

Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Survey: Conservation

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State of Iowa Soil Conservation Committee

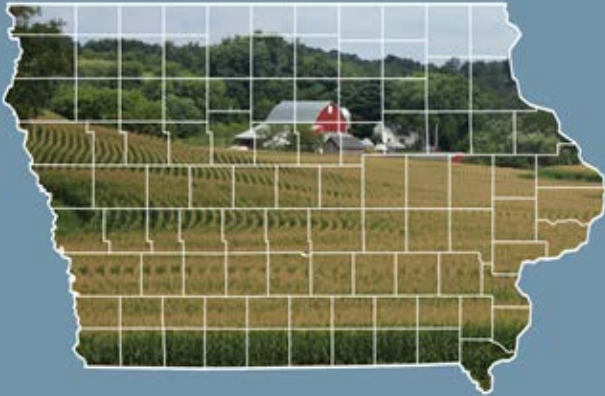
A Quick Introduction: Dr. Wendong Zhang

- Grown up in a rural county in NE China
- Attended college in Shanghai and Hong Kong
- Ph.D. in Ag Econ in 2015 from Ohio State
- 2012 summer intern at USDA-ERS on farm economy and farmland values
- Research and extension interests:

land value/ownership [www.card.iastate.edu/farmland/agriculture and the environment](http://www.card.iastate.edu/farmland/agriculture_and_the_environment)

China Ag center www.card.iastate.edu/china

Iowa Farmland Ownership and
Tenure Survey, 1982-2017:
A Thirty-Five Year Perspective



FA 1883 - August 2018

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- 82% of Iowa land is debt-free
- 60% of land owned by owners 65+ years old, one-third of land owned by 75+ years old, 13% of land owned by women landowner 80+ years old
- Ownership continues to shift from sole ownership to trusts and corporations
- 53% of Iowa land rented out – mainly cash rent
- 34% of Iowa land owned by landlords with no farming experience, 23% of land owned by retired farmers who do not currently farm
- 29% of Iowa land owned primarily for family/sentimental reasons

