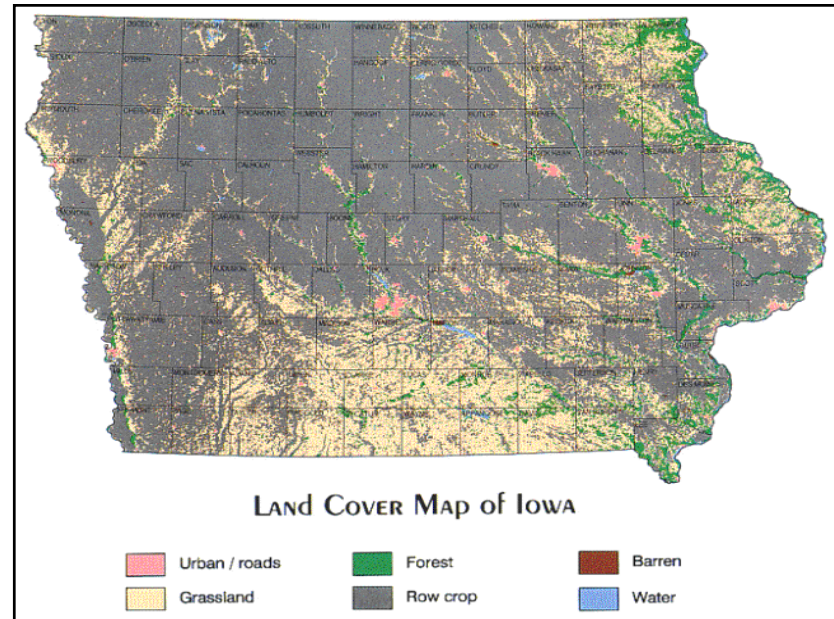




Iowa Farmers and Wildlife: News and Views from the Farm Poll

J. Gordon Arbuckle, Jr.
Extension Sociologist

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University Extension



Farmland in Iowa

- Land in farms - 33 million acres, 91%
 - Crops 27 million acres, 82%
 - Pasture 1.4 million acres, 4.4%
 - Woodlands 1.3 million acres, 4%
 - House lots, ponds, roads 1.6 million ac., 4.8%
 - CRP/WRP 1.8 million acres, 5.2%



What farmers do and don't do matters, a lot



Do farmers care about wildlife?

Support for Wildlife Research and Extension

- 1983: Support for more research on natural resource conservation - 70 percent; fish, wildlife, and native forests - 49 percent
- 1996: Maintain or increase Extension emphasis on soil, water, and other natural resources conservation – 87 percent

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Percentage using selected wildlife-friendly practices, 1990

- Avoid mowing grass waterways until late summer to allow birds to nest: 62%
- Delay mowing fields/ditches until July 1 to avoid destroying birds' nests: 59%
- Planted grass buffer strips around crop field for wildlife and soil protection: 45%
- Have protected grass strips along any stream flowing through my property: 45%
- Leave brushy and weedy fencerows at least 3 feet wide: 44%
- Have a pond used by fish and wildlife: 30%
- Burn ditches only once every 3 years or on a rotating basis: 26%
- Leave some corn rows standing for winter food for wildlife: 15%
- Have fenced pond so that livestock cannot wade in it: 15%
- Have planted food plots specifically for wildlife: 13%
- Have planted shrubs to provide food and cover for wildlife: 12%
- Have protected or restored wetland for use by wildlife: 12%
- Have a field window with at least 3 rows of trees and shrubs: 9%
- Have planted CRP acres to trees for wildlife: 4%

