



# Northeast Nebraska Farm & Food Economy

**Norfolk Farmers' Market**

Nebraska Organizing Project

**Center for Rural Affairs**

Heartland Business Coalition

**Rural Prosperity**

**November 6, 2025 (Virtual)**

**Ken Meter** Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)

*Paul, Nebraska, 2017*

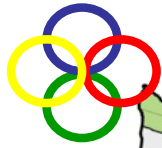


## **Nebraska Farm Heritage**

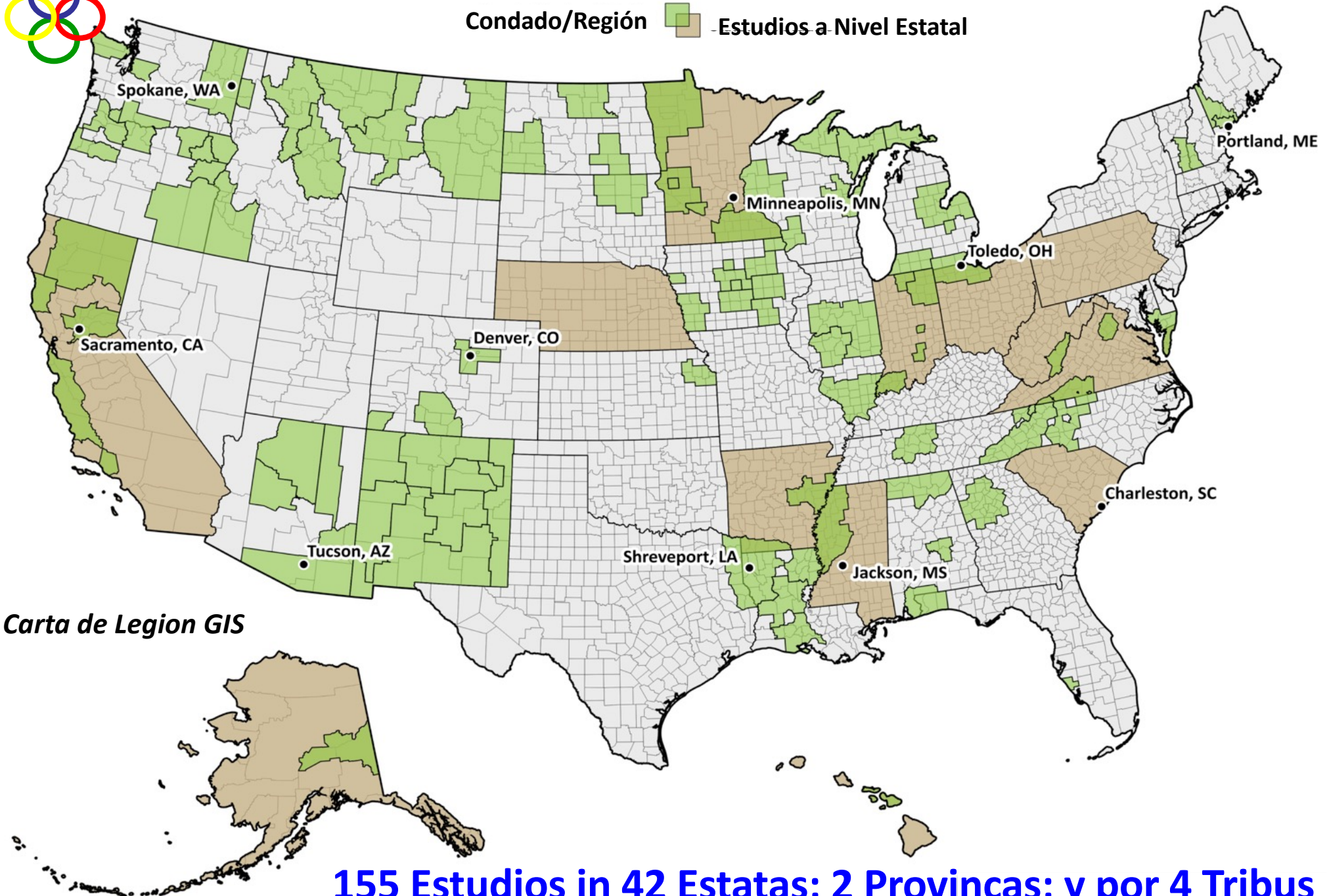
**20 Years Living & Working  
in Low-Wealth Neighborhood**

