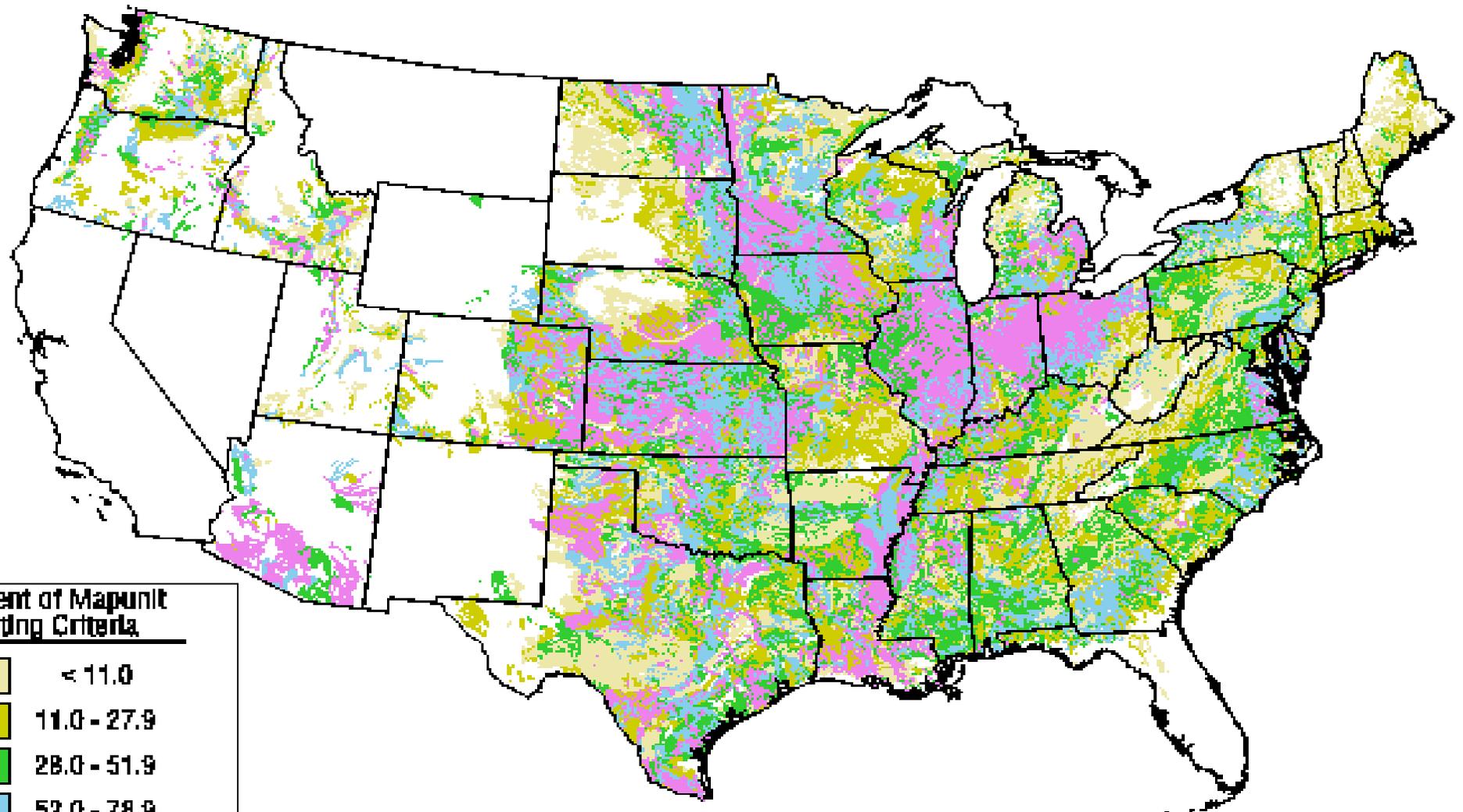


Prime Farmland

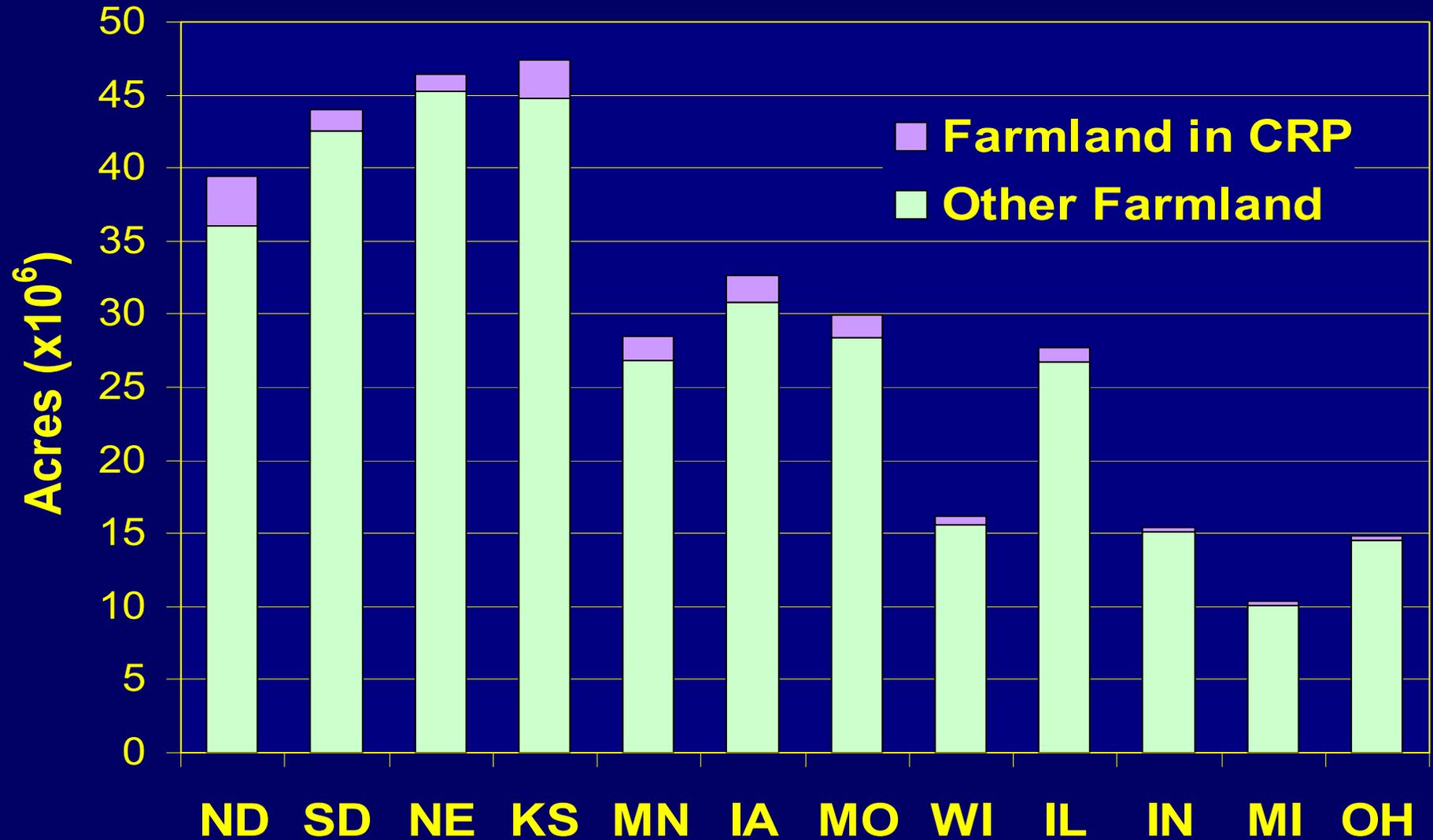


Percent of Mapunit Meeting Criteria



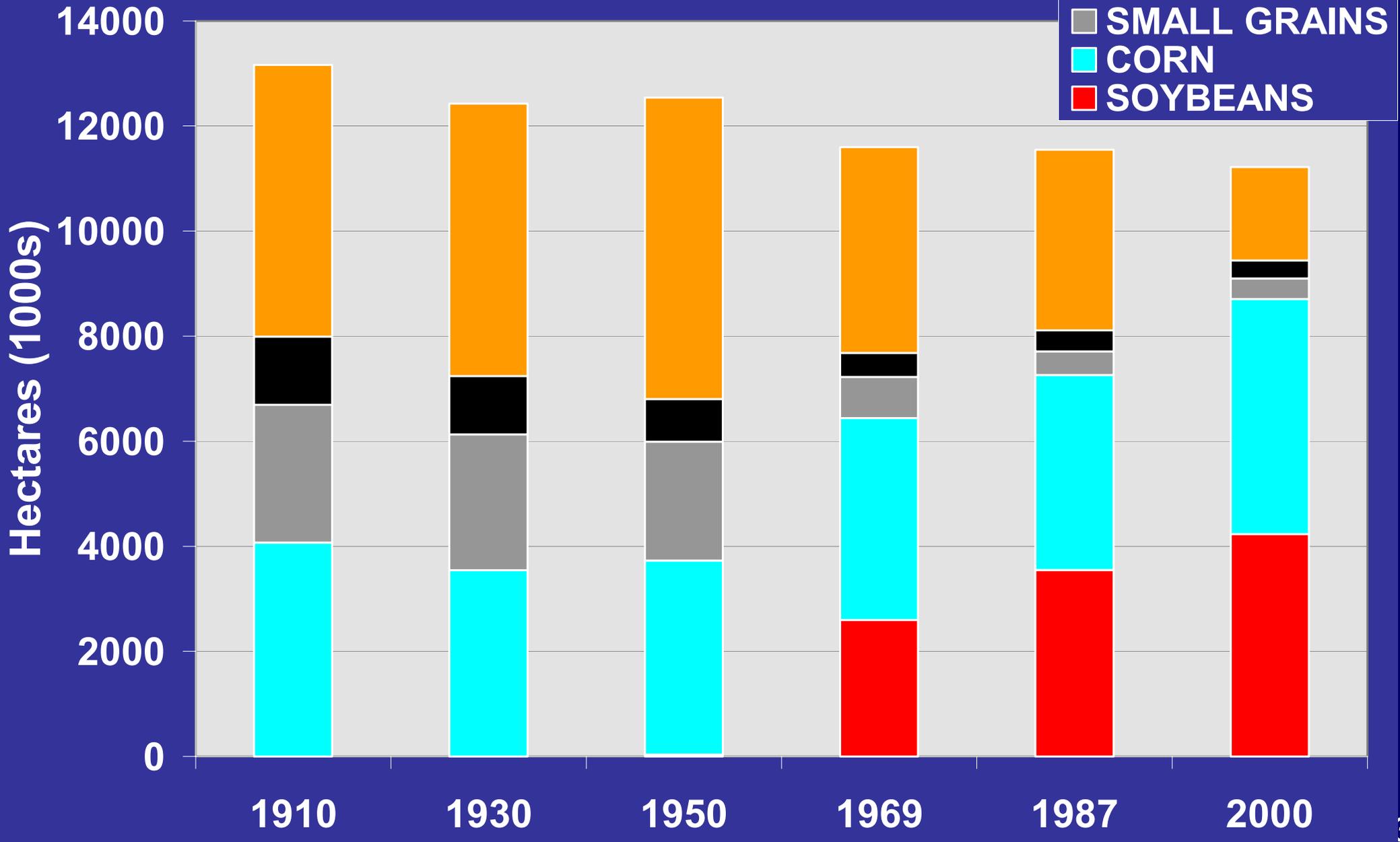
Source: USDA – NRSC (1987)

