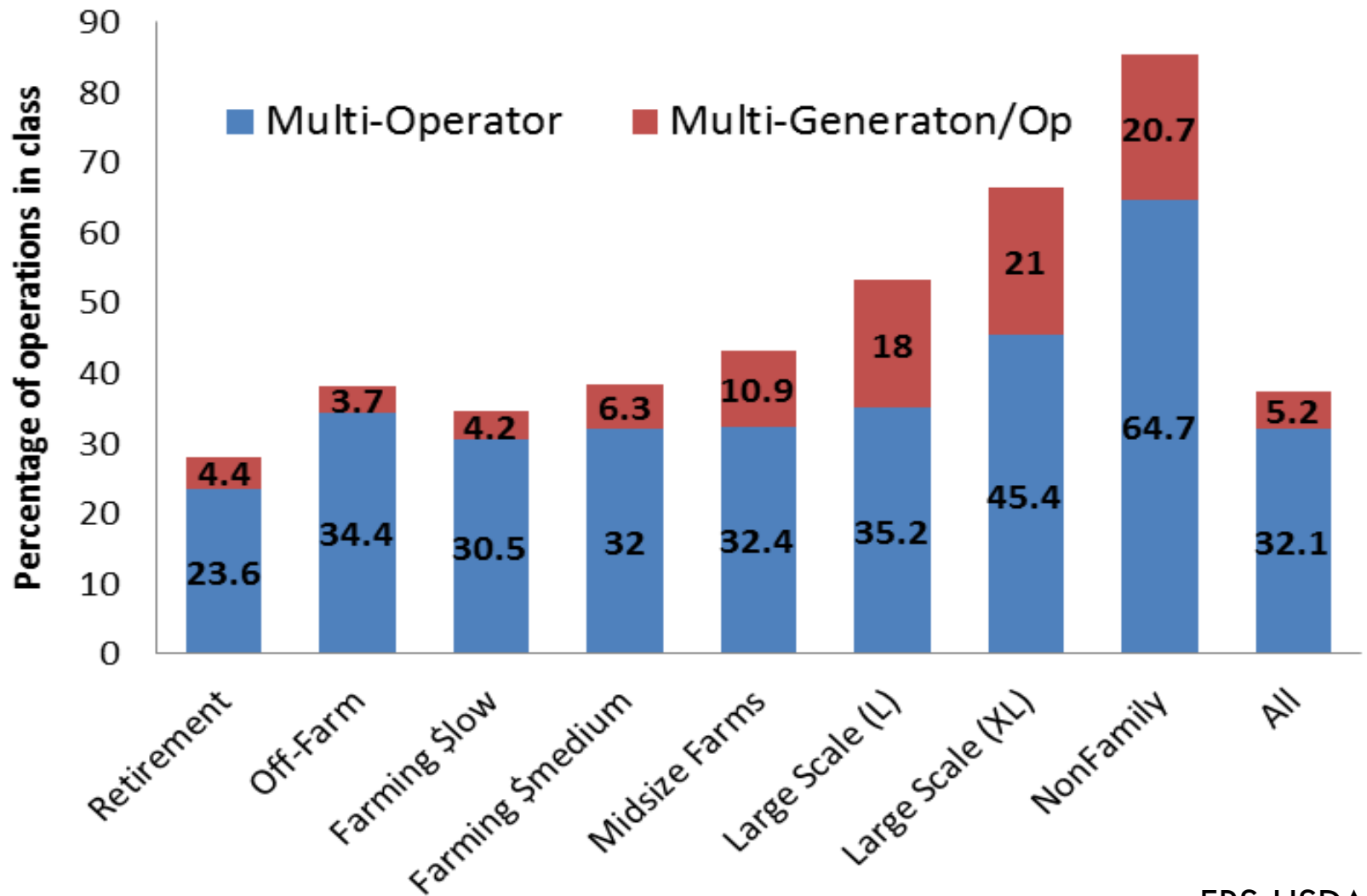


ERS-USDA

Age – (it's complicated...)



More complex ops than ownership



Ownership and Operations

- Increasingly separable, but risk profile changes
- Tax advantaged asset to own into estate
- Crop Insurance and farm program incentives – mixed and increasingly targeted
- Most corporate farms are family farms – age of “stockholders” may not be meaningful number
- 2032a and 1031 – not ag-specific
- Fairly concentrated relative to most other sectors
- “Degrees of separation” may matter
- More Management opportunities, more competing technologies. (*Cell Phones and Travel Agencies...*)

