



SOY TRANSPORTATION COALITION

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE: A More Productive Path Forward

Nebraska Agricultural Production and Rural Infrastructure

Nebraska Trends in Agricultural Production and Infrastructure

Highlights

- In 1954, the average corn farm, soybean farm, and wheat farm all grew less than 100 acres of those respective crops, while in 2007 the average for farms with production of these crops was over 200 acres for soybeans and wheat and over 400 acres for corn for grain.
- Although purchased feed expenses in Nebraska were considerably higher from 2005 to 2010 compared to previous periods, in 2010 purchased feed expenses were 12% of total expenses and a smaller percentage of total expenses than they were in 1949 at 16%.
- While the value of agricultural production in Nebraska increased by 1,378% from 1950 to 2007, the number of farms decreased by 57%.

Production Consumed on Farm

- Home consumption of a farm's production has changed dramatically. In 1950, the value of farm production consumed at home in Nebraska was 2.98%.
- In contrast, in 2010 just 0.06% of the value of production in Nebraska was consumed at home. This shift amounts to an even greater reliance by agricultural producers on rural infrastructure to transport farm products.

Rural Population Trends

- In 1930 there were 891,856 people living in Nebraska, with 64.7% of that population in rural areas.
- By comparison, in 2010 there were 1,826,341 people living in Nebraska, with 26.9% of that population in rural areas.

Agricultural Production

	Then			Now			Change
	Year	Quantity	Percentage of U.S.	Year	Quantity	Percentage of U.S.	Percentage Change in Quantity
Consolidation Trends: Number of Farms	1950	109,000	1.9%	2010	47,200	2.1%	-56.7%
Farmland Trends: Land in Farms (Acres)	1950	48,400,000	4.0%	2010	45,600,000	5.0%	-5.8%
Average Farm Size (Acres)	1950	444	209%	2010	966	231%	118%
Population Trends: Population Density (Pop. per Square Mile)	1930	18	51%	2010	24	27%	32.5%
Production Trends: Volume of Production (Million Bushels)	1940	192	4.1%	2011	1,868	10.5%	870%

Nebraska Agriculture and Rural Infrastructure

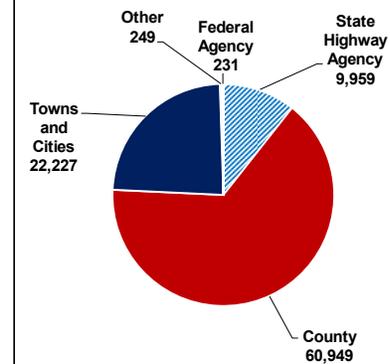
Highlights

- Roads** With 93,615 miles of road as of 2008, Nebraska accounts for 2.3% of U.S. road miles.
- Railroad** Nebraska had 6,166 miles of railroad in 1920 (around the time of the peak rail mileage), but this mileage had fallen to 5,553 miles in 1965 and decreased even further to 3,215 freight railroad miles in 2009.
- Waterways** Nebraska has approximately 320 miles of inland waterways.
- Bridges** Nebraska has 15,395 bridges, and approximately 24.2 percent of those are considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Did you know?

- In Nebraska in 2007, there were an average of 231 soybean acres per soybean farm, while for the U.S. the average soybean area per soybean farm was 229 acres.
- Broilers are a major consumer of soybean meal. In 2007, there were 4.89 million broilers sold in Nebraska and 8,915 million broilers sold in the U.S.
- Average farm size in the U.S. increased from 213 acres in 1950 to 418 acres in 2010, while average farm size in Nebraska increased from 444 acres to 966 acres over the same period.
- In Nebraska in 1945, there were 20,591 grain combines, while in 2007 there were 19,500 self-propelled grain and bean combines in the state.

Miles of Road by Owner for Nebraska





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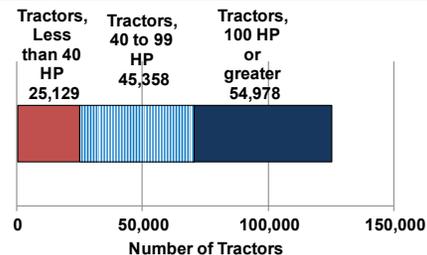
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Consolidation Trends: Fewer Farms and Larger Average Farm Size

