

# Foreign Ownership of U.S. Ag Land

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February 2024

**Danny Munch**

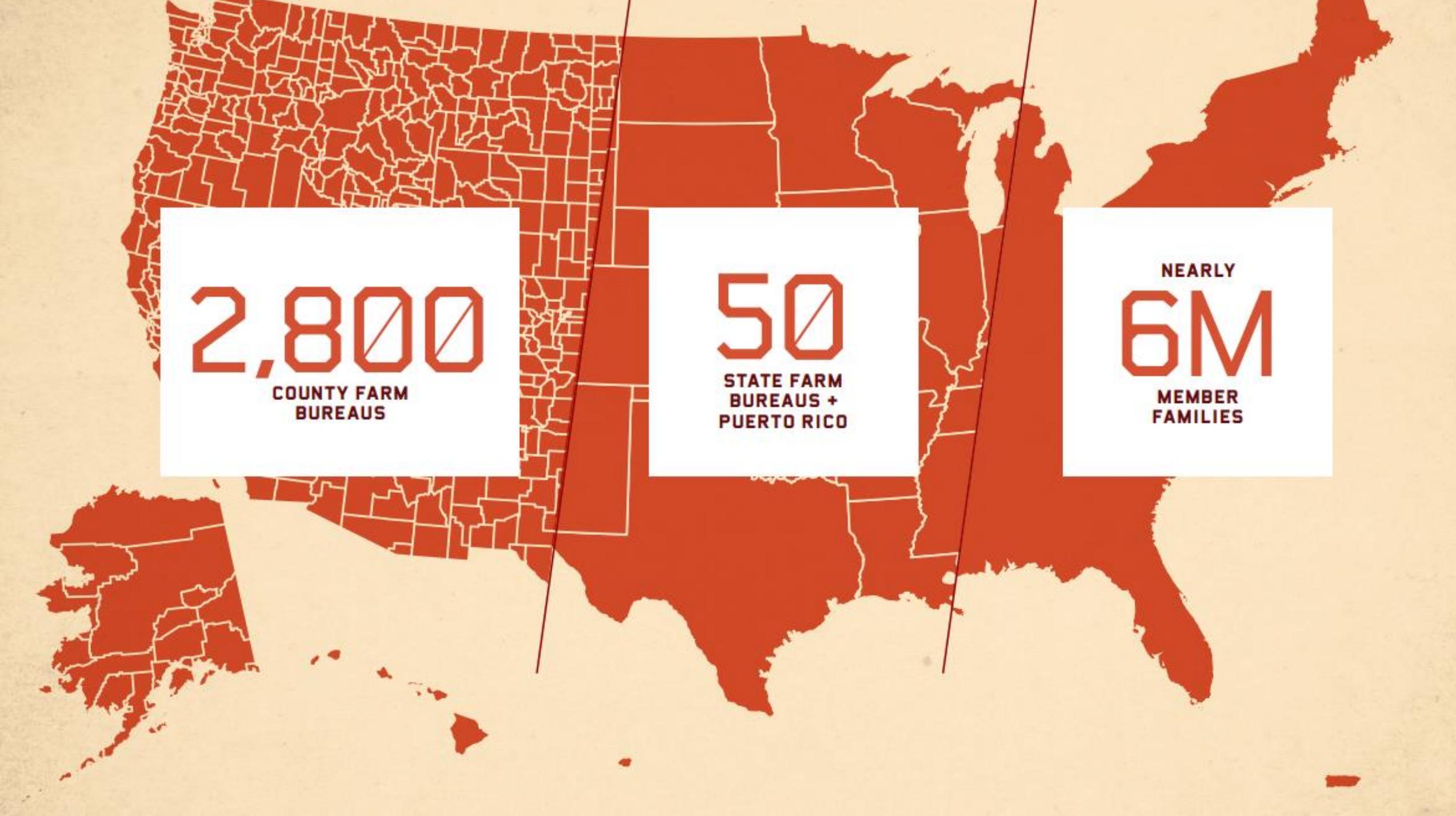
Economist

[dmunch@fb.org](mailto:dmunch@fb.org)

860-908-3918



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®



**2,800**

**COUNTY FARM  
BUREAUS**

**50**

**STATE FARM  
BUREAUS +  
PUERTO RICO**

**NEARLY  
6M**

**MEMBER  
FAMILIES**

# AFBF POLICY PROCESS

- AFBF received 11 policy proposals from nine different states concerning foreign ownership of U.S. ag land.
- Many of the proposals differed and even contradicted each other in ultimate intent, making it difficult for the subcommittee to take any clear stance.
- The subcommittee recommended that these proposals be reviewed more thoroughly, a task ultimately assigned to members of the Market Structures and Budget and Economy Issue Advisory Committees.

## Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act

- Requires all foreign persons holding agricultural land as of February 1, 1979, to file a report of such holdings with the Secretary of Agriculture
- All foreign persons who acquire or transfer an interest in agricultural land thereafter are required to report such transactions within 90mdays of the date of acquisition or transfer.



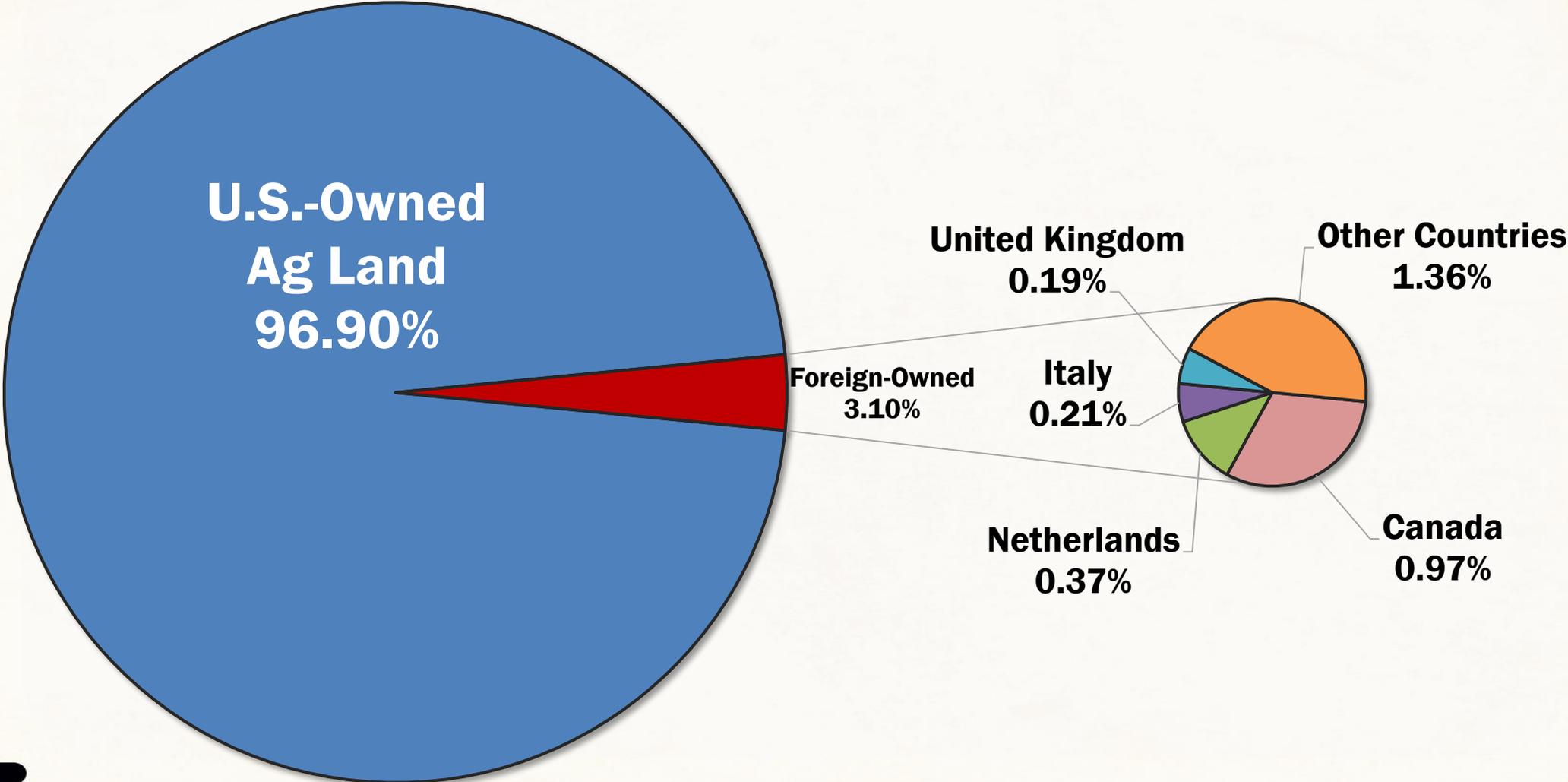
# DATA LIMITATIONS

- Lack of AFIDA Enforcement
  - Between 1998 and 2021 USDA penalties were assessed 494 times on 395 different investors, though all fees assessed were for late filing rather than avoiding filing.
  - All penalties have been less than 1% of the market value of interest held in the land compared to the maximum penalty of 25%.
- And no penalties were assessed between 2015-2018 and 2020 due to staffing shortages at USDA.
- Ownership transparency is also limited because USDA lacks the authority to require disclosure beyond a third tier of ownership.
- The lack of resources at USDA to enforce AFIDA has resulted in practical limits to policing the high volume of annual real estate transactions, with nearly half of all transactions not disclosing a price.
- There are over 3.2 million acres, or 8%, of foreign-investor-held agricultural land that is uncategorized, either because the submission had “no foreign investor listed” or “no predominant country code listed.”



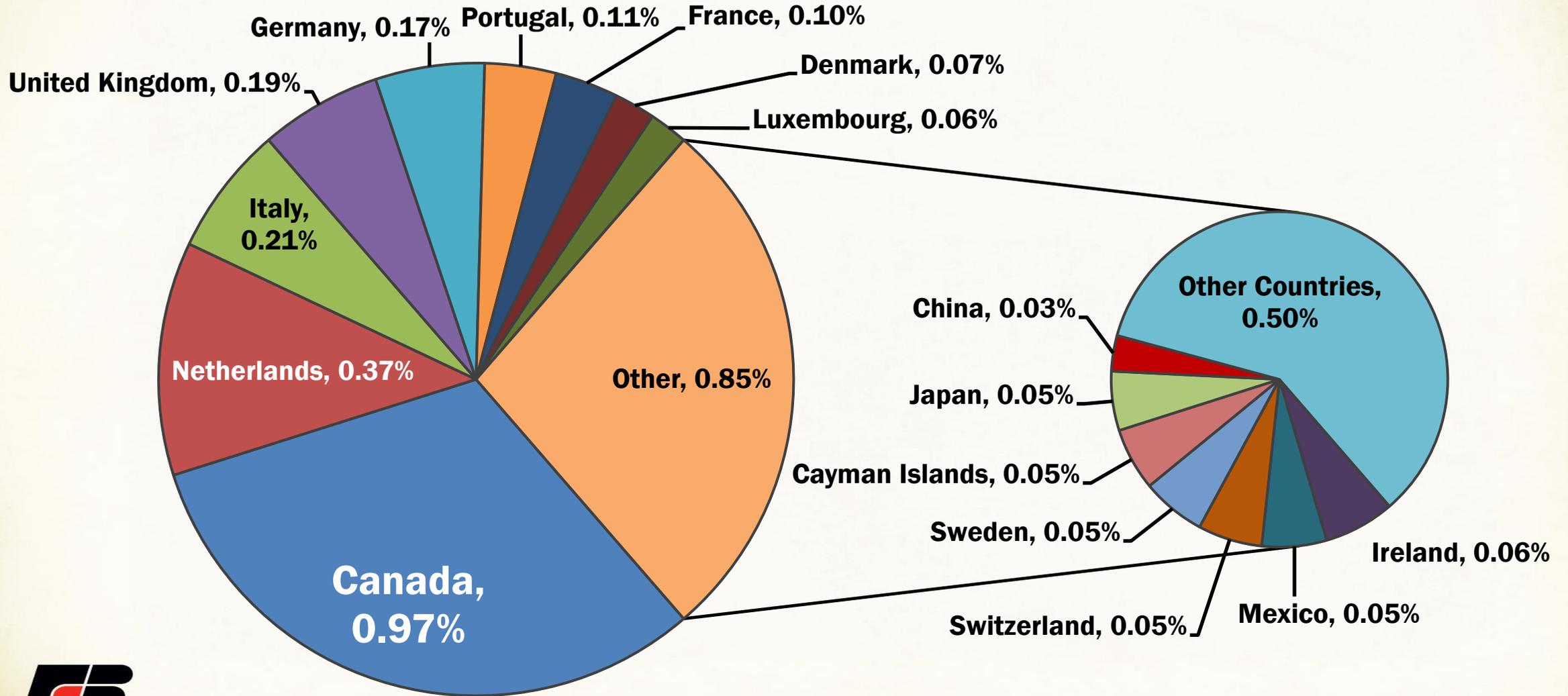
# U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND BY ORIGIN OF OWNER

3.1% of U.S. ag land is foreign owned as of 2021 (40.83 million acres)



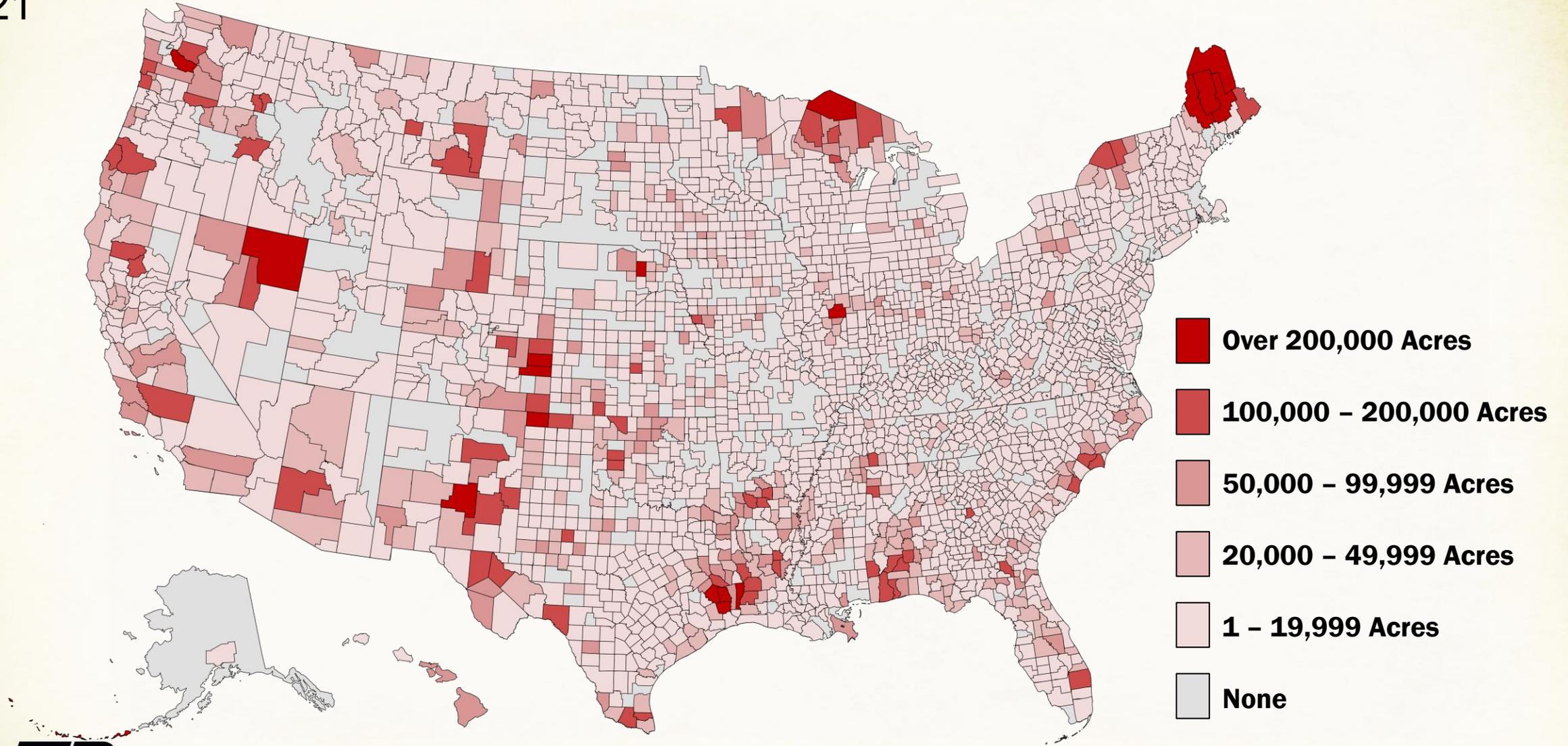
# FOREIGN-OWNED U.S. AG LAND AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL U.S. AG LAND BY INVESTOR COUNTRY

Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK and Germany account for 50% of U.S. ag land owned by foreign investors.



# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN-OWNED U.S. AG LAND BY COUNTY

2021

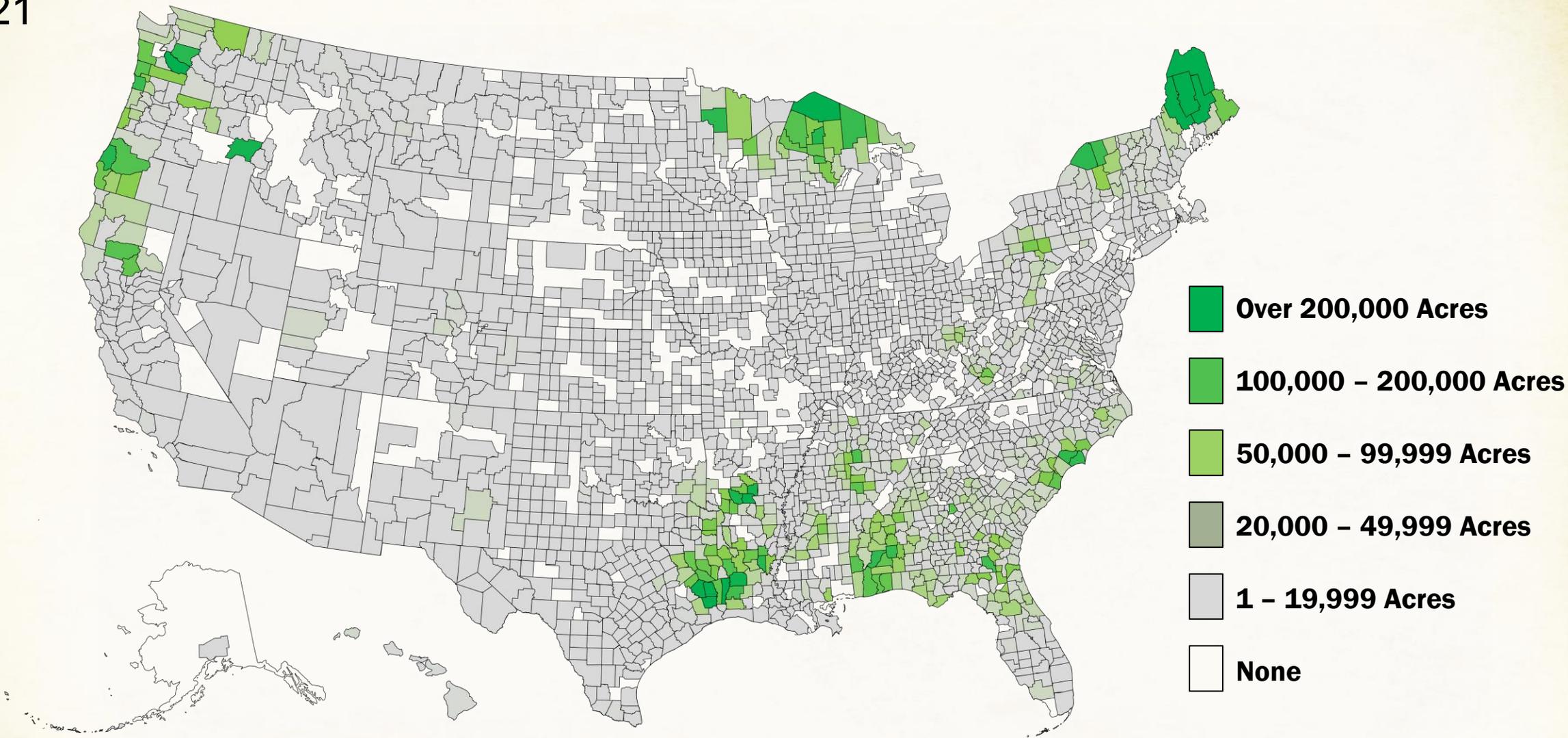


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Source: Farm Bureau Calculations, USDA FAS

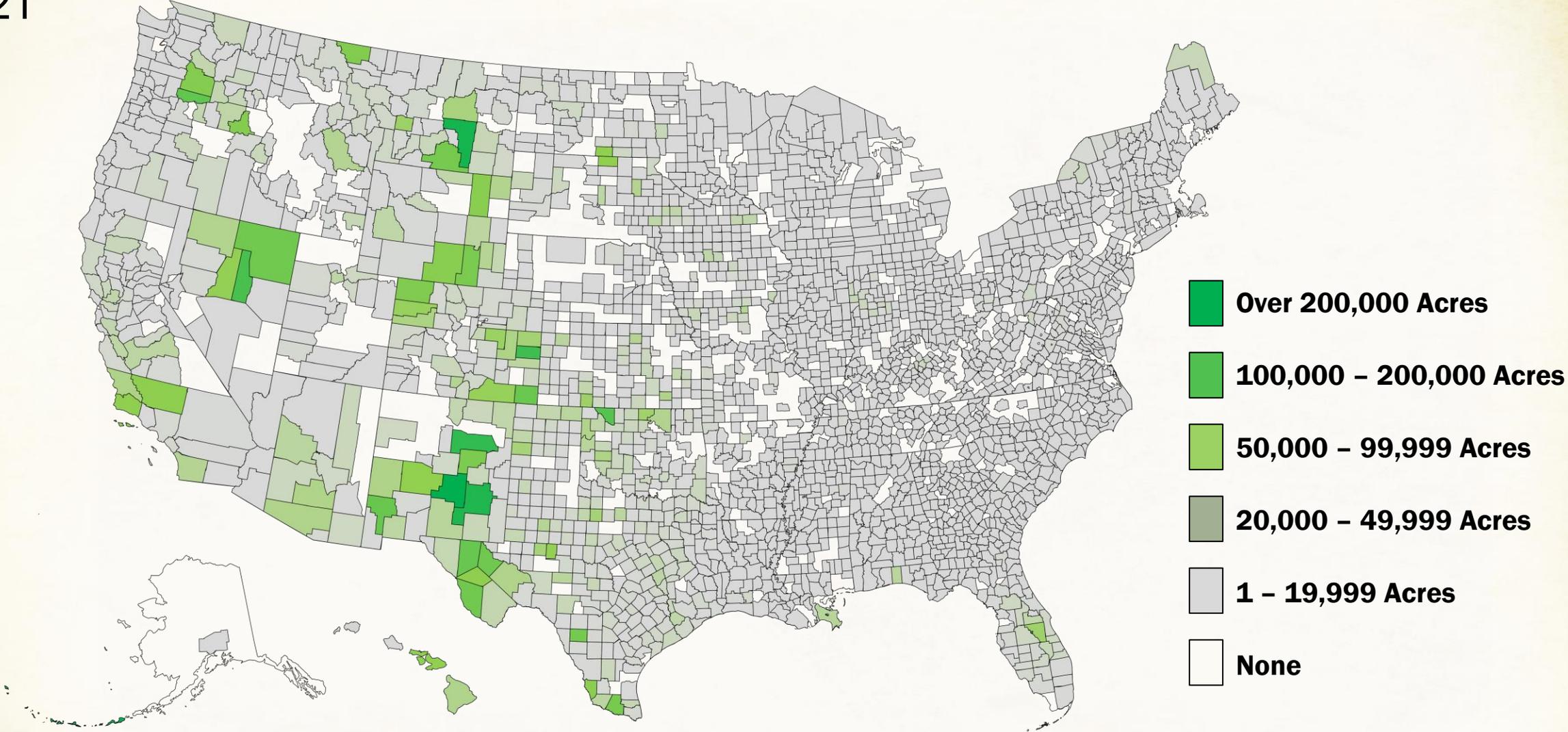
# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN OWNED U.S. FORESTLAND BY COUNTY

2021



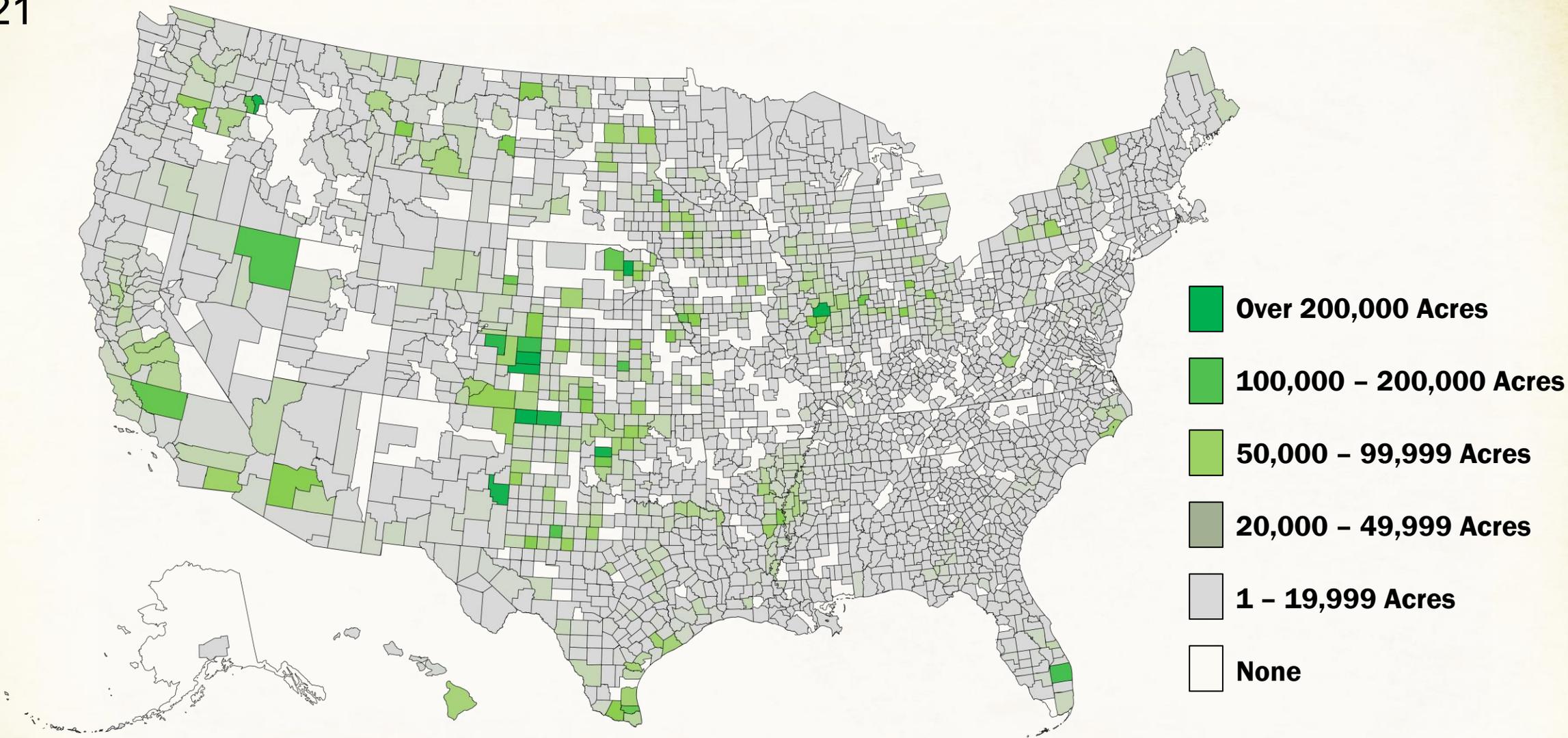
# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN OWNED U.S. PASTURELAND BY COUNTY

2021



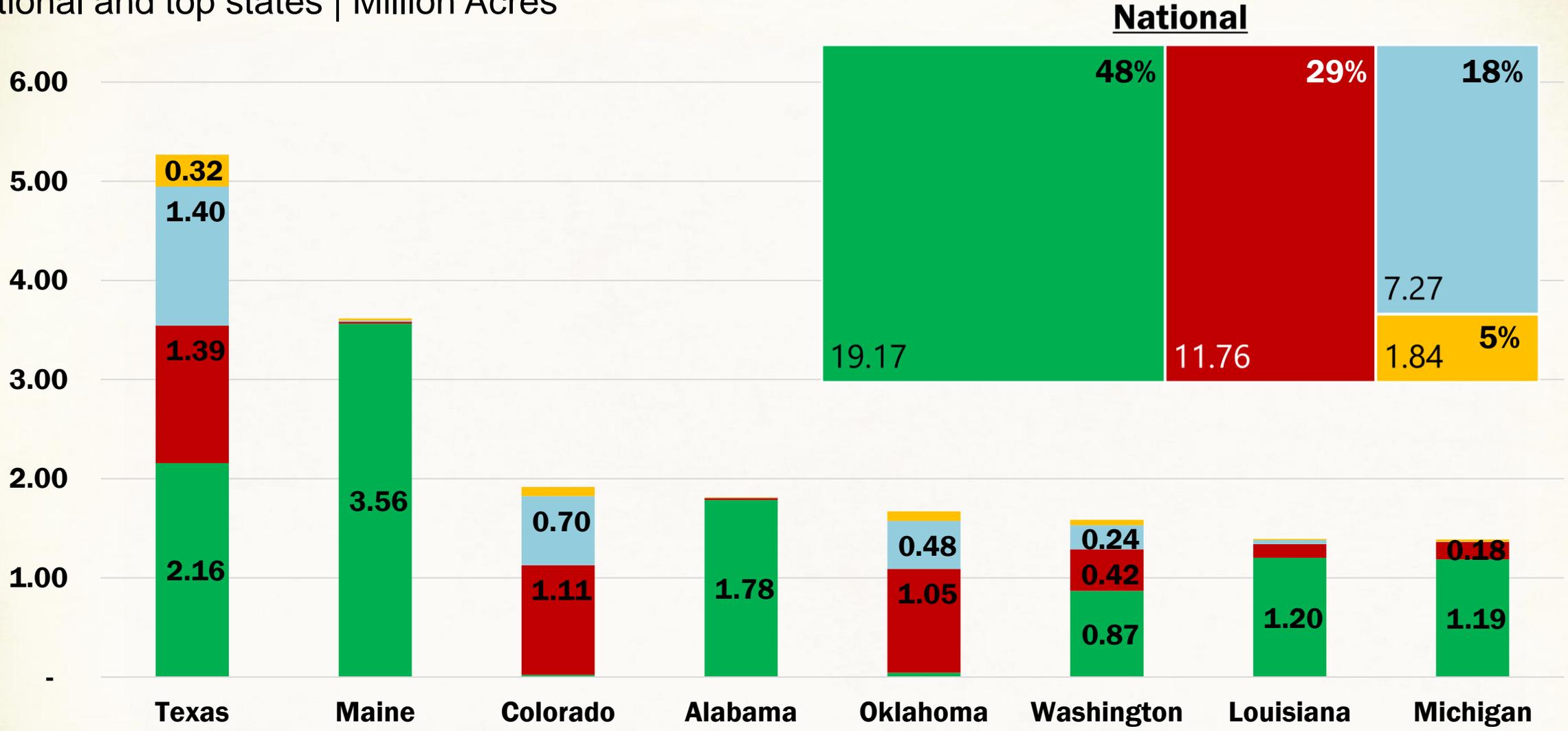
# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN OWNED U.S. CROPLAND BY COUNTY

2021



# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN-OWNED AG LAND BY LAND USE TYPE

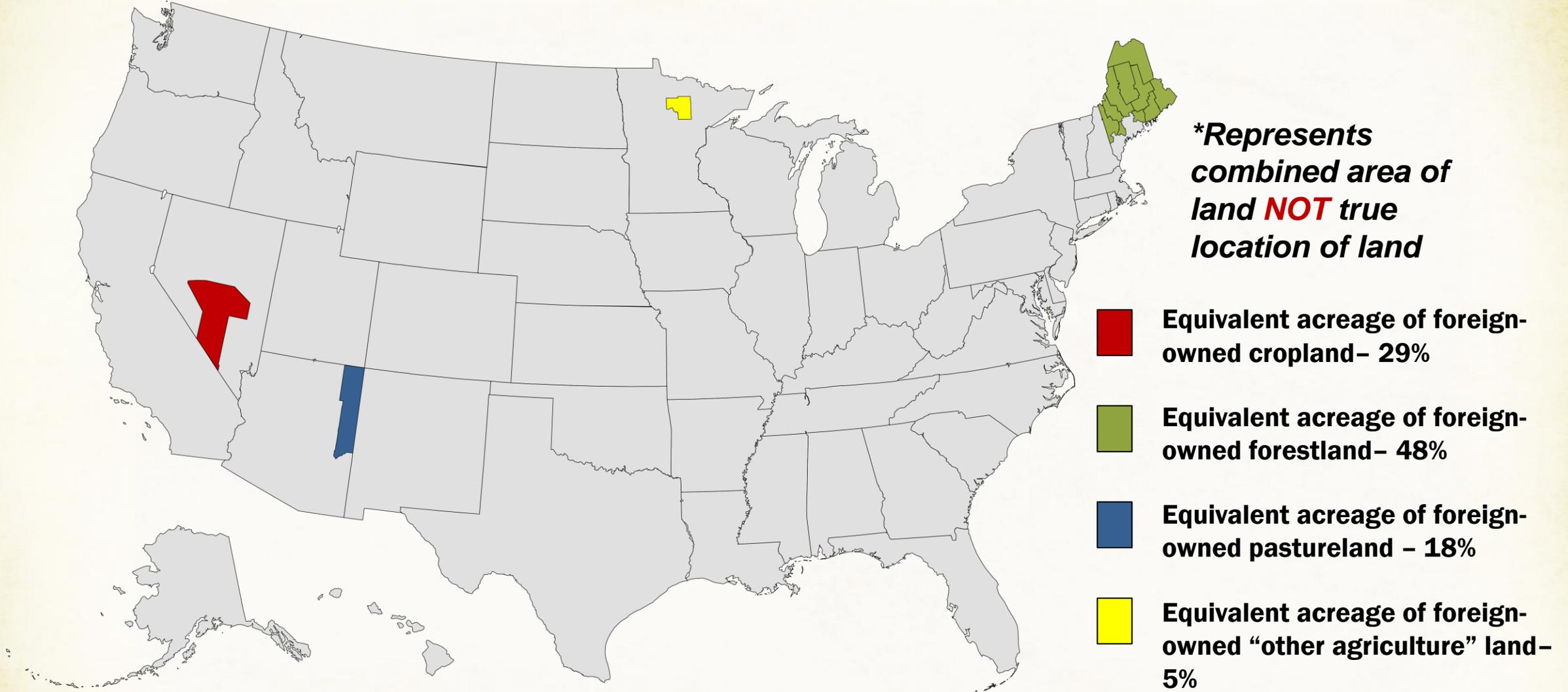
National and top states | Million Acres



■ Forestland
 ■ Cropland
 ■ Pastureland
 ■ Other

# VISUALIZING EQUIVALENTS OF FOREIGN-INVESTOR-HELD U.S. AG LAND

Shaded counties symbolize equivalent acreage of foreign owned U.S. ag land by agricultural land type

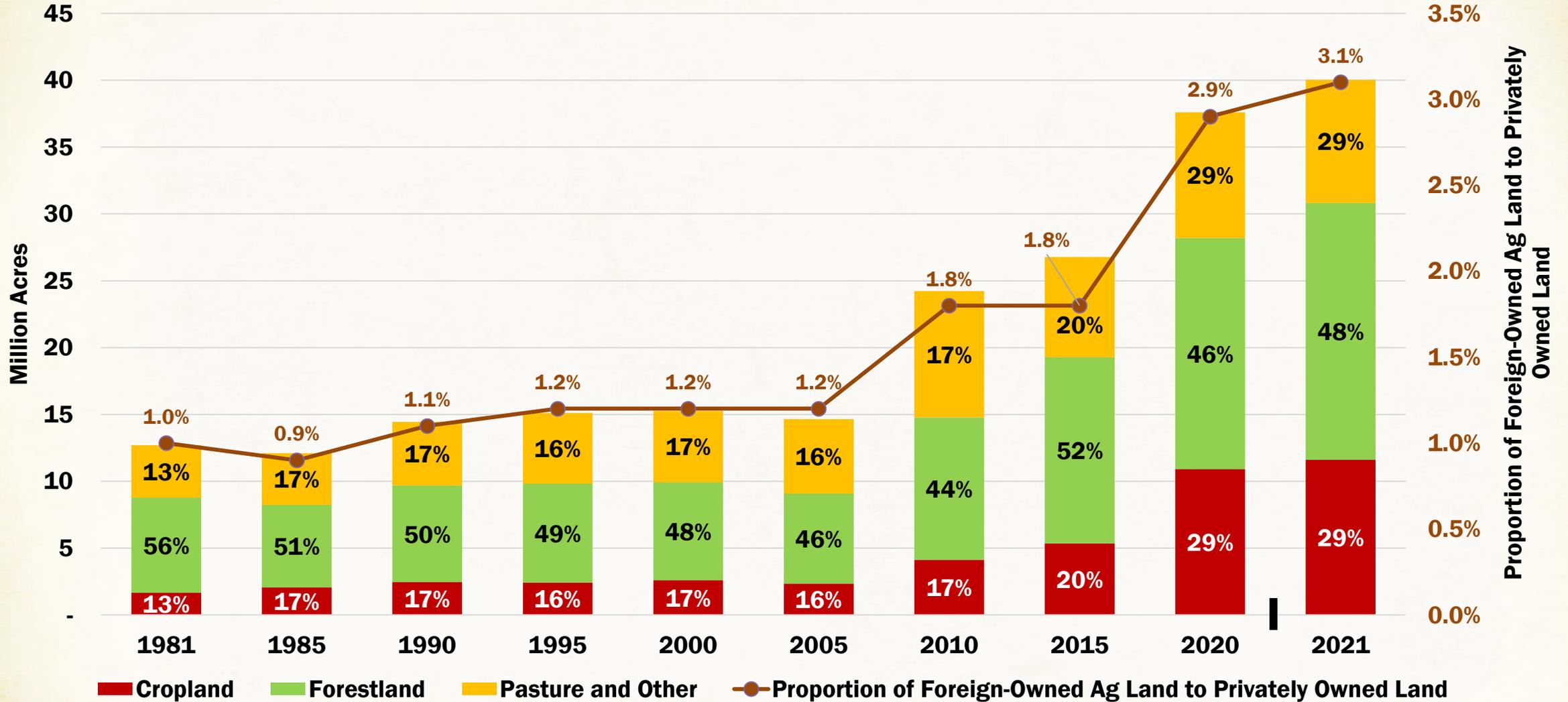


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Source: Farm Bureau Calculations, USDA FAS