CRP in the North Central Region

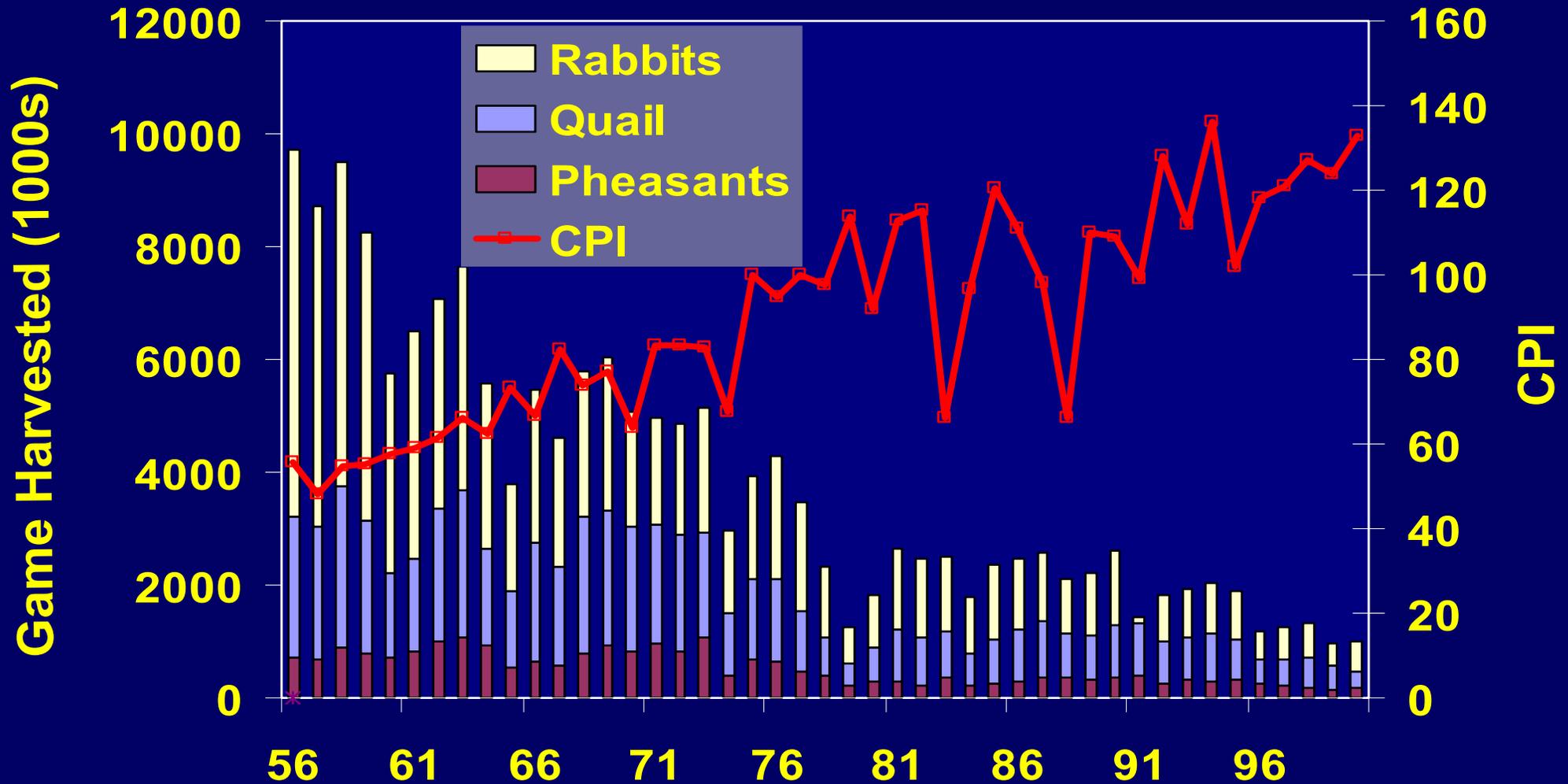


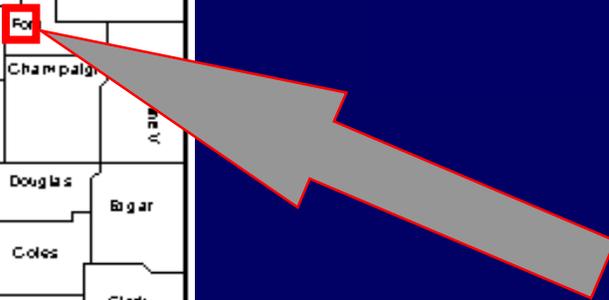
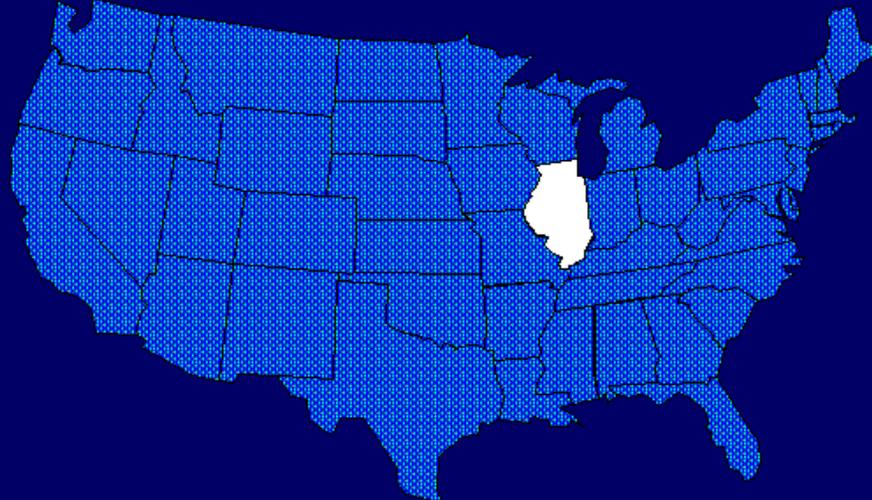
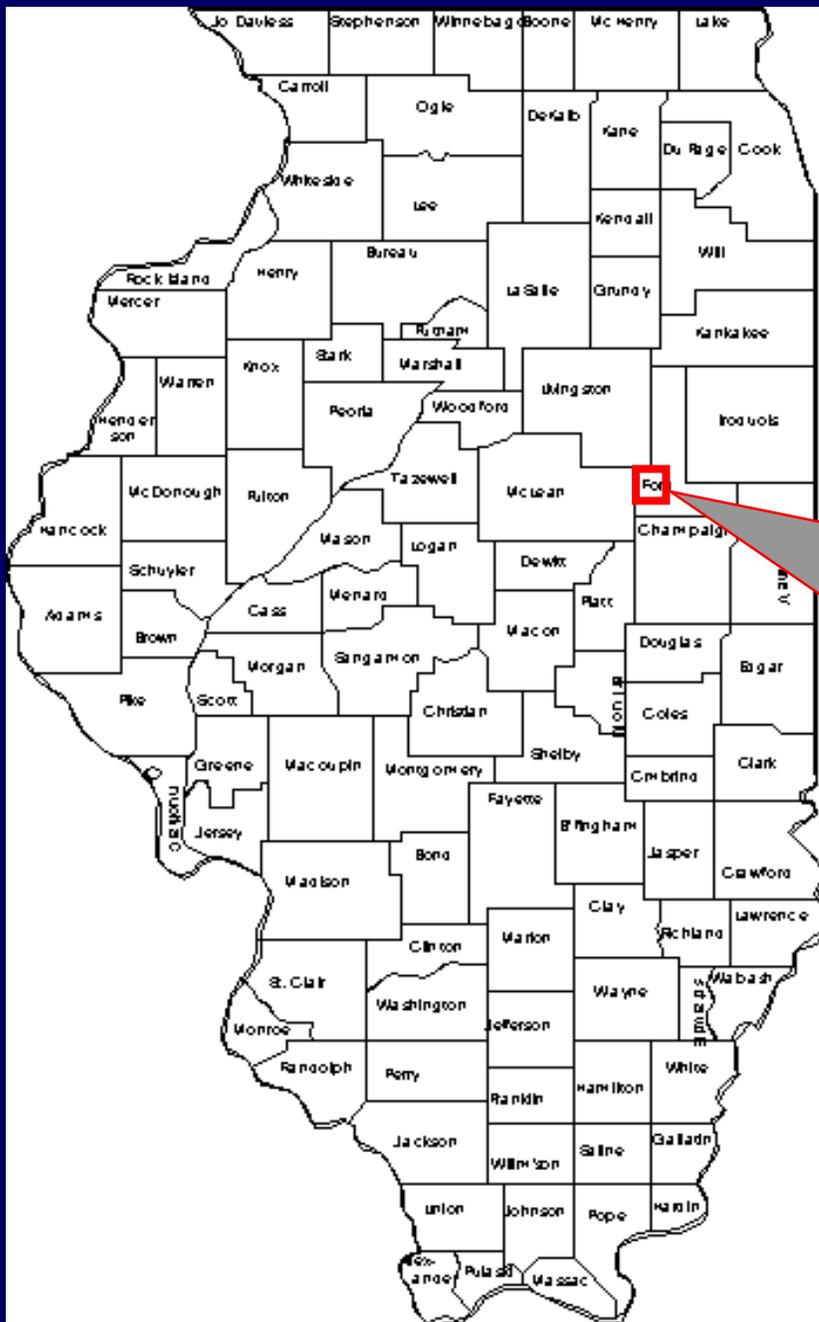
Illinois Farmland

- OTHER
- HAY
- SMALL GRAINS
- CORN
- SOYBEANS



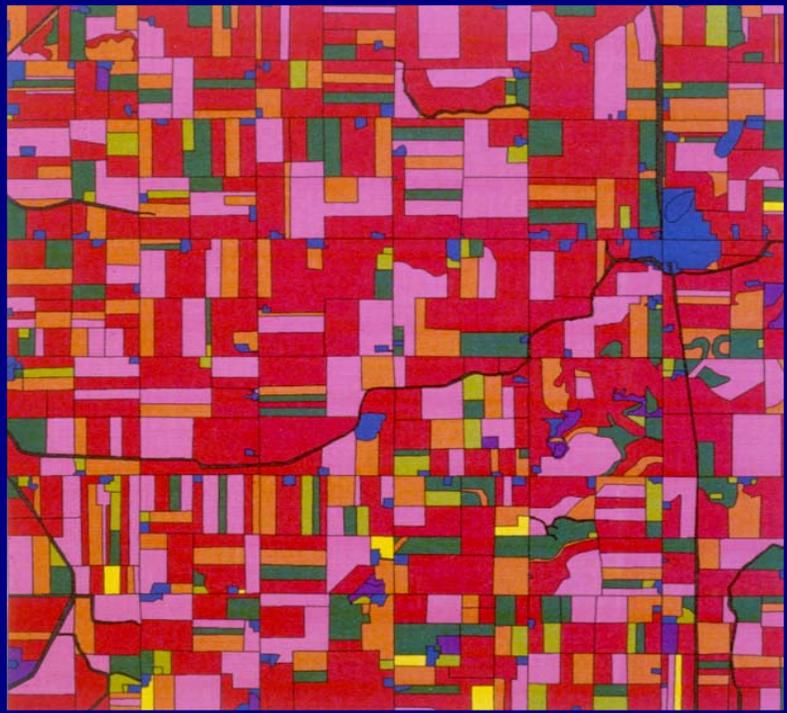
Upland Game and Crop Production Index (CPI) Illinois



