

Columbia County Community Food Assessment

Food in the Farmscape



Hawthorne Valley

FARMSCAPE ECOLOGY PROGRAM



We do research and outreach exploring the nature, history and culture of the agricultural landscape in Columbia County.

Ultimately, it's about fostering a sense of connection



Guiding Questions

- What does the Columbia County food system currently look like?
- What would Columbia County look like if more people ate “real food?”
- What are the gaps, barriers, synergies and opportunities?

Where have we been? *Where are we now?* Where do we want to be?

Community Food Assessment

Exploring how food is grown, distributed, processed, bought, shared, and eaten in a community.



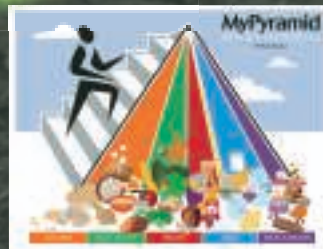
Needs & Strengths



Participatory & Collaborative



Reveals inter-relationships, gaps, synergies, opportunities



In other words...the "food system"



Why do a Community Food Assessment?

Knowing where we are so we can create the kind of future we want

Goals

- Everyone has enough good, healthy food
- Food is grown sustainably and justly
- The community has greater self-reliance

Community Food Security

A condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice
-Hamm and Bellows 2003



Columbia County Current Picture: Some numbers*

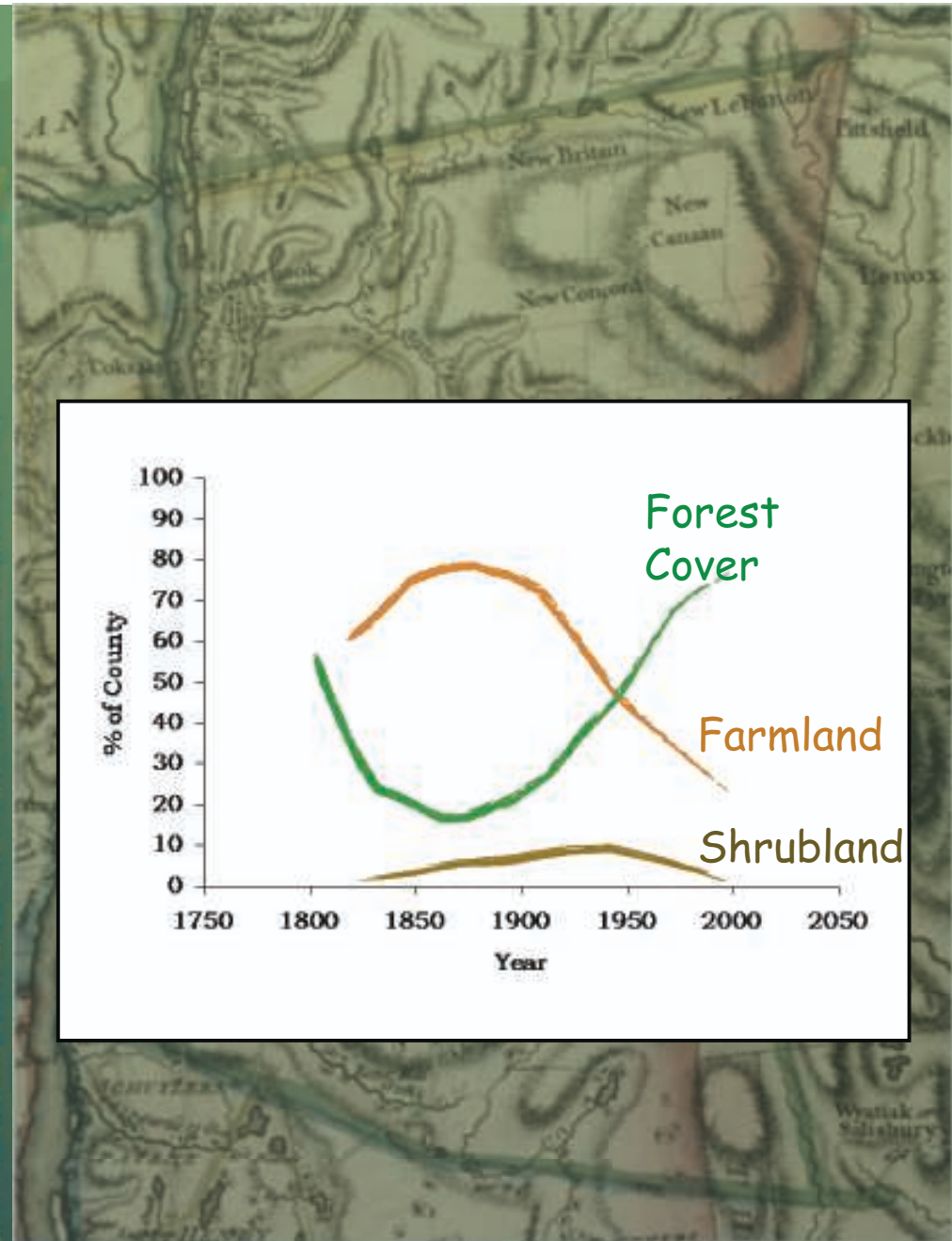
- # of farms: 554
- # of farms with direct sales: 125
- Number of farmers' markets: 9
- Adult Obesity Rate: 27%
- Number of fast food restaurants: 35
- Child Poverty Rate: 15.6%
- Percent of Children on SNAP (Food Stamps): 11%