# FOREIGN-OWNED U.S. AG LAND BY YEAR AND LAND USE TYPE

Million Acres

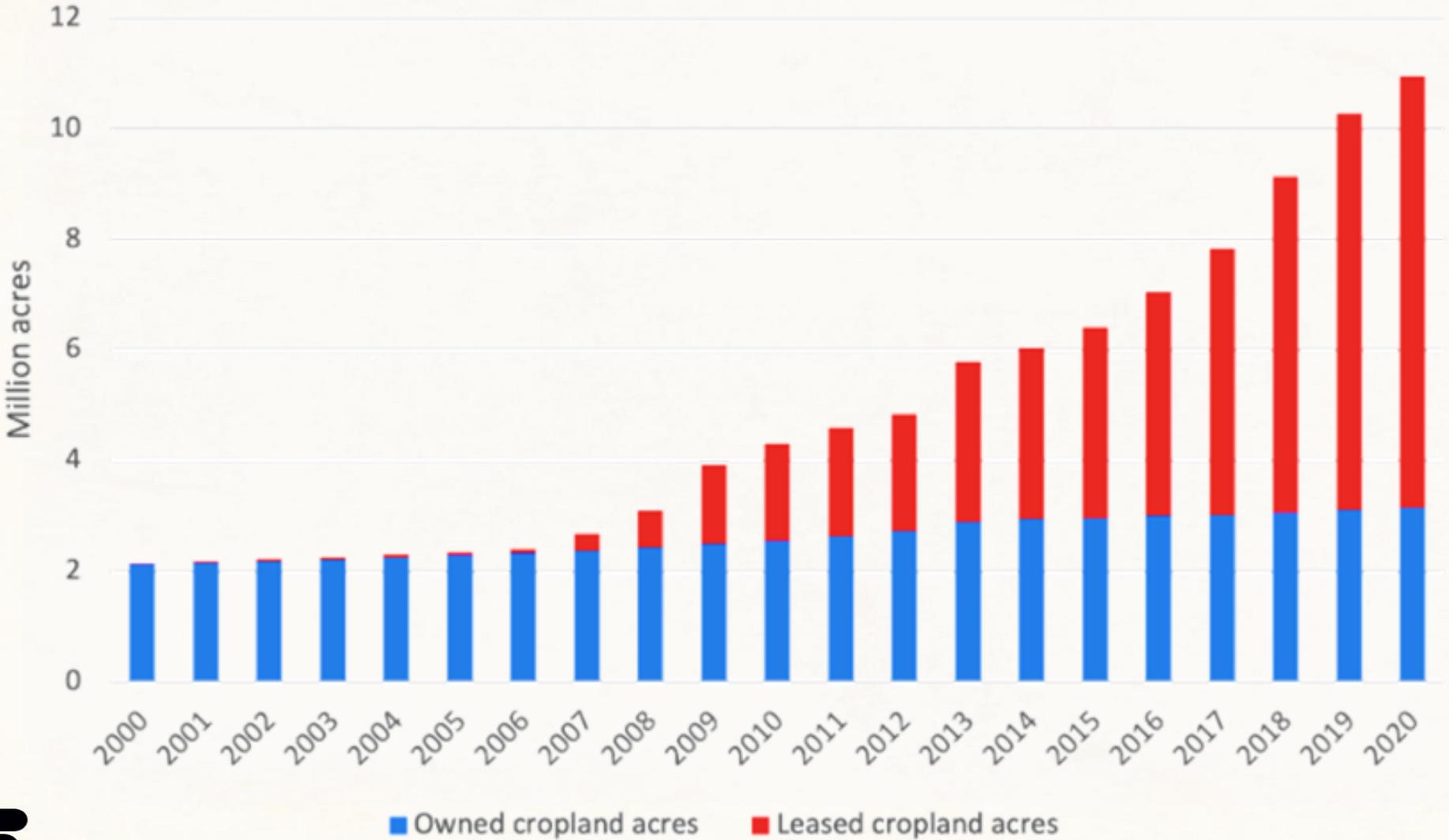


AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

Source: Farm Bureau Calculations, USDA FAS

# CUMULATIVE FOREIGN INTEREST IN U.S. CROPLAND

Owned vs Leased 2000-2020



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

Source: Mykel R. Taylor, Wendong Zhang, and Festus Attah. 2023. "Foreign Interests in U.S. Agricultural Lands: The Missing Conversations about Leasing."

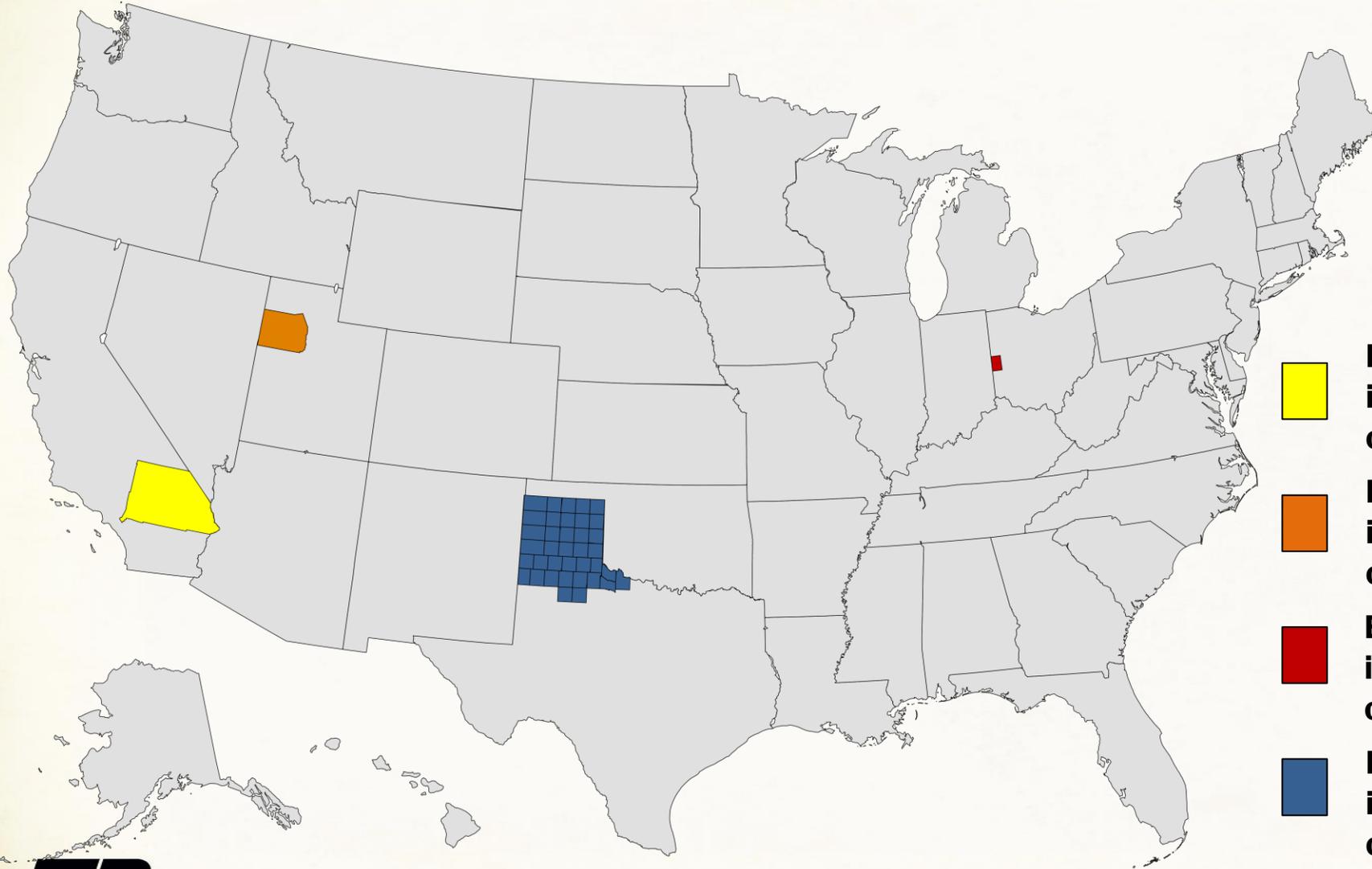
# TOP TEN ENTITIES REPORTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND

	Entity	Acreage	Foreign Investor
1	INVENERGY WIND DEVELOPMENT LLC	2,186,282	Canada
2	RED MOUNTAIN TIMBERCO III, L.L.C.	1,821,385	Netherlands
3	JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (U.S.A.)	1,296,493	Canada
4	ALLAGASH TIMBERLANDS LP	1,110,952	Canada
5	AROOSTOOK TIMBERLANDS LLC	963,600	Canada
6	JEFFERSON SMURFIT CORPORATION (U.S.)	617,069	Ireland
7	States Edge Wind Energy, LLC	392,084	Canada
8	Crown Pine Timber I, L.P.	352,858	Canada
9	Threetree Southern Growth, LLC	300,683	Sweden
10	KATAHDIN FOREST MANAGEMENT LLC	297,204	Canada



# VISUALIZING EQUIVALENTS OF FOREIGN-INVESTOR-HELD U.S. AG LAND

Shaded counties symbolize equivalent acreage of foreign owned U.S. ag land by nationality of foreign investor.



*\*Represents combined area of land **NOT** true location of land*

-  Equivalent acreage of Canadian-investor-owned U.S. ag land – 0.97% of U.S. Ag Land
-  Equivalent acreage of Dutch-investor-owned U.S. ag land – 0.37% of U.S. Ag Land
-  Equivalent acreage of Chinese-investor-owned U.S. ag land – 0.03% of U.S. Ag Land
-  Equivalent acreage of other foreign-investor-owned U.S. ag land – 1.7% of U.S. Ag Land

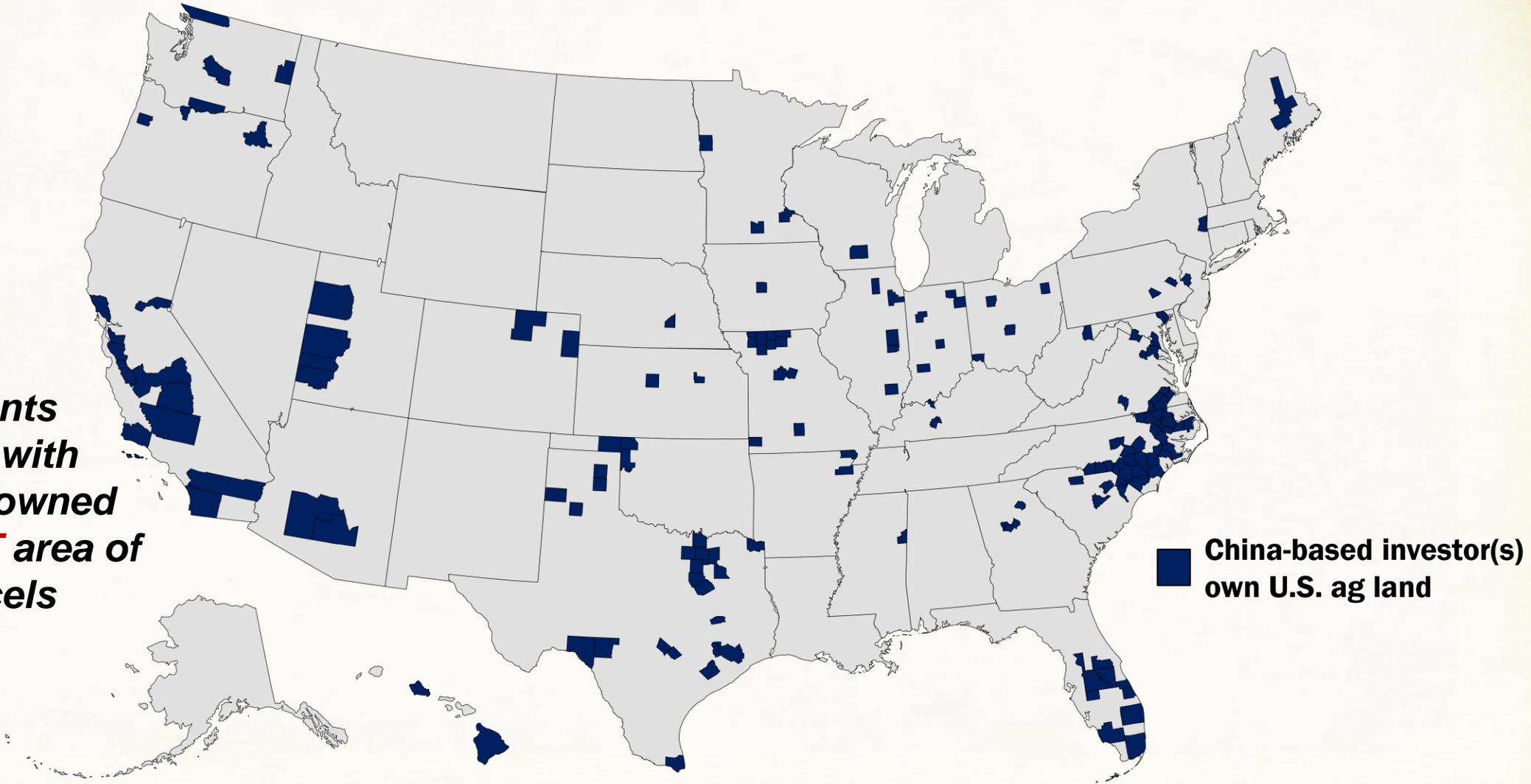


AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

Source: Farm Bureau Calculations, USDA FAS

# COUNTIES WITH CHINA-BASED INVESTOR(S) IN U.S. AGRICULTURE

China-based investors own 0.03% of privately held agricultural land in the United States