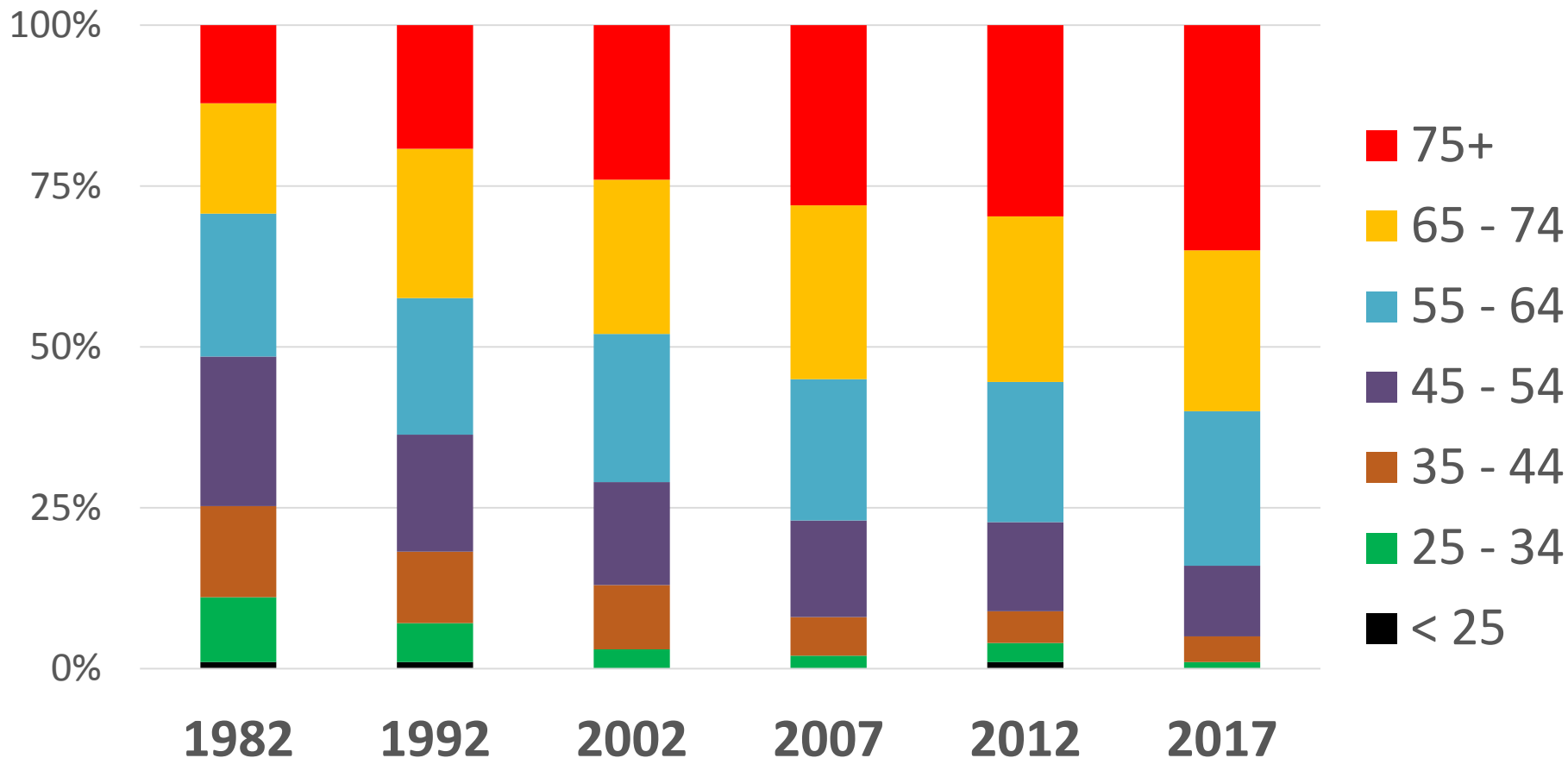
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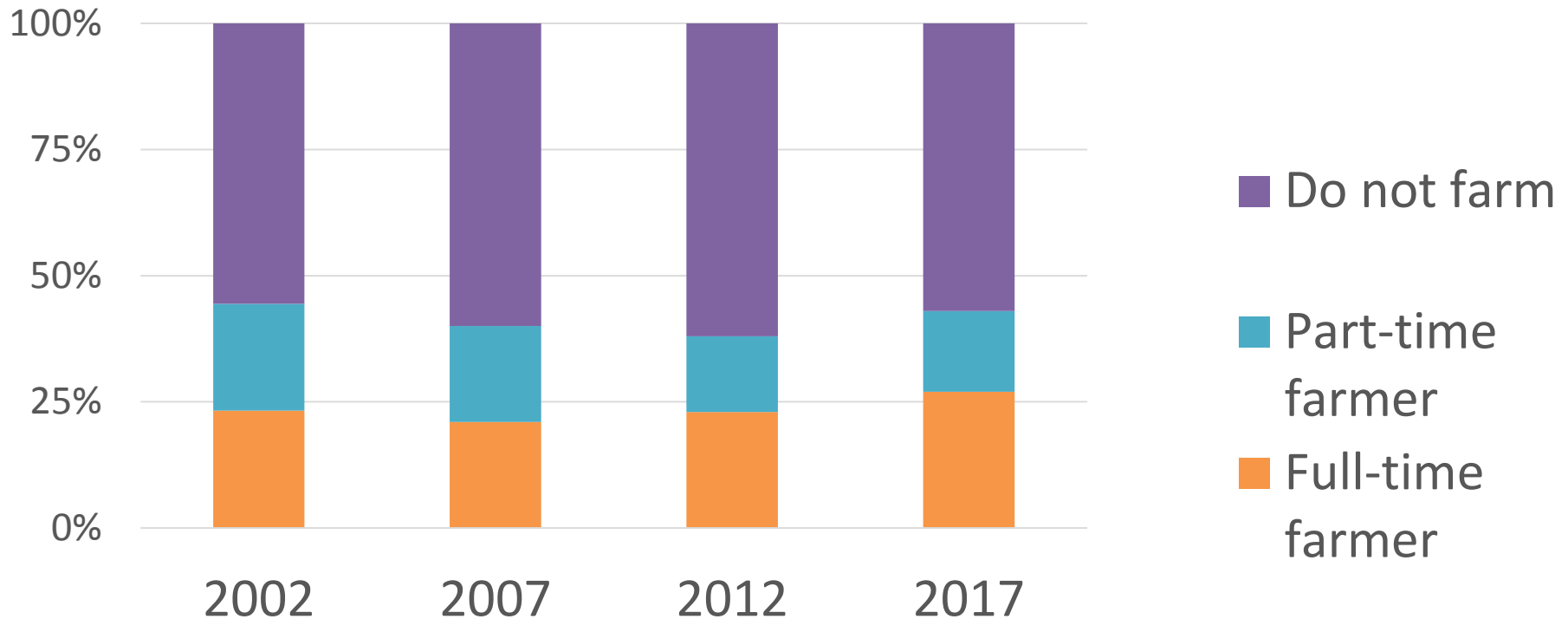
Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Survey – history and methodology