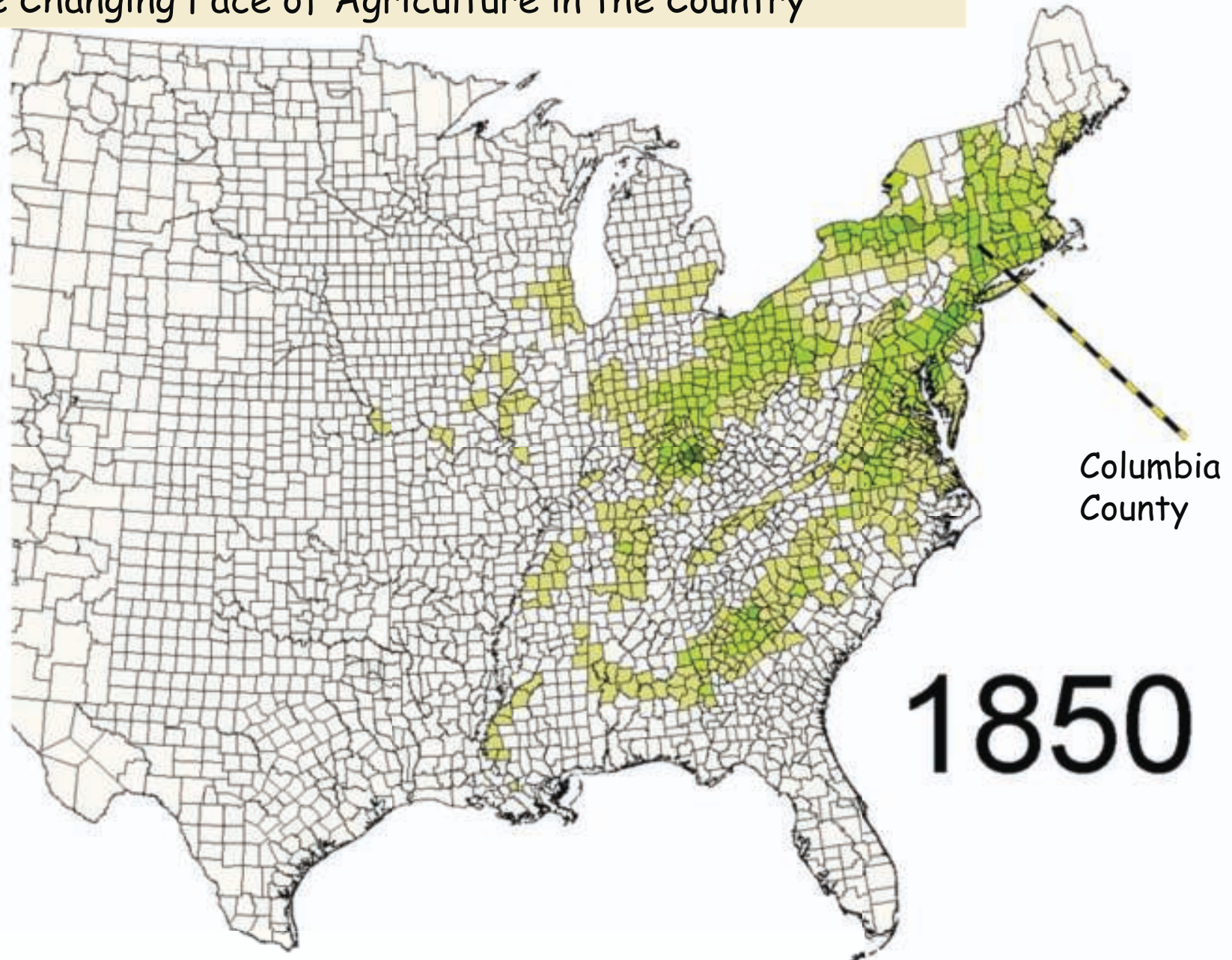
*Food Environment Atlas 2010

<http://ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/>

Where have
we been?
Some of what
we've been
exploring....

