


Stay The Course...No New Taxes...Thousand Points Of Light

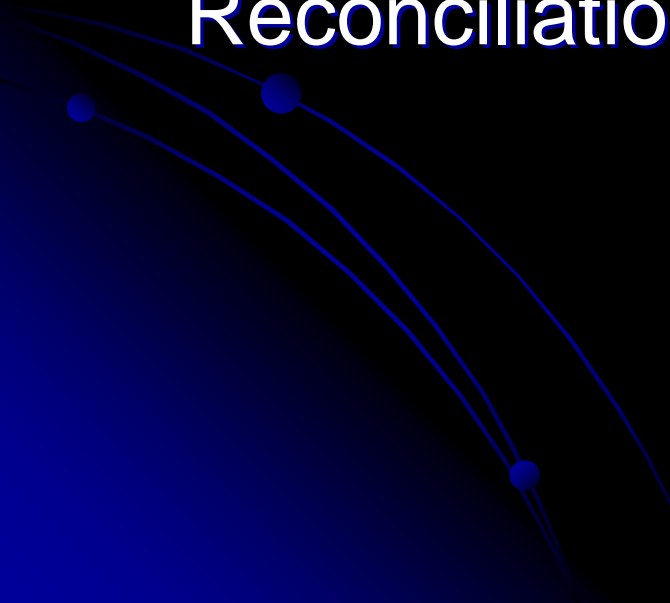


Robert Young
Chief Economist
American Farm Bureau
Federation

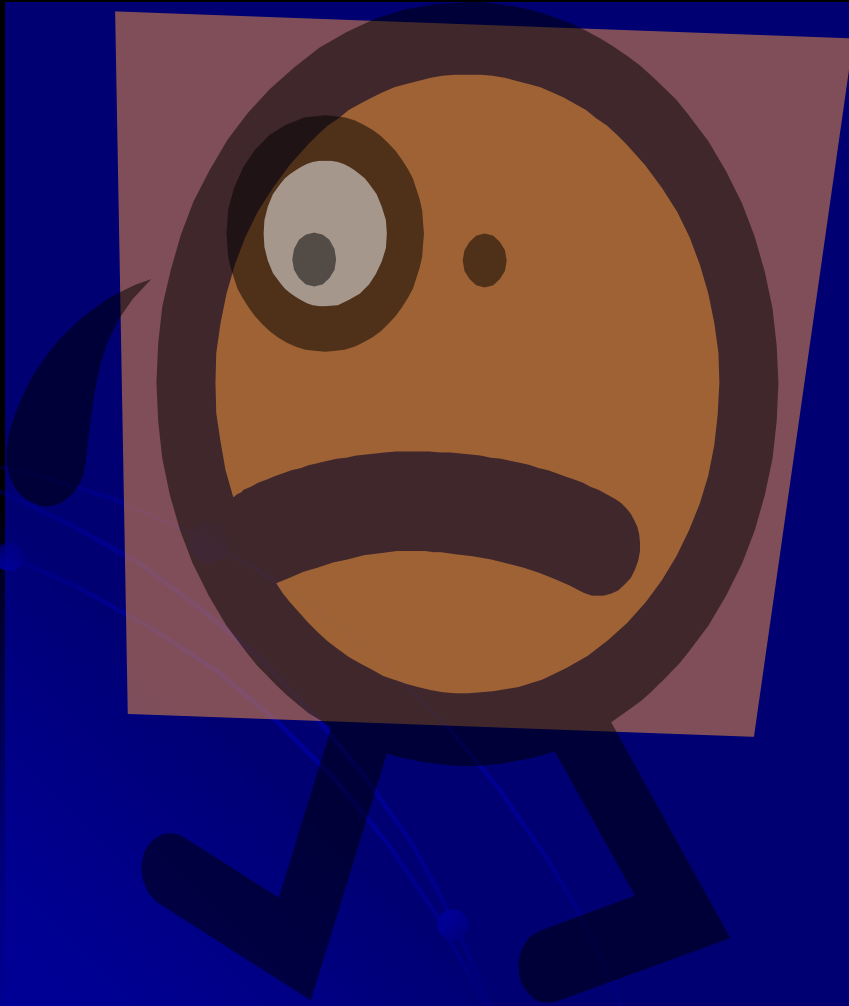
My Fifteen Minutes Of Fame..

