



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:00 NOON ET FEBRUARY 20, 2014

2012 Census of Agriculture Preliminary Data Release

Rhode Island
February 19, 2014

2012 CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

CENSUS HISTORY

- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.



170 YEARS LATER

- NASS has conducted the Census of Agriculture since 1997 with the transfer of authority from the Census Bureau.
- Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states and Puerto Rico (and Outlying Areas)
- Data are available for:
 - National, State and County levels
 - Congressional Districts
 - Watersheds
 - Organic, Irrigation, Horticulture, Specialty Crops and Aquaculture



FARM DEFINITION

- Any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.
- This definition is unchanged since 1974.



OUTREACH EFFORTS

- NASS worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to assist in building the list of farm operations.
- NASS partnered with CBOs to provide hands-on assistance and support to producers in filling out census forms.
- NASS targeted media advertisements to improve census response rates.



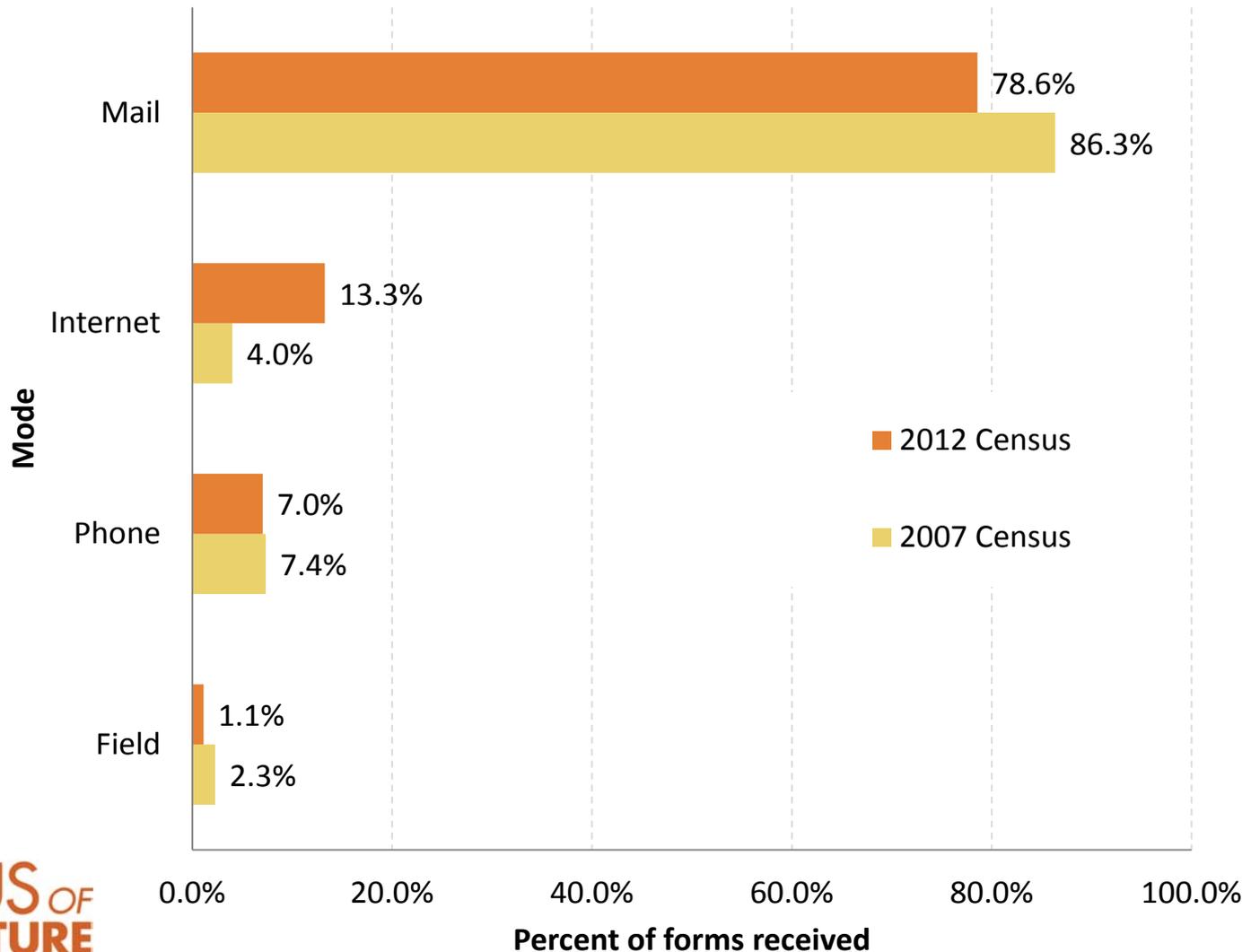
2012 DATA COLLECTION

- NASS mailed 3.0 million questionnaires for the 2012 Census of Agriculture to potential farm and ranch operators in late December 2012.
- All paper forms were mailed from and returned by mail to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN.
- Data collection was conducted through:
 - Online responses
 - Mail questionnaires
 - Telephone Interviews
 - Face-to-face Interviews



Distribution of Responses by Mode, 2012

Forms by Mode of Data Collection



PRELIMINARY REPORT

- Census preliminary data provide a first look at national and state estimates. An earlier release was planned but the government shutdown and sequestration delayed progress during a critical time of data review.
- These preliminary estimates are subject to minor change when the final comprehensive census results are released.