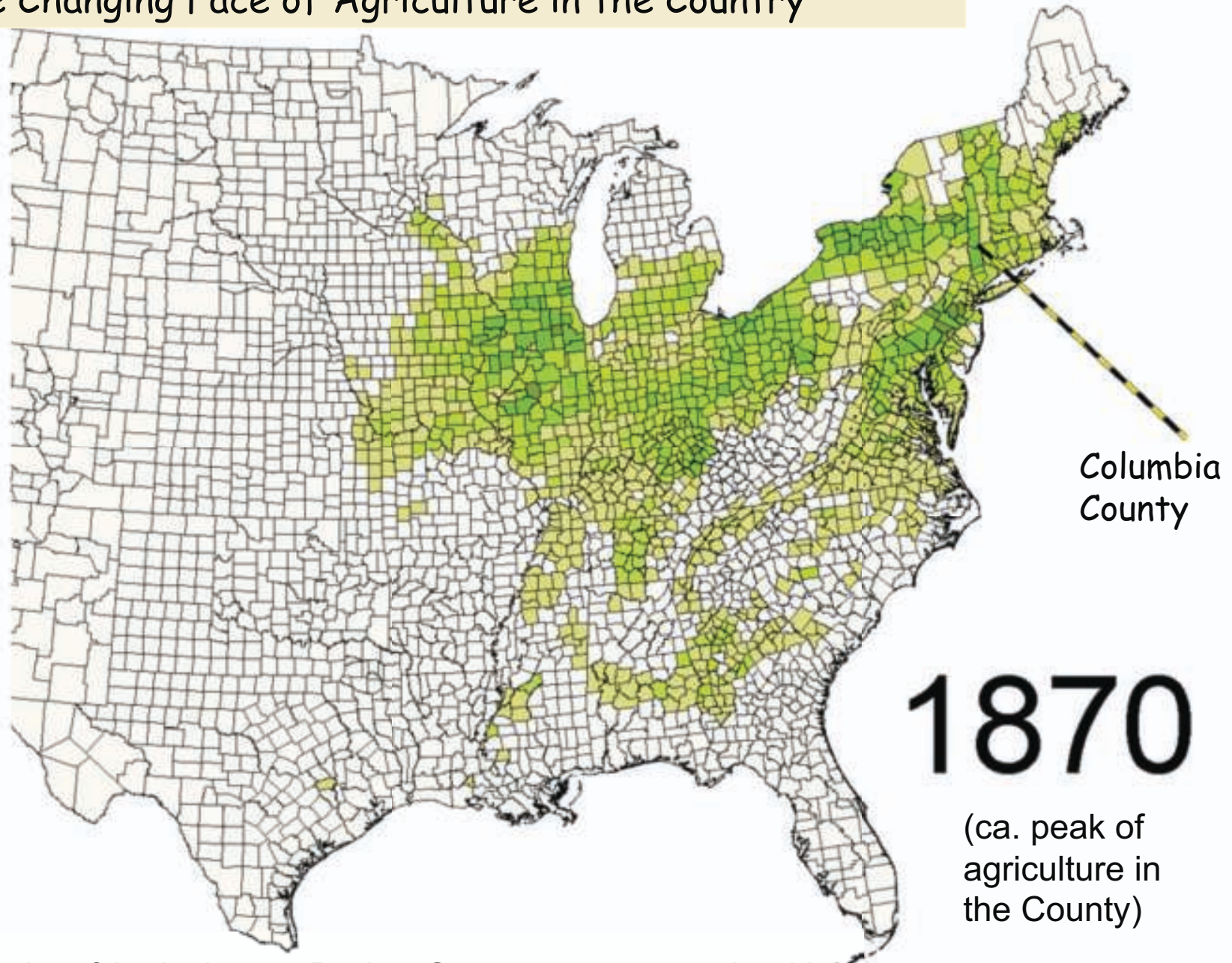


The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



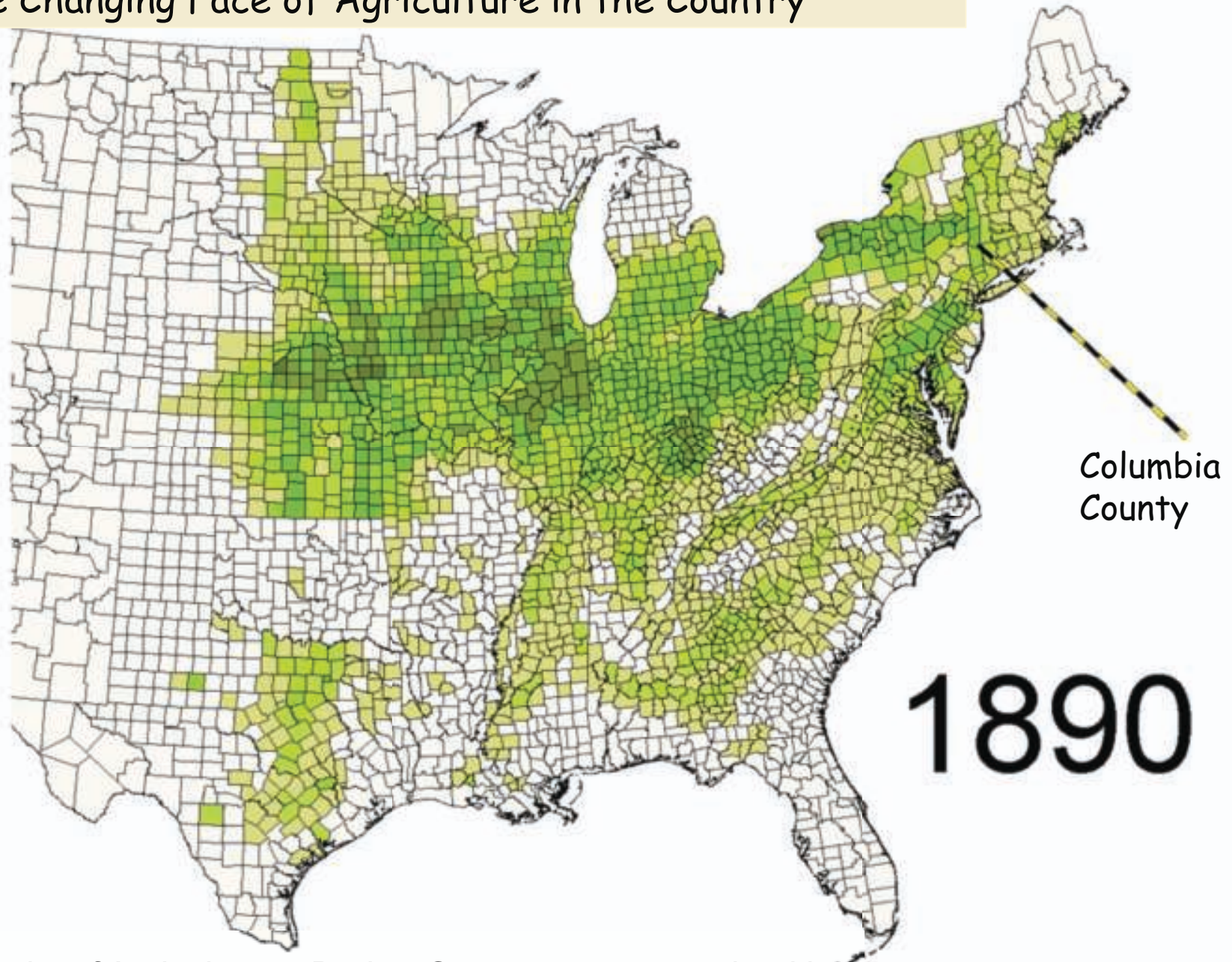
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



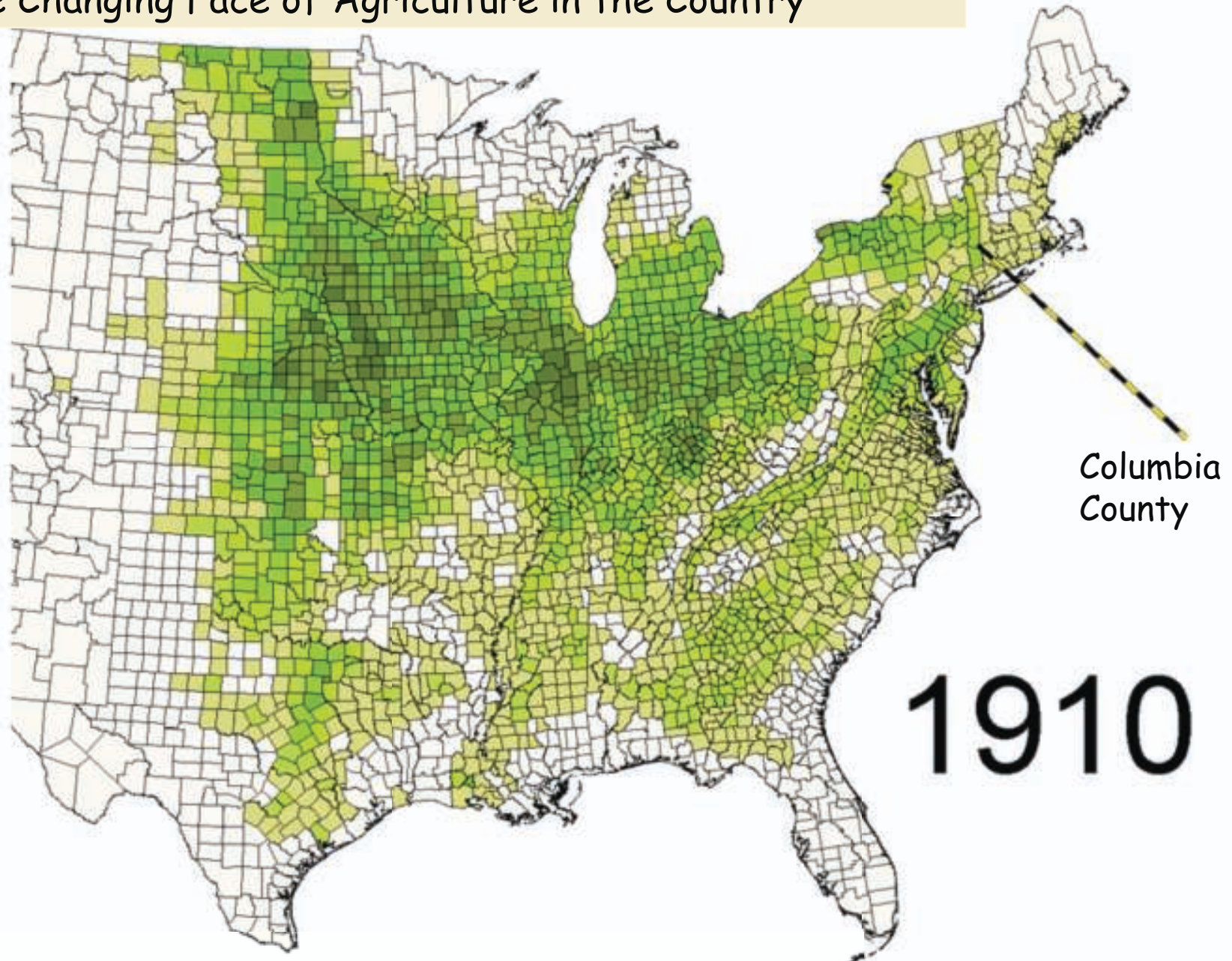
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