- Good To Be Back In North Dakota
 - Probably Been Here More Than Anywhere Else
 - Farm Bureau Membership
 - Tell You What You Want To Hear
 - The Pressures Moving Farm Legislation
 - What You Should Hear
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Farm Bureau Membership

- Significant Number Of Members Probably Want To Keep Current Structure
 - Like Safety Net, Level Of Support
 - Strong Defense Of 2002 Farm Bill In Reconciliation Process
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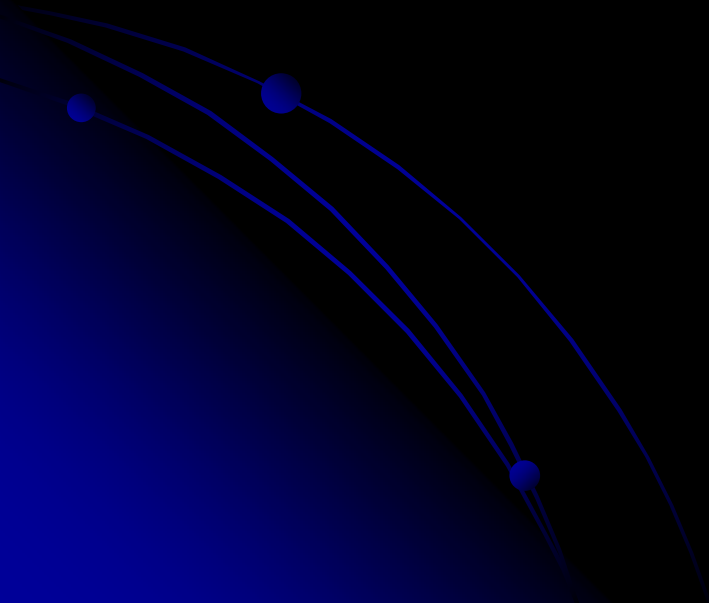
What You Want To Hear...



- The Government Owes Farmers A Living
- Trade Is A Bad Thing
- The Government Should Make All The Other Guys Production Decisions
- We Can't Compete

The Pressures Moving...

- Domestic Budgetary Pressures
- International Trade Agreements
- Structure Of Agriculture Today

