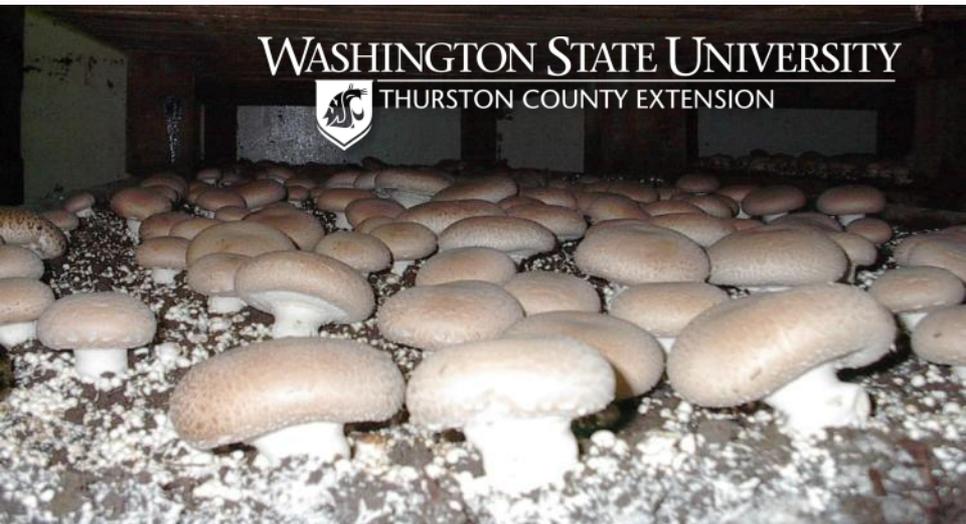


Agriculture

A Cornerstone of Thurston County's Economy



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
THURSTON COUNTY EXTENSION



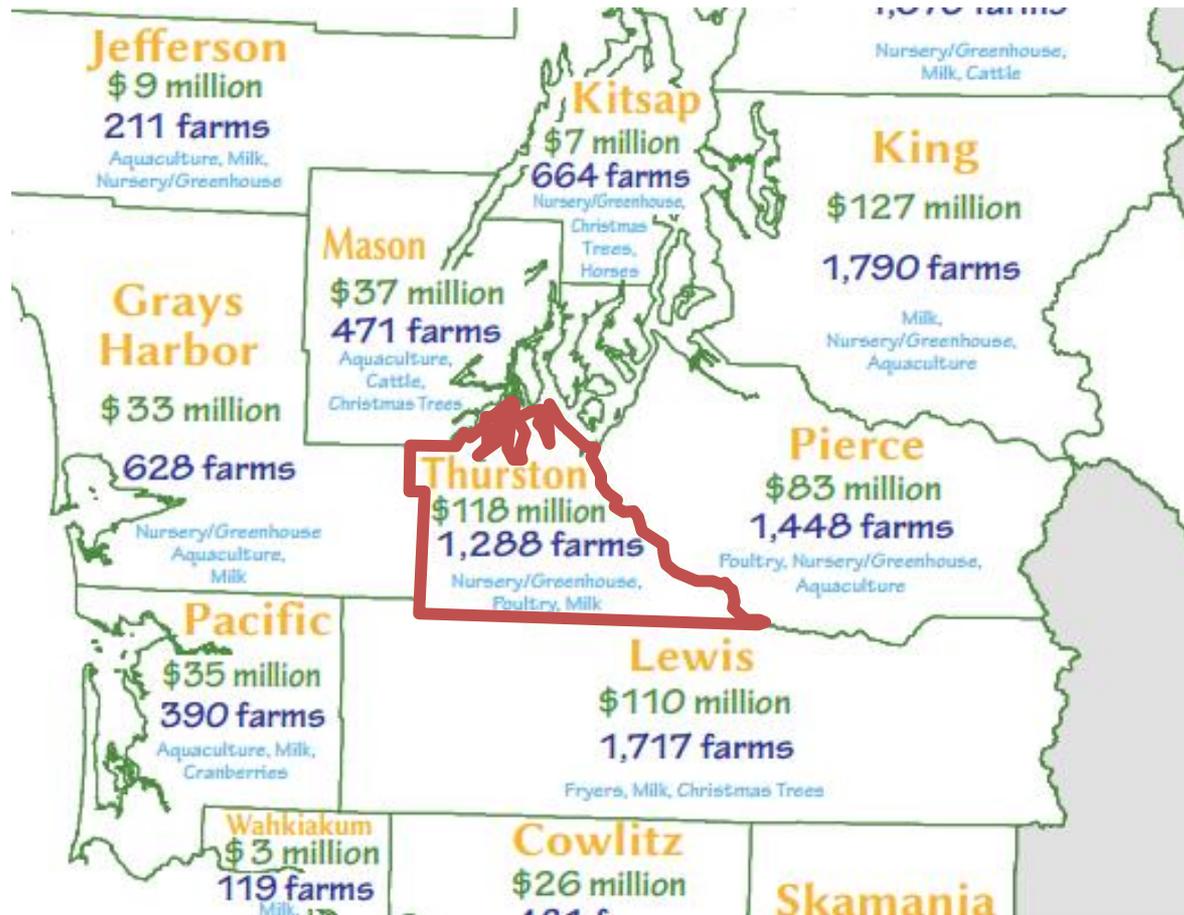
Basic Agricultural Characteristics, 2007

