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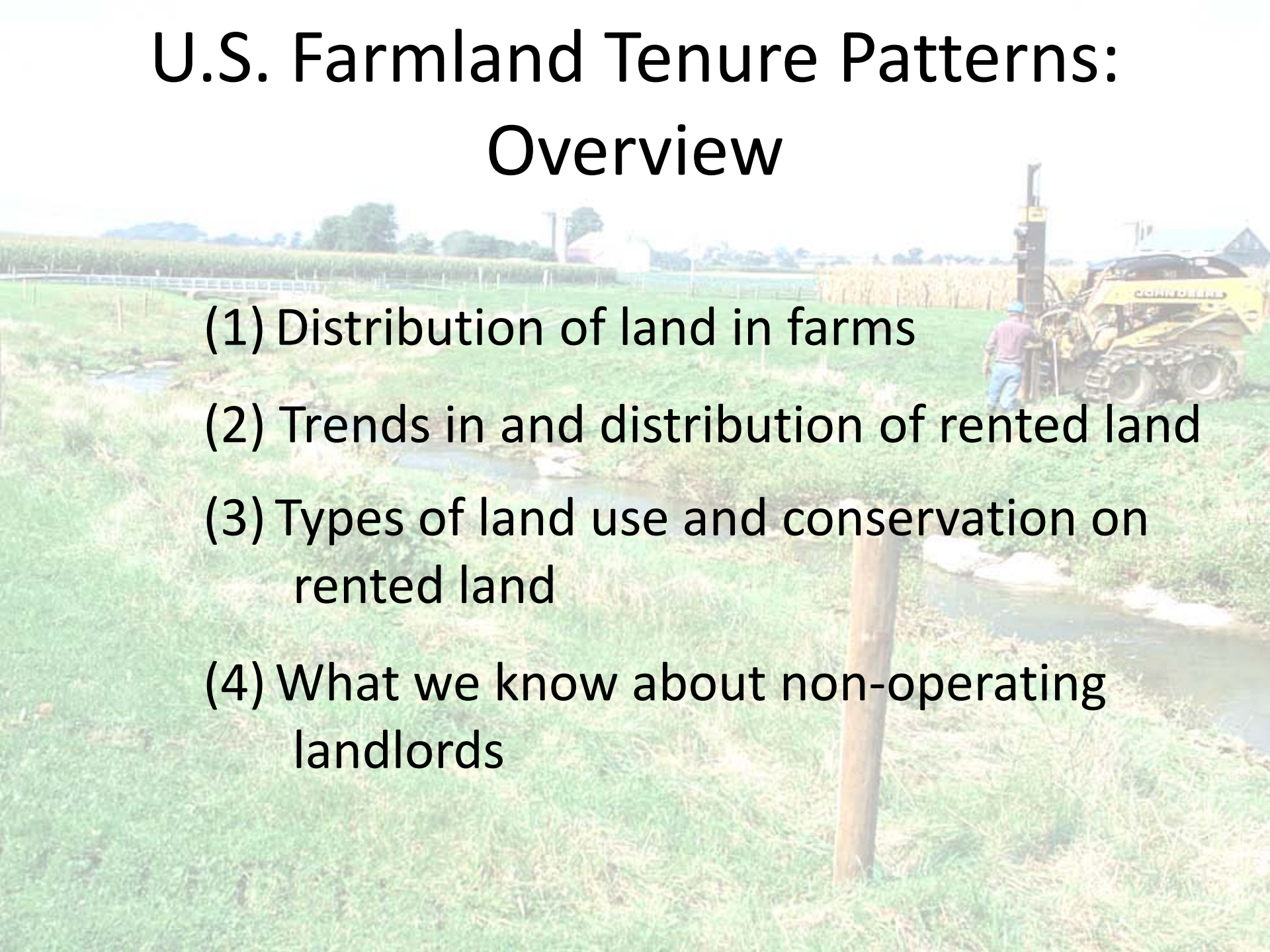
U.S. Farmland Tenure Patterns: Overview

