# U.S. Farmland Market Update: What's Ahead?

Wendong Zhang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Economics and Extension Economist Iowa State University

wdzhang@iastate.edu

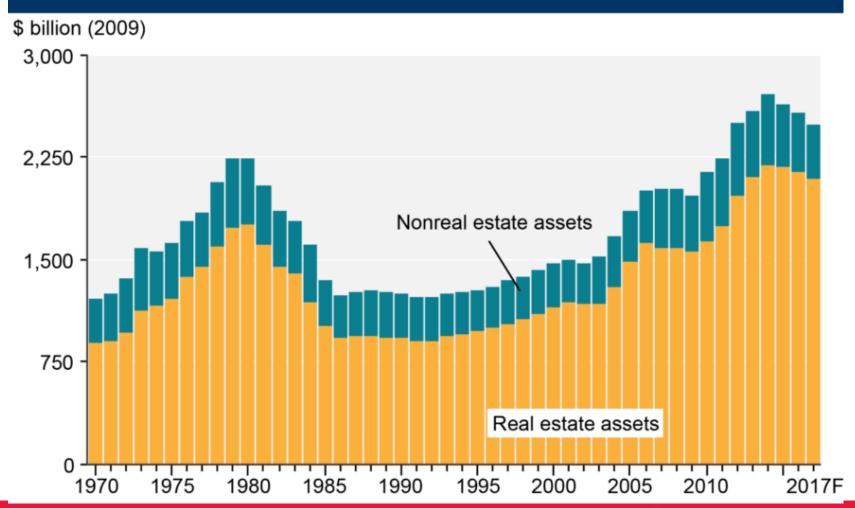
515-294-2536

April 26th, 2017



#### Why care about farmland?

Farm sector assets, inflation adjusted, 1970-2017F



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach

Source: USDA ERS

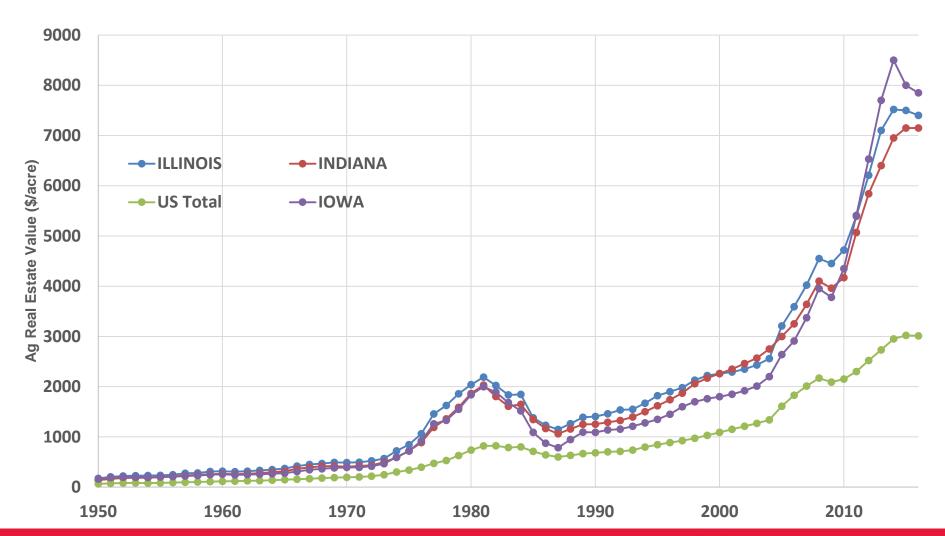


# Guiding Framework - Ricardian

Land Value = localized net income / universal interest rate



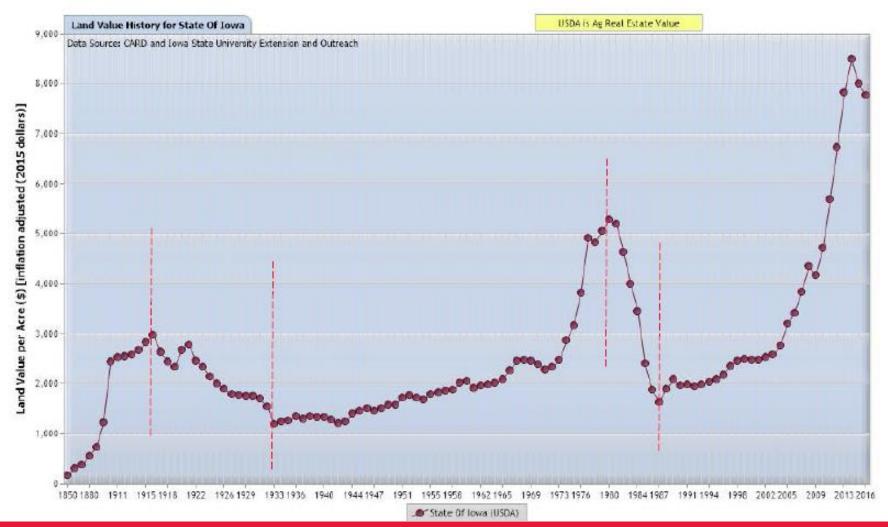
#### Corn Belt vs. U.S. Farmland Values



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach



# Inflation-adjusted Iowa Ag Real Estate Values 1850-2016



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach

Source: USDA-NASS; Ag Census, Iowa Farmland Value Portal



#### **Farm Crises and this downturn**

- Four Reasons why this is not likely another farm crisis
  - High income in pre-crisis "golden" eras
  - Low interest rate environment
  - Prudence among ag lenders and bank regulators
  - Wider, stronger (?) government safety net