**Extensive Field Experience Partnering  
with Food Systems Initiatives**

# Centro de Recursos Crossroads: Estudios Sobre Agricultura y Economía Alimentaria



Estudios a Nivel de Condado/Región  - Estudios a Nivel Estatal 



*Carta de Legión GIS*

**155 Estudios in 42 Estados; 2 Provincas; y por 4 Tribus**



# A Vision for the US Food System

**Build:**

**Health**

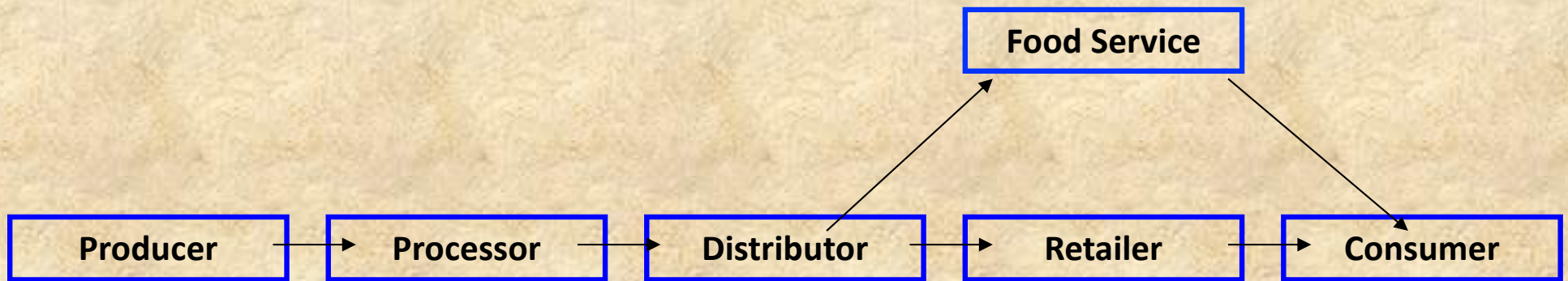
**Wealth**

**Connection**

**Capacity**



# “Supply Chain”



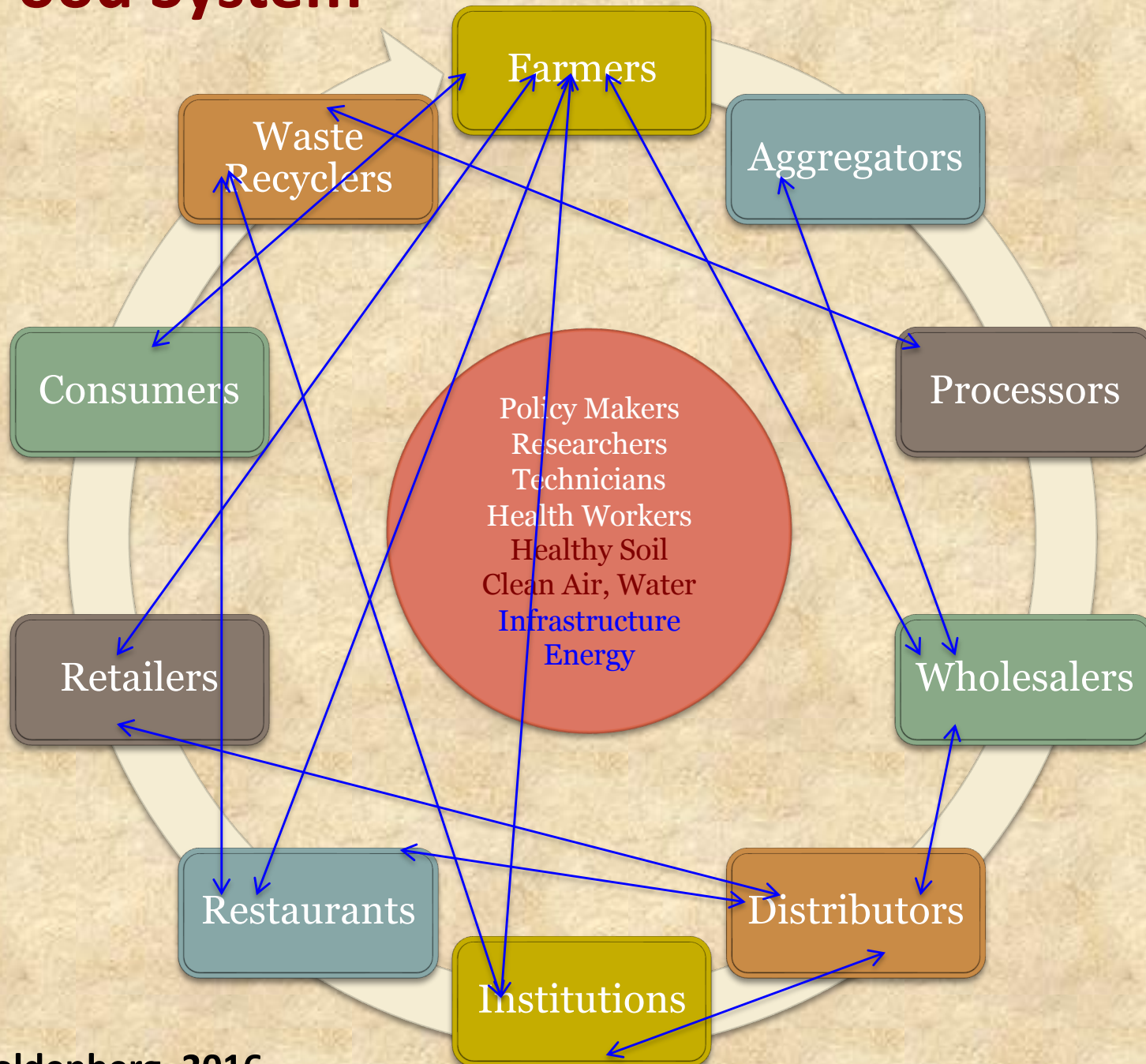


# Food System





# Food System

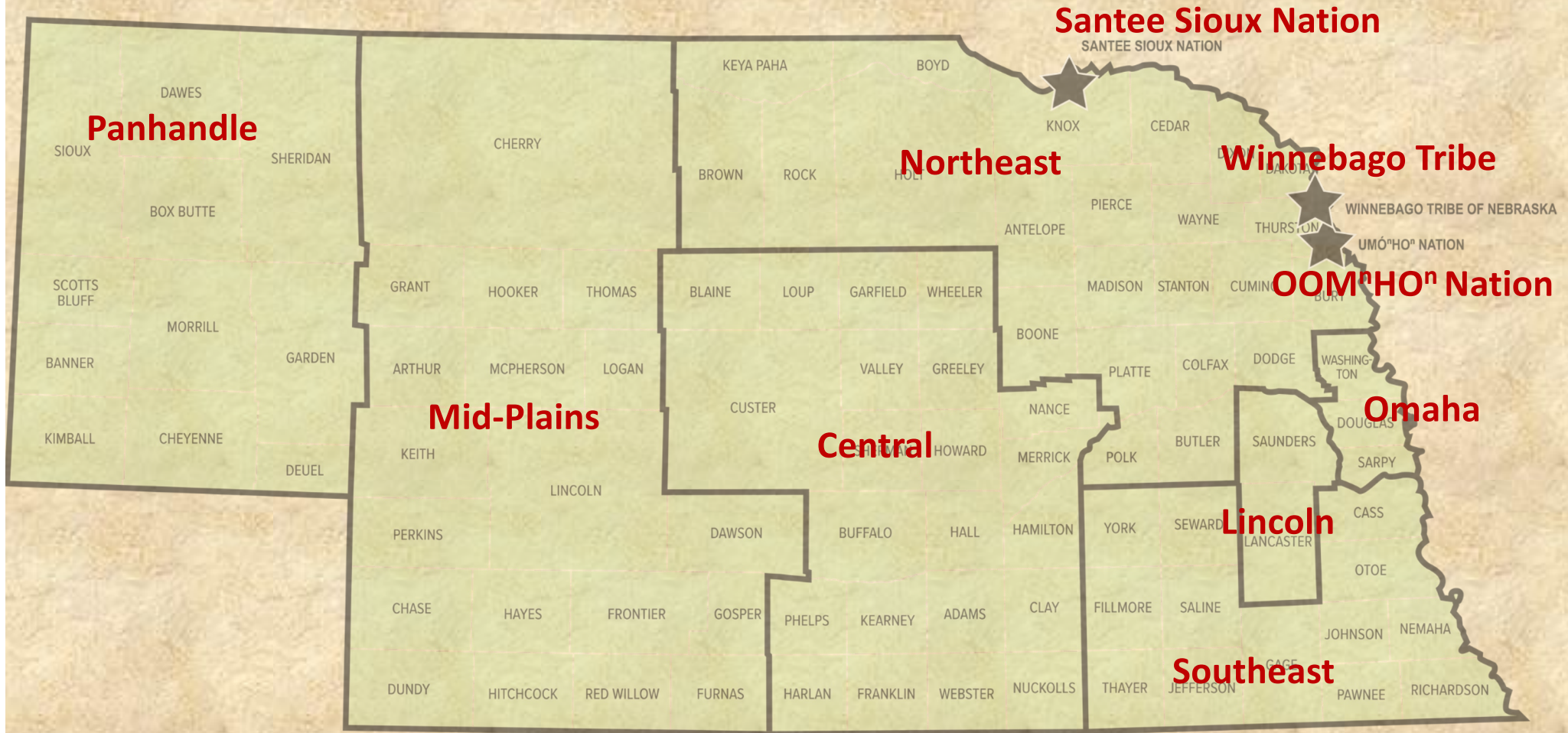




*Mural, The Food Project — Boston*



