

Noble County- State of the County Address

February 6, 2019

The Value of Agriculture in Noble County

Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow

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CFAES



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Yesterday

- Rural Community
- Agriculturally Based
- Rich in Natural Resources

Historical Number of Farms in

Noble County-

1935: 2,493

1945: 2,016

1954: 1,457

1964: 996

1974: 554

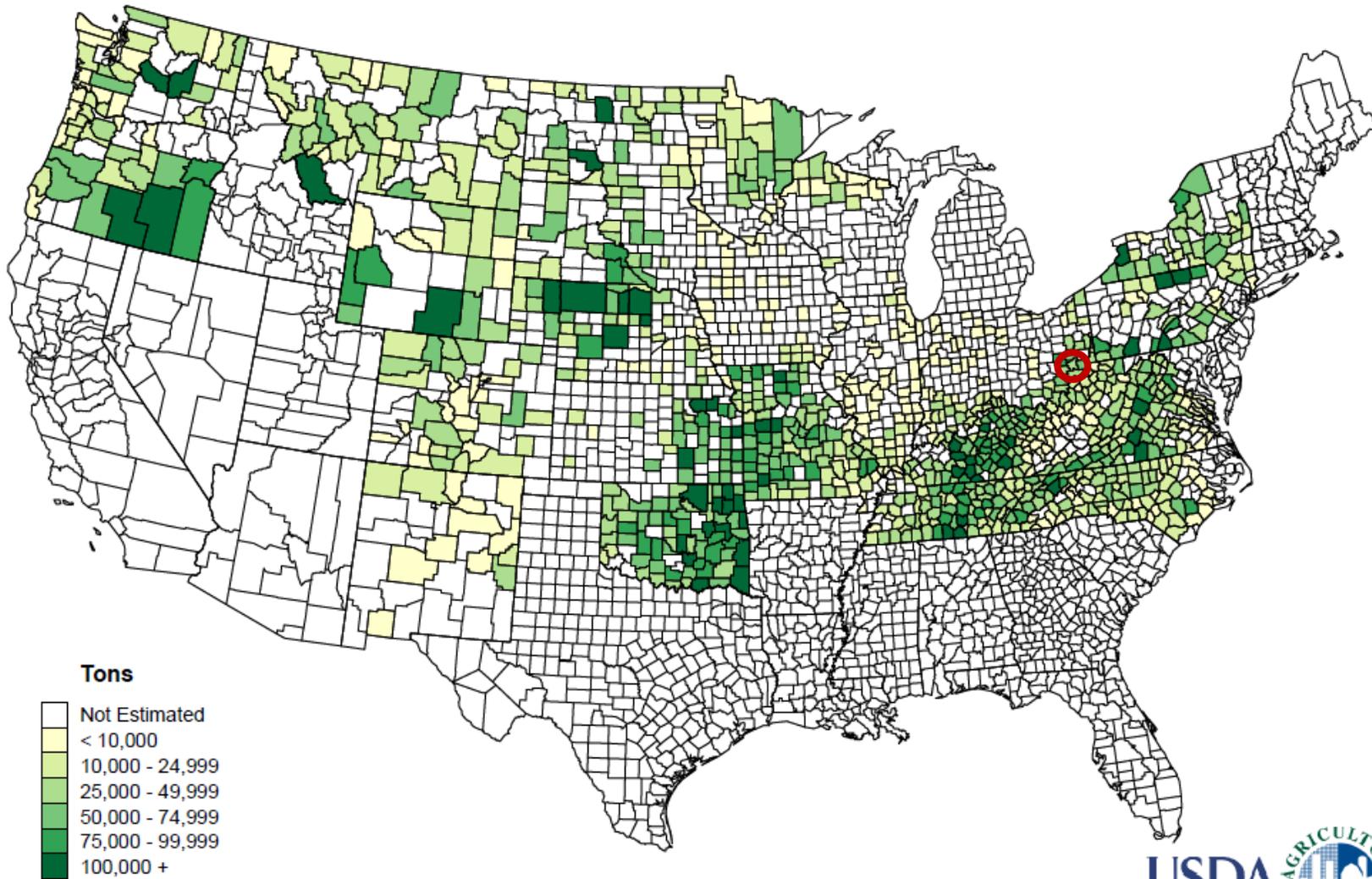


Today

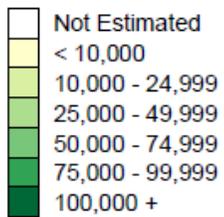
- Rural Community
- Rich in Natural Resources
- Professional/Public Service Workforce
- Part-Time & Retired Farmers