SNAPSHOT OF 2012 AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

U.S. Drought Monitor Total U.S.

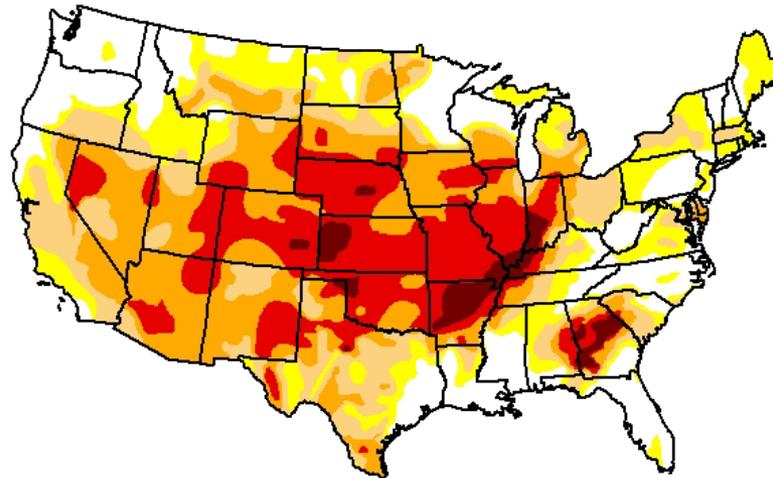
July 31, 2012

(Released Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.78	71.22	52.65	38.12	18.62	2.52
Last Week 7/24/2012	28.19	71.81	53.44	38.11	17.20	1.99
3 Months Ago 5/1/2012	50.33	49.67	31.98	17.10	5.80	1.61
Start of Calendar Year 1/3/2012	58.47	41.53	26.73	15.78	8.51	2.77
Start of Water Year 9/27/2011	63.45	36.55	24.42	19.61	14.87	9.50
One Year Ago 8/2/2011	60.03	39.97	27.06	21.04	15.28	9.13



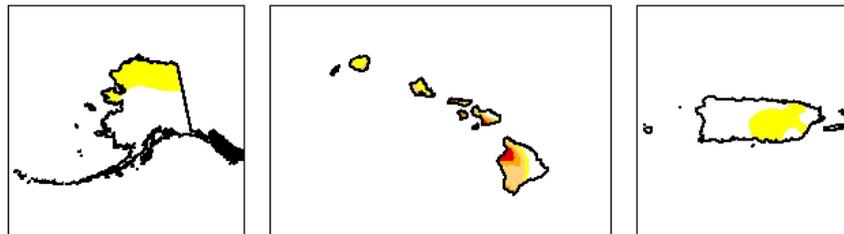
Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

