

Land Values – Trends and Analysis

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Purpose of land talks

- Develop an understanding of the underlying economic principles and management aspects of land ownership and leasing
- Trying to reduce decisions to numbers
- Two decision tools:
 - *KSU-Landbuy.xls*
 - *KSU-Lease.xls*

Related papers are found at
www.agmanager.info

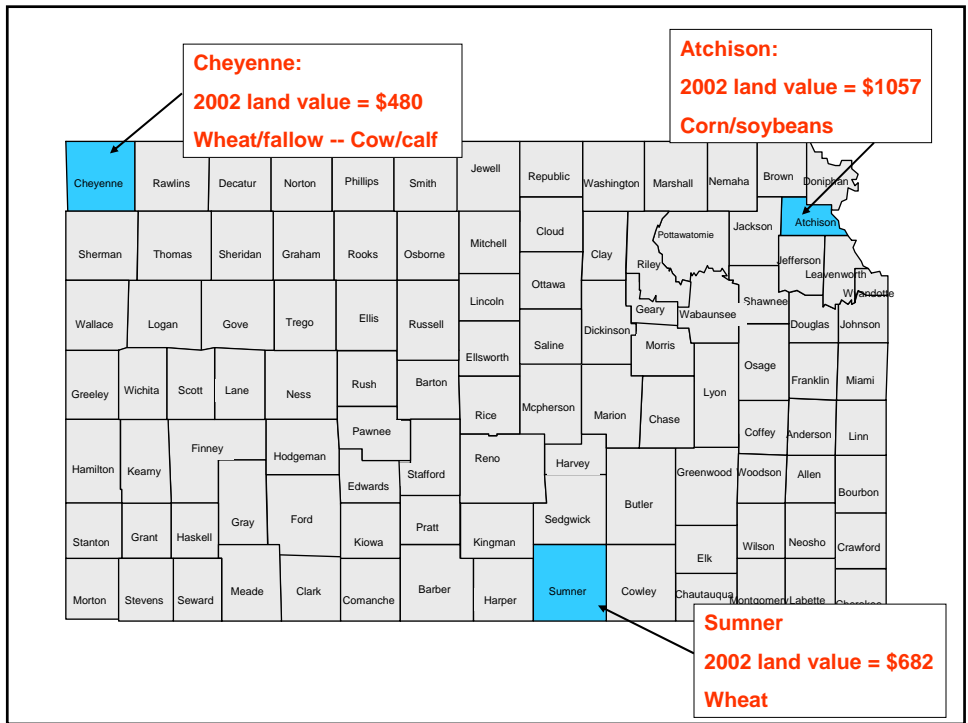
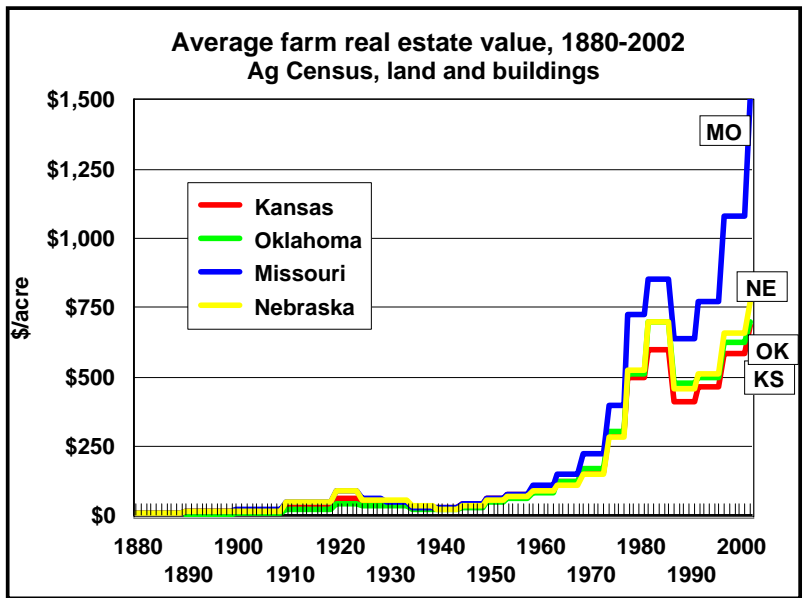
Historical land values and growth

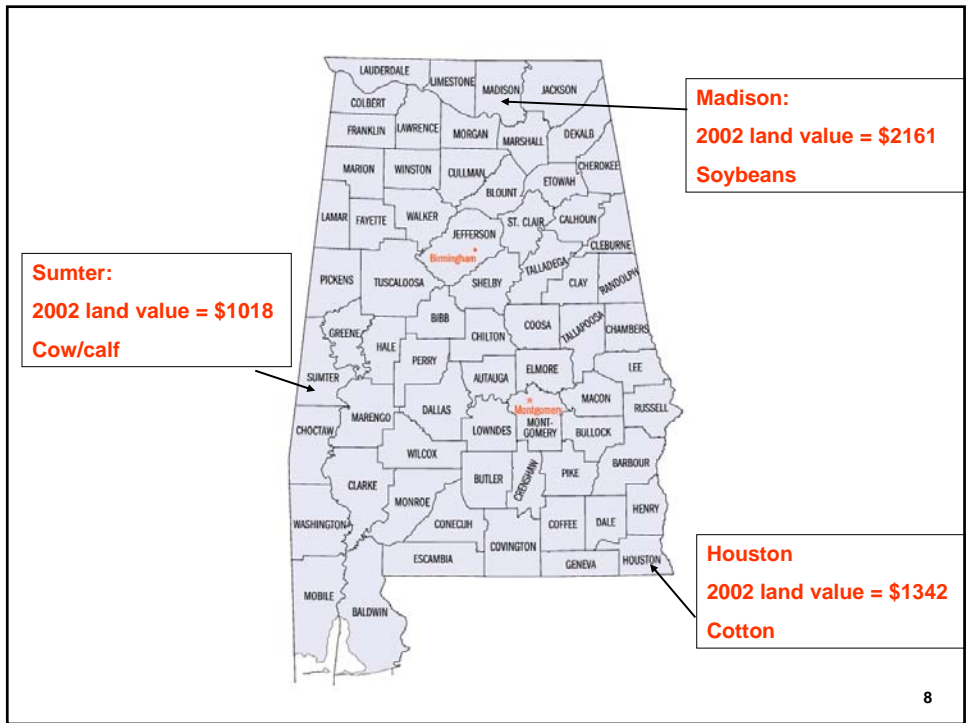
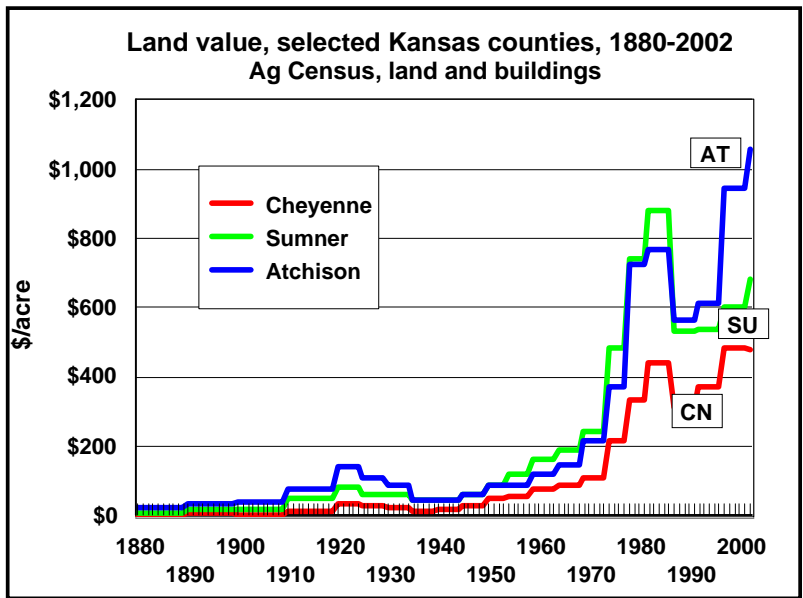
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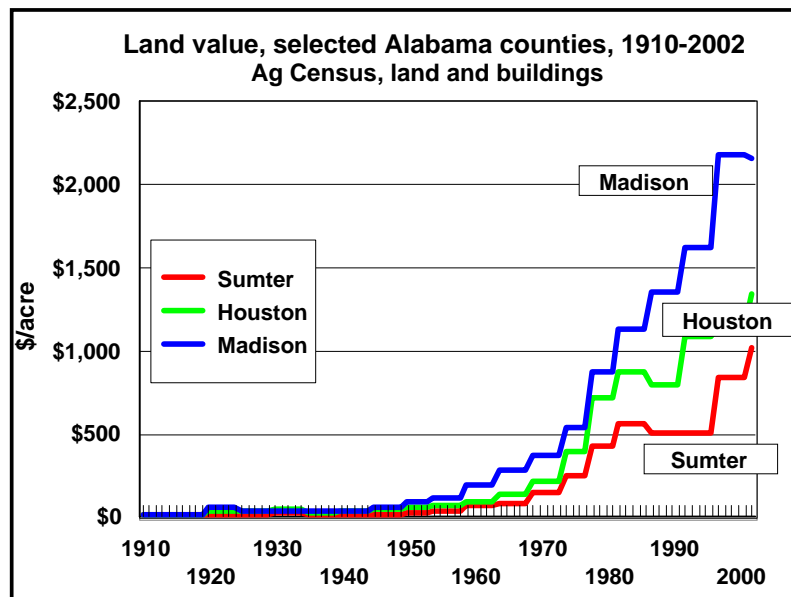
Land is Unique

- **Most fixed of farming assets**
 - Residual claimant
 - Capitalizes government subsidies
- **Often is taxed**
 - Favorably or unfavorably
- **Has non-ag benefits that may be pecuniary**
- **Has non-pecuniary benefits**
- **A long term investment involving long term expectations – history is a guide**

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1910: Sumter = \$13; Houston = \$17; Madison = \$21 (Madison never fell in 80's)

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Annual Growth Rate

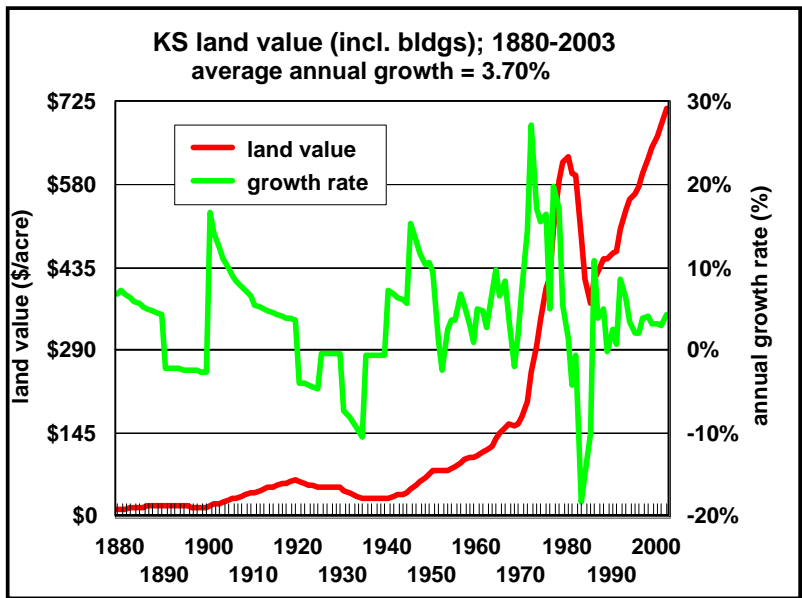
$$V_m = V_{m-1} * (1 + g_m)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{2004} &= V_{2003} * (1 + g_{2004}) \\ &= \$715 * (1.03) = \$736.45 \end{aligned}$$