- **The first and only consistent data collection of land ownership & tenure in the nation:**
 - 1949, 1958, 1970, 1976, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and **2017**.
- **Statistically representative of all owners & all land in Iowa**
- **Telephone survey**
- Widely used and best available information
- Mandated by Iowa Code since 1989 to be conducted every 5 years
- USDA data: AELOS 1999, TOTAL 2014

Percentage of Farmland by Age of Owner



Percentage of Iowa Farmland by Farming Status of Owner



2017: 57% of land owned by owners who do not farm; of these, 34% land owned by owners with no farming experience and 23% by retired farmers

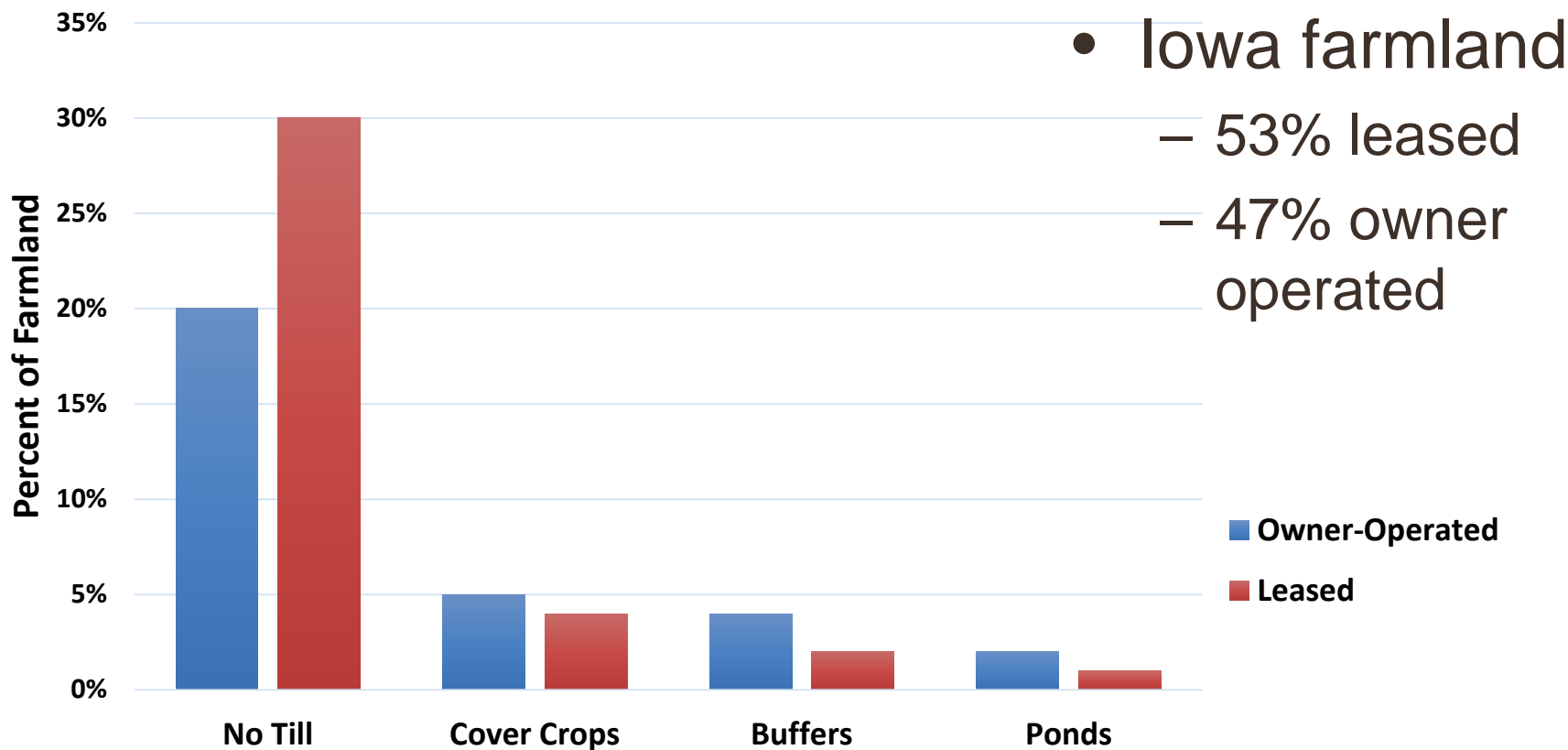
Percent of Land and Owners Using Various Conservation Practices 2017