# Northeast Nebraska

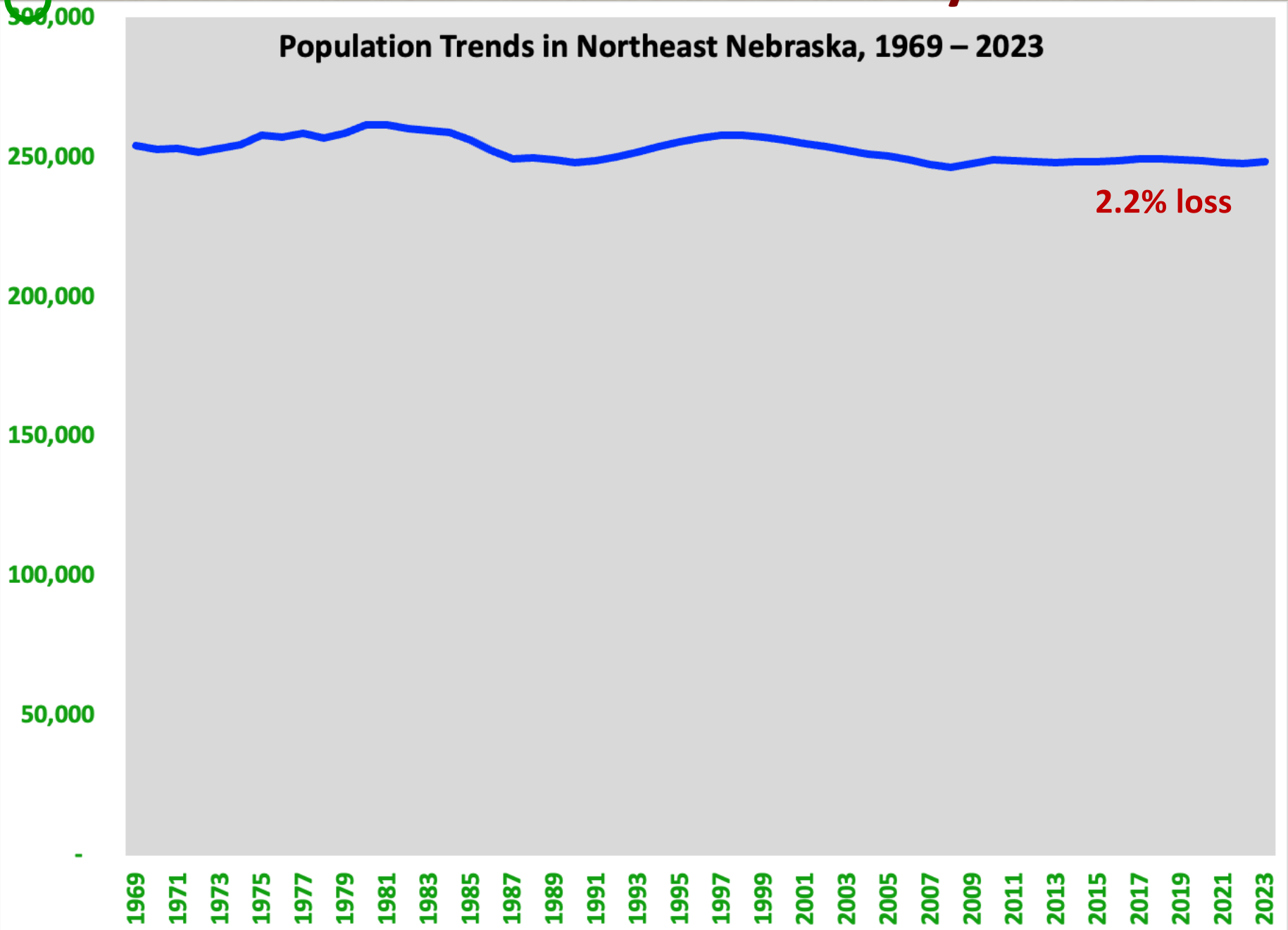


Map by Kylie Kai, Center for Rural Affairs





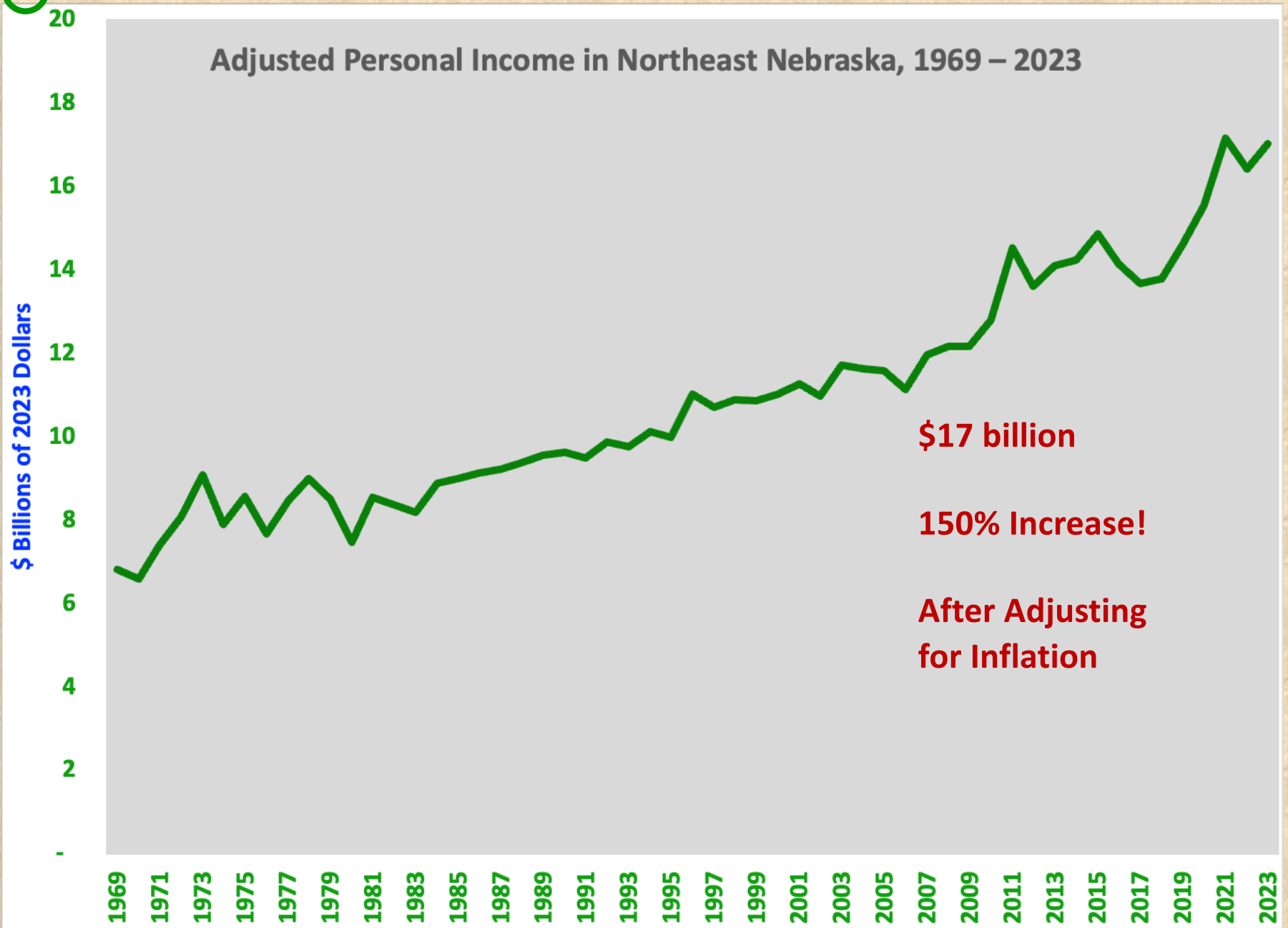
# Northeast Farm & Food Economy



2.2% loss

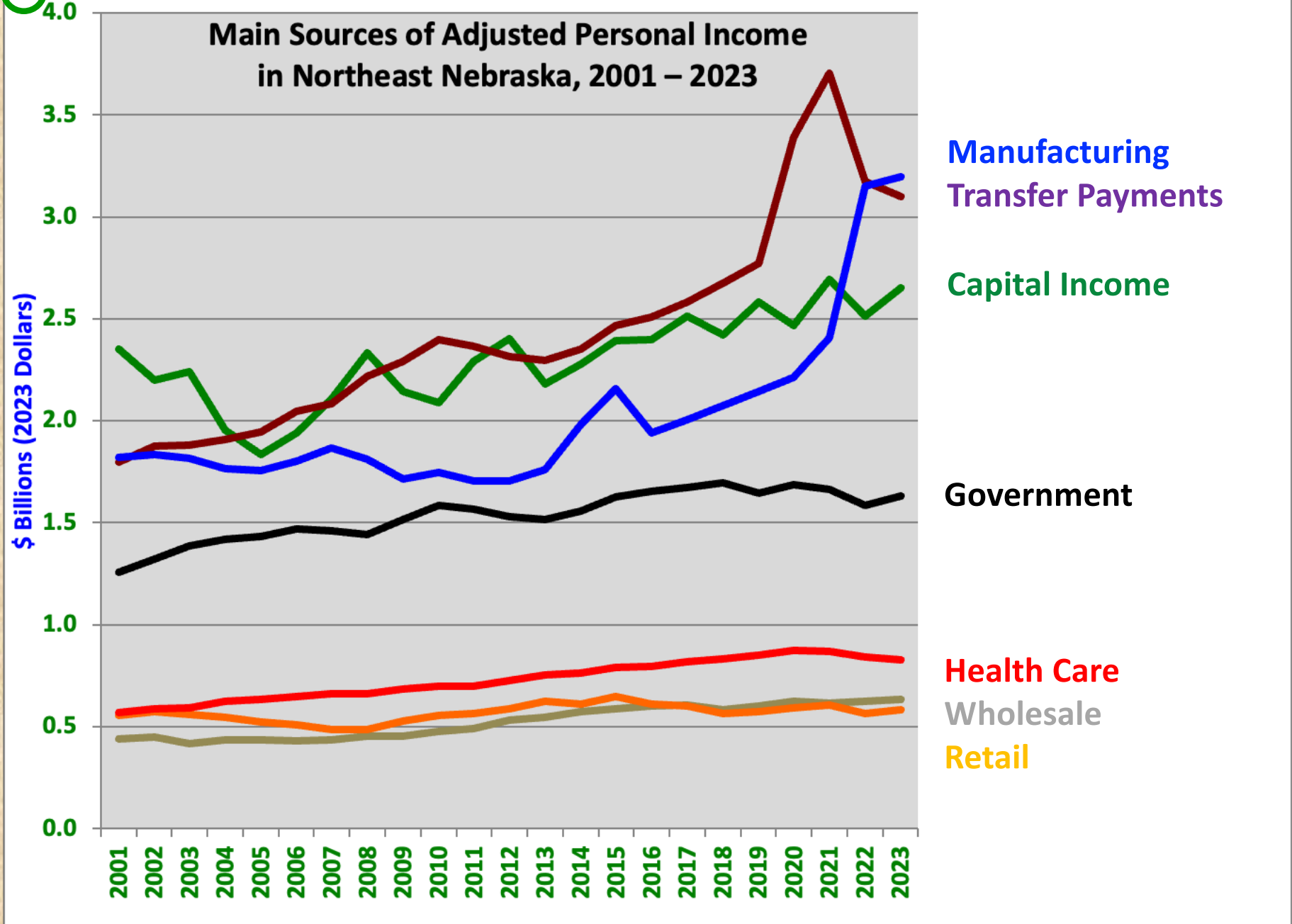


# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**Government Programs  
Account for 28% of Personal Income**



