U.S. Farmland Tenure Patterns: Overview

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(1) Distribution of land in farms
(2) Trends in and distribution of rented land
(3) Types of land use and conservation on rented land
(4) What we know about non-operating landlords
Percent of Land in Farms, 2007

United States
922.1 million acres in farms
40.2 % of all land
Share of Acres Rented

Source: Censuses of Agriculture
Counties with >50% leased land, 1950
% Land in Farms Rented or Leased, 2007

U.S. 38.0% rented

2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA-NASS
% Land in Farms Rented or Leased, 2007

U.S. 38.0%
rented

2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA-NASS
% of rented land varies regionally

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture
Non-Operators own significant % of rented land

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Percent land in farms 2007

- Less than 10
- 10 - 29
- 30 - 49
- 50 - 69
- 70 - 89
- 90 or more

- Rented from operator
- Rented from non-operator
- Owner operated

Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture
Land Use by Ownership Class, 2007

Above 80% (high % land owned)

60-80%

20-60%

Below 20% (low % land owned)

Percent of Acres

Source: ERS Tabulations based on USDA-NASS/ERS 2007 ARMS
Share of Acres Rented by Crop

% of acres


Source: ERS Tabulations based on USDA-NASS/ERS ARMS Phase 2
Conservation practices on rented land

Source: ERS Tabulations based on USDA-NASS/ERS ARMS Phase 2
Acres receiving cost share by tenure status

Winter Wheat 2009

- Terraces
- Filter strips
- Riparian buffers

Source: ERS Tabulations based on USDA-NASS/ERS ARMS Phase 2
Characteristics of Owner-operators and Non-operating Landlords (AELOS 1999)

Similarities:

- Most own 50-179 acres
- Farmland is predominantly individually/family owned
Characteristics of Owner-operators and Non-operating Landlords (AELOS 1999)

Differences:

• NOL tend to be older
• NOL owns less valuable real estate per acre ($1,378/ac vs. $1,488/ac)
• Fewer NOL live on a farm (29% vs. 76%)
• NOL somewhat less likely to enroll in CRP/WRP (8% vs 10%)
Observations on Non-Operating Landlords

• Non-operator landlords play significant role in ownership of agricultural land

• a lower proportion of conservation practices generally exist on rented land (selected crops)

• Characteristics of NOL differ different incentives for conservation practice adoption
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Thank you for listening!

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