	Owners	Acres
No till	21%	27%
Cover crops	5%	4%
Buffer strips	3%	3%
Pond or sedimentation basin	1%	2%

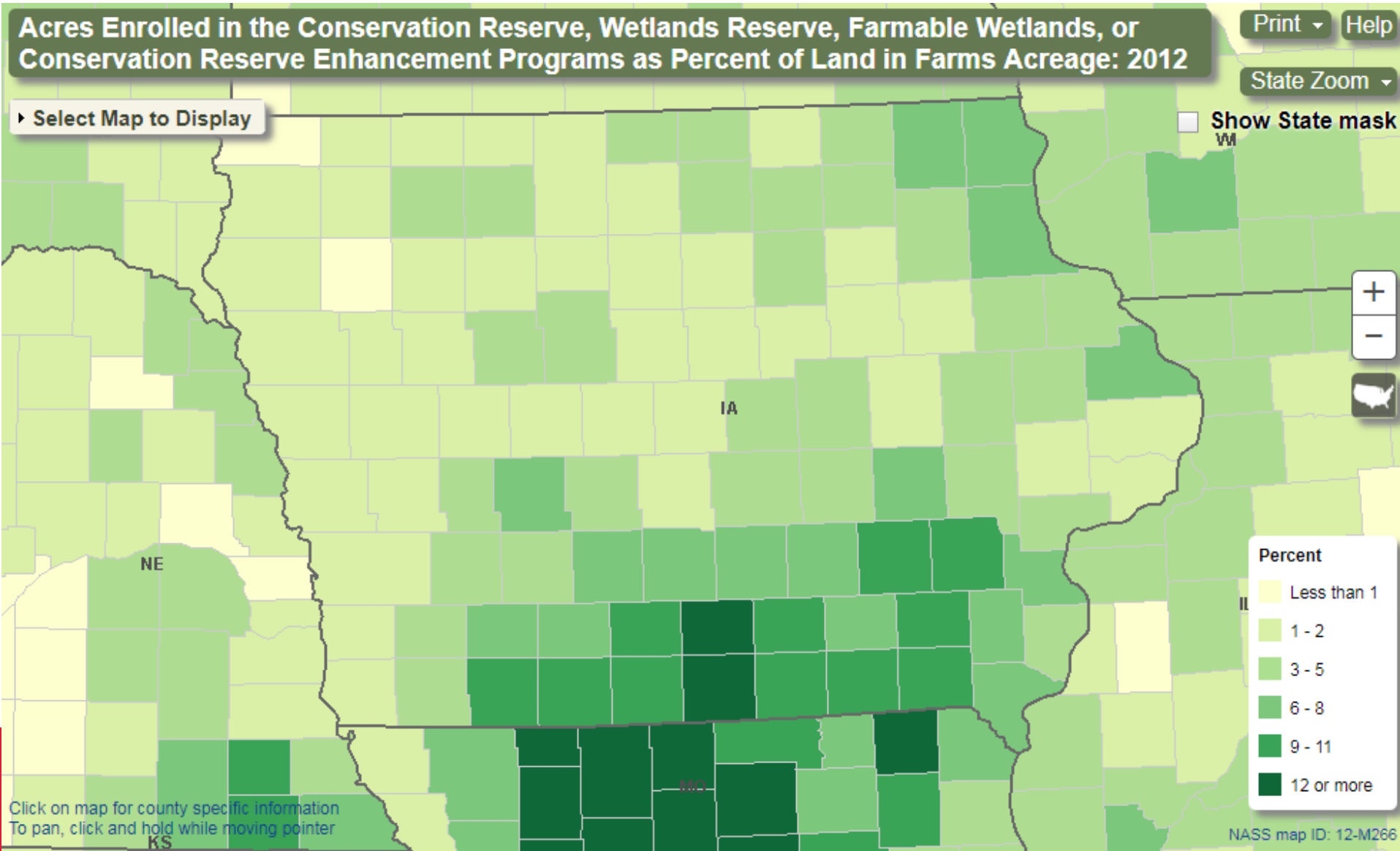
Percent of Owner Willing to Help Tenant Adopt Cover Crops by Type 2017

