

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
November 29, 2016

THE DOWNTURN IN AGRICULTURE:

**Implications for the Midwest &
the Future of Farming**

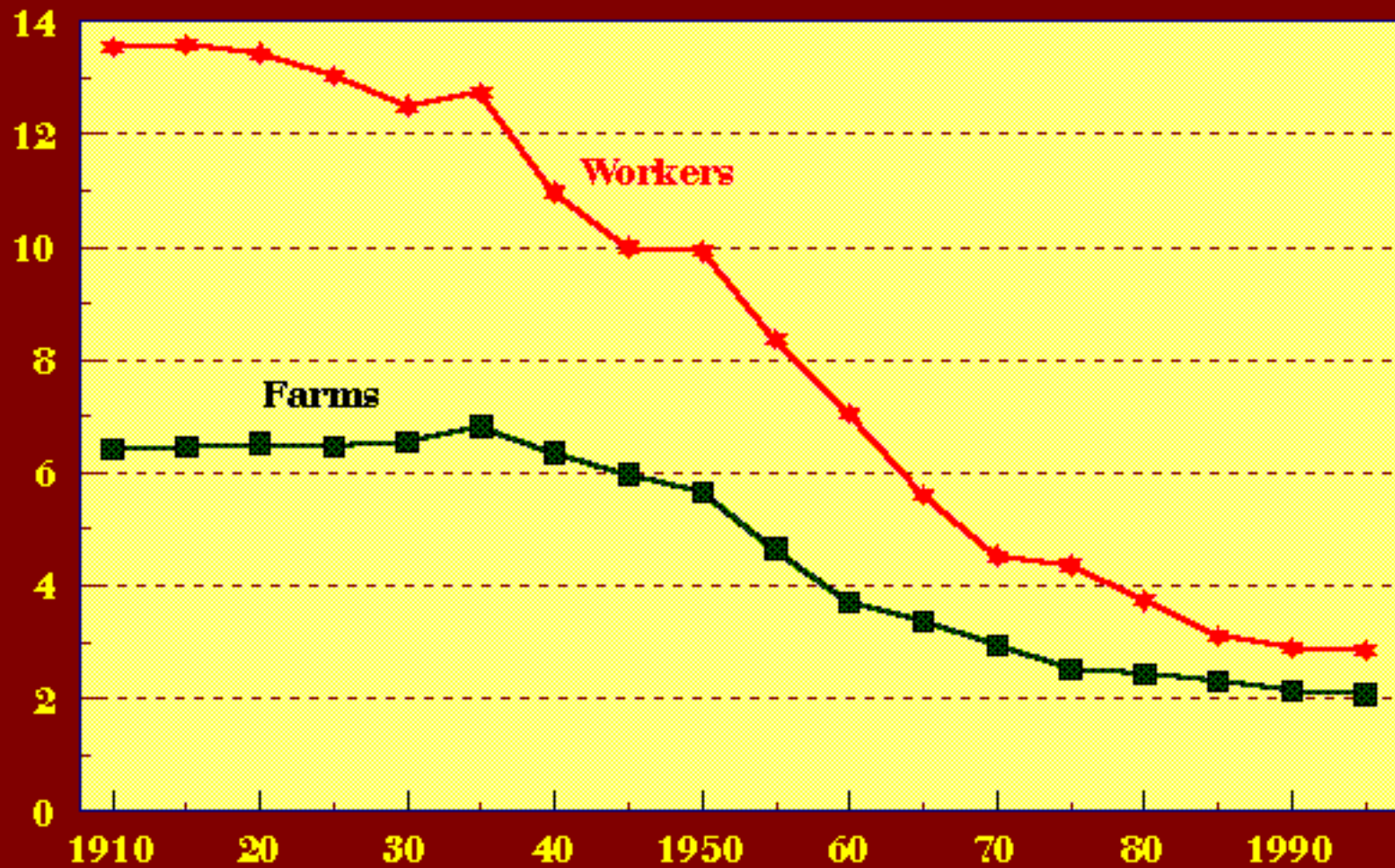
Chicago Union Stock Yard

By 1900 Chicago produced 82% of meat consumed in U.S. (Chicago Historical Society)



