

Bucks County, PA and The Farm Bill.

Bucks County League of Women Voters – 11/21/13

Welcome and Overview

- **Bucks County**
 - 933 farms (up 2% since 2002)
 - 75,000 acres of farmland
 - Average farm 81 acres
 - Population 627,053
 - Veterans 43,712
 - Median Household income \$76,019
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participants- 37,968
 - Unemployment Rate – 7.2%
- **Top Bucks County AG Products**
 - Nursery Stock- 3nd in the state
 - Equine – 5th in the state
 - Fruit, Nut trees, and Berries- 9th in the state
 - Vegetables, melons, and potatoes- 17th in the state

Delaware Valley College

- 117 year history
- Strong Leadership and Strategic Plan
- “Science in Practice” in the foundation
- New Experiential Learning Program
- 1000 acres for a 1000 lessons
- New Life Science Building

Pennsylvania at a Glance

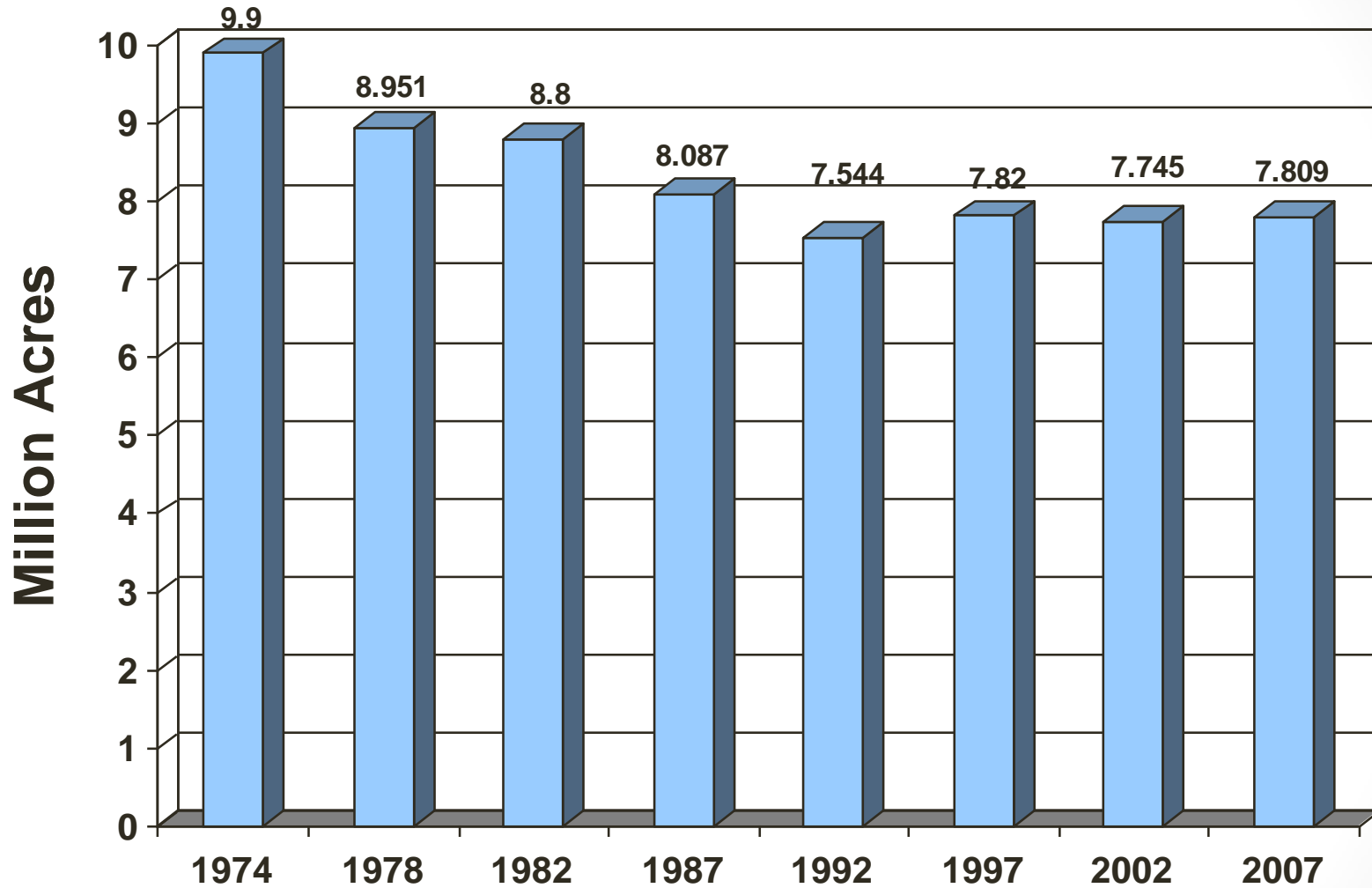
- Pennsylvania's Agriculture
 - 63,200 farms
 - 7.8 million acres of farmland
 - 1 in 7 jobs in PA related to Agriculture
 - \$45 billion in local economic impact
 - SNAP Participants-1,824,548