	Pay for a portion of cost to plant cover crops	Lower rent for tenants who plan to plant cover crops	Longer lease for tenants who plan to plant cover crops
Yes	20%	10%	5%
No	25%	7%	9%
Maybe	16%	1%	3%

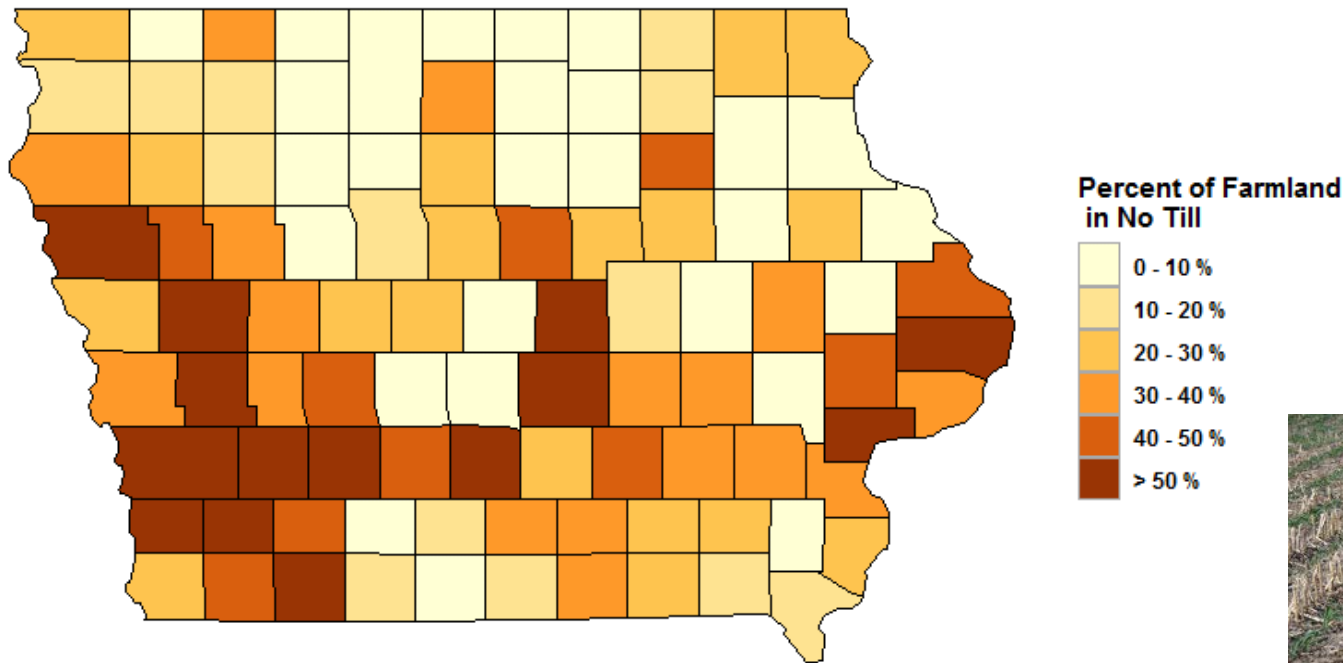
Conservation by Land Tenure