**Cindy Nickerson and Allison Borchers
USDA – Economic Research Service**

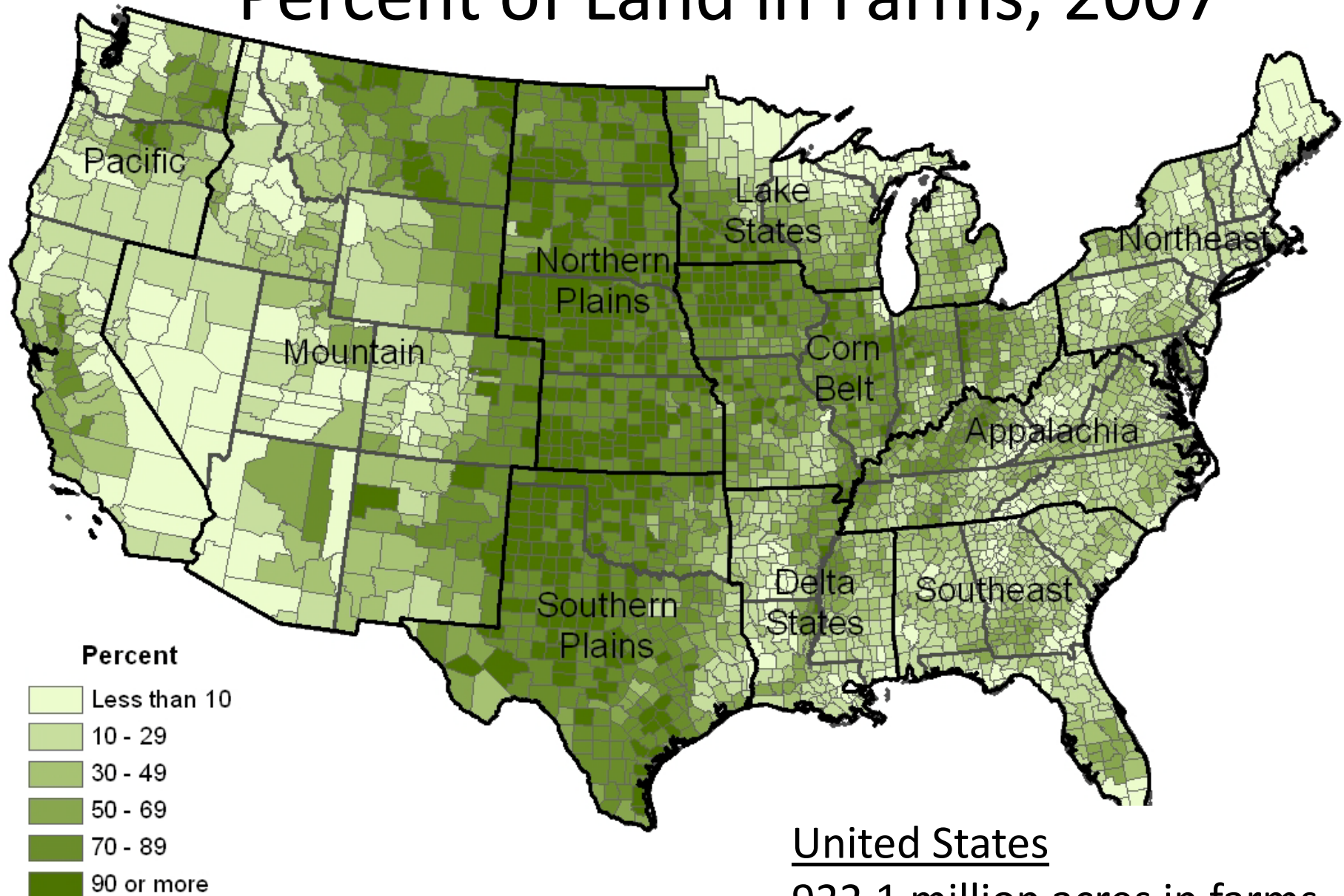
USDA Ag Outlook Forum
February 24, 2011



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



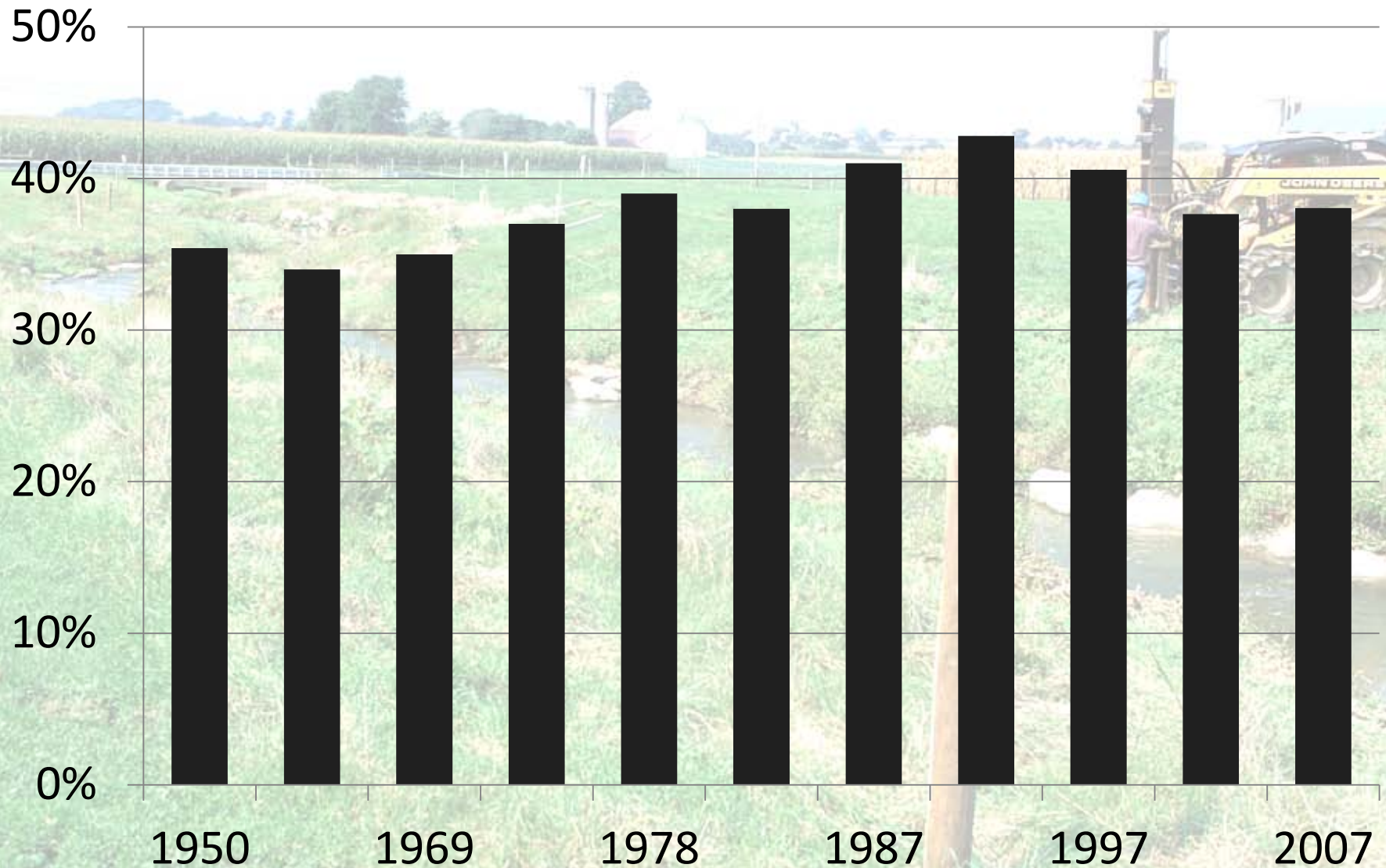
2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA-NASS

