

A 40,000 ft. View of Wisconsin Agriculture

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PHOTO: University of Wisconsin-Madison

A 40,000 ft. View of Wisconsin Agriculture



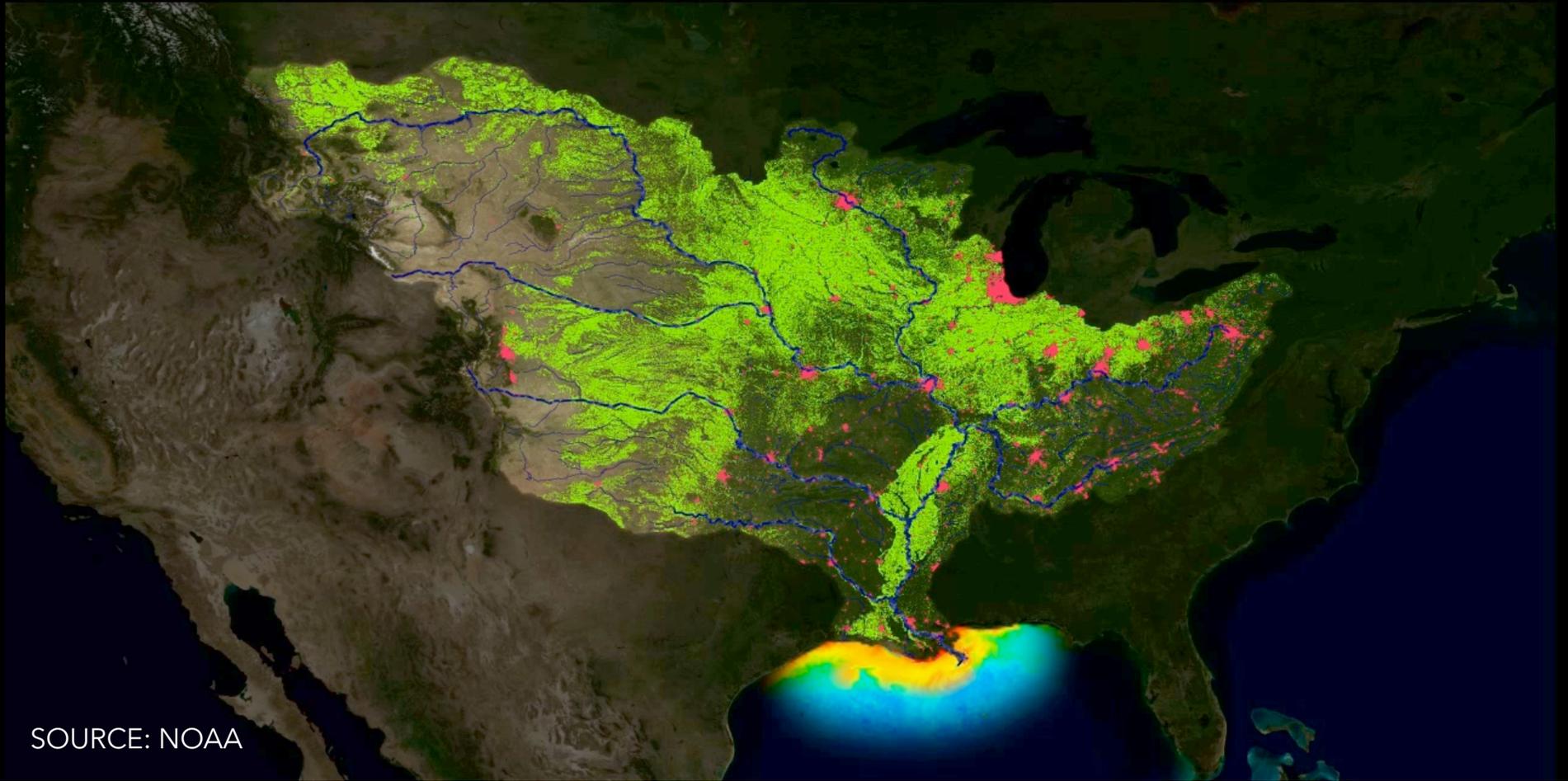
PHOTO: Jacob Grace

We're currently in a farm crisis.



