

A cross-section of soil and grass. The top layer is a thin layer of green grass. Below it is a thick layer of dark brown soil. The bottom part of the image is a solid black background.

Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Scott Faber

Environmental Working Group

Agriculture and Environment

A cross-section of soil and grass, symbolizing agriculture and environmental impact. The top layer is a thin layer of green grass, followed by a thick layer of dark brown soil. The background is a light beige color.

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Air Quality
- Habitat Loss
- Endangered Species
- Pesticides
- Antibiotics

Agriculture and Environment



- Conservation tillage increased
- Fertilizer applications fallen
- Pesticide applications fallen
- Organic food sales have doubled
- Improved irrigation efficiency

Wetland Loss



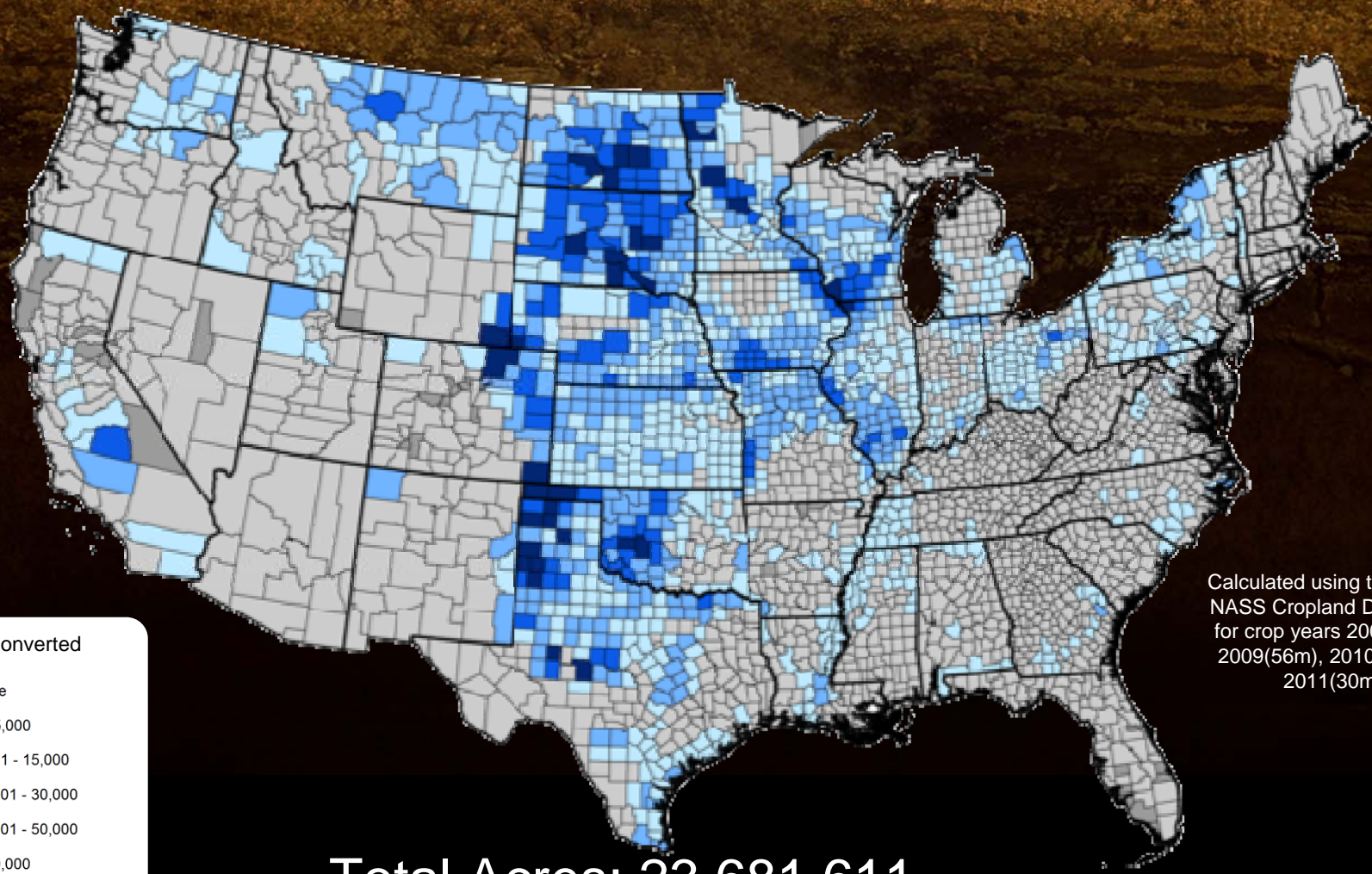
Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Agriculture and Environment