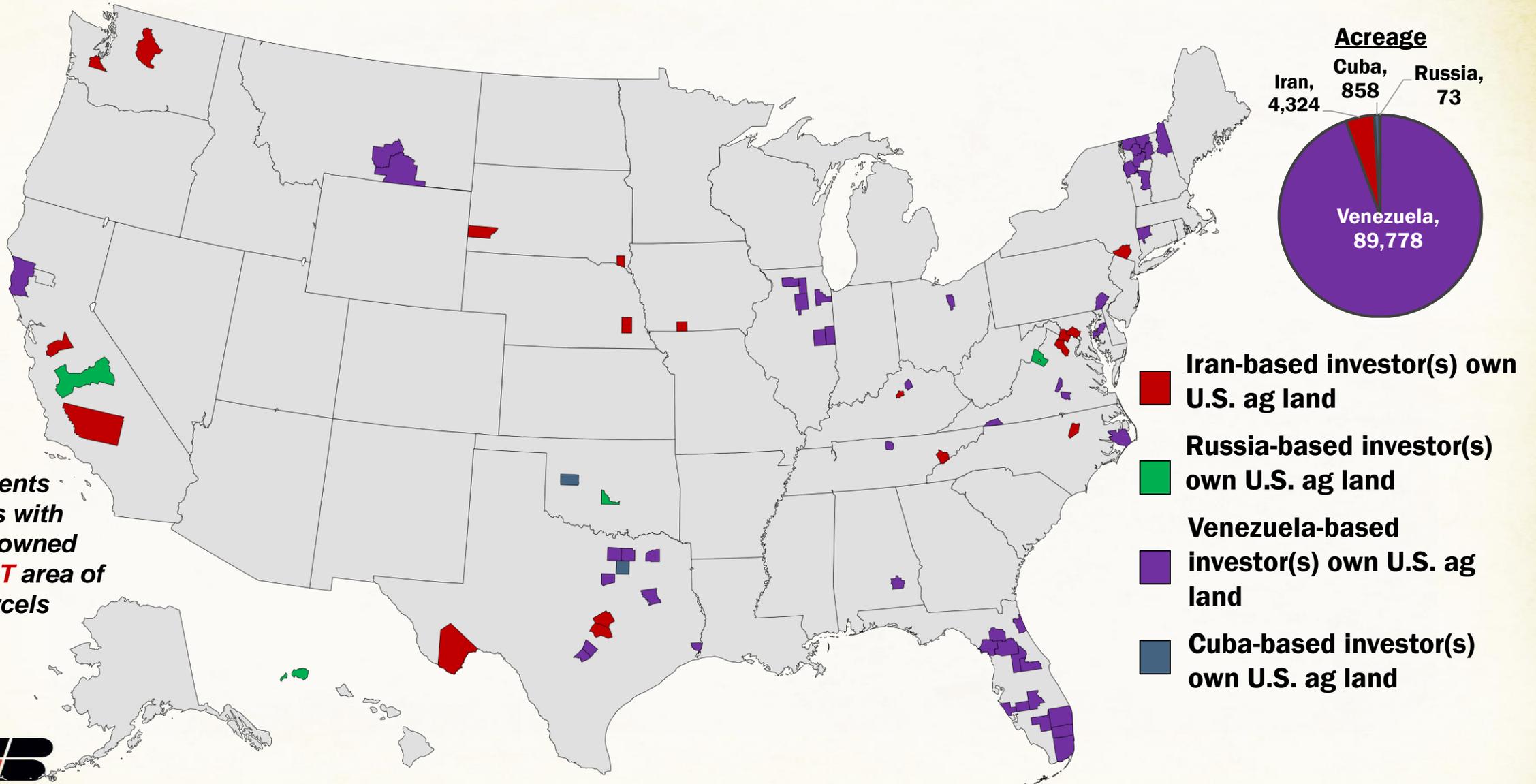


*\*Represents counties with Chinese owned land **NOT** area of land parcels*

**China-based investor(s) own U.S. ag land**

# COUNTIES WITH IRAN-, RUSSIA-, CUBA- OR VENEZUELA-BASED INVESTOR(S) IN U.S. AG LAND

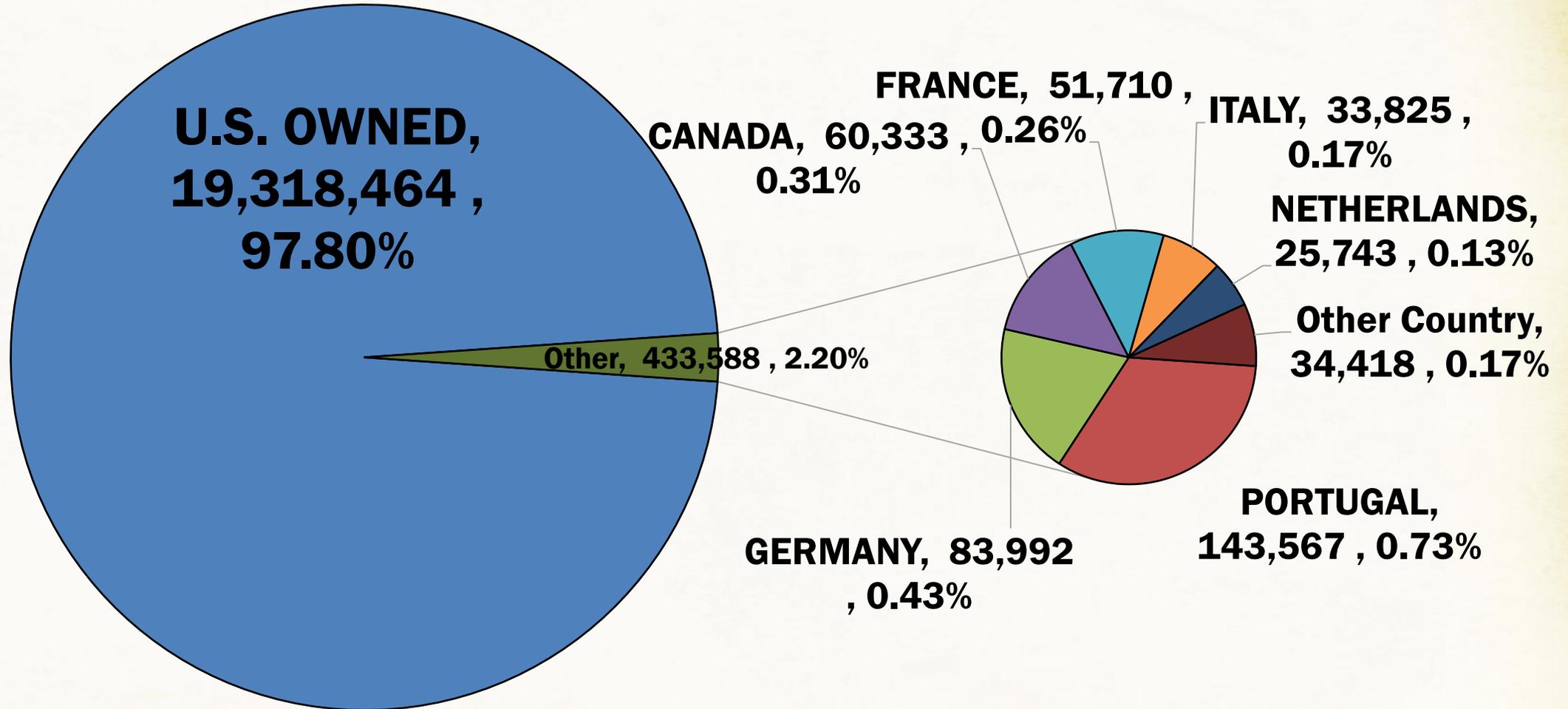
Investors from these countries hold 0.23% of foreign-owned U.S. ag land and 0.007% of all U.S. ag land.



*\*Represents counties with foreign-owned land **NOT** area of land parcels*

# INDIANA AGRICULTURAL LAND BY ORIGIN OF OWNER

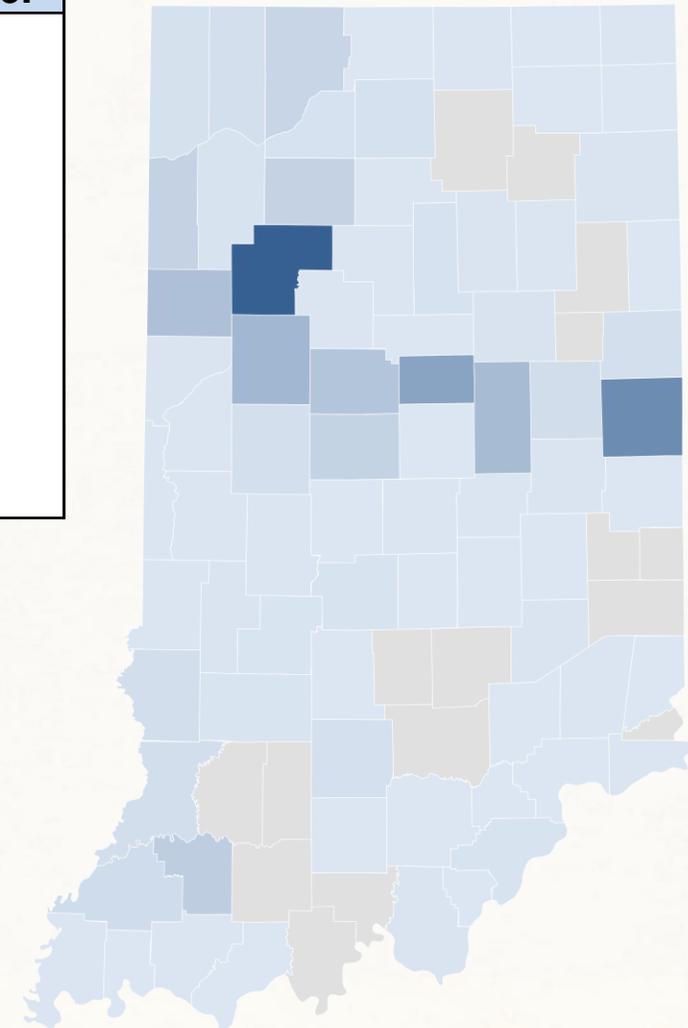
2.2% of Indiana's Ag Land is Foreign Owned (~433,000 acres)



# CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN-OWNED AG LAND IN INDIANA

Acres of Foreign Owned Ag Land 34 88,647

Entity	Acreege	Foreign Investor
1 WILDCAT WIND FARM I, LLC	50,736	Germany
2 Power Partners Midwest LLC	30,763	France
3 Invenergy Solar Project Development, LLC	27,406	Canada
4 Headwaters Wind Farm, LLC	22,813	Portugal
5 Horizon Wind Energy, LLC	20,544	Portugal
6 INVENERGY WIND DEVELOPMENT LLC	18,911	Canada
7 CLINTON FARMS WIND PROJECT, L.L.C.	17,595	Italy
8 Prairie Breeze Wind Farm LLC	14,467	Germany
9 MEADOW LAKE WIND FARM, L.L.C.	13,917	Portugal
10 LACROSSE FARMS WIND PROJECT, L.L.C.	13,588	Italy



State	Indiana
Country	CHINA
<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Sum of Number of Acres</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Greene</b>	<b>225.00</b>
KPT, INCORPORATED	225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Marion</b>	<b>92.00</b>
CHAN, JASMINE M.L.T.	92.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Noble</b>	<b>301.00</b>
TAN, MANUEL L. & FABUABA N.	301.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>618.00</b>



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Source: Farm Bureau Calculations, USDA FAS

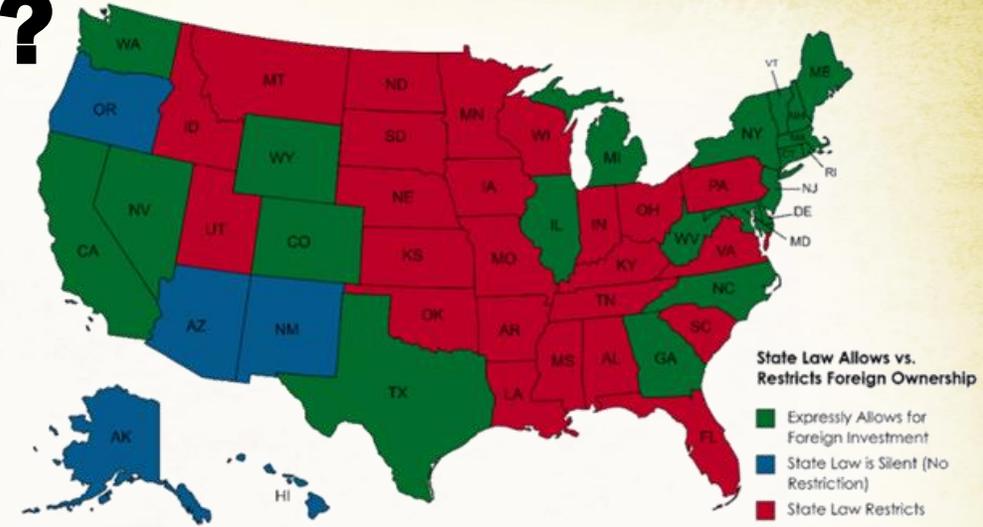
# Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S.

- Investigations into mergers and acquisitions that could result in foreign control of a U.S. business, targeted investments into critical technologies, infrastructure, or personal data and real estate transactions have fallen under the jurisdiction of CFIUS.
- CFIUS investigated, and approved, the Chinese-firm acquisitions of the pork processor and seed company many farmers have expressed concern about.
- CFIUS is chaired by the secretary of the Treasury with eight other members including:
  - The secretaries of State, Homeland Security, Commerce and Energy; attorney general, U.S. trade representative; and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
  - The secretary of Labor and director of National Intelligence hold positions as ex-officio members. Five White House offices are observers in CFIUS, often including the National Security Council.
- Secretary of Agriculture has not played an active role in CFIUS



# Advantages and Disadvantages?

- Interaction with state level legislation?
- Interaction with private property rights?
- Federal involvement in land sales?
- Limitations to adversarial nations only? How is adversarial defined?
- Sensitive military sites, energy generation infrastructure, agriculturally productive regions – how complicated will this map get?
- What will the impact to farm transitions be? What if I want to pass my farm to immigrant labor?



# New AFBF Policies



- We support:
  - Additional funding to improve data collection, auditing techniques and enforcement of reporting under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA). Current data collection and reporting on foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land is incomplete, flawed and unclear. Farmers need an accurate image of current ownership dynamics to inform policy development.
  - The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) as the best entity to review transactions involving all investments in U.S. agribusinesses, real estate and other vital natural resources by foreign persons/entities and prohibit transactions that threaten U.S. national security. We also support expanding the jurisdiction of and increasing funding for CFIUS so that they may review additional transactions.



# AFIDA Improvement Act of 2024

- Streamline CFIUS Data Sharing
- Modernize the AFIDA Handbook
- Implement Current Law
- Improve Data Verification and Monitoring
- Identify Suspected Non-Filers
- Collect Data from Every Foreign Investor

## Sponsors

**Todd Young (R-IN)**

**Mike Braun (R-IN)**

**Jon Tester (D-MT)**

**John Fetterman (D-PA)**

**Joni Ernst (R-IA)**

**Sherrod Brown (D-OH)**

**Marco Rubio (R-FL)**

**Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)**

**Bill Hagerty (R-TN)**

**Eric Schmitt (R-MO)**

**Katie Britt (R-AL)**



# FSA REQUESTS INPUT

This form is available electronically.

AMENDED

**FSA-153**

(10-13-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

## AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT REPORT

*Note: Read Instructions on Page 2 Before Filing in Any Data Below. (If Additional Space is Needed, Add information in Item 6, Page 2, or attach an additional sheet.)*

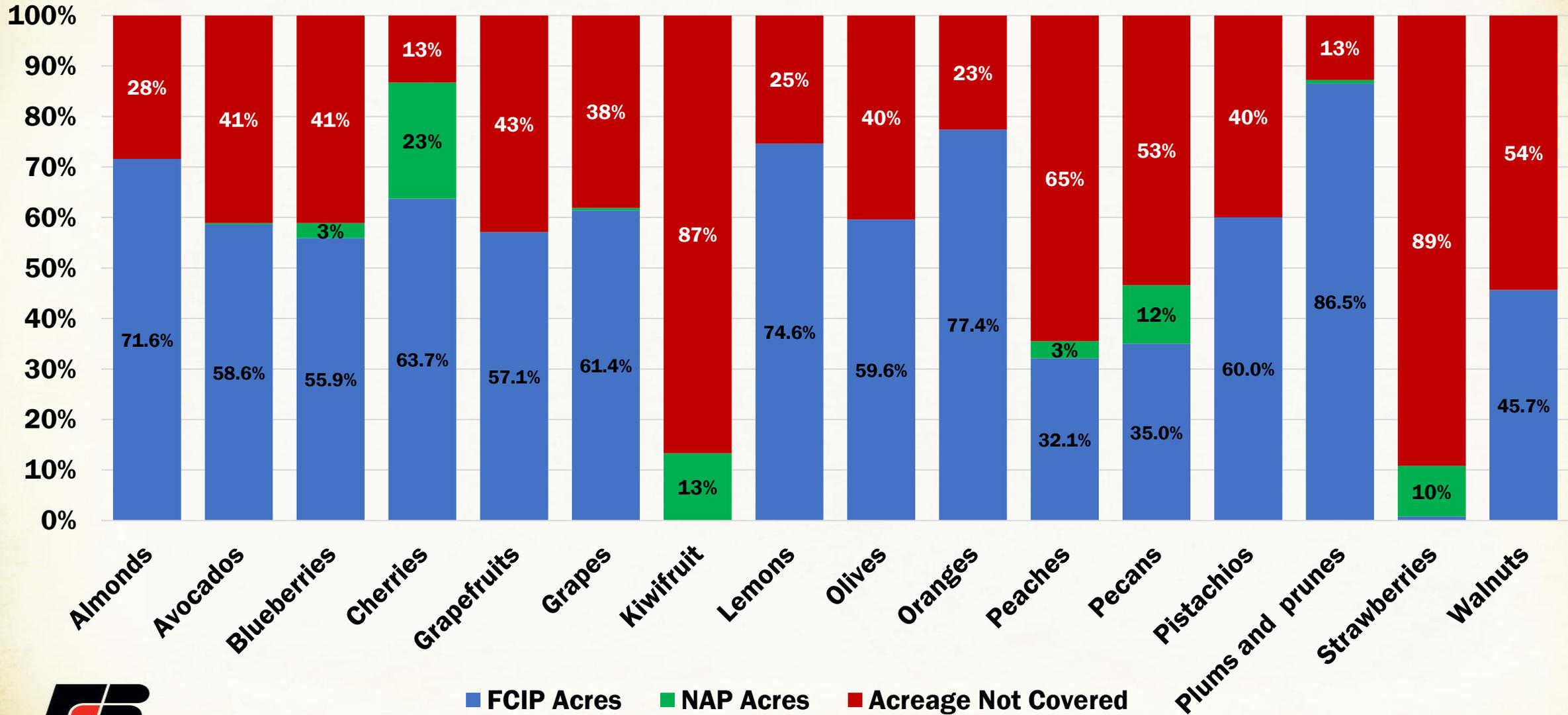
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public input – **due by Feb. 16, 2024** – on how foreign filers report agricultural land holdings in the United States.
- USDA’s Farm Service Agency is proposing to update the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report form so that reporting can include more granular data on long-term lessees, data to assess the impacts of foreign investment on agricultural producers and rural communities, and to gather geospatial information.
- FSA–153 form has not been updated for years, an internal working group—composed of AFIDA headquarters specialists, information technology specialists, FSA field staff, and other USDA employees—met in the spring and summer of 2023
- Forms are typically filled out manually and mailed in hard copy to headquarters staff



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# SHARE OF FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE NOT COVERED

FCIP and NAP | 2017 Census of Agriculture | Select Crops



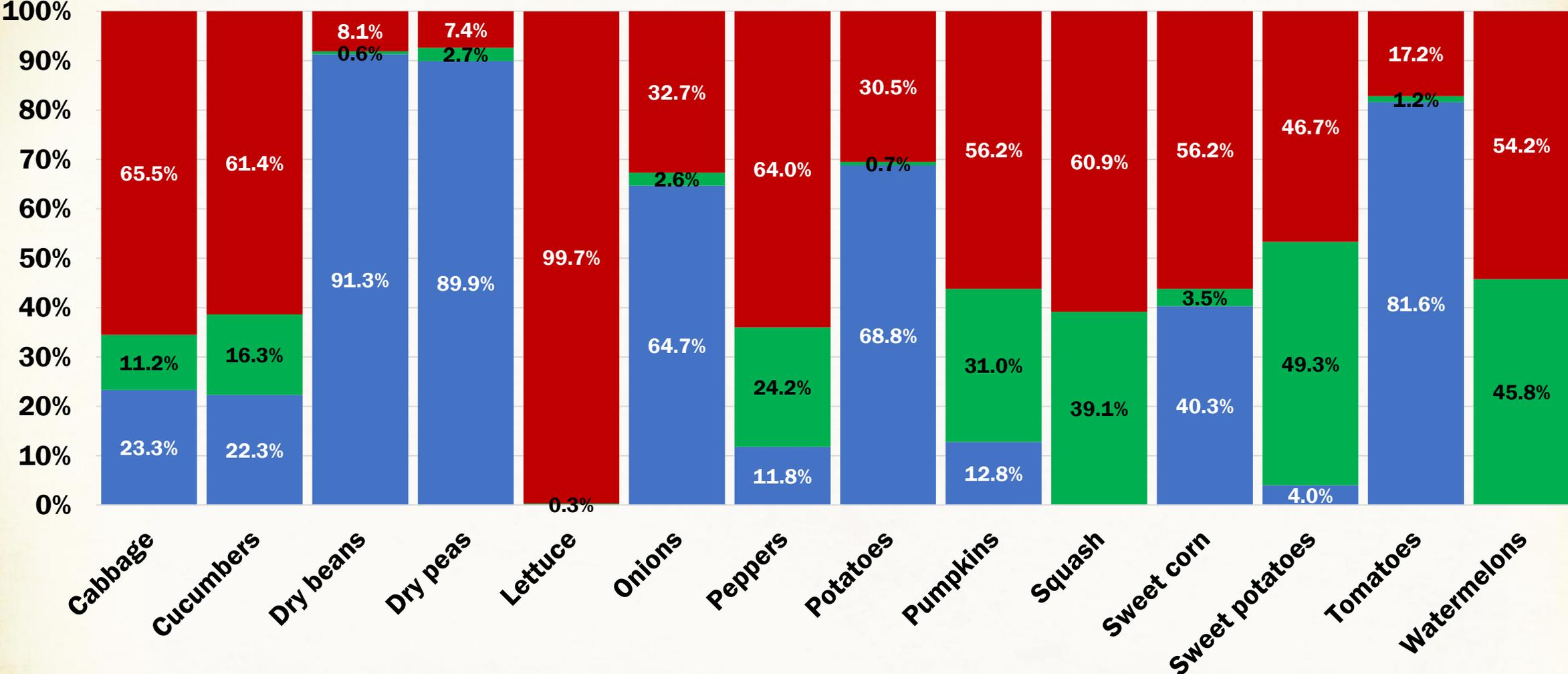
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

