

## Agricultural land lost to development in Ohio

Ani Katchova, Professor and Farm Income Enhancement Chair

### Key Issue: ag land loss in Ohio

- According to the Census of Agriculture, Ohio has lost 930,000 acres of farmland and 18,000 farms in the past 20 years, a key concern for agricultural stakeholders.
- Increasing interest and demands for information on what role development played into the ag land loss.

**Data sources:** Census of Agriculture, the National Land Cover Database (NLCD)

### Definitions:

- Land in farms-** Agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing, including woodland and wasteland and land in conservation programs (Census of Ag)
- Ag land-** Cultivated cropland and pasture/hay (NLCD)
- Development-** Low, medium, and high intensity developed areas (e.g., homes, apartments, commercial zones and developed open spaces) (NLCD)

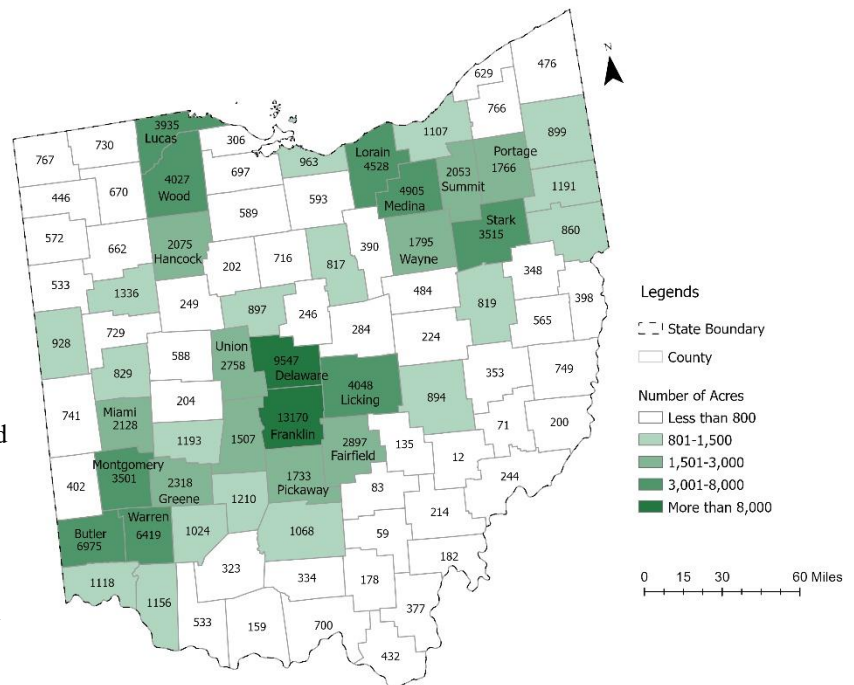


Figure: Agricultural land lost to development by county (in acres)

### 1

#### Key Statistics

- 270 thousand acres (representing 2%) of ag land lost over the last 20 years in Ohio
- 48% of ag land loss (128 thousand acres) in Ohio was converted to development
- 1% of the ag land in Ohio was developed.
- 55% of the 1.6 million acres of ag land lost in Midwestern states was due to development
- Ohio ranks close to the middle among 8 Midwestern states in terms of ag land lost to development in terms of acres and percent of ag land that was converted to development.

#### Impact across regions in Ohio

- Ohio's 14 MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) account for 78% of the agricultural land lost to development, Columbus MSA with the highest loss (38,000 acres)
- Franklin County accounted for 40% (13,000 acres) of Ohio's total ag land converted to developed land
- The City of Columbus had the largest loss of ag land to development within its city limits and up to 3 miles beyond, totaling about 20,000 acres.

Handout written by Ani Katchova and Mujahidul Islam.

### 2

#### Key Takeaways

- The acres lost and percent ag land lost to development are much larger for the MSAs than non MSAs
- Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland as MSAs lead the state in terms of conversion of ag land to development
- City of Columbus ranks the highest in terms of ag land lost to development near its city boundary.

### 3

#### Policy Implications

- Ohio's agricultural land loss is only half due to development.
- Identifying factors beyond development is crucial to understanding Ohio's agricultural land loss
- Policies on agricultural land loss may vary between MSA and non-MSA areas.
- Columbus city deserves special attention to protect ag land as the conversion of ag to developed land is most pronounced

#### Publication list

- Islam, Katchova, Zulauf. "[Agricultural Land Lost to Development in Ohio.](#)" Report, Department of AEDE, The Ohio State University.
- Islam, Katchova, Zulauf. "[Agricultural Land Lost to Development in the Midwest.](#)" farmdoc daily (14):144.
- Katchova, Baral, Ju, Zulauf, "[Number of Farms and Land in Farms in the Midwest.](#)" farmdoc daily (14): 140.
- Katchova, Fang, Ju. "[Ohio Farm Numbers, Land in Farms, and Agricultural Land Lost to Development.](#)" Report, Department of AEDE, The Ohio State University.