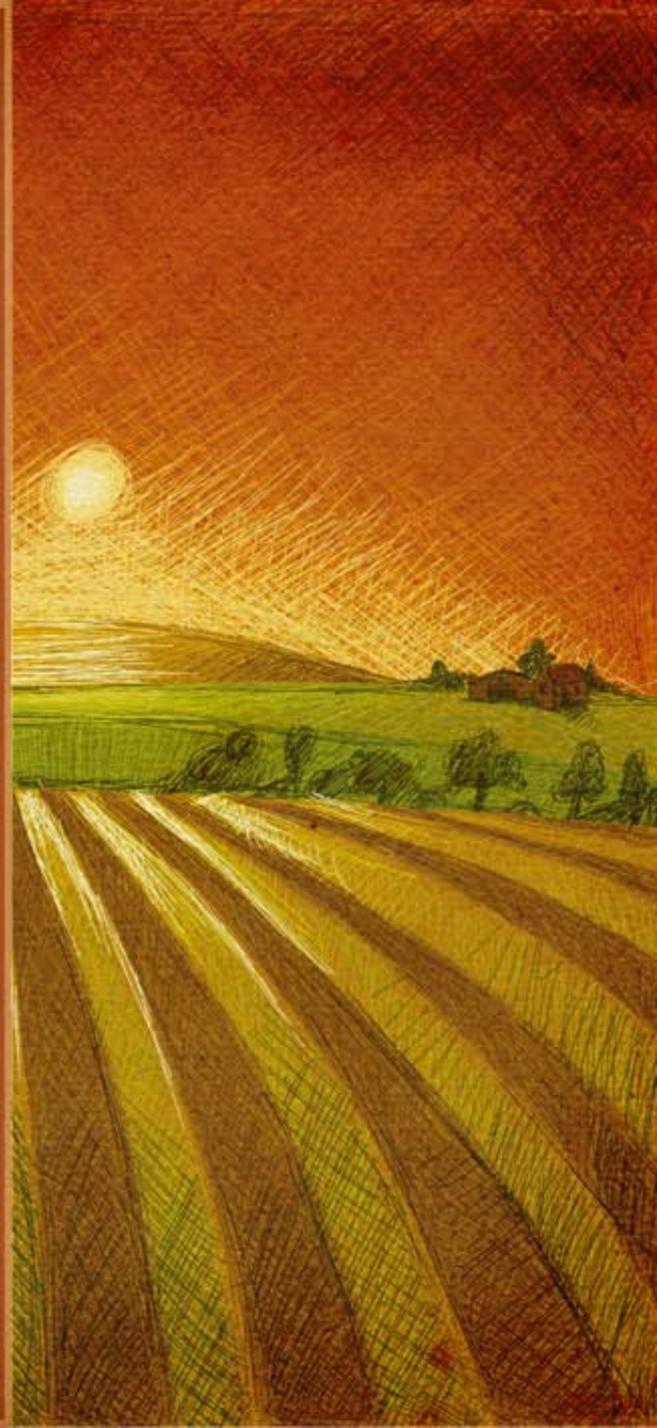
Author:

Mark Svoboda
National Drought Mitigation Center

