

FARMLAND LEASES: TALES, TYPES, AND TRENDS

Dave Armstrong, CEO
November 27, 2012

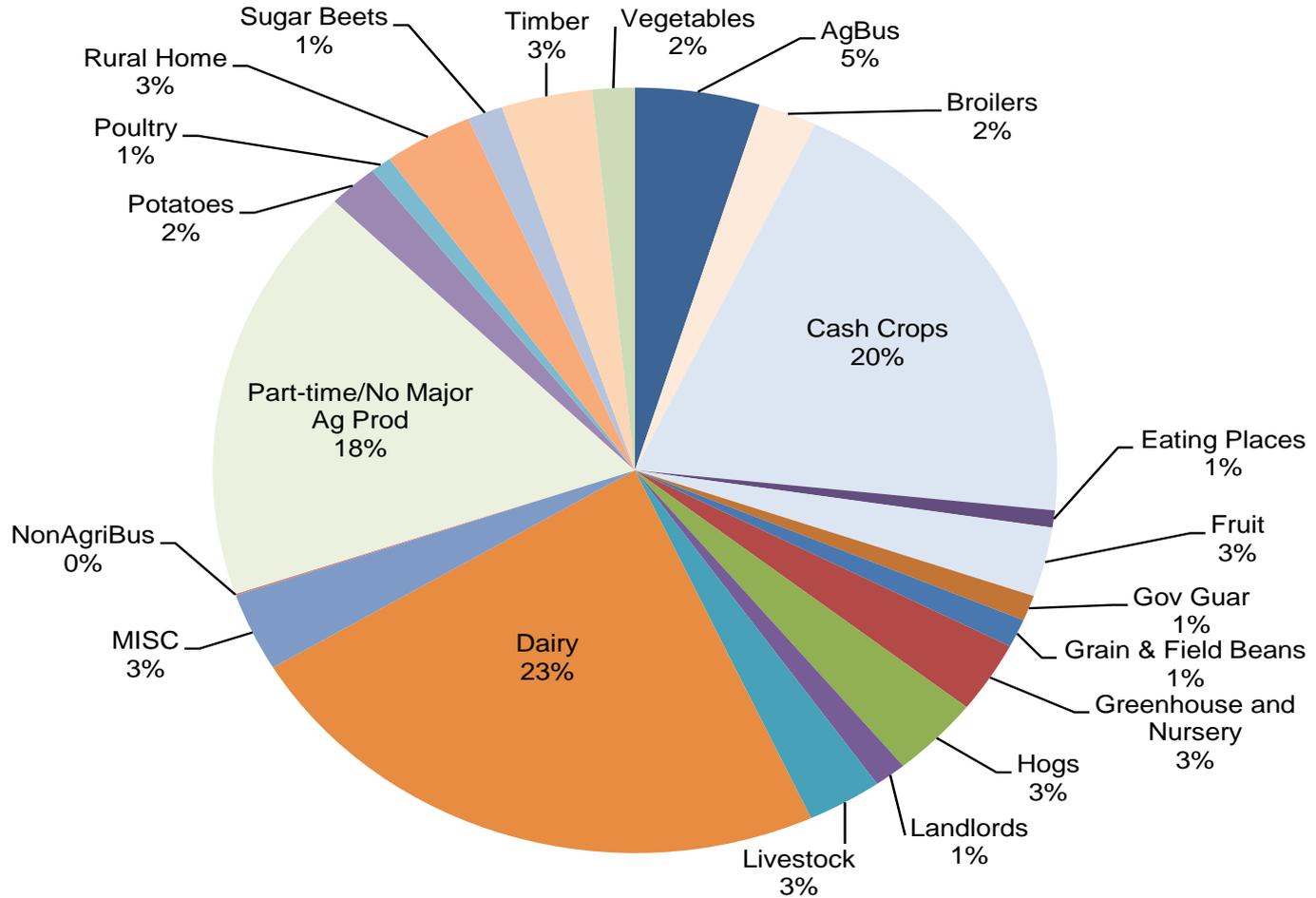


GreenStone Overview

- Part of the nationwide Farm Credit System
- Dominant provider of credit and financial services in Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin.
- \$108 million paid in patronage since 2005
- 70% market share (against selected banks)
- 97% customer satisfaction in 2012
- 22,000 customers
- \$6 billion in owned and managed assets
- 37 locations (headquarters in East Lansing)
- 460 team members