#### Concerns

- Deteriorating farm income and ag credit, disproportionally affecting beginning farmers
- High reliance on ag exports, strong US \$
- Liquidity/profitability crisis vs. solvency problem



# Positive 1: Real Income Accumulation 2003-2013

Average % change in inflation-adjusted values per year						
	Golden Eras					
	Land Gross Income Net Income					
1910-1920	1.2%	0.8%	0.2%			
1973-1981	9.7%	0.9%	-3.2%			
2003-2013	11.1%	4.5%	8.1%			
	Crises and Declines					
Land Gross Income Net Income						
1921-1933	-5.8%	-1.9%	-1.0%			
1981-1987	-15.0%	-2.5%	2.6%			
2013-2016	-6.0%*	-2.7%	-9.5%			



Source: USDA-ERS, Ag DM C2-70 Zhang and Beek 2016



# Positive 2: Historically low interest rates (despite



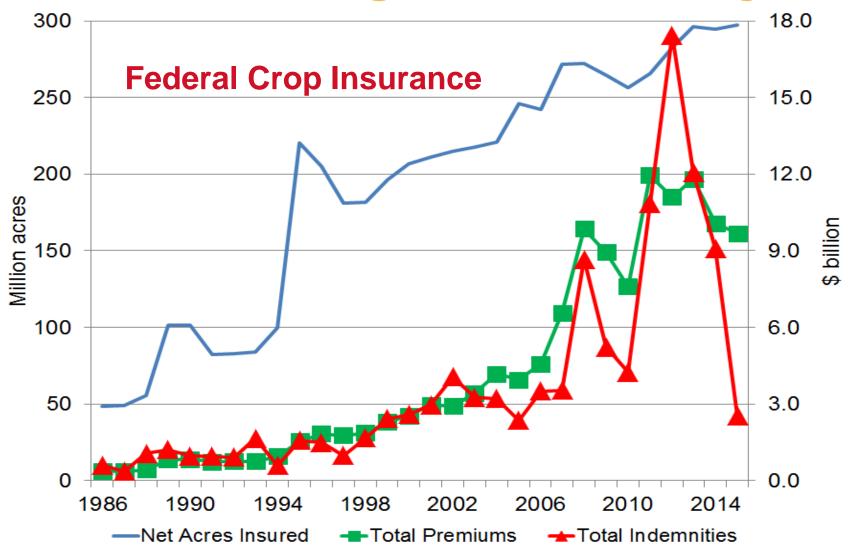


# Positive 3: Prudence in Ag Lenders/Regulators

- Banking Regulations
  - More stringent, frequent stress-test
  - BASEL III, liquidity requirements for banks
  - (Ron Hansen Iowa Division of Banking Superintendent) walk into this "with eyes wide open"
- Changes in Loan Practices (FCS, Iowa)
  - Before 1987: Ioan to value ratio is 85%
  - 1987-2008: loan to value ratio is 65%
  - After 2008: use cash-flow method for collateral (\$4 corn, \$10 bean) and 50% of cash flow value



