Ohio Grain Growers' Nutrient Reduction Efforts

Tadd Nicholson
Ohio Corn & Wheat

What are Ohio Farmer's Doing?

Do you know a farmer?

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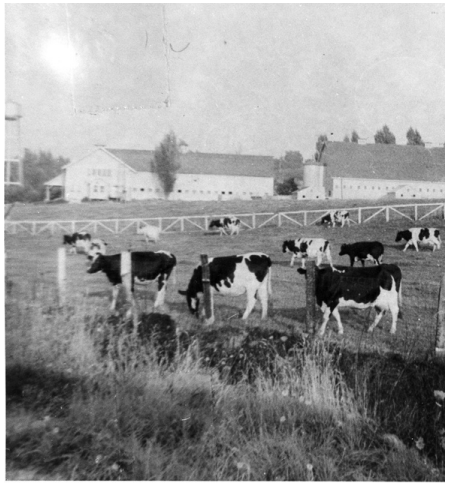
Maybe not…

Farmers are only 1.5% of the population

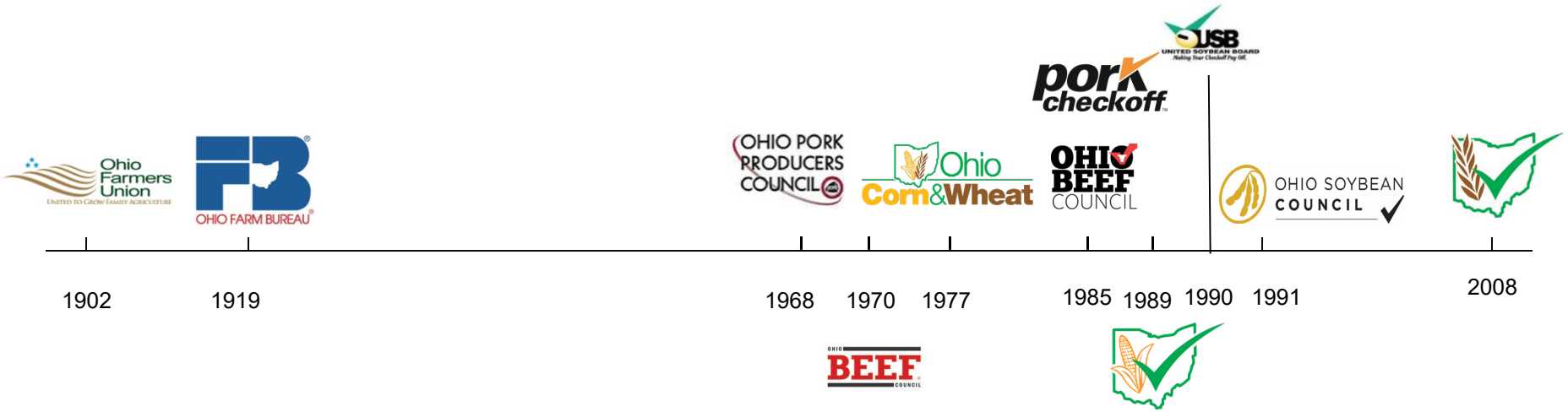
How is Ohio Agriculture organized ?



General Farm's (1940s/50s)

Specialized Farm
(1960s – today)

Timeline of Agricultural Organizations



Checkoffs v/s Associations

v/s

OHIO BEEF COUNCIL

OHIO PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL

OHIO SOYBEAN COUNCIL

American Dairy Association MIDEAST

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OHIO SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

OSIA

OHIO DAIRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

OHIO FARM BUREAU

OPA OHIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION

OHIO BEEF COUNCIL

The job of a checkoff

- Increase demand for a commodity
- Increase profitability of farmers who grow that commodity

Job of the Associations

- Advocate for public policy favorable to a commodity
- Be the public voice for a commodity

What motivates a farmer?

- Values of God, Family and Country
- Independence, outdoors, working with family. (90% family farms in Ohio)

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So if it's such a great life why don't more young people start farming?

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Tale of Two Corns

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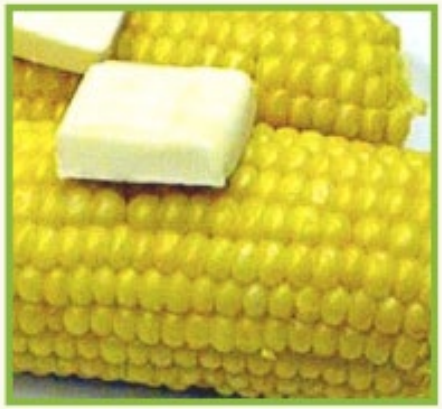
99%

Field Corn

- 88.2 million planted acres
- 12.5 billion bushels produced
- Crop Value: $65.2 billion



1%

Sweet Corn

- 656,600 planted acres
- 166.3 million bushel equivalents
- Crop Value: $1.2 billion

Diversity of farmers

The Color of Equipment

Diversity of farmers

The Sign by the Road

Diversity of Farms

- Diversity in agriculture markets
  - (ethanol, livestock, exports, food,)
- Tillage (no till, conventional till)
  - Different soil, slope, rainfall
- Nutrients (manure or commercial fertilizer)