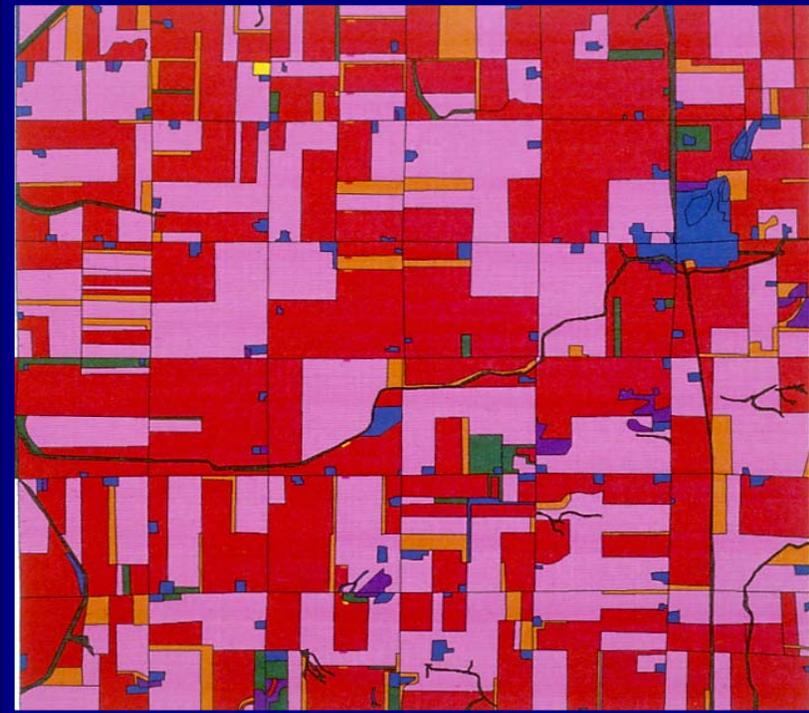


Ford County Study Areas Near Sibley

ca 1963



ca 1990



100

6

75%

32%

Pheasants/Section

Chicks Alive 6 Weeks

Hens Reproducing

Hens Surviving Fall-to-Fall

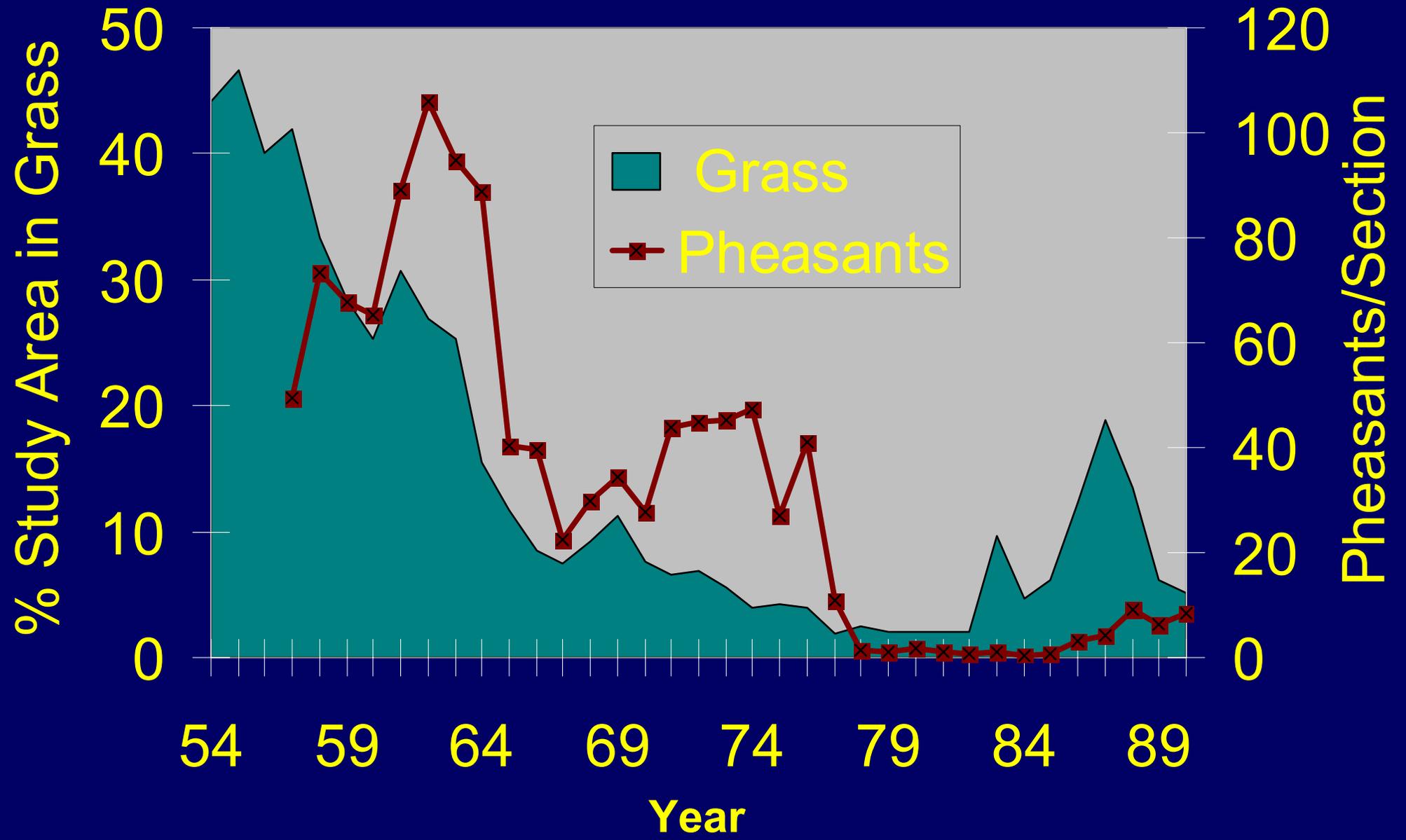
10

4

<50%

25%

Pheasant Abundance Ford Co. IL

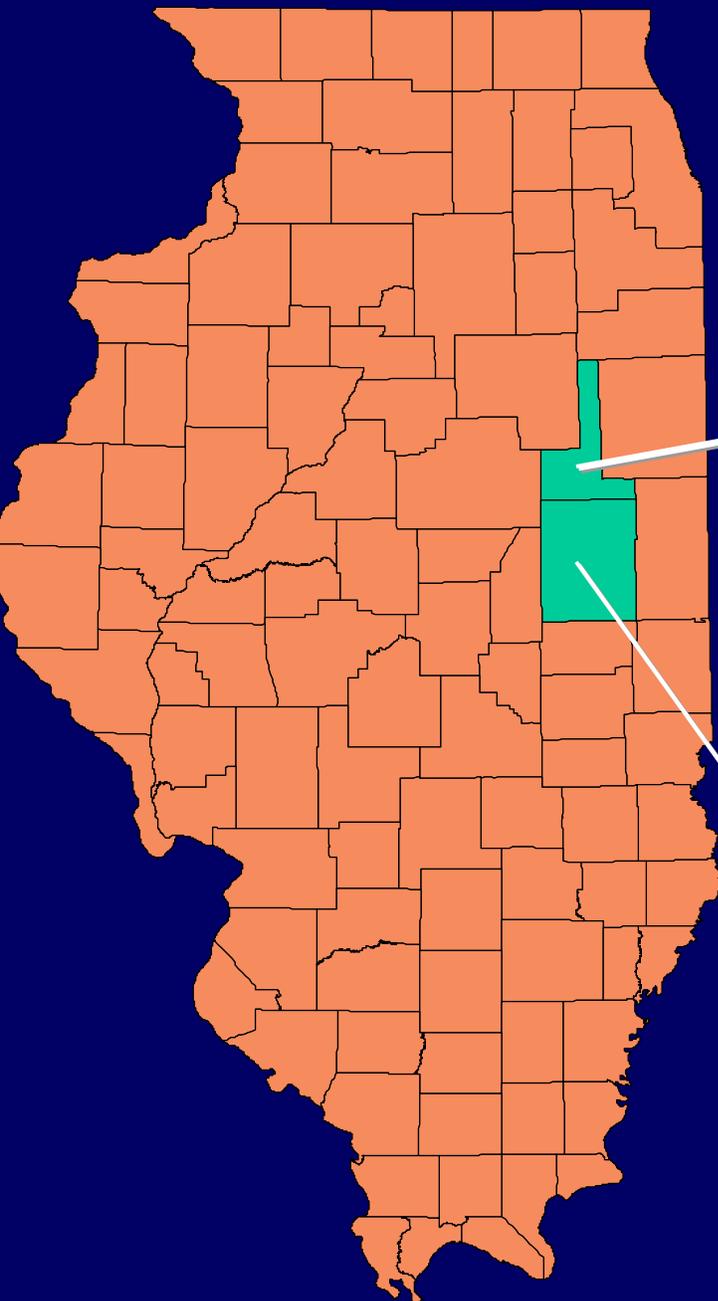


Ford County Plots - Hay & Small Grains*

Year	Area	Diverted	% Planted Diverted
1962	27.4%	6.1%	22.1%
1963	25.0%	9.1%	36.5%
1991	1.9%	1.9%	100.0%
1992	1.8%	1.8%	99.4%
1993	5.5%	5.5%	100.0%
1994	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%