#### Positive 4: Stronger Govn't Safety Net





Source: Chad Hart, lowa State University

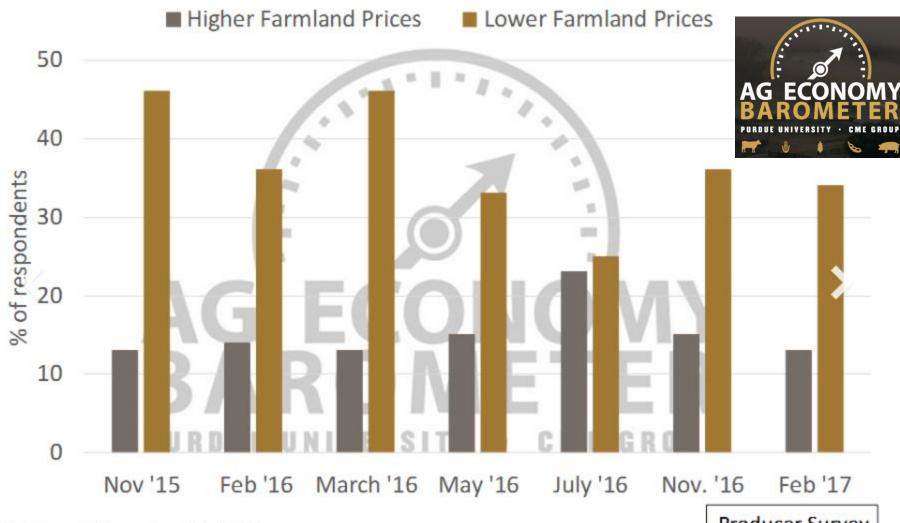


# Looking Ahead:

# Stabilization in the farmland market (modest decline)



#### Farmland Price Expectations, 12 months from now



Most Recent Observation: Feb. 2017

Producer Survey



Source: Purdue Ag Barometer



#### Percent change in dollar value of "good" farmland

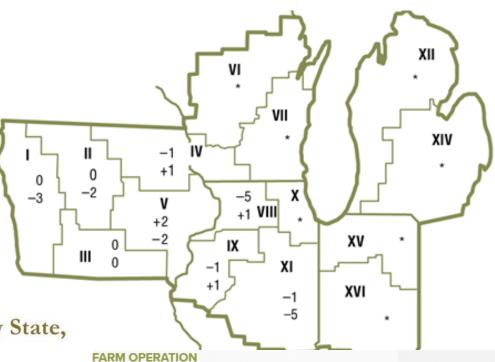
*Top:* October 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017 *Bottom:* January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017

	October 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017	January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017
Illinois	-1	-2
Indiana	-2	+2
Iowa	0	-2
Michigan	-1	-8
Wisconsin	-2	+3
Seventh District	-1	-1

Table 1: Tenth District Farmland Value by State, Fourth Quarter 2016

#### Percent change from previous year \*

	Nonirrigated	Irrigated	Ranchland
Kansas	- 13	- 4	- 10
Western Missouri	1	n/a**	- 5
Mountain States***	- 7	- 5	0
Nebraska	- 4	- 8	- 10
Oklahoma	- 4	- 6	- 2
Tenth District	- 6	- 6	- 7



#### Land value survey indicates "bleeding" has stopped

lowa farmland values appear to be taking a breather to identify future direction.

