Farming in Northeast Ohio

NEO REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE REGIONAL DAY
May 3, 2006
Jeff S. Sharp

Exurban Change Program
Analyzing Rural-Urban Change
Outline of Presentation

- Background on farming in Northeast Ohio
  - Changes in Farming, 1997-2002
  - Farming, Sales, and Economy

- Challenges & Opportunities for NE Ohio Agriculture
  - Farmland Preservation
  - Local Food System Development
Structural Change in Agriculture

• Changes in Farm Size
  – Persistent decline of medium size farms
  – Increase of both large and small farms

• Increased Share of Production occurring on Largest Farms

• Upstream and downstream consolidation, concentration and globalization
  – Growing role of transnational supermarket chains
Change in Farms, 1997-2002

• 2002 Ag. Census Data
  – # of Farms in Ohio declined by 1.2% from 1997-2002
  – # of Farms in NE Ohio actually increased by nearly 6% from 1997-2002
    • Substantial decline in medium sized farms
    • Substantial increase in farms of less the 50 acres
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Rank</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Sales (000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>$ 158,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>$ 97,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>$ 72,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>$ 69,046</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Huron</td>
<td>$ 66,397</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>$ 50,232</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>$ 46,354</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Columbiana</td>
<td>$ 43,559</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>$ 40,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>Sales (000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Ashtabula</td>
<td>$39,934</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Erie</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>Trumbull</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Mahoning</td>
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<td>62</td>
<td>Portage</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>Geauga</td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>$18,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>$11,044</td>
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</table>
County Profile: Wayne

- One of Ohio’s top producing Agricultural Counties (3rd in sales of 88)
- Substantial Livestock Production (Dairy)
- Diversity of other farm enterprises
- Home of OARDC & ATI
- Modest processing sector
- Future concern: Land use—Effect of population growth from north and east
County Profile: Lake

- Substantial sales from agriculture (11th highest of Ohio’s 88)
- In 1997, ranked #27th nationally in total sales from Nursery and Greenhouse sales (Lorain county ranked 37th)
- Substantial sales from Ag., despite relatively small number of farms, relatively small size of farms, and relatively little of total county’s land area in farmland
Other Economic Considerations

• **Role of processing**
  – Although sales from agriculture may be low in more urban NE counties, noteworthy presence of food processing
    • Summit & Stark County for example

• **Specialty and Recreational Functions**
  – Geauga: Substantial presence of horses (no good data); presence of Amish
Farmland Preservation and Growth in NE Ohio
FARMING ON THE EDGE
Sprawling Development Threatens America's Best Farmland
Ohio

Legend:
- Red: High-Quality Farmland & High Development
- Green: High-Quality Farmland & Low Development
- Brown: Federal & Indian Lands
- Gray: Urban Areas
- Orange: Other Lands

Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Small Cities*</th>
<th>Large Cities*</th>
<th>Townships</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>0.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>0.85</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>0.84</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change 1960-2000:
- Village: +11.4%
- Small Cities*: +27.9%
- Large Cities*: -15.2%
- Townships: +33.2%
Township Population Density

- Less than 50 persons/sq. mile
- 50 - 100 persons/sq. mile
- 100 - 500 persons/sq. mile
- 500 or more persons/sq. mile

1960 1980 2000
Future of Farming at RU Interface?

• Decline?
  – Impermanence Syndrome—farmers disinvest in agriculture and eventually exit due to urban pressure and population pressure

• Persistence?
  – Creative adaptations that overcome urban pressure and even capitalize on urban proximity
Local Food Systems and Agricultural Development
Local Food System Development

• Nationally and in Ohio, growing interest in local food system development
  – CSAs, Farmers Markets, U-pick
  – Organic Ag., National alternative grocery stores, etc.
  – Food security, food access, health nutrition
Local Food System Development in Northeast Ohio

- New Farmer Program/CVNP
- Farmers Market Development
- Local Foods Directory for Northeast Ohio

http://www.cvcountryside.org/
Farmland Center

• Project of Western Reserve RC&D

• Focus on Farmland Preservation and Ag. Viability in Western Reserve Region

http://www.thefarmlandcenter.org/index.html
• Cleveland City Fresh Community Foods Project
• Nutrition Education & Quality Food Access
• OSU Extension, Oberlin Center for Ecological Design
Mission  To enable Ohio local governments to achieve farmland policy priorities by partnering on innovative projects and providing needed programming.

Become an Affiliate  We want to hear from interested local governments, land trusts, and other potential partners so we can exchange information, provide updates, communicate grant and training opportunities, share the progress of demonstration projects, and explore project ideas with you. Send your contact information via mail, e-mail, or by telephone.

614.247.6479  cffpi@osu.edu

http://cffpi.osu.edu
Take-away Points

• Two types of farming emerging
  – Production & Lifestyle
• Serious urban pressures in NE Ohio impact both availability of farmland and type of farming that can take place
• Several exciting local food system projects across NE Ohio
  – Implications for consumer quality of life as well as prospects for preserving farmland and farmers.
Exurban Change Program
Analyzing Rural-Urban Change

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