

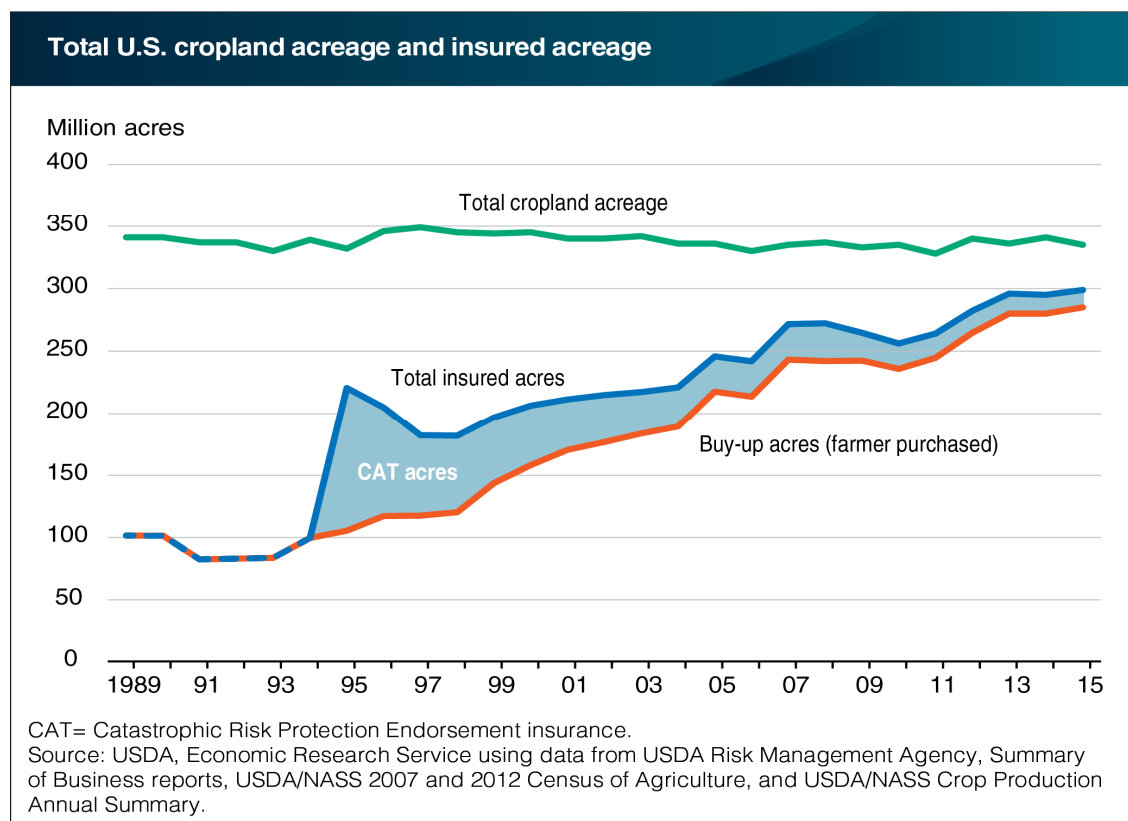
MYTH: Crop insurance encourages farmers to tear up ground.

FACT: The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the conservation compliance provisions and Sodsaver provisions. In addition, acres in production and erosion have decreased.

Farmers must be in compliance with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. They must certify that they will not (a) produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system; (b) plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland; or, (c) convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity. These compliance provisions have been linked to the ability to receive commodity programs since 1985, but the 2014 Farm Bill relinked those provisions with eligibility for premium support paid under the federal crop insurance program.