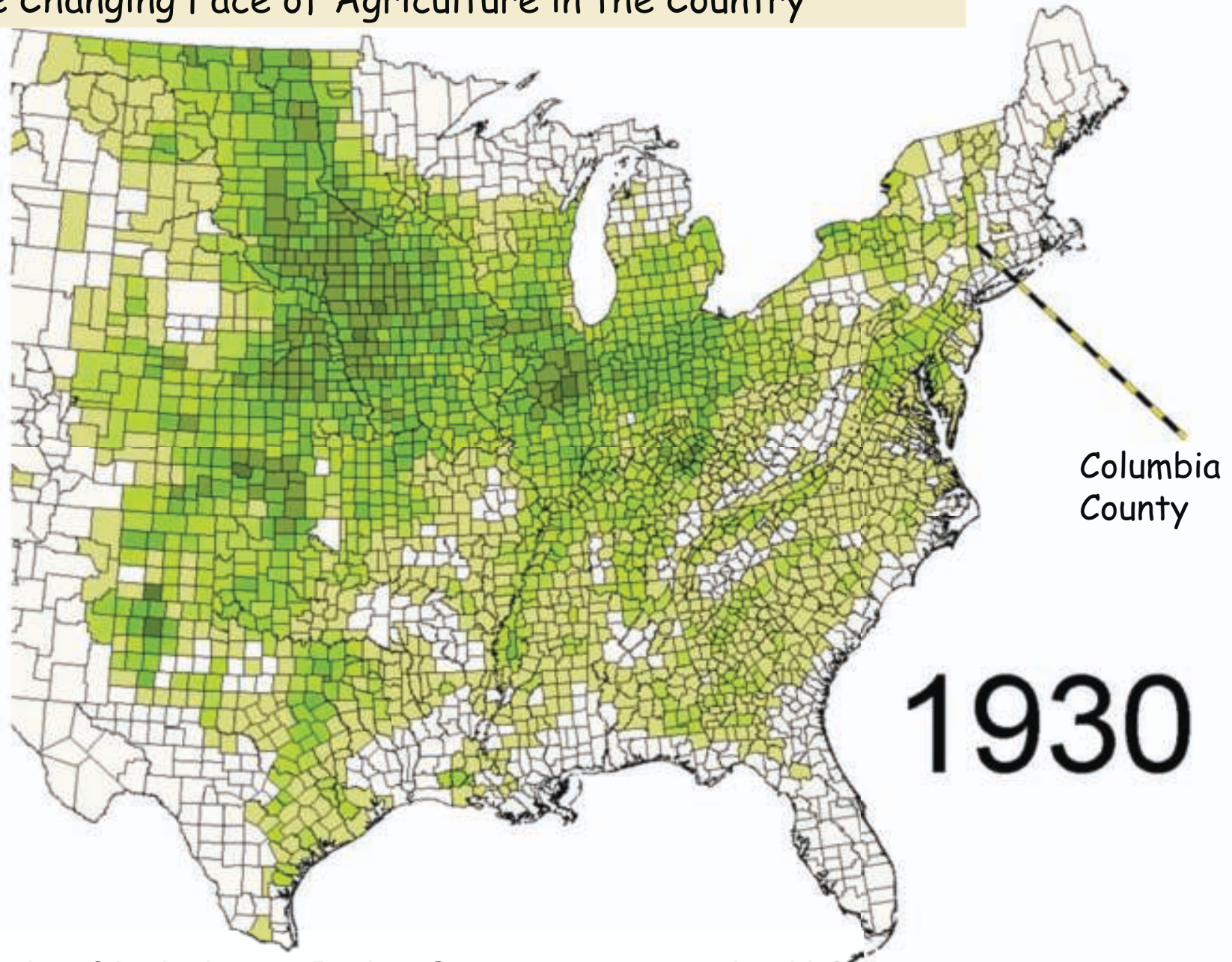
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