Portfolio Diversity

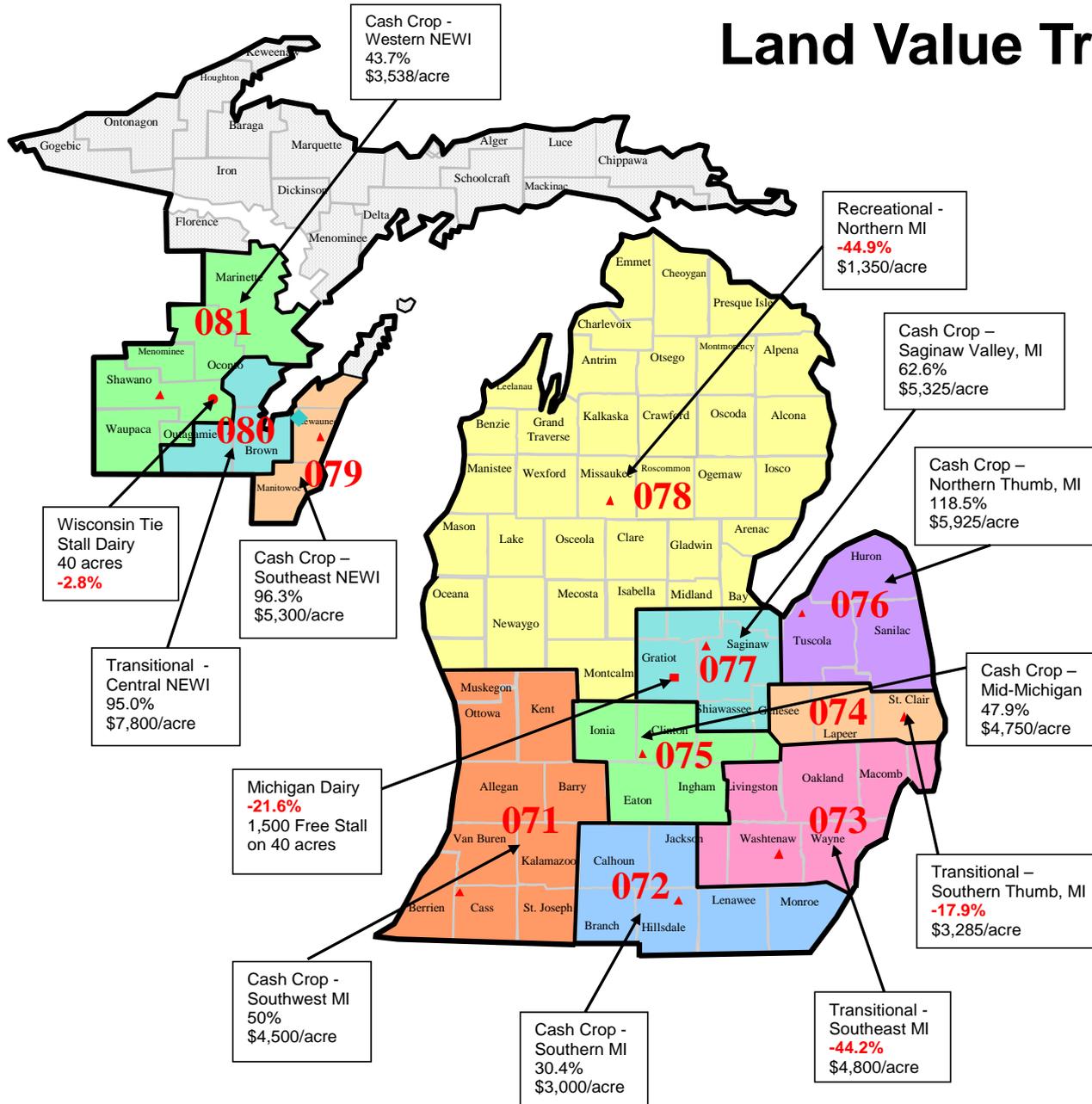
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
Volume by Enterprise as of June 30, 2012



Profitability Drives Rents

- ❖ Sugar Beet margins per acre in 2012 were \$1000/acre, with variable costs/acre at \$500 and land rents up to \$500.
- ❖ Corn margins are \$3-400/acre depending on yield with average rents running from \$150 to \$225/acre.
- ❖ Soybeans – \$250-400/acre margin with similar cash rents for corn.
- ❖ Apples- \$3,850/acre average net, including rent of \$350-\$700/acre, depending on age and productivity of the orchard.
- ❖ Tart cherries – \$2,000/acre net less 50% if orchard is leased. One of the few crops done on a shared basis.

Land Value Trends Map



Typical Land Rental Arrangements

- ❖ Lease and rental agreements are overwhelmingly on a cash per acre basis for not only row crops but, for many specialty crops as well.
- ❖ Agreements are informal. Typically for 1 to 3 years with some going up to five years or longer in NE Wisconsin.
- ❖ Rental rates are generally driven by overall projected commodity margins similar to the way a purchase price/acre is determined but:
 - Dairy producers are more apt to pay “whatever is necessary” to keep the acres needed to feed animals and spread manure.

Typical Land Rental Arrangements

❖ Rents determined by:

- Soil productivity.
- Commodity profitability.
- Localized supply and demand.
- Length of time of the relationship between landlord and tenant.
- Ease of operation of the parcel. (Size, location, etc.)

Typical Land Rental Arrangements

❖ Emerging Trends

- Some use of formally adjustable rental agreements to benefit landlords as commodity prices increase and producers should they decline.
- Less successful operators blindly driving up land costs to “keep up with the neighbors”.
- Larger producers can and are travelling further to acquire land (farming further north in Michigan.)