PA Farms by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

Farm Type	Number of Farms (2007)	2007	2002
Beef Cattle	8,350	13.2%	13.2%
Cattle Feedlots	1,611	2.6%	5.5%
Dairy Cattle & Milk Production	7,434	11.8%	14.9%
Hog & Pig	1,072	1.7%	2.4%
Poultry & Egg Production	2,691	4.3%	2.8%
Sheep & Goat	2,010	3.2%	2.6%
Aquaculture & Other Animal Production	8,062	12.8%	11.6%

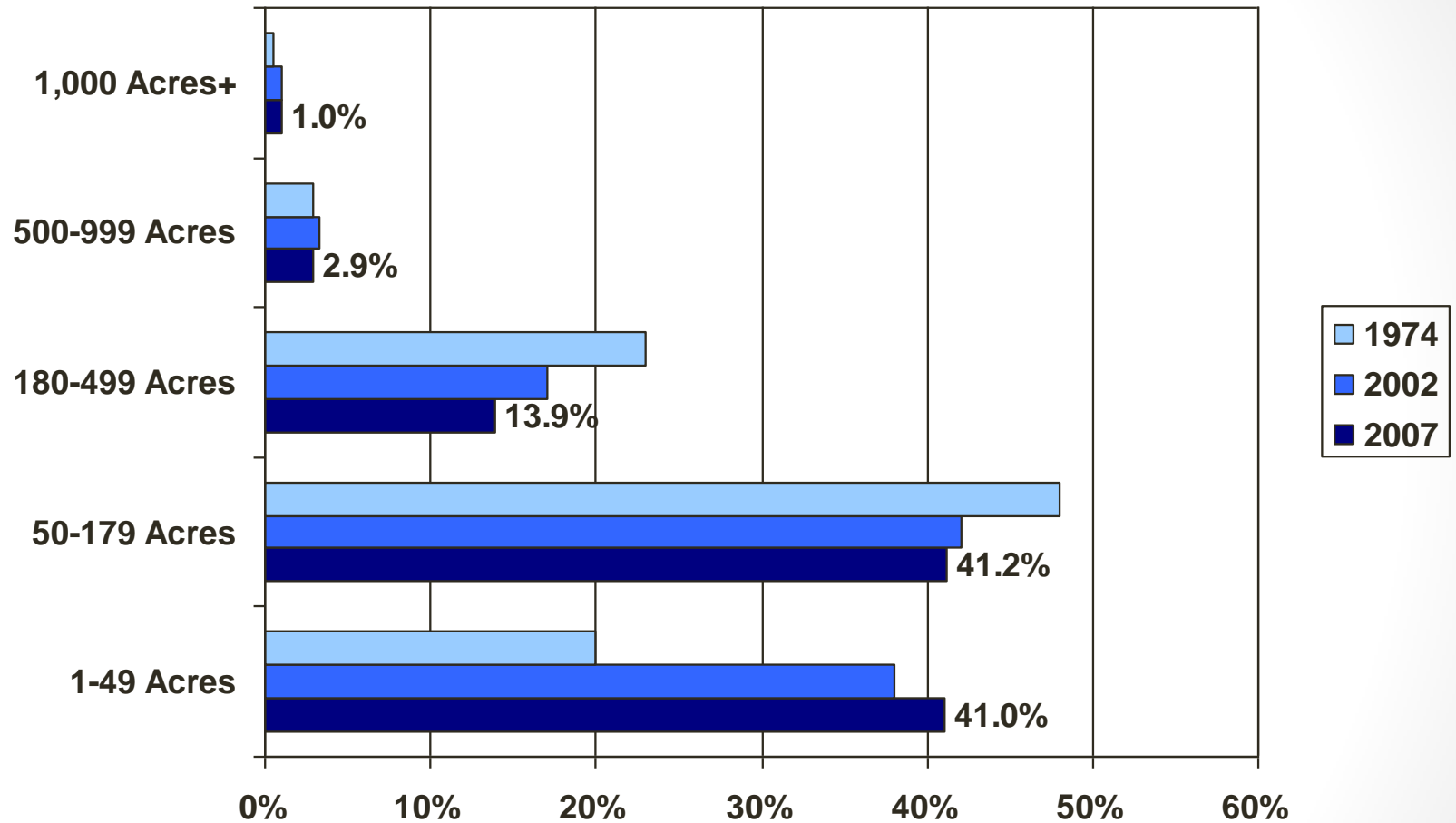
NAICS Classifies farms based on primary activity. Each farm is represented once, characterized by the product accounting for at least 50% of total production value. Farms with no single product accounting for at least 50% of sales are classified as "other."