■ FCIP Acres ■ NAP Acres ■ Acreage Not Covered

Source: AFBF Calculations, USDA RMA and ERS

# SHARE OF VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE NOT COVERED

FCIP and NAP | 2017 Census of Agriculture | Select Crops



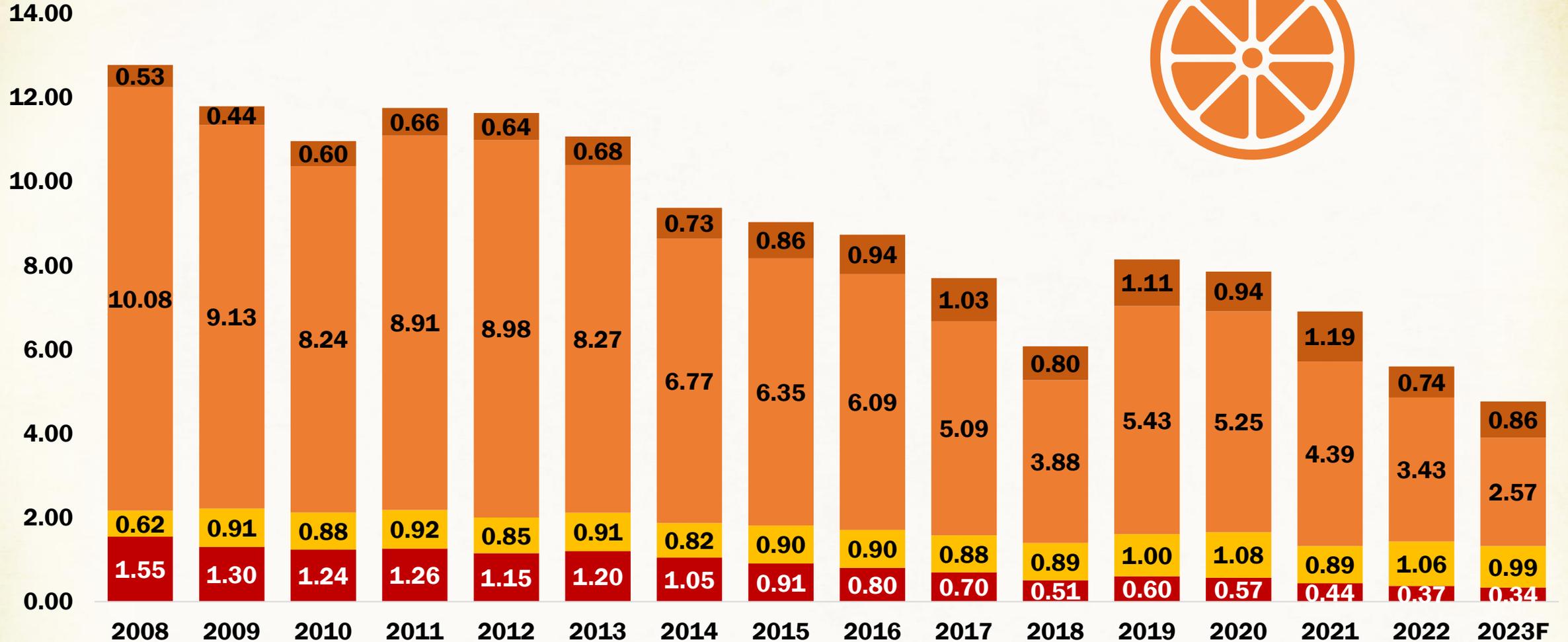
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

■ FCIP Acres   ■ NAP Acres   ■ Acreage Not Covered

Source: AFBF Calculations, USDA RMA and ERS

# DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF CITRUS FRUITS

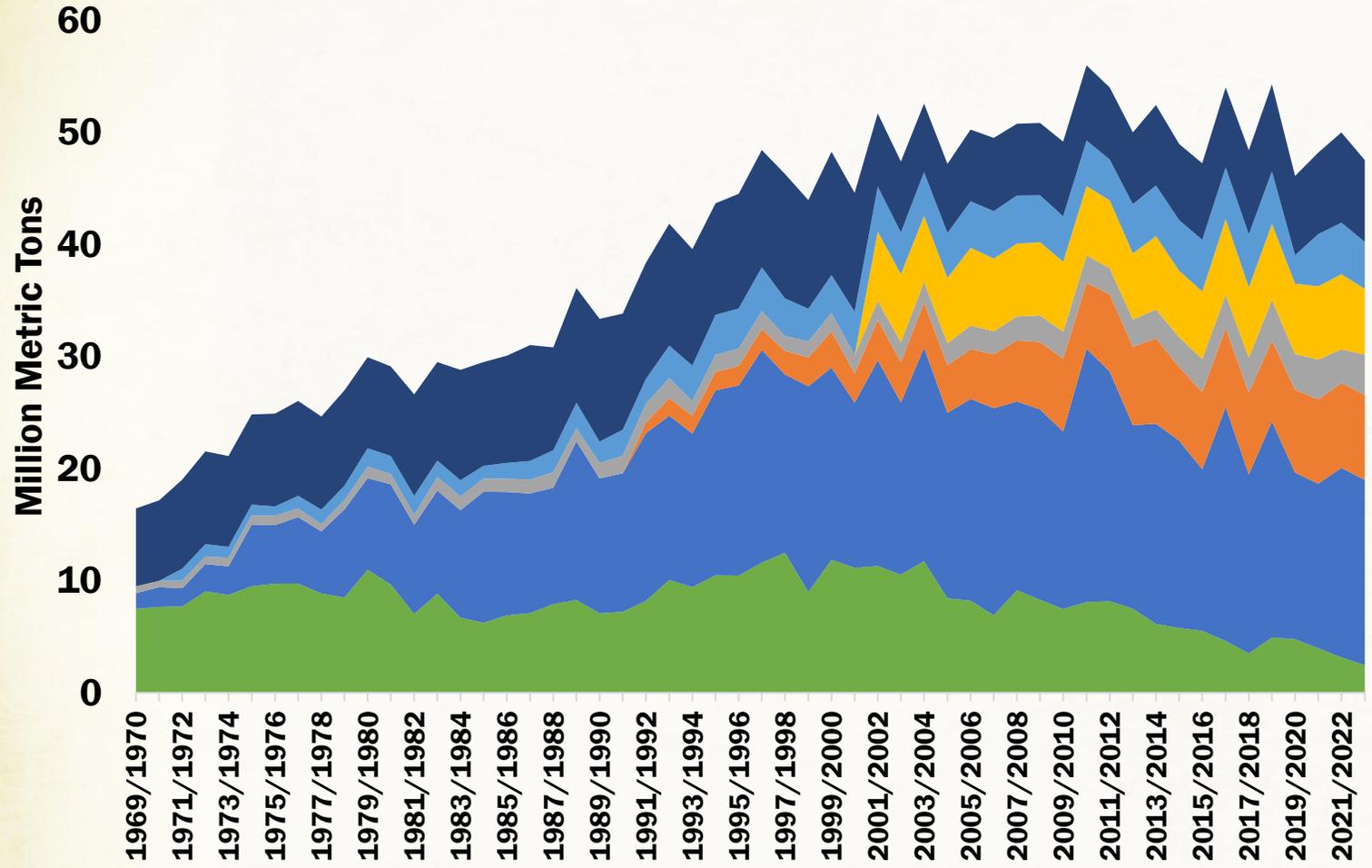
Million Tons



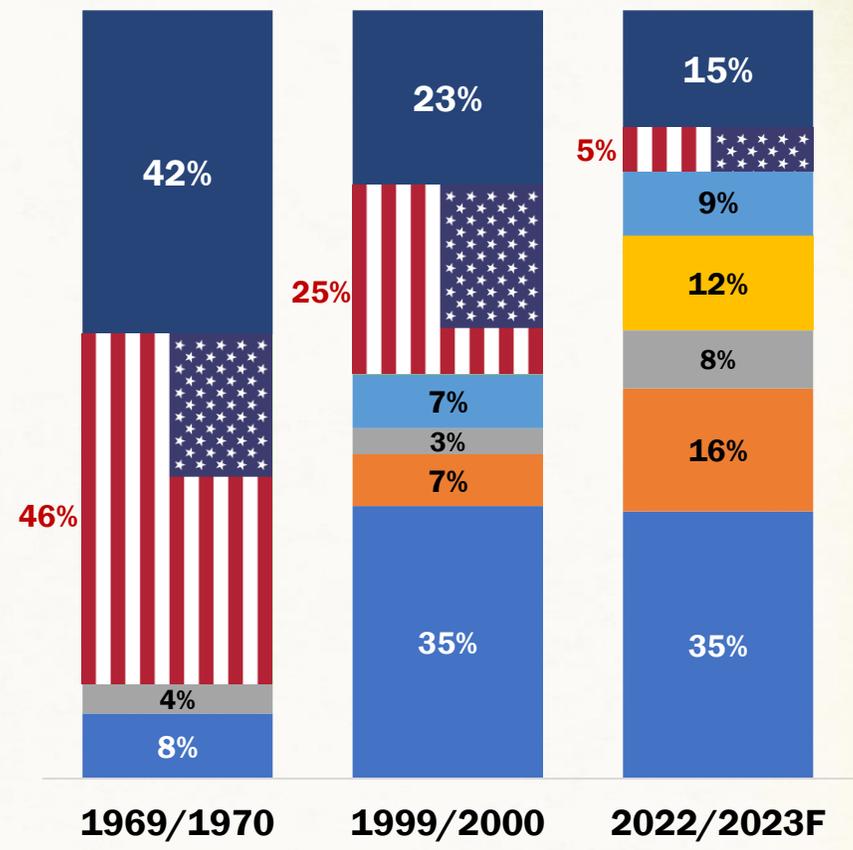
■ GRAPEFRUIT   ■ LEMONS   ■ ORANGES   ■ TANGERINES

# SHARE OF ORANGE PRODUCTION BY COUNTRY

1969/1970 Marketing Year – 2022/2023 Marketing Year Forecast



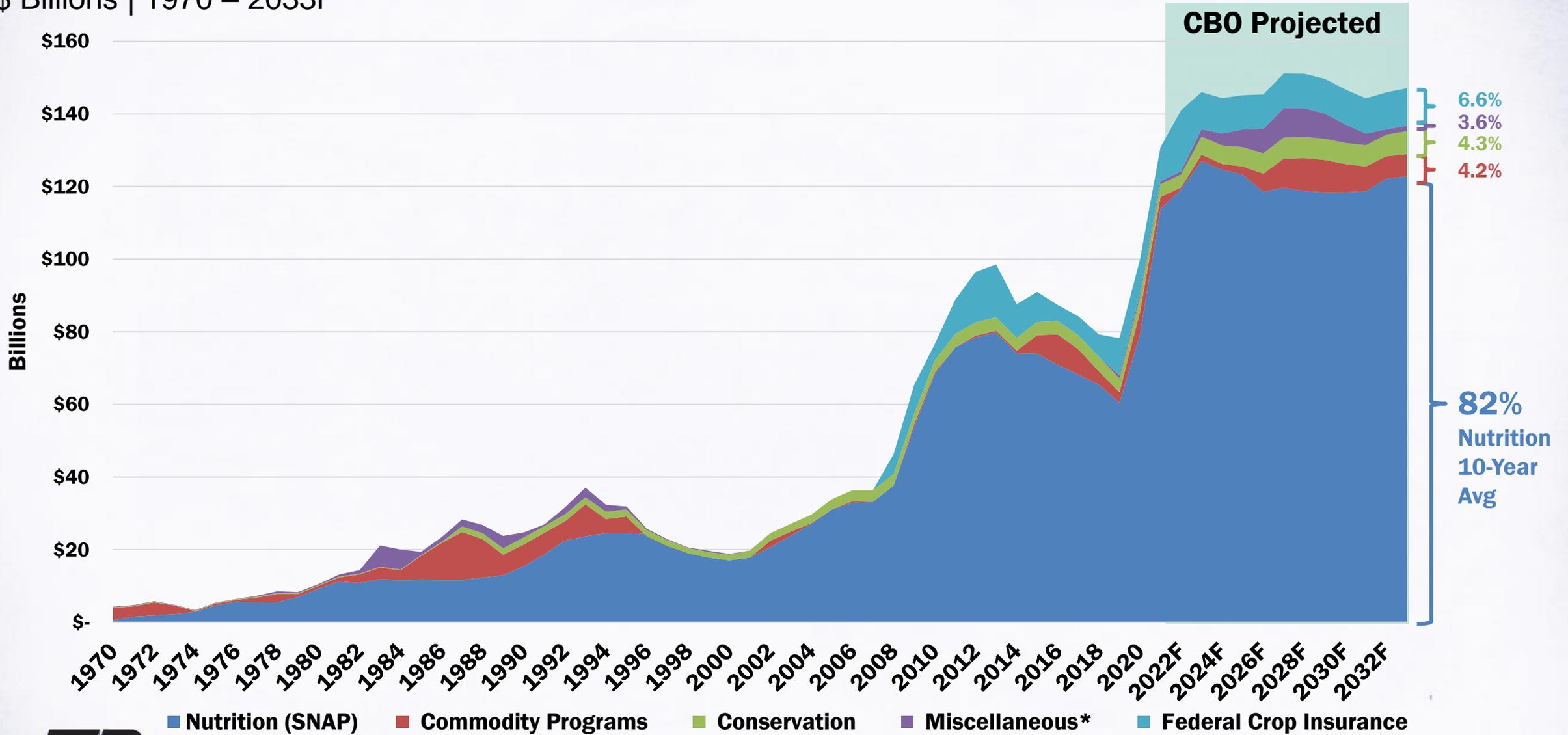
## Production by % Share of Total



■ United States 
 ■ Brazil 
 ■ China 
 ■ Egypt 
 ■ European Union 
 ■ Mexico 
 ■ ROW

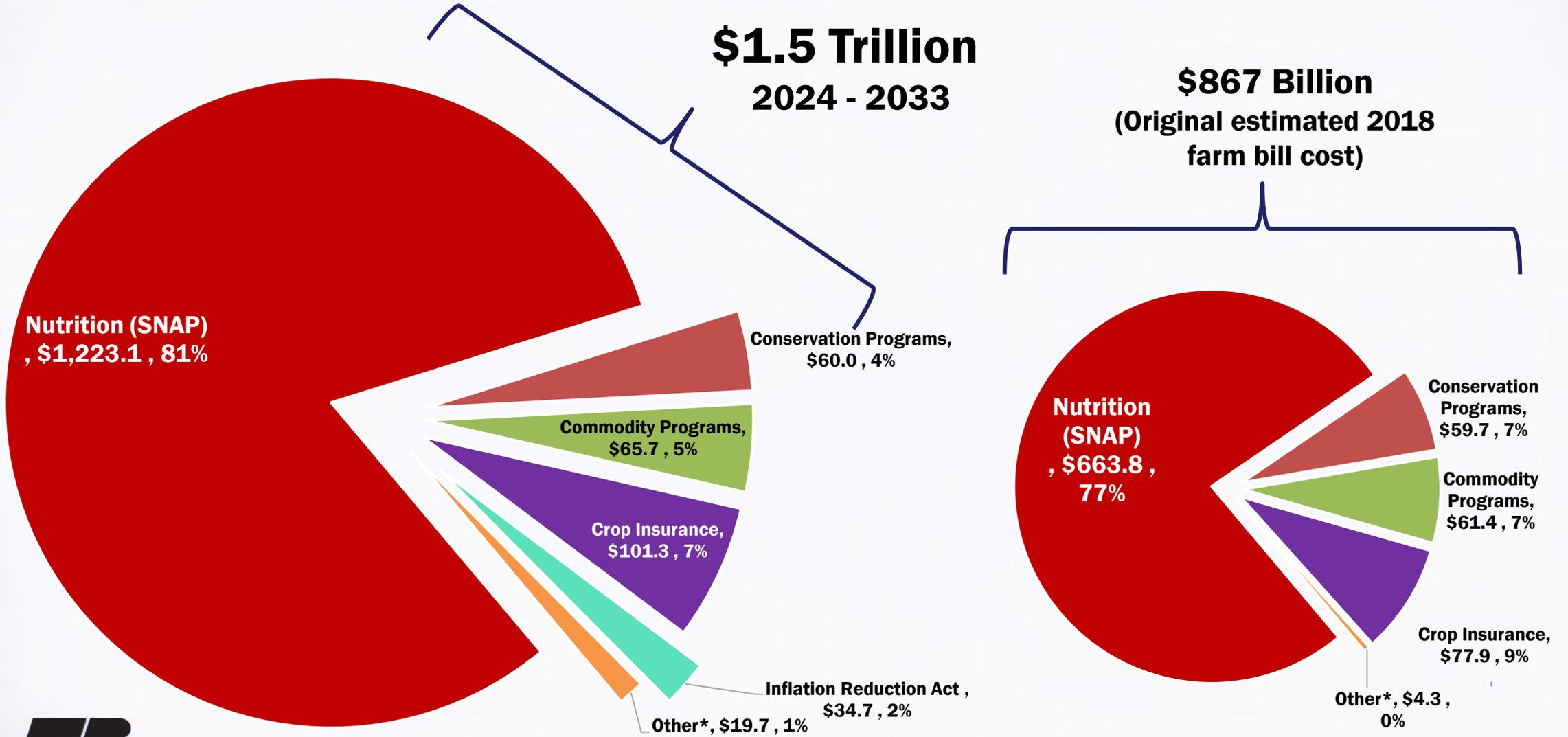
# FIGURE 1: FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM AND SNAP OUTLAYS