SOURCE: Jacob Grace

Certain farming practices cause pollution.



SOURCE: NOAA

Certain farming practices cause pollution.

Soil
degradation

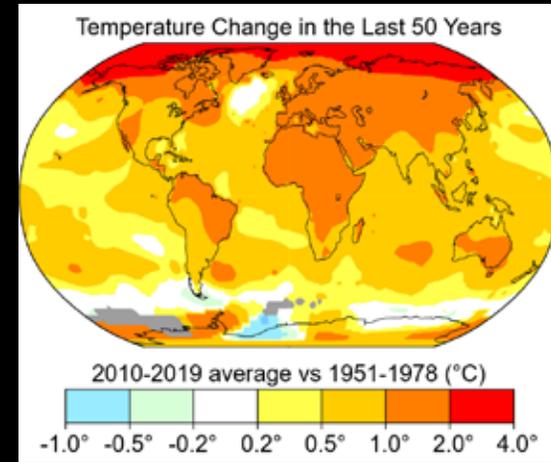
Overuse of
inputs

Increased greenhouse gas
production (CO₂, N₂O)
Loss of nutrients

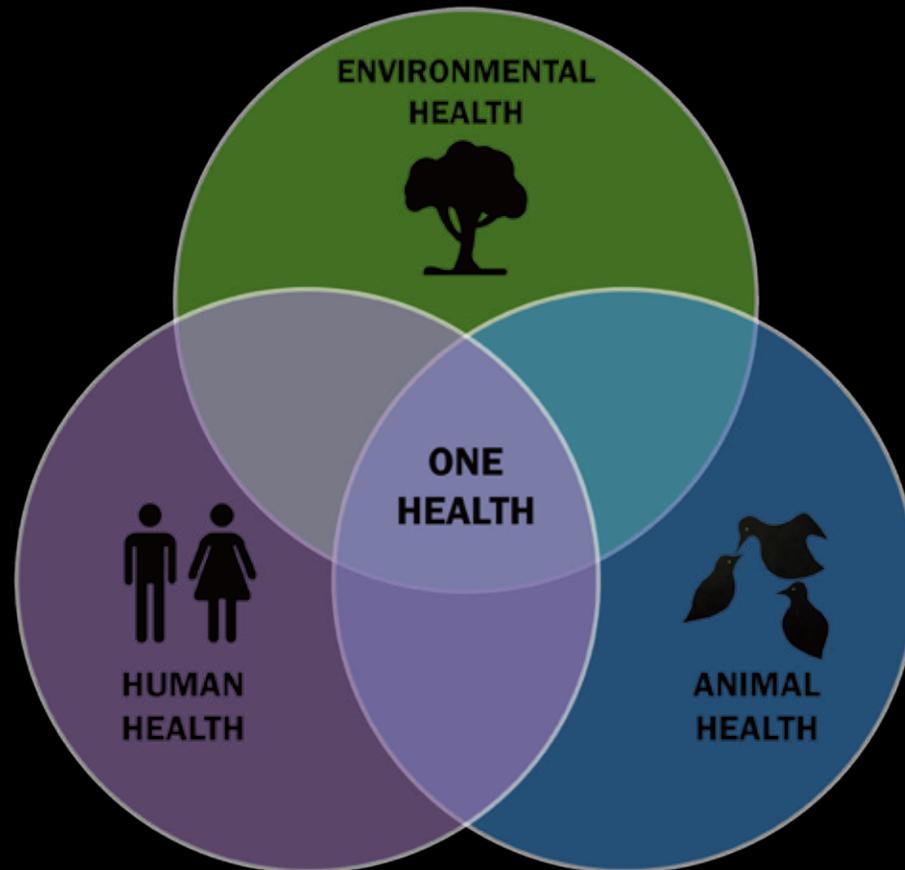


Loss of nutrients

Degradation of ground waters



"One Health" Concept



SOURCE: Wikipedia Commons

The scale of agriculture is changing.