* 100 4-ha plots





Illinois CRP

970,636 acres of CRP active 1986-2004
(13th); 23% of CRP is CP21 & 22;
3rd in CP21 and 1st in CP22

Ford County - 91% row crops

8th in CP21; 24th in CP21 & 22;

55% of CRP is CP21 & 22

CP21 provides 16% of rural grassland

Champaign County - 85% row crops

3rd in CP21; 4th in CP21 & 22;

73% of CRP acreage is CP21 & 22;

CP21 provides 11% of rural grassland

Accomplishments

Champaign County*

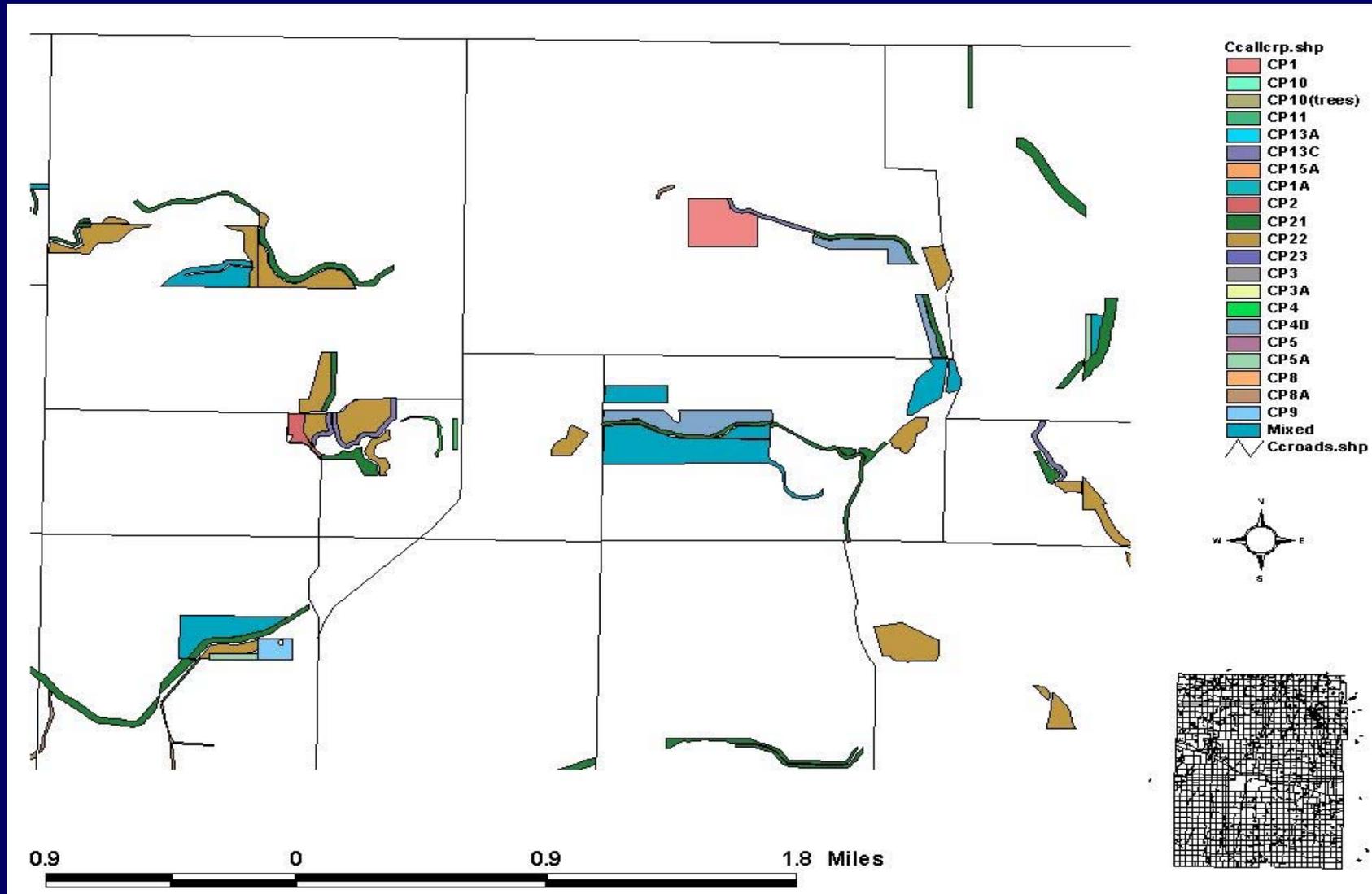
1,376 miles of stream bank
391 miles protected by existing
vegetation (28%)
580 miles protected by
conservation buffers (42%)
1,491 contracts (all active CRP)
5,933 acres of conservation
buffers