**Other Hay (Dry) 2017
Production by County
for Selected States**



Tons



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service



Hay Production 2017

22,900 acres

41,900 tons

**4th Highest for Mixed
Grass Hay in Ohio**

Cattle Inventory 2017

12,800 head

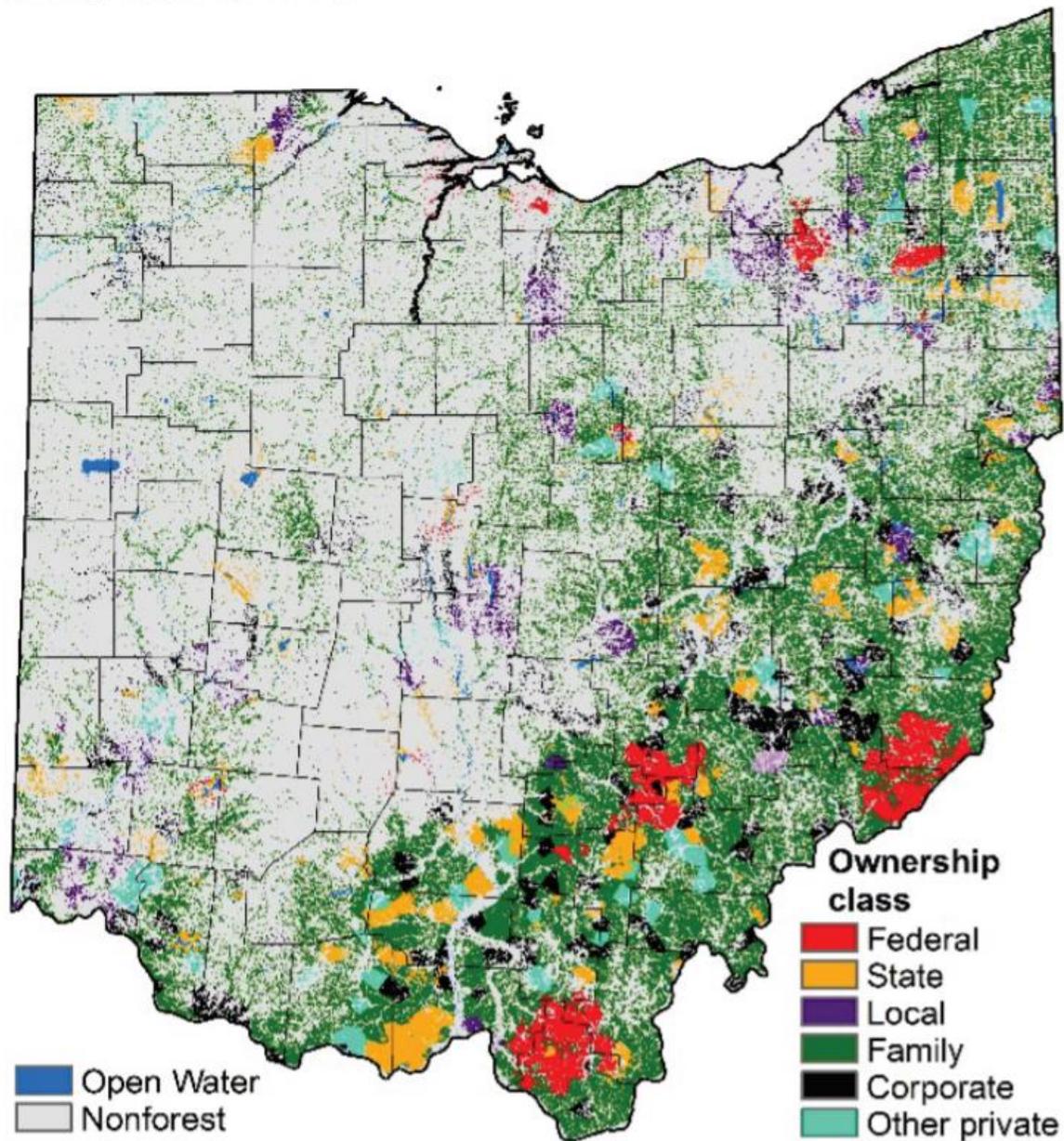
Census Cash Receipts 2012

Total Livestock- \$6,141,000

Total Crop- \$3,619,000

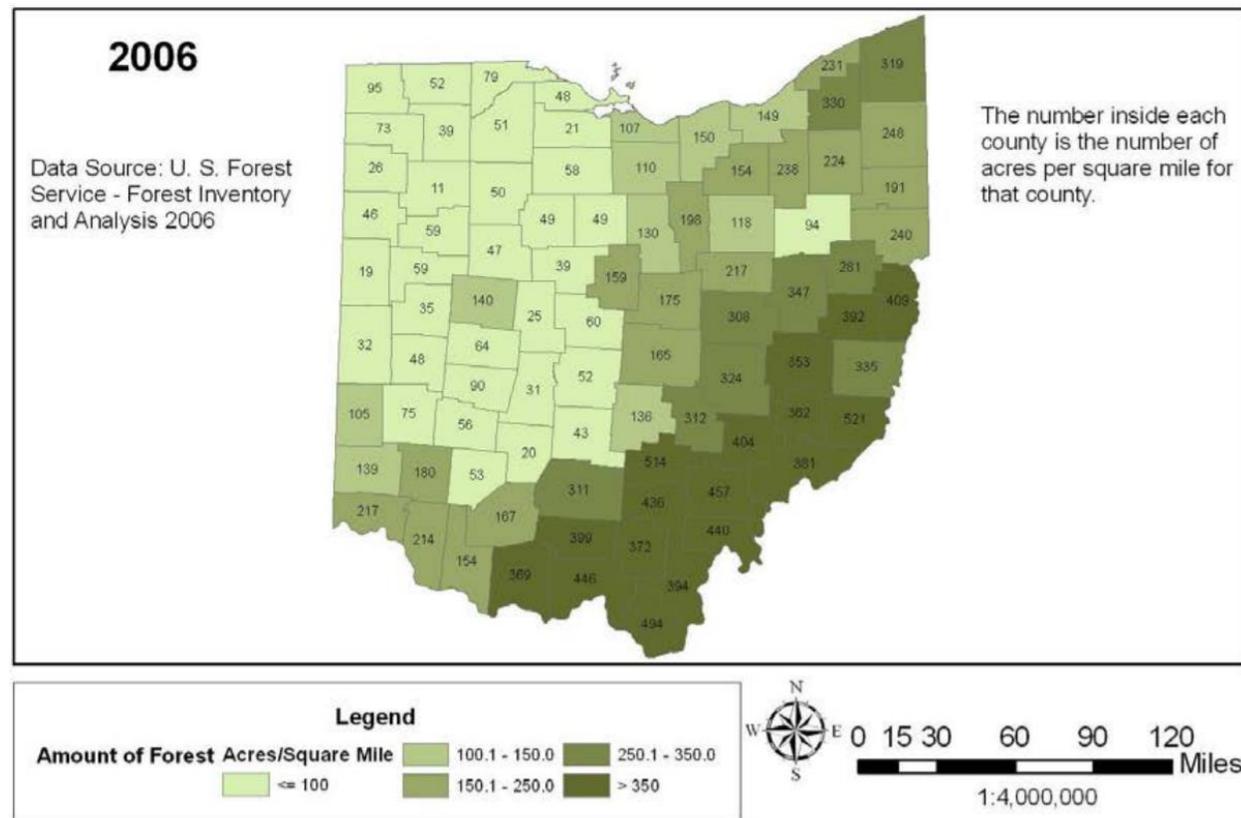
Cattle/Calves- \$5,563,000

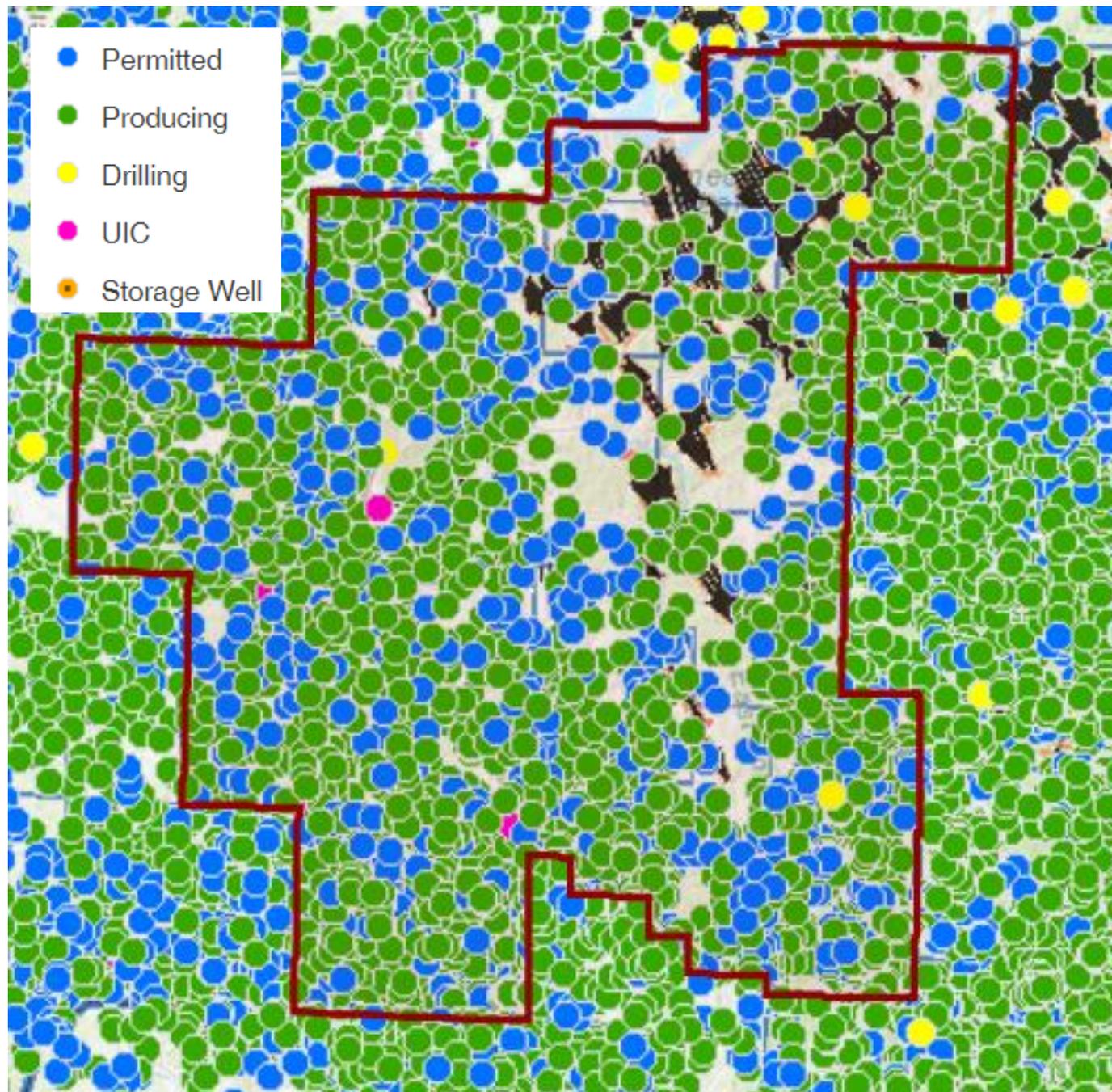
Figure 1.—Area of forest land and timberland by year, Ohio, 1952 to 2016.



Forestry

- Primarily Family Owned Forests
- Valued added product to farms
- Influential Eco-Tourism





Oil & Gas

- Ranked 6th for natural gas wells permitted in Ohio.
- Natural Gas was previously highly imported. Now, highly exported. Pipeline flow has reversed.
- Primarily located on agricultural land. Both wells and pipelines.
- Provides supplemental farm income through royalties, employment, and investment opportunities for farm improvements.



Tomorrow's Challenges

- Over the next two decades, the transition of farmland from current owners to successional owners will be of greater total acres than the Louisiana Purchase.
- The American Farmer is aging.
- More regulations now and more to come.
- Difficulty selling in traditional markets.
- Value added agricultural products will be important.
- **TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION is a TOP PRIORITY.**

Tomorrow's Solutions

- Develop a succession plan for the farm & assets.
- Have open conversations with your family about the future plans and division of responsibilities.
- Send a new farm representative to certification courses and programs (pesticide/fertilizer applicator training/beef quality assurance).
- Develop good record keeping skills.
- Encourage good work/life balance skills.
- Provide opportunities for the next generation to take responsibility, make important decisions, and step in prepared for the job.



*Stewardship is not inherited.
It is learned. Teach the next
generation the value of the
Earth and themselves. Where
we invest our time and energy
is where we will see growth.*