

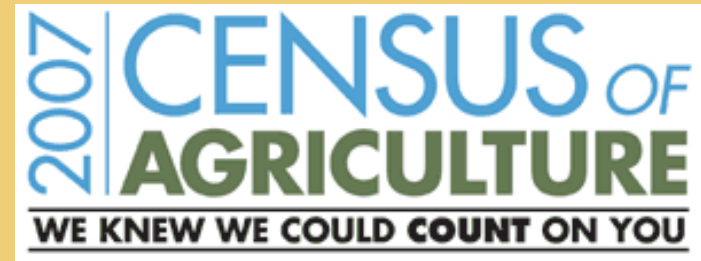
# Massachusetts Farmland Protection Forum



# Land in Farms

2002 Census of Agriculture:

- 519,000 acres of “land in farms”
- 10% of total land in MA



# Land in Farms

MA “Land in Farms”:

Woodland = 41%

Cropland = 40%

“Other Land” = 13%

Pastureland = 6%



# Prime Farmland

Of the 519,000 acres of land in farms, only 119,000 acres of that land is cropland with prime agricultural soils—the best land for food production.



# Farmland Loss

MassGIS: 2,900 ac/yr (1971-1999)

NRI: 5,400 ac/yr converted (1992-1997)

2,000 ac/yr converted (1997-2003)

15,000 ac/yr **forested land** (1997-2003)

Census: 12,000 ac/yr (1997-2002)



# Farm Real Estate Values

The average per-acre farm real estate value in Massachusetts is \$12,200, the highest in the country.



# Protected Farmland

Land protected through the APR Program to date represents 11.8 percent of the Commonwealth's land in farms.