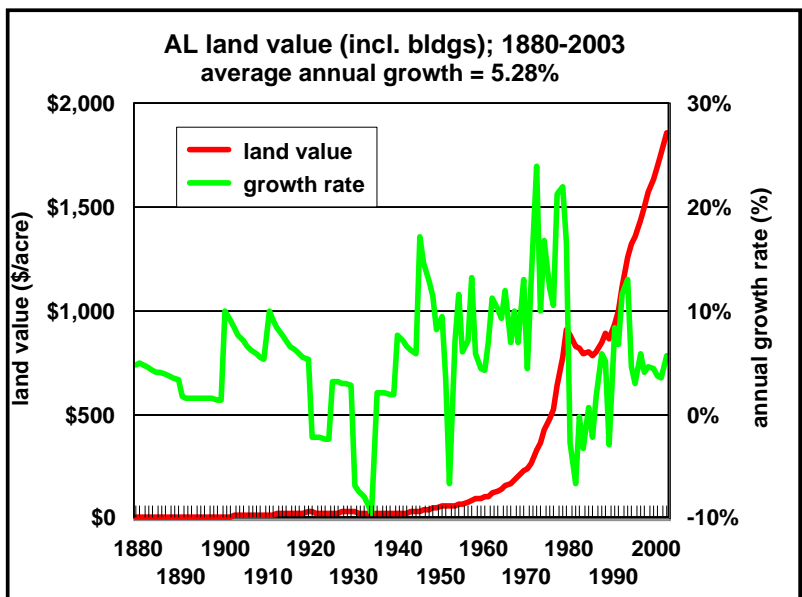
$$g_m = \frac{V_m}{V_{m-1}} - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{2003} &= \frac{V_{2004}}{V_{2003}} - 1 \\ &= \frac{\$736.45}{\$715} - 1 = 0.03 = 3\% \end{aligned}$$

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Historical Growth

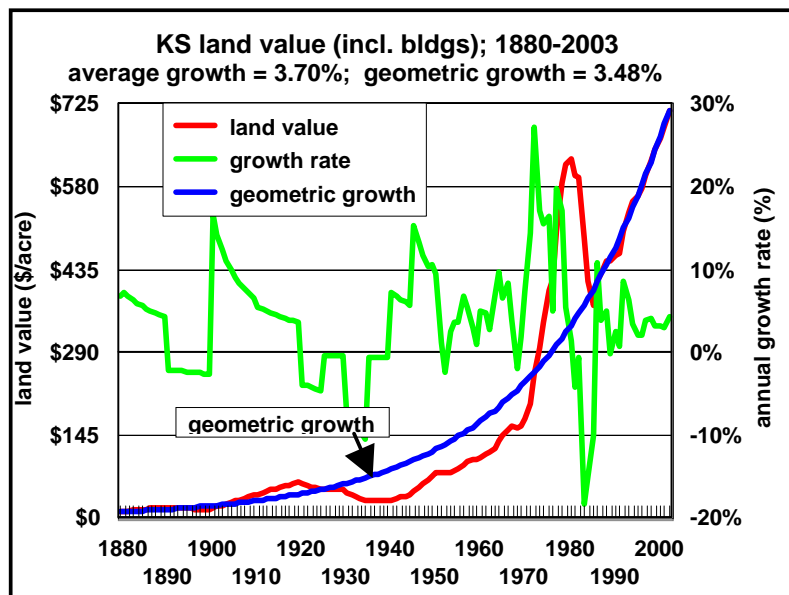
$$\text{average growth} = \frac{1}{124} * (g_{1880} + g_{1881} + \dots + g_{2003})$$

$$V_n = V_m * (1 + g)^{n-m}$$

$$\text{geometric mean} = g = \left(\frac{V_n}{V_m} \right)^{\left(\frac{1}{n-m} \right)} - 1$$

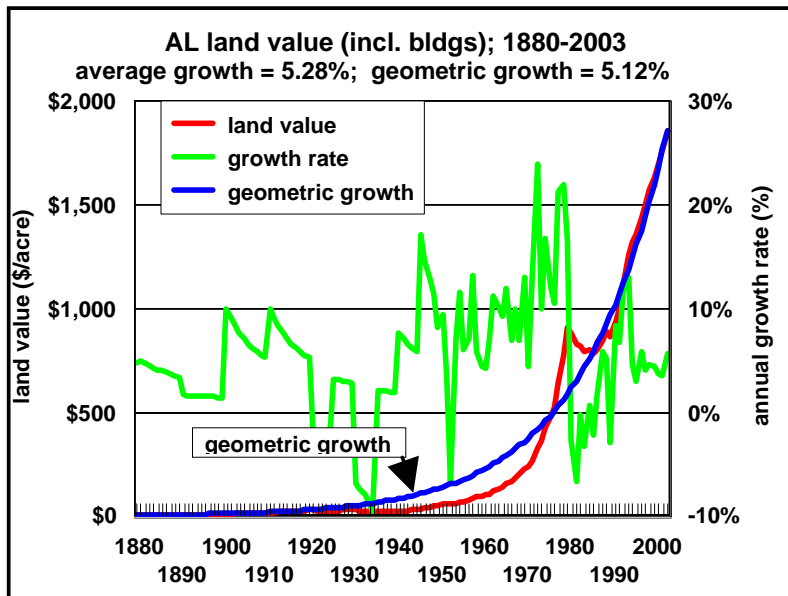
$$g = \left(\frac{V_{2003}}{V_{1879}} \right)^{\left(\frac{1}{2003-1879} \right)} - 1 = \left(\frac{\$715}{\$10.30} \right)^{\frac{1}{124}} - 1 = 0.0348$$

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1879 starting land value for Kansas was \$10.30

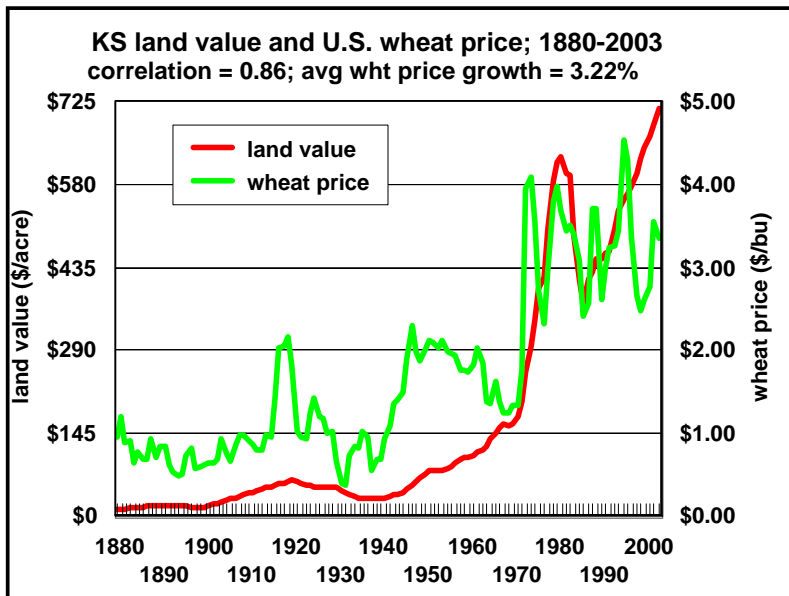
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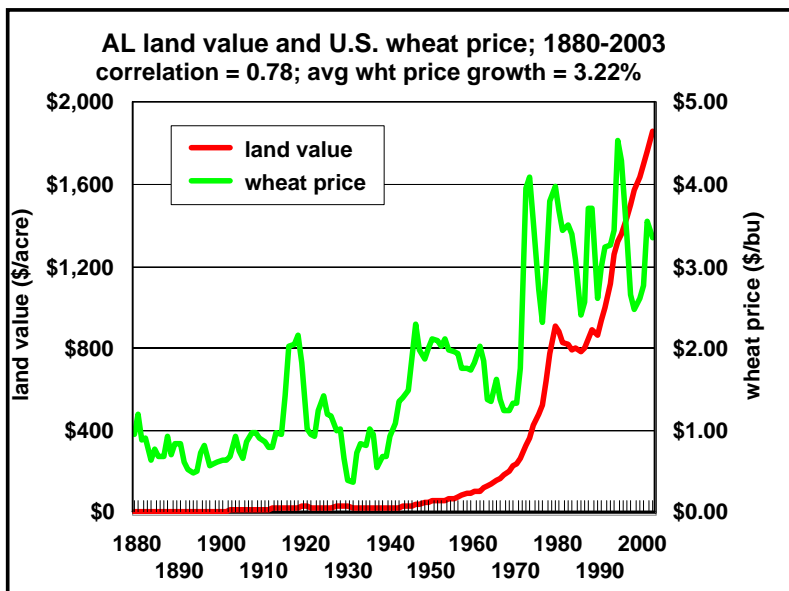
1879 starting land value for Alabama was \$3.82

What drives land prices in the long run?