Land in PA Farms



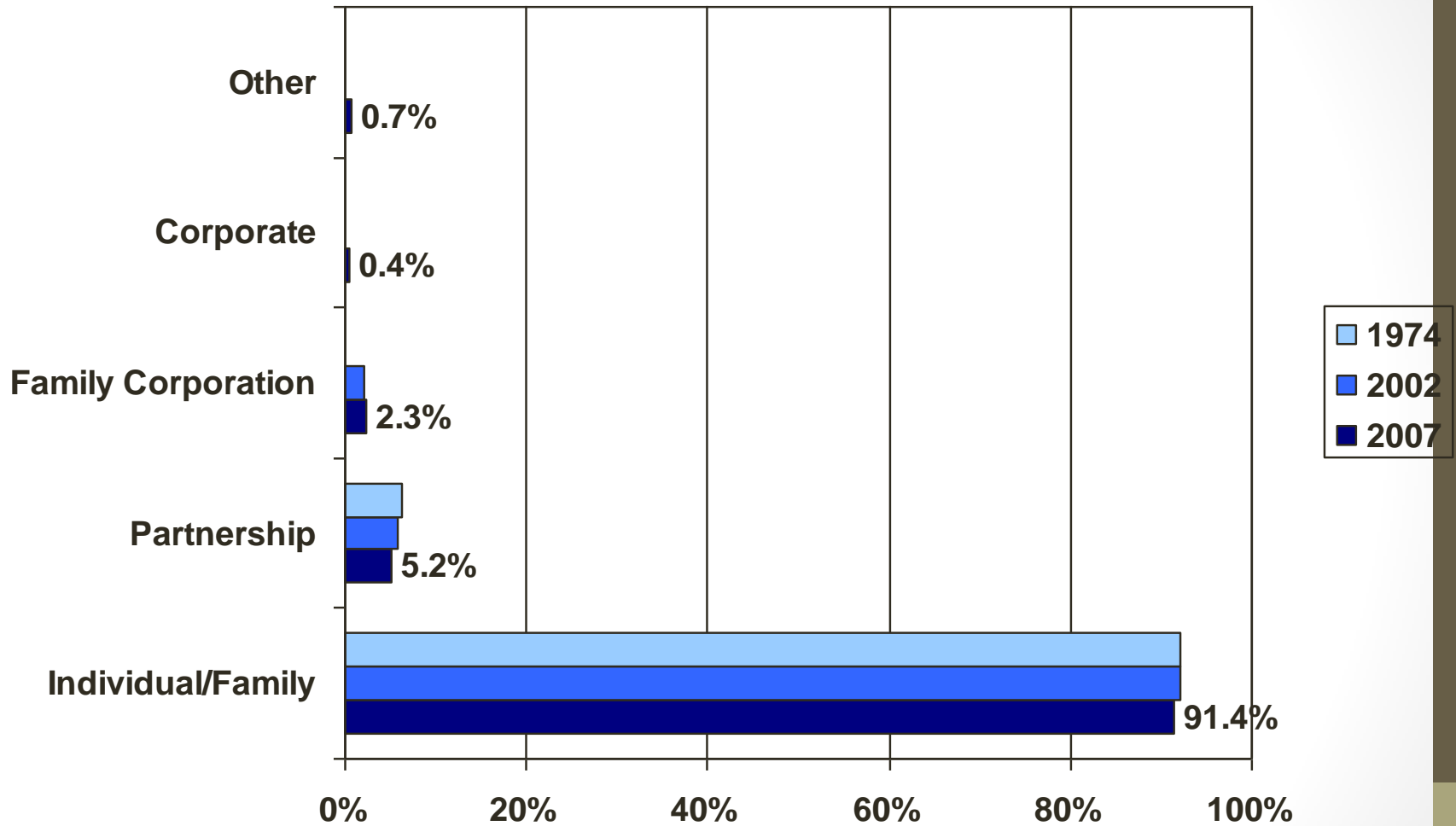
Source: Census of Agriculture, except 1974 & 1982 numbers
1974 - New \$1,000 Farm Definition
1993 - Added new industries to the farm count