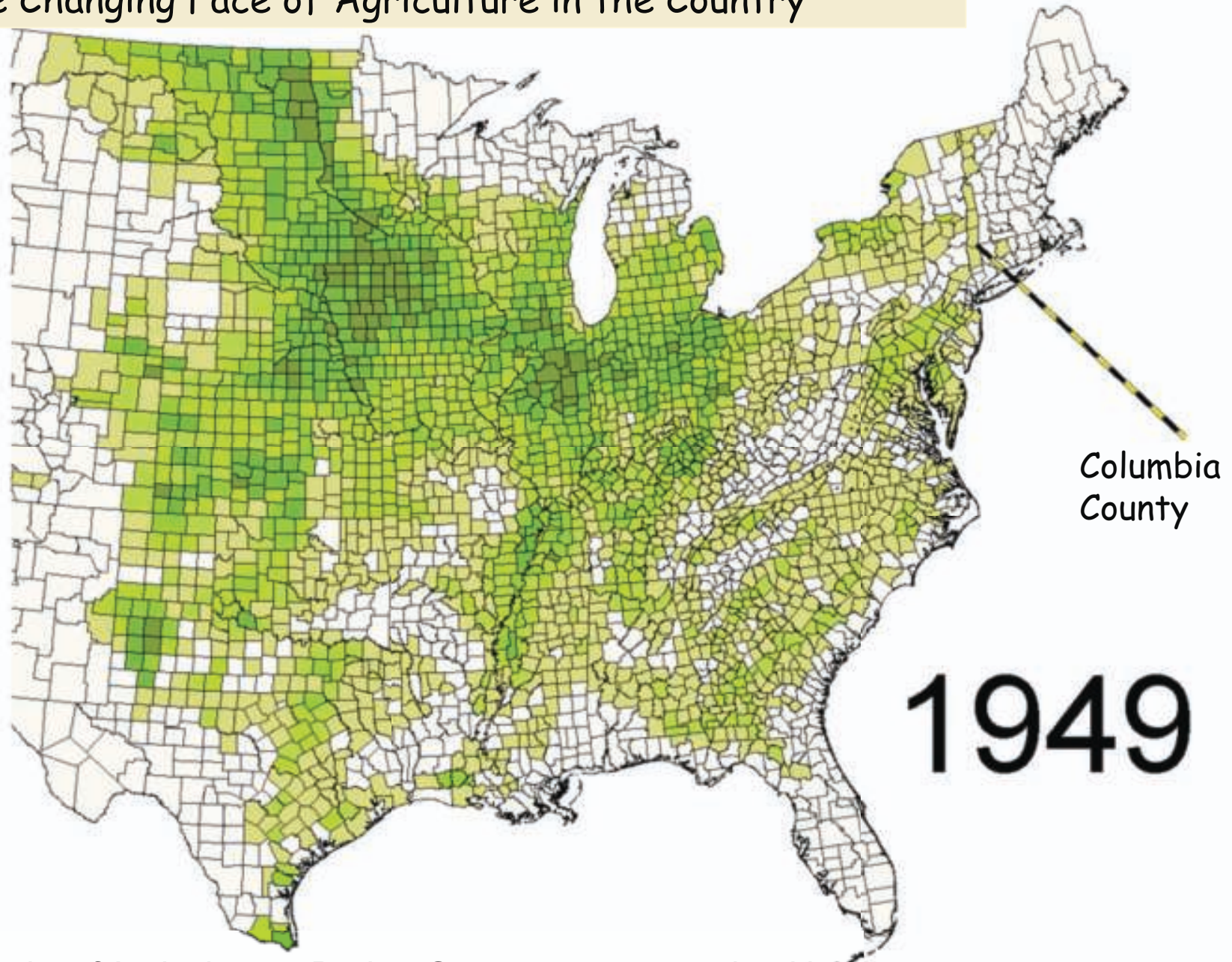
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



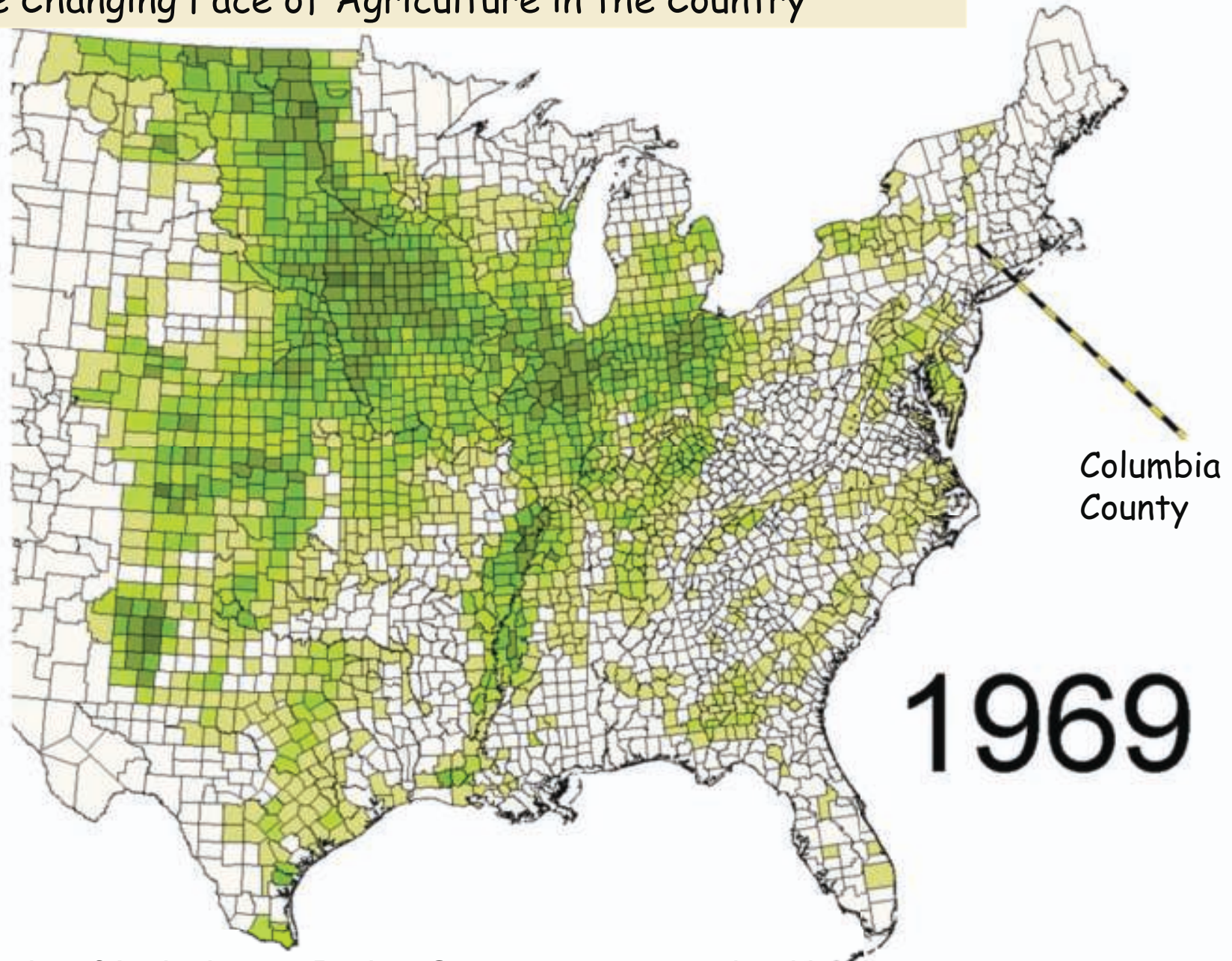
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