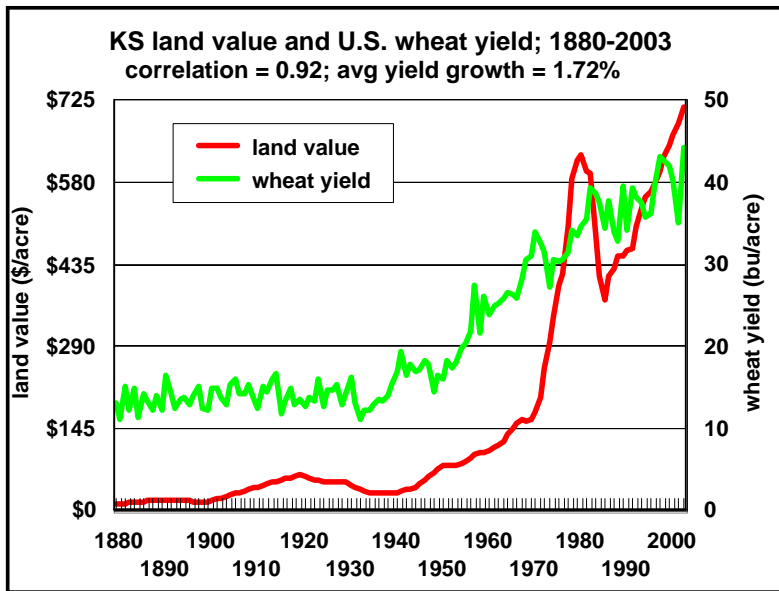




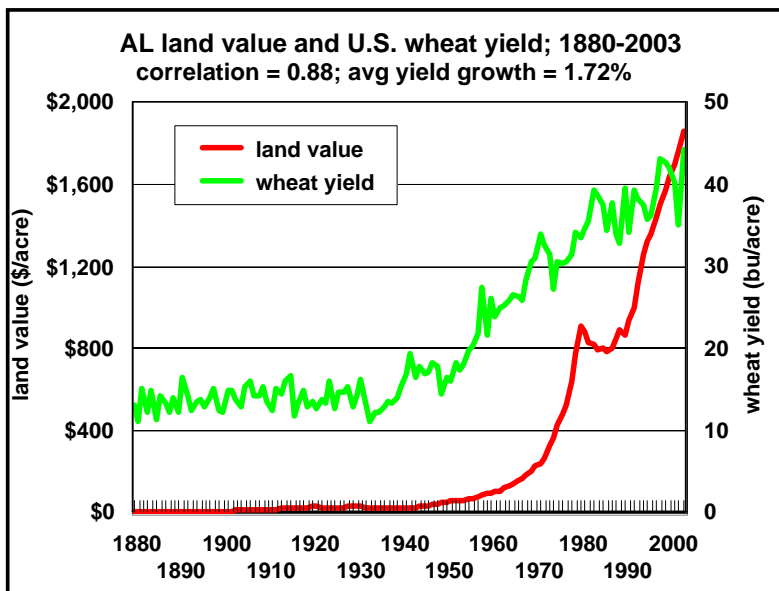
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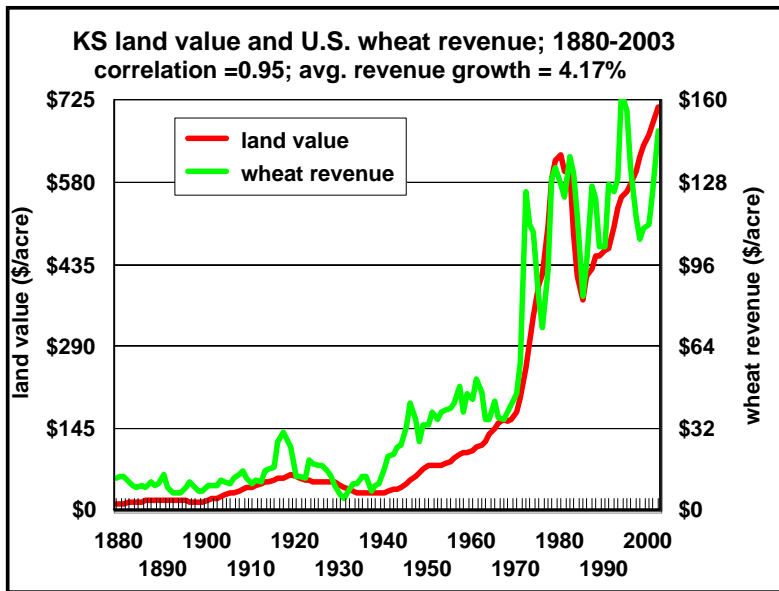
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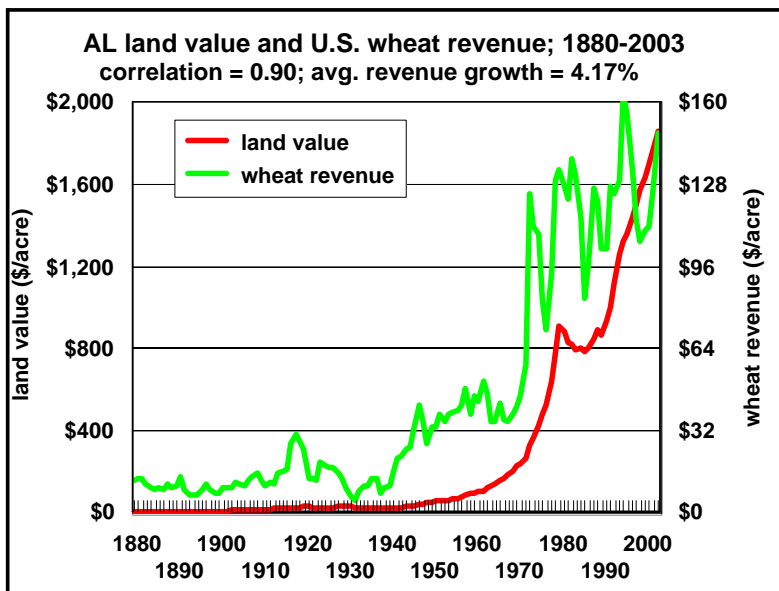
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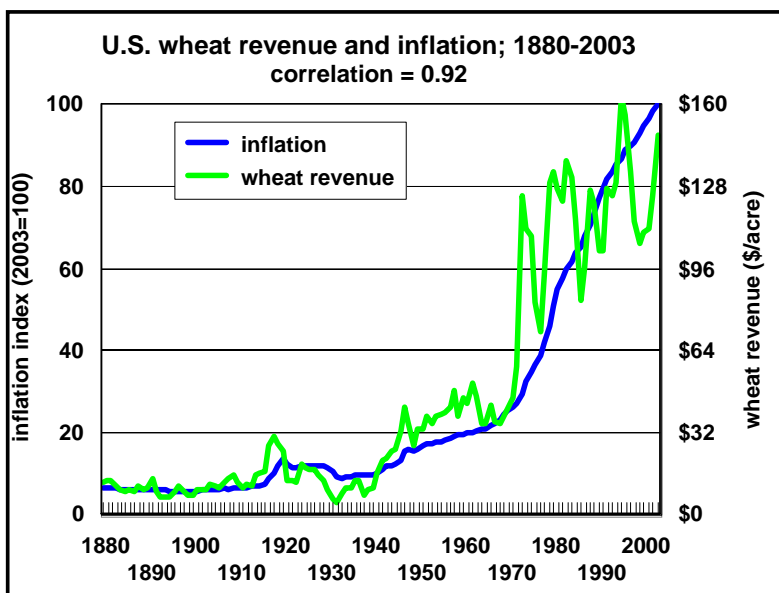


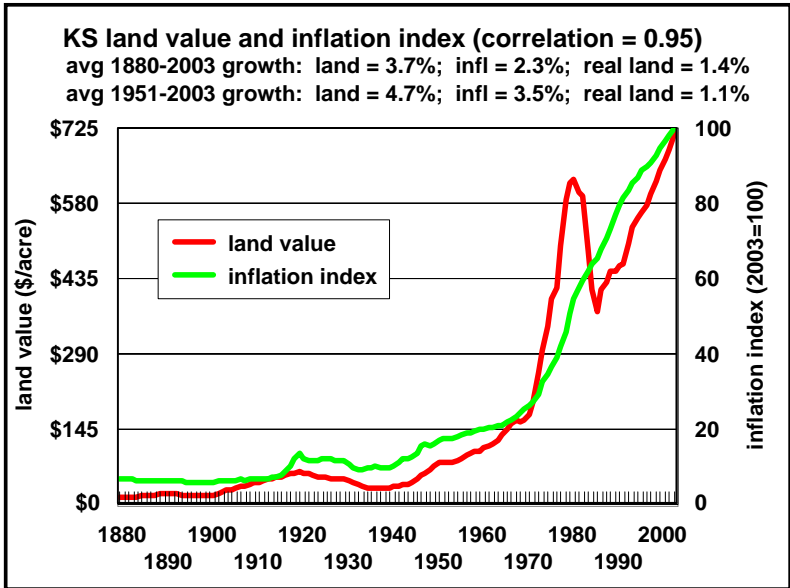
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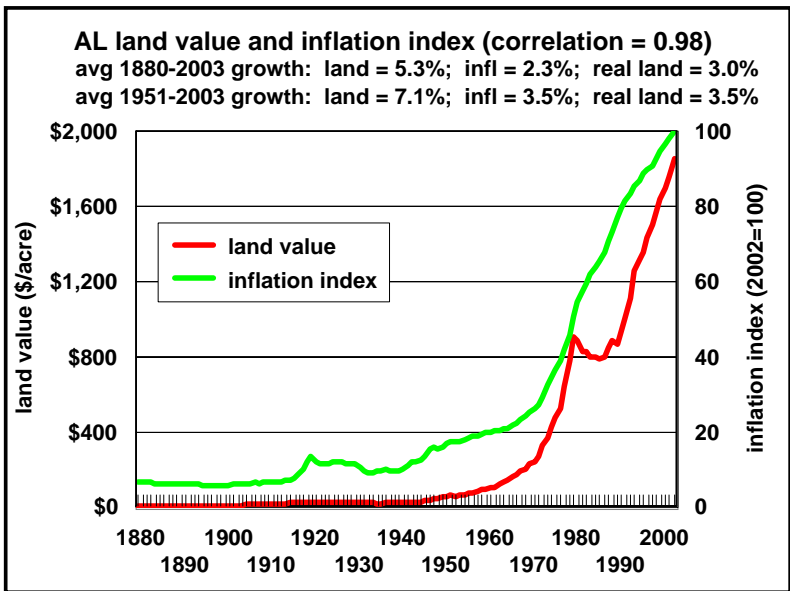
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But, what drives crop revenue?

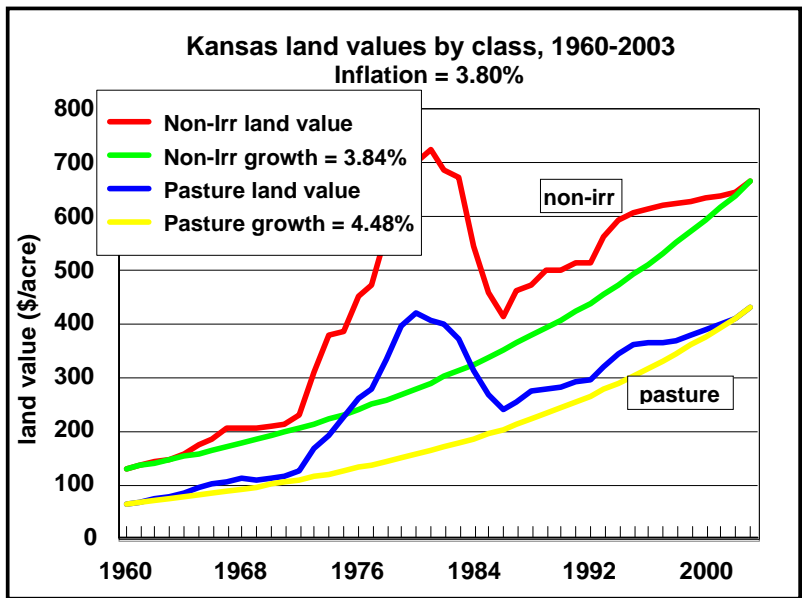




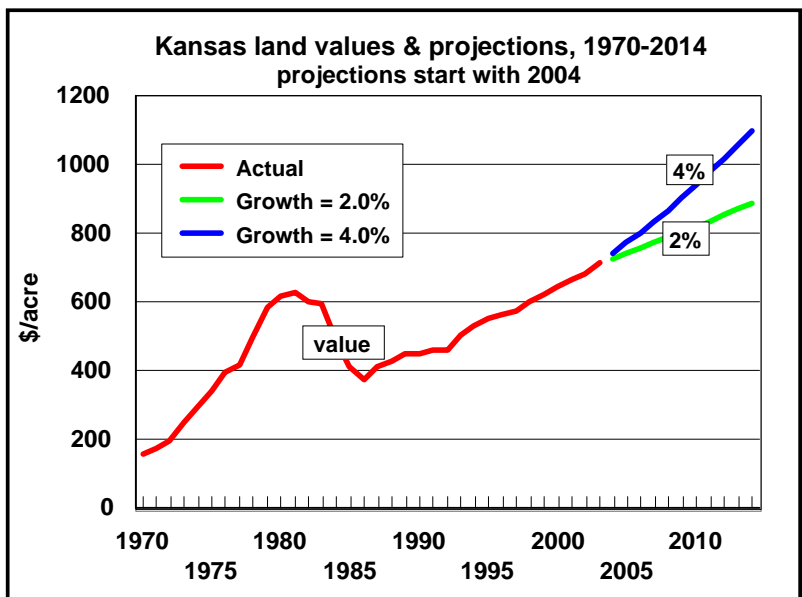
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Returns to land