Number of PA Farms – Size Comparison



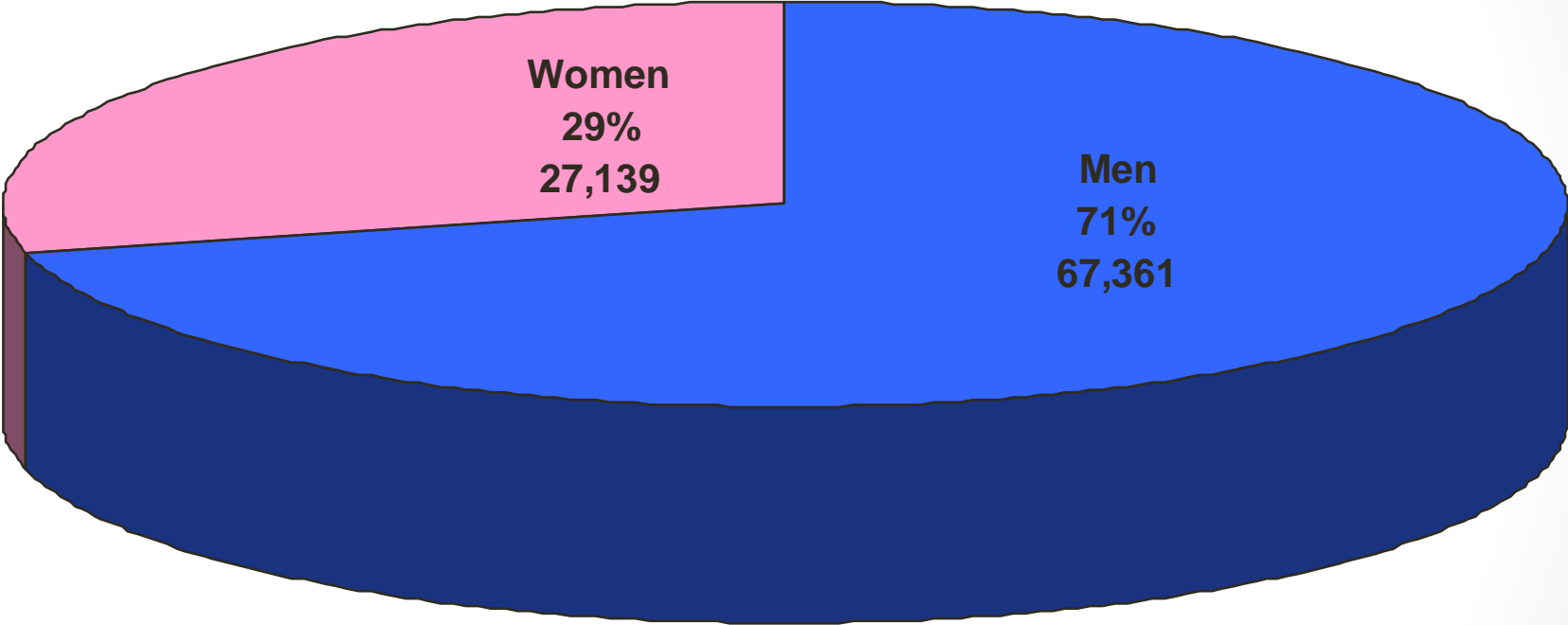
Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Number of PA Farms