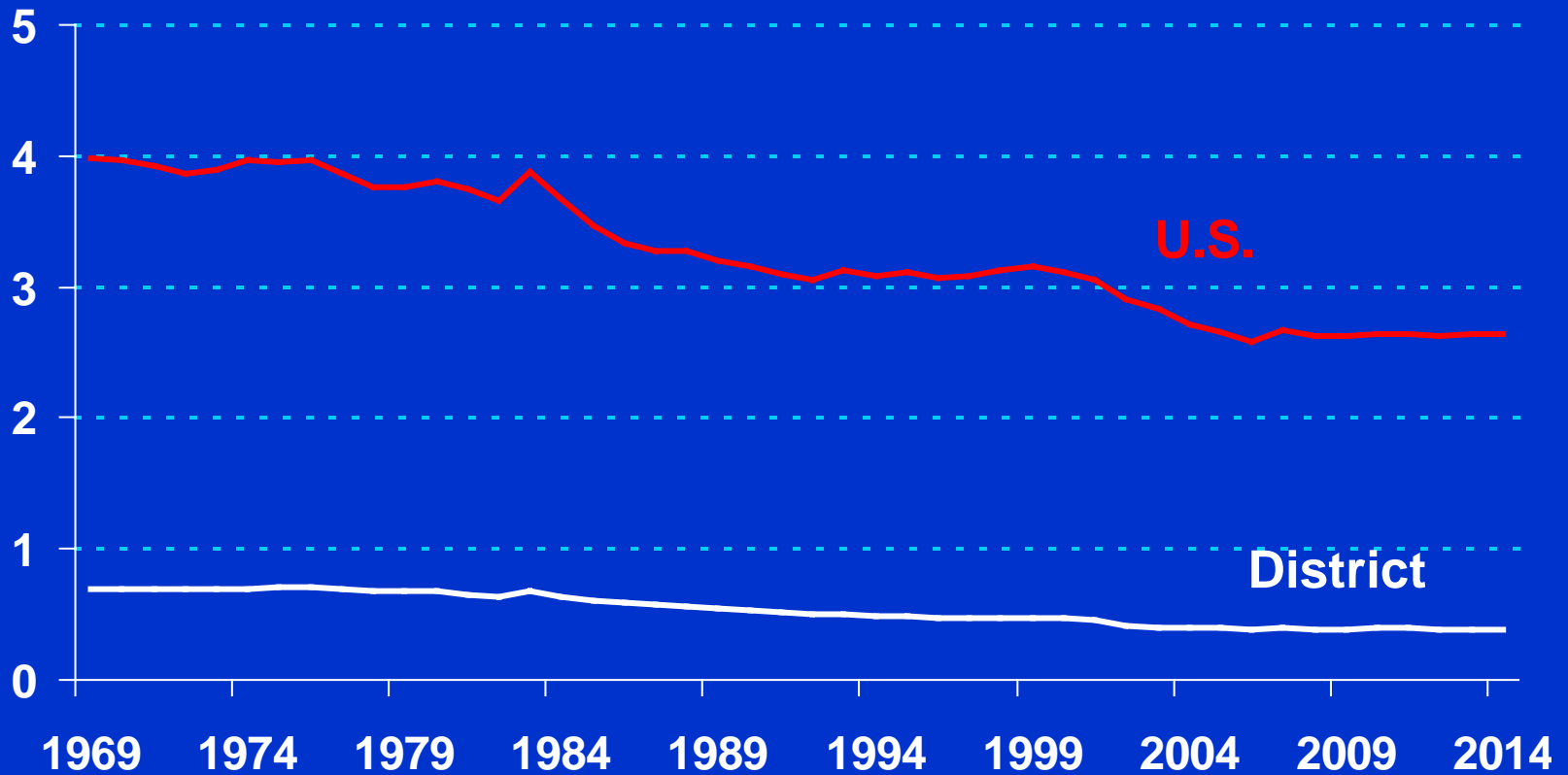
U. S. Number of Farms & All Farm Workers 1910 - 1995