*Photo by Kylie Kai, Center for Rural Affairs*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**61,000 residents (25%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines**

**This compares with**

- Metro Omaha (21%)**
- Lincoln Metro (25%)**
- The Panhandle (30%)**



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## *Food Insecurity*

**Madison County 14.9% — 5,280 Residents**  
**(\$3.4 Million Required)**



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**4% percent of the region's households  
(about 9,400 residents)  
earn less than \$10,000 per year**

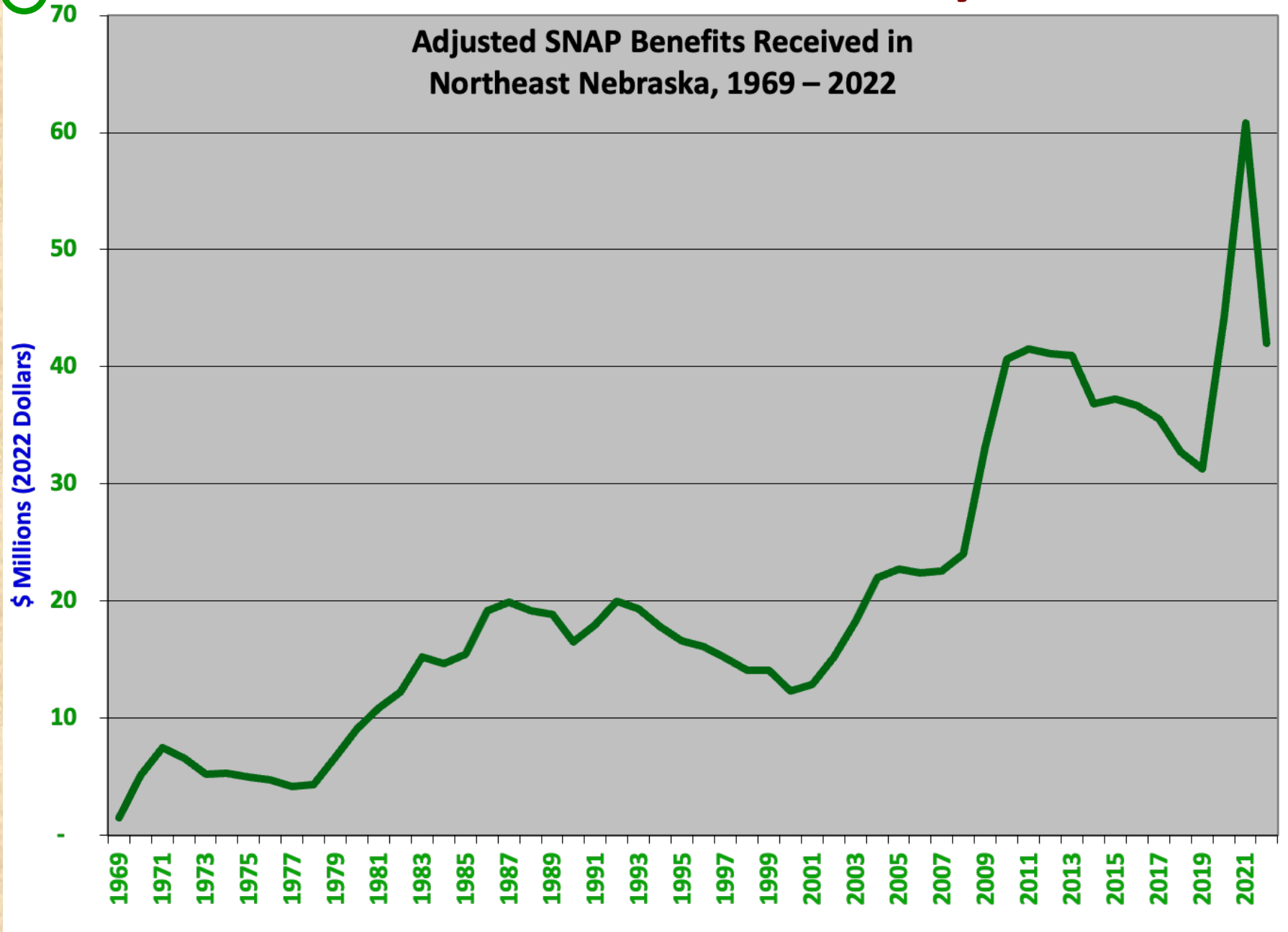
**25,000 residents received \$42 million in SNAP benefits  
in 2022**

**This was less than pandemic peak of \$61 million**

**SNAP benefits averaged \$27 million per year for the  
years 1989–2022**

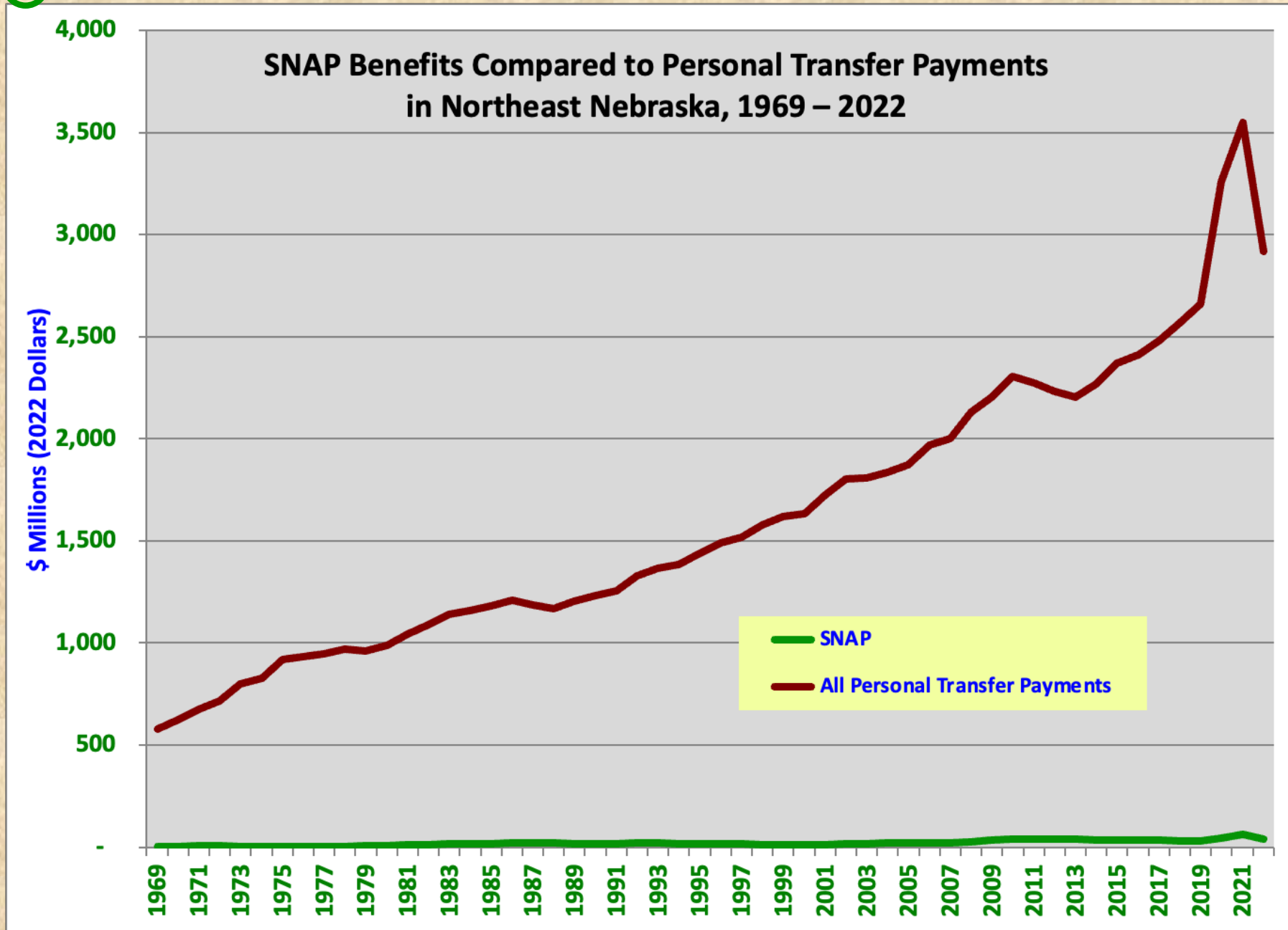


# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**Could Northeast Feed Itself?**



*Photo by Kylie Kai, Center for Rural Affairs*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## Consumer Markets for Food



*Photo Courtesy of City of Lincoln*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## Consumer Markets for Food

Northeast residents purchase \$910 million of food each year, including \$573 million to eat at home.