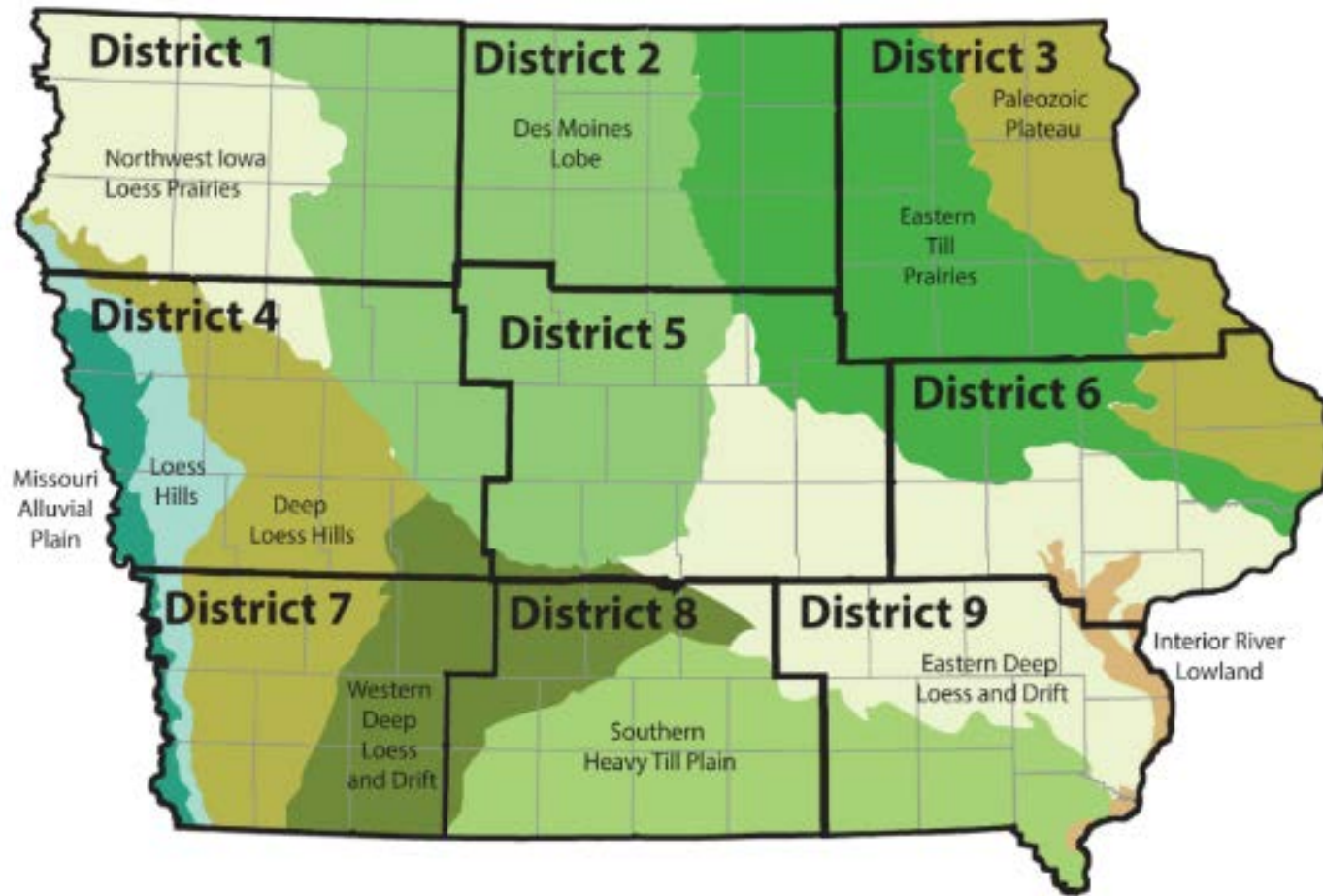
2012 Ag Census: CRP Enrollment



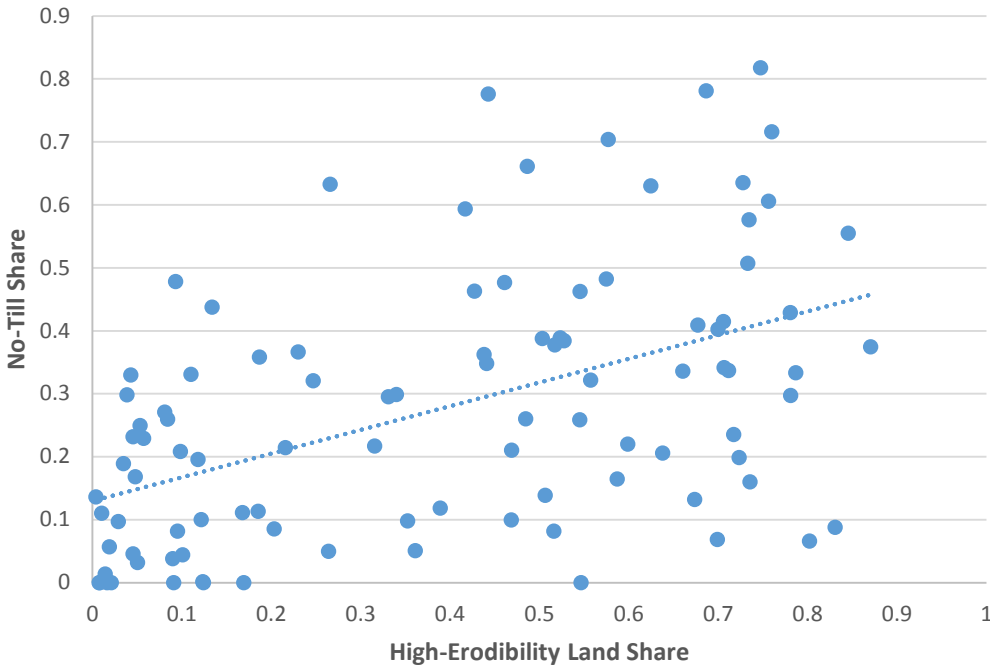
No-Till Use by CRD: State Average 27%



Iowa Major Soil Association



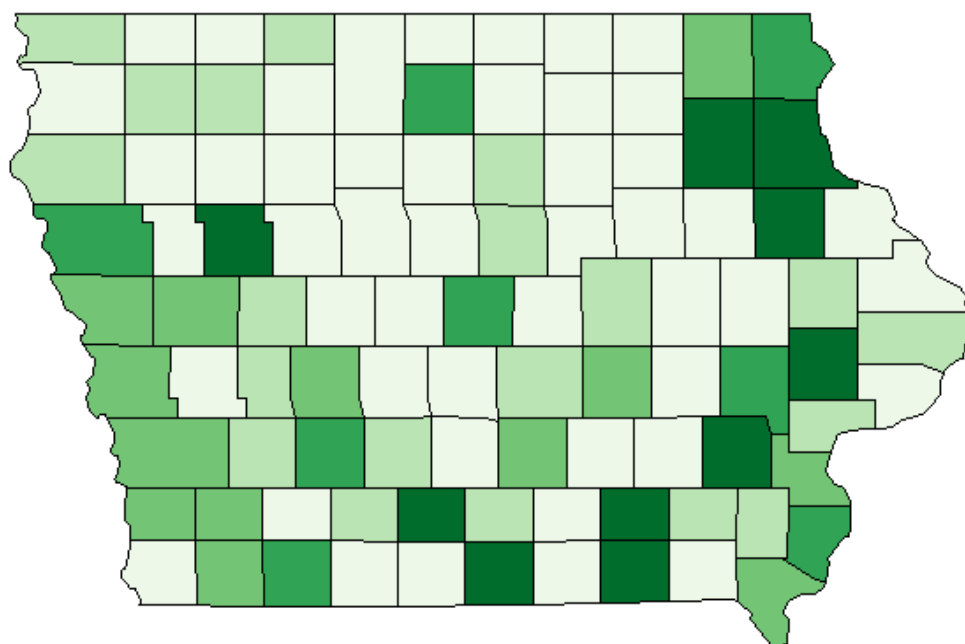
County Share of No Till vs. HEL



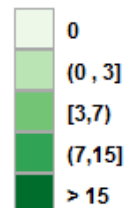
HEL & Part-Time farmer drives no-till

	No-till	Cover crops
Operated – Full time farmer	29%	7%
Rented – Full time farmer	31%	3%
Operated – Part time farmer	13%	3%
Rented – Part time farmer	39%	1%