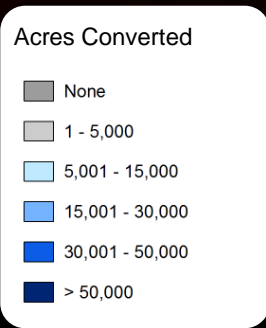


- Now, much of that progress is in jeopardy.
- Cuts to conservation proposed by Senate and House farm bills.
- Mandates, subsidies contributed to the loss of 23M+ acres between 2008 and 2011.
- Losses are strongly correlated with insurance subsidies

Acres of Grassland/Wetlands/Shrub Land Converted to All Crops By county, 2008-2011

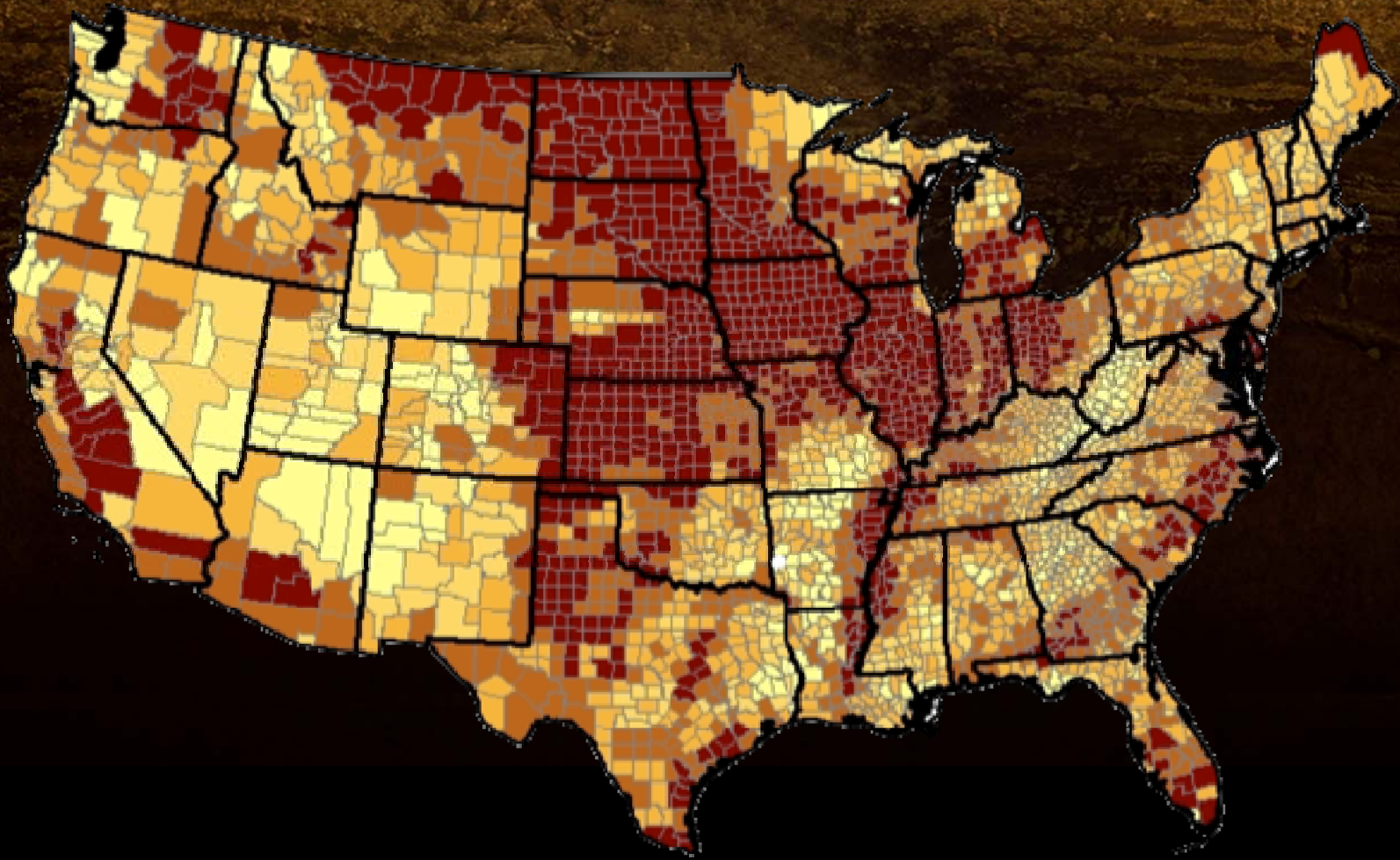


Calculated using the USDA-NASS Cropland Data Layer for crop years 2008 (56m), 2009(56m), 2010(30m), & 2011(30m).