Number of Farms (<i>WWA Rank</i>)	1,288 (<i>5th</i>)
Land in Farms	68,247 ac*
Average Size of Farm (<i>State Avg</i>)	63 ac (<i>381 ac</i>)
Market Value of Products Sold (<i>WWA Rank</i>)	\$117,885,000 (<i>5th</i>)

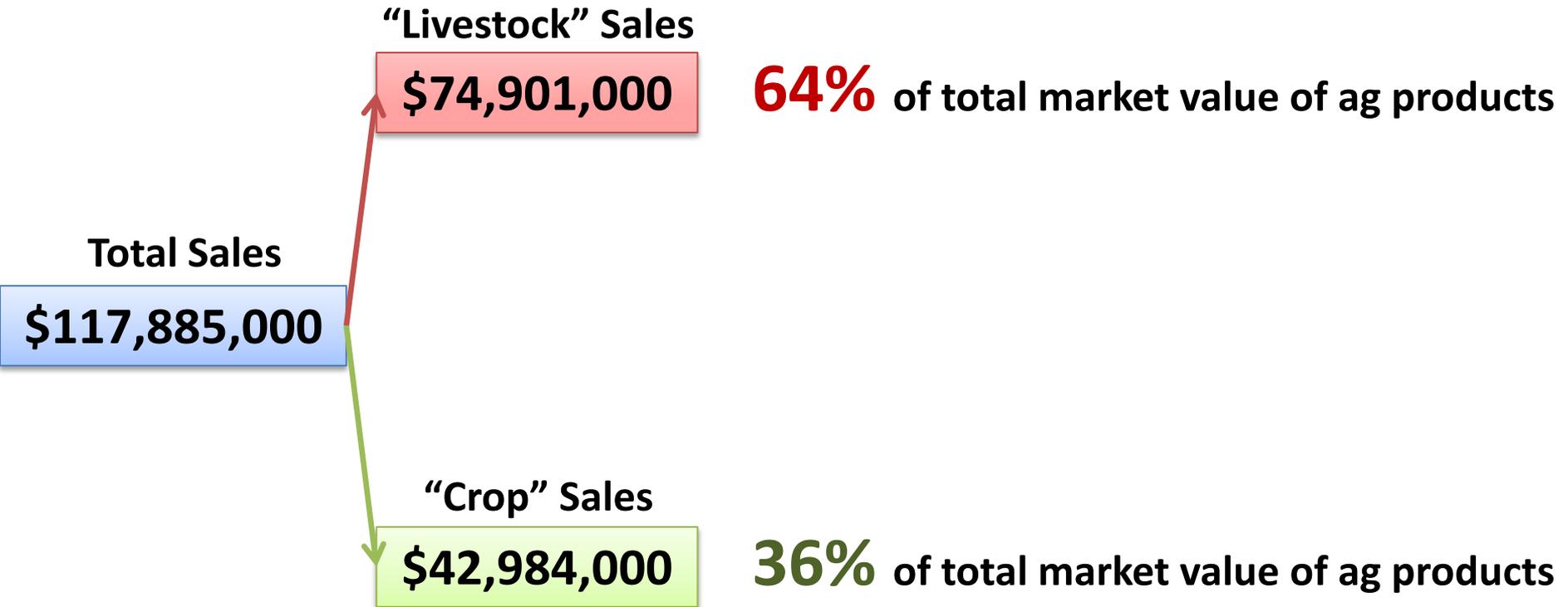
*SSCFLT calculated 68,247 farmland acres in 2009 inventory, which contrasts with the USDA-NASS figure of 80,617 ac.