Millions



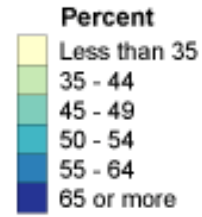
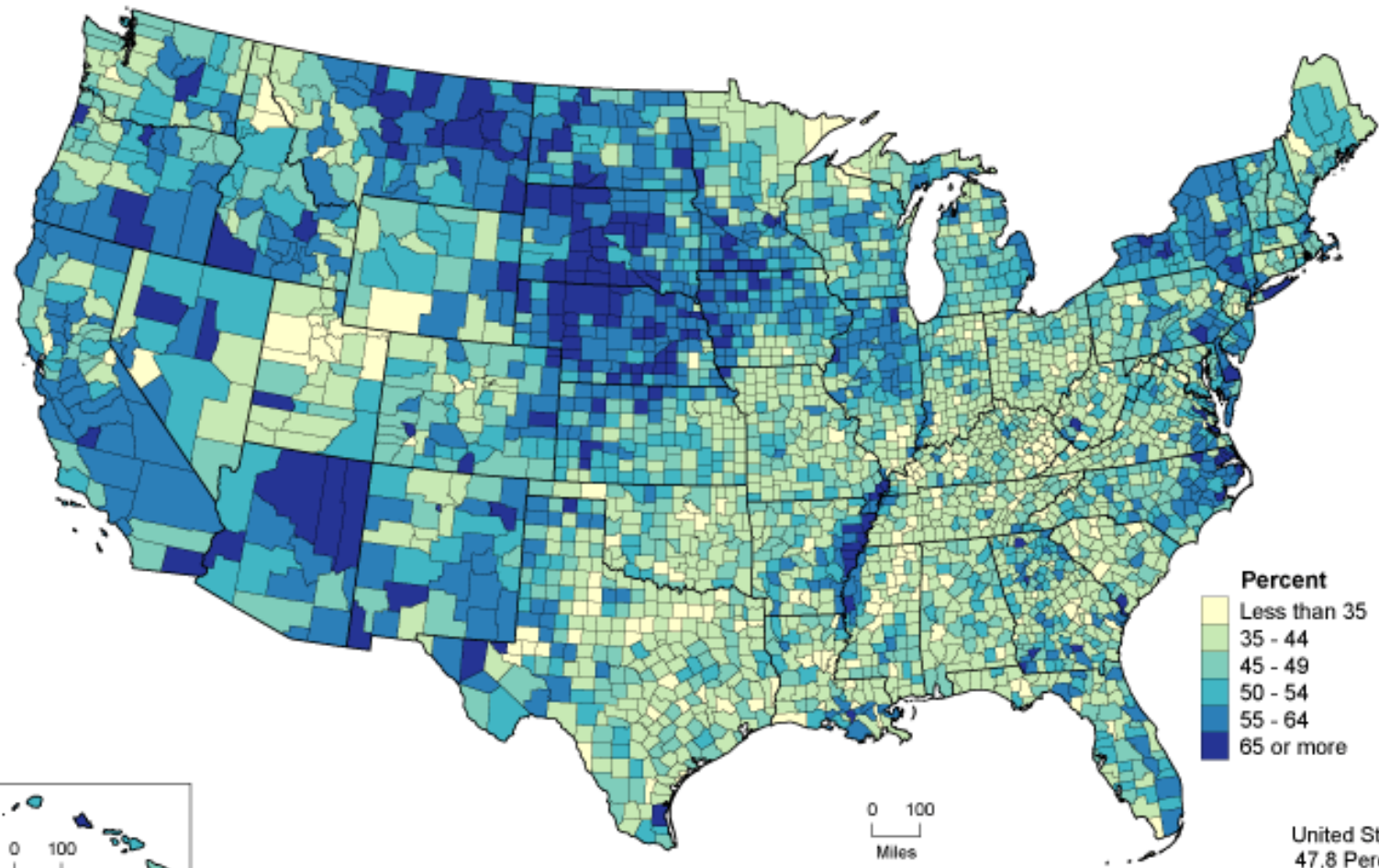
Farm employment for the U.S. and the 7th District

