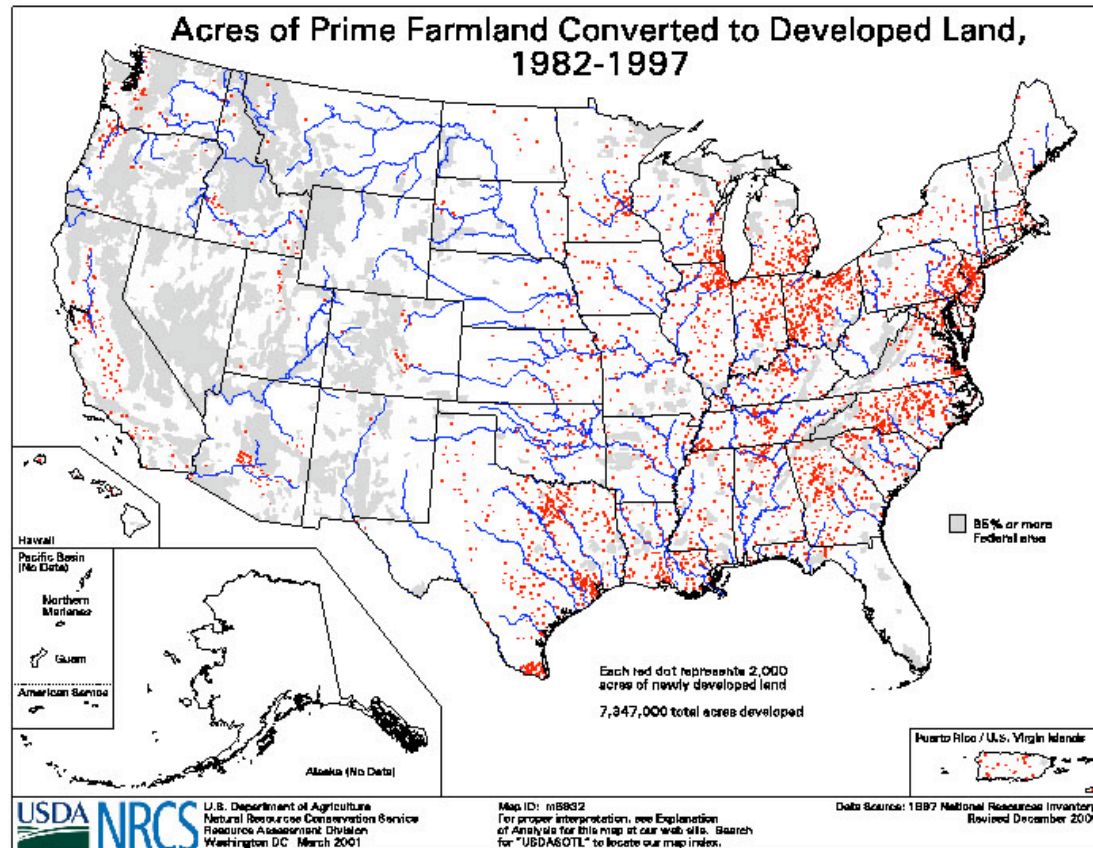


Acres of Prime Farmland Converted to Developed Land, 1982 - 1997

(Each red dot represents 2,000 acres of newly developed land)
Map taken from University of Maine study



Source for Map:
[National Resources Inventory, 1997](#)

Distributor: USDA-NRCS-RID

Reliability:
NRI sample data are generally reliable at the 95% confidence interval for state and certain broad

Reasons for Preserving Farmland

- Only three percent of the earth's surface is suitable for growing food.
- Seventy acres of farmland a day are being converted to non-farm uses in Ohio.
- Due to an abundance of fertile topsoil, agriculture is an important foundation for Ohio's economy.
- Bond ratings improve for states with farmland preservation policies.
- It is more expensive for a community to support residential areas than open farmland.

Based on Ohio General Assembly *Farmland Task Force Report*
League of Women Voters--Cuyahoga Regional Area 2004