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Returns to land

- Capital gains (growth)
- Cash returns (rent)

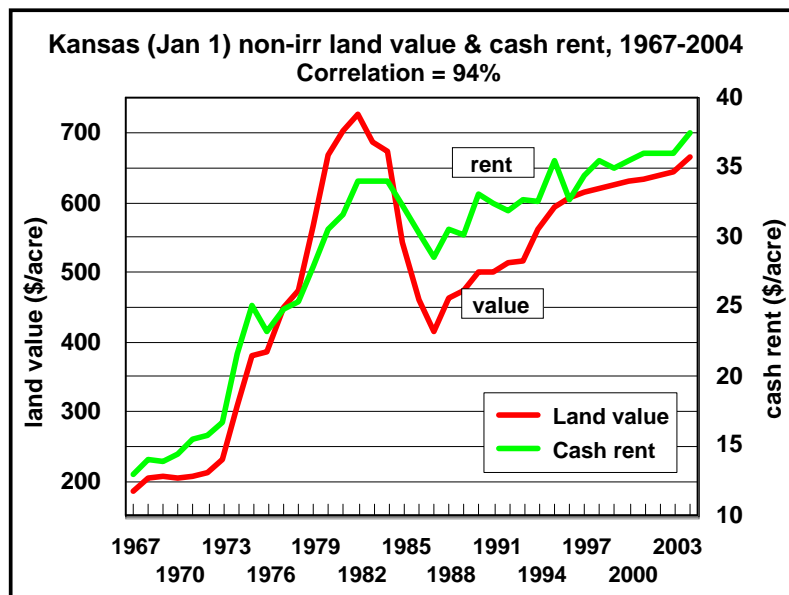
- The two returns to land are similar to other investments such as the stock market (capital gains and dividends)

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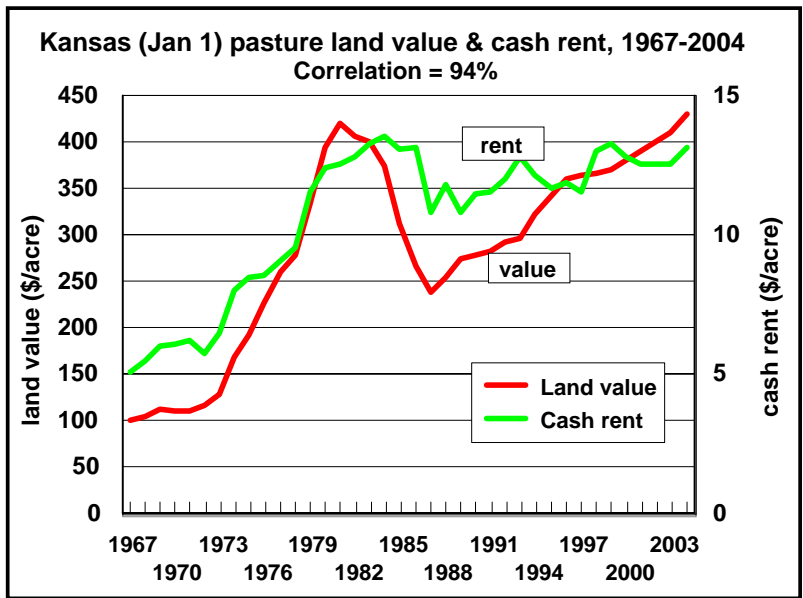
Rent

- **KFMA farms with > 100 crop acres (2001-2003 avg)**
 - 89% of KFMA farms use rented crop land
(range across six regions, 85%-94%)
 - 63% of crop acres farmed by KFMA members are rented
(range across six regions, 58%-72%)
- **For owner-operators rent is the “profit” assigned to land after all other opportunity costs are considered**

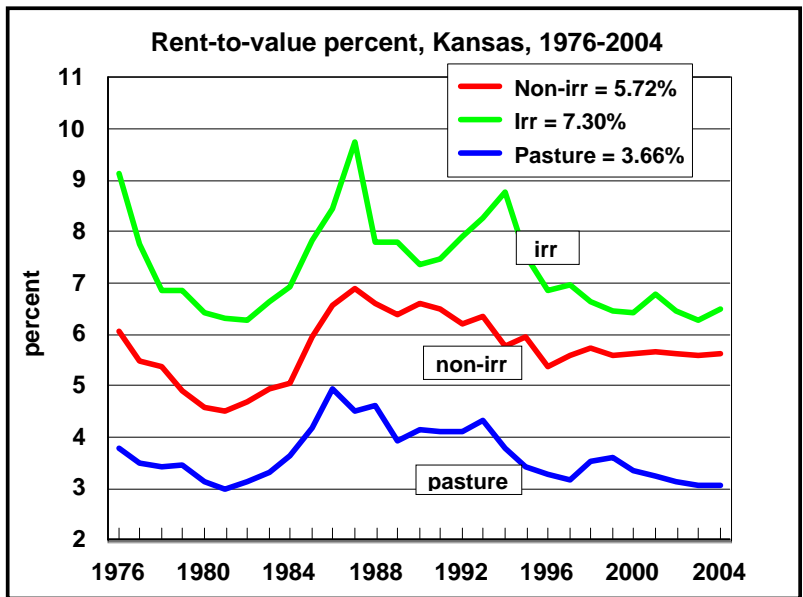
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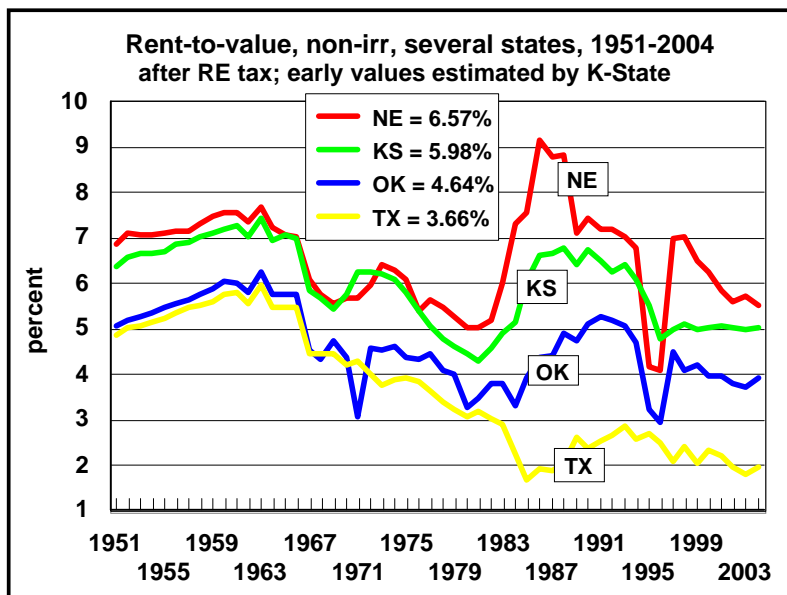


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Why are Rents Lower on Pasture than on Farmland?

- People just love cows and pasture
- Security more important in cattle production
- Imperfect markets/sticky prices
 - share rents would adjust to technology faster
 - share rents would keep cash rents in line
 - little share renting in pasture
 - landlord management small (tenant power)
- Less desirable pastures are rented
 - size, shape, location, grass quality, water, fences

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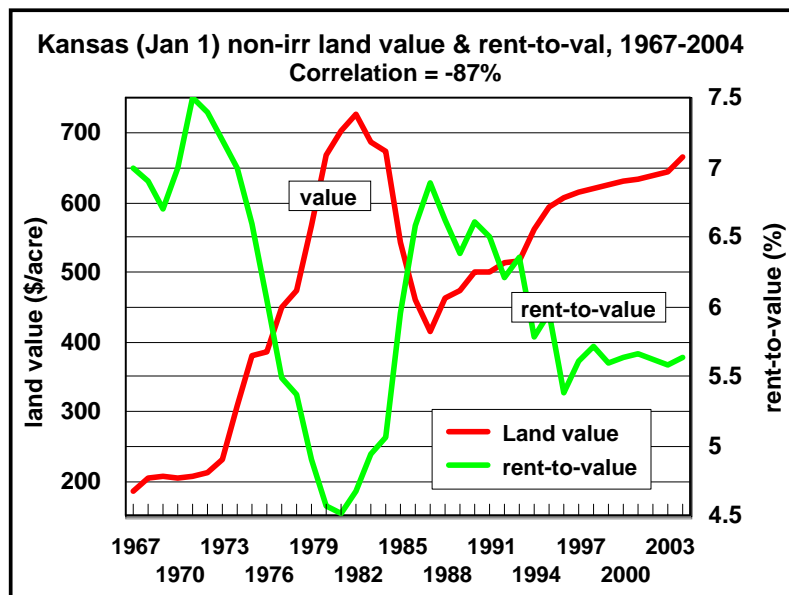
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Capitalization Formula

$$Value = \frac{\text{Annual land income}}{\text{Capitalization rate}}$$

$$Cap\ rate\ (rtv) = \frac{\text{Annual land income}}{Value}$$

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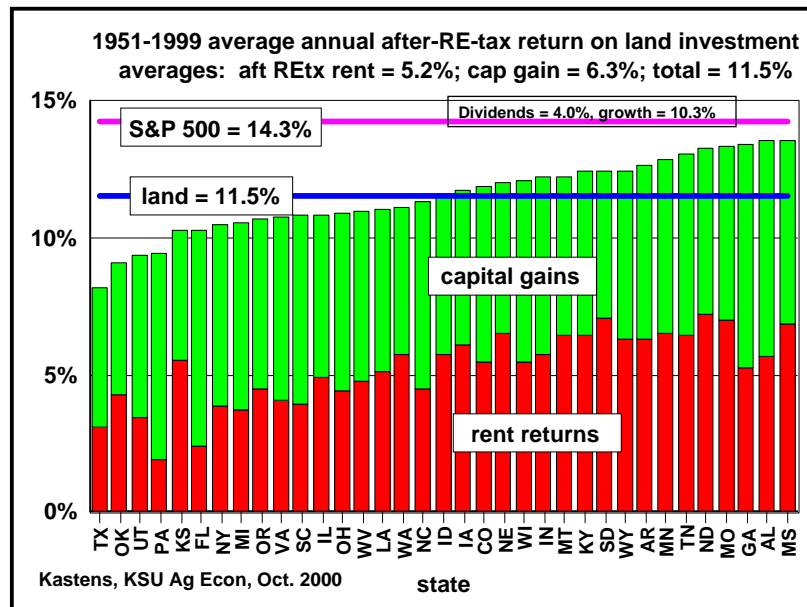