*Home purchases:*

	\$ Millions
Meats, Poultry, Fish, & Eggs	118
Fruits & Vegetables	107
Cereals & Bakery Products	72
Dairy Products	54
"Other," incl. Sweets, Fats, & Oils	221

*Photo Courtesy of City of Lincoln*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## Consumer Markets for Food

Northeast residents purchase \$910 million of food each year, including \$573 million to eat at home.

*This market is 70% the size of the Lincoln Metro market*

*Photo Courtesy of City of Lincoln*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## Consumer Markets for Food

Northeast residents purchase \$910 million of food each year, including \$573 million to eat at home.

*About \$820 million/year  
spent outside Northeast Region*

*Photo Courtesy of City of Lincoln*



## Consumers matter

If each resident bought \$5 of food directly from some Northeast farm each week...

...Farms would earn **\$91 million**



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**Farmers Produced:**

**\$7.2 Billion of Commodities**

*(per year 1989 – 2022)*

**Spent \$6.4 Billion to Produce Them**

*(per year 1989 – 2022)*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

**\$91 million — Buying \$5 of food per week**

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**\$7.2 billion — Cash Receipts for Farmers**

**1.3% of current farm cash receipts**



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

## Northeast Farms Focus on 4 Commodities

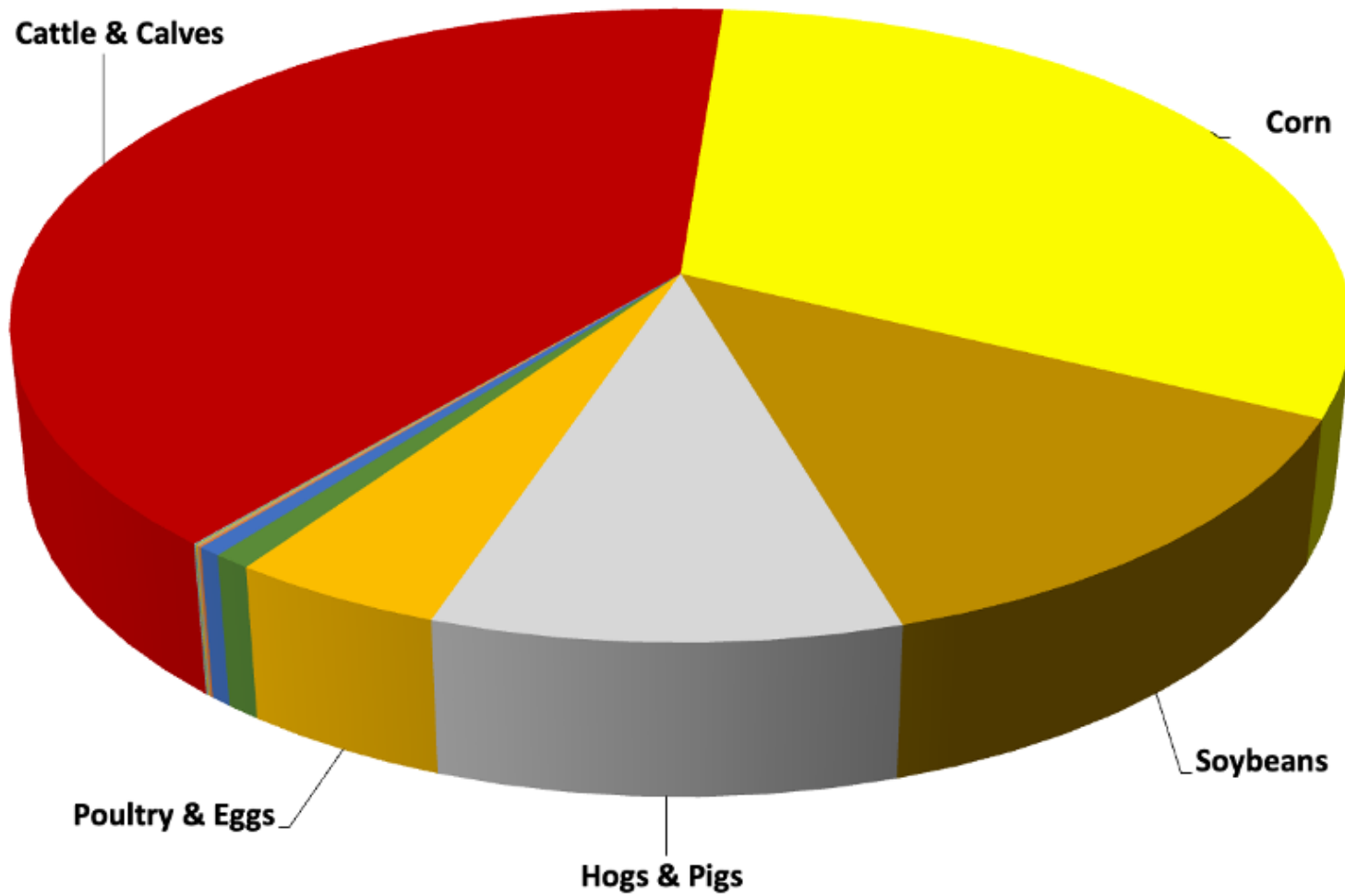
	\$ Millions
<b>Cattle &amp; Calves</b>	<b>3,515</b>
<b>Corn</b>	<b>2,721</b>
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>1,160</b>
<b>Hogs &amp; Pigs</b>	<b>852</b>

*Photo by Kylie Kai, Center for Rural Affairs*



# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

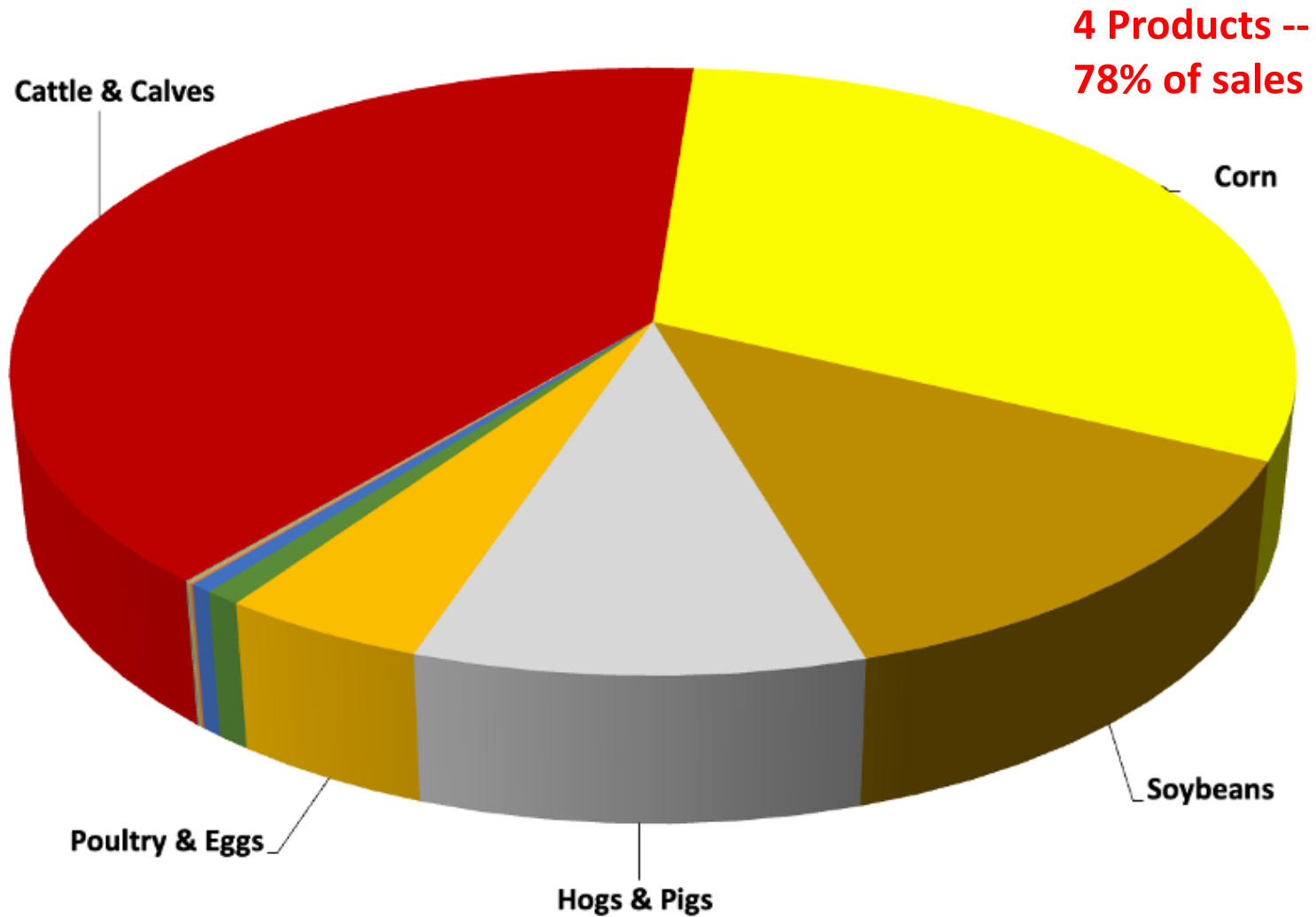
Top Products Sold by Northeast Nebraska Farms, 2022