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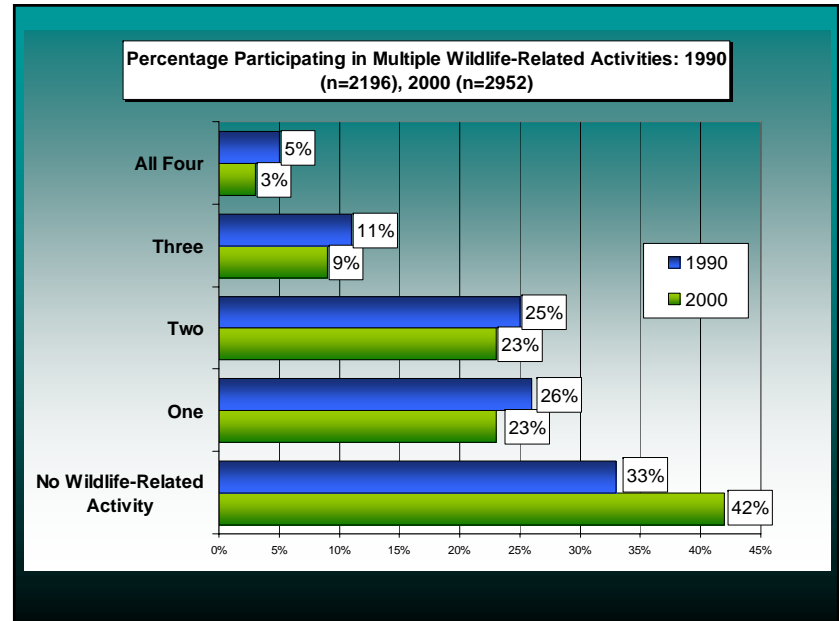
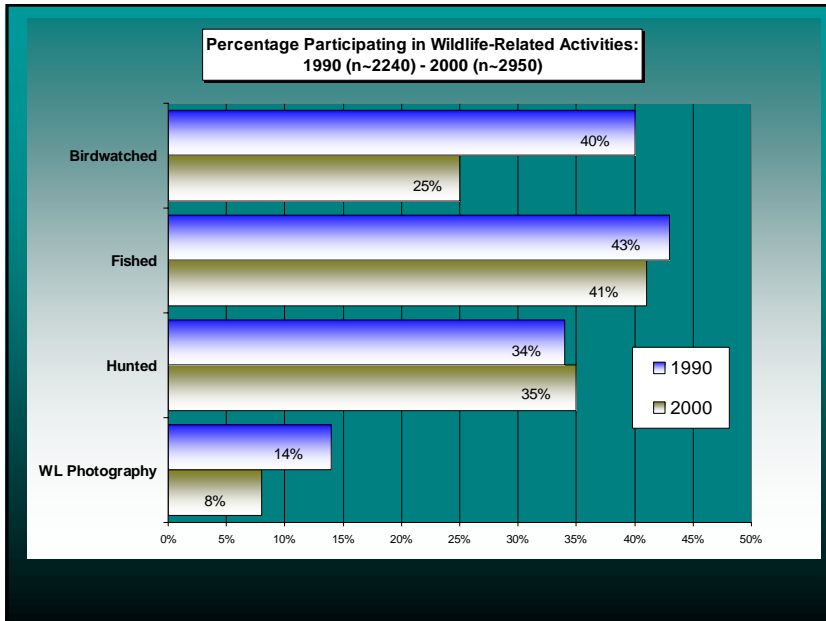


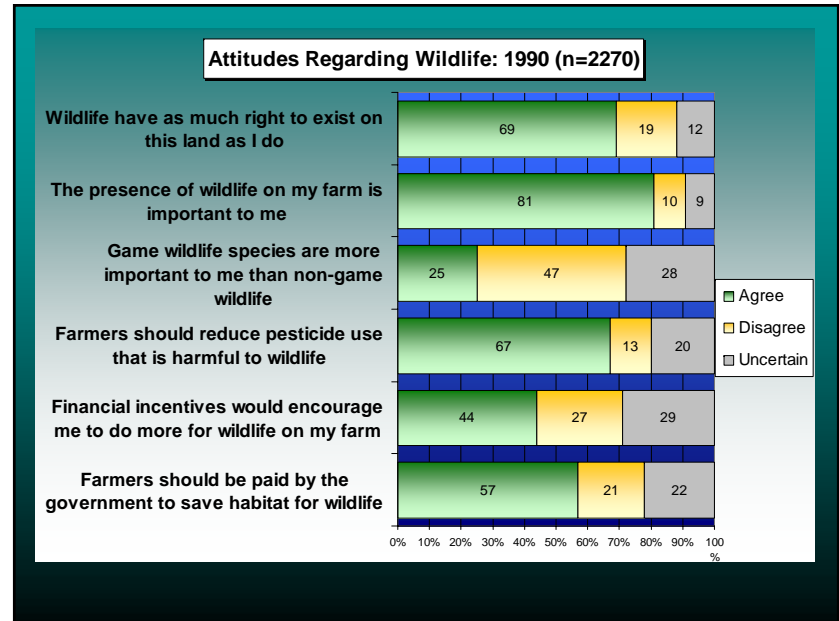
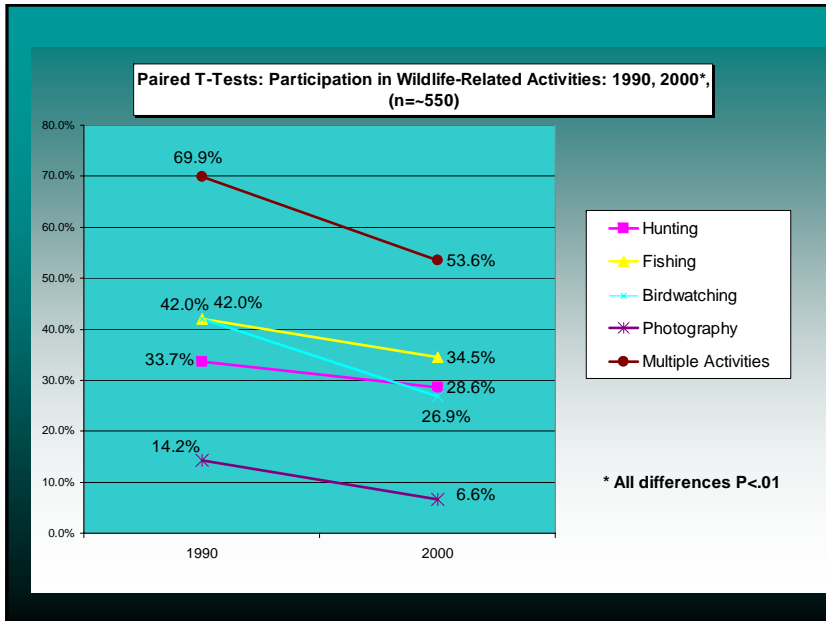
Importance of Trees, 1992