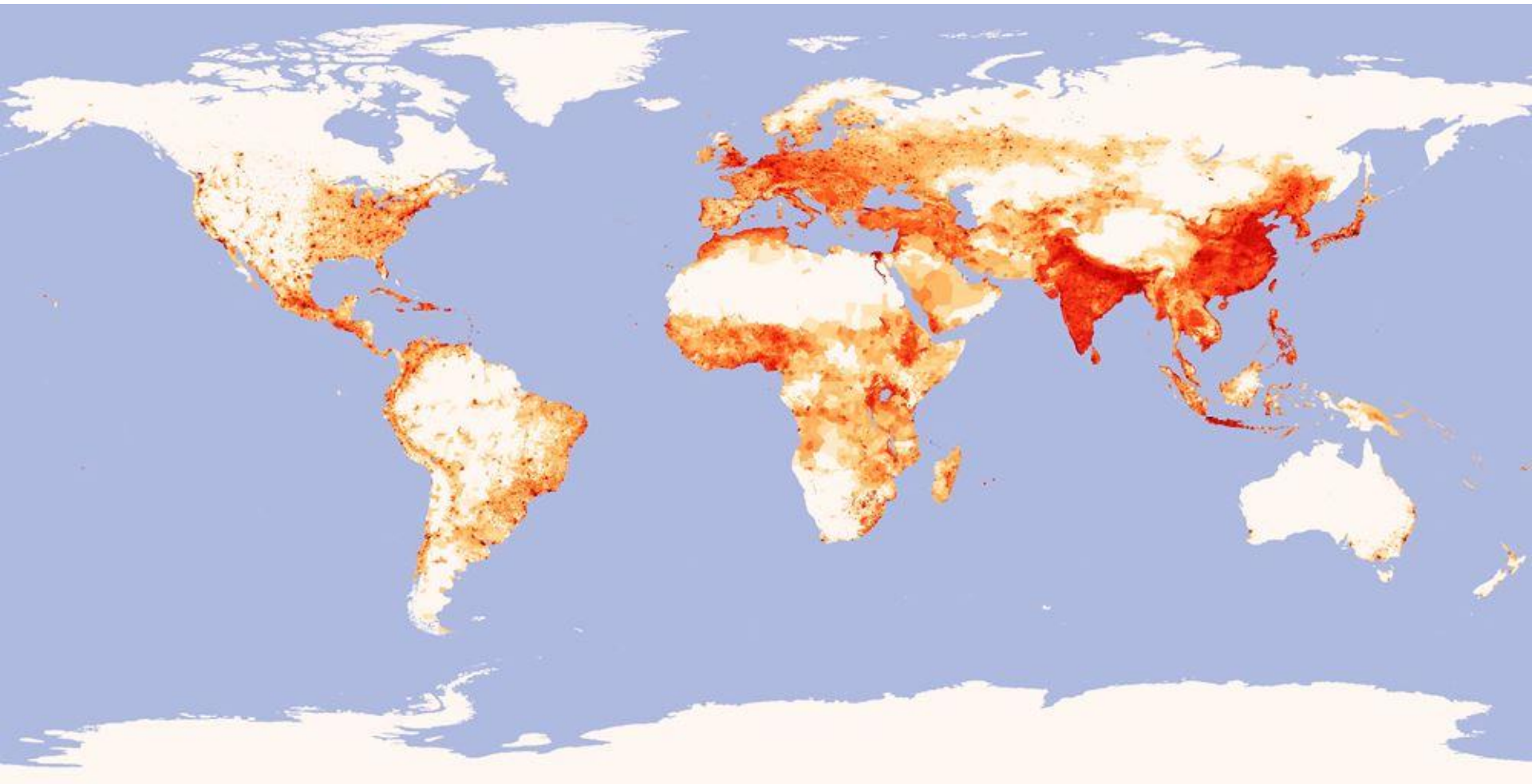
Crop Insurance safety net through time

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Corn							
Projected Price	6.01	5.68	5.65	4.62	4.15	3.86	3.96
Harvest Price	6.32	7.50	4.39	3.49	3.82	3.49	?
Soybeans							
Projected Price	13.49	12.55	12.87	11.36	9.74	8.85	10.19
Harvest Price	12.14	15.39	12.87	9.65	8.91	9.75	?

Tailwinds and supporting factors.....

