

Delaware River Valley Stakeholders Meeting

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Farmland and Communities



American Farmland Trust

- Founded in 1980
- Private nonprofit organization
- Dedicated to farmland protection, environmental stewardship and agricultural viability





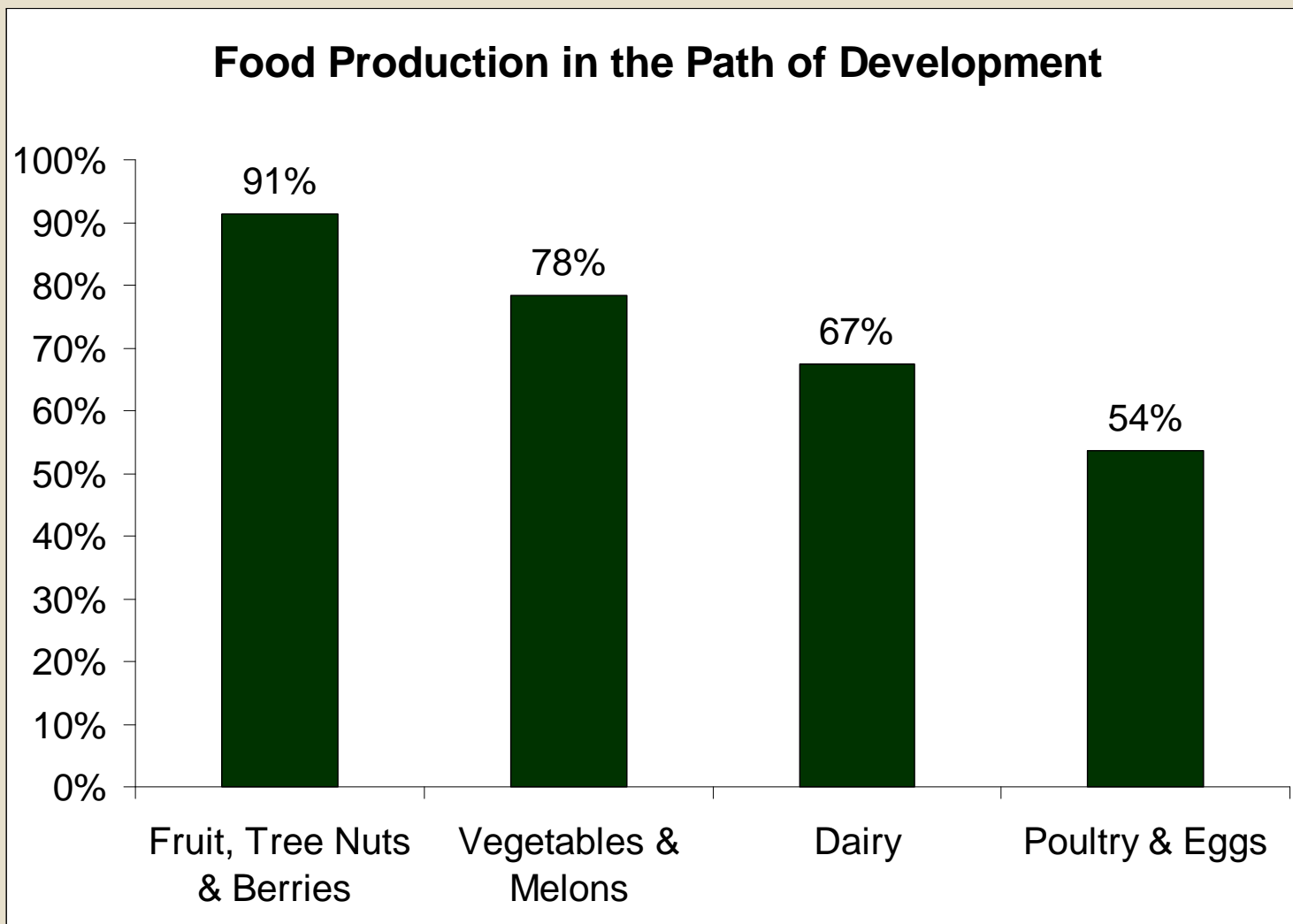
Three National Initiatives

- Ag & Environment
- Farmland Protection
- New *Growing Local* initiative to promote agriculture's role in local and regional food systems