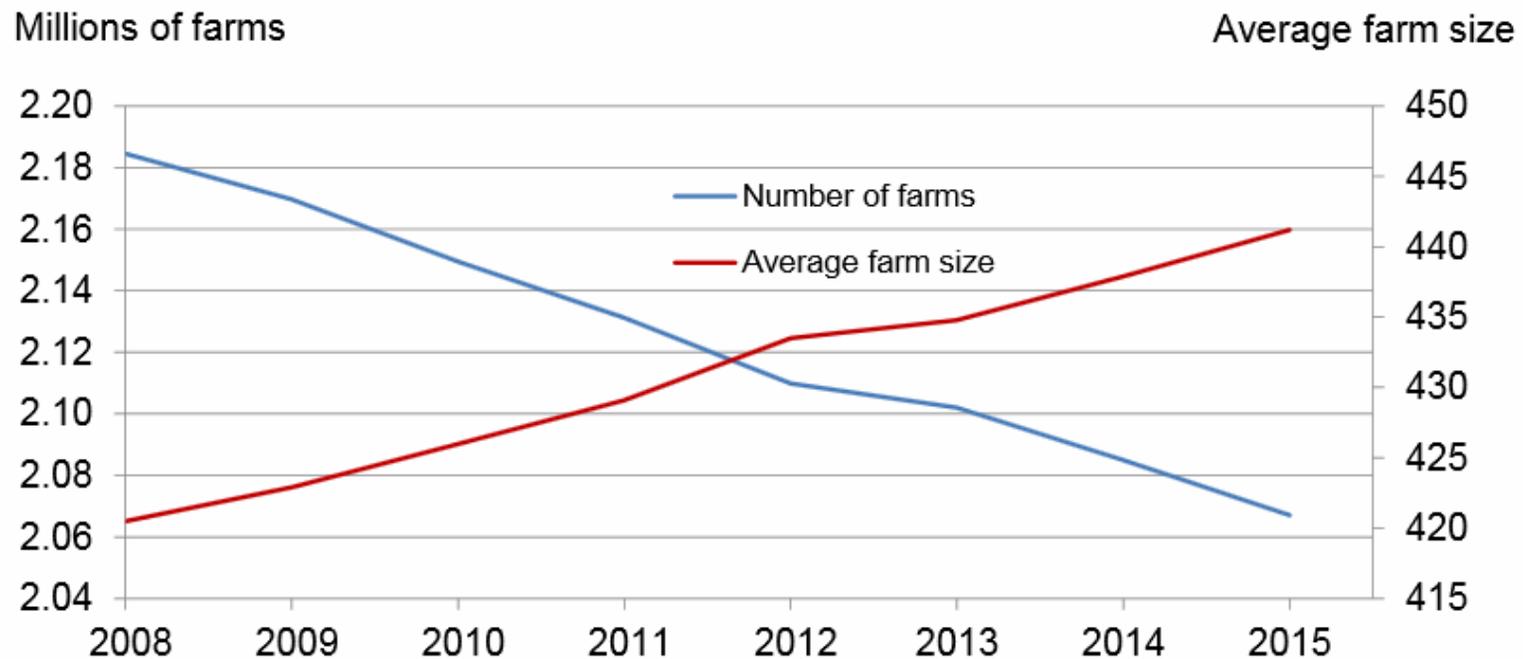


SOURCE: CivilEats.com

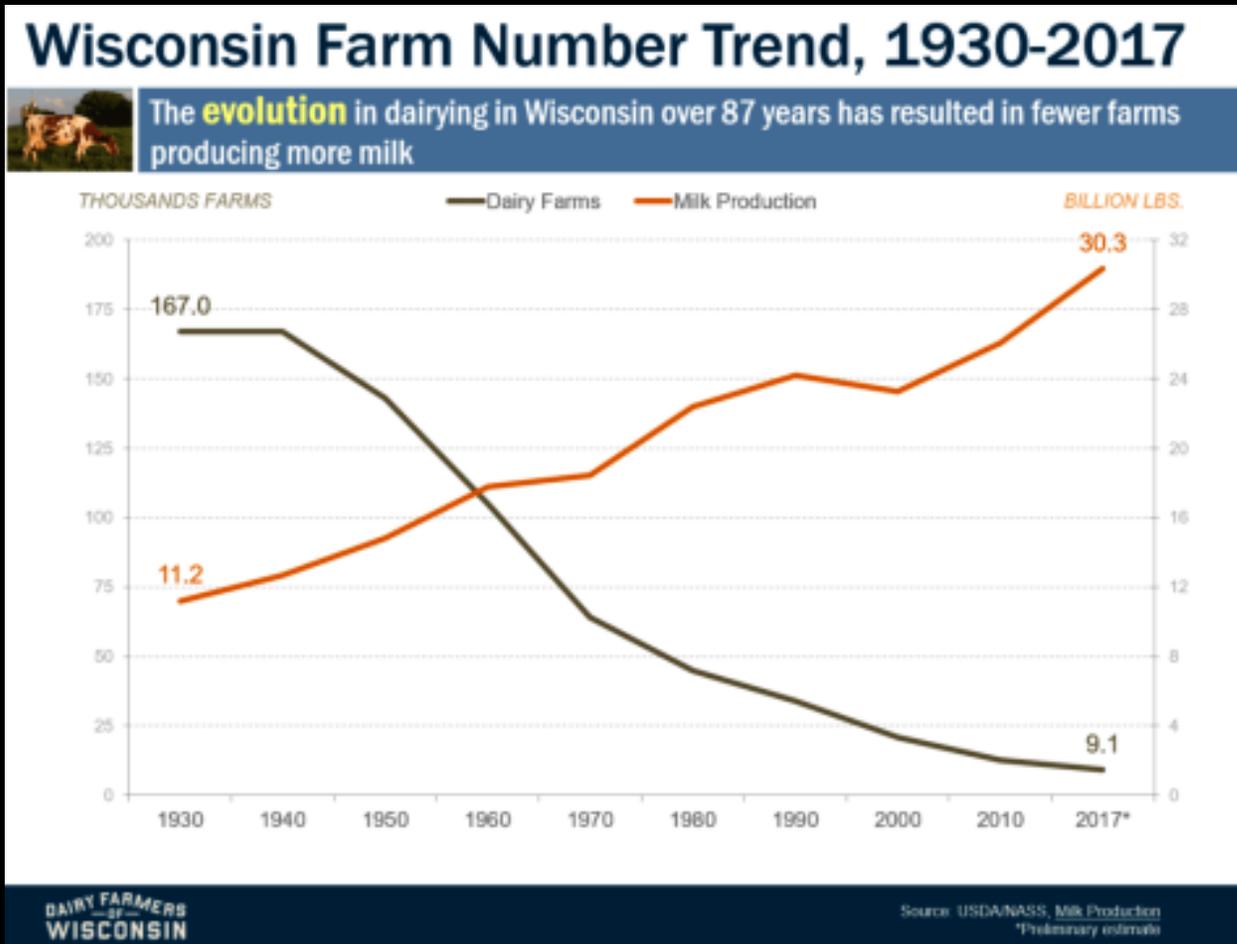
The scale of agriculture is changing.

Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 2008-2015