Total Acres: 23,681,611

2010 Crop Insurance Premium Subsidies, by County



Farm Bill Opportunities



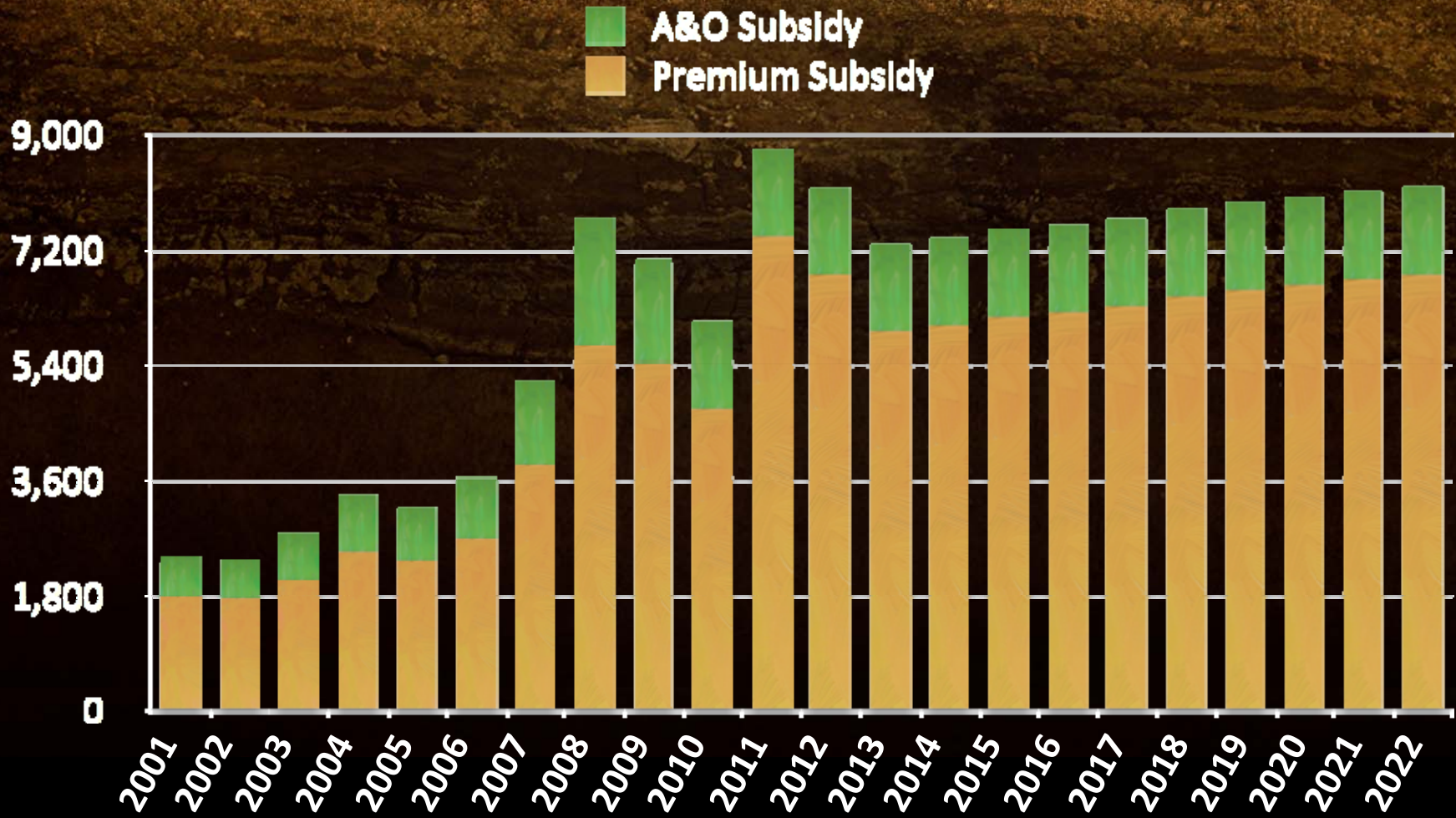
- Protect Conservation Funding
- Deliver more funds through cooperative conservation
- Reform farm subsidies to help farmers, help the environment.