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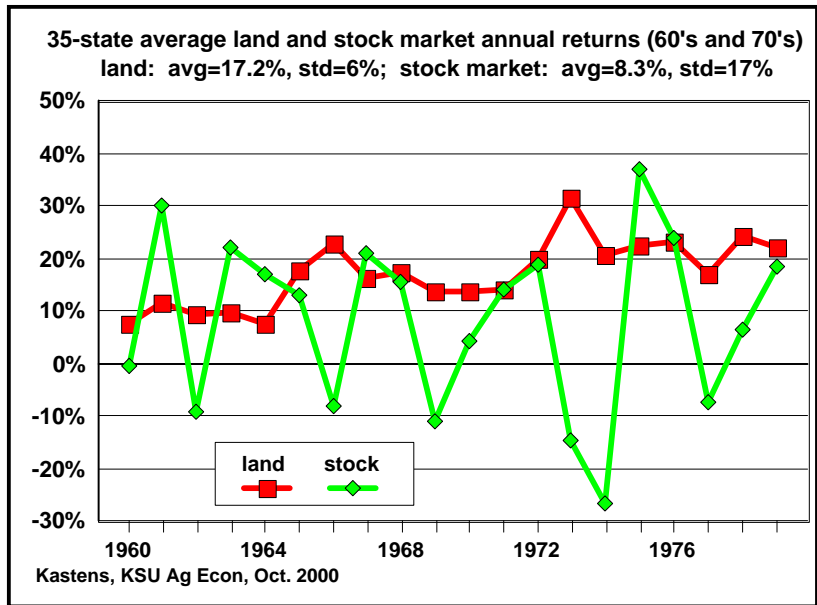
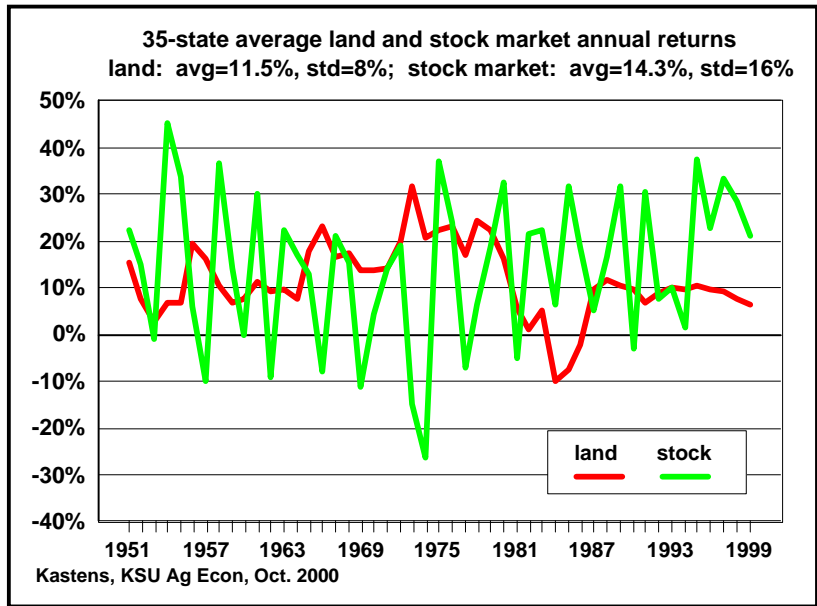
Returns to Land

- Land
 - Cash returns: rents or rent-equivalents on owned land
 - Non-cash returns: capital gains (growth)
- Stock market
 - Cash returns: dividends
 - Non-cash returns: capital gains (growth)
- Typically, neither land nor stock investments “cash flow”

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Combining Land & Stock Investments

- Profitability
 - Stock returns > land returns in long periods
- Risk
 - By itself stock is riskier than land
 - Less risky in a portfolio setting
 - Stock and land returns are negatively correlated (-0.25)
 - Does NOT depend on negative correlation
- Land/stock portfolio
 - Profits (returns) are a linear blend of land-alone and stock-alone investments
 - Risk falls then rises with increased stock
 - Investor chooses desired risk/reward combination

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Two ways to add stock to farm investments

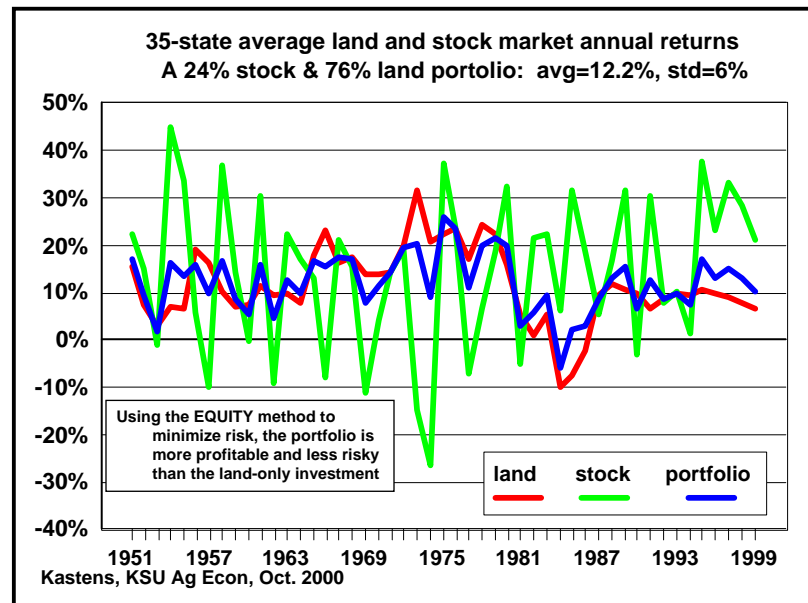
- Debt
 - Farm borrows money to buy stock and pays interest on borrowed money. For every \$1 of farm equity, farm borrows \$H and pays interest at the rate of I, so that portfolio returns are:
 - $P_d = F + H(S - I)$
- Equity
 - Farm uses farm equity (sells assets) to purchase stock. Where K is the portion of a farm's equity that is converted to stock investment ($0 \leq K \leq 1$):
 - $P_e = (1 - K)F + KS$

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Buying stock with debt or equity

- **Debt**
 - Negative correlation is often needed for portfolio risk to be lower than risk for farm-only or stock-only investments
 - Can a farm borrow the money required?
 - Tradeoff between debt-induced risk and portfolio risk reduction
 - Is stock investment the best use of excess borrowing capacity?
- **Equity**
 - Should a farm downsize to buy stock?
 - Can a farm sell farm assets and rent them back, to free up equity for stock purchase without downsizing?

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Land returns vs. farm returns

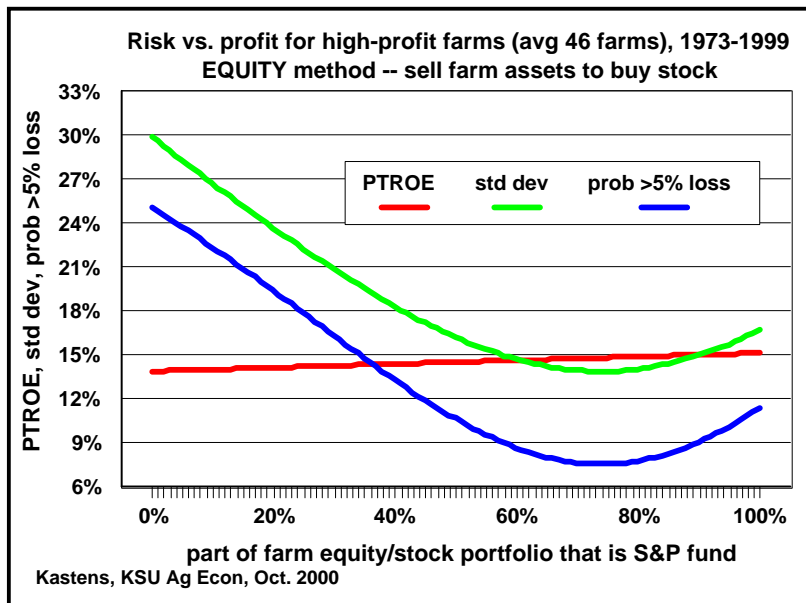
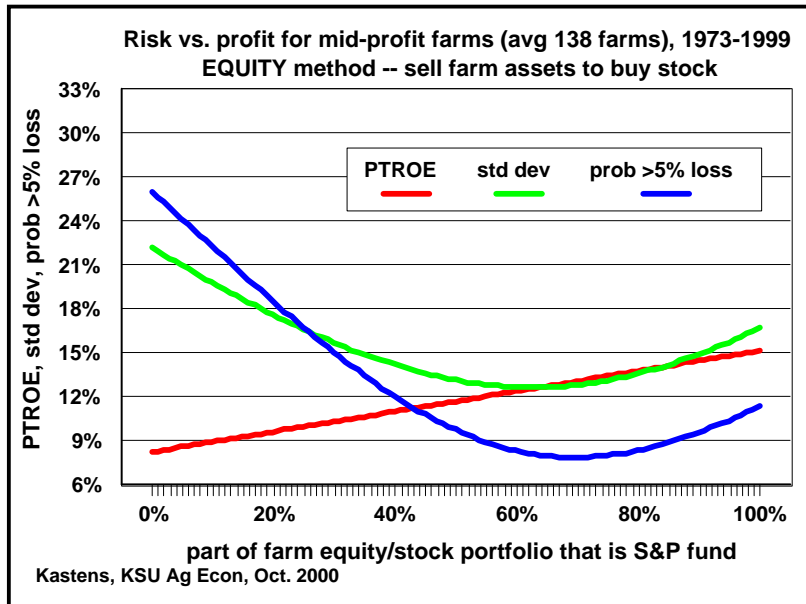
- **Kansas Farm Management Associations**
 - 2,000+ farms per year 1973 – 1999
 - Less farms if require multi-year presence
 - Calculated an after-tax ROE, ATROE
 - Converted ATROE to pre-tax according to:
 $PTROE = ATROE / (1 - 0.35)$
- **Kansas farm returns are compared to Kansas land returns and to the S&P**

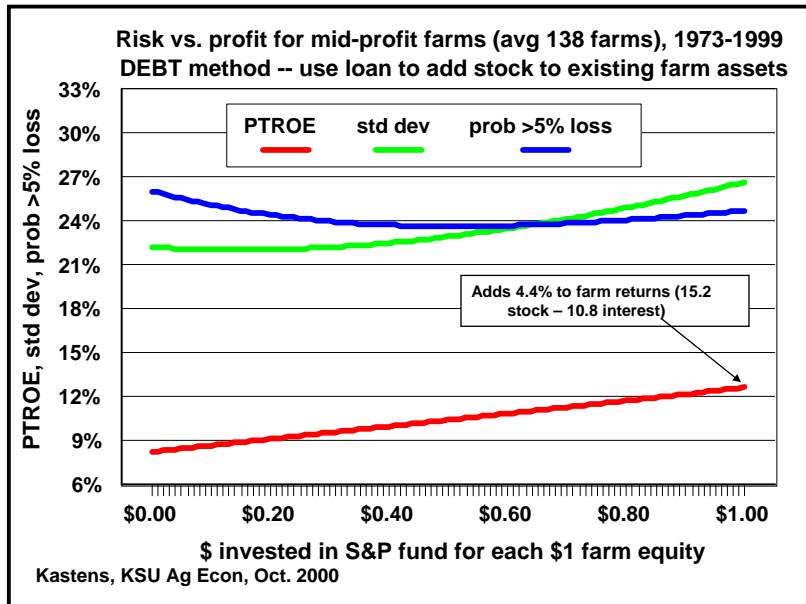
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1973-1999 annual returns