Ford County

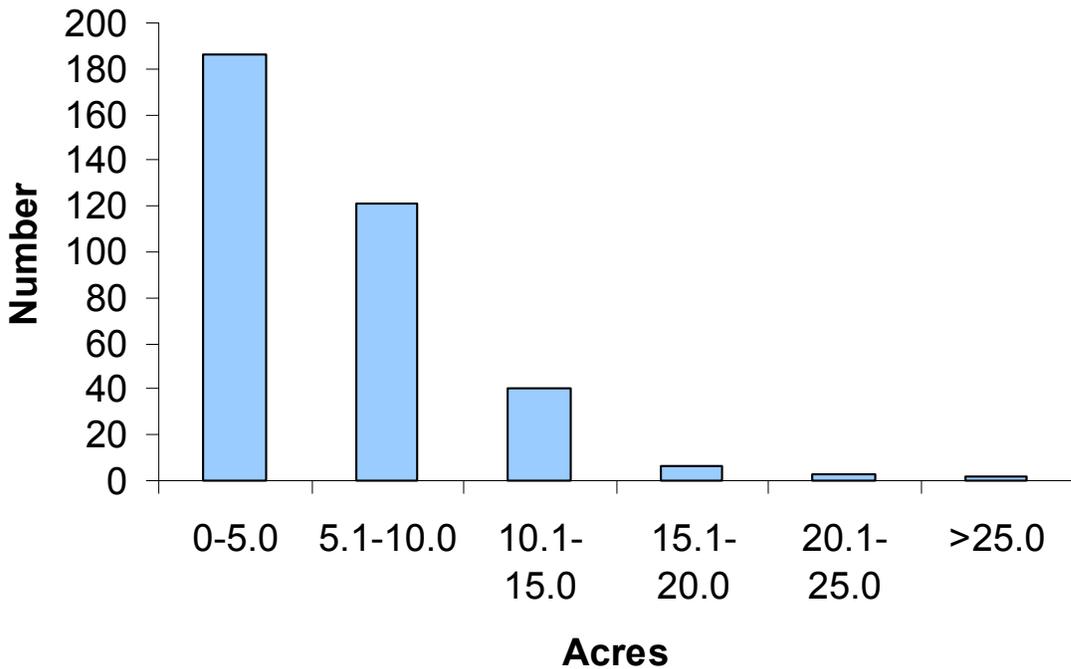
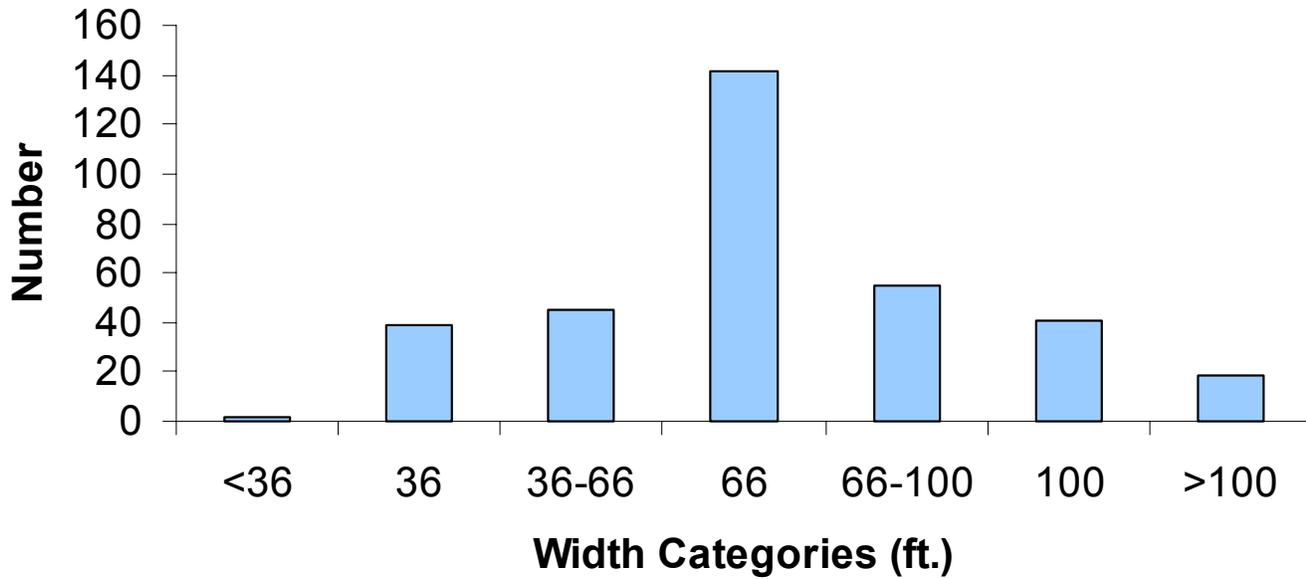
938 miles of stream bank
152 miles protected by existing
vegetation (16%)
348 miles protected by
conservation buffers (37%)
753 contracts (all active CRP)
3,124 acres of conservation
buffers

*70% of stream banks protected – an upper limit?