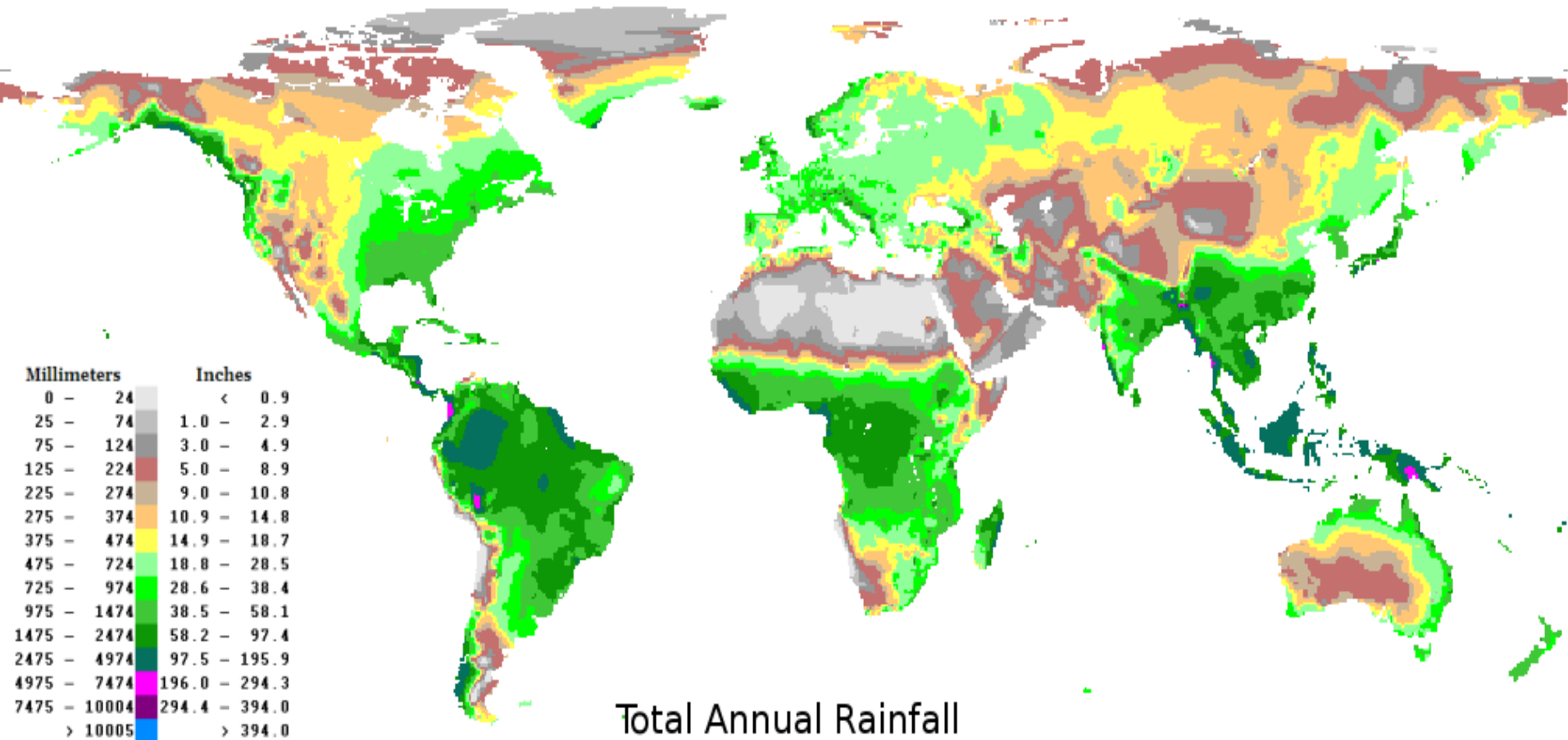
- Long term thesis for food consumption is quite strong
 - ▣ “World Virtual Water Trade” network intact
 - ▣ Stable relationship between calories and income, SOI curve
- Low leverage, very low turnover rates, thin markets
- Low correlation with financials, and positive correlation with inflation make farmland a good portfolio anchor asset.
- Tax advantages (both income and basis related)
- Strong collateral and B/S positions from prior years
- Crop insurance countercyclicality, ARC payments
- Low interest rates – at point on YC that matters
- Technology-related output improvements (factor productivity), and new “analytics” based efforts

Where do people live?