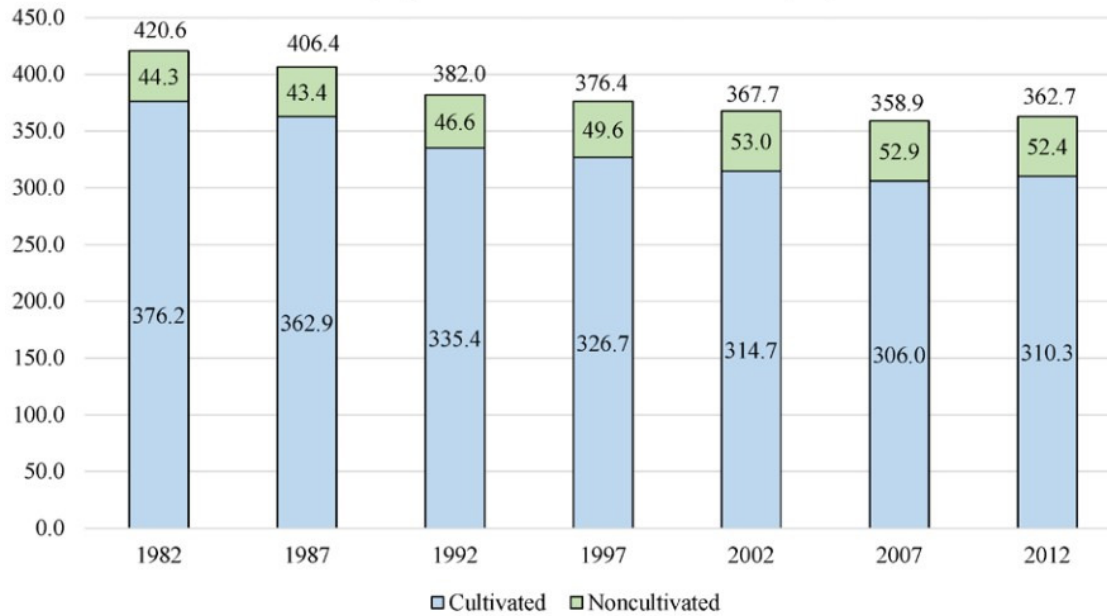
In addition, the 2014 Farm Bill expanded a Sodsaver provision which reduces the federal crop insurance premium discount available to landowners by 50 percent for four years on any lands they convert from native prairie to cropland.

The charts below tell an entirely different story than the myth suggests. The number of acres covered by crop insurance has more than tripled since the 1980's—from less than 100 million acres to almost 300 million acres today. Over the same time period, USDA's Natural Resources Inventory shows cultivated cropland has dropped from 376 to 309 million acres. In addition, the last two slides also show that erosion has decreased significantly over that time period.



Cropland, by Year Millions of Acres

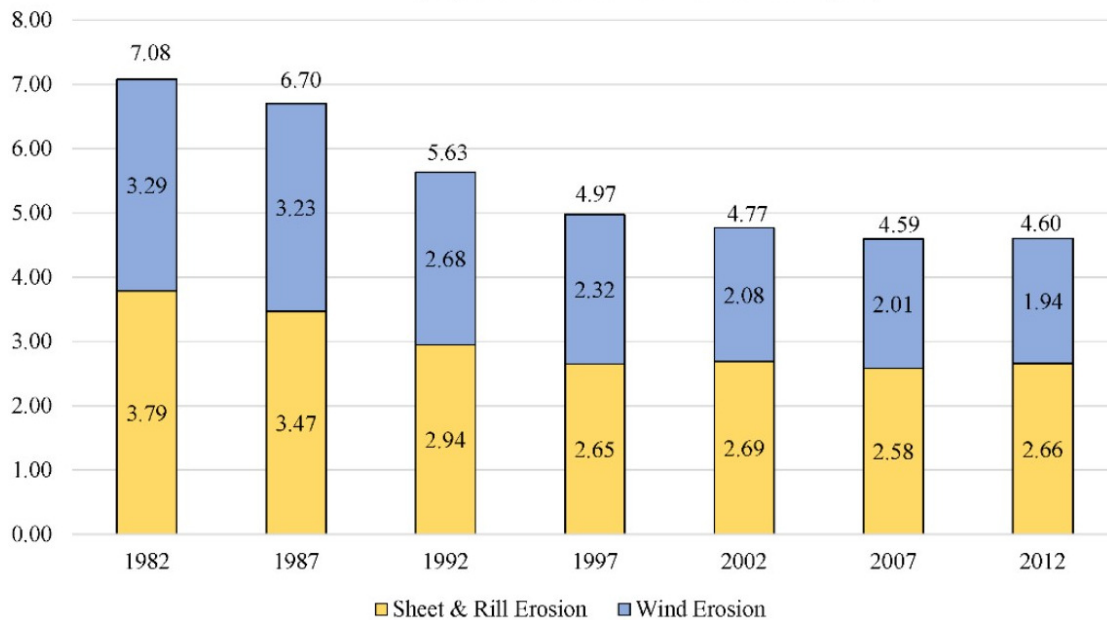
(Cropland includes cultivated and noncultivated cropland)