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

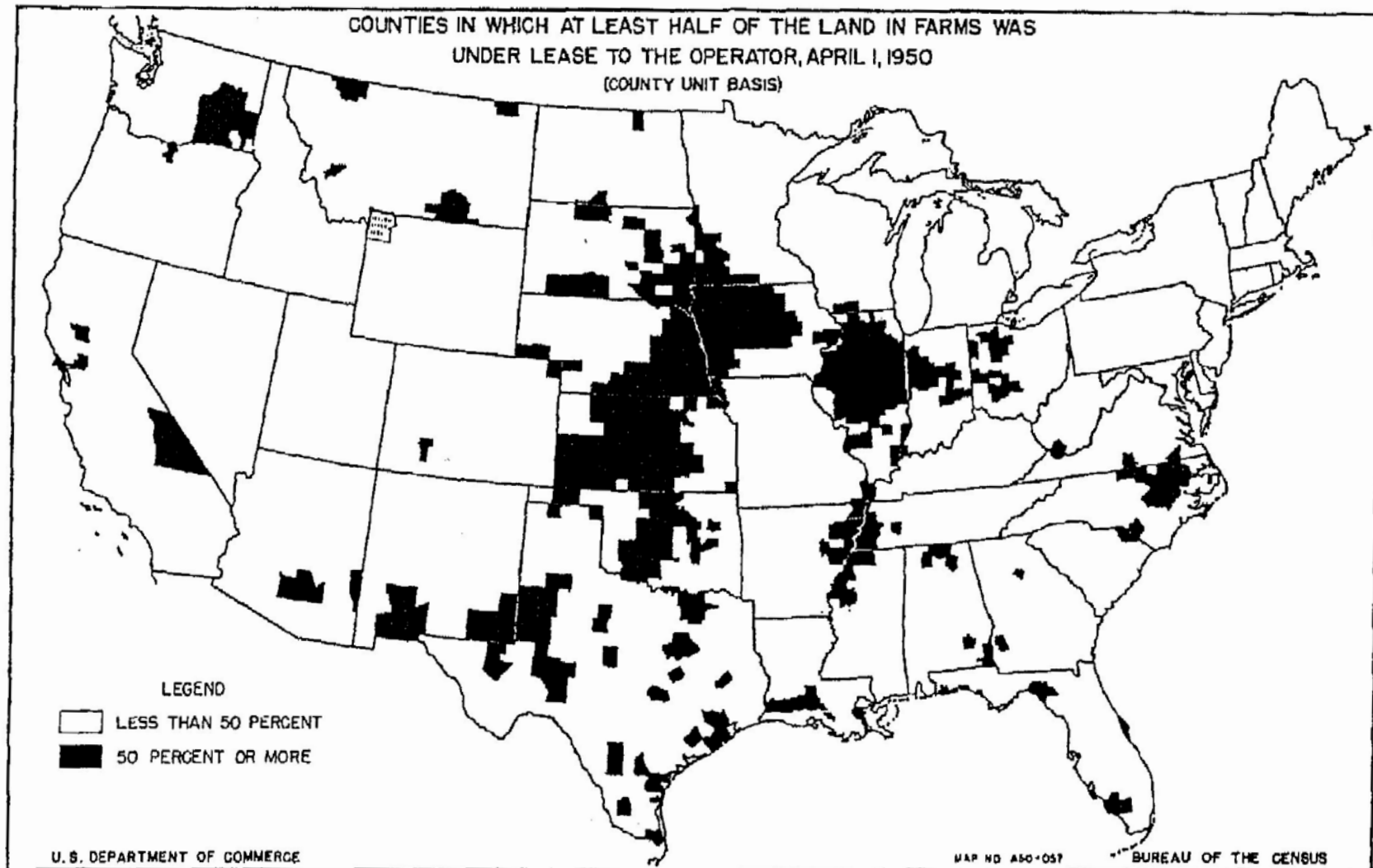
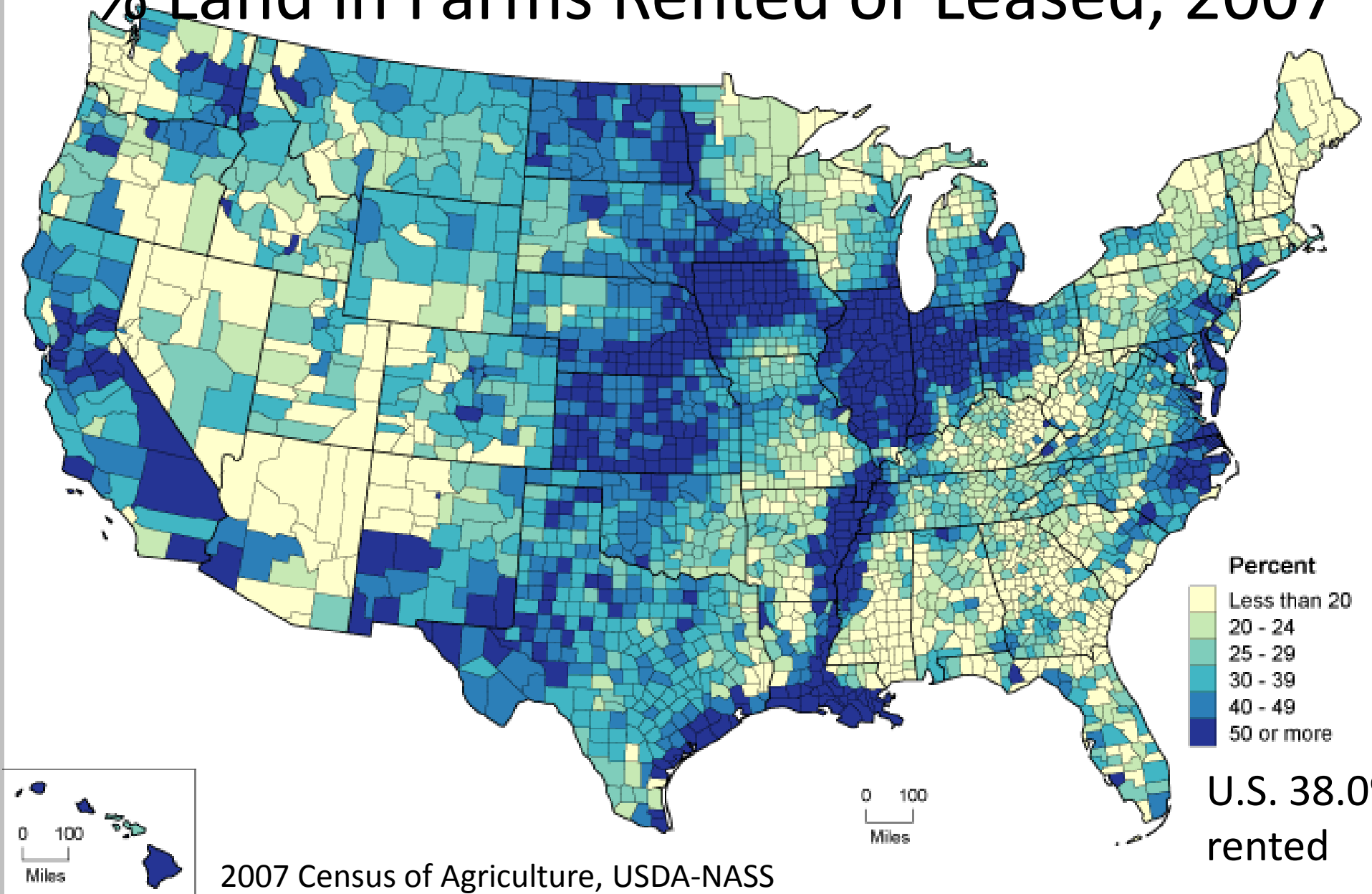
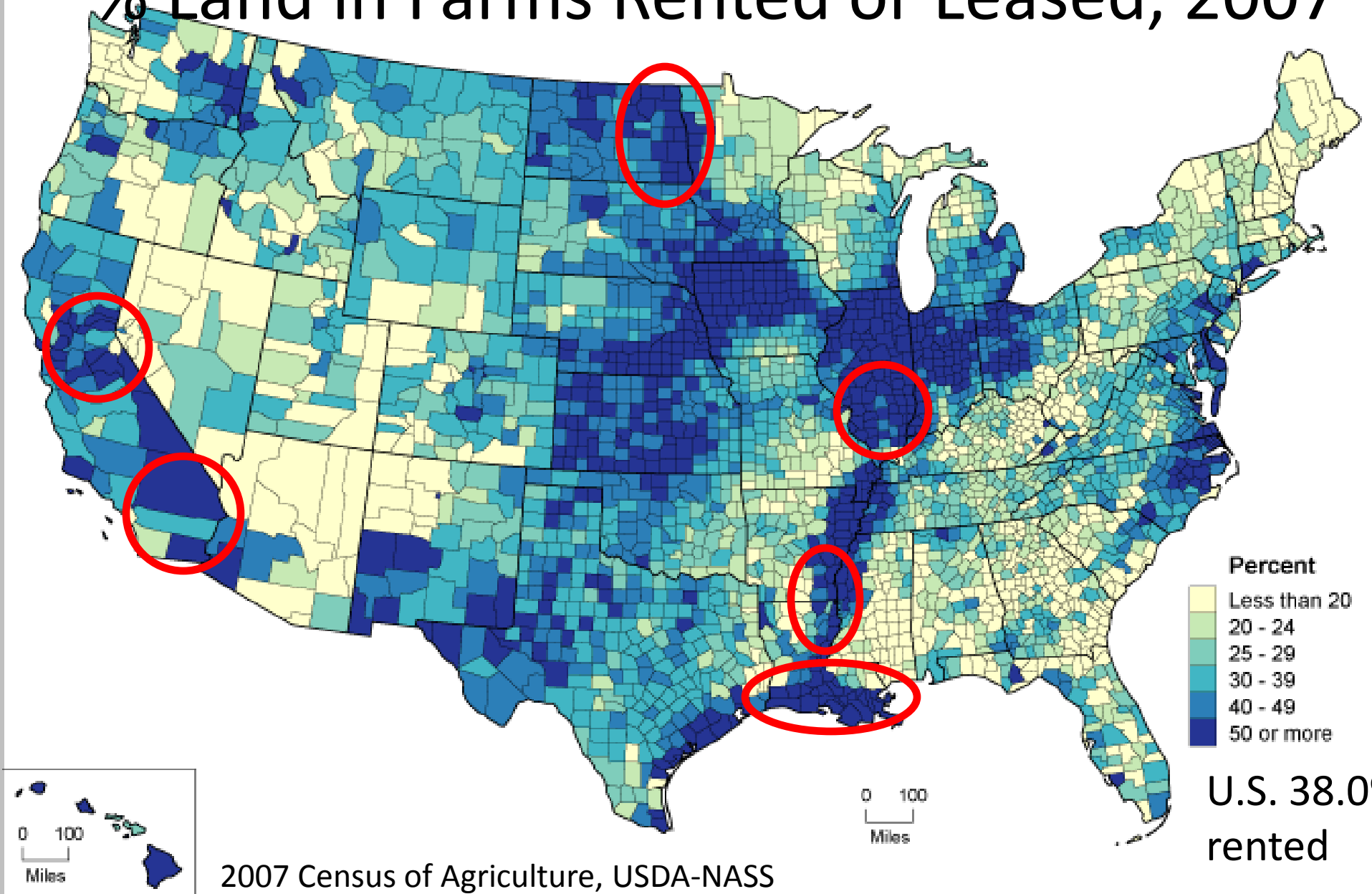