by Type of Organization



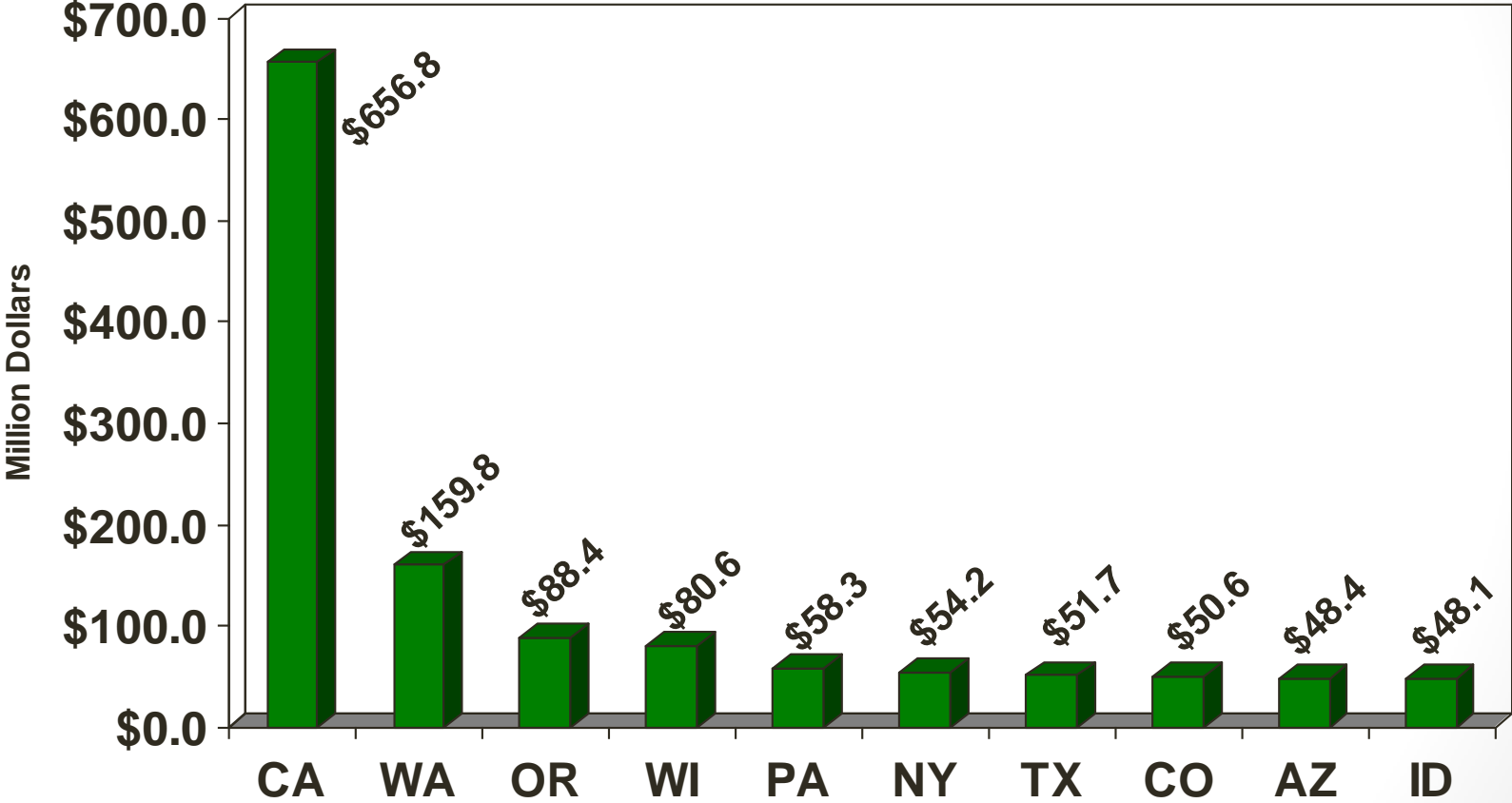
Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Farm Operators by Gender