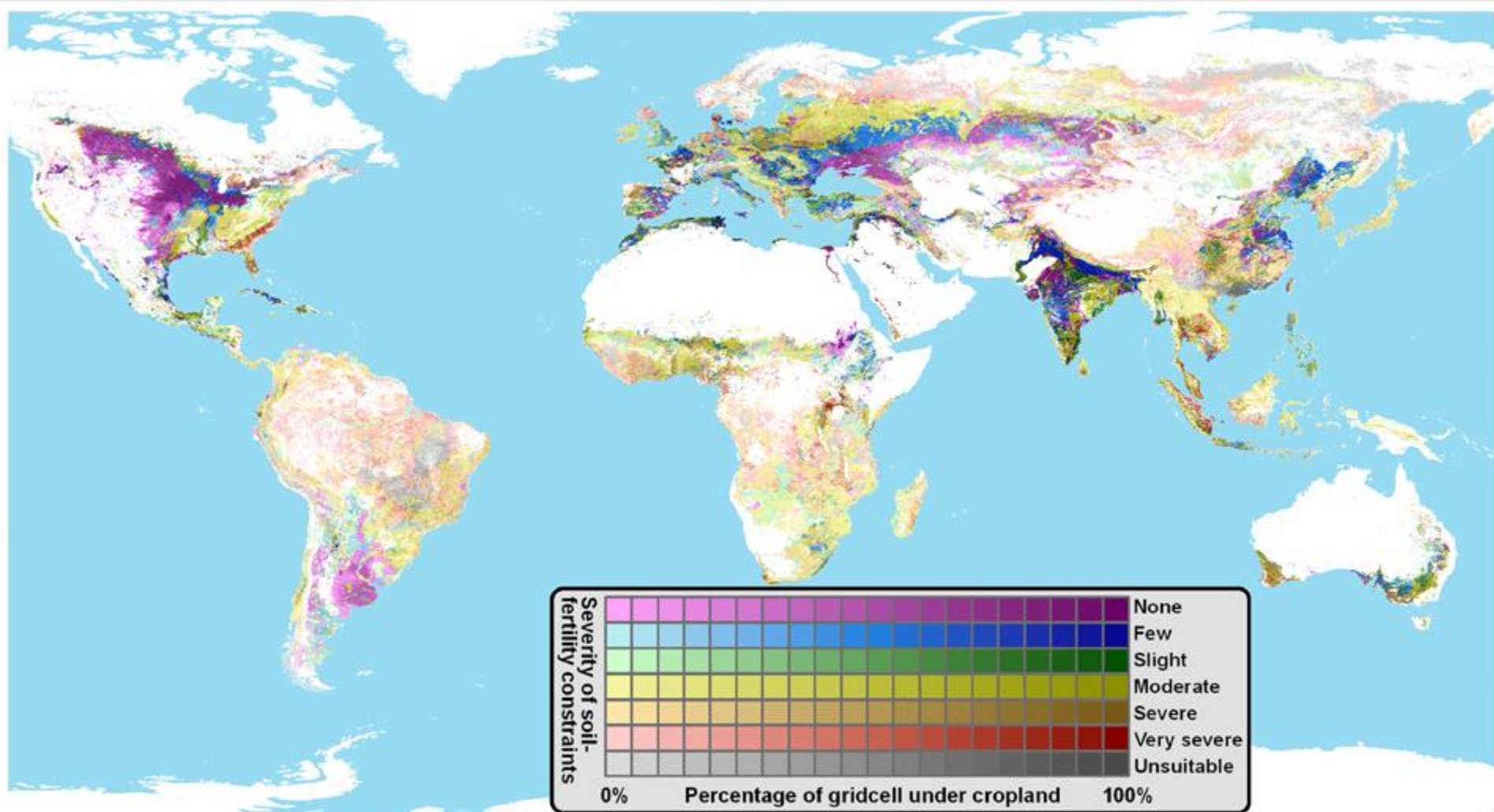
Where does rain fall?