n=2,370	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Act as pollution filter to purify air	70	27	3
Protect soil from erosion	65	32	3
Provide cover and food for wildlife	59	37	4
Protect surface water in streams and lakes	56	39	5
Improve the appearance of Iowa landscape	49	45	6
Offer outdoor recreational opportunities	29	56	15
Produce quality sawlogs	21	55	24
Provide firewood for home heating	16	53	31
Supply lumber for on-farm use	14	44	42

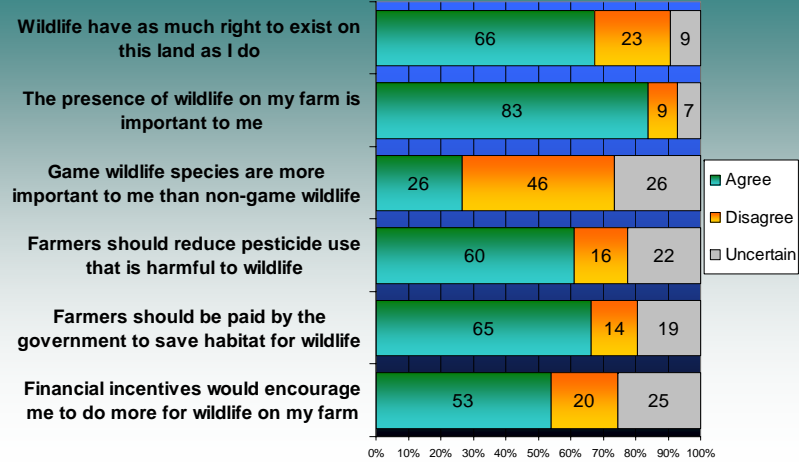
Benefits of Woodland Ownership, 1992

n=2,370	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Habitat for watching wildlife, including birds	50	34	16
Soil protection	49	39	12
Place to hunt	22	38	40
Source of firewood for own use	17	32	50
Source of income from sale of timber/firewood	3	14	83