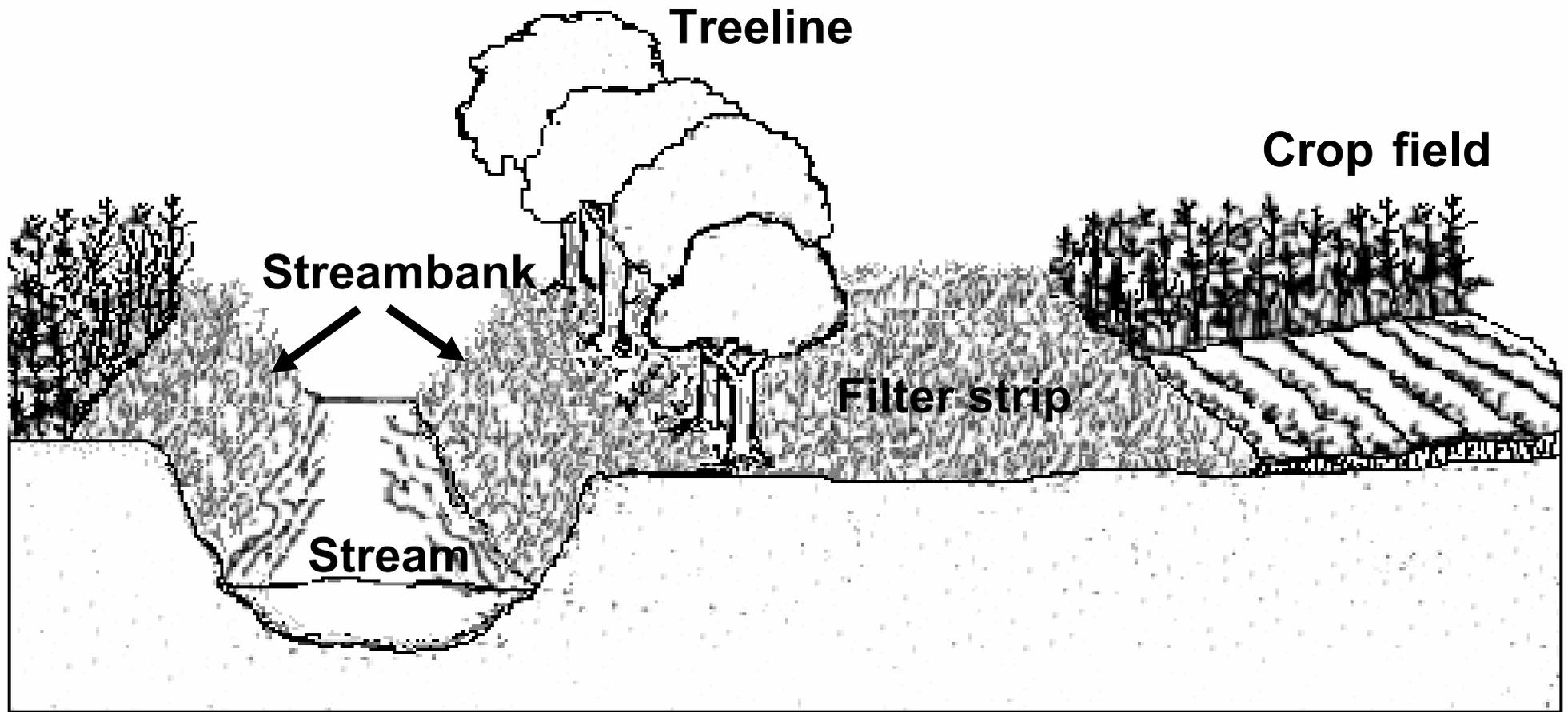
CRP in Champaign County, IL



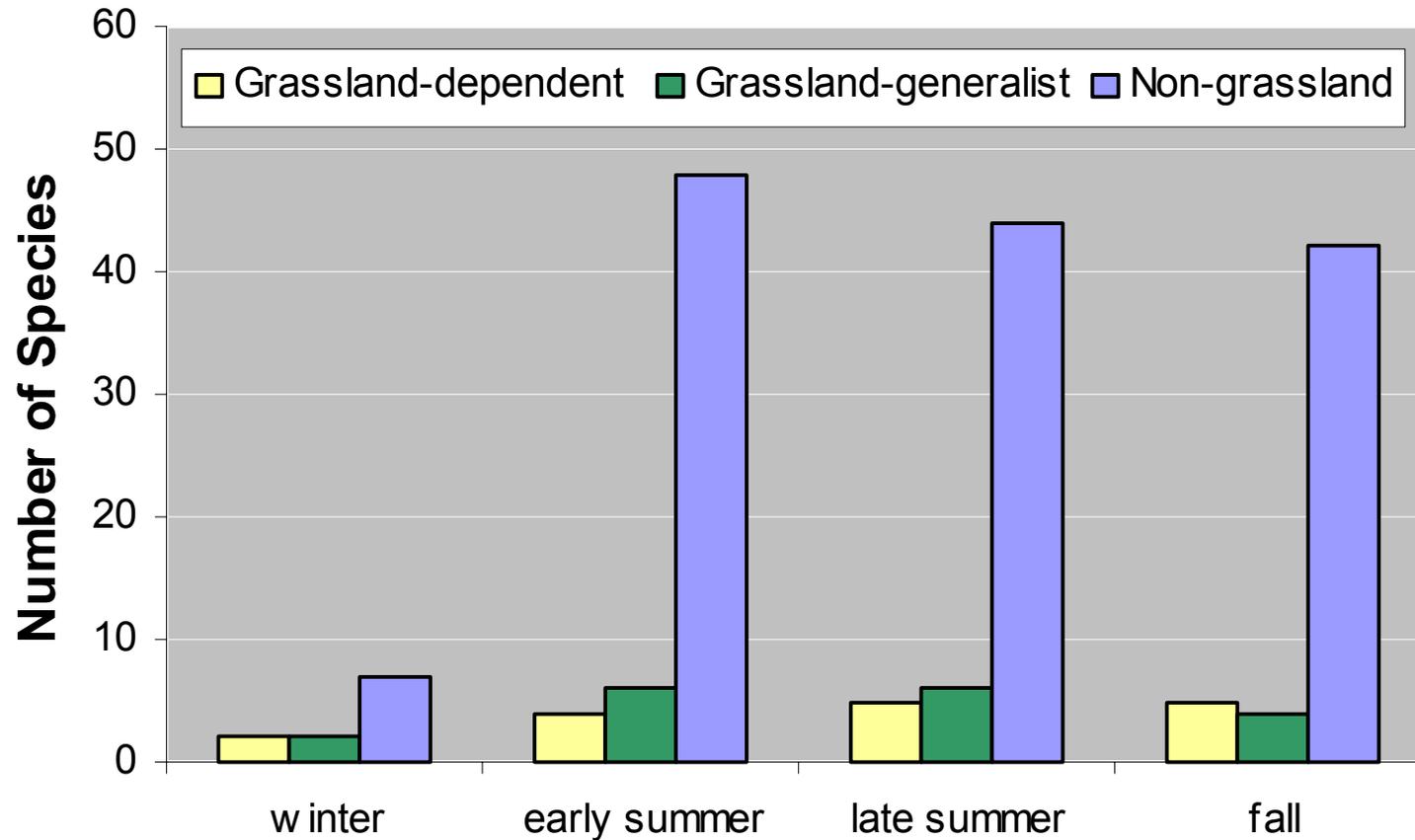
Contracted Buffer Width



Contracted Buffer Area



Bird Species in Conservation Buffers Central Illinois



89 species were recorded in 2002 along 600m tracts

Nest Success 02 – 03

Conservation Buffers - Central Illinois

- 18 species (994 nests) were recorded nesting on 58 of the 59 filter strips and bordering stream banks randomly selected for study (600 m tracts).
- 12 species (521 active nests) were in herbaceous vegetation in filter strips per se (78 ha).
- Of 743 active nests found, 79% (n = 584) were red-winged blackbird (RWB) nests.
- Nest success was low (e.g., 7% for RWB) and 77% of nests were destroyed by predators.

Nesting by Grassland Birds

Conservation Buffers- Central Illinois

We hypothesized that grass cover (cool or warm season grasses), presence or absence of a treeline, adjacent crop field (e.g., corn or soybean), or filter strip width may affect nest site selection or nest survival, but found no biologically significant differences.

Filter strips supported high numbers of nesting birds (668 nests/100 ha), but were hazardous and attractive primarily to edge species.

Status Checks

- CP21 contracts established in 2000 or before
- Champaign, Ford, and Vermilion counties
- 358 visited summer 2001
- 352 revisited summer 2003
- USDA and SWCD established criteria for ratings
- Training for field checkers
- Visits made mid-June to mid-August

Needs Management?

Contains invasive plants or has a weed problem or needs to be reseeded or does not provide adequate filtering or does not meet contract width