Total Rainfall



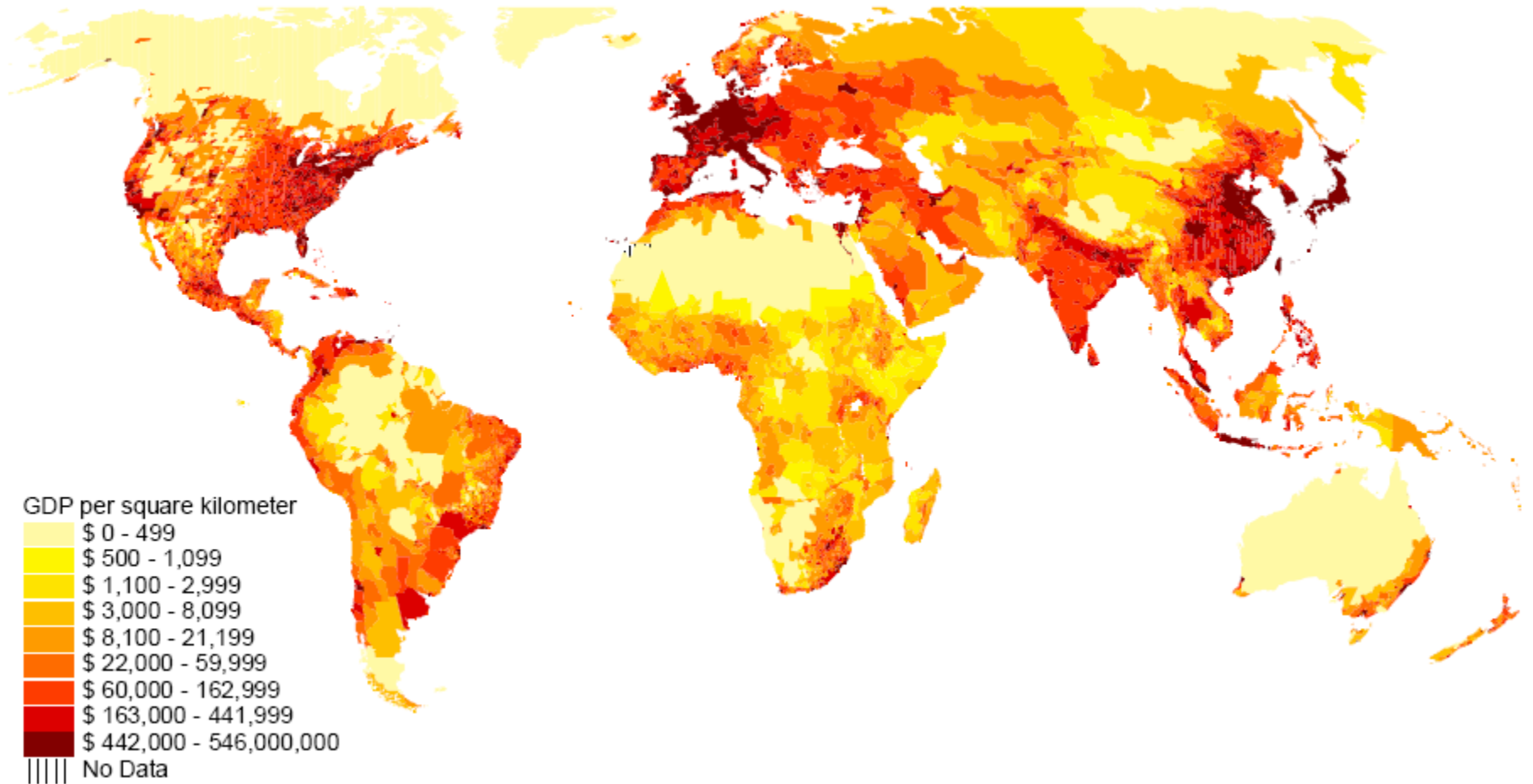
Total Annual Rainfall

Where are crop suitable soils?

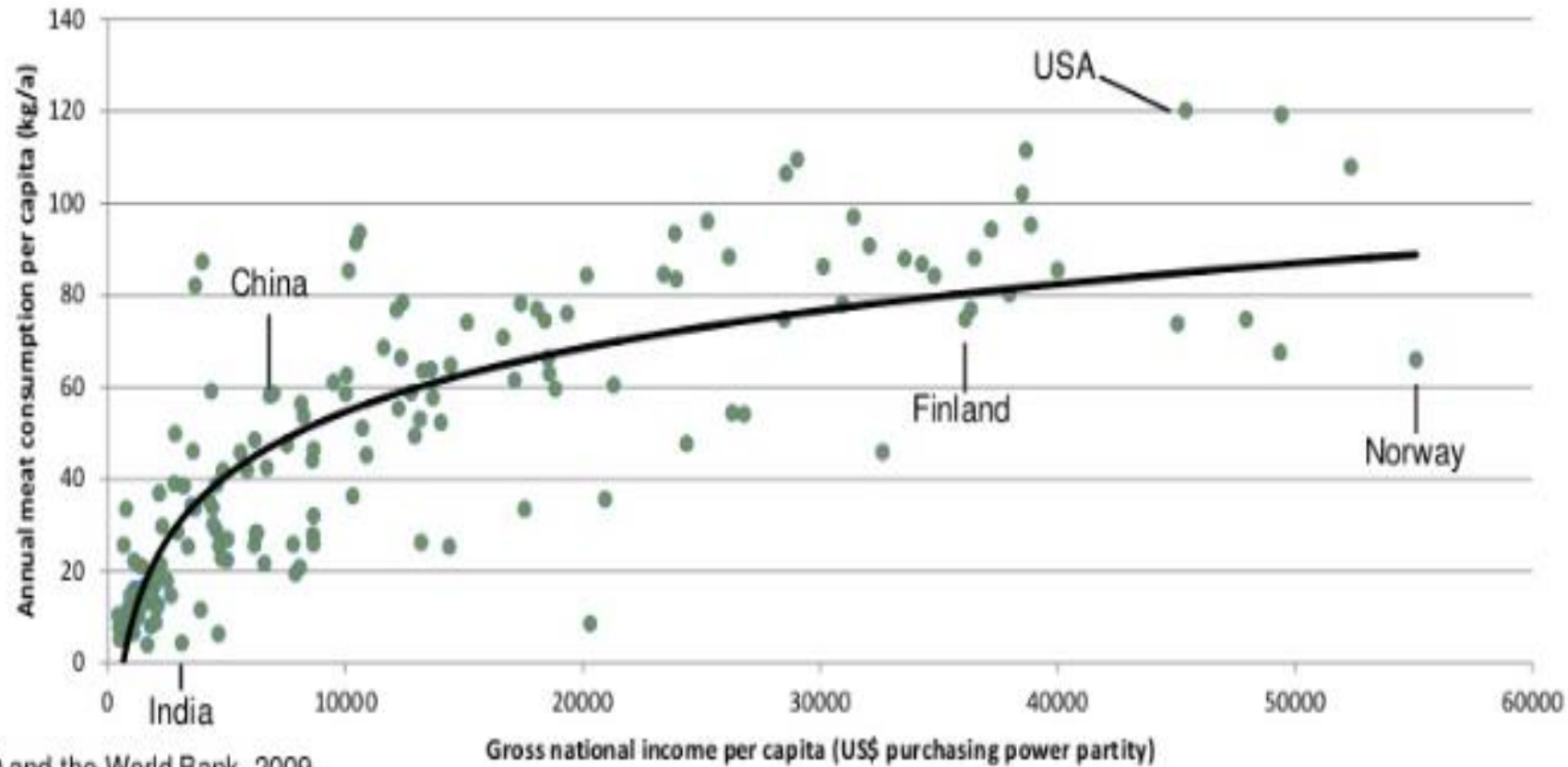


Where is purchasing power?