Rod Swoboda 1 | Mar 27, 2017

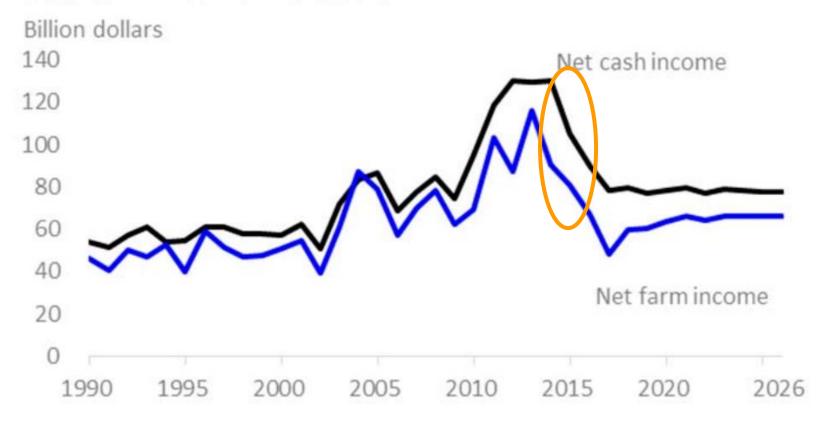
Realtor Land Institute
March 2017 Iowa Survey
+0.9% since Sept 16

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Kansas City Feb 2017 Ag Letter



#### **US Farm Income 1990-2026**

#### U.S. farm income indicators



## Key things to watch

Interest rate hikes: SPEED & MAGNITUDE MATTERS

Possible trade tensions and negotiations (China, Mexico)

2018 Farm Bill Discussions

Possible Changes in tax policies

- Estate tax reforms; step-up basis
- Income tax: section 179, bonus depreciations
- State ownership law



## **Ag Policy News**

-21% budget cuts for USDA

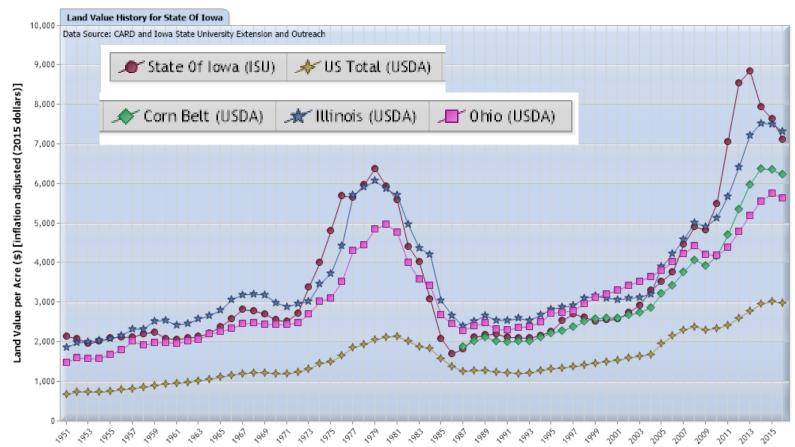
USDA Secretary Perdue just confirmed this Monday

The House and Senate Ag Committees have begun their exploratory hearings for the 2018 Farm Bill, but no firm policy declarations have been made.

What little we have on ag policy comes from the President's Executive Orders and the Budget: withdraw TPP, review "WOTUS" rule, omnibus report on significant trade deficit



# Iowa Farmland Value Portal twitter #ISUlandvalue



http://card.iastate.edu/farmland

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach



# Thank You!

#### Wendong Zhang

Assistant Professor and Extension Economist lowa State University

515-294-2536

wdzhang@iastate.edu

Slides available online at http://www2.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/zhang