SOURCE: USDA



The scale of agriculture is changing.



The scale of agriculture is changing.



Who farms?



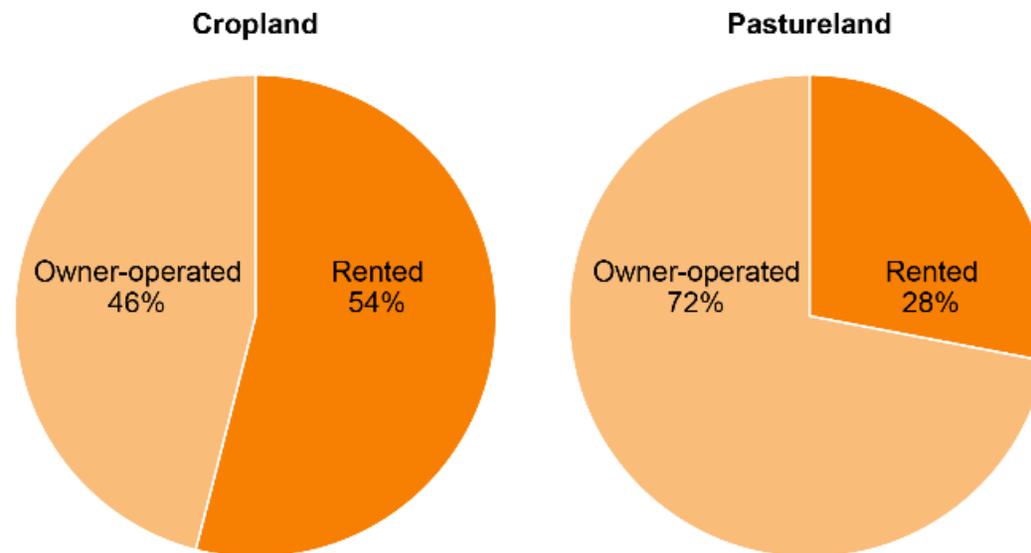
SOURCE: Savanna Institute

Who farms?