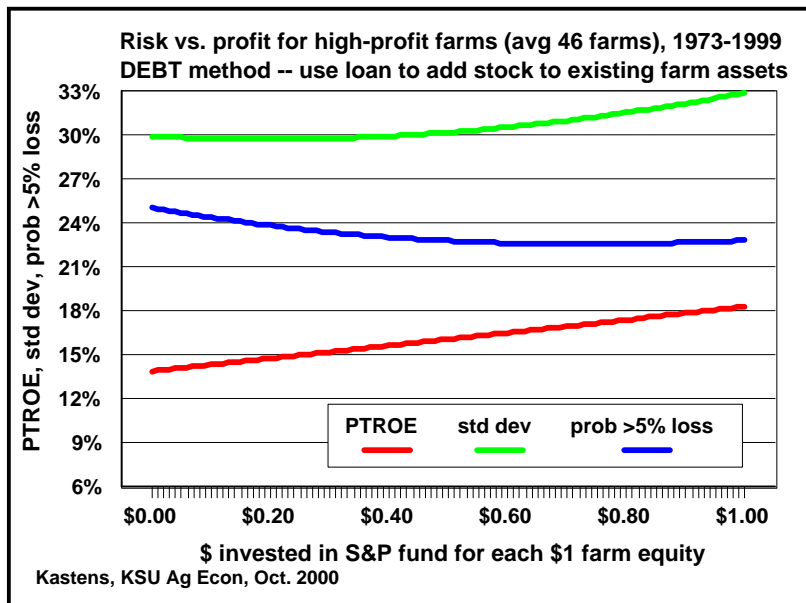
- **S&P fund**
15.2% avg and 16.7% std
- **Land portfolio**
10.1% avg and 10.7% std
- **Portfolio of average farms (138 farms)**
8.3% avg and 10.5% std
- **Portfolio of “top-third” farms (46 farms)**
13.9% avg and 14.8% std
- **Portfolios of farms, or land, or stock have lower risk than individual farms, parcels, or stocks**

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Using debt to purchase stock

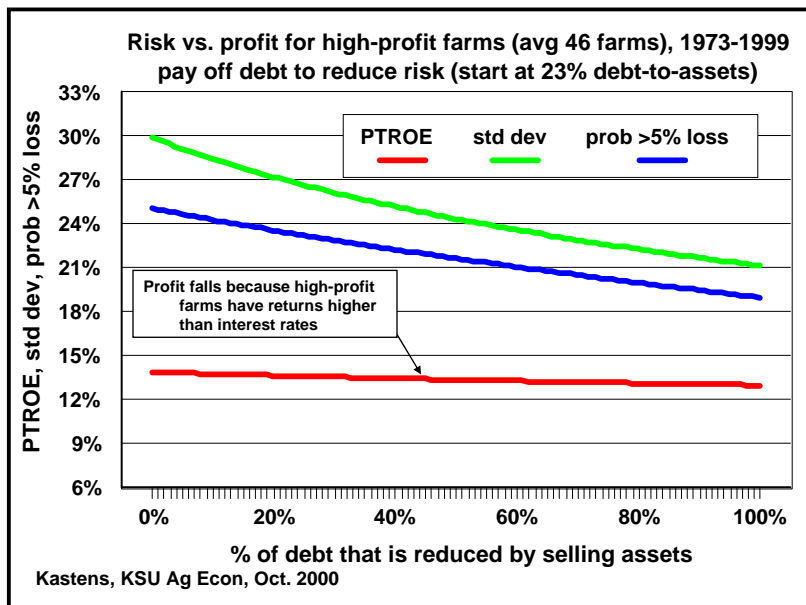
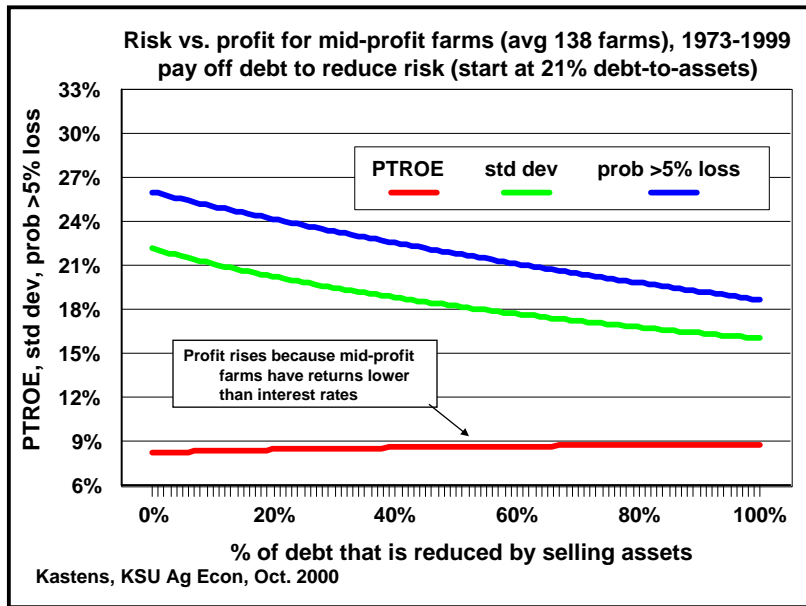
- **Considerations:**
 - 1. **Stock purchase doesn't reduce risk much**
 - 2. **Are stock returns higher than farm returns?**
 - 3. **Are stock returns higher than interest rates?**
 - 4. **Does farm have excess borrowing capacity?**
 - **Leverage ratio increases with increased stock purchase**
 - 5. **Is this the best thing to do with excess borrowing capacity?**
 - **Costs might fall with a farm expansion?**
 - 6. **Servicing debt wouldn't be hard (sell shares)**

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Using equity to purchase stock

- **Considerations:**
 - 1. **Are stock returns higher than farm returns?**
 - 2. **Will downsizing the farm hurt profitability?**
 - 3. **Can you do this without downsizing?**
 - **Sell capital assets and rent back**
 - **Bring in off-farm or outside equity capital**
 - 4. **Stock purchase reduces risk substantially**
 - 5. **Is this the best way to reduce risk?**
 - **If goal is to reduce risk could pay down debt instead**

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Revisiting risk & profit & stock purchase

- **Risk and stock ownership:**
 - To reduce risk, leveraged farms might just as well sell assets and reduce debt as buy stock
- **Profitability & stock ownership & farm size**
 - Work at K-State suggests profits are \$0.15 to \$0.22/acre higher for each 1% a farm is larger than its regional cohorts (after accounting for other management factors)

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Who is most likely to buy stock?

- **Low- to mid-profit farms with little to no debt**
 - Use equity to buy stock:
 - If had debt probably would pay on it first because risk & profit similar across debt reduction & stock
 - Use debt to buy stock:
 - No-debt farms could take on added risk of debt
 - Often, the above farms are hobby/lifestyle farms
 - Retired farmers (landlords)
 - Can't capture the EOS of farming
 - Want more liquid assets in retirement

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Final comments

- **Stock investment is a long run decision**
 - Will my historical analysis bear out?
- **Will an individual stock purchase capture any “excessive” profits involved?**
 - Am I too late; is the risk acceptable?
- **Think carefully about economies of size**
 - Am I a good manager?
- **Is stock purchase part of a short-run or long-run goal to exit farming**
- **Often comes down to**
 - Will the market allow me to be a full-time farmer?
 - Do I want to be a full-time farmer?

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Background for *KSU-Landbuy*



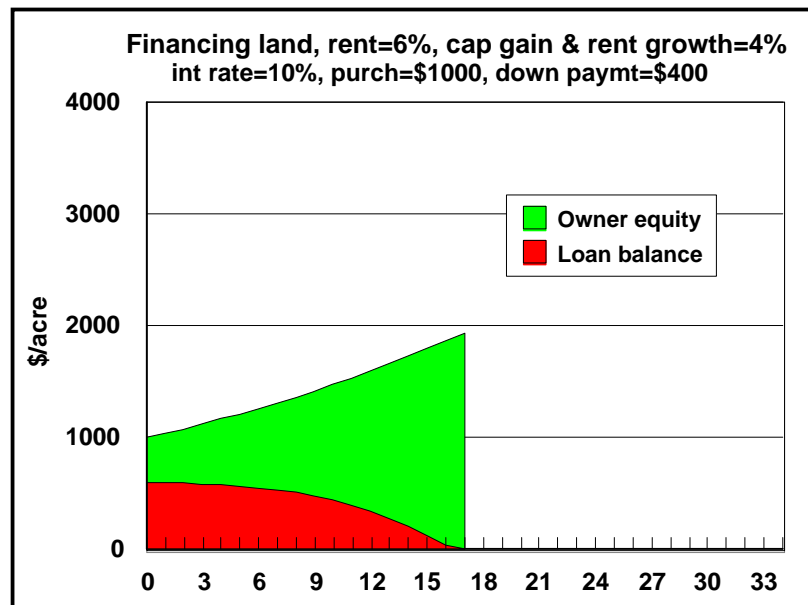
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Buying and owning land – ideas

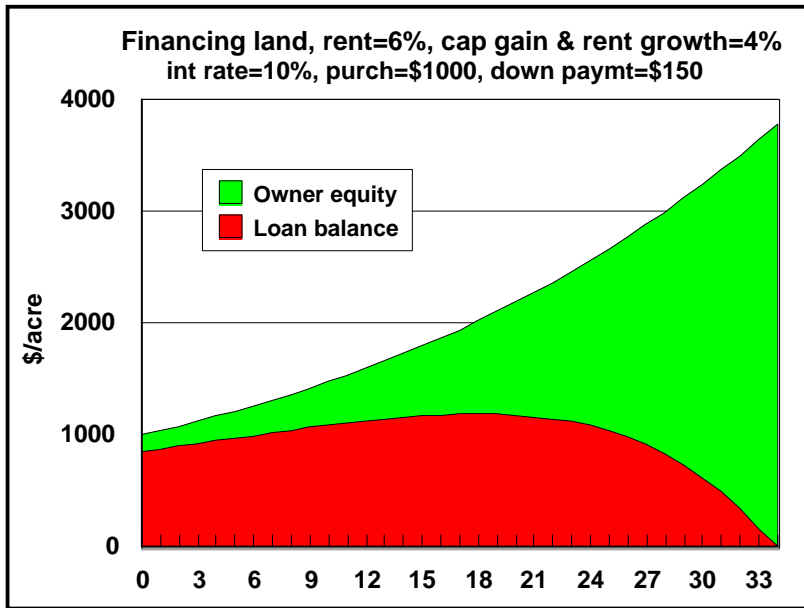
- Total return = rent + capital gain
- Land doesn't cash flow when purchased
 - i.e, rents don't cover a 100% loan
- Cash flow is not the same as profitability
- Rents grow, loan payments don't
 - land eventually cash flows

