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Major findings

To get a better sense of where losses of prime land are accelerating, holding steady, or slowing, AFT looked at state-level 1997 NRI data for prime land developed during the 1987-1992 and 1992-1997 time periods.

We then calculated the average annual rates of loss for each period and expressed the change in annual rate from one period to the next as a percentage increase or decrease (acceleration or deceleration). These changes varied from state to state, but the rate of development on prime land accelerated in all of the 20 most threatened states. Nationwide, the acceleration exceeded 250 percent in some states, and only seven showed any deceleration at all.

Changes in farmland acreage and changes in rates of change: all states

STATE	Prime acres lost		Acres lost per year		Increase in rate of loss over previous 5 years
	87-92	92-97	87-92	92-97	
TX	234,300	332,800	46860	66560	42%
OH	146,400	212,200	29280	42440	45%
GA	110,900	184,000	22180	36800	66%
NC	167,100	168,300	33420	33660	1%
IL	67,900	160,900	13580	32180	137%
PA	109,700	134,900	21940	26980	23%
IN	75,100	124,200	15020	24840	65%
TN	87,200	124,000	17440	24800	42%
MI	72,700	121,400	14540	24280	67%
AL	50,200	113,800	10040	22760	127%
VA	59,800	105,000	11960	21000	76%
WI	54,200	91,900	10840	18380	70%
NY	36,900	89,100	7380	17820	141%
SC	52,600	86,200	10520	17240	64%
CA	73,800	85,200	14760	17040	15%
MS	39,000	84,800	7800	16960	117%
LA	73,800	83,700	14760	16740	13%

KY	50,700	80,000	10140	16000	58%
AR	20,200	71,600	4040	14320	254%
MN	54,100	71,600	10820	14320	32%
NJ	33,000	70,800	6600	14160	115%
MO	30,700	64,200	6140	12840	109%
OK	28,800	63,300	5760	12660	120%
KS	57,800	53,100	11560	10620	-8%
MD	20,300	52,200	4060	10440	157%
WA	35,200	45,800	7040	9160	30%
IA	19,400	40,200	3880	8040	107%
OR	29,000	37,600	5800	7520	30%
MA	17,500	29,100	3500	5820	66%
ID	26,900	28,800	5380	5760	7%
NE	14,800	24,200	2960	4840	64%
ME	6,600	19,500	1320	3900	195%
UT	12,000	17,800	2400	3560	48%
AZ	27,200	17,100	5440	3420	-37%
WV	8,800	16,000	1760	3200	82%
FL	21,900	15,200	4380	3040	-31%
SD	30,200	14,400	6040	2880	-52%
DE	9,700	14,000	1940	2800	44%
MT	4,100	13,800	820	2760	237%
ND	4,400	10,800	880	2160	145%
CO	7,900	10,100	1580	2020	28%
CT	4,900	10,000	980	2000	104%
NM	1,000	3,600	200	720	260%
NH	3,000	3,300	600	660	10%
NV	900	2,100	180	420	133%
HI	8,900	1,600	1780	320	-82%
RI	3,200	1,300	640	260	-59%
VT	3,100	700	620	140	-77%
WY	0	100	0	20	0%

American Farmland Trust 1200 18th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20036 202.331.7300