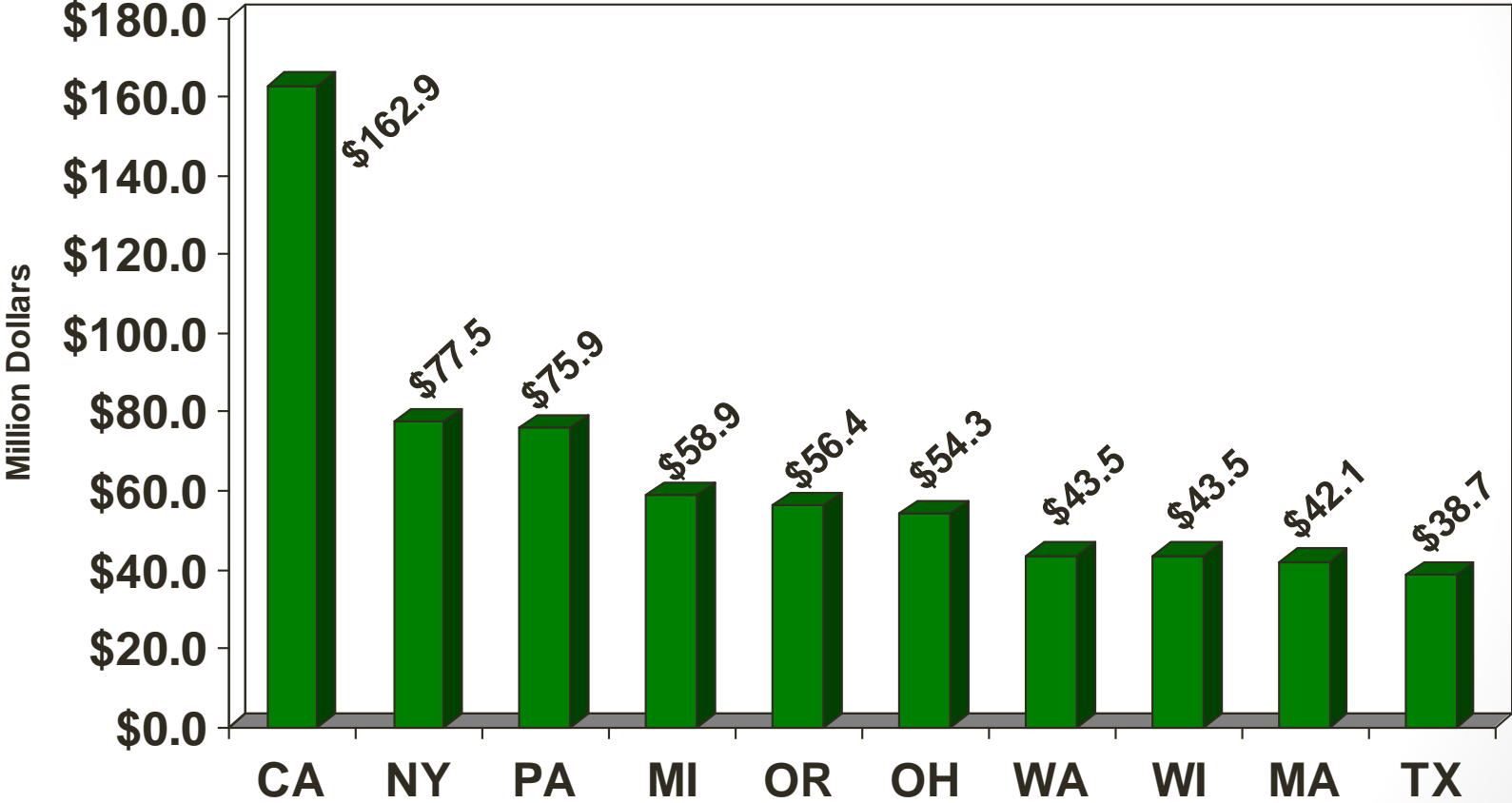
Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Organic Product Sales – Top 10 States in 2007



Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Direct Sales for Human Consumption Top 10 States in 2007



Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture

Levels of AG Policy Components



• Local



• State



• Federal

Local Level

- Land use decisions
- Agriculture Security Areas
- Farmland Preservation
- Zoning
- Support for Cooperative Extension
- Select Marketing
- Conservation
- Tourism
- Economic Development

State Level

- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Marketing
- Animal Health
- Risk Management
- Food Safety
- Food and Nutrition
- Plant Science

Federal Farm Bill

House Farm Bill

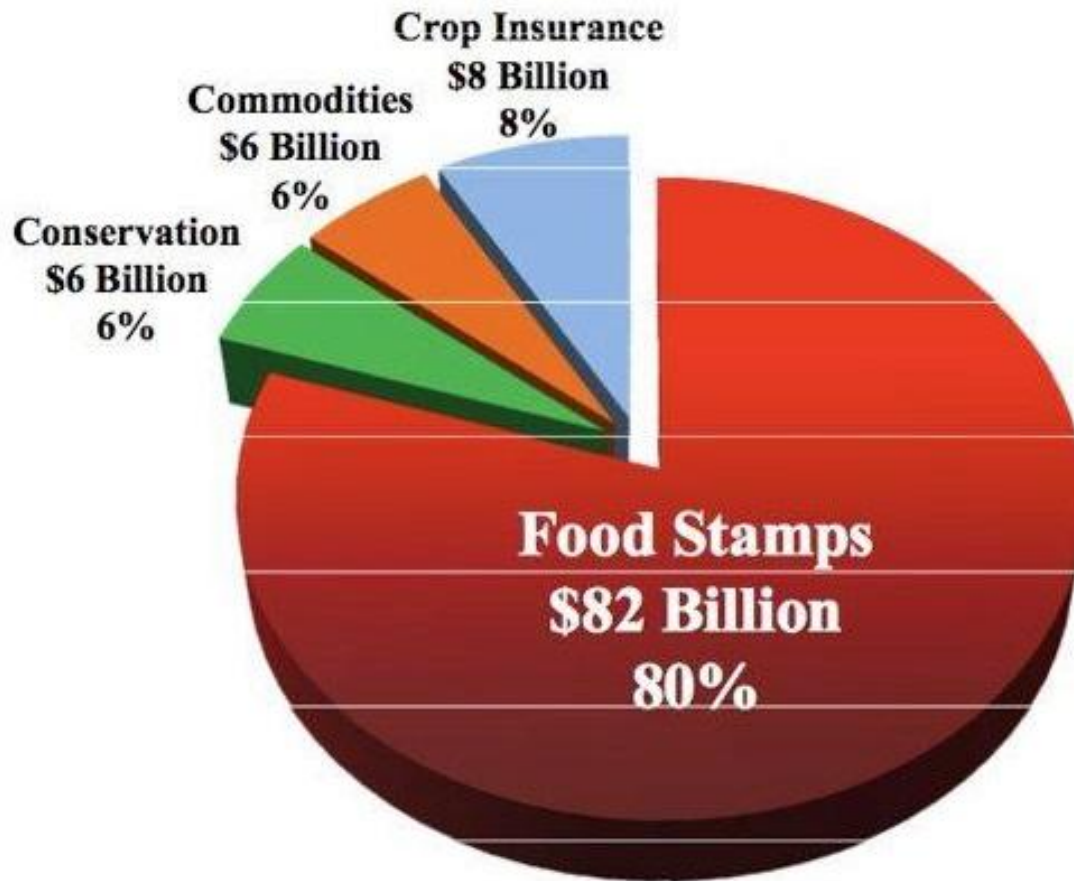
- Separates Food Stamp and Agricultural Programs
- Repeals Direct Payments
- Expands Crop Insurance
- Repeals Dairy subsidies-creating new margin insurance program
- Saves taxpayers 20 billion dollars
- Includes 12 Titles

Senate Farm Bill

- No Separation
- Repeals Direct Payments
- Expands Crop Insurance-while reducing it for farmers with >750k income.
- Repeals Dairy subsidies-also implements a supply management program
- Saves taxpayers 23 billion dollars
- Includes 11 Titles

Farm Bill Spending

Fiscal Year 2013 Farm Bill Spending



Challenges Facing PA Agriculture Today

- Land Use and Urban/Rural Dynamic
- Environmental
- Food Safety
- Farm Transitions

Land Use and Urban/Rural Dynamic