- Income tax and capital gains tax rates matter

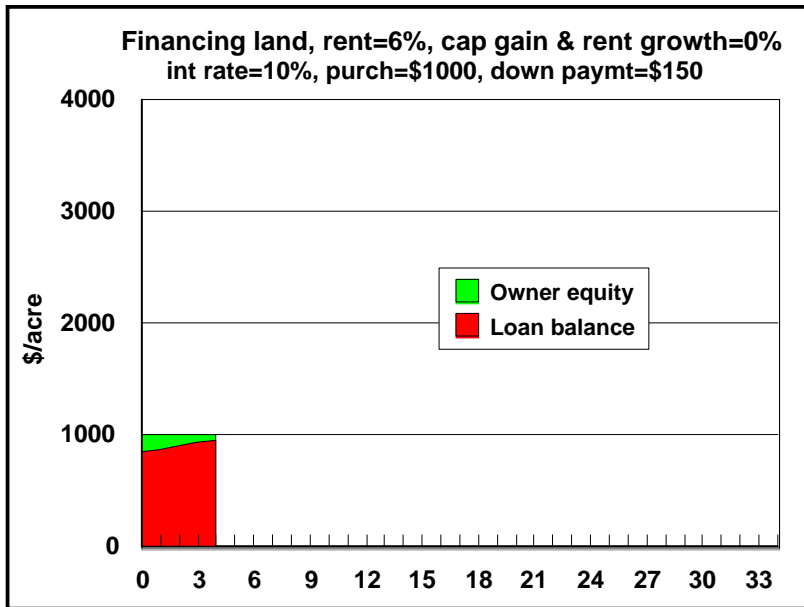
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Time Value of Money

- **\$1 received today can earn interest:**

$$V_n = V_0 * (1 + i)^n$$

$$V_3 = V_0 * (1 + i)^3 = \$1 * 1.08 * 1.08 * 1.08 = \$1.26$$

- **\$1 received in the future is worth less today:**

$$V_0 = \frac{V_n}{(1 + i)^n}$$

$$V_0 = \frac{V_3}{(1 + i)^3} = \frac{\$1}{1.08^3} = \$0.79$$

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- **Today's value of a stream of future rents:**

$$PVR = \frac{R_1}{(1 + i)^1} + \frac{R_2}{(1 + i)^2} + \dots + \frac{R_T}{(1 + i)^T}$$

- **Future rents based on growing today's rent:**

$$PVR = \frac{R_0 * (1 + g)^1}{(1 + i)^1} + \frac{R_0 * (1 + g)^2}{(1 + i)^2} + \dots + \frac{R_0 * (1 + g)^T}{(1 + i)^T}$$

- **Rents need adjusted for property tax and income tax; interest rate needs adjusted for income tax:**

$$PVR = \frac{(R_0 - Ptx_0) * (1 - Itx) * (1 + g)^1}{[1 + i * (1 - Itx)]^1} + \frac{(R_0 - Ptx_0) * (1 - Itx) * (1 + g)^2}{[1 + i * (1 - Itx)]^2} + \dots + \frac{(R_0 - Ptx_0) * (1 - Itx) * (1 + g)^T}{[1 + i * (1 - Itx)]^T}$$

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- **Today's value of net future land sale:**

$$PVS = \frac{SP - Ctx * (SP - PP)}{[1 + i * (1 - Itx)]^T}$$

- **Future land value based on growing today's value:**

$$PVS = \frac{MV_0 * (1 + g)^T - Ctx * [MV_0 * (1 + g)^T - PP]}{[1 + i * (1 - Itx)]^T}$$

- **Total value of the land is today's value of the rent stream plus today's value of the future land sale:**

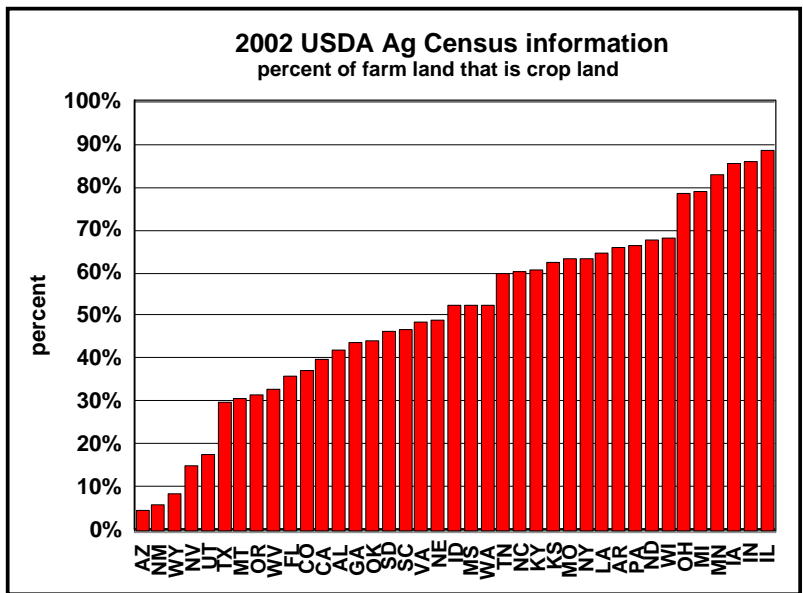
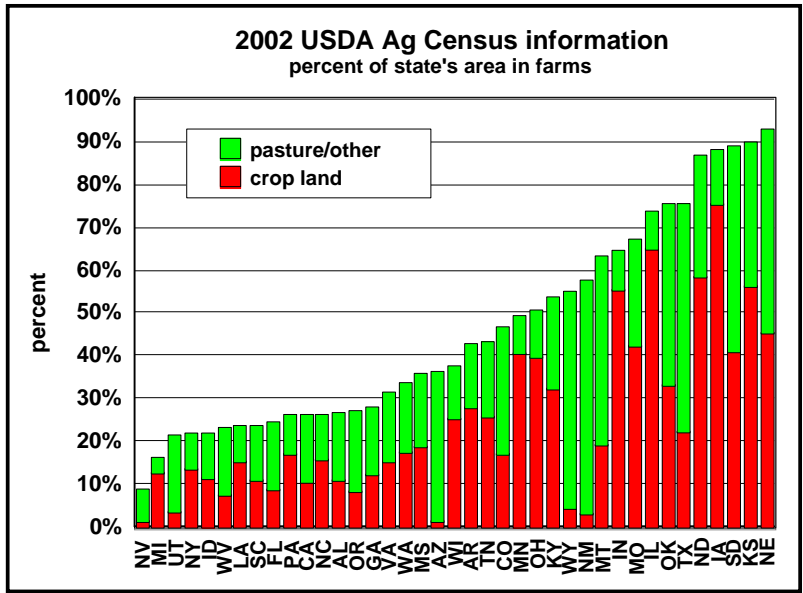
$$PVL = PVR + PVS$$

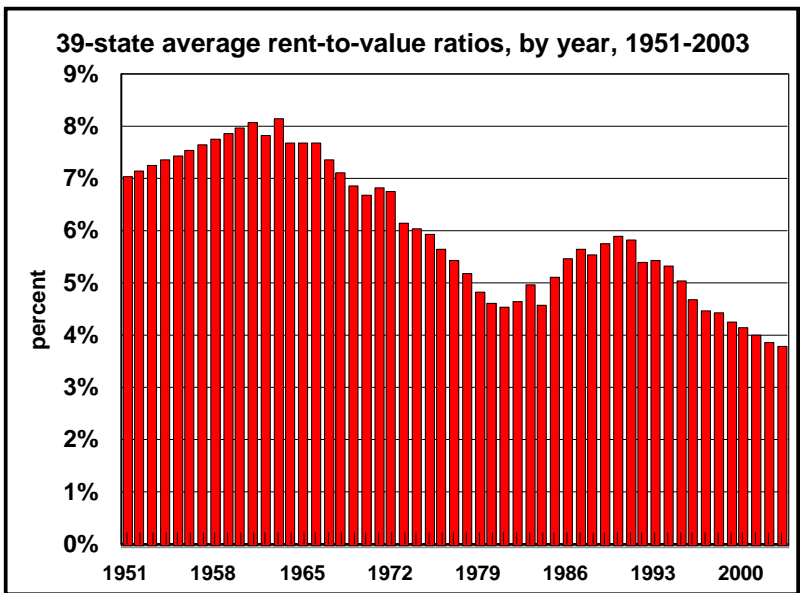
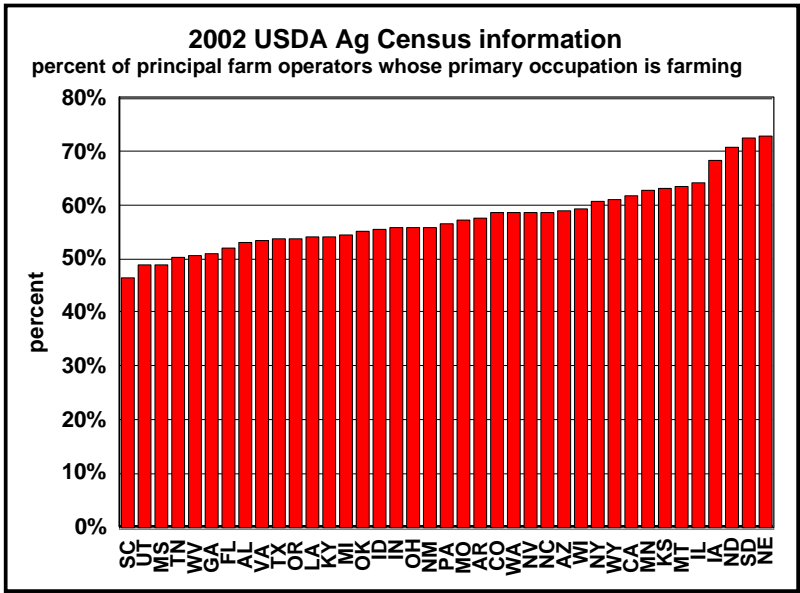
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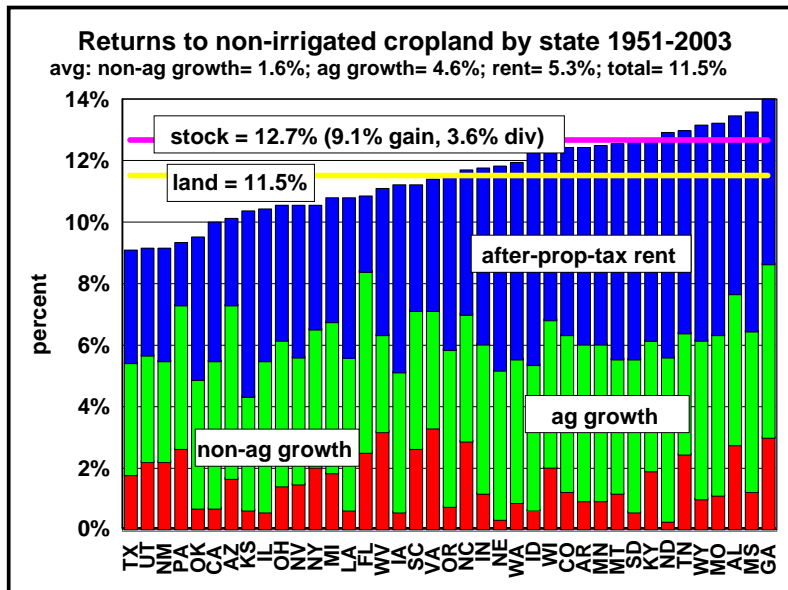
Non-ag Considerations

- **There could be a non-ag rent:**
 - e.g., leasing your land to hunters
- **There could be a non-ag land value growth:**
 - e.g., expectations of future development
- ***KSU-Landbuy.xls* allows for both**
- **But first some historical information**

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Agricultural Market Value of Agricultural Land

- Based on the idea of an ag cap rate
- Used average after-property-tax RTV 1951-72
 - Early on while ag still is dominant
 - Before wild inflation of the 1970's
- Alabama ag cap rate = 8.03%
- Kansas ag cap rate = 6.64%
- 39-state average cap rate = 6.56%