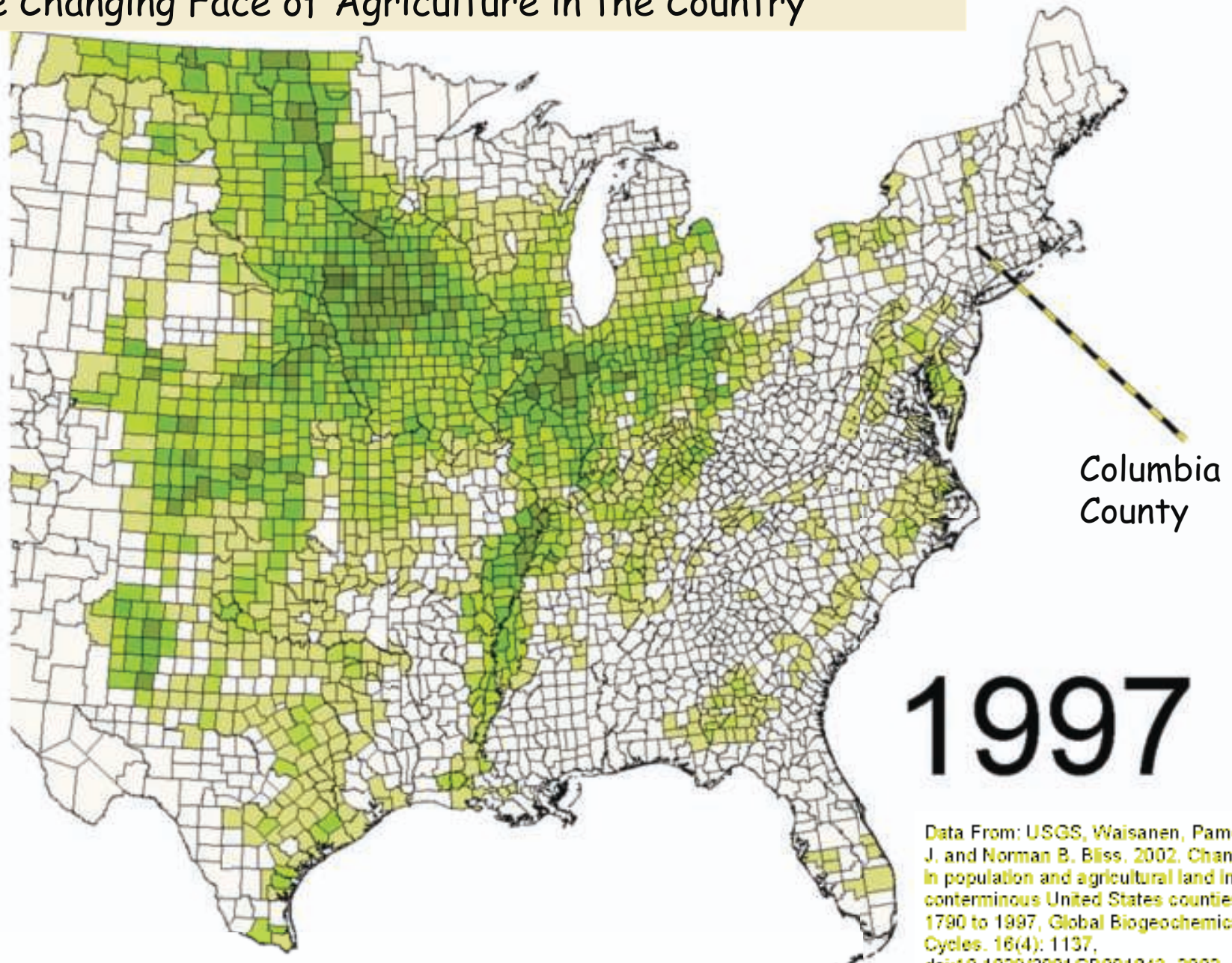
Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country




Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

The Changing Face of Agriculture in the Country



Intensity of Agriculture – Darker Green means more land in farms.