Most Food is Grown in Metro Areas



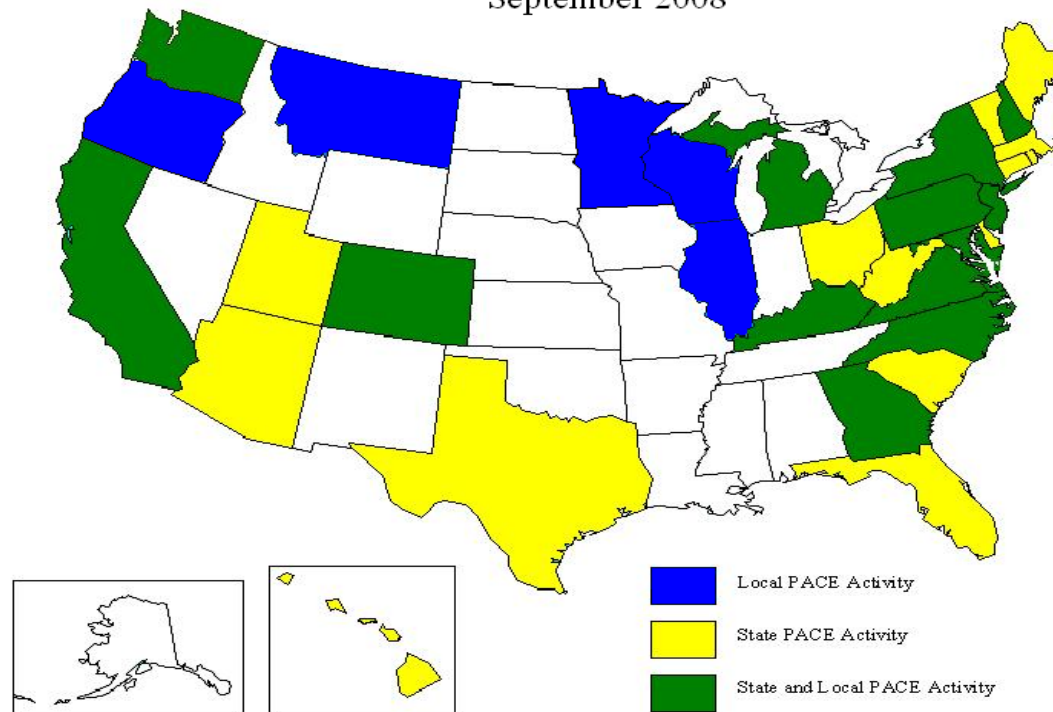
Sources: 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service and 2003 urban influence codes, USDA Economic Research Service.



We Work to Protect Farmland

Nationwide Advocacy and Technical Assistance

Nationwide PACE Activity
September 2008



Notes:

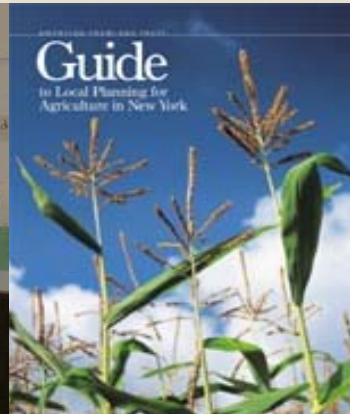
1. "PACE activity" means there is either authorization for easement acquisitions to protect agricultural land (i.e., a state or local law) or an established program that buys easements to protect agricultural land. Programs that are temporarily inactive due to a lack of funding are counted, programs that have sunset are not (e.g., Montana).
2. Montana's statewide PACE authority expired in 2003.



We Plan *for* Agriculture

Not just around it!

- Land use policies and smart growth
- Ag economic development
- Natural resource conservation
- Next generation of farmers





Now We're "Growing Local"

- Addressing barriers and leveraging opportunities to support local farms, farmers and farmland
- Focus on local and regional food systems in a smart growth context

Healthy Farms Healthy Food Healthy Communities





Barriers We're Addressing

- Land – not enough farmland is available and affordable to farmers
- Labor – Too few farmers “growing local” to meet increased demand
- Logistics – local/regional food system infrastructure has been dismantled
- Legislation – 20th Century policies at local, state and federal levels don't meet 21st century needs and conditions





Major Program Activities

- **Advocacy and Policy Development:**
 - Federal – mostly through Farm Bill
 - State – creating policy suite and scorecard
 - Local – planning for ag and improving ordinances
- **Pilot Projects**
- **Research:**
 - Center for Agriculture in Environment
- **Technical Assistance:**
 - Farmland Information Center



Recommendation

- Engage communities and farmers to work together to ensure:
 - Access to affordable farmland,
 - Farm-friendly planning and zoning,
 - Food security and resiliency,
 - Economic prosperity and
 - Environmental quality





For information about American Farmland Trust:
www.farmland.org

For information and technical assistance:

FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

www.farmlandinfo.org

(800) 370 - 4879