Figure 13

% Land in Farms Rented or Leased, 2007

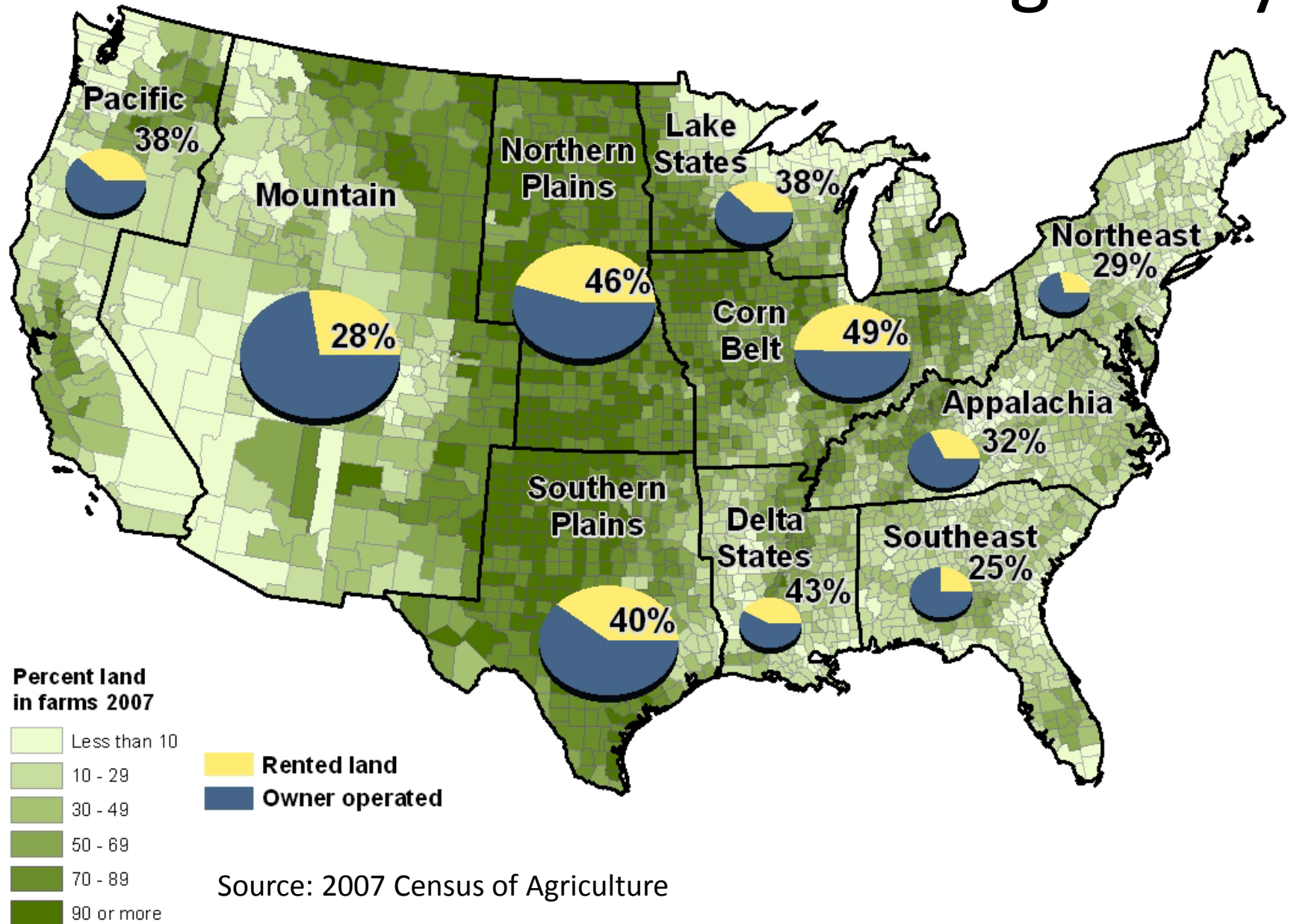


% Land in Farms Rented or Leased, 2007