Land Development in Columbia County: Structures Built Along Rt. 9 Corridor

 - structures built before 1948



Land Development in Columbia County: Structures Built Along Rt. 9 Corridor

■ structures built before 1948 ■ - between 1948 and 1980

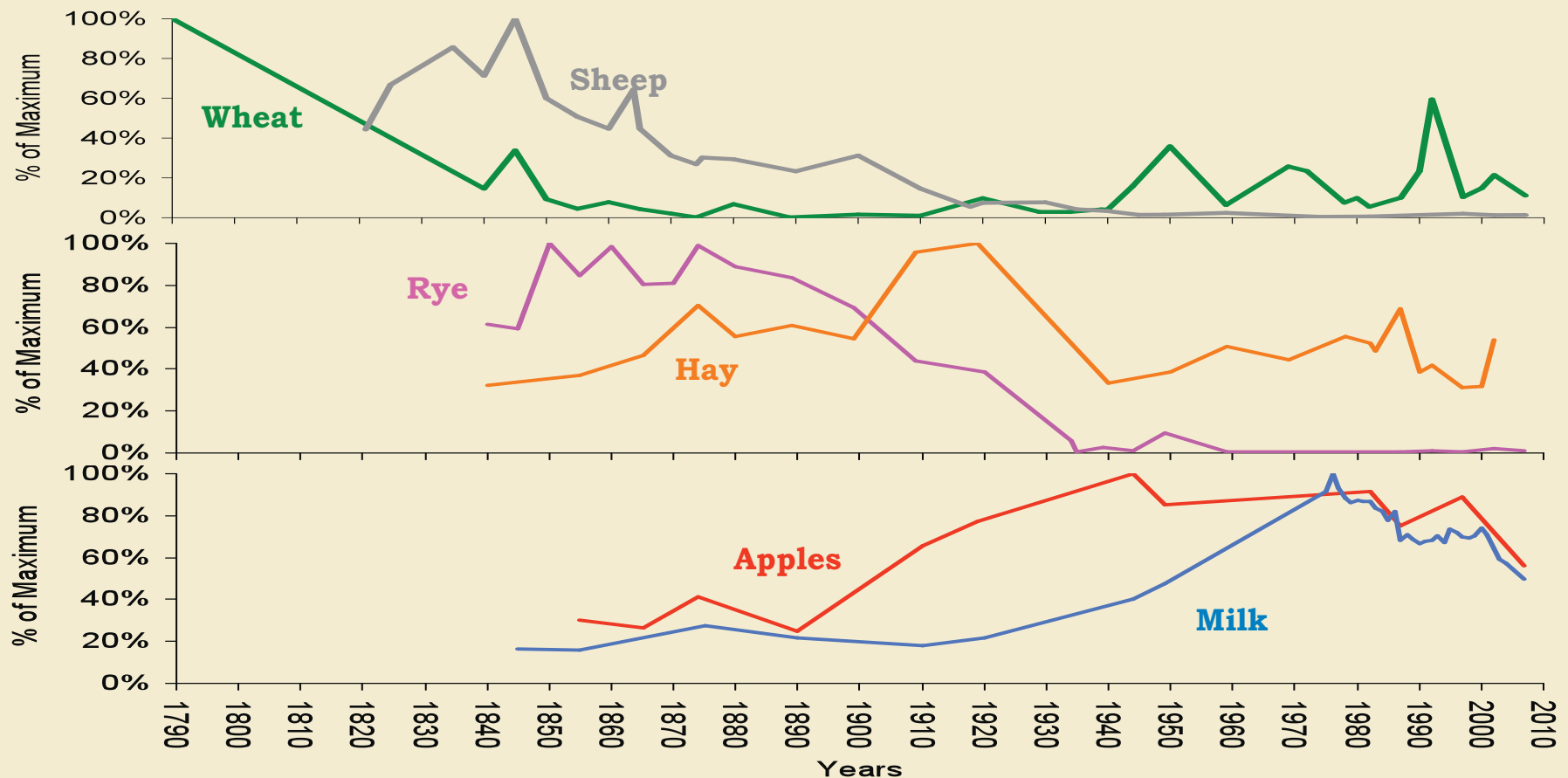


Land Development in Columbia County: Structures Built Along Rt. 9 Corridor

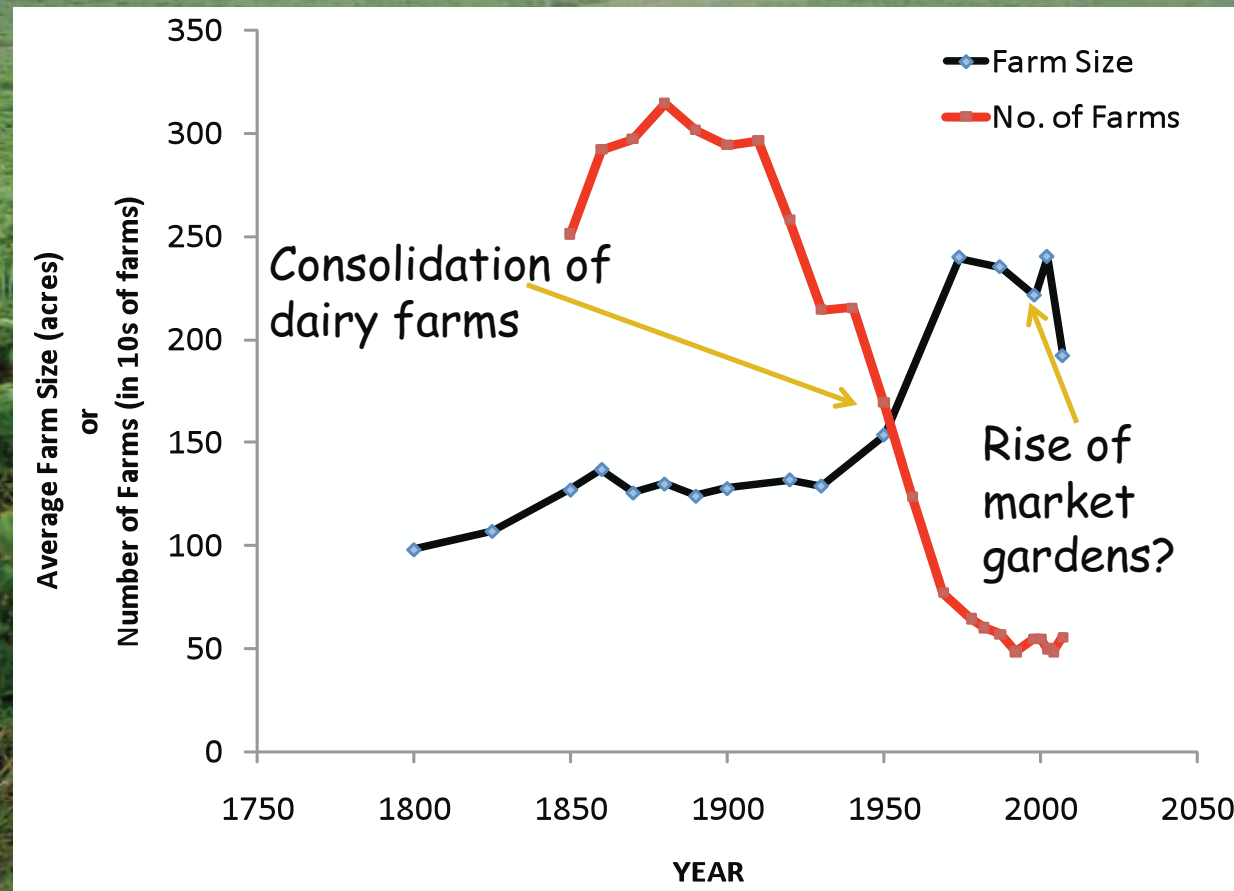
● - structures built before 1930, ● - between 1948 and 1980,