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy

Top Products Sold by Northeast Nebraska Farms, 2022





# Northeast Farm & Food Economy



**52,751,716 Broiler Chickens**

**7,313,323 Cattle & Calves**

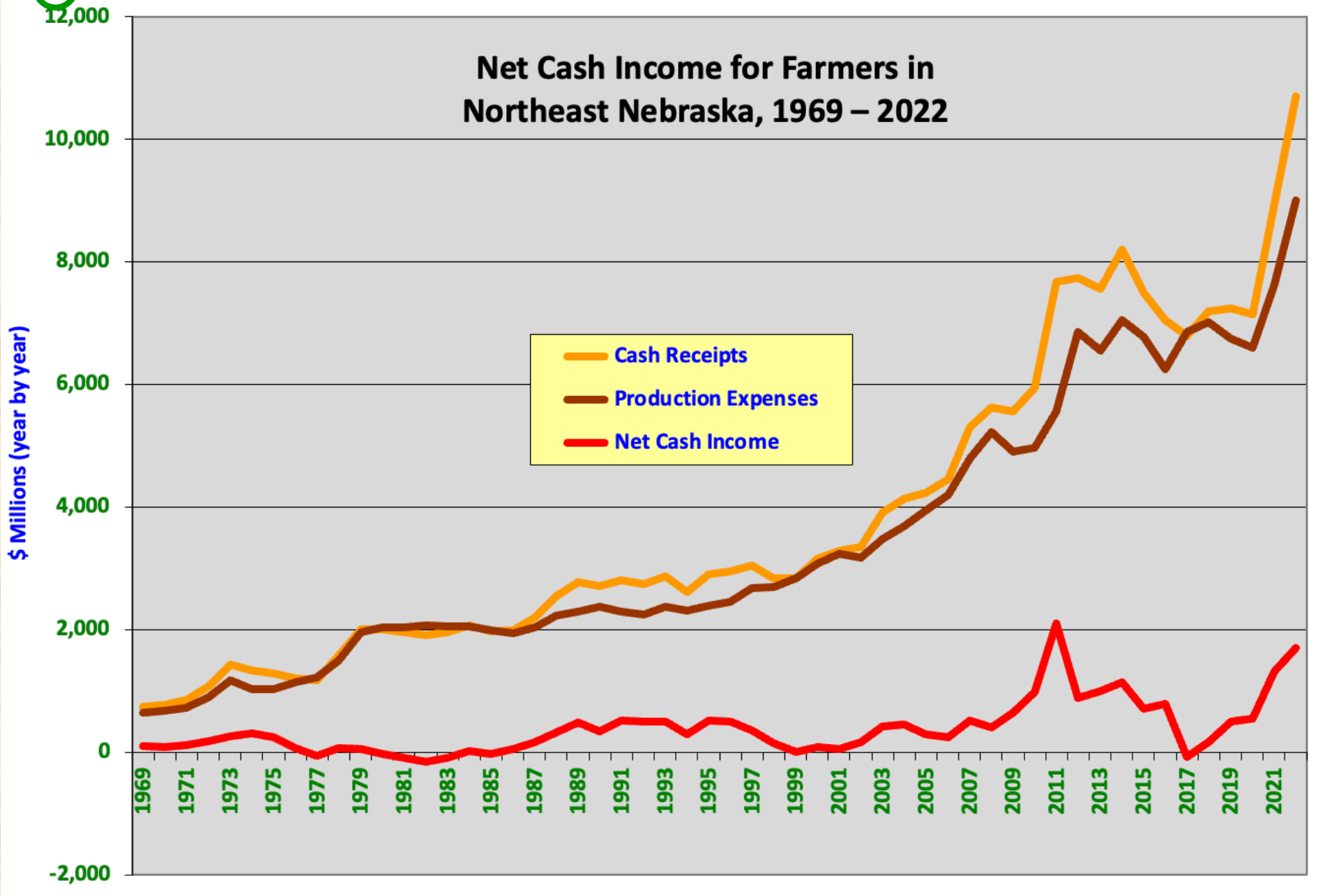
**2,481,596 Hogs & Pigs**

**248,585 People**

*Photo by Kylie Kai, Center for Rural Affairs*

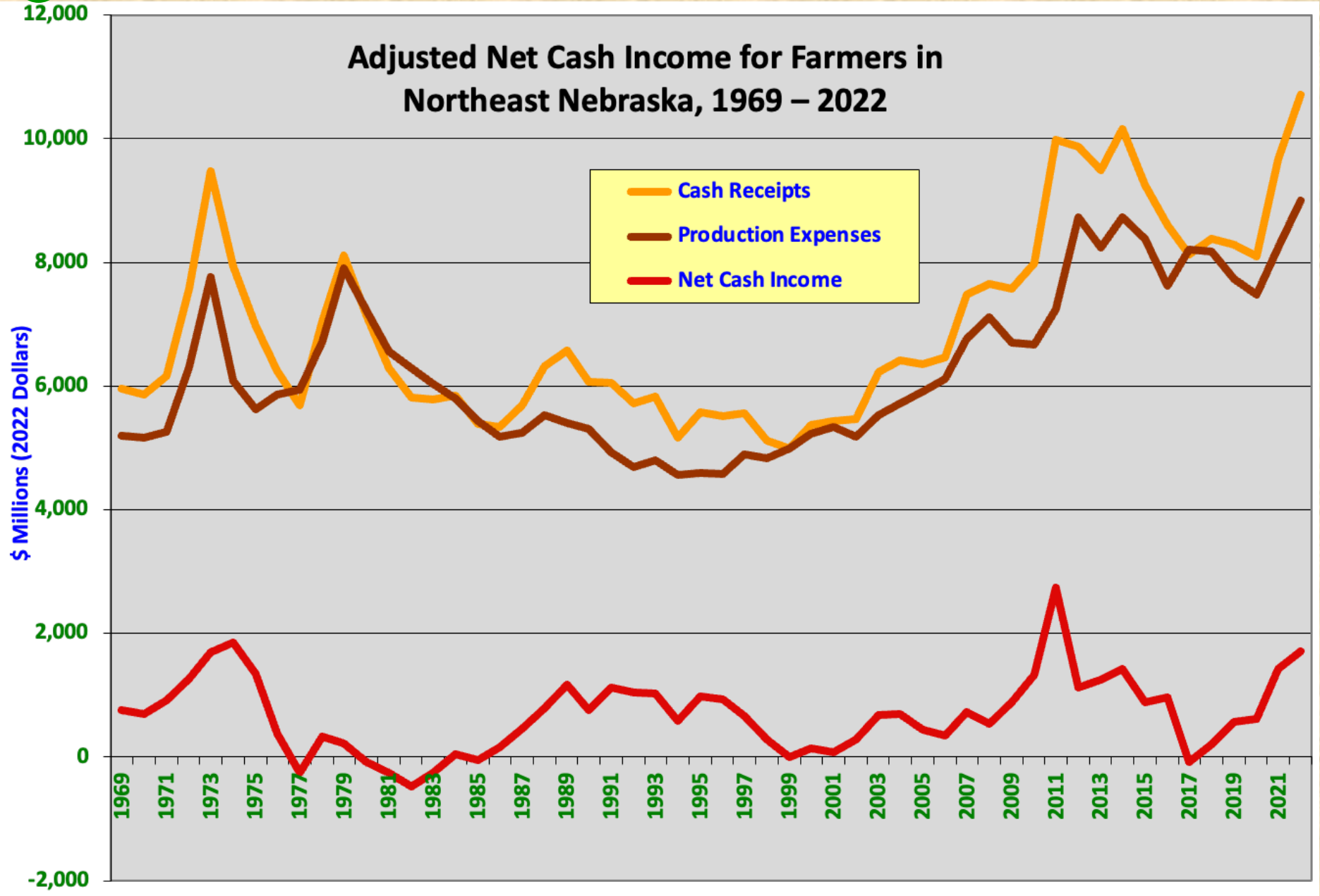


# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





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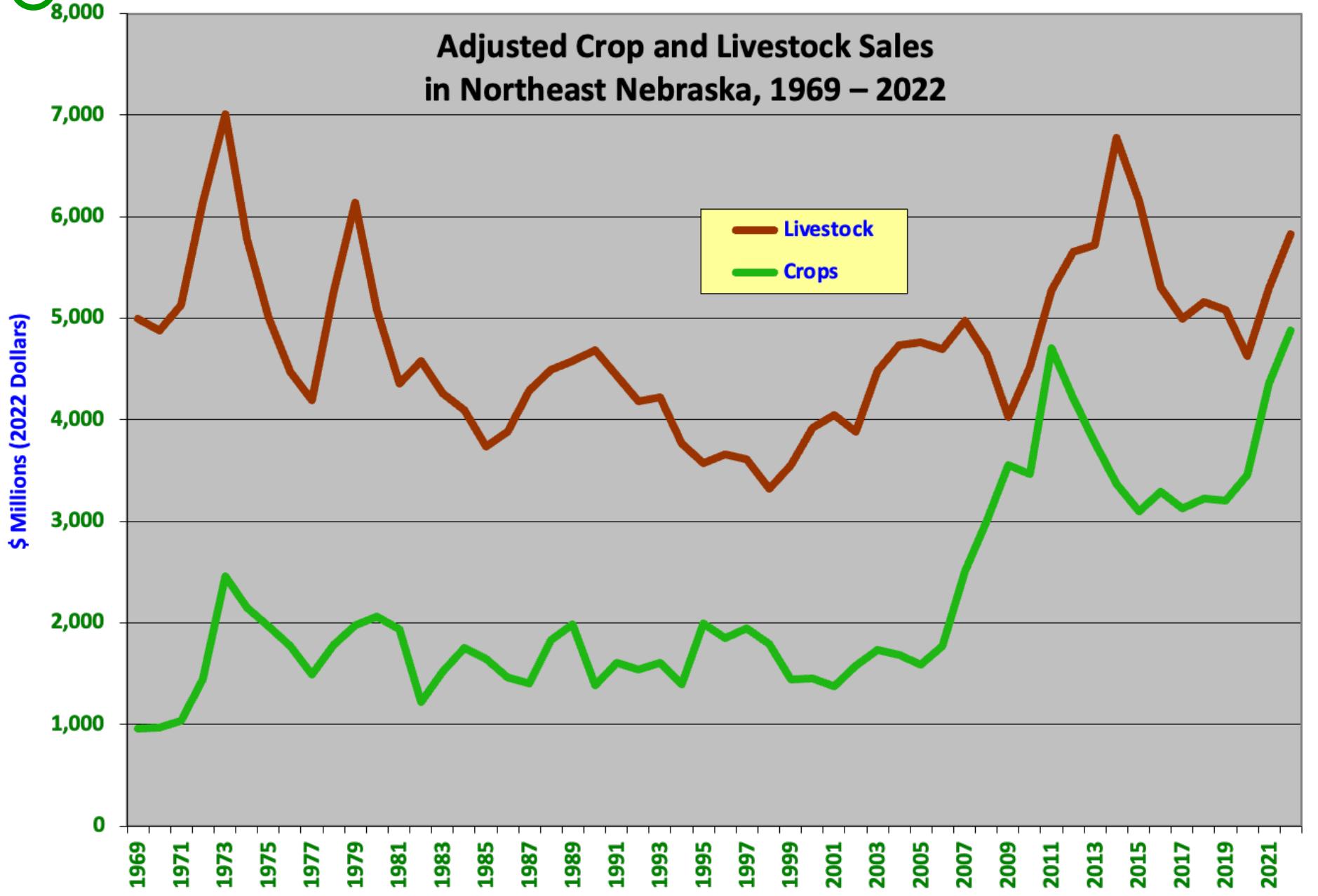