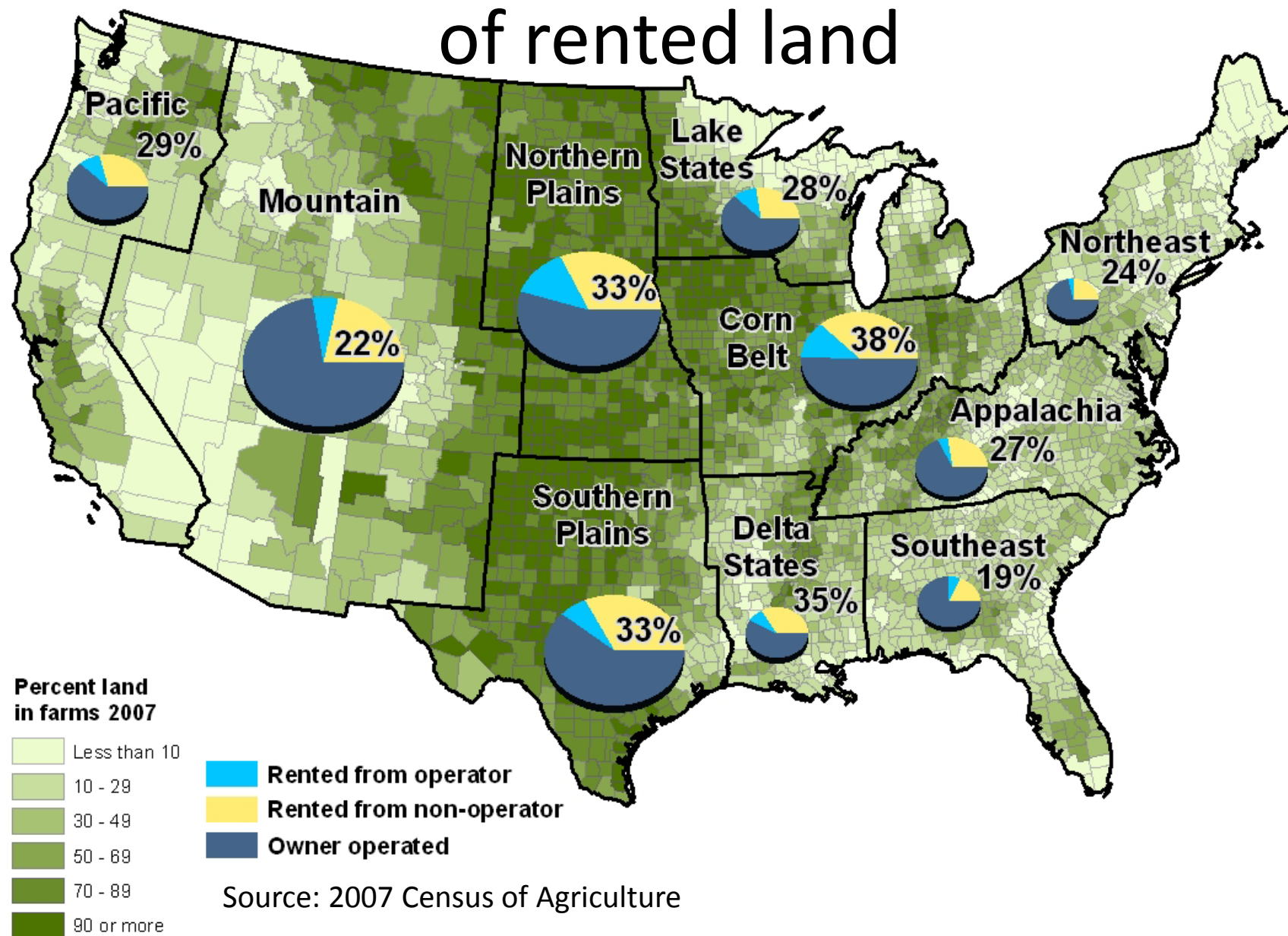


% of rented land varies regionally

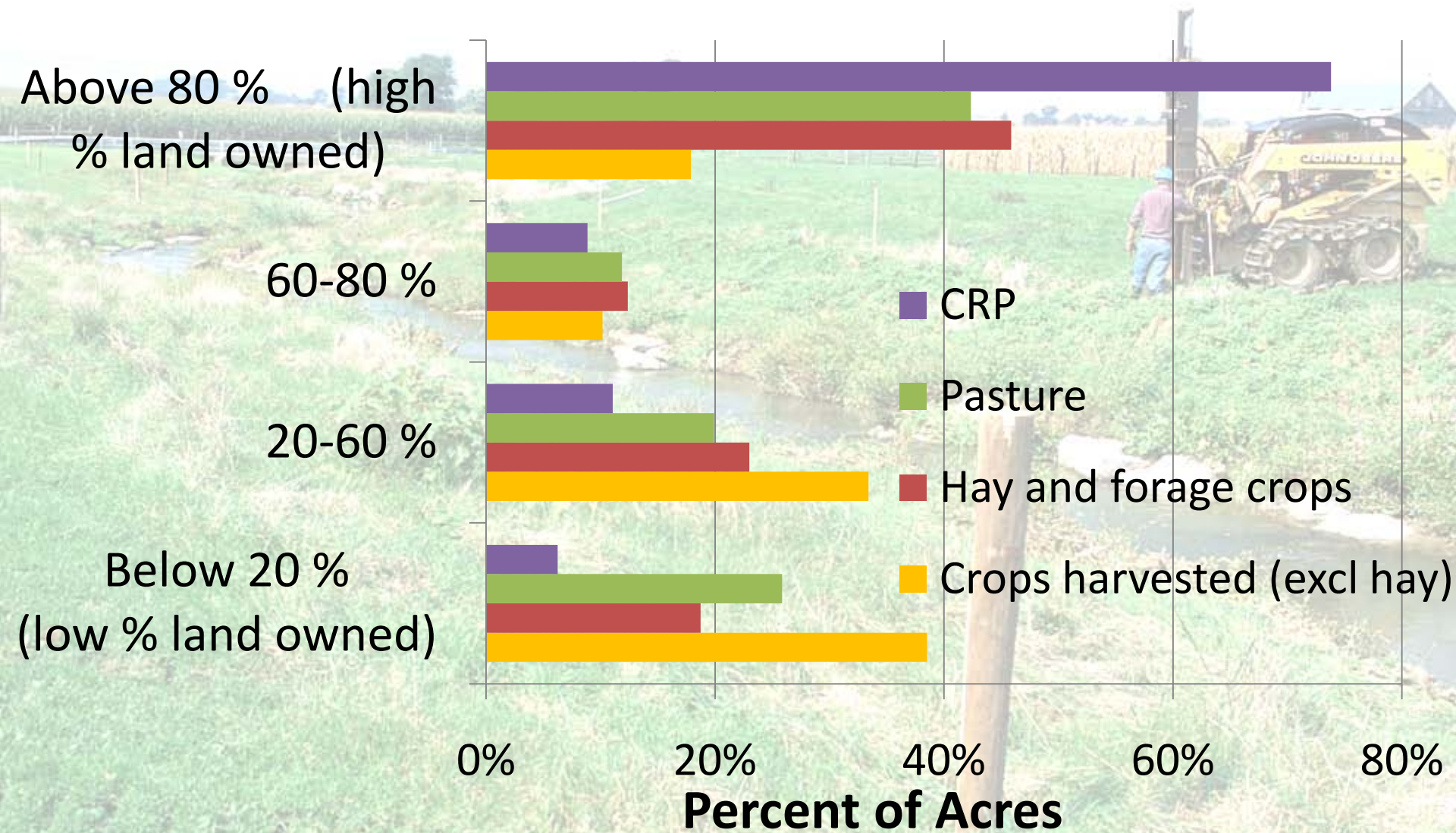
(2)