## **Appendix**

2018 Farm Bill

2017 USDA Budget

Meat & Crop Prices and Returns

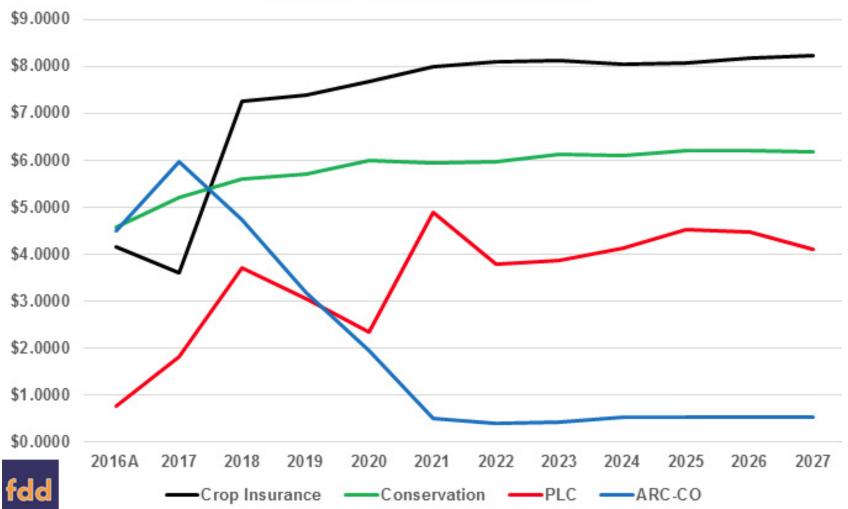
**Interest Rate Dot Plot** 

Farmland Supply



#### Farm Bill Program Spending Forecasts



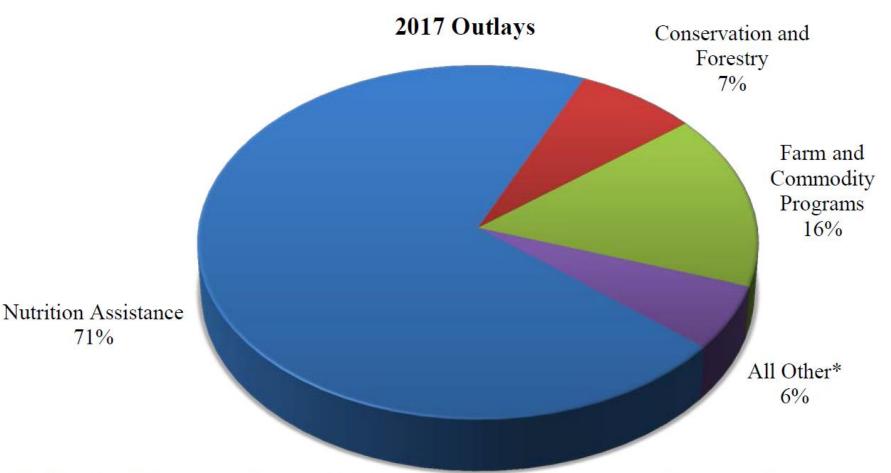


IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach

Source: USDA Congressional Budget Office



## **USDA's Budget – 2017 Outlays**



\*Includes Rural Development, Research, Food Safety, Marketing and Regulatory, and Departmental Management





## **USDA's 2017 Budget**

Budget Authority (Dollars in Millions)

Agency / Program	2015 Enacted	2016 Estimate	2017 Budget
FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES			
Farm Service Agency:			
Discretionary Programs	\$1,608	\$1,599	\$1,616
Discretionary Emergency Programs	12	114	0
Mandatory Programs	44	47	47
Commodity Credit Corporation Programs (mandatory)	2,175	20,545	12,812
Total, Farm Service Agency	3,839	22,305	14,474
Risk Management Agency:			
Discretionary Programs	81	83	96
Mandatory Programs	7,767	7,858	7,575
Total, Risk Management Agency	7,848	7,941	7,671
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT			
Natural Resources Conservation Service:			
Discretionary Programs	862	867	860
Discretionary Emergency Programs	79	137	0
Mandatory CCC Programs	3,184	3,123	3,885
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	4,125	4,126	4,745

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

Source: USDA 2017 Budget



# **USDA's 2017 Budget**

#### Budget Authority (Dollars in Millions)

Agency / Program	2015 Enacted	2016 Estimate	2017 Budget
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS	Flacted	Estimate	Duuget
Agricultural Research Service:			
Discretionary Programs	1,178	1,356	1,256
Mandatory Programs	30	30	30
Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,208	1,386	1,286
National Institute of Food and Agriculture:			
Discretionary Programs	1,295	1,331	1,379
Mandatory Programs	142	171	505
Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,436	1,502	1,884
Economic Research Service:			
Discretionary Programs	85	85	91
National Agricultural Statistics Service:			
Discretionary Programs	172	168	177
Total, Research, Education, and Economics	2,901	3,141	3,438