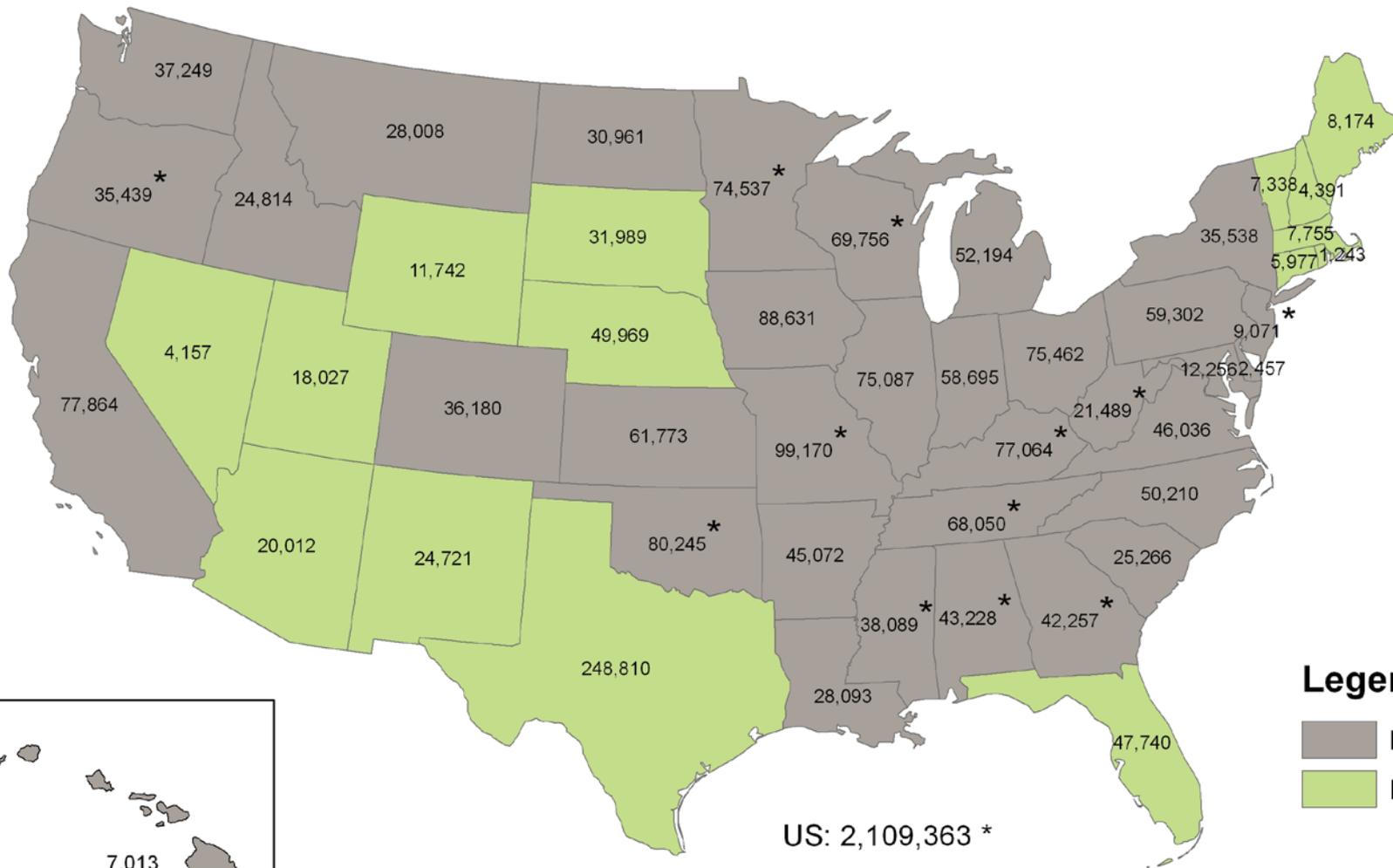
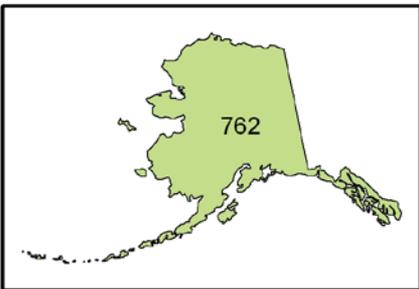