\$ Billions | 1970 – 2033F



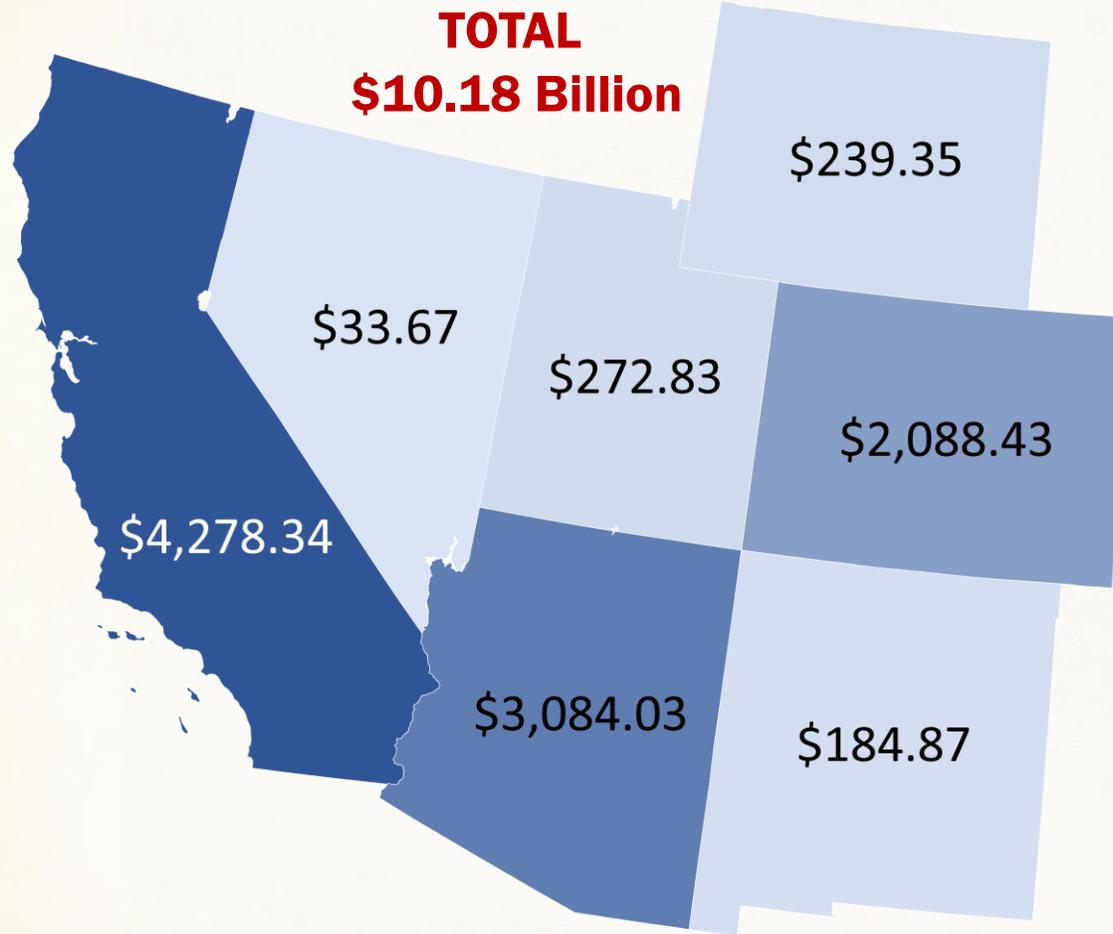
# FIGURE 1: 10 - YEAR PROJECTED OUTLAYS | FARM BILL PROGRAMS

\$ Billions | May 2023 Baseline | 2018 farm bill comparison



# COLORADO RIVER BASIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY VALUE

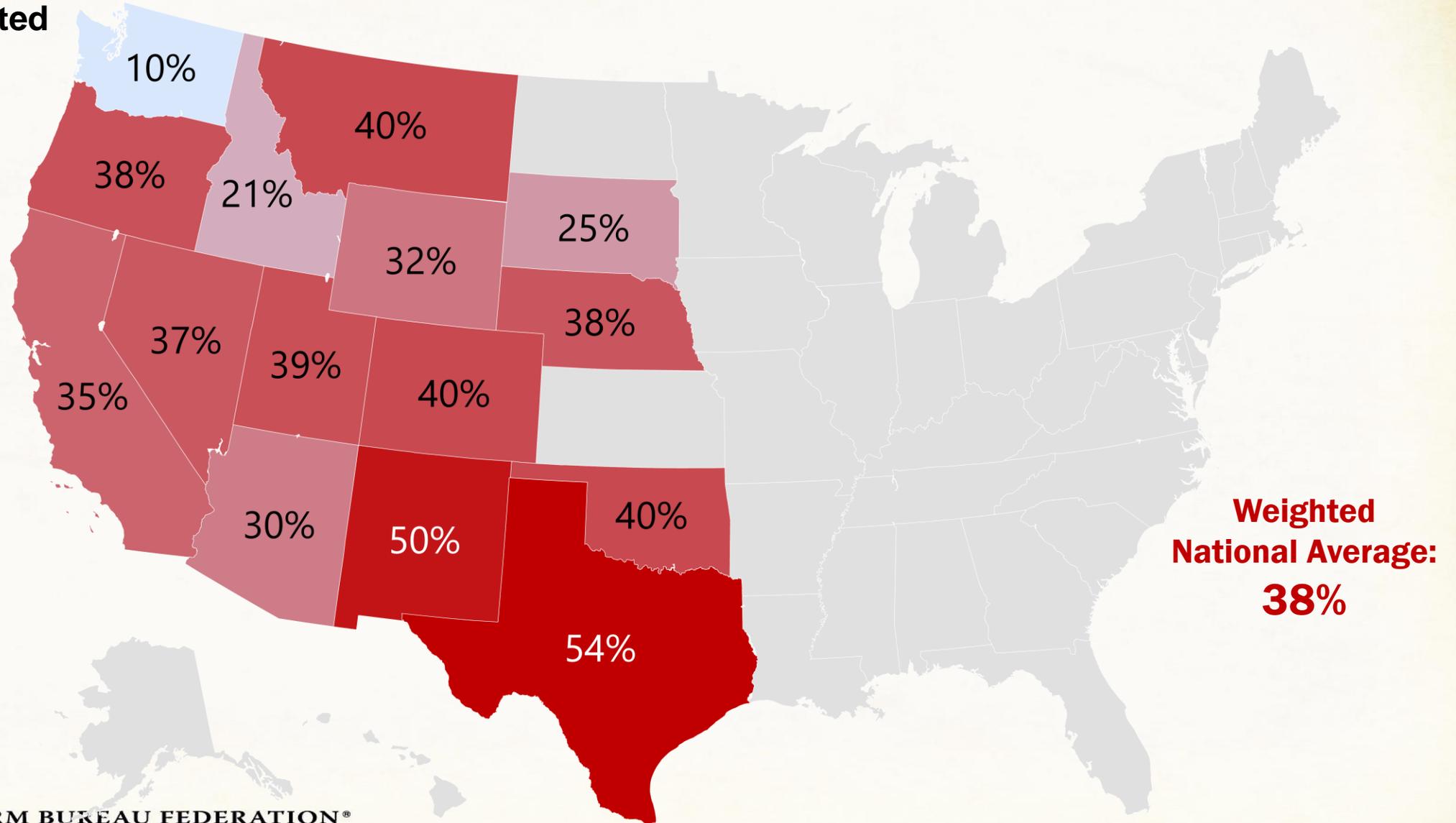
\$ Millions | Total Hydrologic Basin & Adjacent Areas



# Summer 2022 Farm Revenue Reduction Expectations

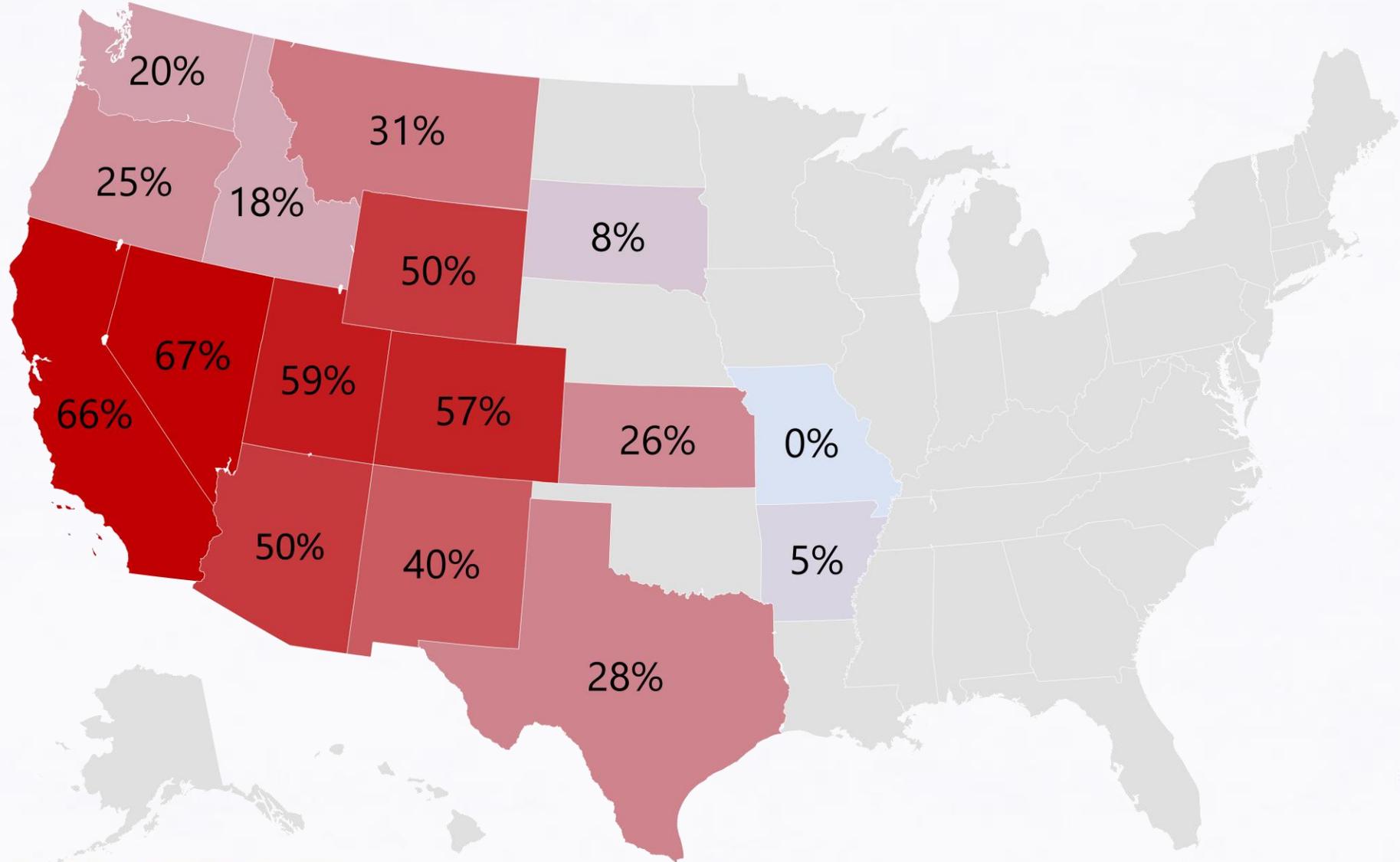
Percent Decrease from Average | Assessing Western Drought Conditions

Member Reported



# Percent of Respondents Reporting Factor as **Prevalent or Higher** in their area

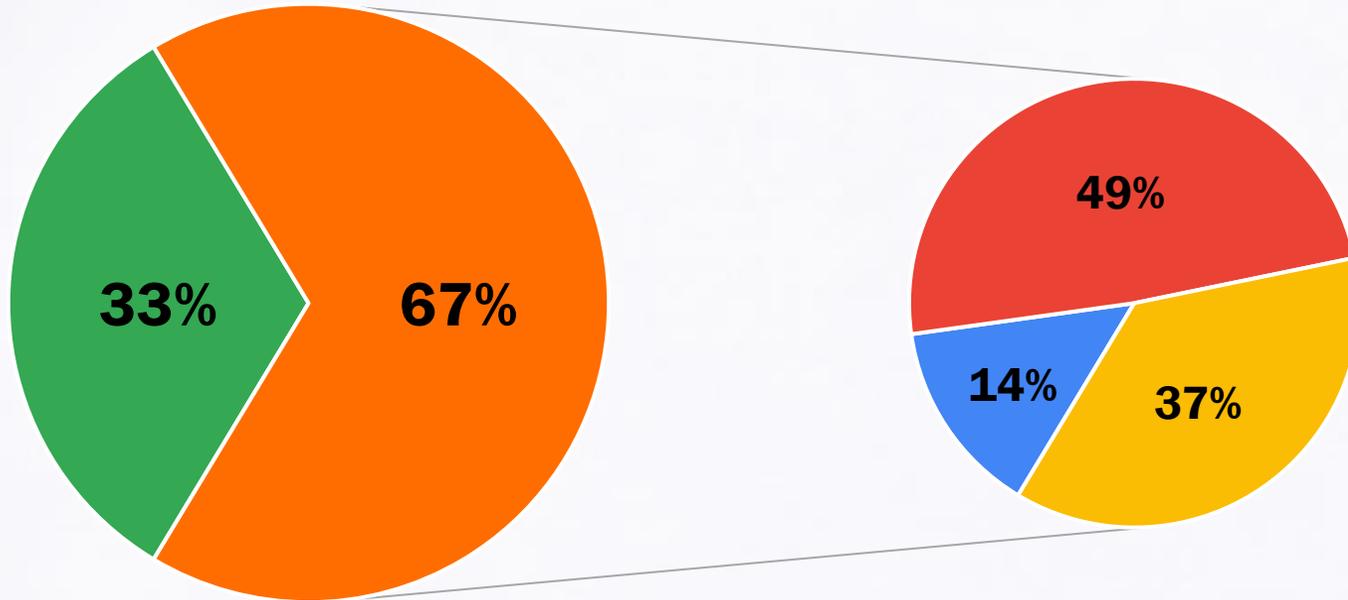
**Increased Local Restrictions on Ag Water Use** | All Surveyed States | As a Result of Drought | Fall 2022



# SUMMER 2022 LIVESTOCK HERD REDUCTION DYNAMICS

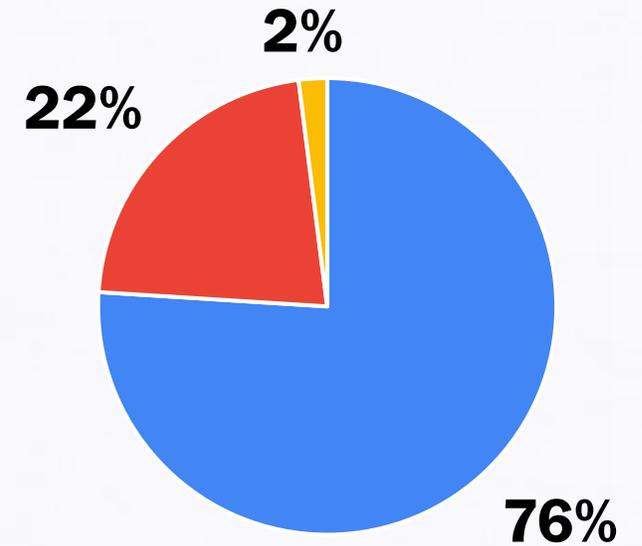
Farm-Level Operational Changes | All Surveyed States | As a Result of Drought

### Those who Reduced Herd Size



- Building back or planning to build back your herd in the near future
- Further reducing your herd size
- Maintaining the reduced herd size
- NA

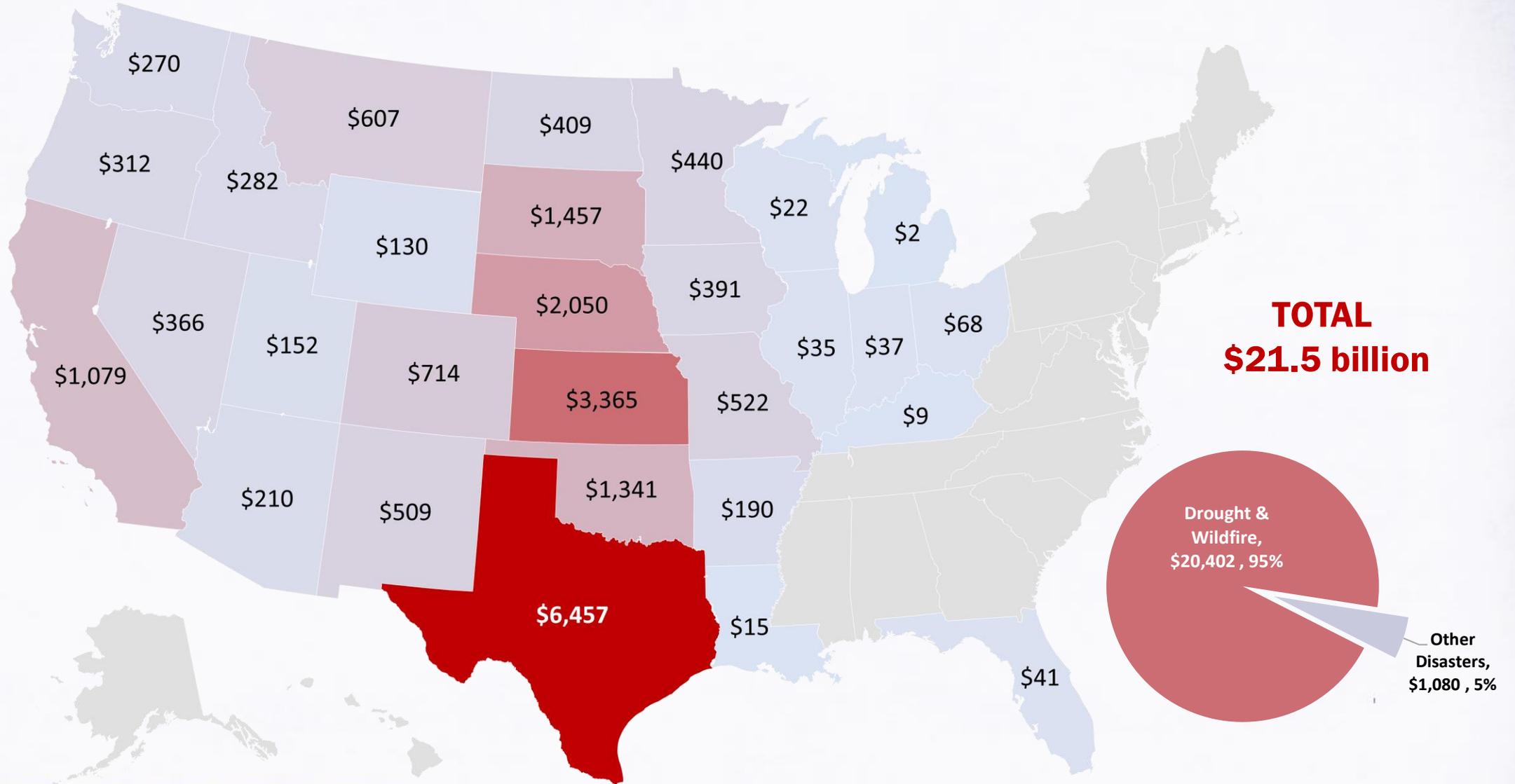
### Land use Dynamics of those who Reduced Herd Size