GDP Density



Income increases calories and quality

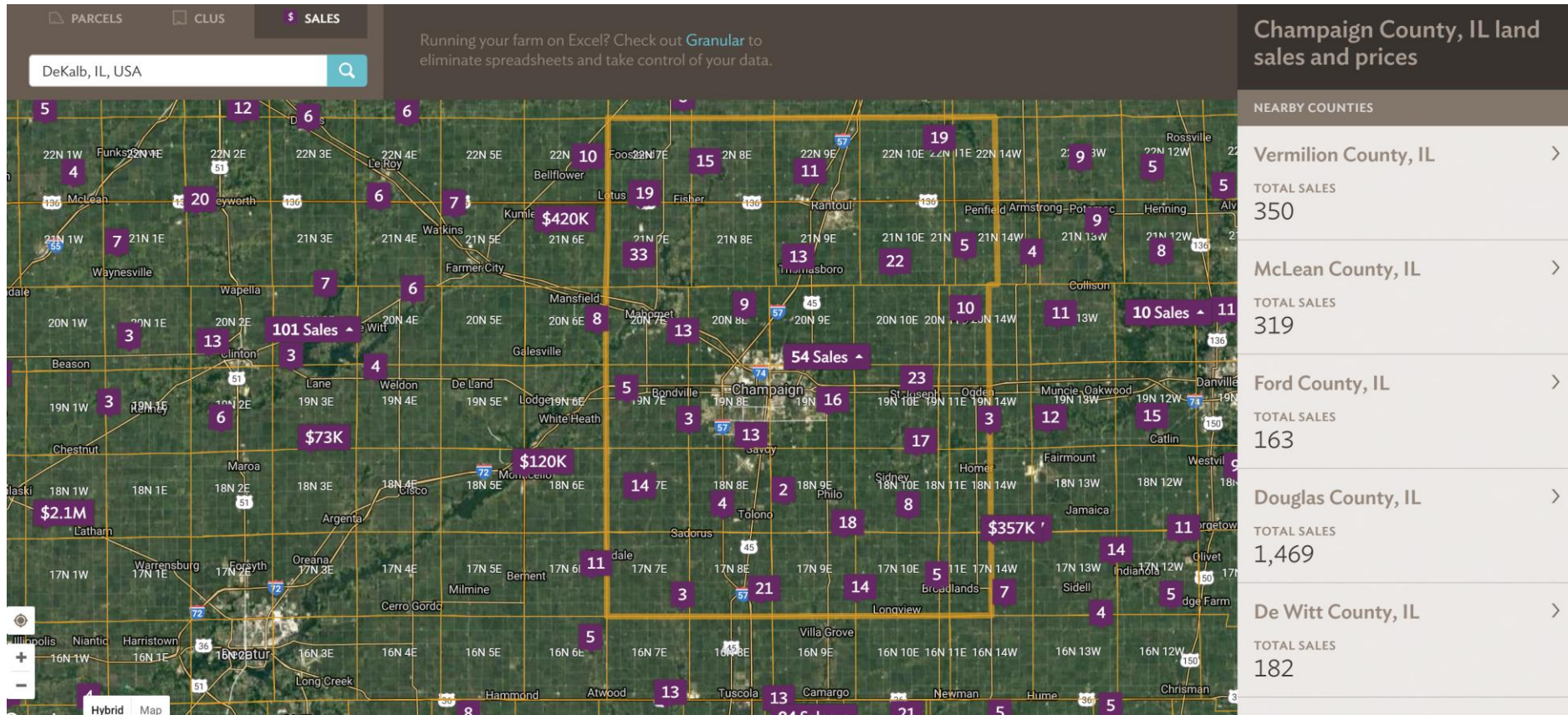


Source: FAO and the World Bank, 2009

Remember these?



“Technology - Times they are a changin’..”



Long lost relatives?