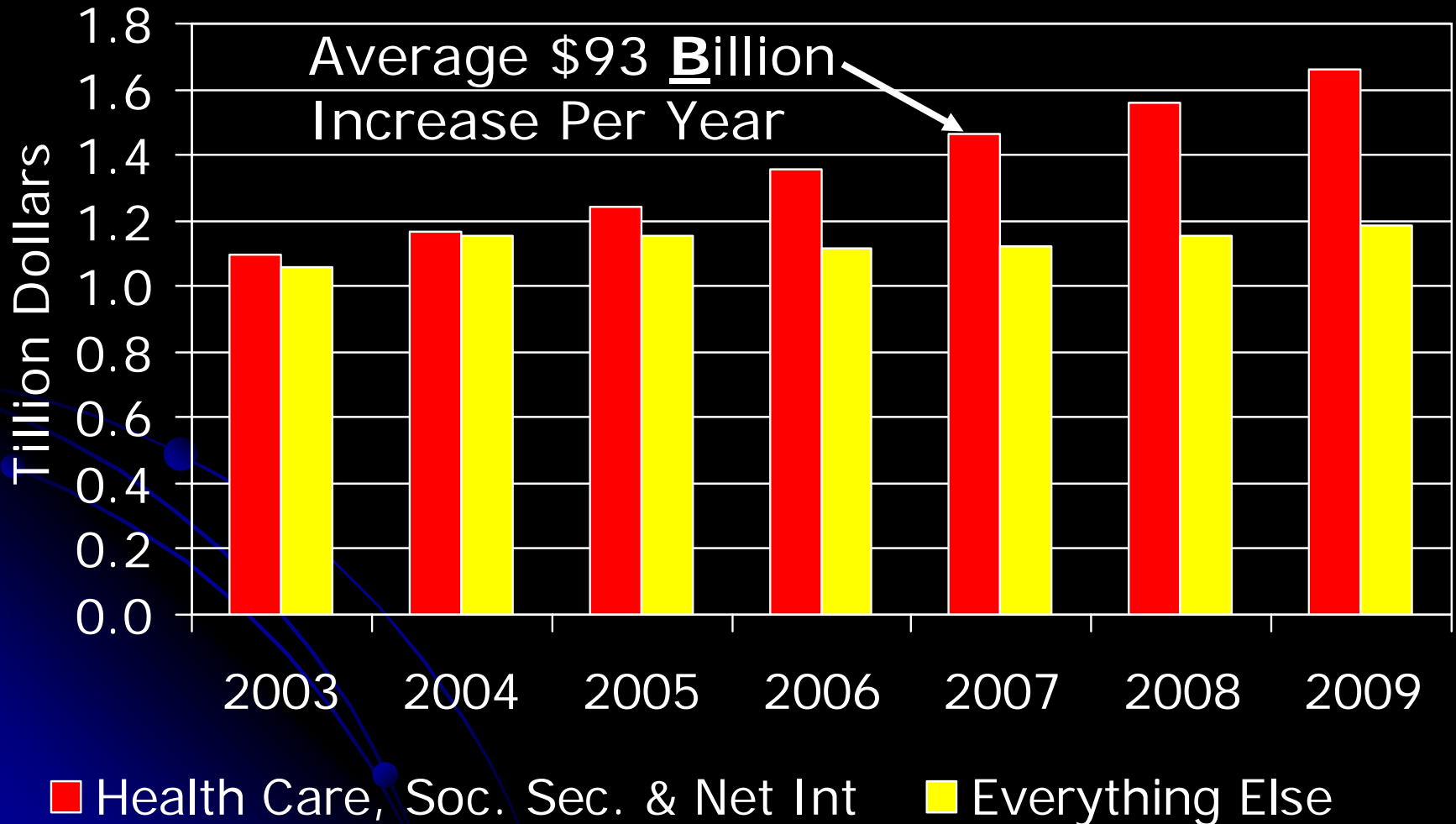


The One-Handed Federal Budget

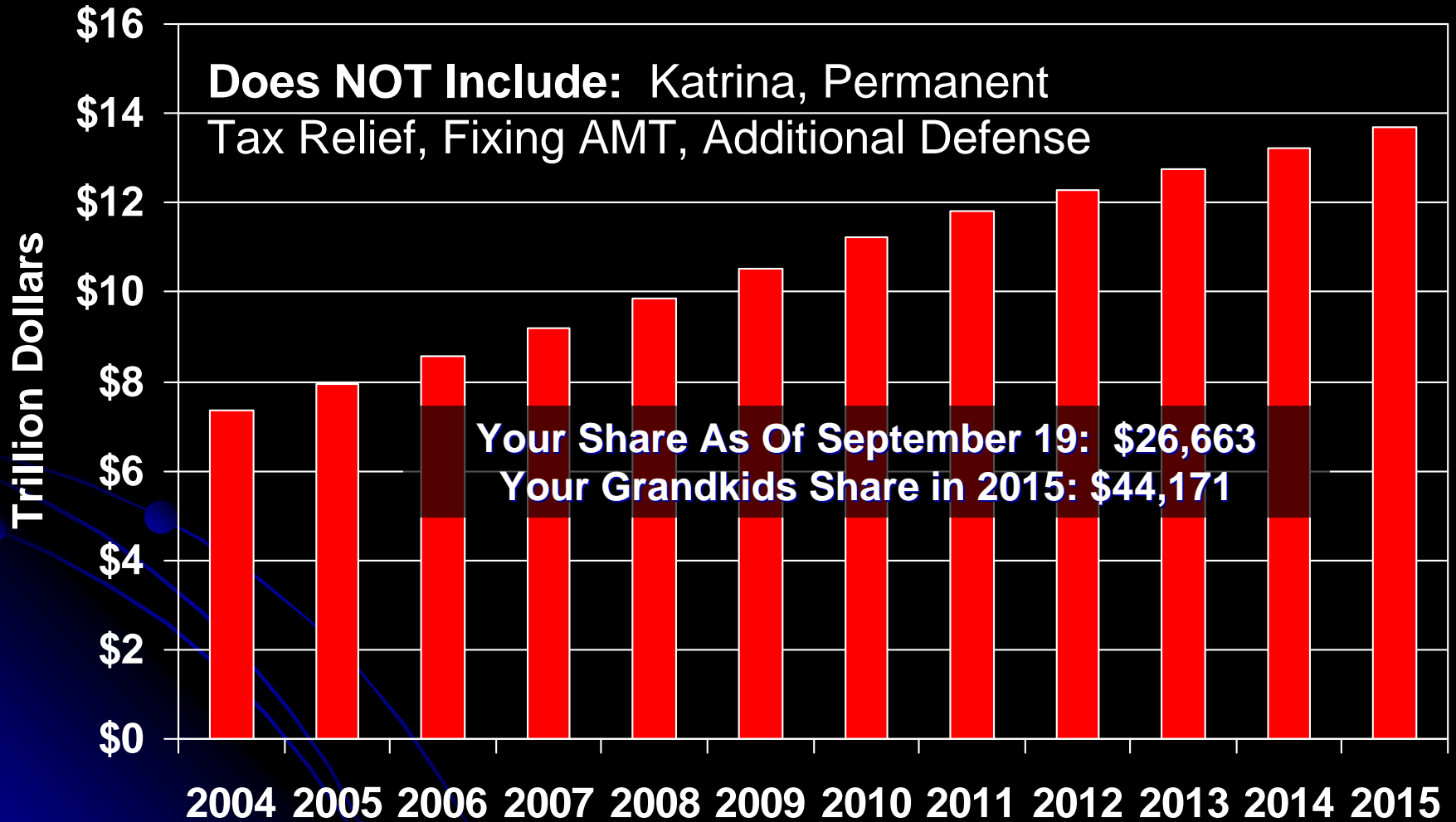


Department	Billion Dollars
Defense	\$486
Social Security	\$492
Medicare	\$297
Medicaid	\$176
Interest	\$160
Subtotal	\$1,611
Total Fed Budget	\$1,913