Cover Crop Use by CRD: State Average 4%



Percent of Farmland
Using Cover Crops



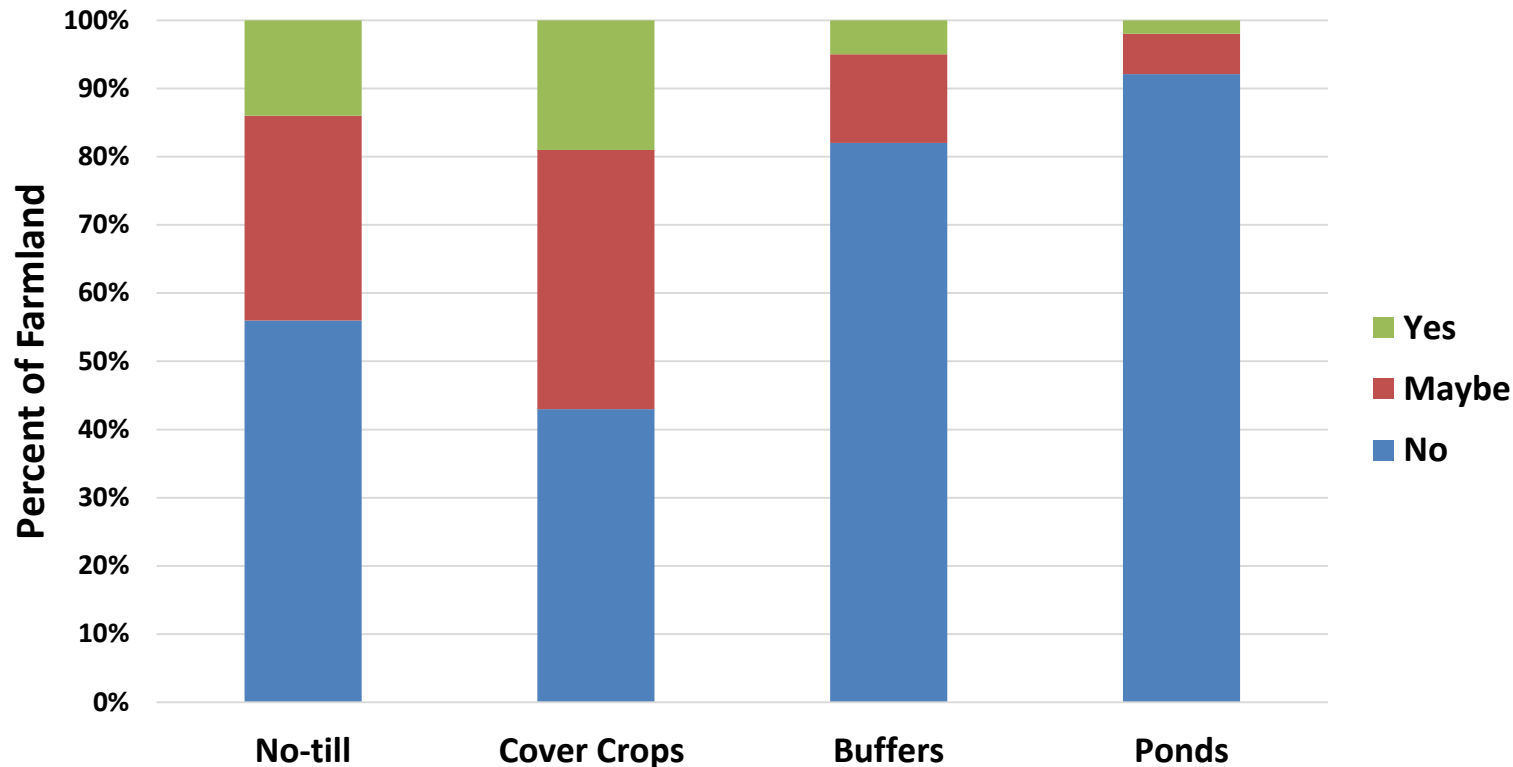
Livestock and Crop Inventory by Crop Reporting District

District	Livestock Inventory - 2012				Acres 2012		Harvested Acres 2017	
	Chickens, Layers	Hogs	Milk Cows	Cattle	Pasture	Timber	Corn	Soybean
Northwest	30%	26%	29%	22%	7%	2%	15%	16%
North Central	64%	16%	4%	6%	4%	4%	14%	13%
Northeast	1%	12%	51%	16%	11%	23%	12%	8%
West Central	0%	13%	1%	13%	10%	7%	15%	16%
Central	3%	13%	1%	7%	8%	8%	15%	14%
East Central	1%	5%	10%	11%	11%	14%	11%	10%
Southwest	0%	2%	0%	9%	12%	5%	8%	10%
South Central	0%	2%	1%	9%	25%	19%	4%	6%
Southeast	1%	11%	3%	6%	12%	19%	7%	8%
Iowa Total	52.2 million	20.4 million	0.17 million	3.8 million	2.5 million	1.2 million	12.9 million	10.0 million

Reasons for Not Using Conservation Practices

- No-till:
 1. Not suitable for land/ soil (19%)
 2. Hurts crop yield (18%)
- Cover crops:
 1. High termination cost (21%)
 2. Too short of a season to plant them (19%)

Likelihood of Using Practices in Next Five Years



Conclusion

- Current use of conservation varies by practice throughout Iowa
- Presence of conservation on rented (vs. owned) land differs by practice
 - More no-till acres
 - Fewer acres with buffers and ponds
- Landowners are open to using cover crops on their land in the future

Thank You!

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