A **farm** is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." - USDA

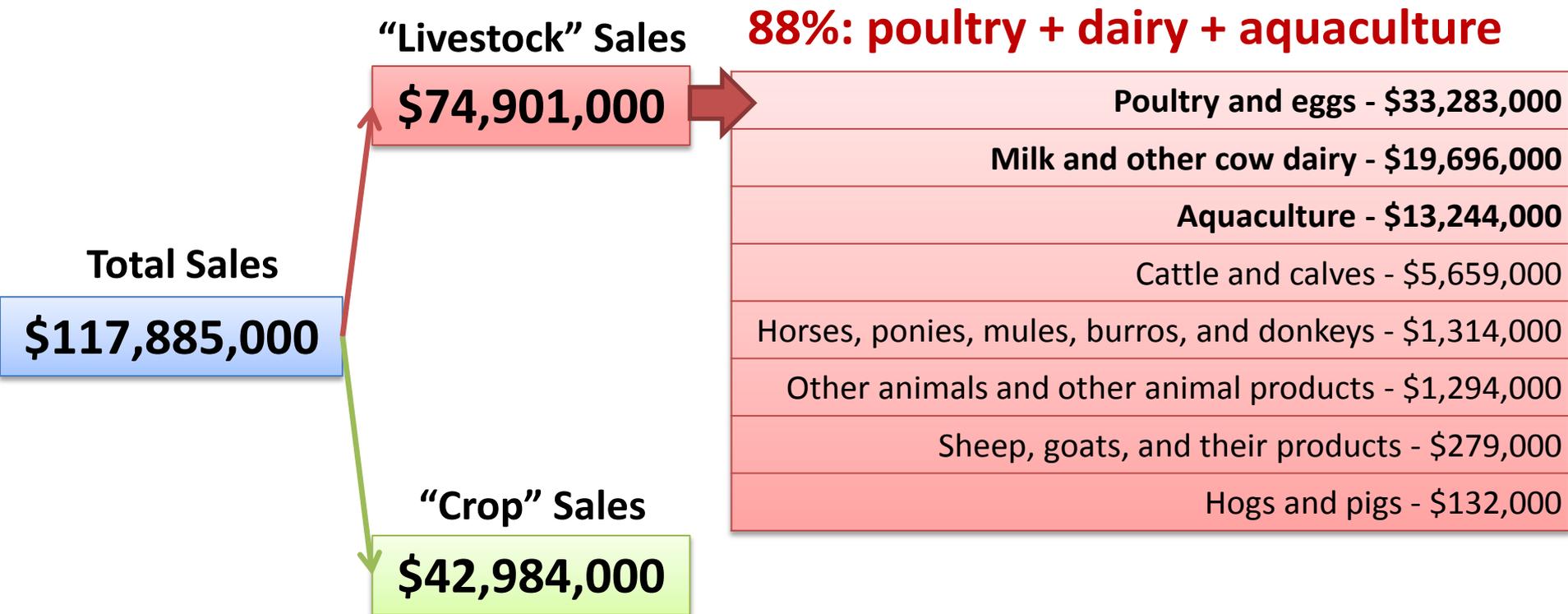
Our Neighbors, 2007



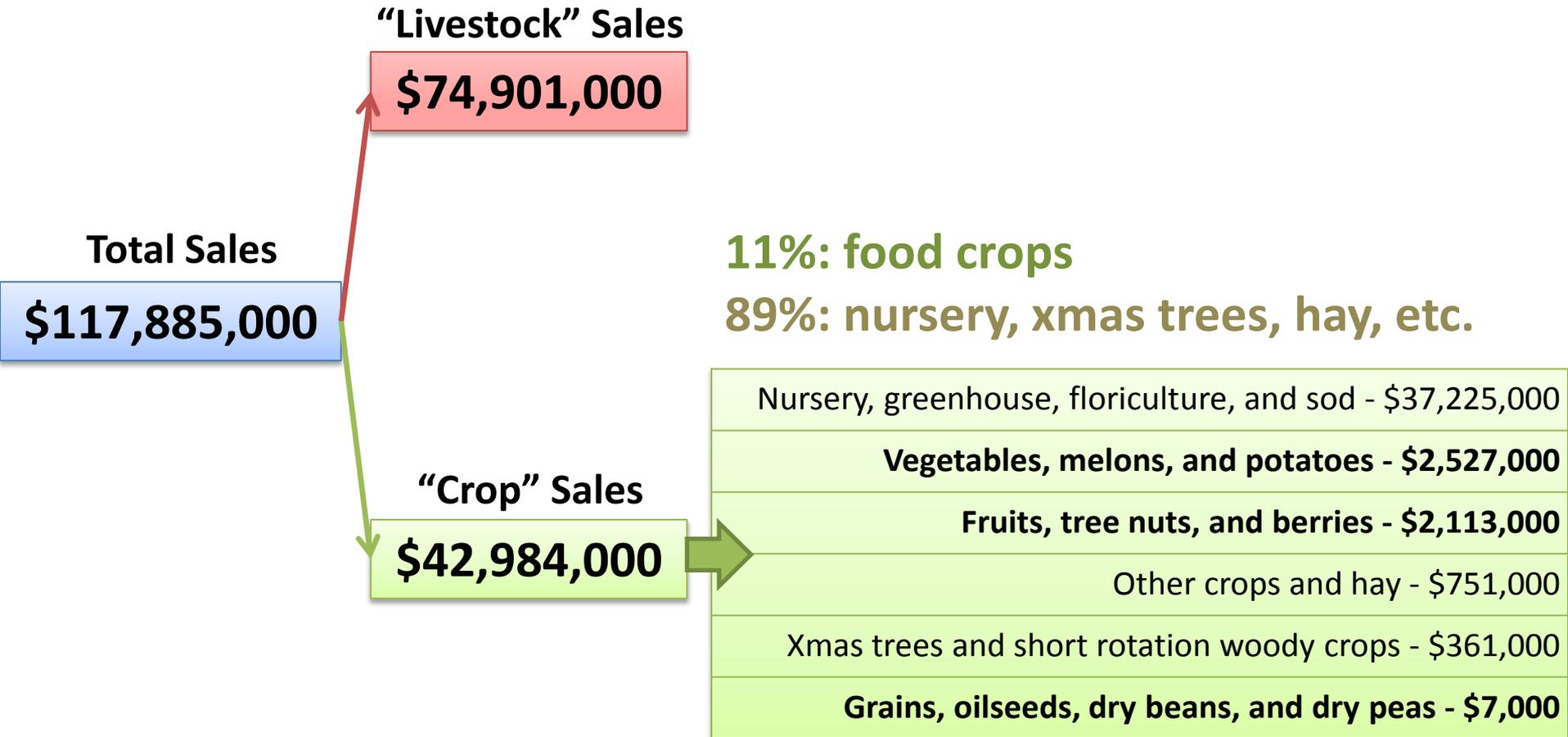
Basic Agricultural Characteristics, 2007