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Agricultural Market Value of Agricultural Land using Alabama as an example

- Jan. 1, 2004 crop land value = \$1800 /acre
- Cash rent for 2004 = \$35 /acre
- 2004 property tax = \$3.12 /acre
- 2004 after-property-tax rent = \$31.88 /acre
- $\$31.88 / 0.0803 = \397 /acre

- $AMVP = \$397 / \$1800 = 0.221 = 22.1\%$

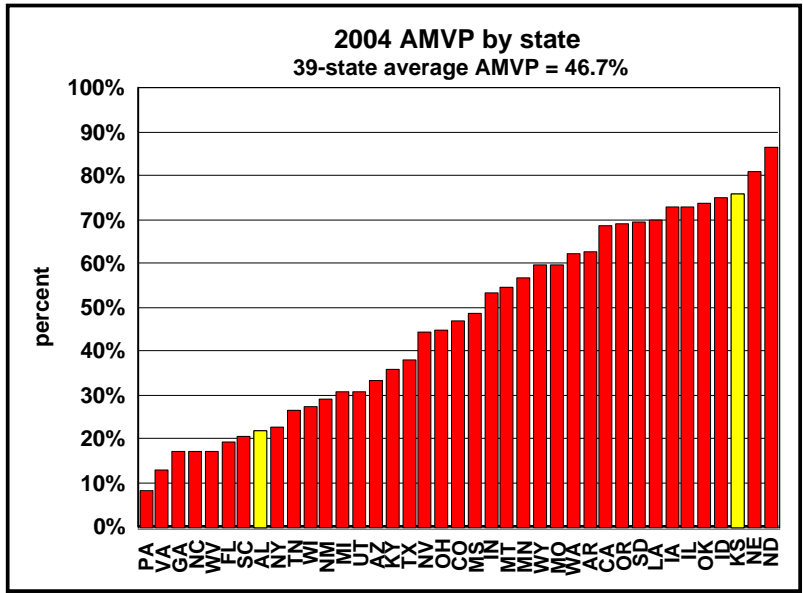
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Agricultural Market Value of Agricultural Land using KS non-irrigated cropland as an example

- Jan. 1, 2004 land value = \$705 /acre
- Cash rent for 2004 = \$37.50 /acre
- 2004 property tax = \$4.17 /acre
- 2004 after-property-tax rent = \$33.33 /acre
- $\$33.33 / 0.0664 = \502 /acre

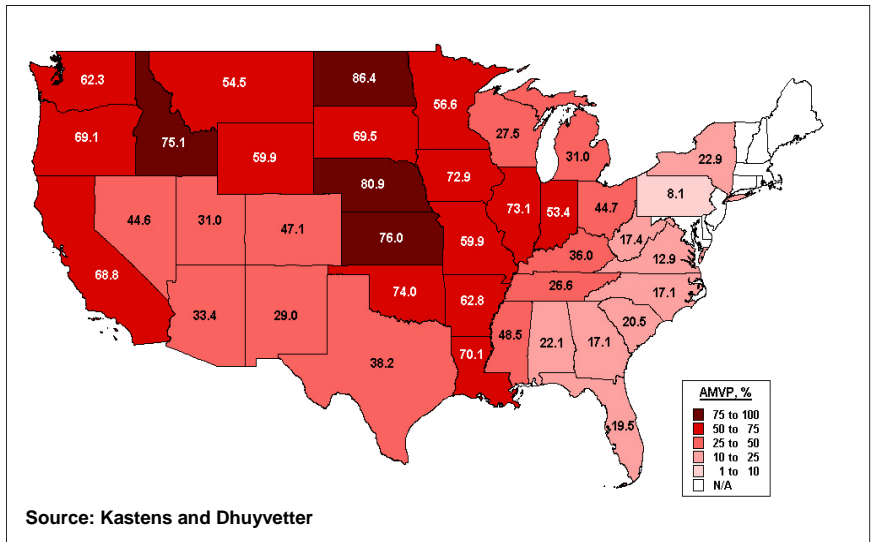
- $AMVP (non-irr) = \$502 / \$705 = 0.712 = 71.2\%$

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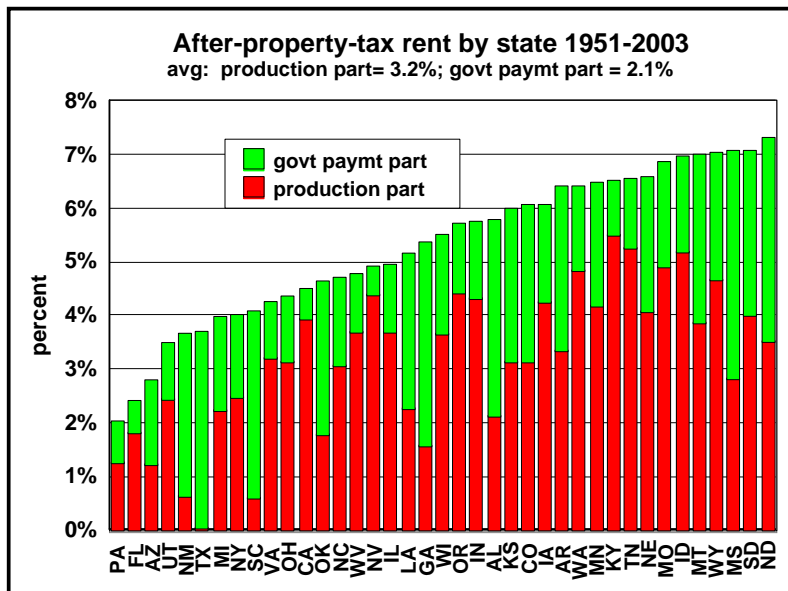
percent of land value that is due to agriculture

Portion of Land Value Attributed to Agricultural (production and government payments)



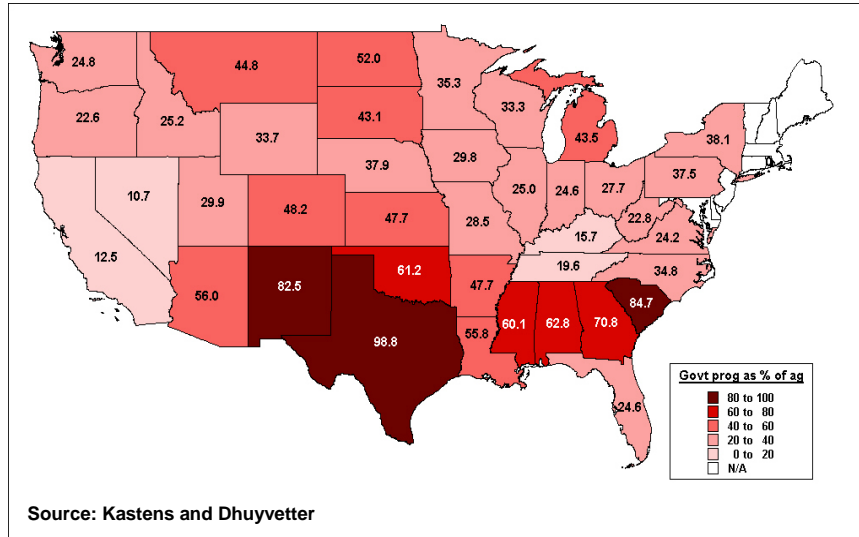
Government Program Payments

- Generally, are thought to be capitalized into land values and cash rents
- Many Great Plains states and many Southern states are highly dependent on government program payments



ranked by total rent

Percentage of Agricultural Value Attributed to Government Program Payments

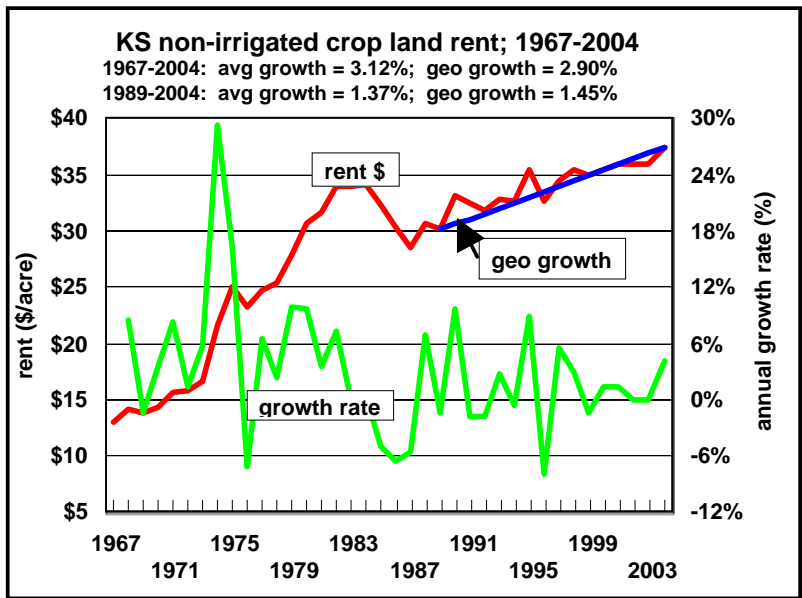


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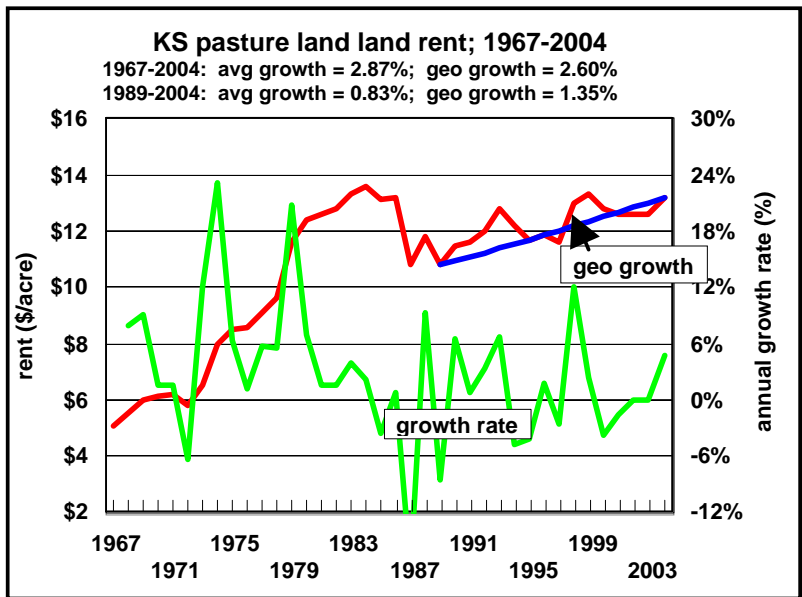
Government Program Payments

- States whose land values have substantial non-ag components would not suffer as much in the absence of payments
 - Alabama and Georgia are notable Southern states
 - Great Plains states don't have that advantage

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Buying Land – How much can I afford?

- Valuing the capital gains portion
 - Pick a “selling point,” say 30 years from now
 - What will the land be worth then?
 - Assume some annual capital gain % -- ag and non-ag
 - What is left after “sell” & pay cap gains tax?
 - What is that amount worth today?
- Valuing the rent portion
 - What is cash rent today, ag and non-ag?
 - How will rents evolve (grow) over time?
 - What is the future stream of rents worth today?
- Maximum bid = today’s value of the capital gain + today’s value of the rent stream

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Using *KSU-Landbuy*
(go to Excel)



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Questions ???

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