NUMBER OF FARMS

- 1,243 farms and ranches
- 2 percent more than 2007



Number of Farms: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture

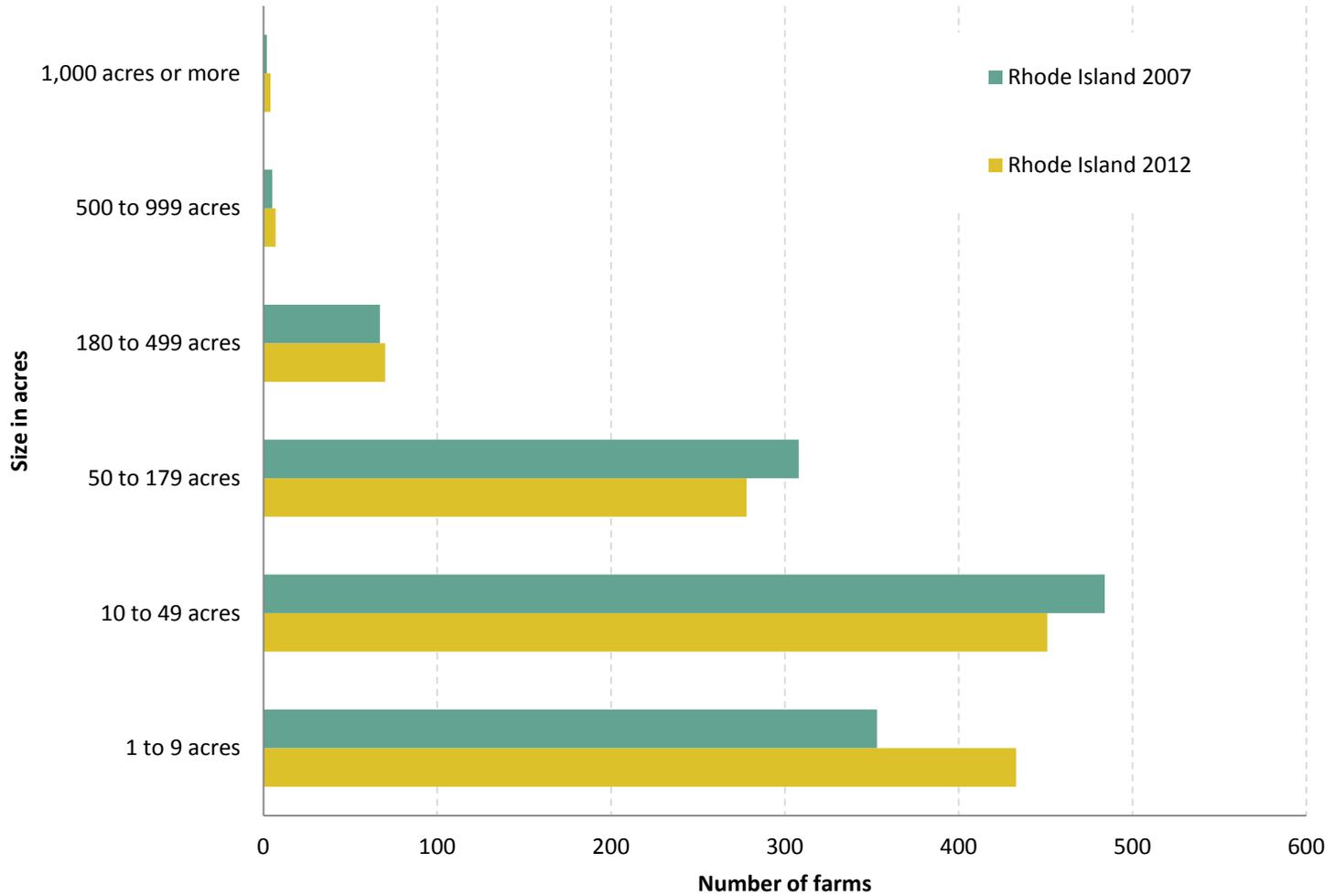


Legend