Projected Government Spending



Total Federal Debt

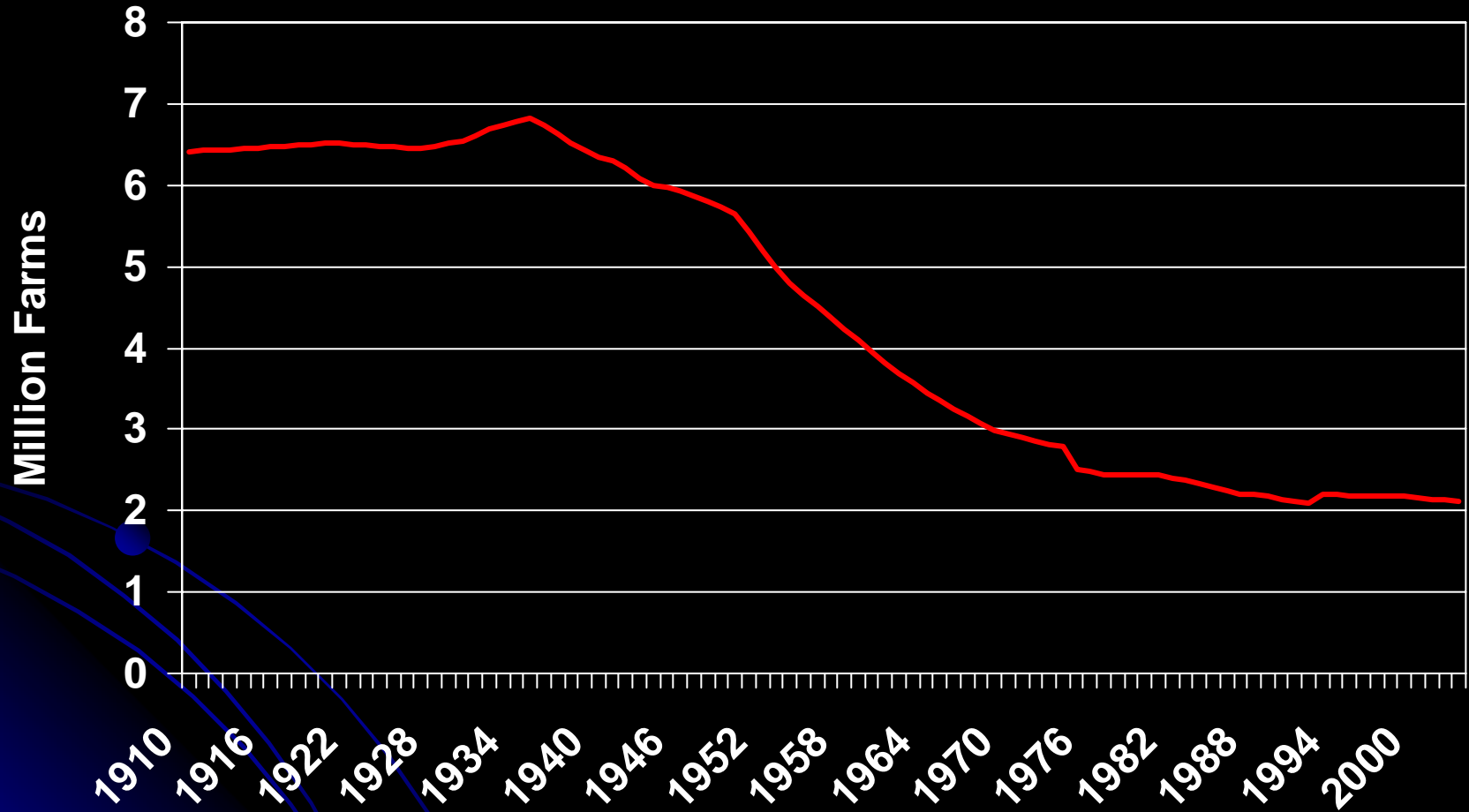


Ag Is But One Of Many..

- Multiple Forces Competing For Federal Dollars
- Social Security, Medicare Or LDP's
- Ag Tends To Be High On Everybody's List For Cuts