Review 1

- 43% Yes
- 57% No

Review 2

- 30% Yes
- 70% No

Stand Rating

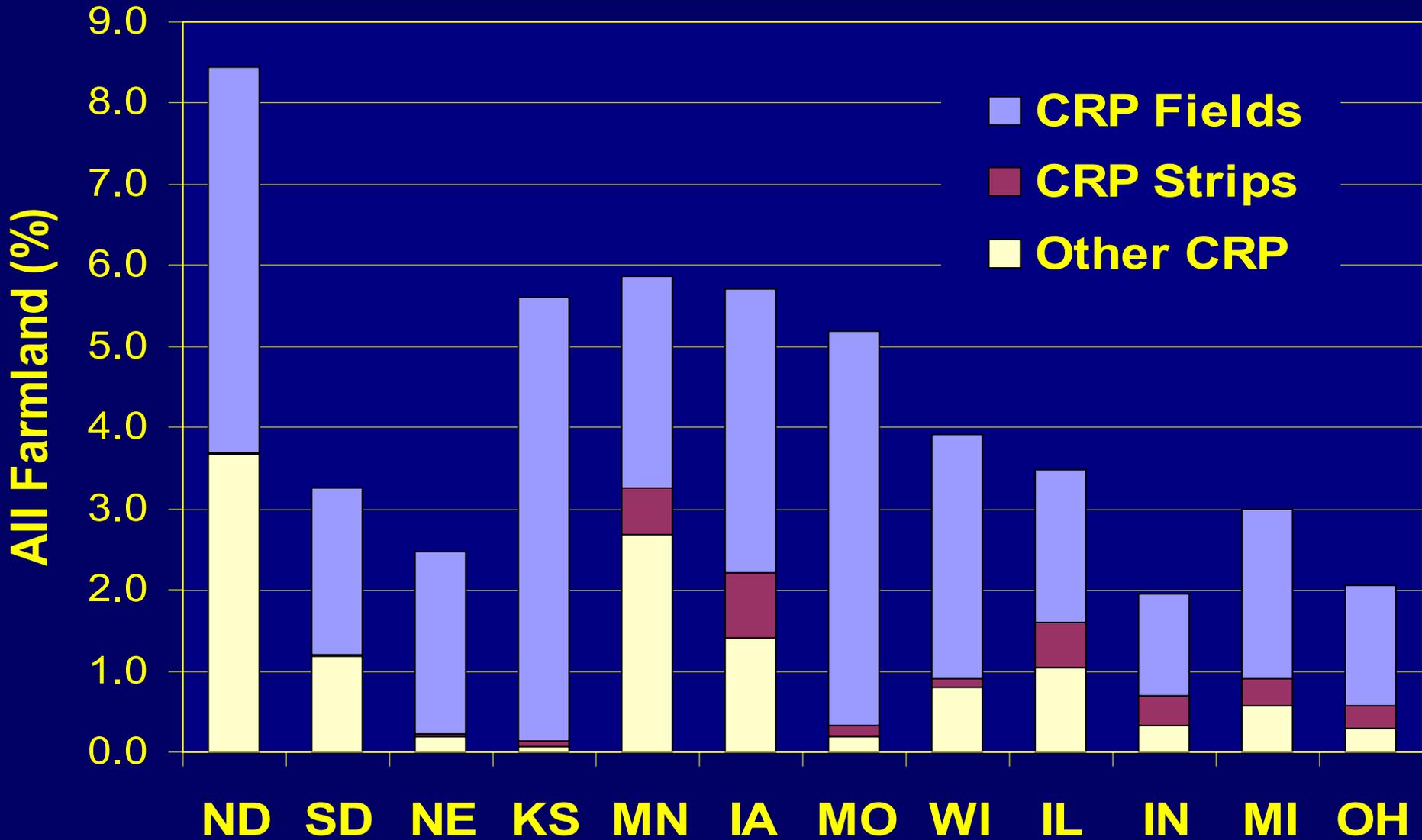
Review 1

- 35% Excellent
- 41% Good
- 18% Fair
- 6% Poor

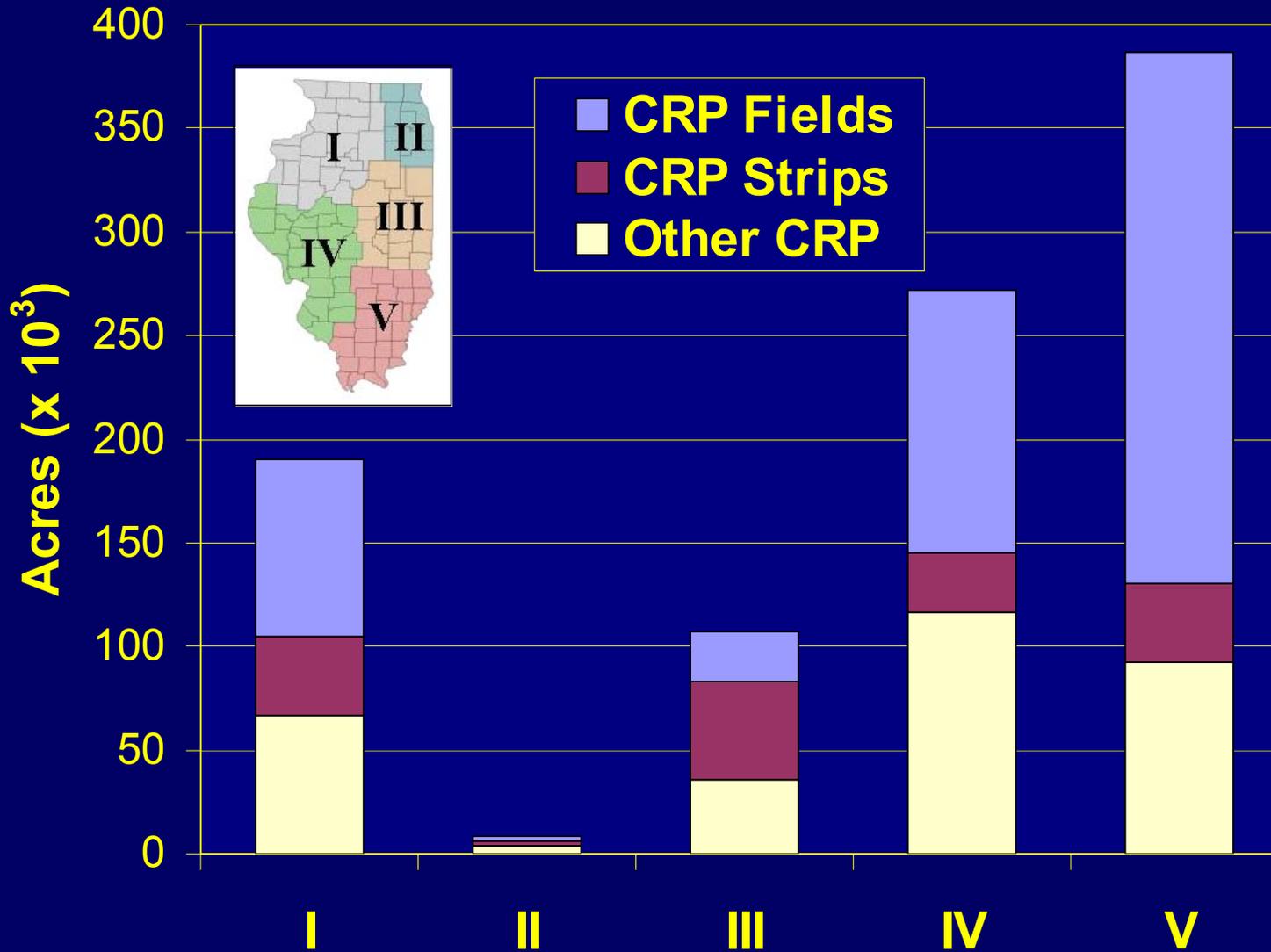
Review 2

- 25% Excellent
- 48% Good
- 22% Fair
- 6% Poor

CRP as % Farmland