Basic Agricultural Characteristics, 2007



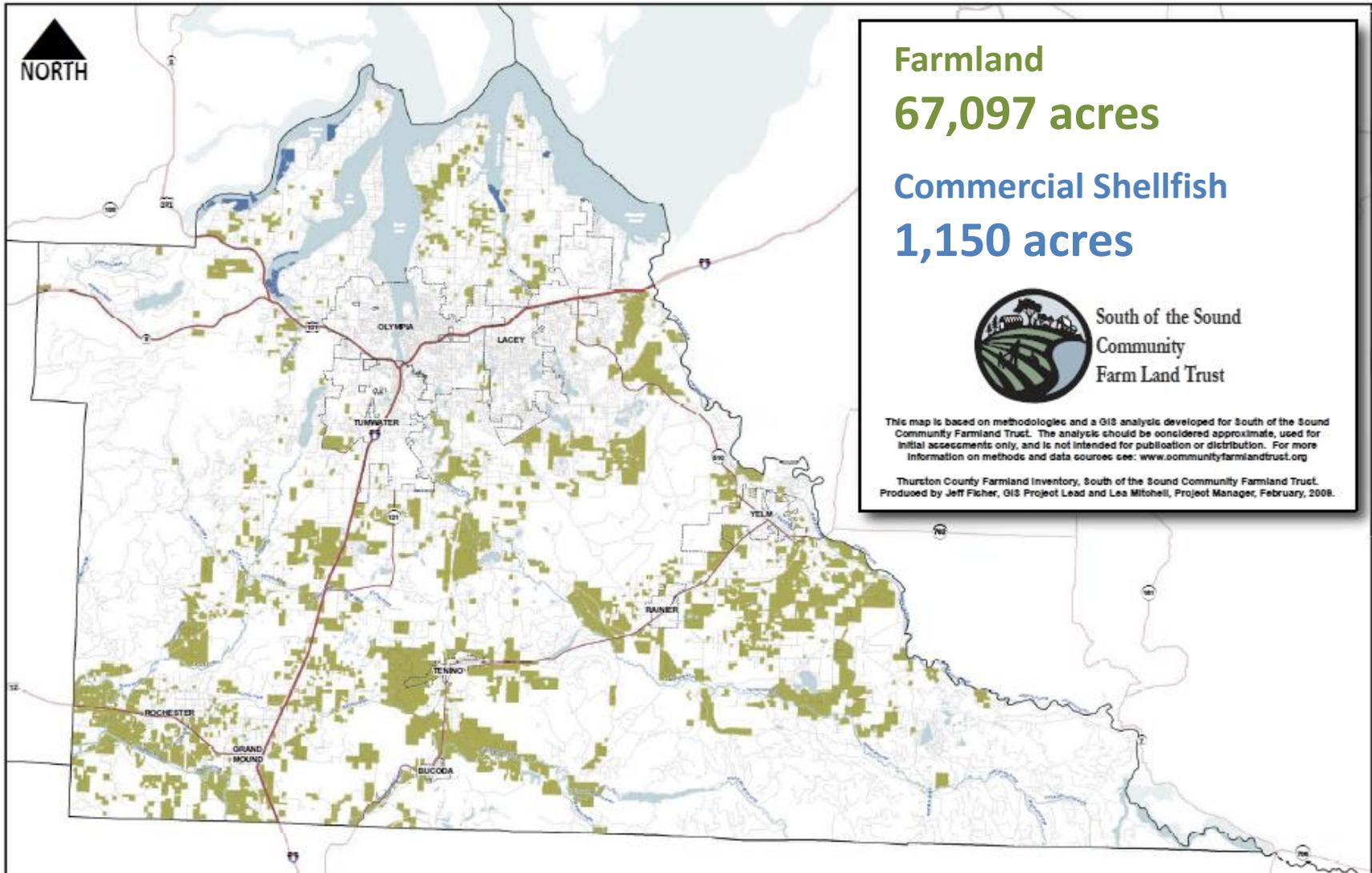
Basic Agricultural Characteristics, 2007



Market Value of Agricultural Products, 2007

Commodity	Value	State Rank
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	\$37,225,000	3
Poultry and eggs	\$33,283,000	3
Milk and other dairy products from cows	\$19,696,000	10
Aquaculture	\$13,244,000	4
Cattle and calves	\$5,659,000	20
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	\$2,527,000	15
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	\$2,113,000	18

Farmland in Thurston Co., 2009



Land-use Trends

- Farmland loss from 1950-2008: **-90,023 ac**

Source: Thurston County Farmland Inventory, 2009, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust

- Farmland, forest stand, shrub landscape loss to urban landscapes from 1991-2006: **-23,500 ac**

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

- Nationally, 91% of our fruit and 78% of our vegetables are produced in urban-influenced areas. (*Flat land and well-drained soils grow buildings as well as veggies*)

Source: American Farmland Trust

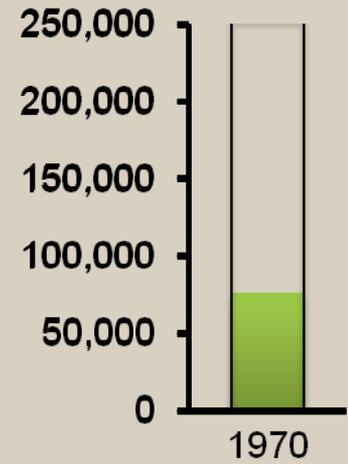
- 140,000 additional people to reside in Thurston Co. in 25 years, how will we protect agricultural resources?