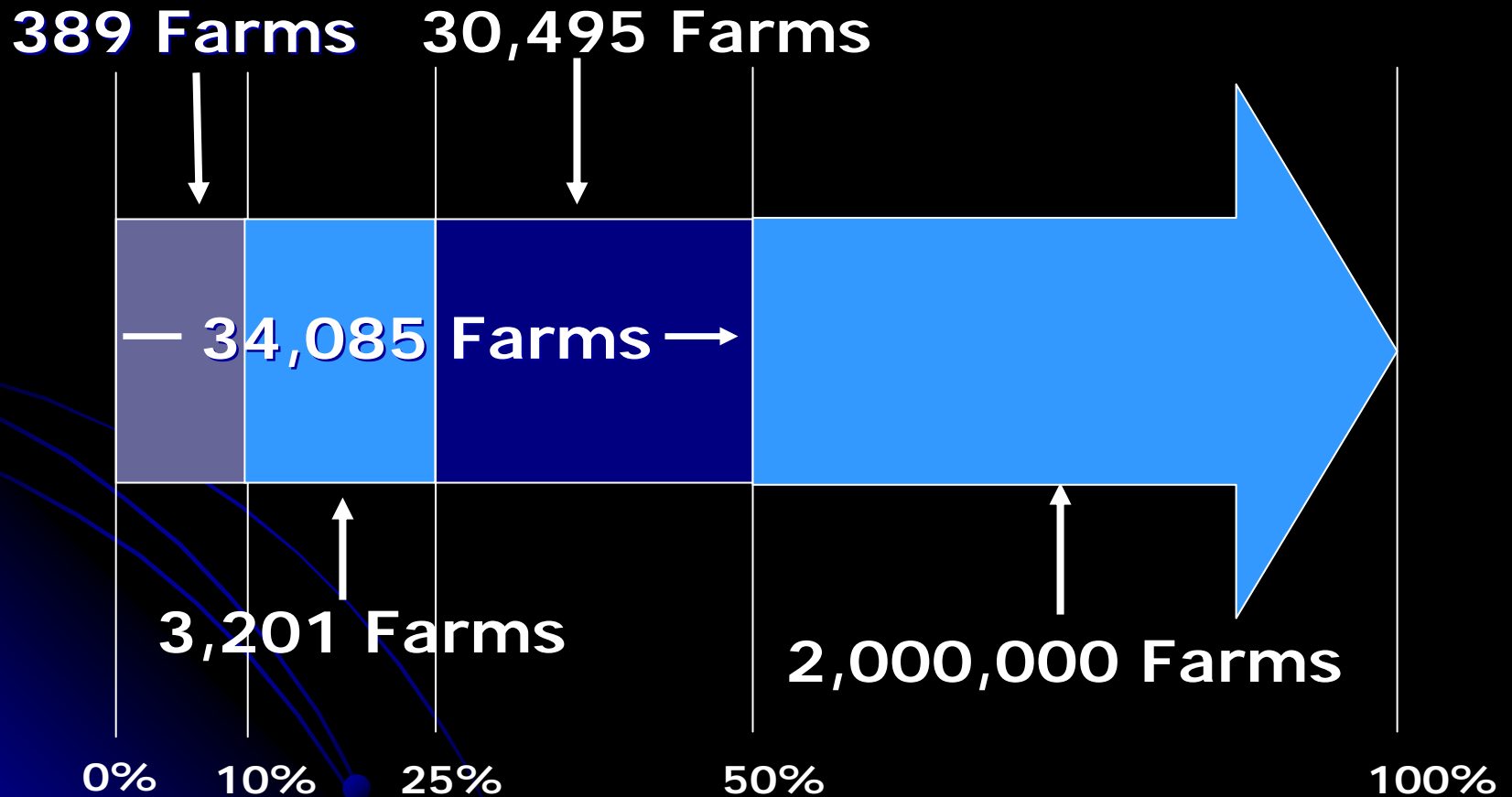


Total Farm Numbers



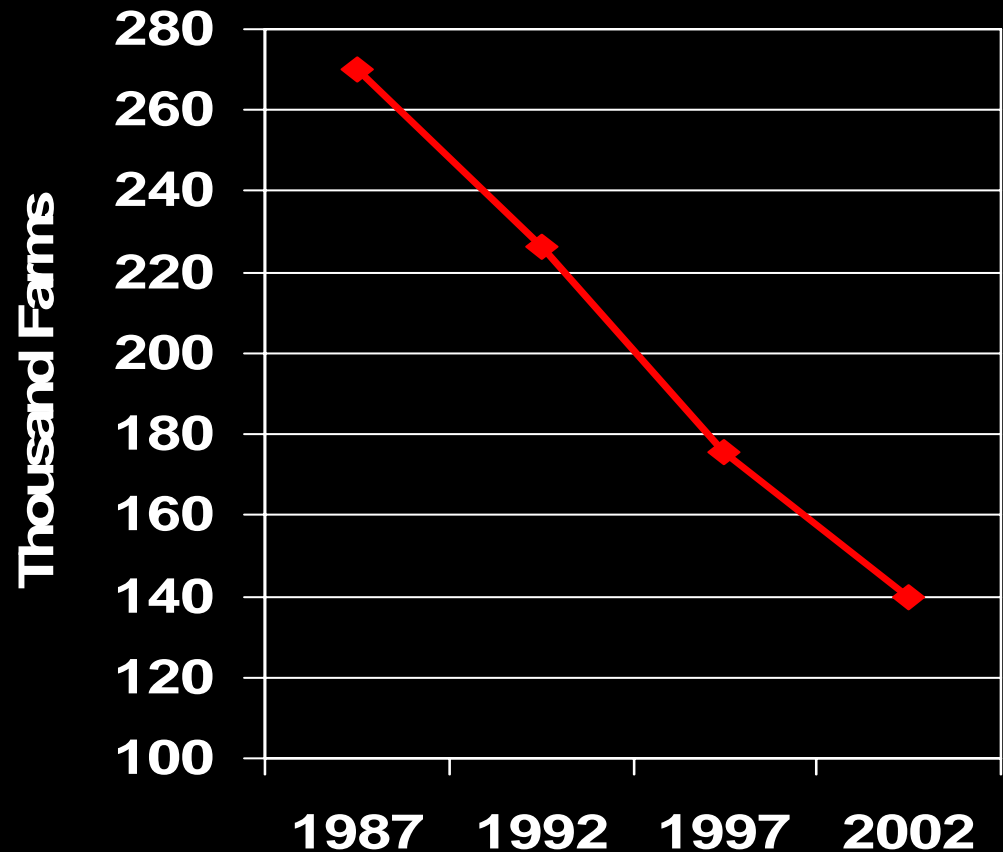
How Many Farms Does It Take?