One size does not fit all

USDA NRCS Measuring Progress

- Study looking at the changes in conservation practice adoption on cultivated cropland acres
- Comparison between the 2003-2006 and 2012 data sets
- Published in 2016

NRCS Findings

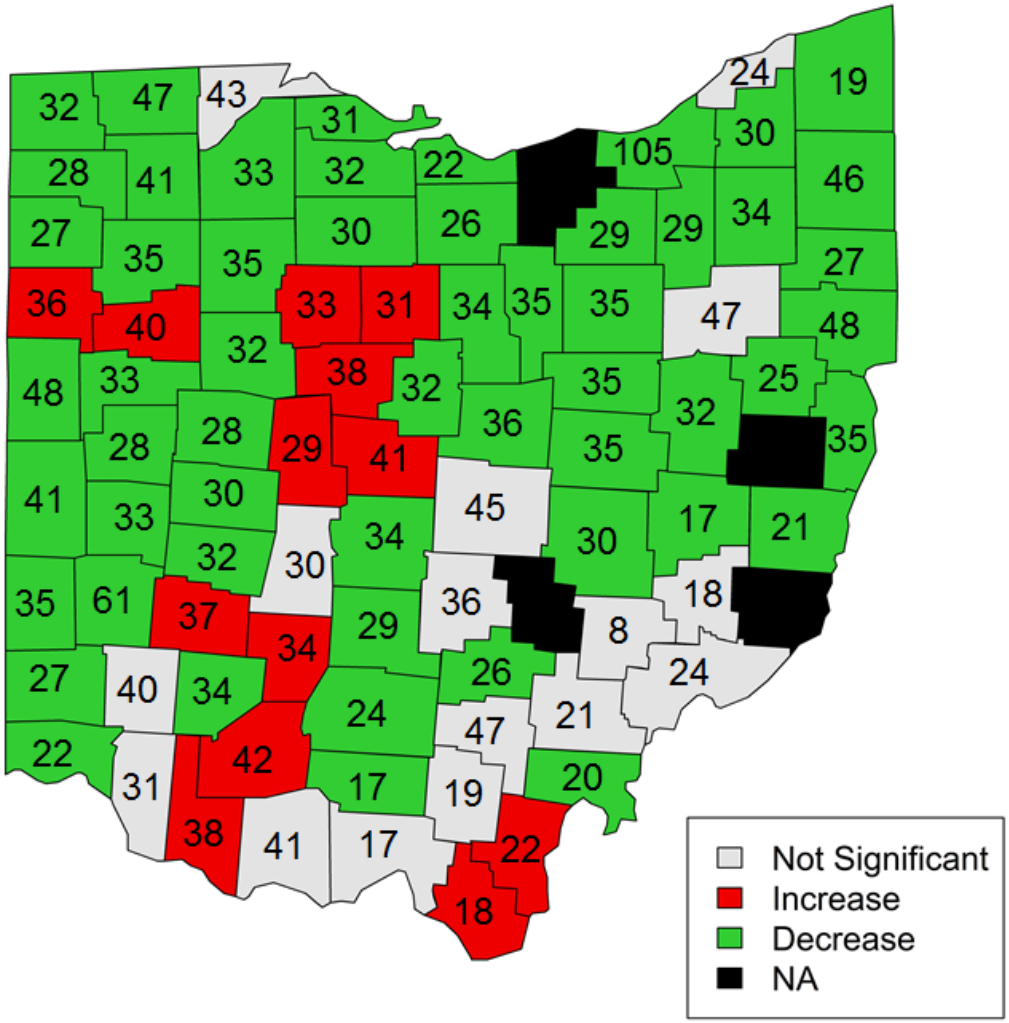
- Acres with management for erosion **increased from 34 to 54 percent of acres.**
- Cropland acres managed with an edge-of-field trapping practice, such as a filter or buffer, **increased from 18 to 31 percent of acres.**
- Acres on which all nutrient applications were incorporated in some manner (knifed, tilled, or banded) increased.
- The percent of cropped acres on which nitrogen was incorporated at every application **increased from 29 to 43 percent** and on which phosphorus was incorporated at every application **increased from 45 to 60 percent.**
- About 71 percent of acres had a soil test within the last 5 years.
- GPS was used to map soil properties **increased from 8 percent to 36 percent of cropland acres**.
- The use of variable rate technology **increased from 4 to 14 percent of cropland acres.**

Phosphorus Application

Are farmers applying too much phosphorus?

- OSU research over entire state shows that soil test P levels trending down over past 25 years in 80% of 88 counties
- USDA research on Ohio fields showing that crops are removing more per acre than farmer is applying
  - Application = about 21 lbs P
  - Crop Removal = about 24 lbs P
  - Total runoff = about 1 lb P (surface and tile)

Soil Test P Trend 1993-2015 (P_50%)



4R Nutrient Stewardship

Ohio

47 Certified
Branch Facilities

2,890,000
Total Acres

6,000
Clients Serviced

WLEB

37 Certified
Branch Facilities

1,900,000
Total Acres

3,580
Clients Serviced

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Questions ?