Farm Subsidy Reform

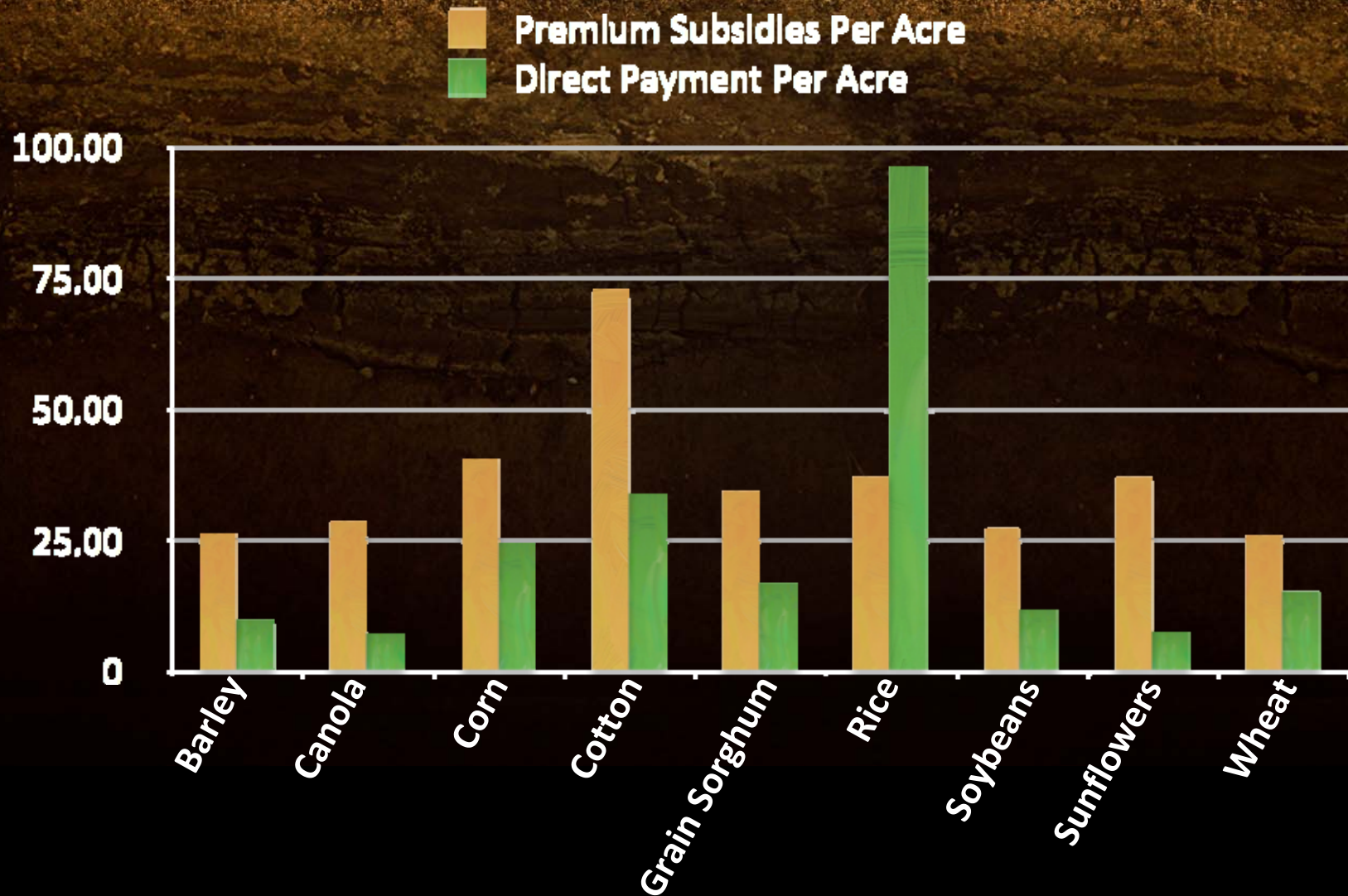


- End Direct Payments
- Reduce Insurance Subsidies
 - Reduce Premium Subsidies
 - Reduce Delivery Subsidies
 - Require Conservation Compliance
 - Increase Transparency

Insurance Subsidies



Insurance Subsidy vs. Direct Payments



Farm Subsidy Reform

A cross-section of soil and grass, symbolizing agriculture and environmental impact. The top part shows a layer of green grass, followed by a layer of dark brown soil, and then a lighter brown layer at the bottom. The background is a textured, light brown color.

- “Evidence-based analysis supports that subsidized crop insurance encourages the movement of crop production onto marginal lands and can result in environmental risks that would not occur in the absence of subsidized crop insurance.”