*Bureau of Economic Analysis*

*Losses in 8 of Last 54 Years*

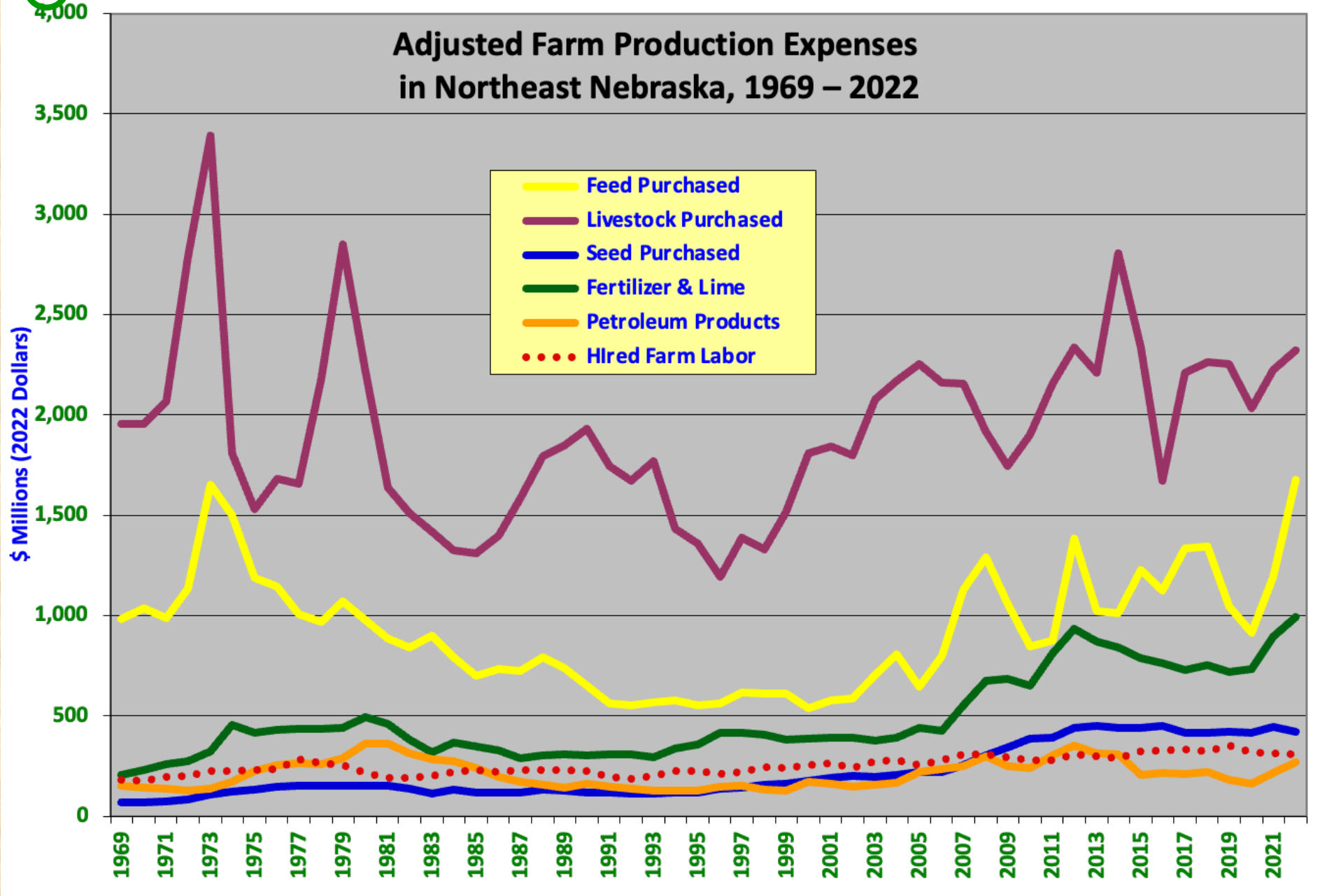


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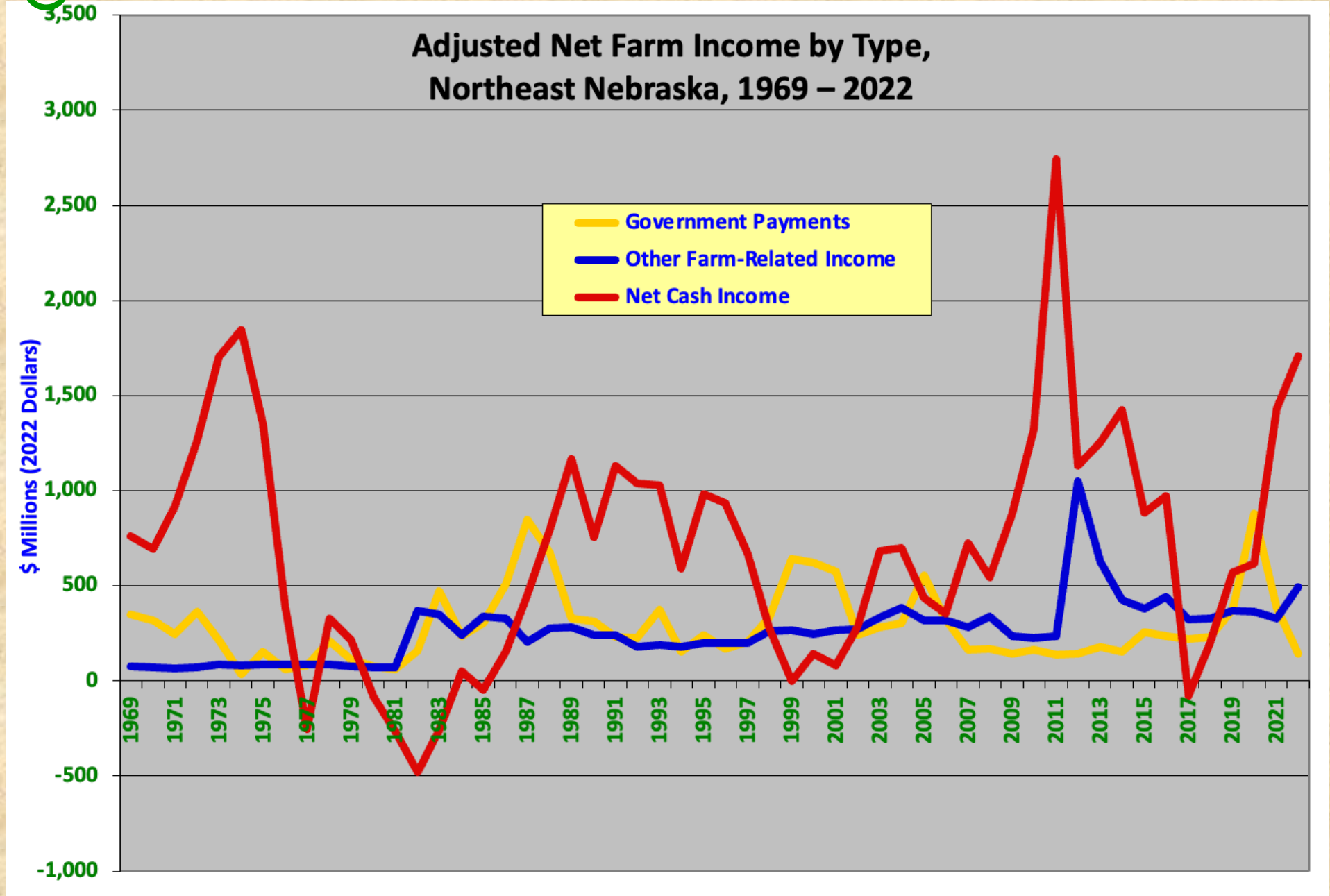


# Northeast Farm & Food Economy



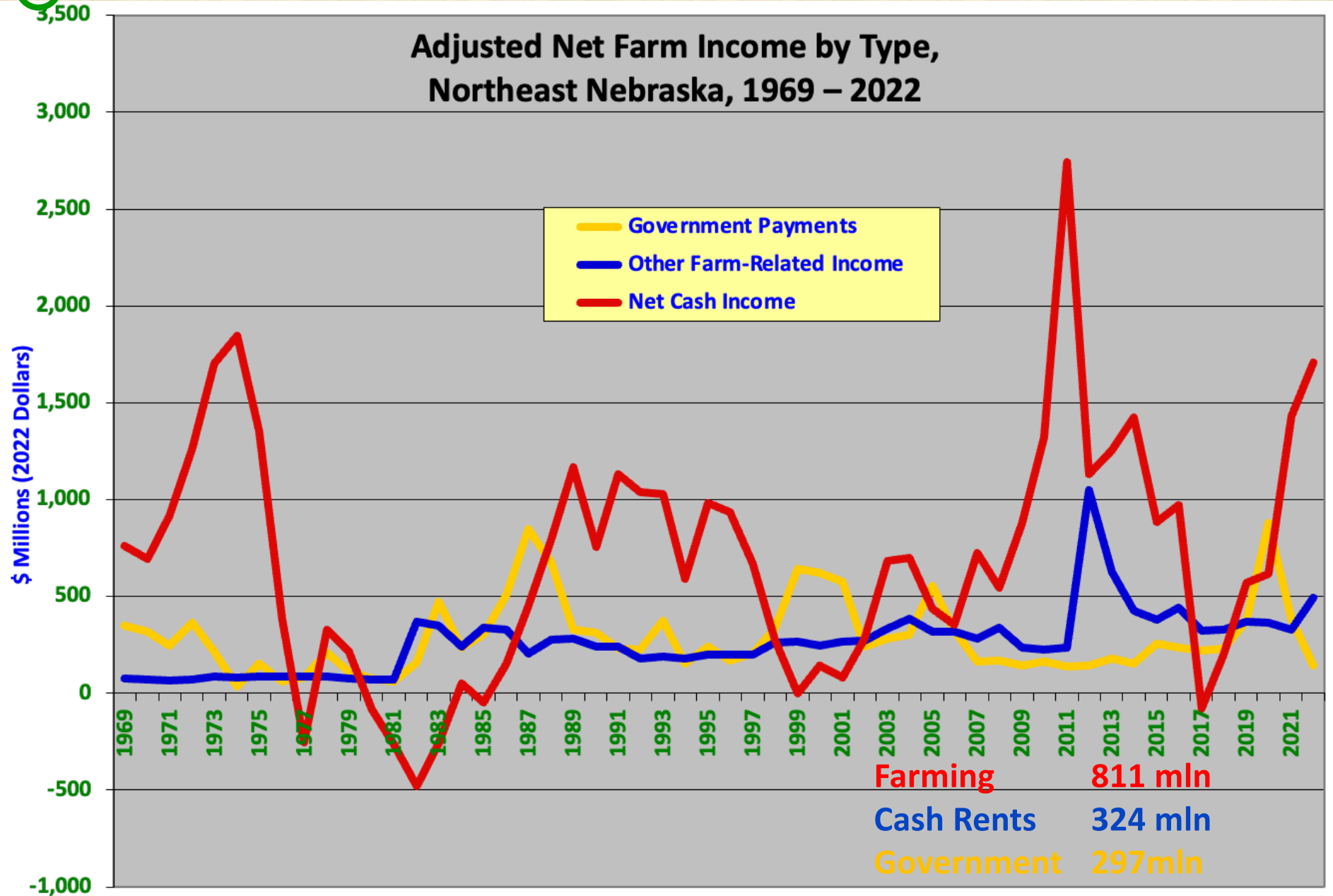


# Northeast Farm & Food Economy





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# **Northeast Farm & Food Economy**

**Questions or Comments ?**

# Northeast Nebraska Farm & Food Economy

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