Value of Ag Output - \$200 Billion

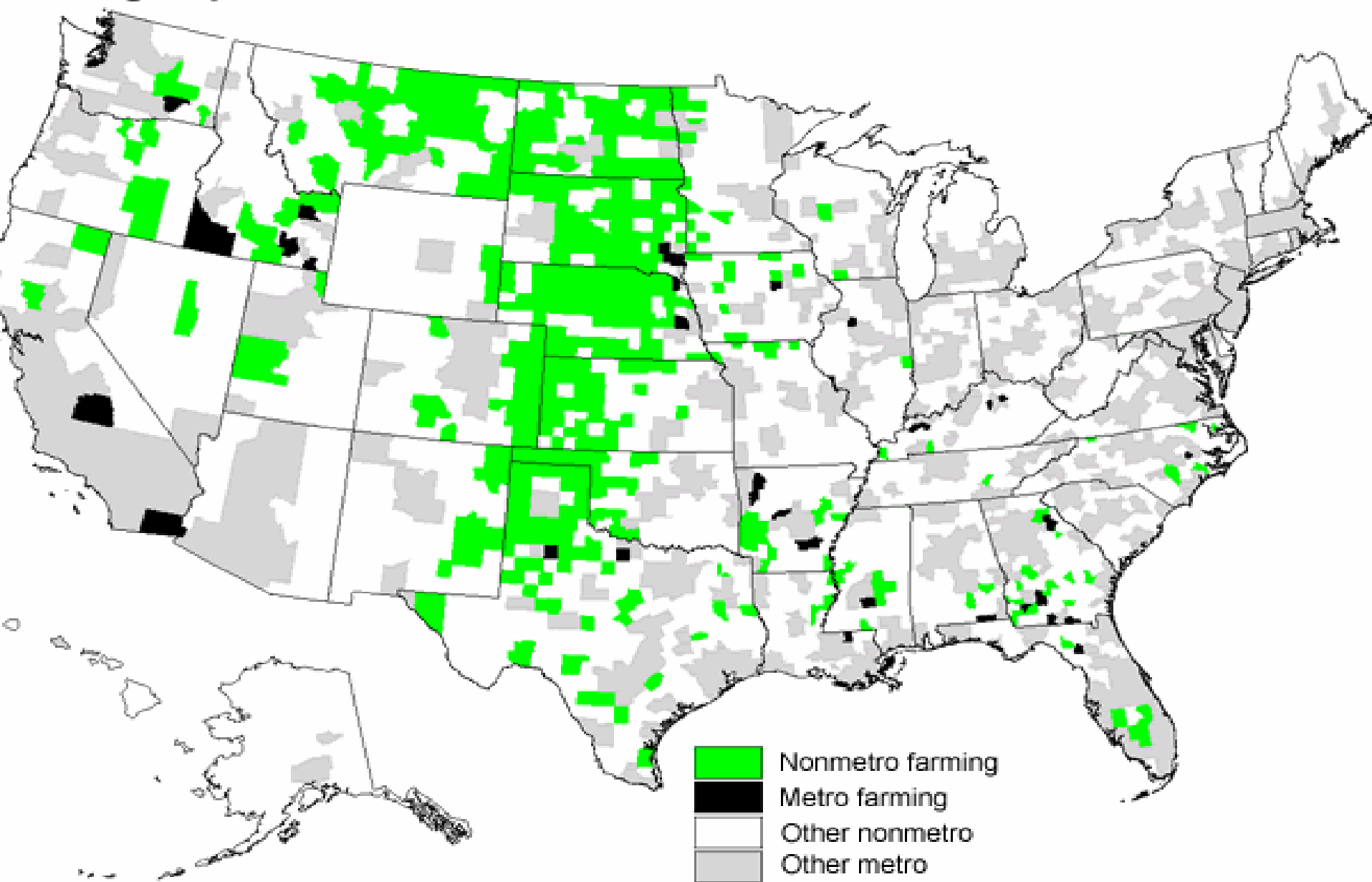


Collapse of the Middle

- Minimum number of farms to produce between 25% and 75% of the value of agricultural output