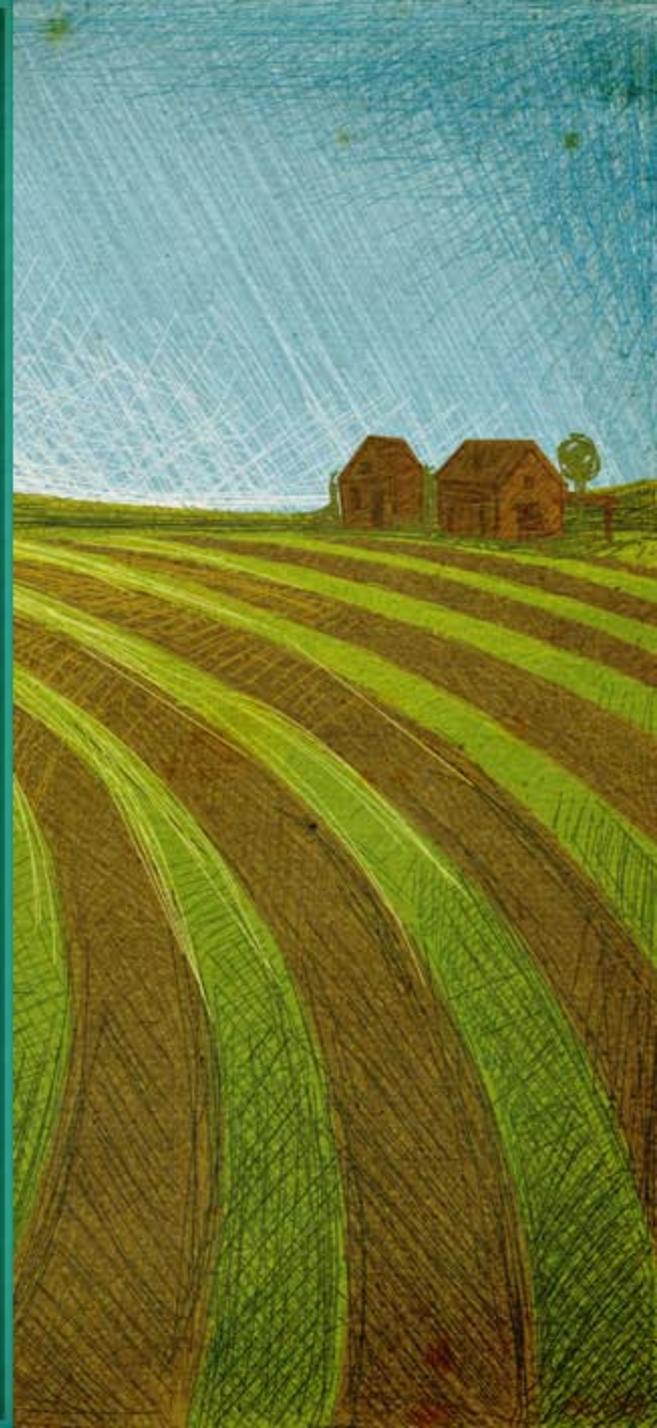
- Decrease
- Increase

* Indicates significant change

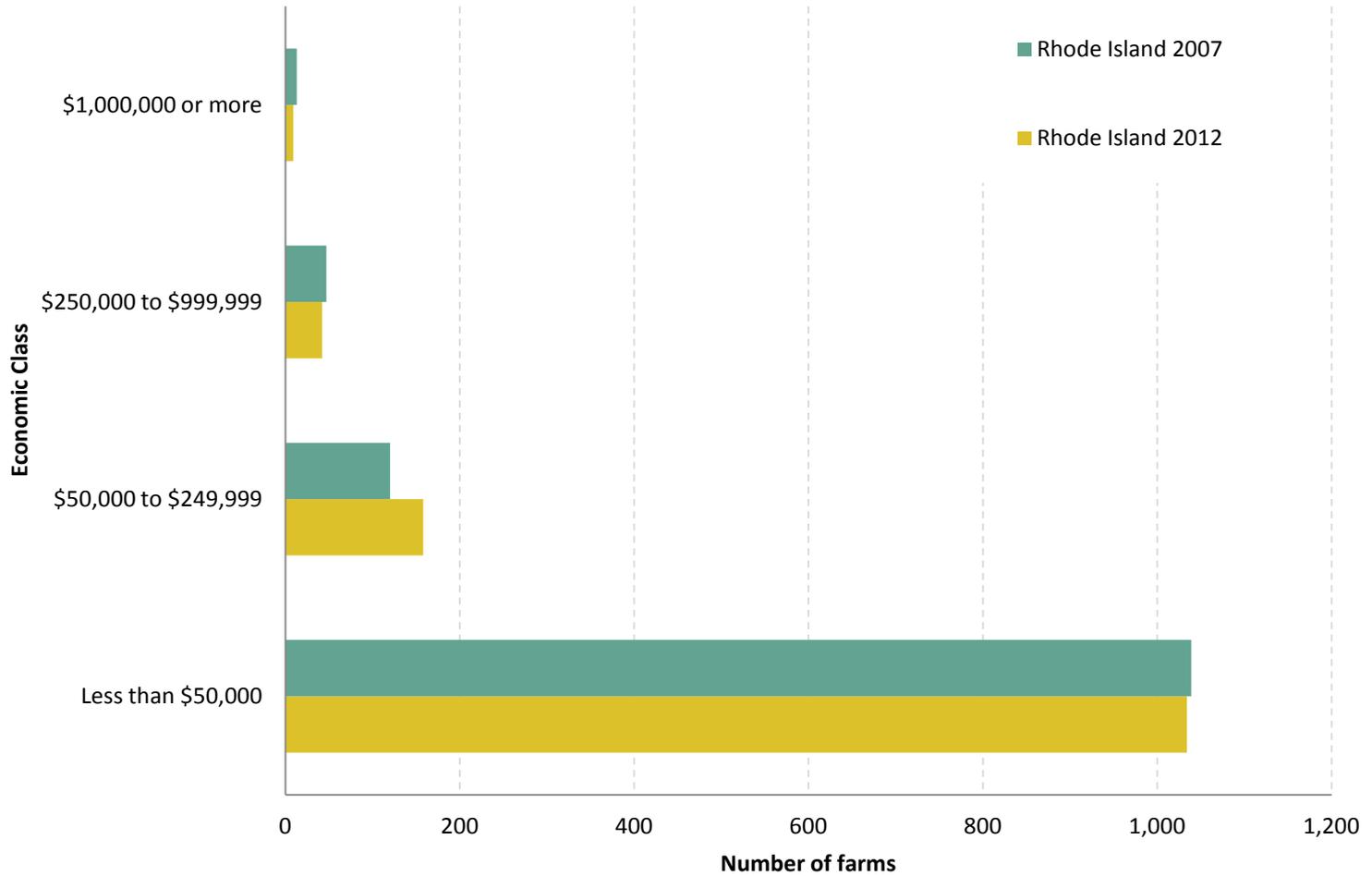
Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012