AcreValue PRO

PARCELS

CLUS

SALES

STATE

Illinois

COUNTY

Search

TOWNSHIP

Search

SECTION

Search

Enter a county, township, city, or address



ACRES

Min ac

Max ac

OWNER

SHERRICK HAROLD D

ESTIMATED VALUE

Min \$/ac

Showing 5 of 5 Parcels in IL

SHERRICK HAROLD D ILLINOIS

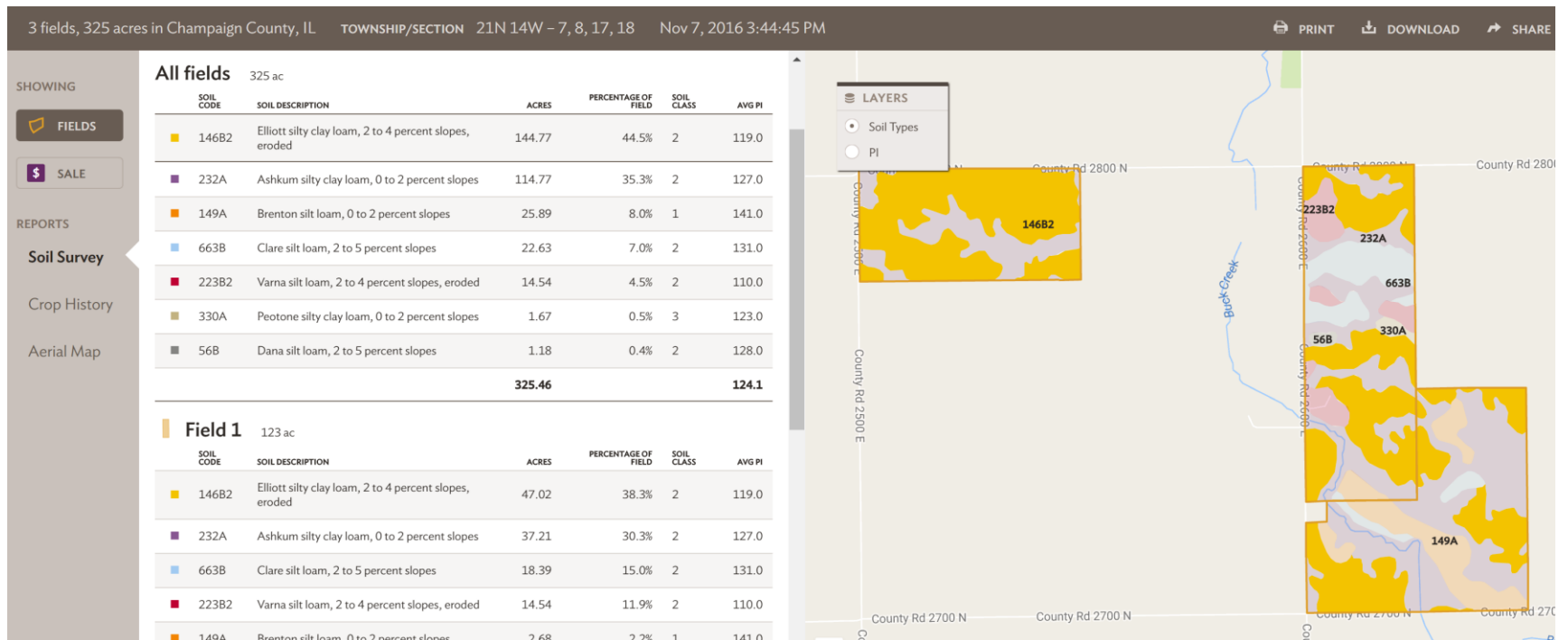
Redo Search in Map

Zoom to Results

Zoom or search to view fields X



Soil map units and acreage (free...)



(I actually wondered how to compare to the others in the area that I knew...)

Crop Histories (free...)

3 fields, 325 acres in Champaign County, IL TOWNSHIP/SECTION 21N 14W - 7, 8, 17, 18 Nov 7, 2016 3:44:45 PM