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

1970

Puget Sound

Population



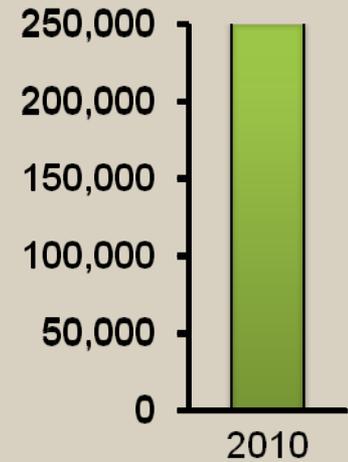
Legend

- = Houses
- = Commercial Buildings



2010

Population



Legend

● = Houses

● = Commercial Buildings



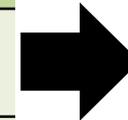
Puget Sound

Land-use Trends

- 75% of the farmland is within three miles of an urban growth boundary
- 50% of the farmland contains, or is adjacent to, important wildlife/fish habitat
- Only about 51% of the farmland is in the open space tax program
- The majority of farmland is not within a Long Term Agricultural zone
- Of the total land in farms, the majority is rented land

Organic Agriculture Trends, 2005-2012

Year	No. of Producers (<i>WWA Rank</i>)	Acres (<i>WWA Rank</i>)
2012	25 (5)	2553 (4)
2011	25 (3)	2694 (5)
2006	19 (4)	2130 (4)
2005	17 (4)	1004 (4)