- Around 1% of citizens meet the USDA definition of “farmer”
- About half of them sell less than \$2,500 per year
- About a million people who farm for a living
- About 2/3 of these average \$10,000 or less per year
 - farmer or spouse works off-farm, or live below poverty line
- 11% of the nation’s farmers manage 70% of the nation’s farmland
- Only about 60-70,000 farmers (or about 3% of total) produce the majority of food from the US.

Who owns farmland?

Ownership of U.S. cropland and pastureland, 2014

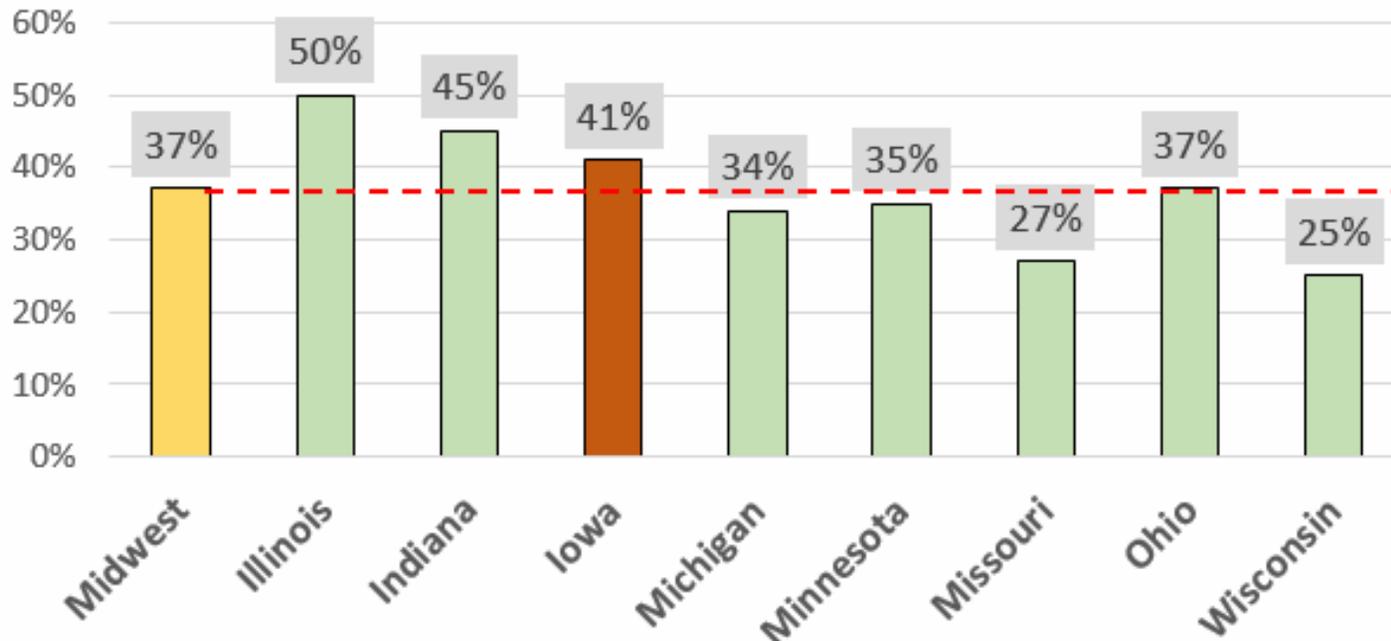


Note: Data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) survey.

Who owns farmland?