- Following Rangeland
- Leasing Rangeland
- Selling Rangeland

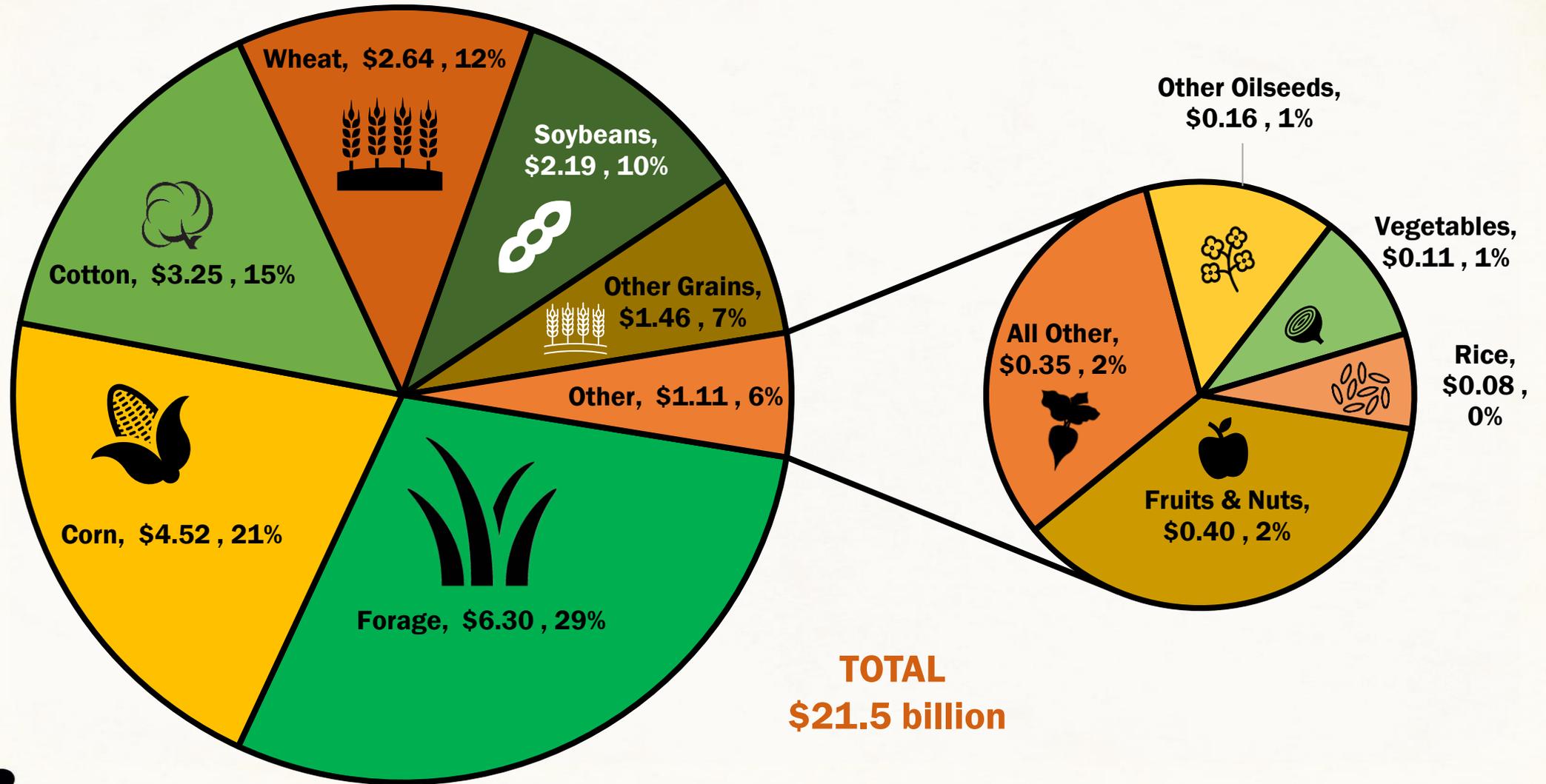
# TOTAL CROP LOSSES FROM 2022 MAJOR DISASTERS

\$ Millions | Including Rangeland & Forage



# FIGURE 2: TOTAL CROP LOSSES FROM 2022 MAJOR DISASTERS

\$ Billions | By Crop Type



**TOTAL**  
**\$21.5 billion**

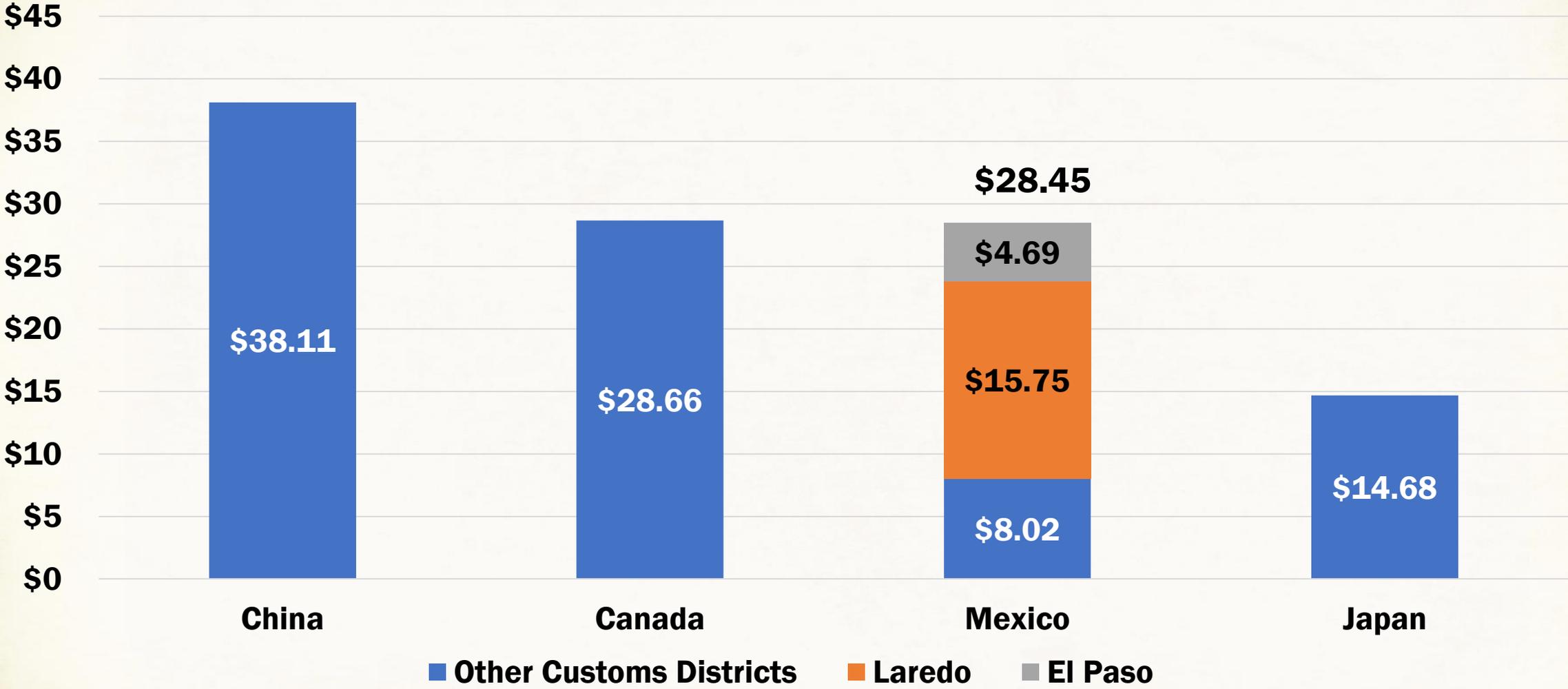
# UNION PACIFIC | SOUTHWEST NETWORK MAP

- Eagle Pass was closed from September 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> earlier this year.



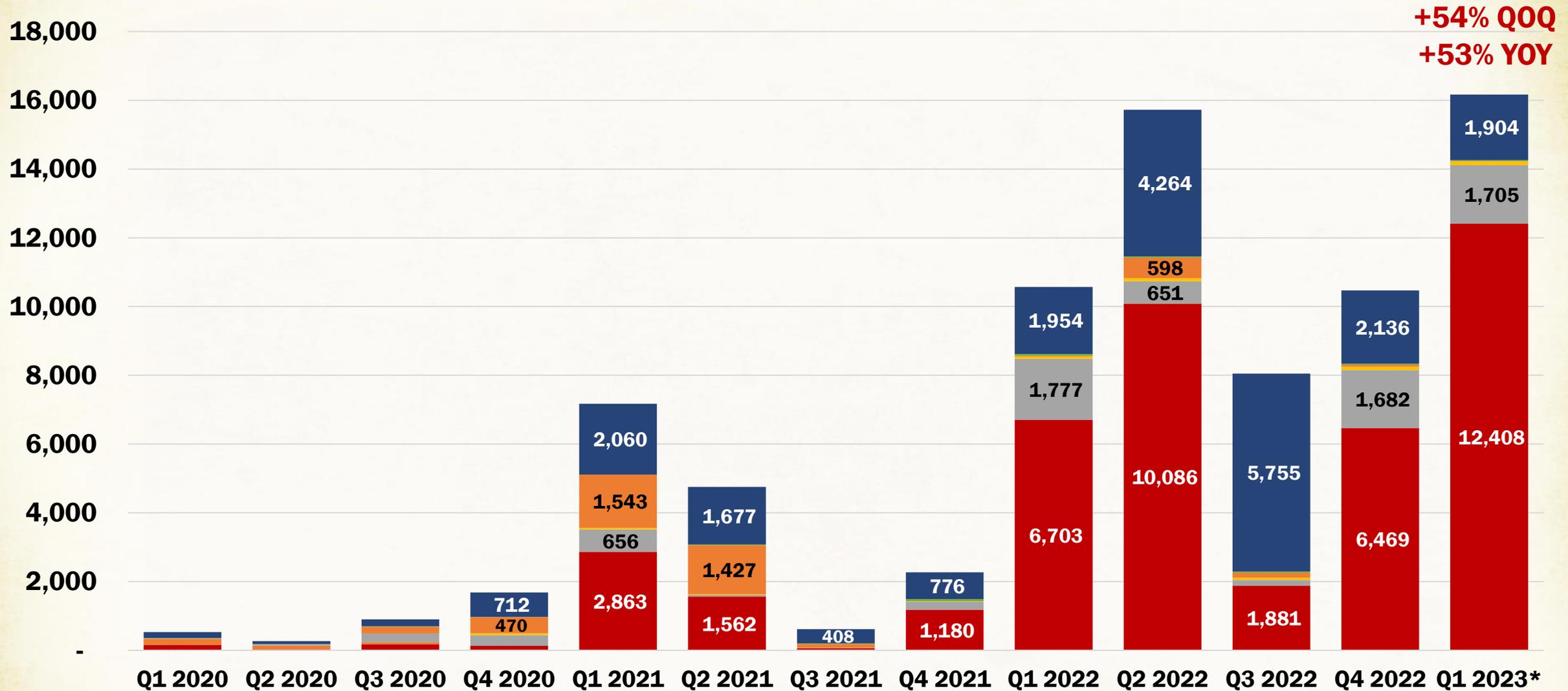
# U.S. EXPORT VALUE TO TOP PARTNERS | SELECT CUSTOMS DISTRICTS

2022 | \$ Billions



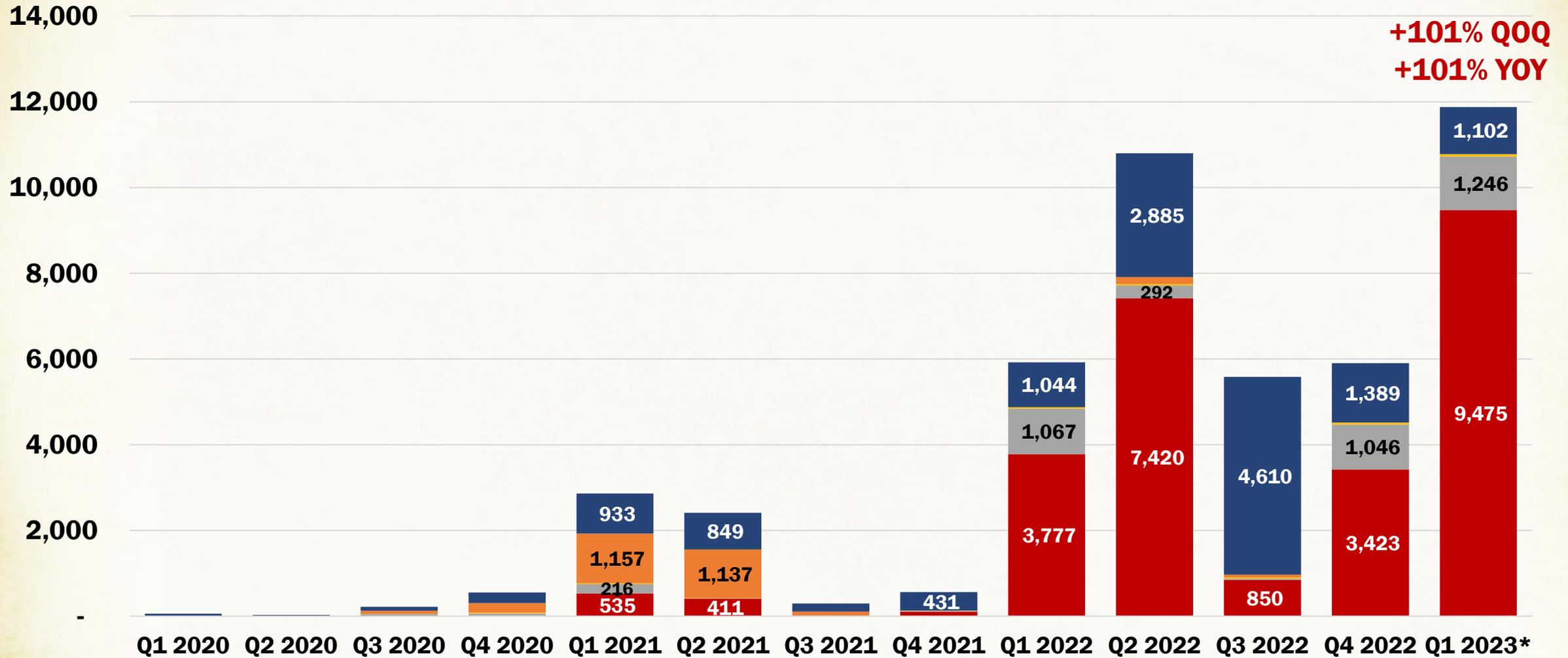
# FIGURE 1: AVERAGE WEEKLY UNFILLED GRAIN CAR ORDERS: 1+ DAYS OVERDUE

By Quarter | Q1 2020 - Present



# FIGURE 2: AVERAGE WEEKLY UNFILLED GRAIN CAR ORDERS: 11+ DAYS OVERDUE

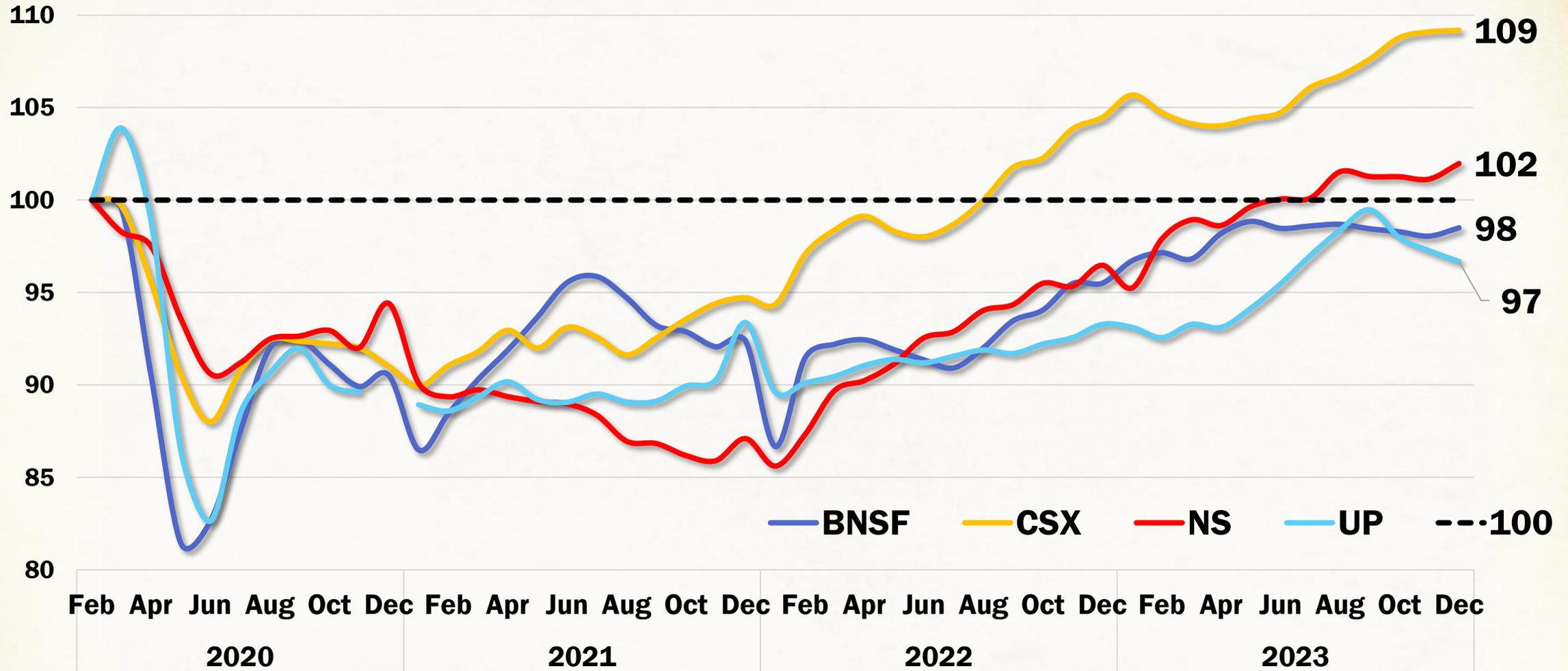
By Quarter | Q1 2020 - Present



**+101% QOQ**  
**+101% YOY**

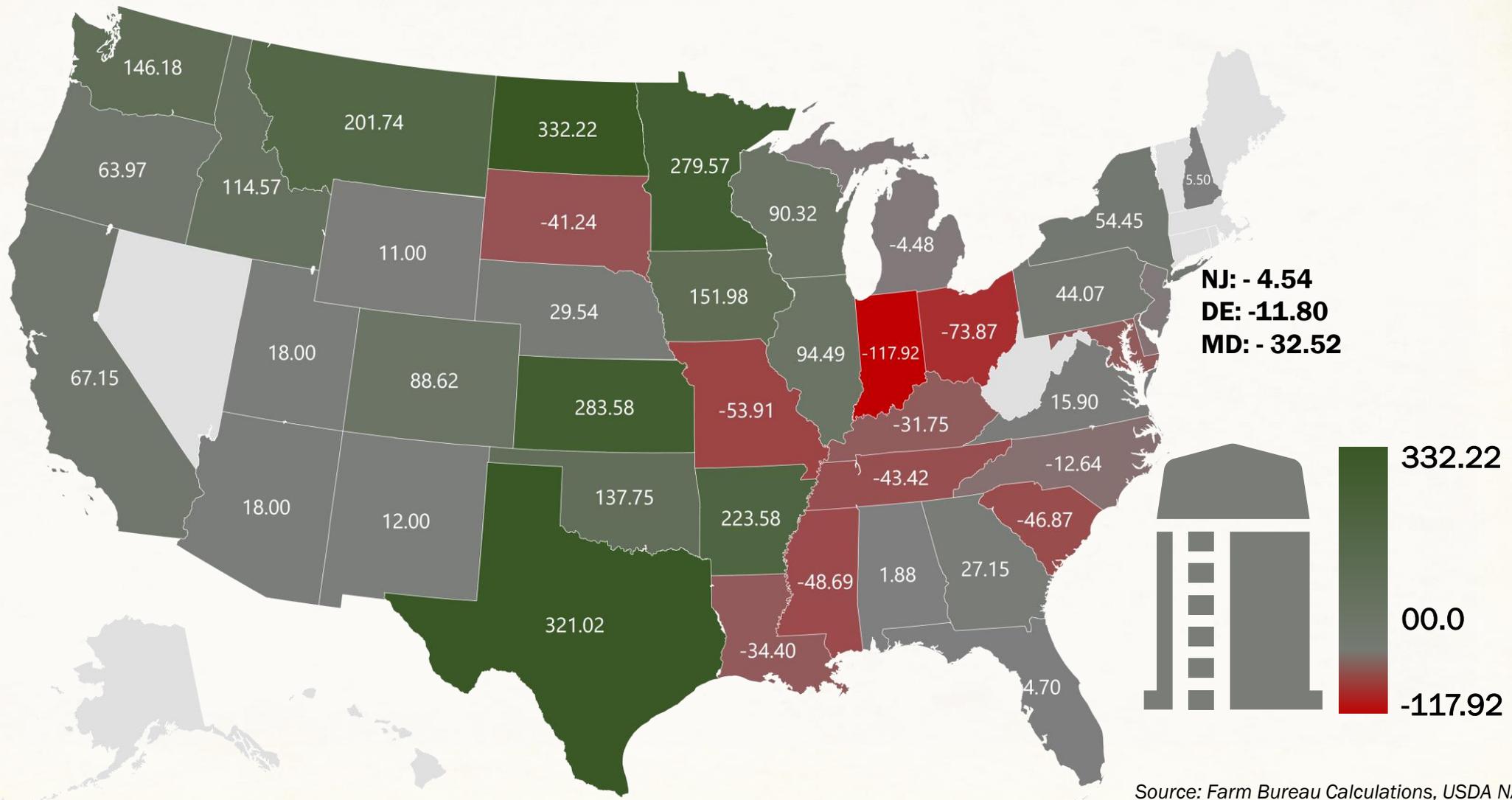
# INDEX OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYMENT FOR MAJOR RAILWAYS