(in million jobs)



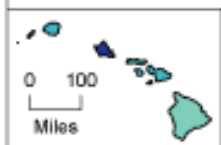
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts

Percent of Principal Farm Operators Reporting Primary Occupation as Farming: 2012



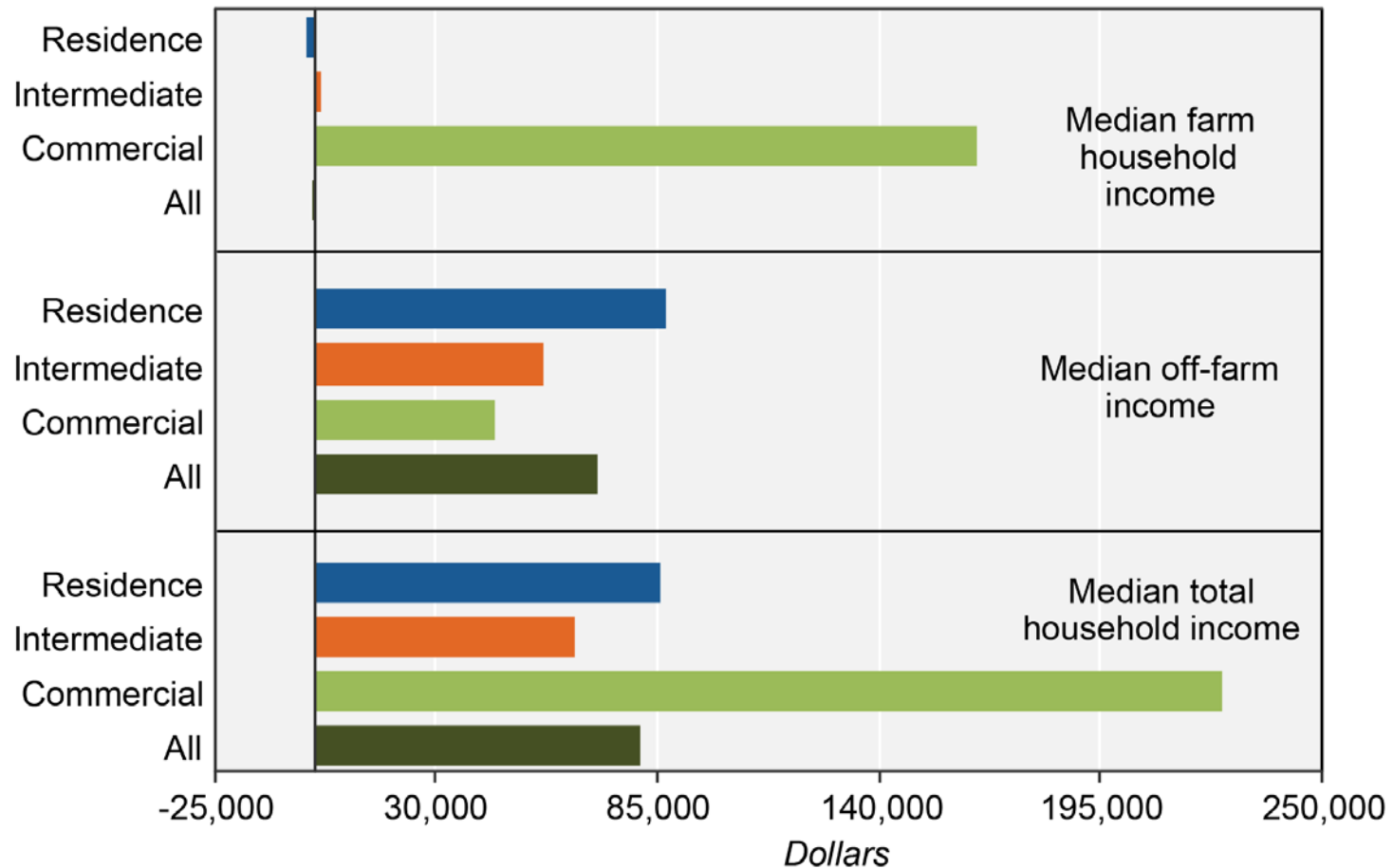
United States
47.8 Percent

2012 Census of Agriculture



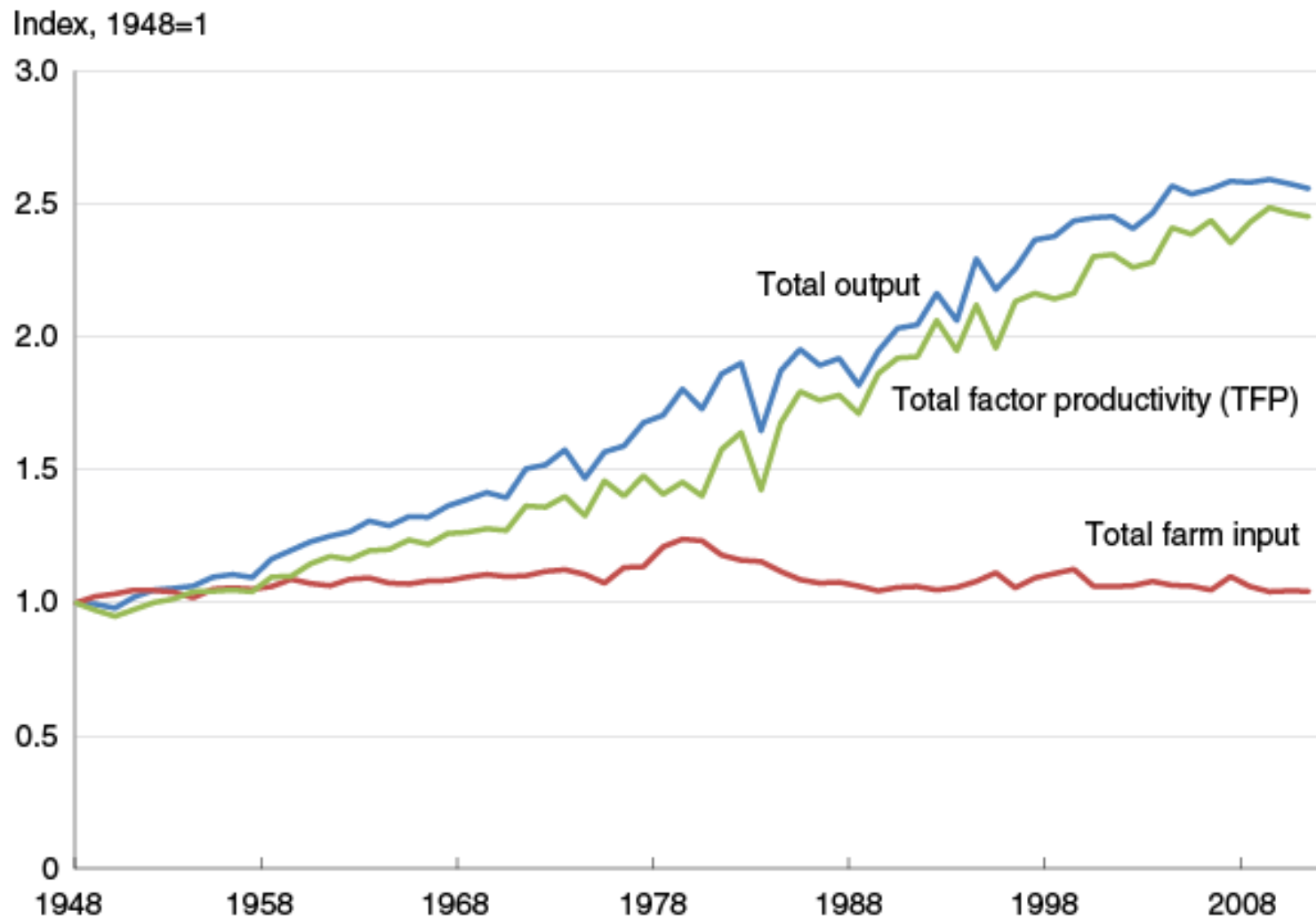
Commercial farms generate income, while the median farm loses money