Non-Operators own significant % of rented land

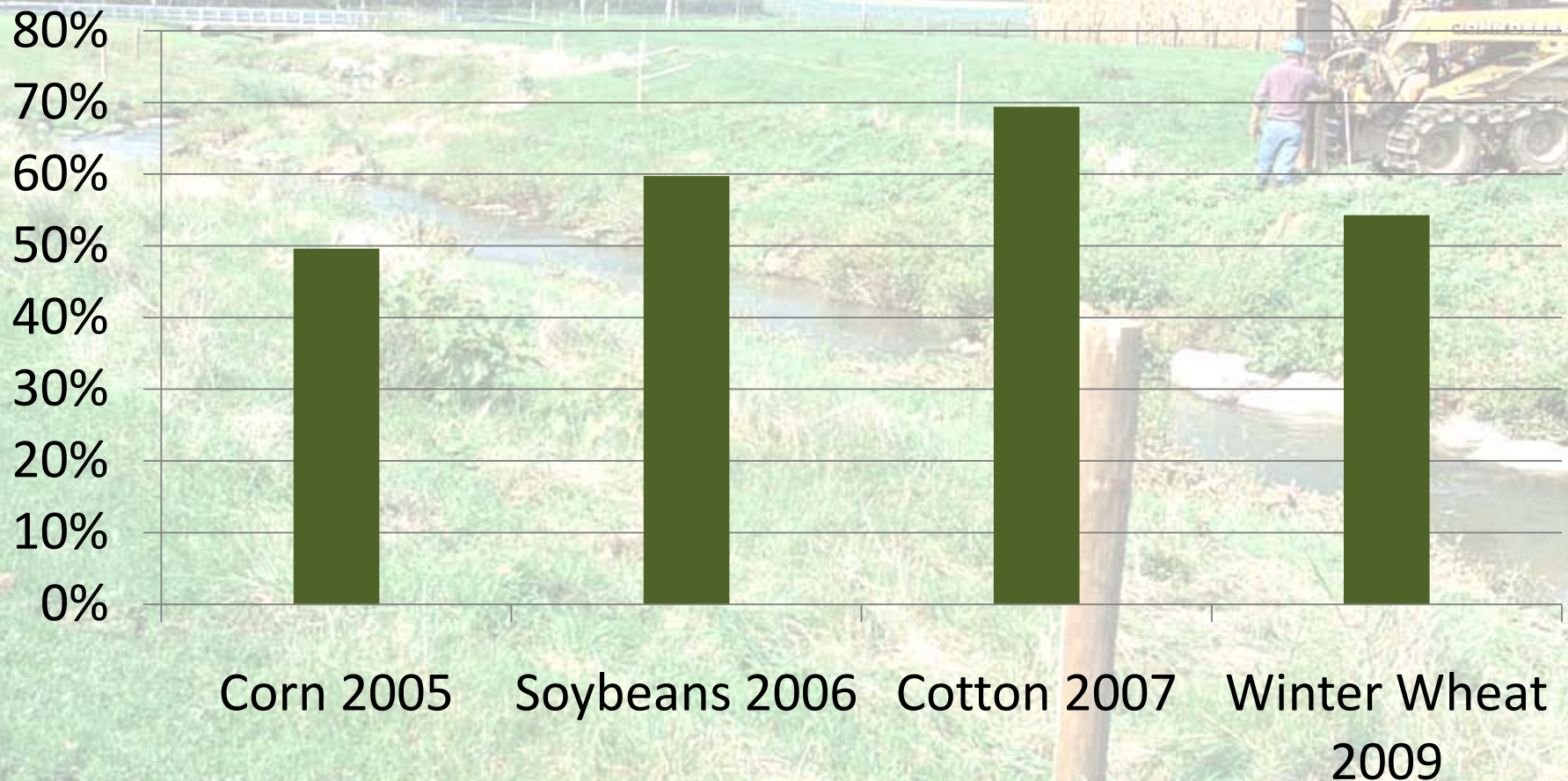


Land Use by Ownership Class, 2007

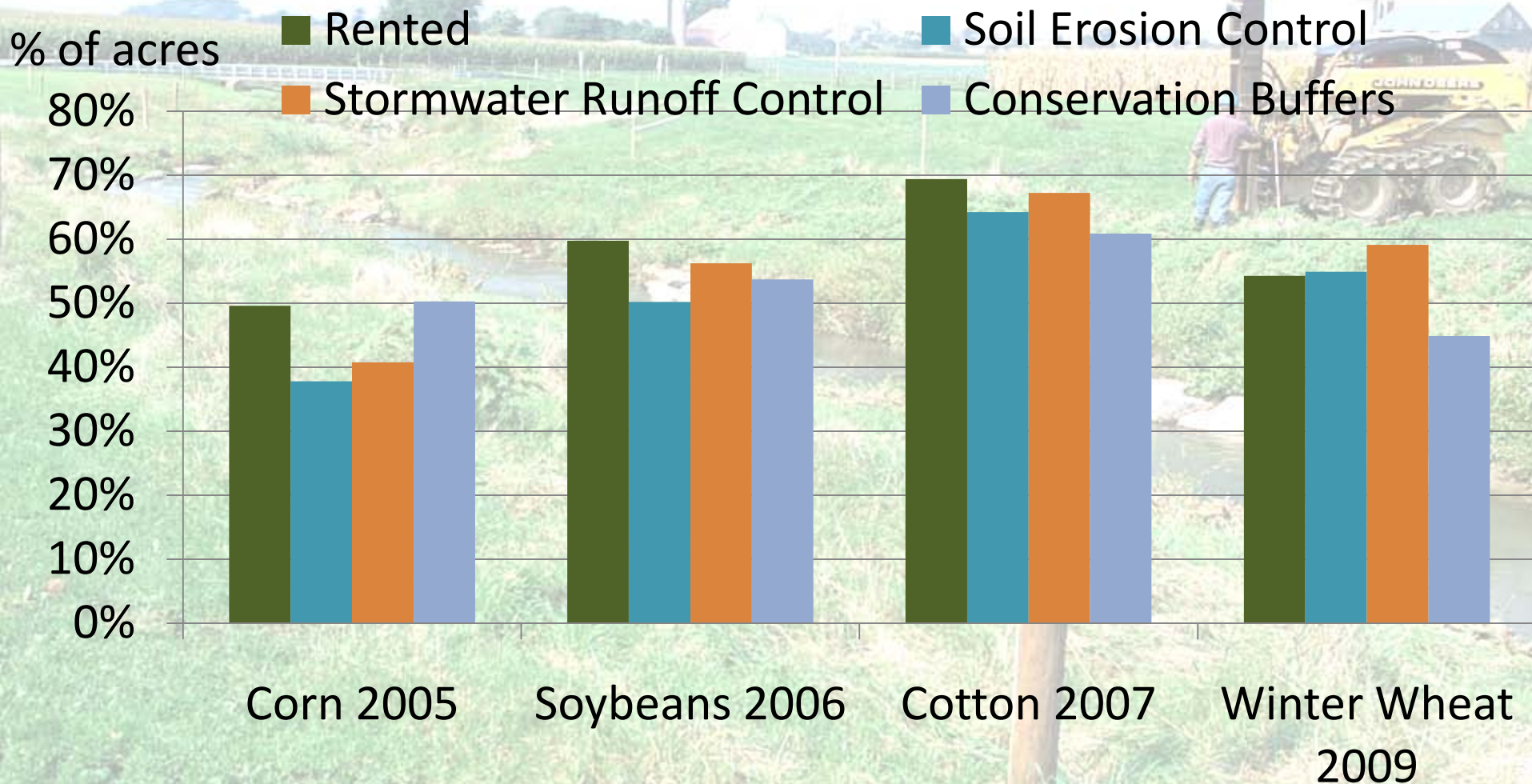


Share of Acres Rented by Crop

% of acres

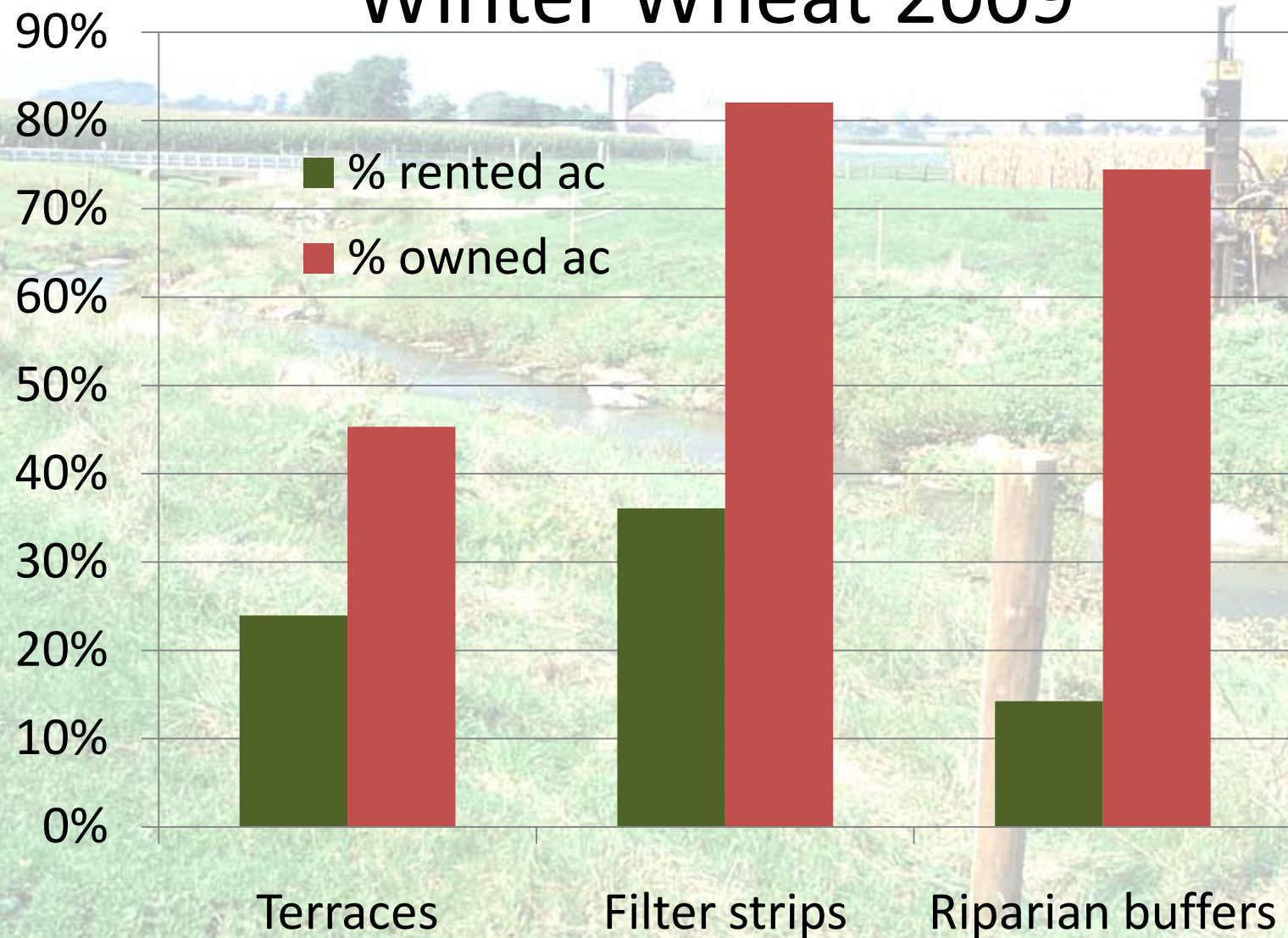


Conservation practices on rented land