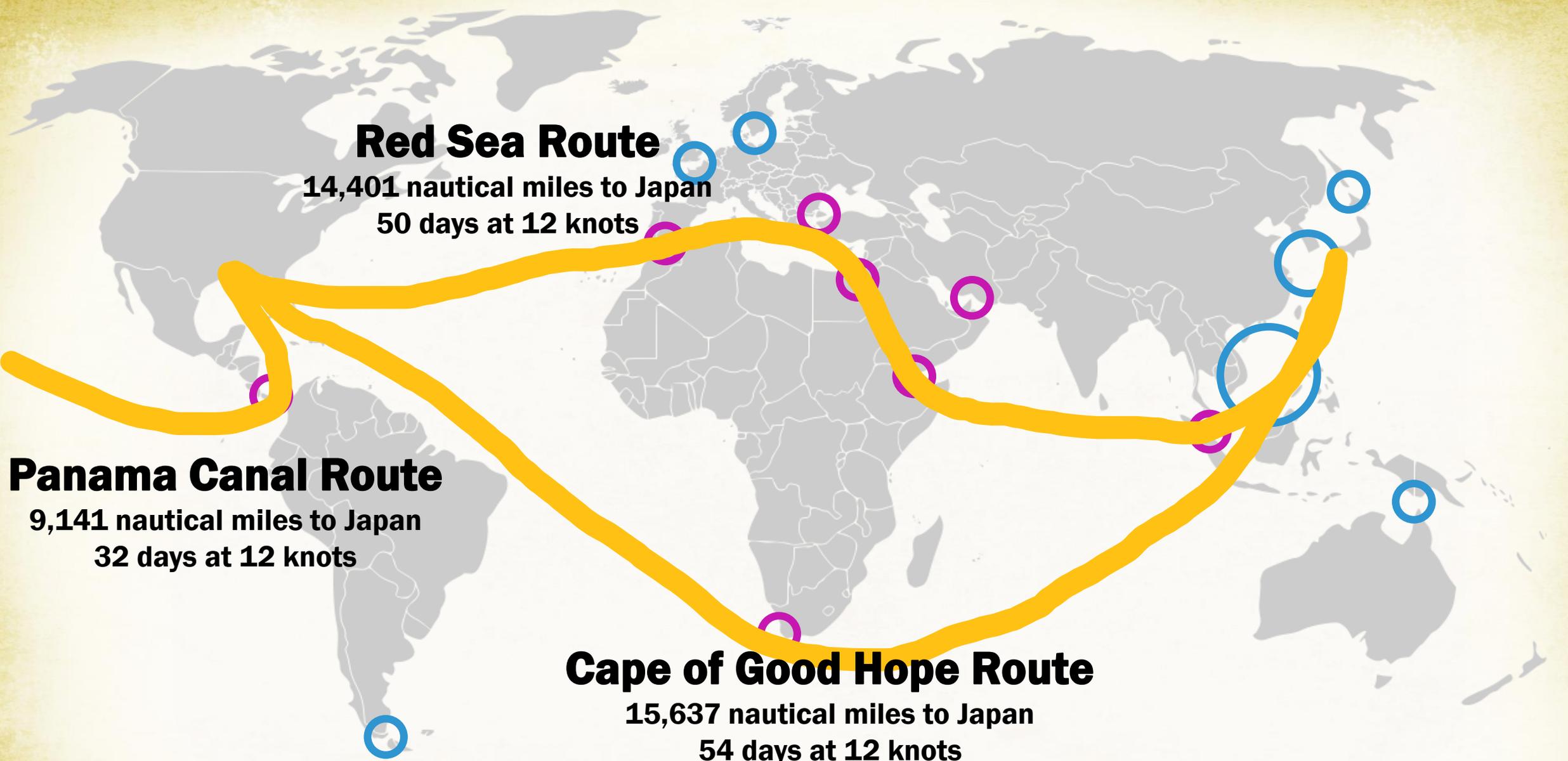
February 2020 = 100



# GRAIN STORAGE SURPLUS OR DEFICIT OVER STOCKS AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION

Million Bushels (Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Sorghum, Barley and Oats)





## Red Sea Route

14,401 nautical miles to Japan

50 days at 12 knots

## Panama Canal Route

9,141 nautical miles to Japan

32 days at 12 knots

## Cape of Good Hope Route

15,637 nautical miles to Japan

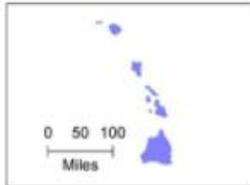
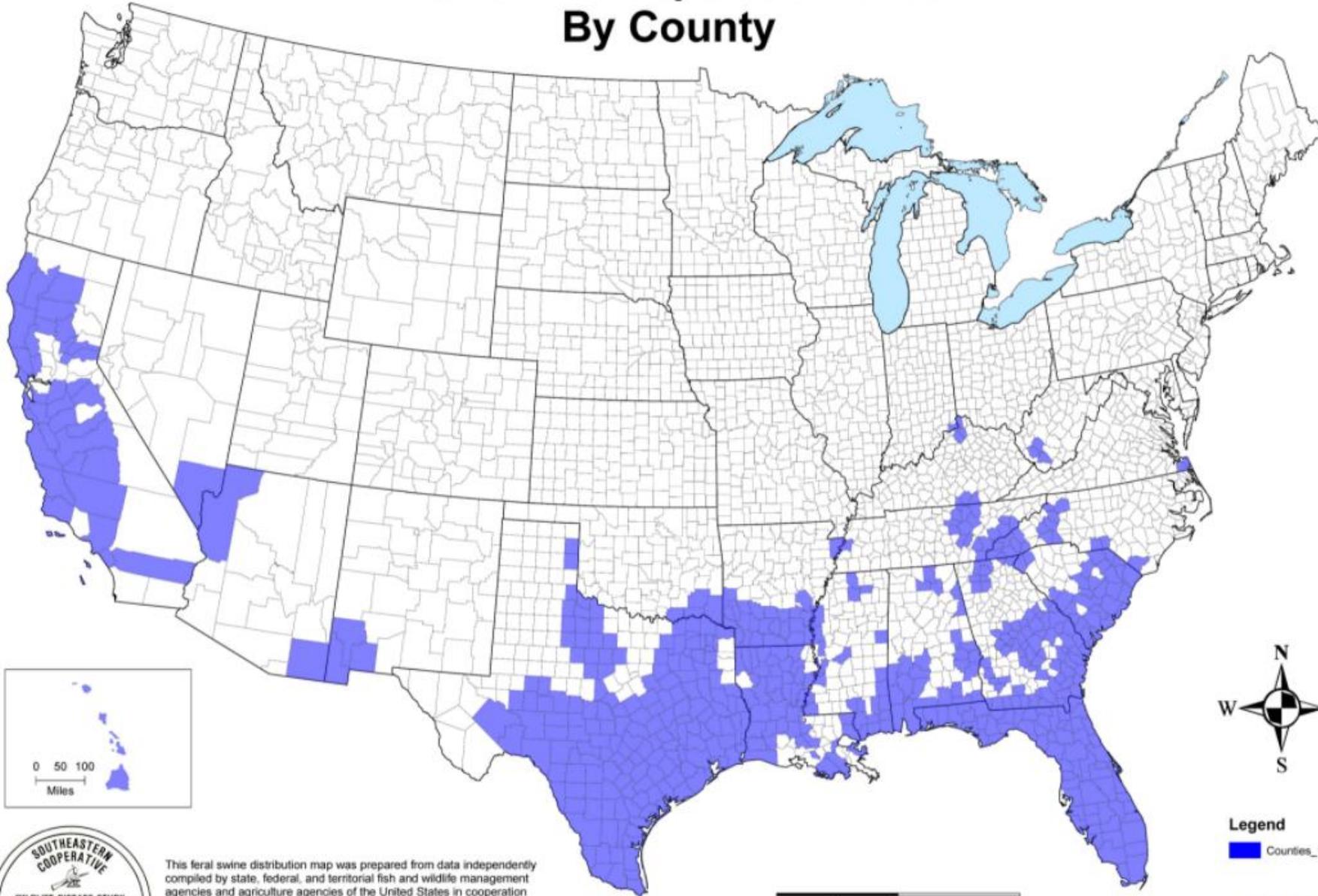
54 days at 12 knots



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Recreation of Graphic from USDA AMS Grain  
Transportation Report, November 23, 2023

# Feral Swine Populations 1982 By County



This feral swine distribution map was prepared from data independently compiled by state, federal, and territorial fish and wildlife management agencies and agriculture agencies of the United States in cooperation with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. Support for this project was through Cooperative Agreement Number 16-9100-1407-CA, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Last Updated 12/31/2016  
UGA-CGR

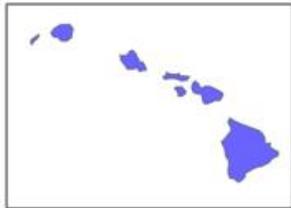
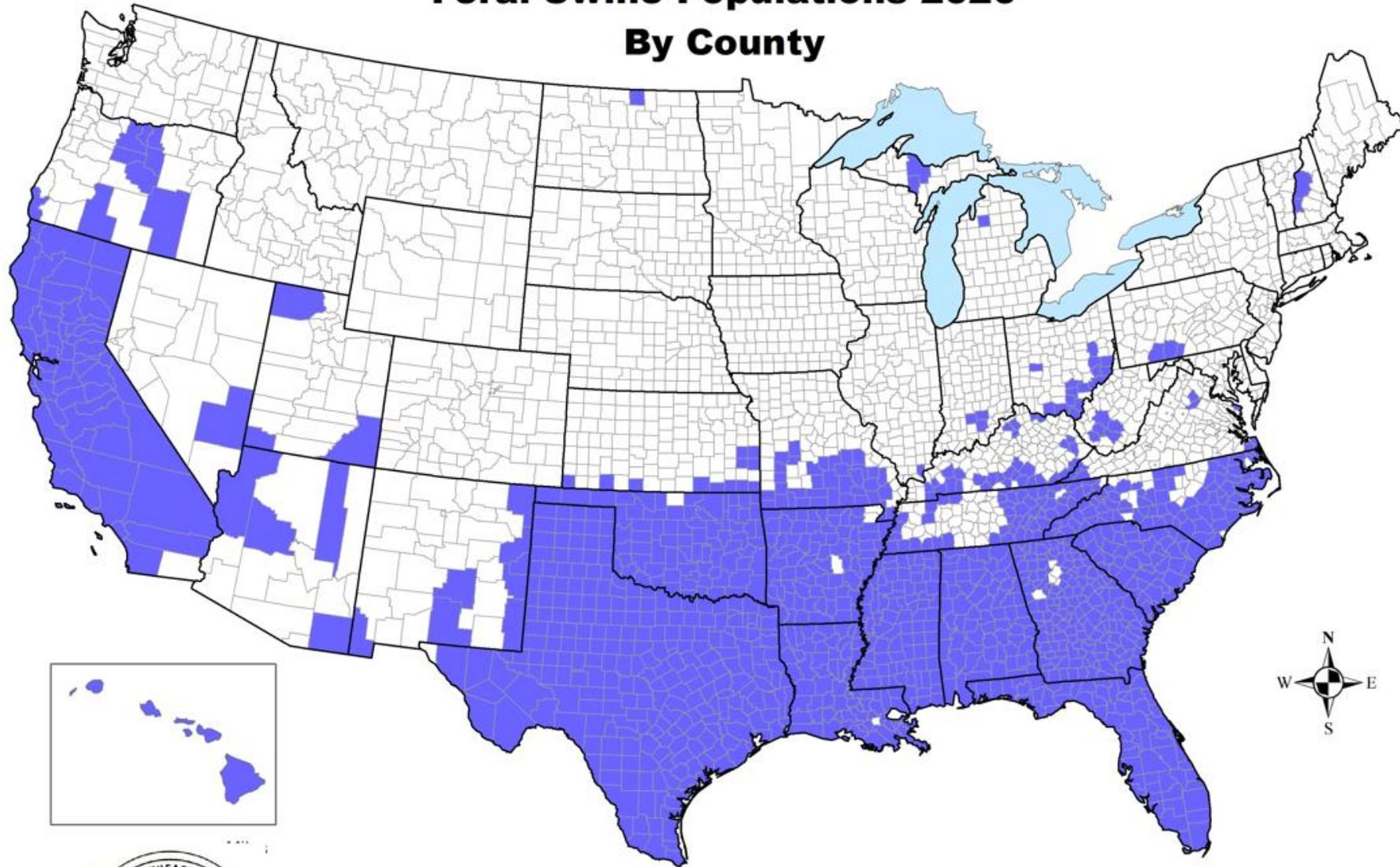


## Legend

Counties\_1982

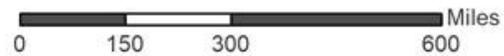


# Feral Swine Populations 2020 By County



## Legend

 Counties 2020

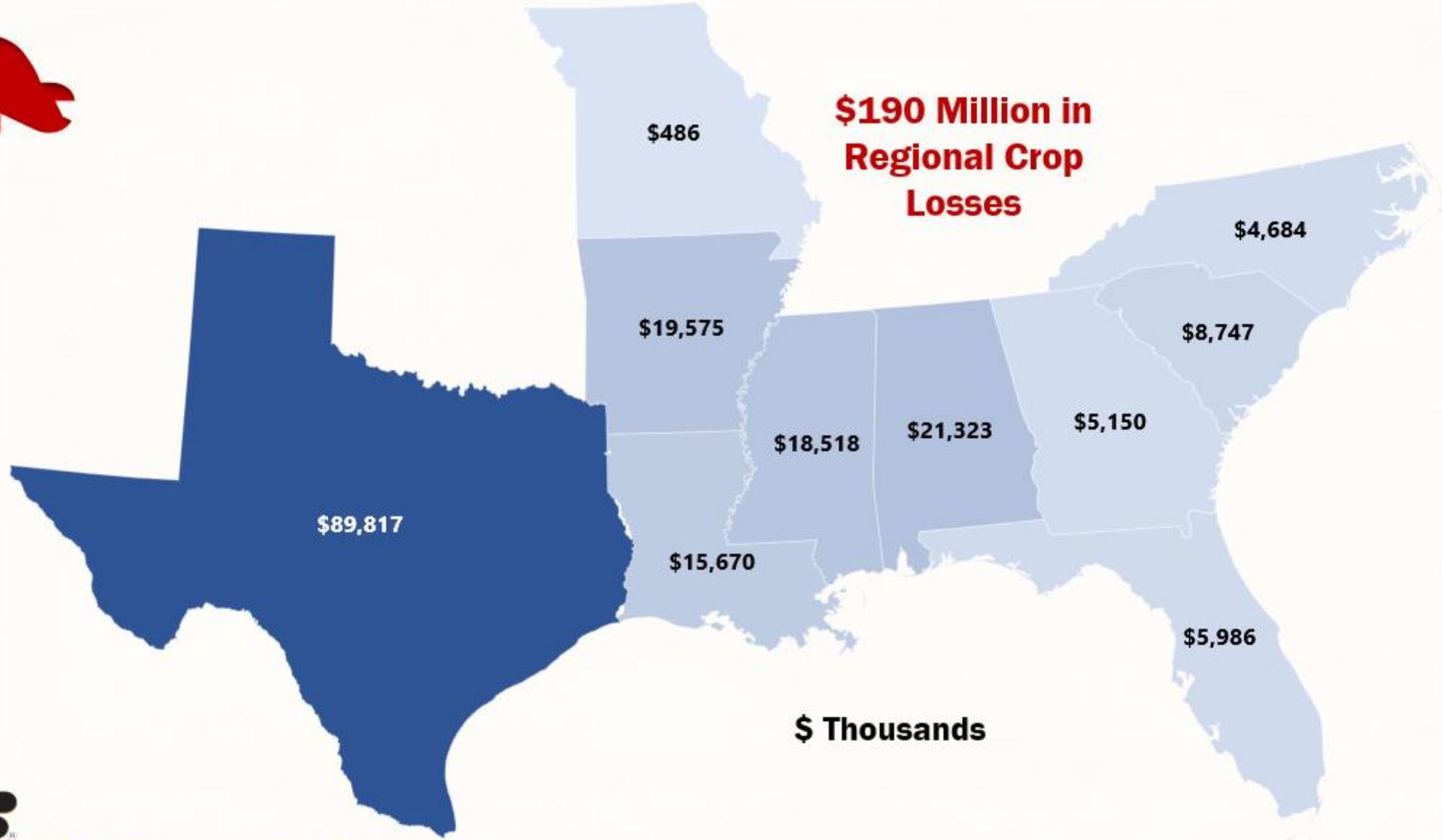
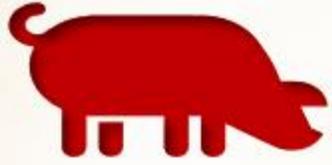


Last Updated 12/14/2020  
USDA-APHIS



# FIGURE 2: FERAL HOG CROP LOSS ESTIMATES

Annual | \$ Thousands | Surveyed States | Corn, Peanuts, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, and Wheat



\$ Thousands



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Source: USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (2016)



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