Columbia County relative changes in farm production

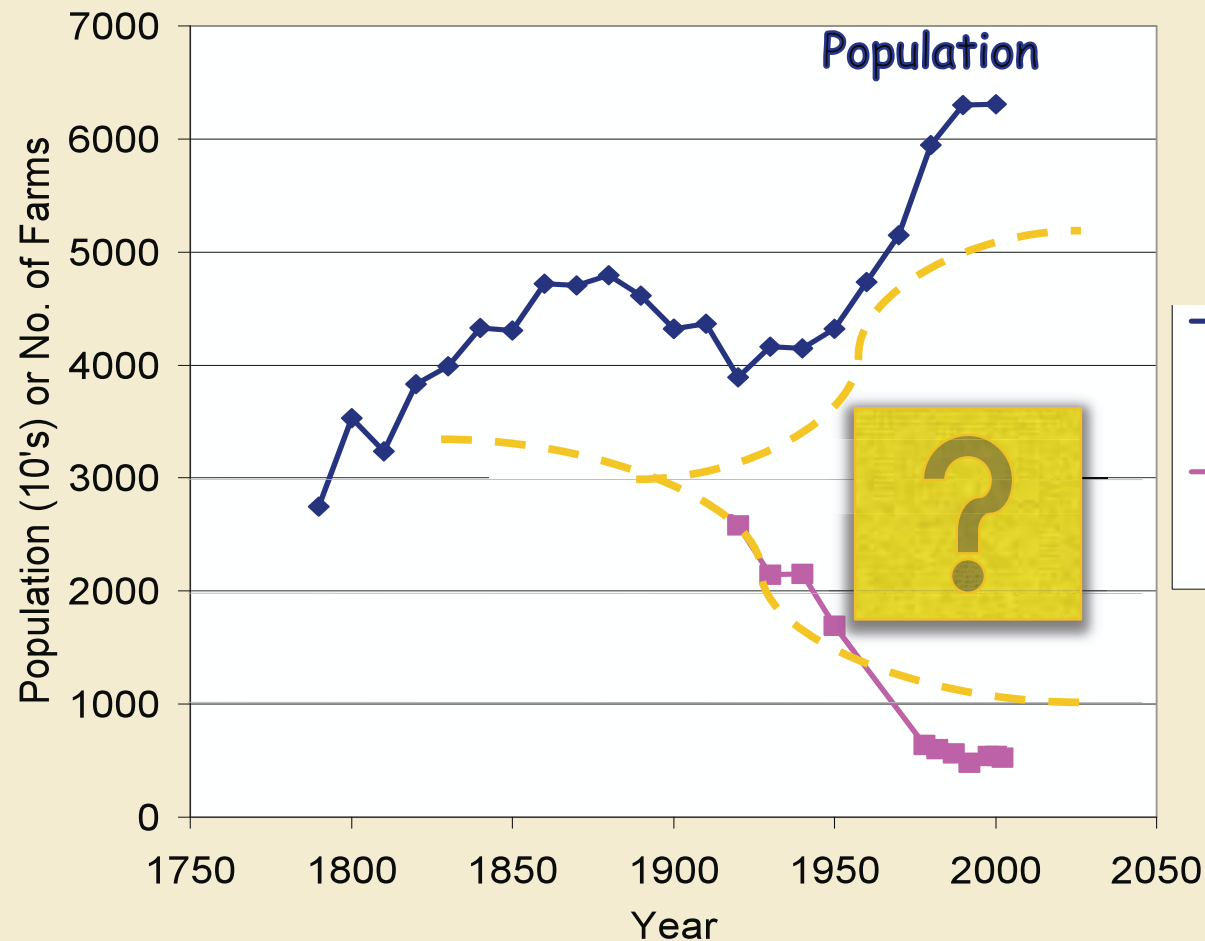


Columbia County Change in Farm Size & Number of Farms



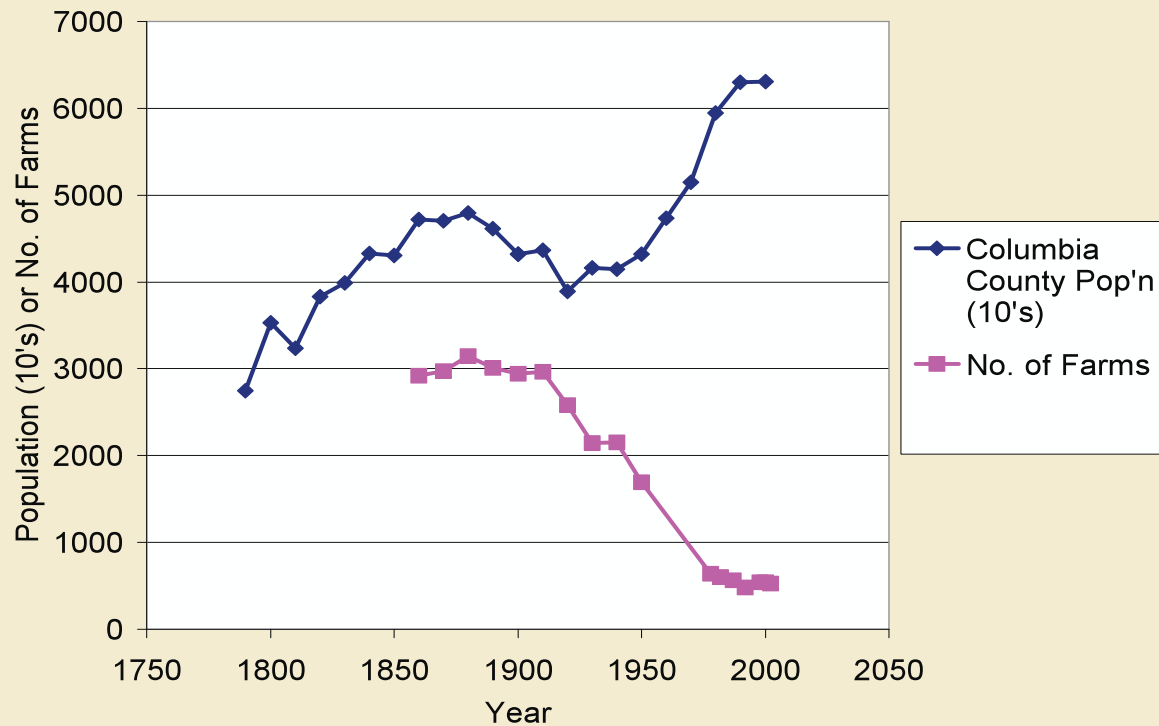
Still to be explored...

Changes in other aspects of the food system



- Grocery Stores
- Other food outlets
- Emergency Food Programs
- Processing Facilities
- Distributors

Columbia County Change in Population and Number of Farms



What do these changes mean for community food security?

