Should We Return to Diversified Crop-Livestock Operations?

Dustin Pendell, Glynn Tonsor, Mykel Taylor 2016 Ag. Lenders Conference October 4th/5th Garden City/Manhattan, KS

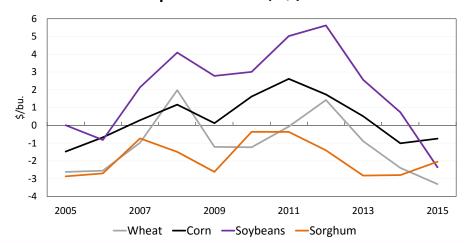
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What is Diversification?

- What is diversification?
- Why diversify?
- Ways to manage risk?

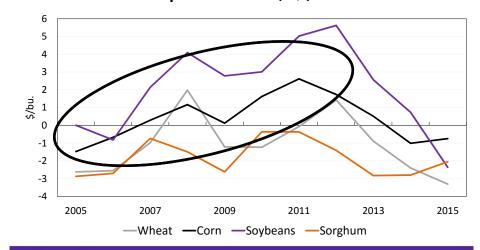
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Crop Returns, \$/bu.



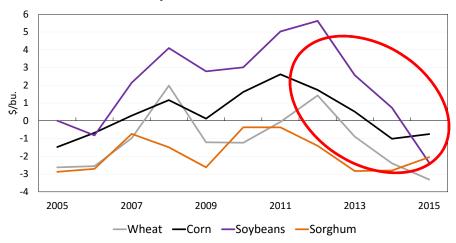
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Crop Returns, \$/bu.



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Crop Returns, \$/bu.



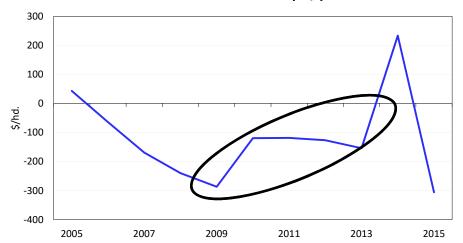
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Cow-Calf Returns, \$/hd 300 200 100 \$/hd. -100 -200 -300 -400 2007 2011 2013 2015 2005 2009

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Cow-Calf Returns, \$/hd



Cow-Calf Returns, \$/hd 300 200 100 -200 -300 -400 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 KANSAS STATE Department of Agricultural Economics

Correlation between Crops and Cow-Calf

Return over Variable Costs

- 1975-2015: **+**0.176

- 1975-1979: +0.468

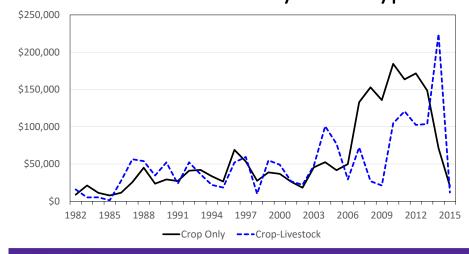
- 1980-1990: +0.141

- 1991-2004: -0.095

- 2005-2014: -0.150

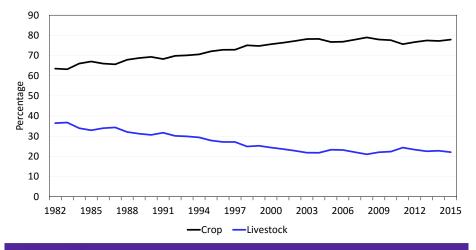
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Net Farm Income by Farm Type



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Crop and Livestock Labor, %



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Why Less Diversification/More Specialization?

- More crop insurance
- Less rangeland/pasture
- Economies of scale
- Labor/technology/age
- Vertical coordination

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Pros of Diversification

- Risk
- Cash flow
- Labor
- Equipment
- Agronomic
- Land use
 - Crop/pasture and cover crops

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Should We Return to Diversified Crop-Livestock Operations?

- Correlations for corn and cow-calf returns
- NFI for crop and crop-livestock operations
- More specialization

Cons of Diversification

- Labor
- Equipment
- Economies of scale
- Agronomic
- Management

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