Median farm income, median off-farm income, and median total income of farm operator households, by farm type, 2014



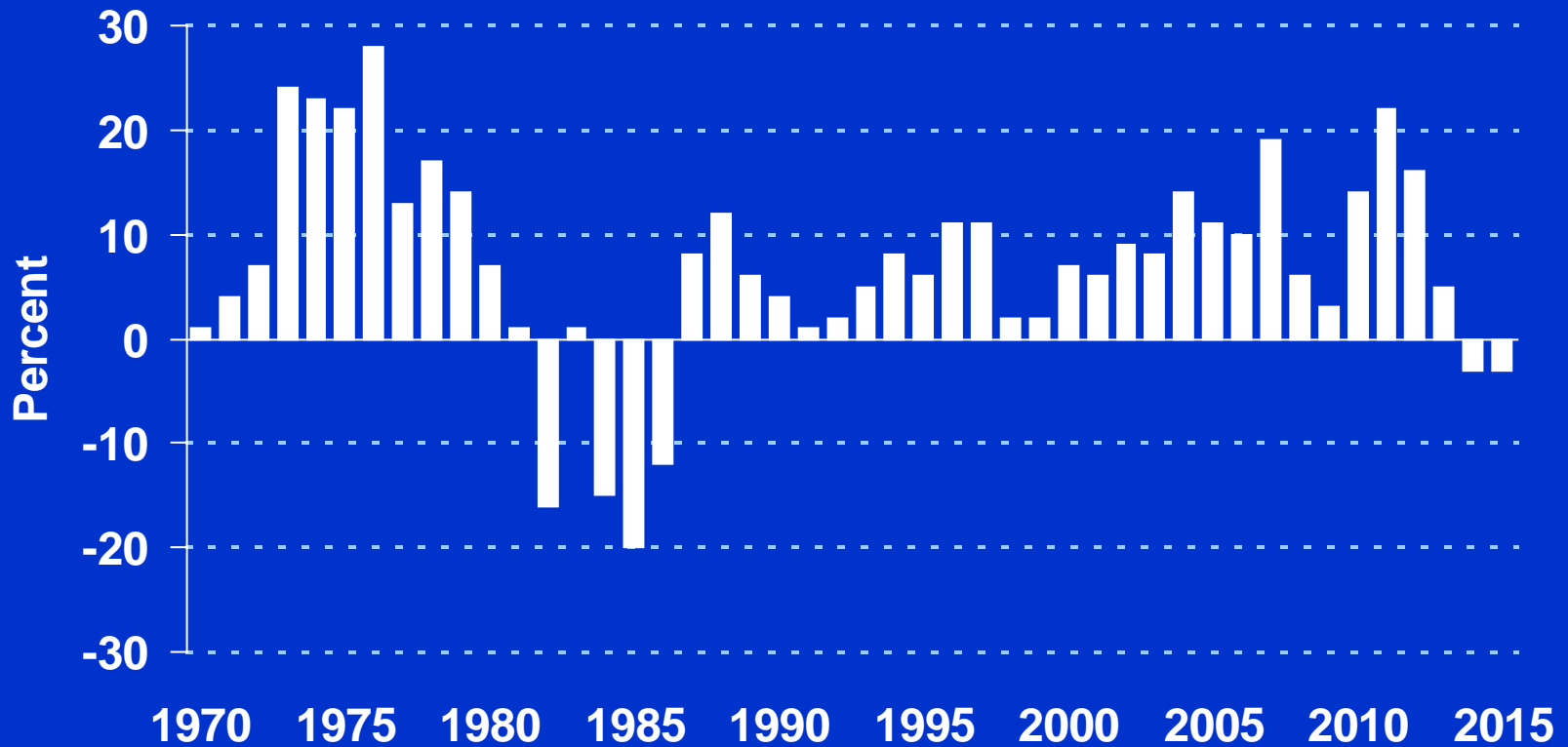
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Data as of November 24, 2015.

U.S. agricultural productivity growth accounts for most of output growth between 1948 and 2011



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

Annual change in farmland values in Seventh Federal Reserve District



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

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