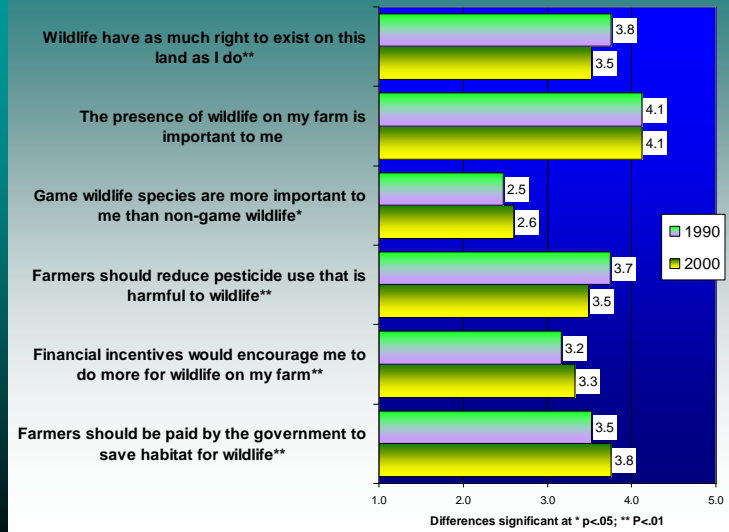




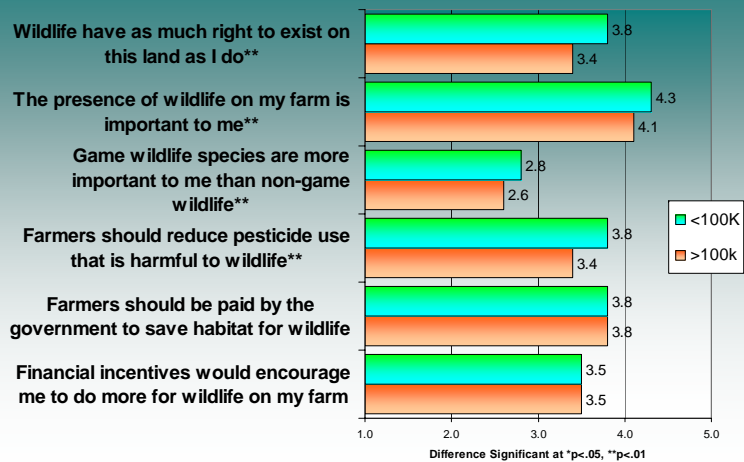
Attitudes Regarding Wildlife: 2000 (n=3000)



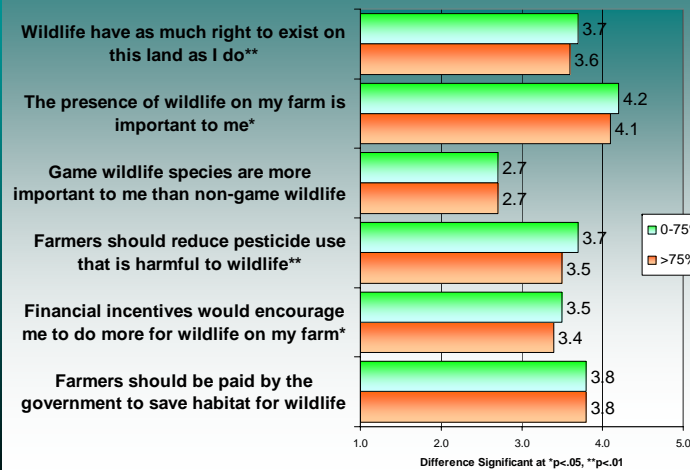
Paired T-Tests: Attitudes Regarding Wildlife: 1990, 2000 (n=560)



Wildlife Attitudes and Gross Farm Income: 2000 (n=2830)



Attitudes on Wildlife and Percent of Income from Farming: 2000 (n=2910)



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Lands

- In many ways, some of the most substantial wildlife areas in Iowa
- 1.8 million acres
- Wetlands, buffers, trees, various wildlife habitat improvement practices



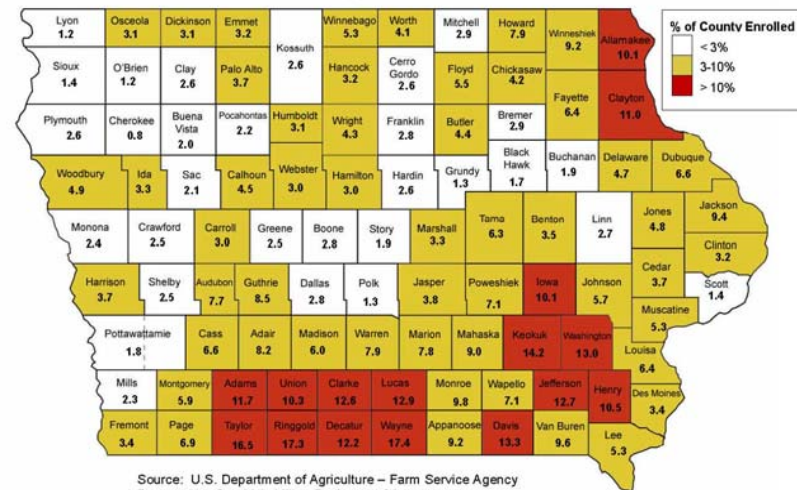
Courtesy of USDA/NRCS

Courtesy of USDA/NRCS

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Percent of County Enrolled in CRP As of April 2007