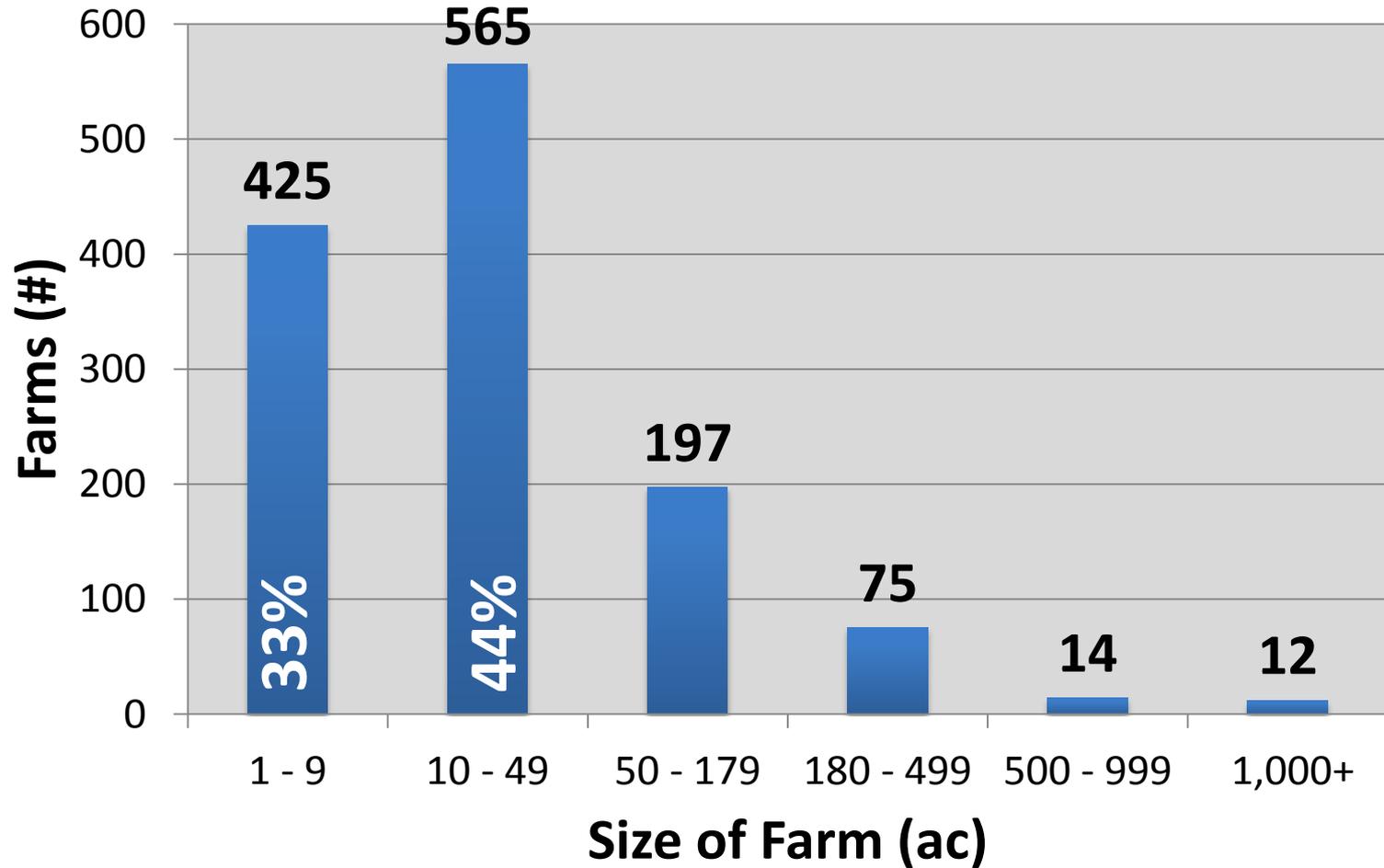
1. Skagit
2. Whatcom
3. King = Lewis

2005–2012

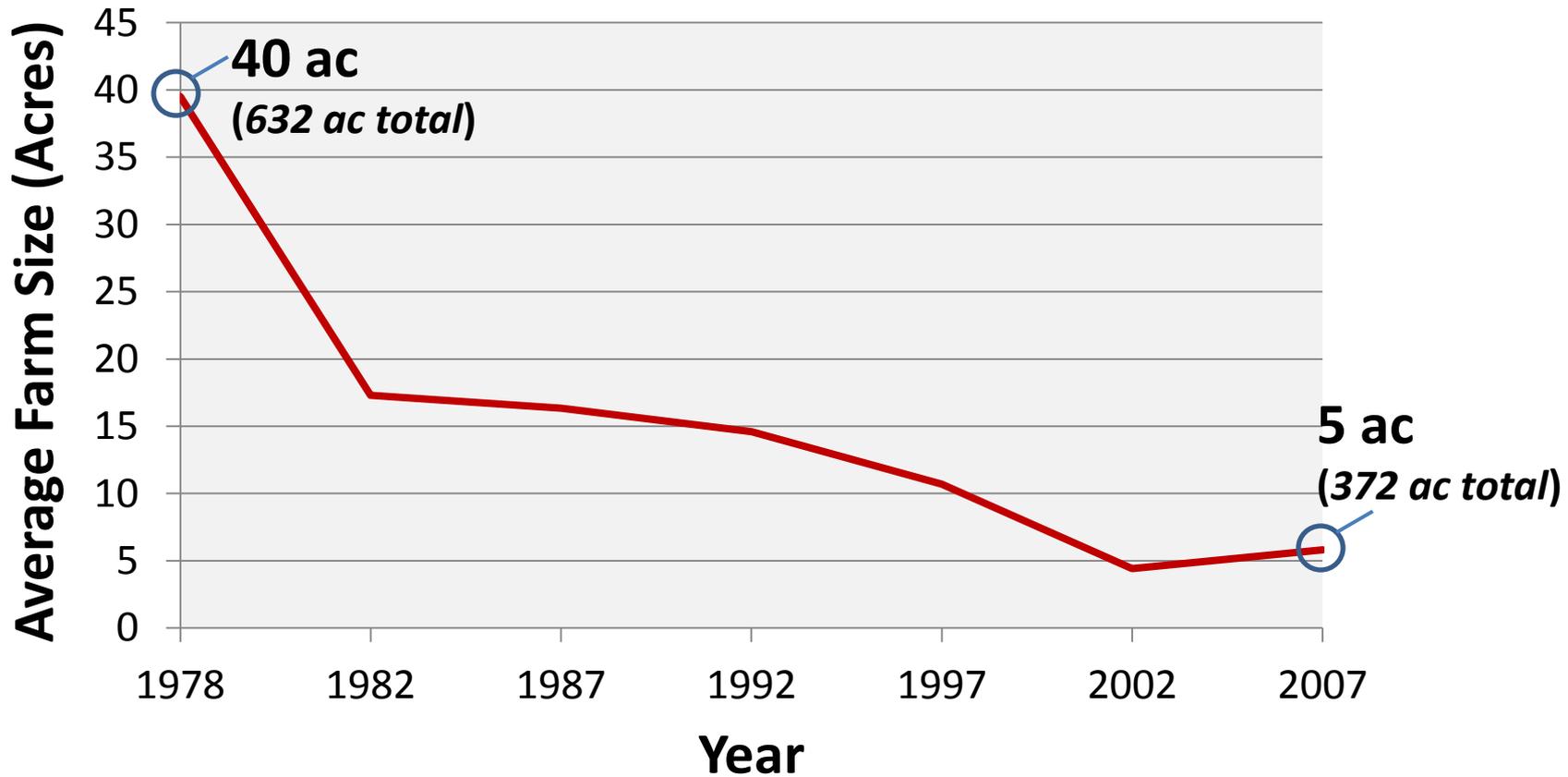