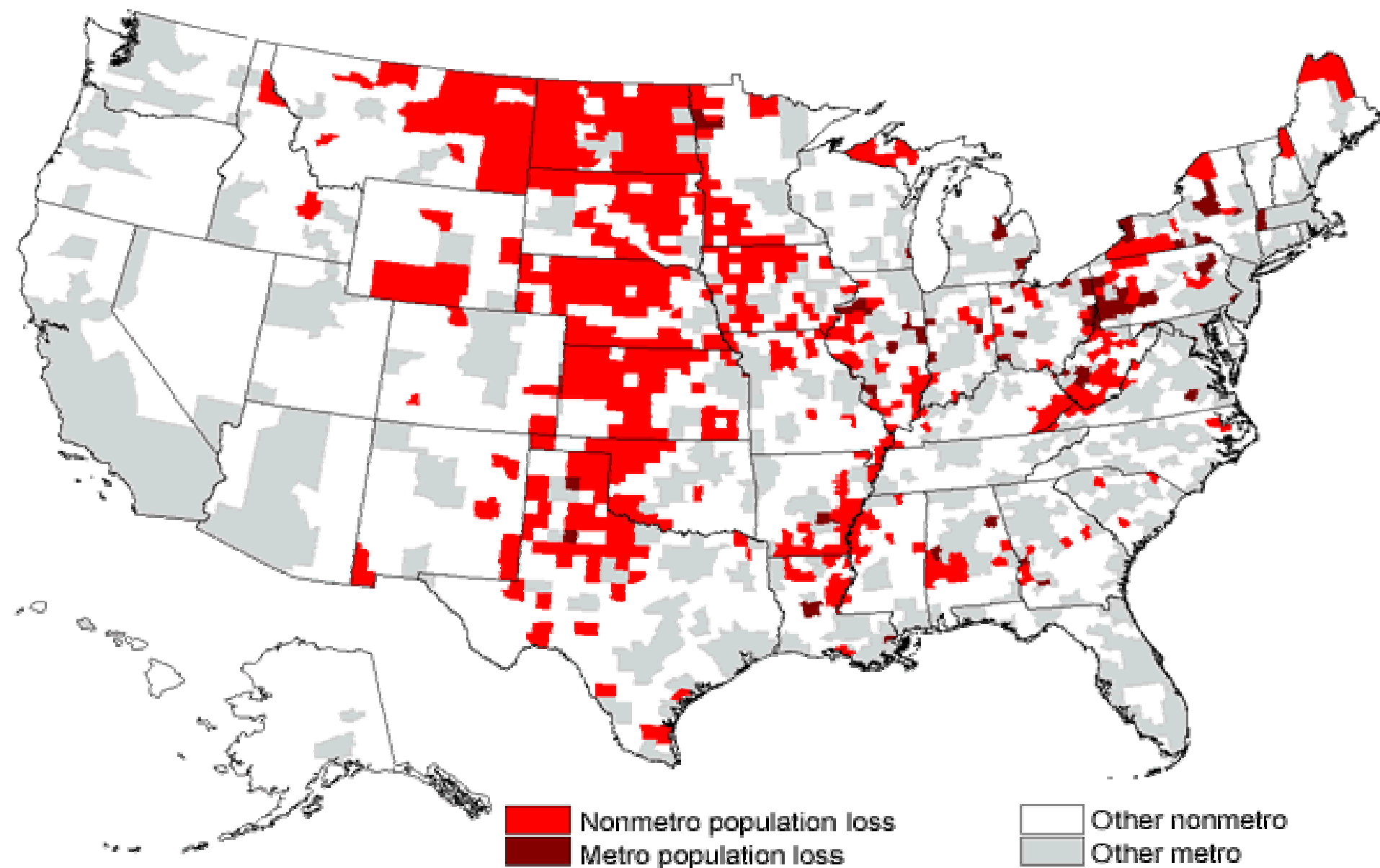
Farming-dependent counties, 1998-2000



Farming-dependent counties—either an annual average of 15 percent or more total county earnings derived from farming during 1998-2000 or 15 percent or more of employed residents working in farm occupations in 2000.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

Population loss counties, 1980-1990 and 1990-2000



Population loss counties--number of residents declined both between 1980 and 1990 and between 1990 and 2000.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

What You Should Hear...



- Budget, Budget, Budget
- How Do You Want To Solve Trade Disputes?
- Farming Is Hard