Column totals may not exactly match sum over type due to rounding.

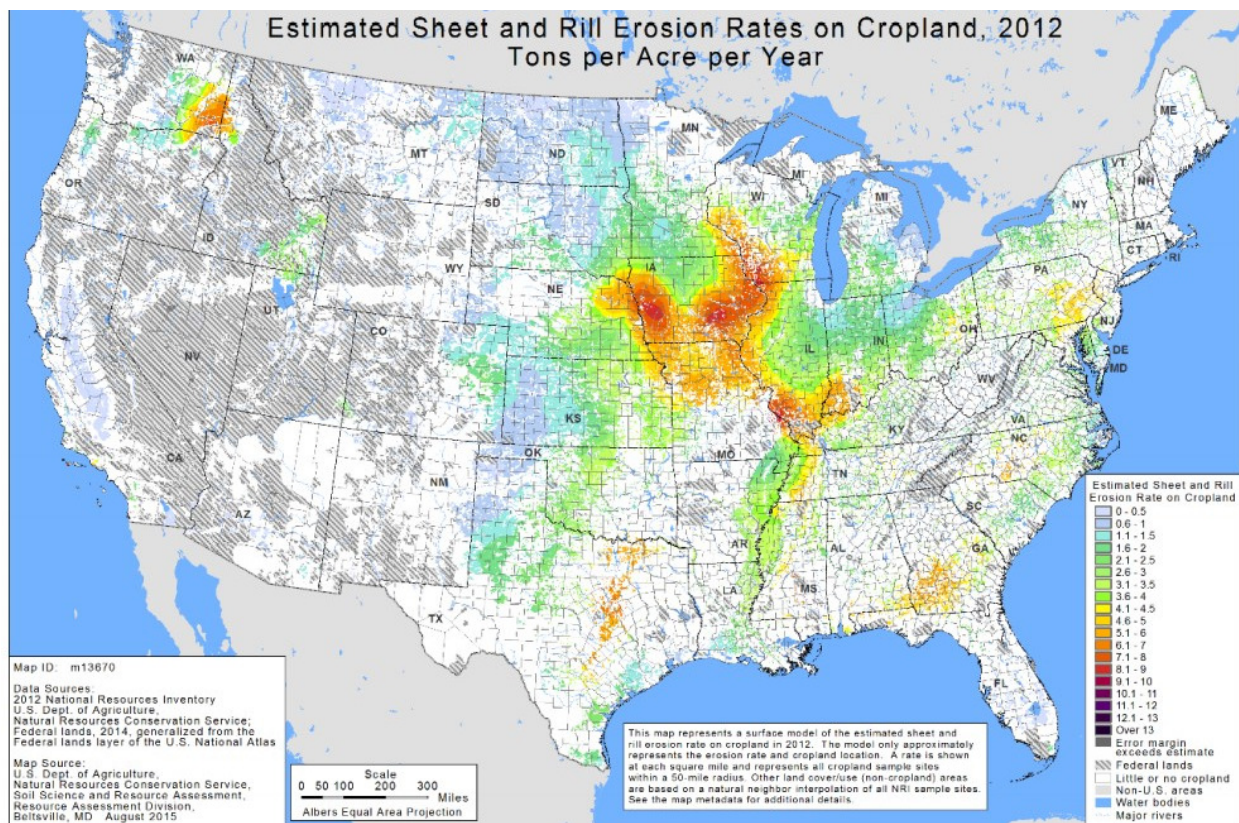
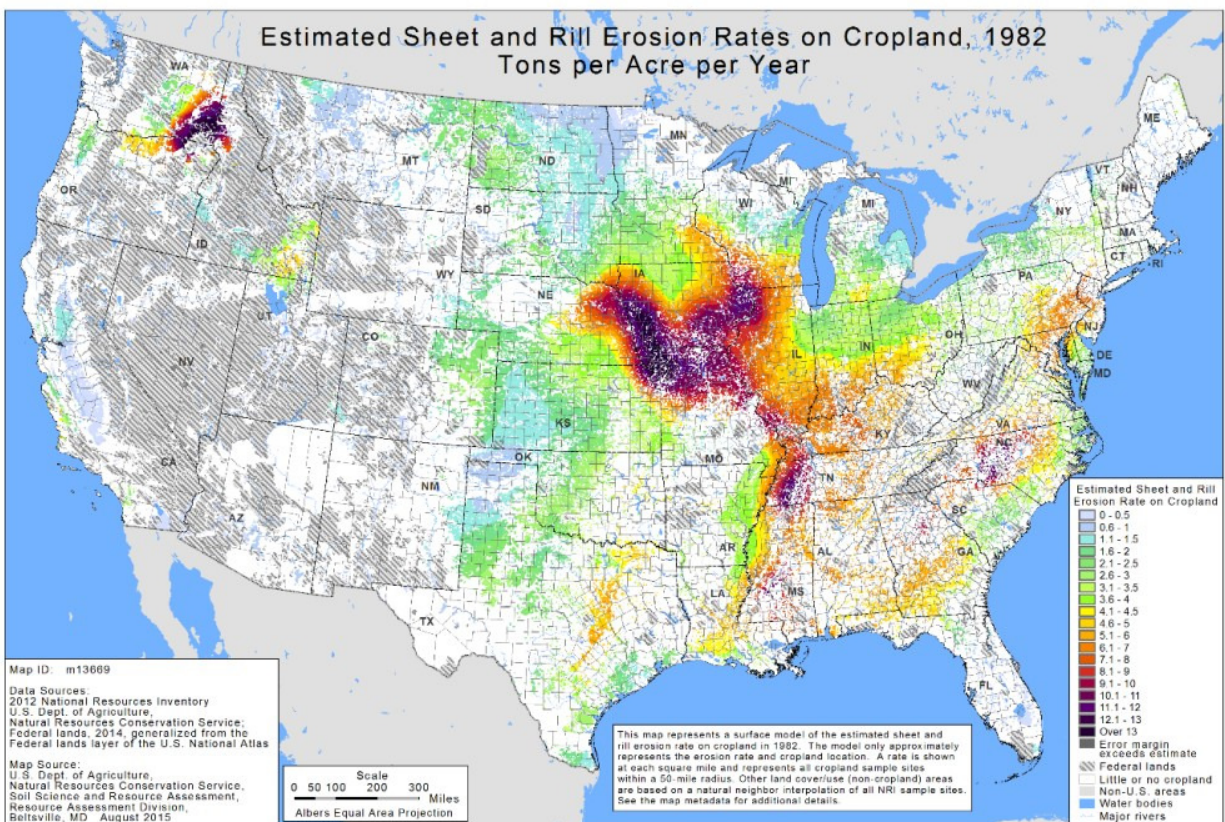
Erosion Rate on Cropland, by Year Tons per Acre per Year

(Cropland includes cultivated and noncultivated cropland)



Column totals may not exactly match sum over type due to rounding.

Source: NRCS



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