- PA Farmland Preservation
 - 1989- Launched with statewide ballot initiative
 - 4100 farms/450,000 acres
 - Bucks County – 131 Farms/11697 acres
- Access to land/ restrictions
 - Small parcels
 - Absentee landowners
 - Infrastructure

Environmental Stewardship

- Nutrient Management
 - State Requirements
 - Regional Requirements (Delaware, Susquehanna, and Ohio Basins)
- PA Facts
 - PA responsible for more than 50% of all nitrogen reductions made by Ag anywhere in the multi-state watershed
 - First mandatory farm nutrient management plans
 - First nutrient management program to regulate N and P
 - First bay state to permanently to preserve 20% (3+ million) acres of land in the watershed
 - First EPA-approved concentrated animal feeding operation regulatory program

Challenges for all of us

- Food Safety
 - Public
 - Recalls
 - Protocols
 - International Standards

Opportunities for all of us

- Consumer Trends
 - Changing Food Trends
 - Farm Markets
 - Local
 - Knowledge of Food System
- Relationships/Leadership
 - League of Women Voters
 - Conservation/watershed organizations/
economic/civic/religious
 - AG Connect Partnerships
 - Advocacy at local, state and federal level

Bucks County Priorities

- Nutrition Title
- Conservation Title
- Horticulture Title
- Miscellaneous Title

Thank you

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