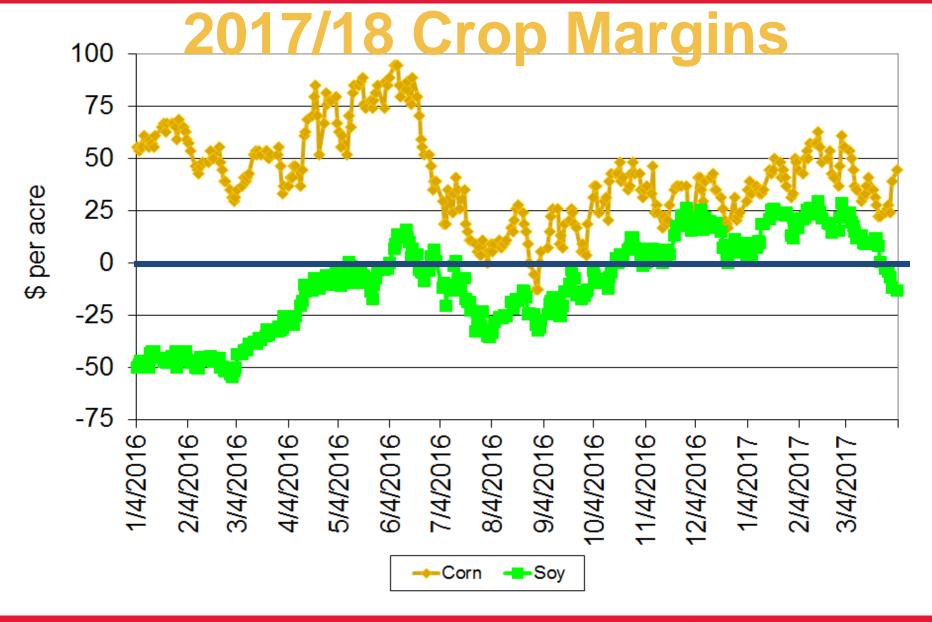




#### **U.S. Meat Production & Prices**

	2016	2017	Change from	Change from
	estimate	forecast	February 9	2016
Production	Billion pounds			
Beef	25.21	26.25	0.25	1.04
Pork	24.94	26.11	-0.07	1.17
<b>Broilers</b>	40.70	41.53		0.83
Turkey	5.98	6.09	-0.04	0.10
Total meat	97.60	100.74	0.15	3.14
Prices		D	ollars/cwt	
Steers	120.86	117.88	5.88	-2.99
Hogs	46.16	44.63	1.13	-1.53
	Cents/lb			
Broilers	84.3	85.9	1.1	1.5
Turkey	117.1	106.6	-0.4	-10.5

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Source: USDA-WAOB Extension and Outreach