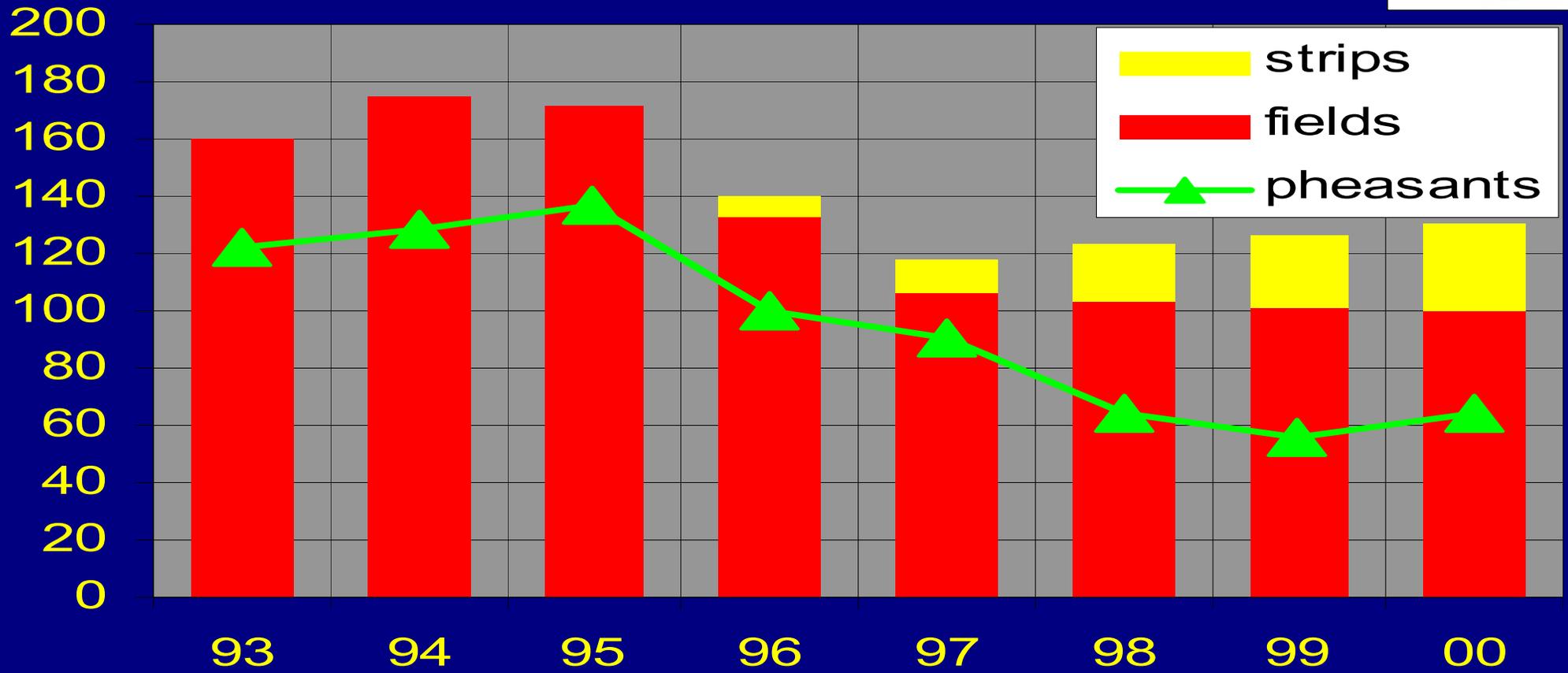
CRP in Illinois



Region I



1000s



Benefits of Buffers to Wildlife

Study Parameter

e.g.,

species diversity

nest success

$$= f(\text{buffer}) + f(\text{matrix}) + f(\text{other})$$

Acknowledgments

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