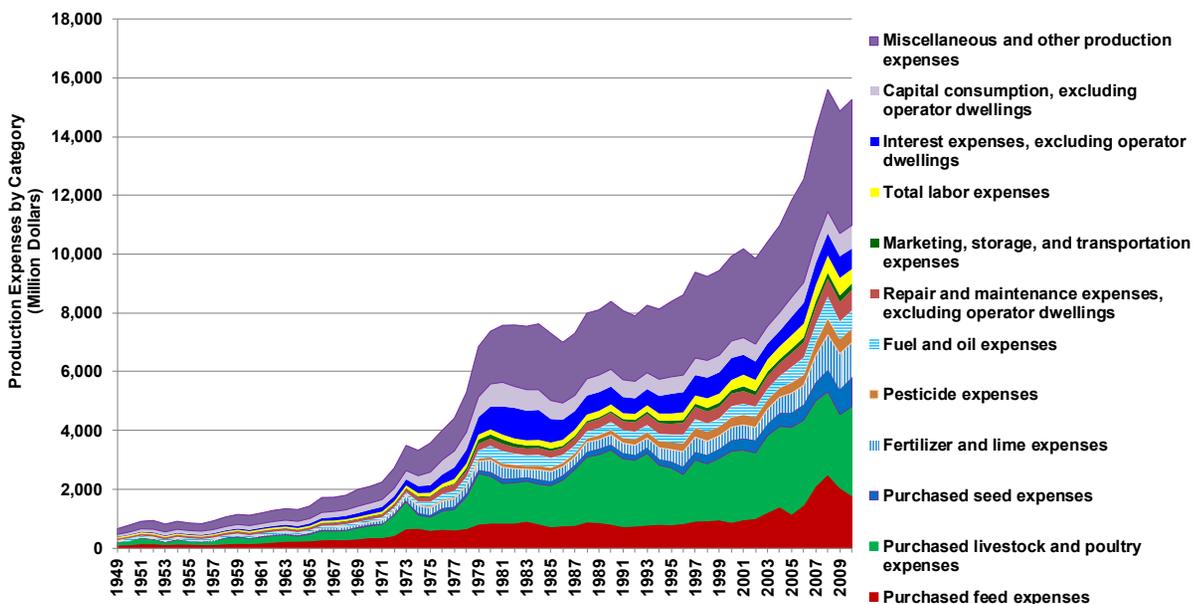
	Then (1954)		Now (2007)		Change	
	Number of Farms	Average acreage or number of head per farm for farms with production	Number of Farms	Average acreage or number of head per farm for farms with production	Percentage Change in No. of Farms	Percentage Change in Avg. Farm Size
Corn for Grain	81,863	78 acres	22,812	403 acres	-72%	418%
Soybeans	7,758	23 acres	16,620	231 acres	114%	899%
Wheat	46,186	64 acres	8,037	244 acres	-83%	283%
Cattle and Calves Inventory	90,060	54 head	21,424	307 head	-76%	467%
Hogs Sold	58,302	51 head	2,482	4,384 head	-96%	8,574%
Broilers Sold	137	15,875 head	206	23,757 head	50%	50%
All Farms	100,845	487 acres	47,712	953 acres	-53%	96%