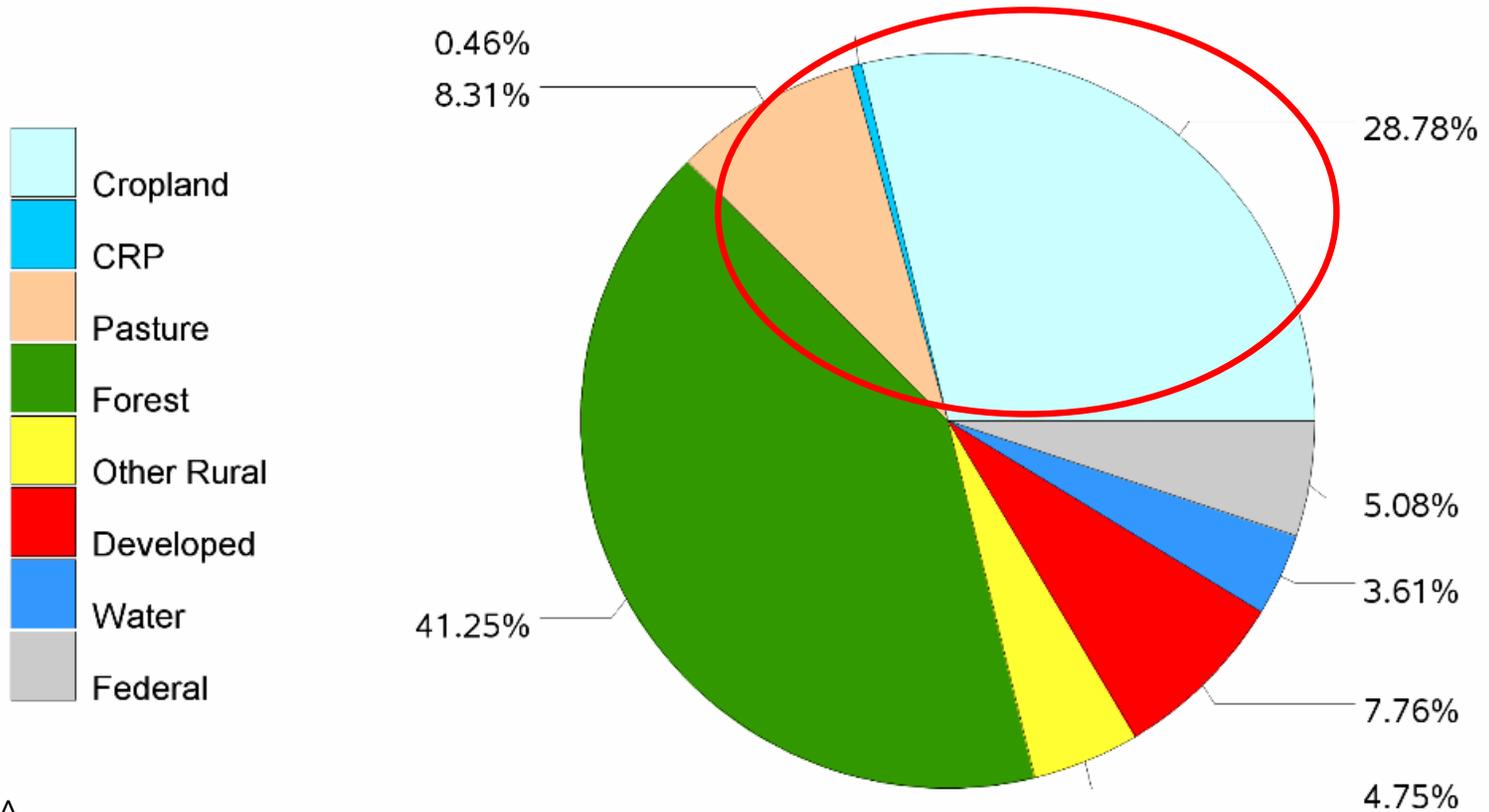
Figure 3: Midwest Comparison: Non-Operator/Landlord (%)



SOURCE: USDA

How much farmland is there in Wisconsin?

Surface Area, by Land Cover/Use, 2015



SOURCE: USDA

Farmers need the support of their communities to survive.



SOURCE: Savanna Institute



Pay a farmer for food
and you'll eat for a day.

Pay a farmer to build soil
and you'll eat for the rest
of your life.