> Organic farms increased 1.5X

> Organic acres increased 2.5X

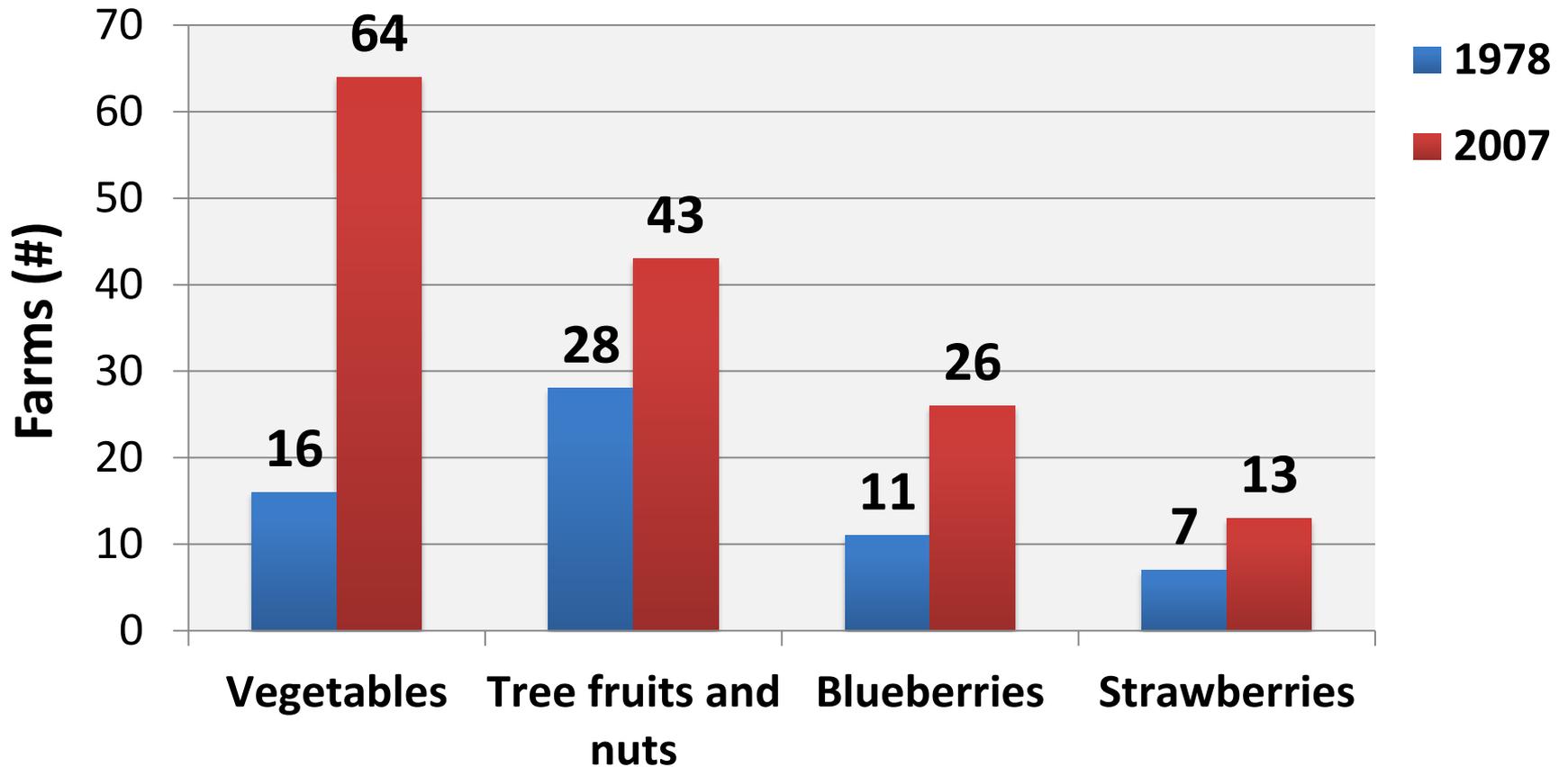
Land in Farms by Size of Farm, 2007



Average Vegetable Farm Size, 1978-2007



Number of Farms, 1978 vs. 2007



Thank You!

Lucas Patzek, Director & Agriculture Extension Faculty