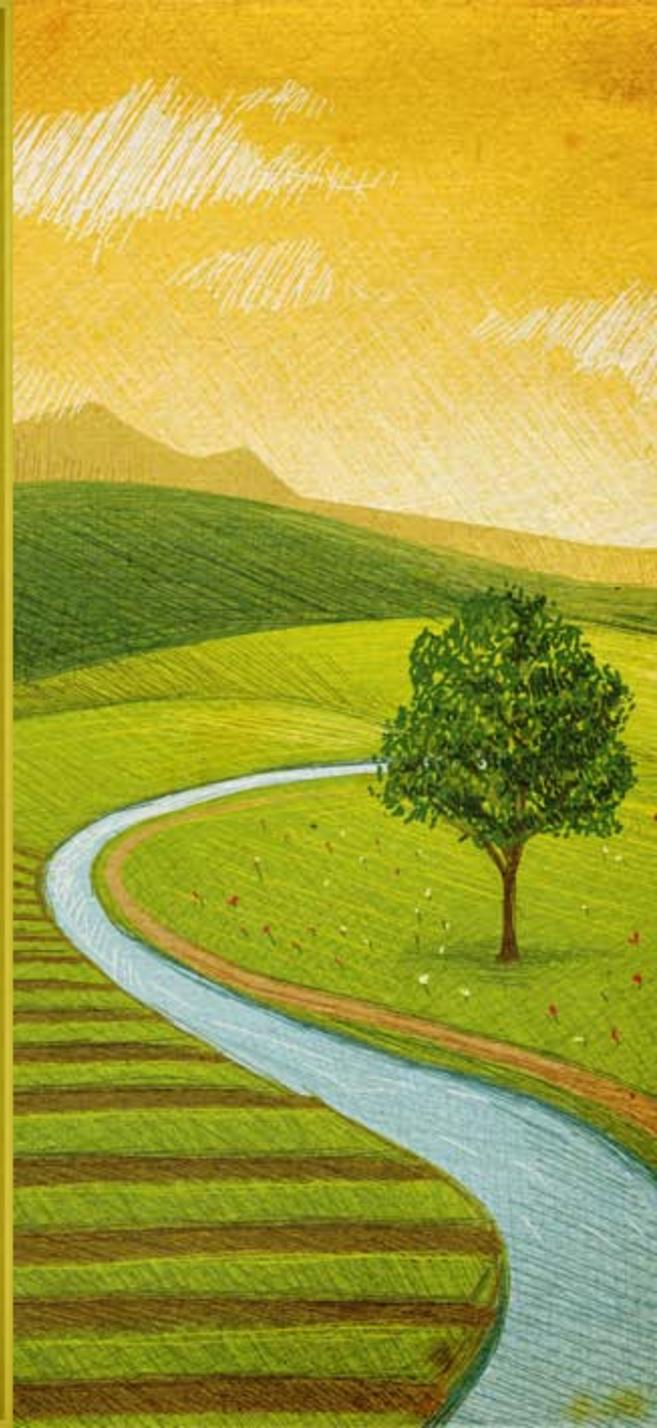
ECONOMICS



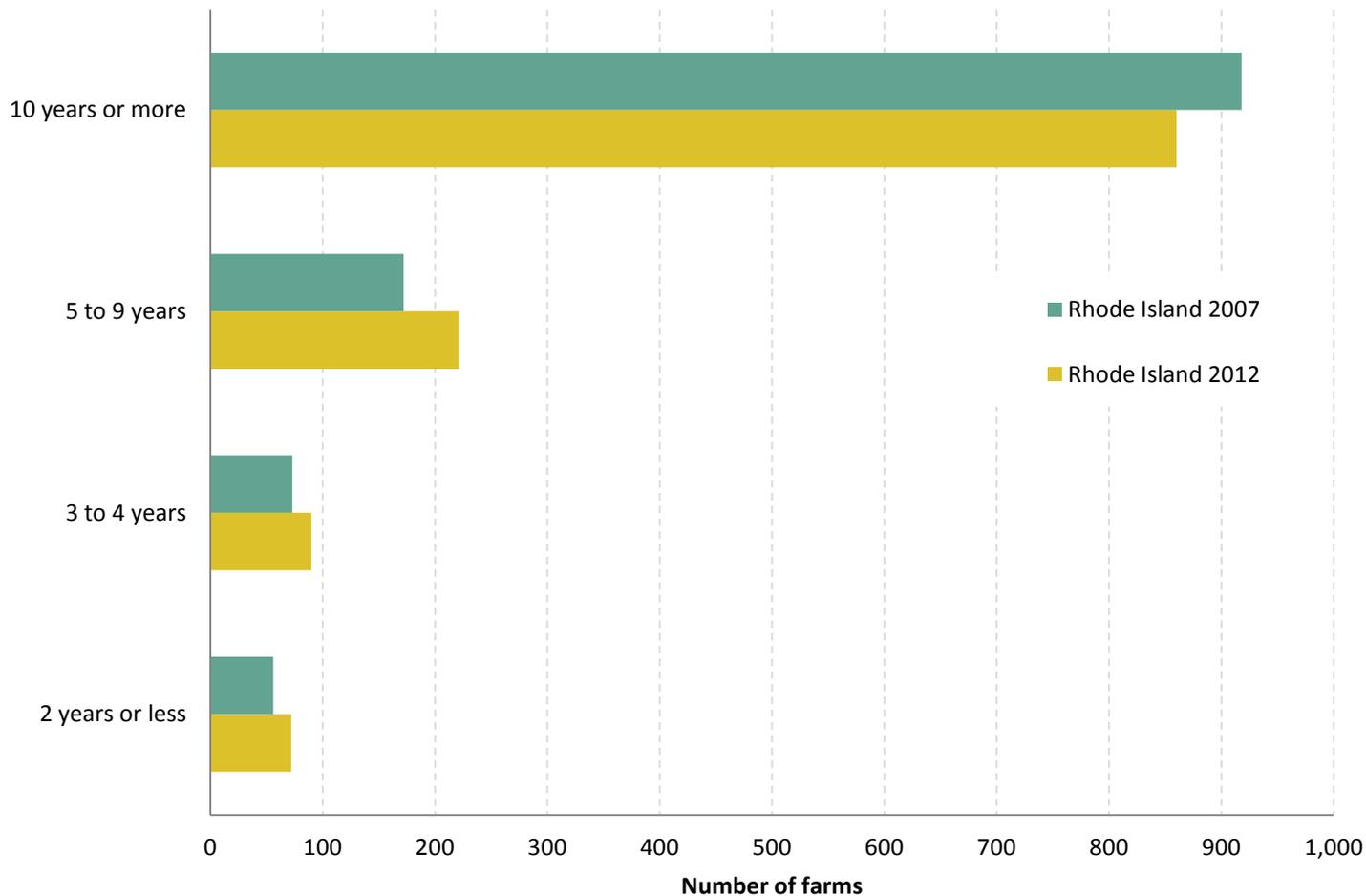
Farms by Economic Class, 2007 and 2012



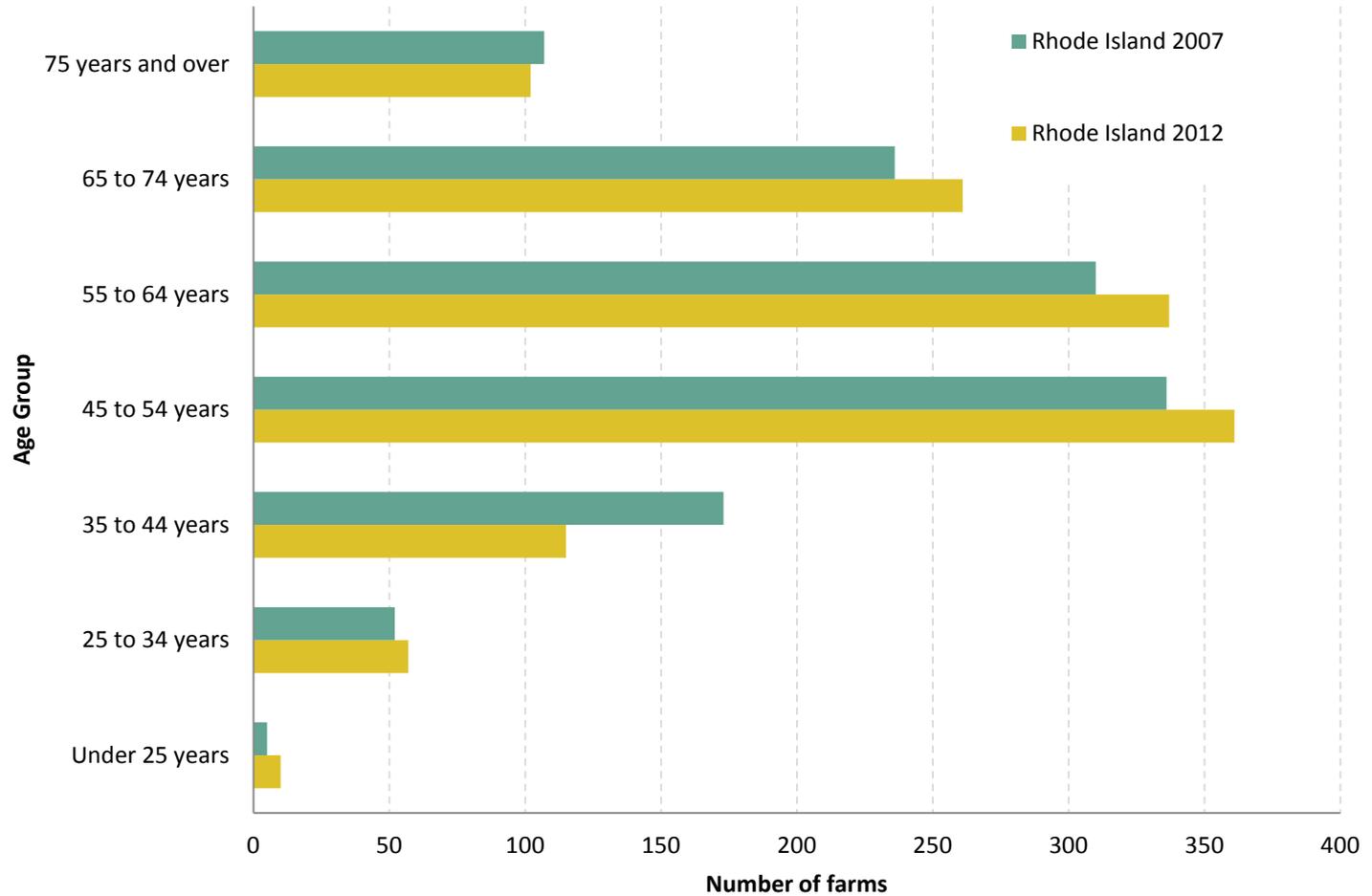
DEMOGRAPHICS



Principal Operators by Years on Current Operation 2007 and 2012



Principal Operators by Age Group, 2007 and 2012



Percentage of Farms with Women Principal Operators, New England States and U.S., 2002, 2007, and 2012 Censuses of Agriculture