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency
Prepared by Gerald A. Miller, Professor of Agronomy
Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

CRP Under Pressure



January 29, 2008

The Honorable Edward T. Schafer
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Congratulations on being confirmed and sworn in as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. We look forward to establishing a strong working relationship with you to help move American agriculture forward and benefit consumers and taxpayers.

One critical issue that will require your attention is the Department's management of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). On September 28, 2007, USDA determined there would be no penalty-free early releases from the CRP at that time. We believe it is important that USDA continue to evaluate the option of offering penalty-free early releases so contract-holders can react to market forces. Given the supply tightness in markets for certain crop production inputs and the higher market risks involved in making crop decisions, there is increased urgency to notify CRP contract-holders that USDA is willing to increase the flexibility of contracts so market-driven needs can be met in a timely manner.

market disruption. Given the dynamic challenges ahead for American agriculture, we strongly encourage you to reconsider the Department's decision to not waive these penalties.

The undersigned organizations look forward to working with you to craft plans to better enable all of U.S. agriculture to meet this unprecedented growth and demand for agricultural commodities.

Sincerely,

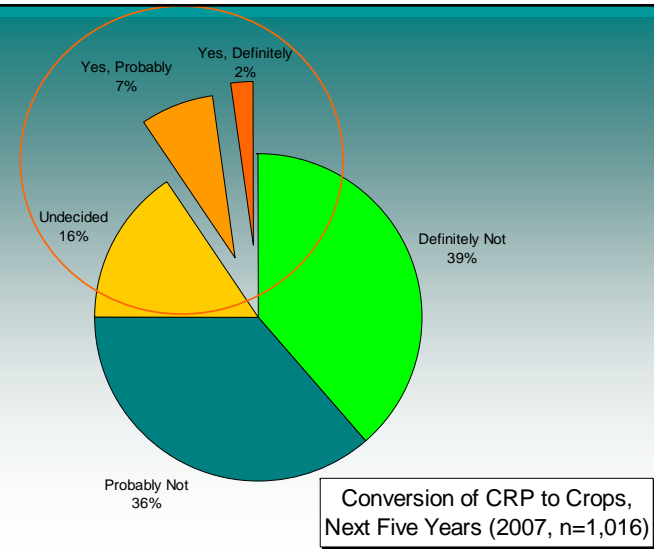
Agribusiness Association of Iowa	National Grain & Feed Association
Agricultural Retailers Association	National Oilseed Processors Association
American Bakers Association	National Pork Producers Council
American Feed Industry Association	National Turkey Federation
American Meat Institute	Nebraska Grain & Feed Association
Broiler & Egg Association of Minnesota	Nebraska Poultry Industries
California Grain & Feed Association	North American Millers' Association
Commodity Markets Council	North Carolina Poultry Federation
Florida Poultry Federation	Ohio Agribusiness Association
Georgia Poultry Federation	Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois	Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Indiana Grain & Feed Association	Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association
Indiana Plant Food & Ag Chemicals Association	South Carolina Poultry Federation
Kansas Grain & Feed Association	The Fertilizer Institute
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association	The Poultry Federation
Kentucky Grain & Feed Association	Texas Grain & Feed Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation	Texas Poultry Federation
Michigan Agri-Business Association	Transportation, Elevator & Grain Merchants Assn.
Michigan Bean Shippers Association	United Egg Producers
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association	Virginia Poultry Federation
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association	West Virginia Poultry Association
Mississippi Poultry Association	Wisconsin Agri-Service Association
National Chicken Council	