Acres receiving cost share by tenure status

Winter Wheat 2009

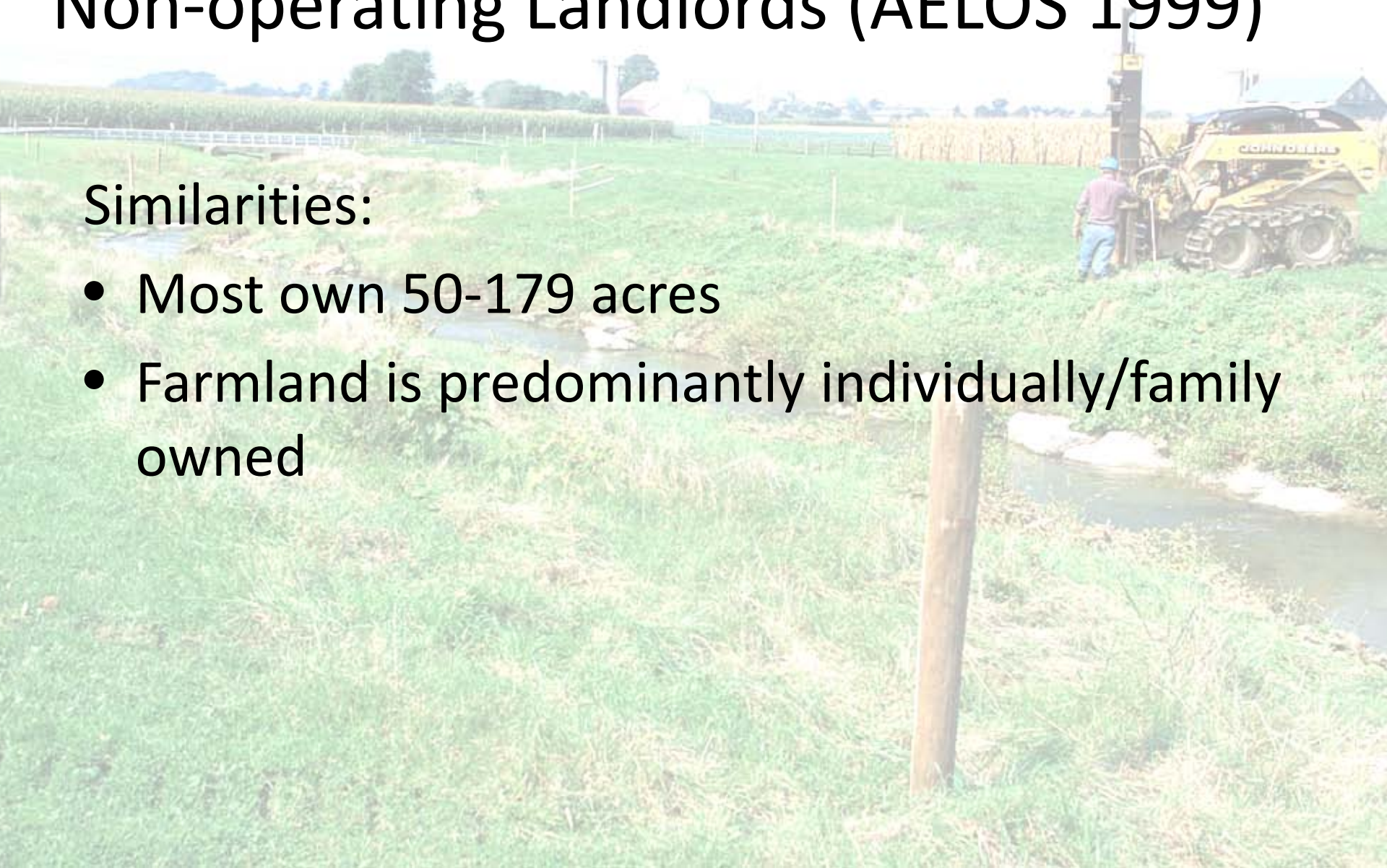


Source: ERS Tabulations based on USDA-NASS/ERS ARMS Phase 2

Characteristics of Owner-operators and Non-operating Landlords (AELOS 1999)

Similarities:

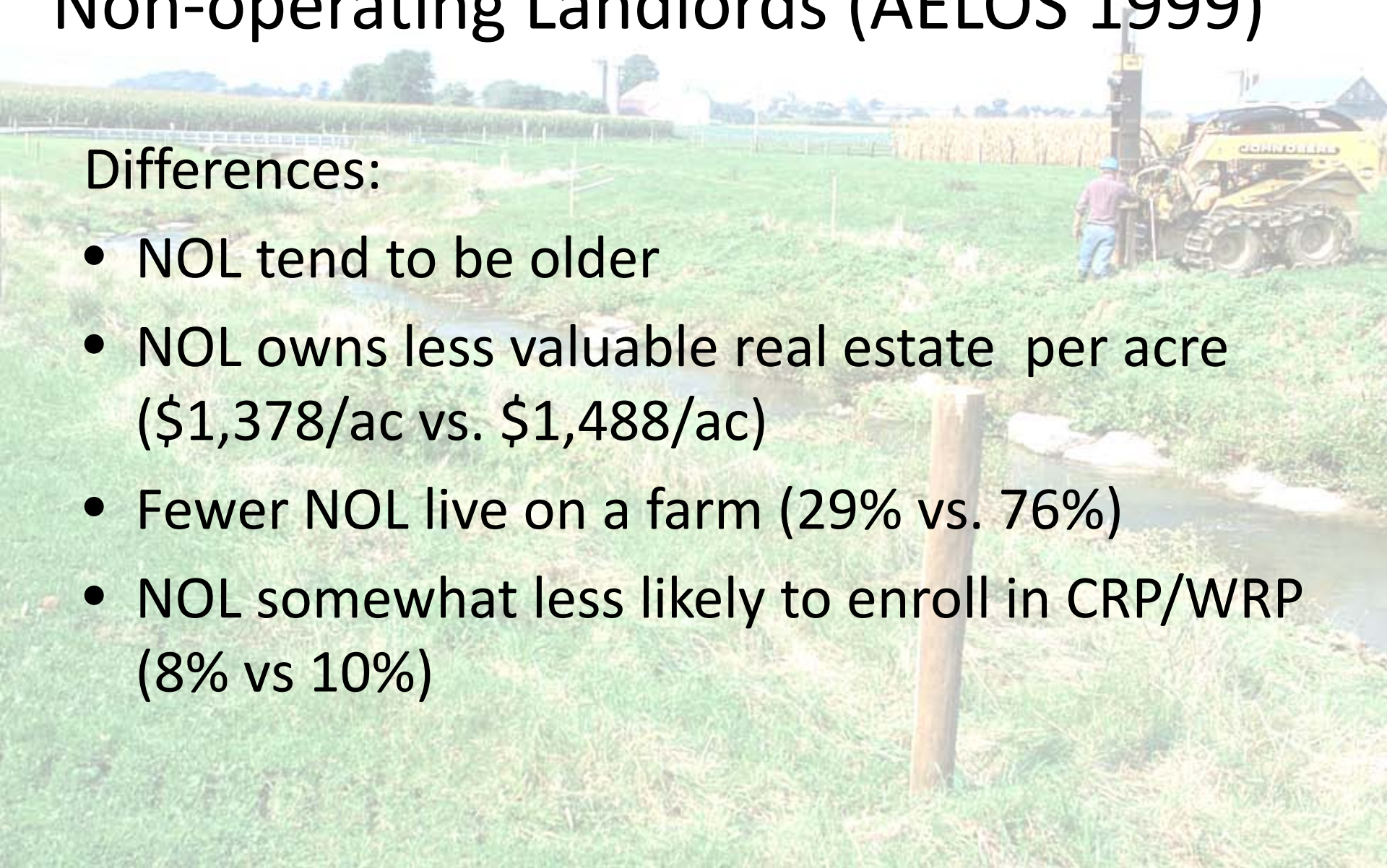
- Most own 50-179 acres
- Farmland is predominantly individually/family owned



Characteristics of Owner-operators and Non-operating Landlords (AELOS 1999)

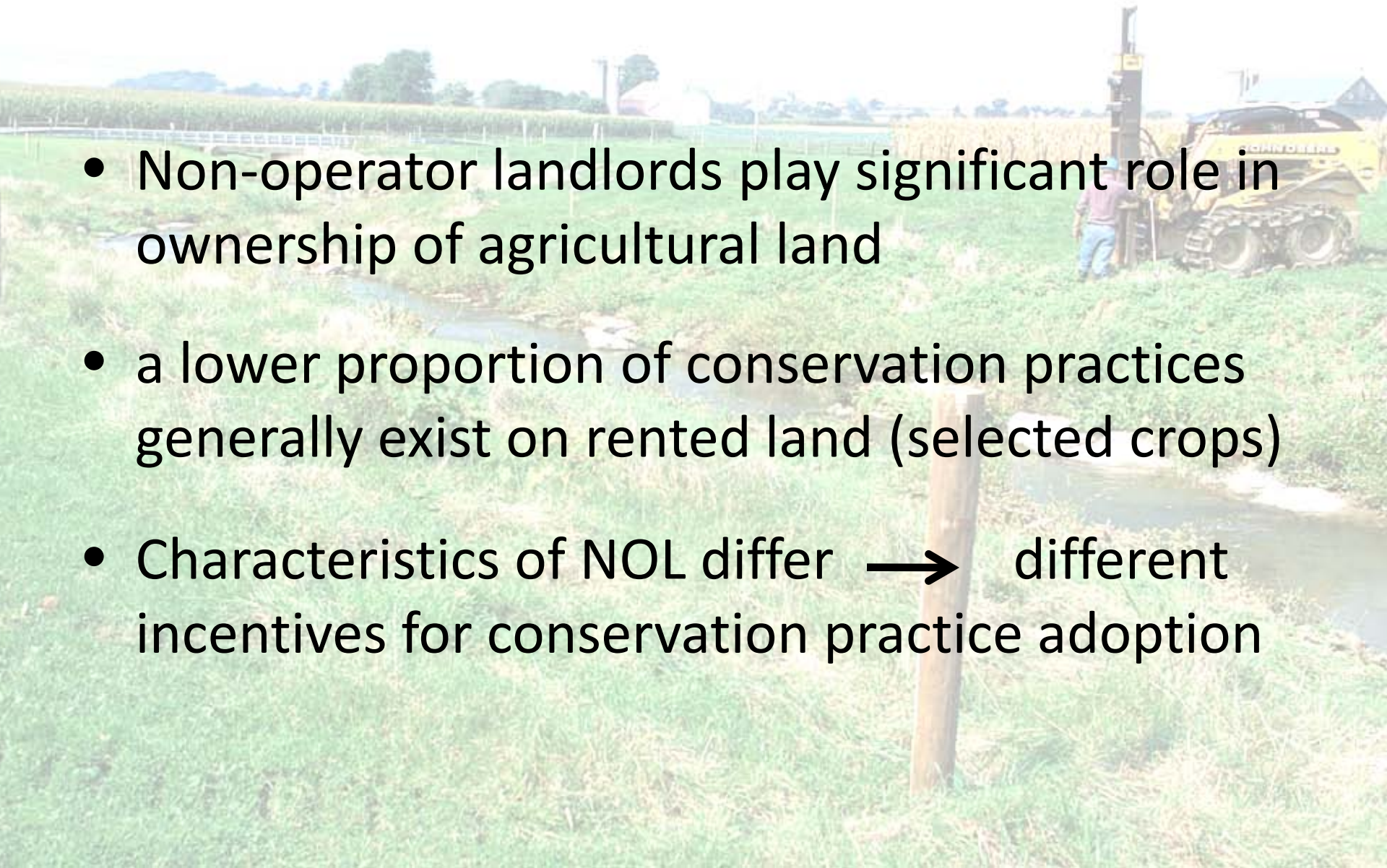
Differences:

- 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!

**Cindy Nickerson
cnickerson@ers.usda.gov**

USDA – Economic Research Service