PRINT DOWNLOAD SHARE

SHOWING

FIELDS

SALE

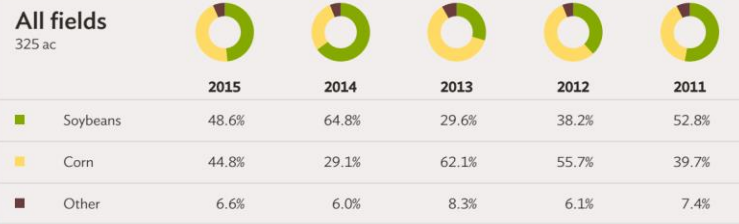
REPORTS

Soil Survey

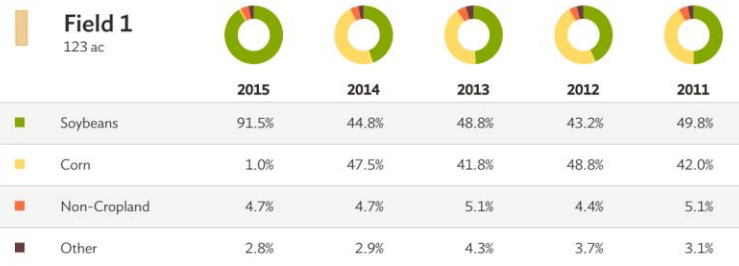
Crop History

Aerial Map

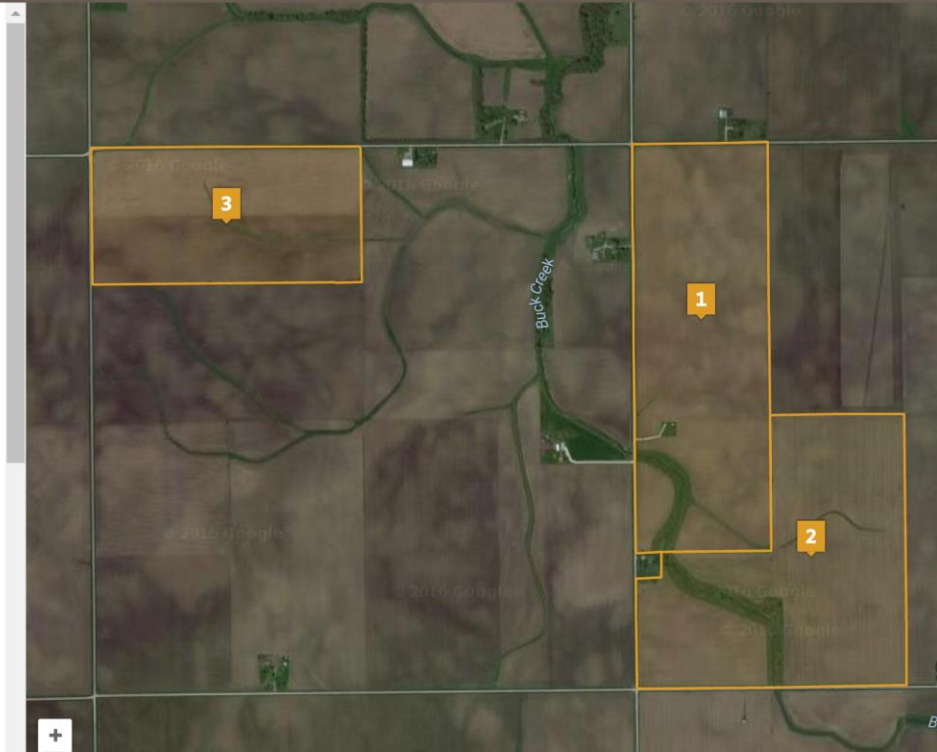
All fields
325 ac



Field 1
123 ac



Field 2
121 ac



“Valuation” app. (free...)

1 field, 162 acres in Champaign County, IL TOWNSHIP/SECTION 21N 9E - 13, 21N 10E - 18 Nov 7, 2016 3:50:38 PM

PRINT DOWNLOAD SH

SHOWING

FIELDS

SALE

REPORTS

Valuation

Soil Survey

Crop History

Aerial Map

ACREVALUE

\$9,900

COUNTY AVG

\$8,255

ECONOMIC ATTRIBUTES

Champaign County is a low tax county. This land is in a low livestock demand area.

Basis: -\$0.03 [Rectangular Strip](#)

AVG PI

137.9

COUNTY AVG

132.8

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

Annual Rainfall: 39.23 inches

Annual GDD: 3,269

LAND VALUE HISTORY

Year	Value (\$/ac)
1986	1.5
1990	1.8
1994	2.2
1998	2.8
2002	3.5
2006	4.5
2010	6.5
2014	10.5

FIELD	ACRES	SLOPE	2015 CROPS	AVG PI	ACREVALUE (\$/AC)
1	161.66	1.18%	87% Corn, 10% Soybeans, 3% Other	137.9	\$9,900

Opportunities/Threats- both/neither

Some conversation starters:

- How to use tools for competitive advantage?
- Other likely “apps” that will appear
 - Uber-drone analogs to limit machinery transport, reorganized custom activities
 - Water resource monitoring/mapping
 - “Case-Shiller” and Zillow for Ag would be incredibly useful
 - Efficient capitalization with retained ownership of income from specific assets but pooled risk
 - Transmission of attribute demand information

Changing consumer attribute demand

- Farm to fork movement - many channels
- Natural, local, fresh, low impact, etc. competing with certification programs (Organic, GMO-free, gluten free)
- Lack of standardization in measure of importance (healthfulness, toxicity, taste) and proxy production characteristics
- Limited impact in short term on prod. systems

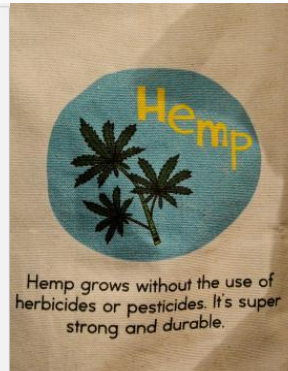
Attribute demand: Varied interpretations, confusion, anti-logos



**Stop counting calories
Start counting toxins**



Organic Food
It's what our Grandparents used to just call "food".



Futurecasting

- “Financialization” likely to continue for the sector. Equity & indexing vehicles very positive developments
- Rationalization of recent incomes, lower cap rates, WACC
- Attribute Demand (e.g., non-GMO) becomes more direct public signal, but marginally impacts production – key
- Some positive outcomes for capital providers likely, balance sheet effects unlikely to trigger “bubble”, low cap rates remain for some time (economy wide, not ag-specific)
- “*What asset would you rather own*” remains important

Questions/Discussion

Bruce J. Sherrick

sherrick@illinois.edu

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<http://farmdoc.illinois.edu/cropins/>

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