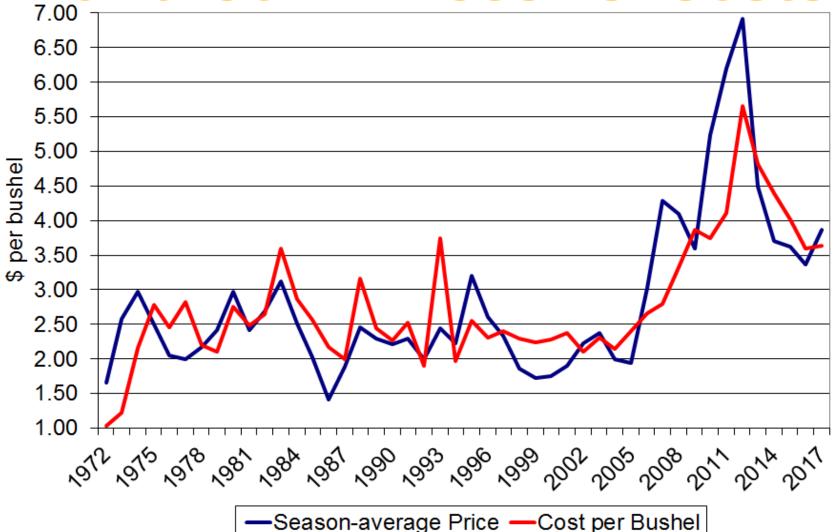




Source: Chad Hart, lowa State University



# **Iowa Corn Prices vs. Costs**



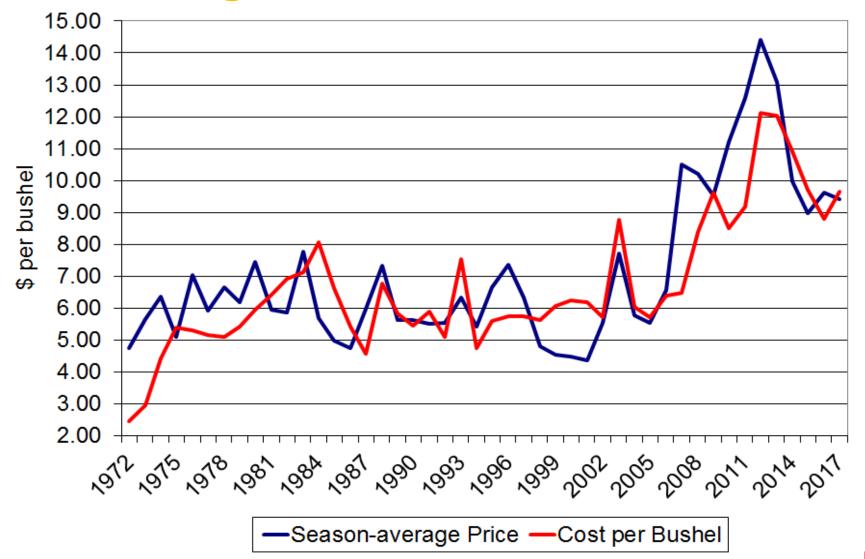
—Season-average Price —Cost per Bushel



Source: Chad Hart, **Iowa State University** 



### Iowa Soybean Prices vs. Costs





Source: Chad Hart, lowa State University

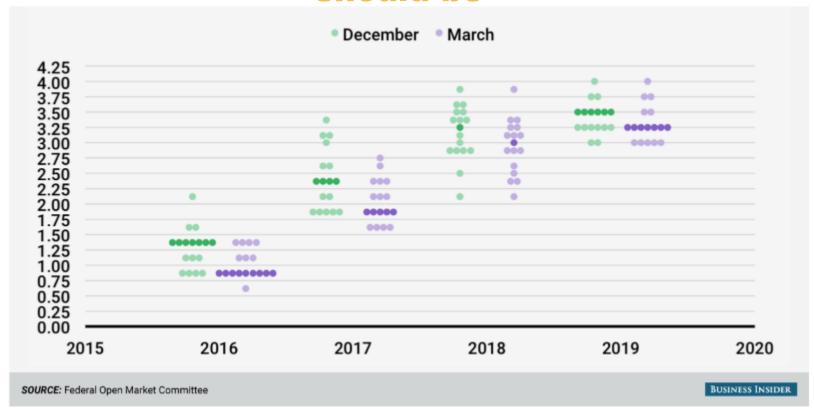






#### Expect at least two interest rate hikes in 2017

What the Fed Reserve thinks the interest rate should be



The Fed moved its dots down in March, which the markets interpreted as a signal only two rate hikes would happen this year. Business Insider/Andy Kiersz, data from FOMC







# Farmland supply tends to be tighter in down years

ISU sale activity index and percent change in lowa land value, 1986-2016

(% reported more sales - % reported less sales) + 100





# **Appendix**

2018 Farm Bill

2017 USDA Budget

Meat & Crop Prices and Returns

**Interest Rate Dot Plot** 

Farmland Supply