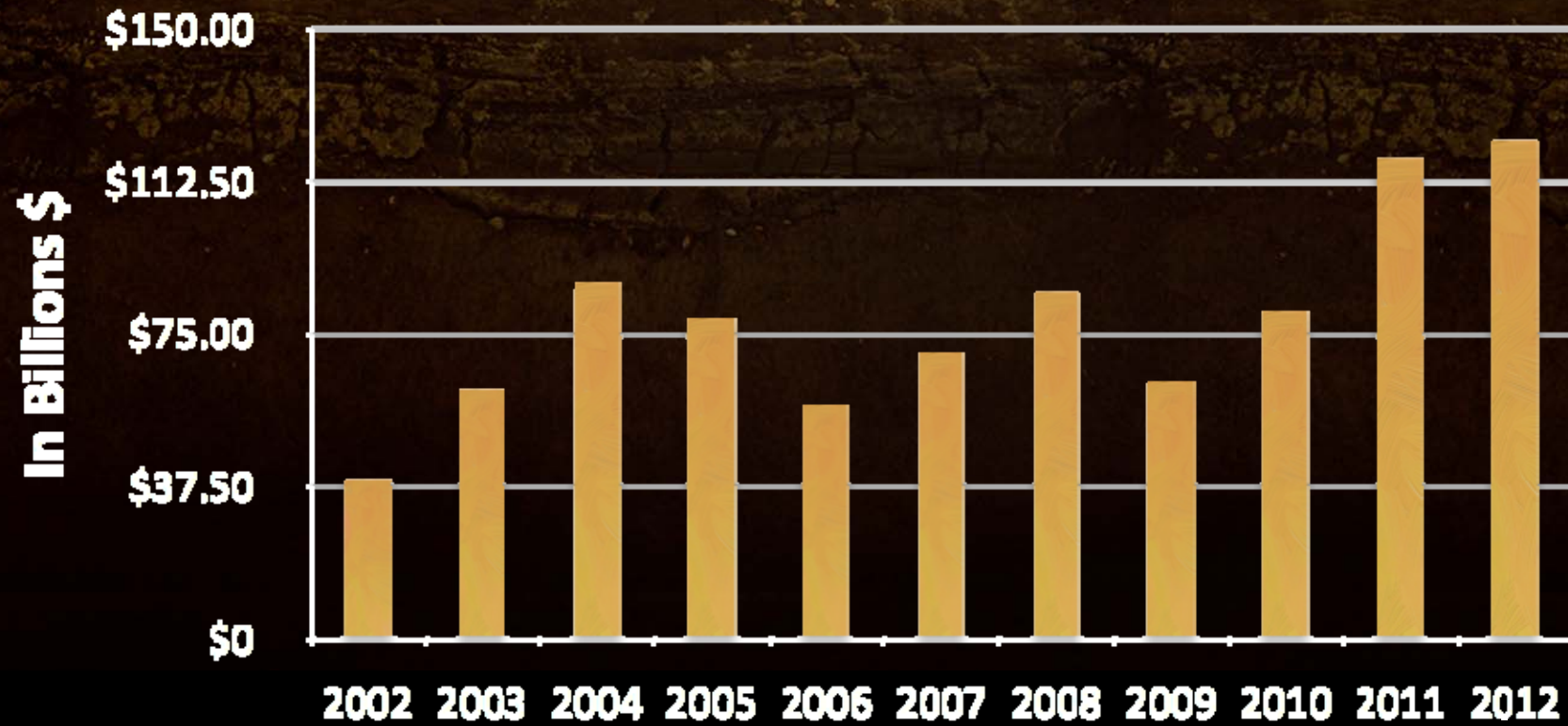
Professor Carl Zulauf, Ohio State University

Professor Dan Sumner, UC Davis

Economic and Environmental Effects of Agricultural Insurance Programs, 2012

Farm Subsidy Reform

Net Farm Income Has Tripled



Next Steps



- **Senate Bill**

- Cuts conservation funding
- **Requires conservation compliance**
- Increases insurance subsidies
- Does NOT reduce delivery subsidies
- Does NOT improve transparency

Next Steps



○ House Bill

- Cuts conservation Funding
- Does NOT require compliance
- Increases insurance subsidies AND expands price guarantees
- Does NOT reduce delivery subsidies
- Does NOT improve transparency

Next Steps



- **House Bill**

- Anti-environmental riders
- Weakens regulations of GMOs
- Guts state food and farm standards
- Repeals organic cost-share program

Contact Information

The background of the slide is a photograph showing a cross-section of the earth. At the top, there is a layer of green grass. Below the grass is a thick layer of dark brown soil. The bottom of the image fades into a solid black background.

- **Scott Faber**
- Environmental Working Group
- (202) 939-9127
- sfaber@ewg.org