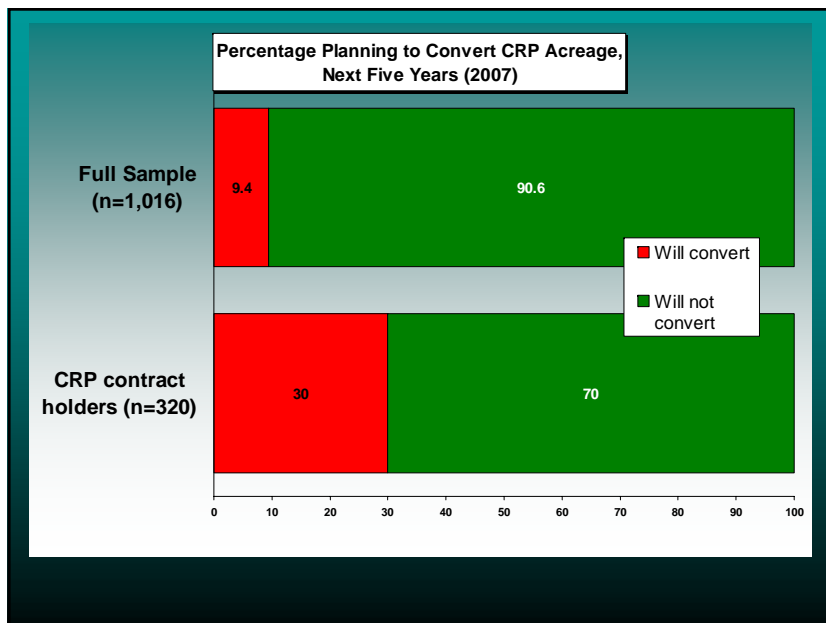


CRP Acres to Expire by Fiscal Year 2009

Total of 1.15 million acres

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Potential Magnitude of Conversion?

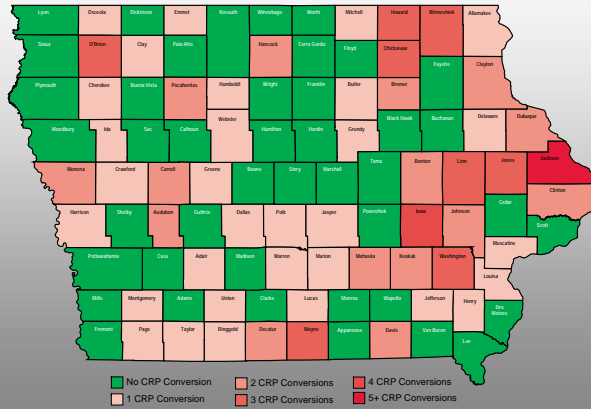
Scenario one

- 9 percent of Iowa farmers = ~8000
- 42 acres on average
- ~350,000 acres : 19 percent

Scenario two

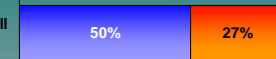
- 30 percent of CRP contract holders whose contracts will expire w/in 5 years = ~15,800
- 42 acres on average
- ~665,000 acres : 36 percent

Plan to convert CRP next 5 years, by County



Ethanol and the Environment, 2007

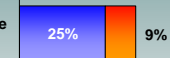
Bringing marginal land into grain production will reduce habitat for wildlife



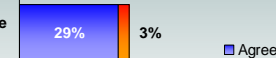
Removing corn stover for ethanol production will increase soil erosion



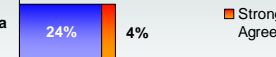
Corn-on-corn rotation is not good for the environment



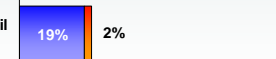
Biomass such as switchgrass will increase wildlife habitat



Increased ethanol production will have a negative impact on water quality

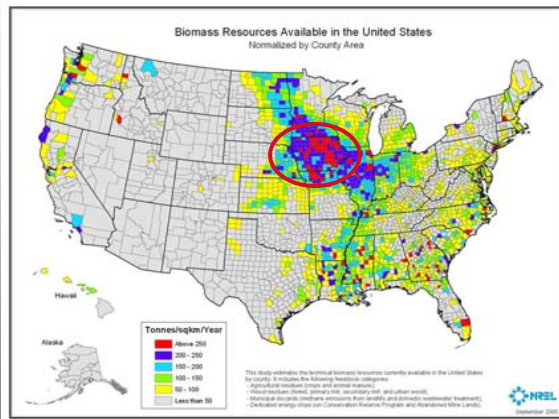


Higher profits related to ethanol will benefit soil conservation



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Cellulosic Ethanol? DOE 1.3 Billion Ton Study



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Cellulosic Feedstock?

Polyculture or Monoculture?

- Historical trends suggest monoculture
- So does current technology – enzymes differ by plant material, monoculture preferable

Warning: extension of productivist, monoculture agriculture into “marginal” areas likely



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