Farm Equipment

Farm Equipment Used: Number of Tractors of Various Sizes, 2007



Farm Input Trends: Nebraska Farm Inputs by Type, 1949-2010



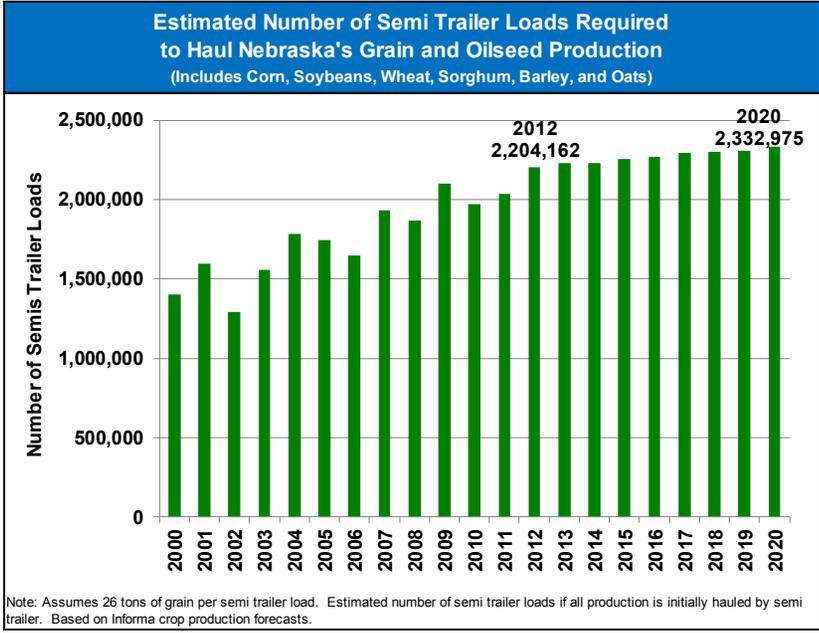


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Rural Infrastructure Trends							
	Then			Now			Change
	Year	Quantity	Percentage of U.S.	Year	Quantity	Percentage of U.S.	Percentage Change in Quantity
Off Farm Storage (million bushels)	1986	813	8.9%	2011	860	8.5%	6%
On Farm Storage (million bushels)	1986	1,288	9.3%	2011	1,110	8.7%	-14%
Estimated Average Tractor Weight (lbs.)	1950	5,966	110.7%	2011	12,042	120.8%	102%
Railroad Miles	1920	6,166	2.5%	2009 freight	3,215	2.3%	-48%
Road Miles	1940	9,056	1.6%	2008	93,615	2.3%	934%

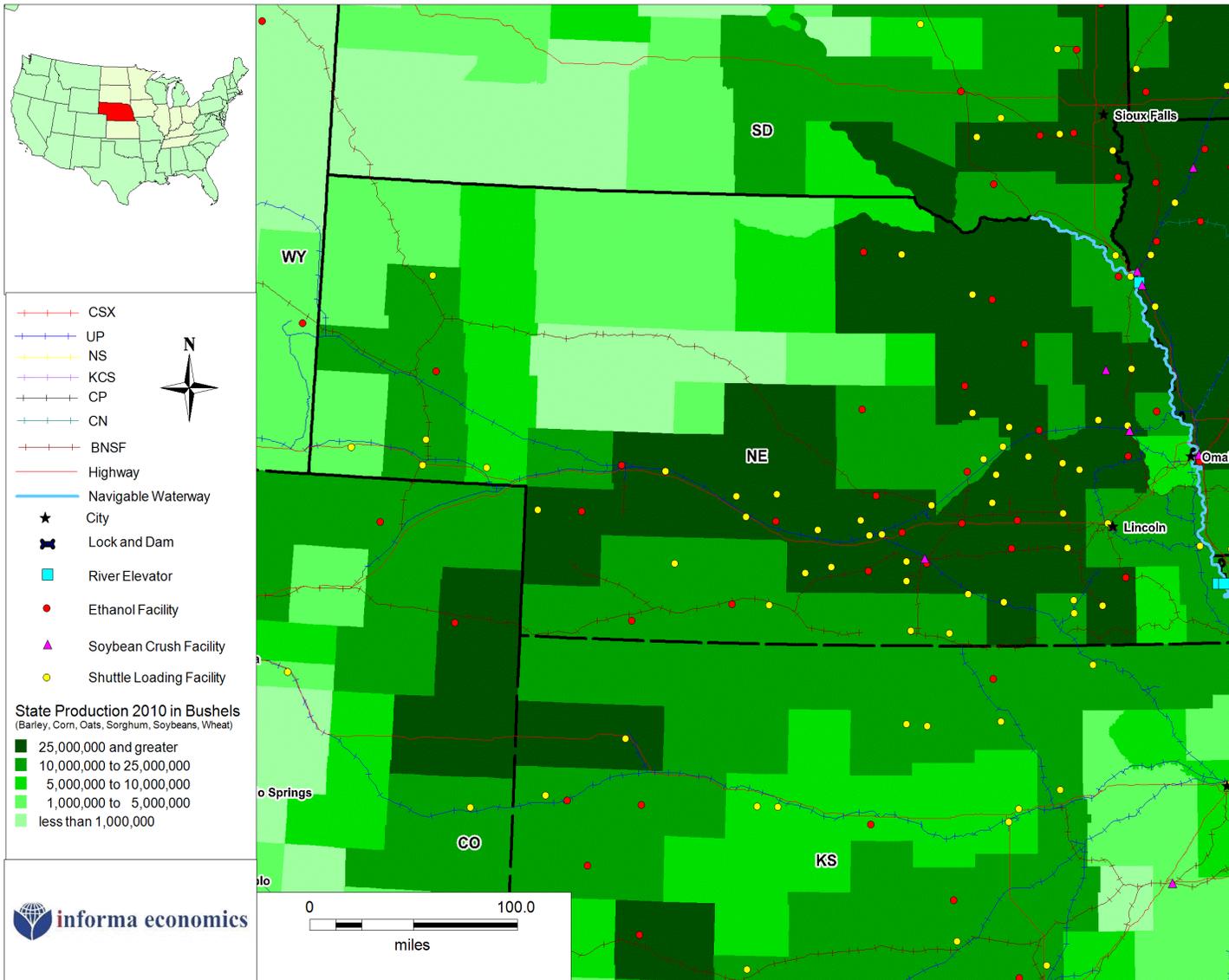




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Nebraska: Agricultural Production and Infrastructure



Infrastructure

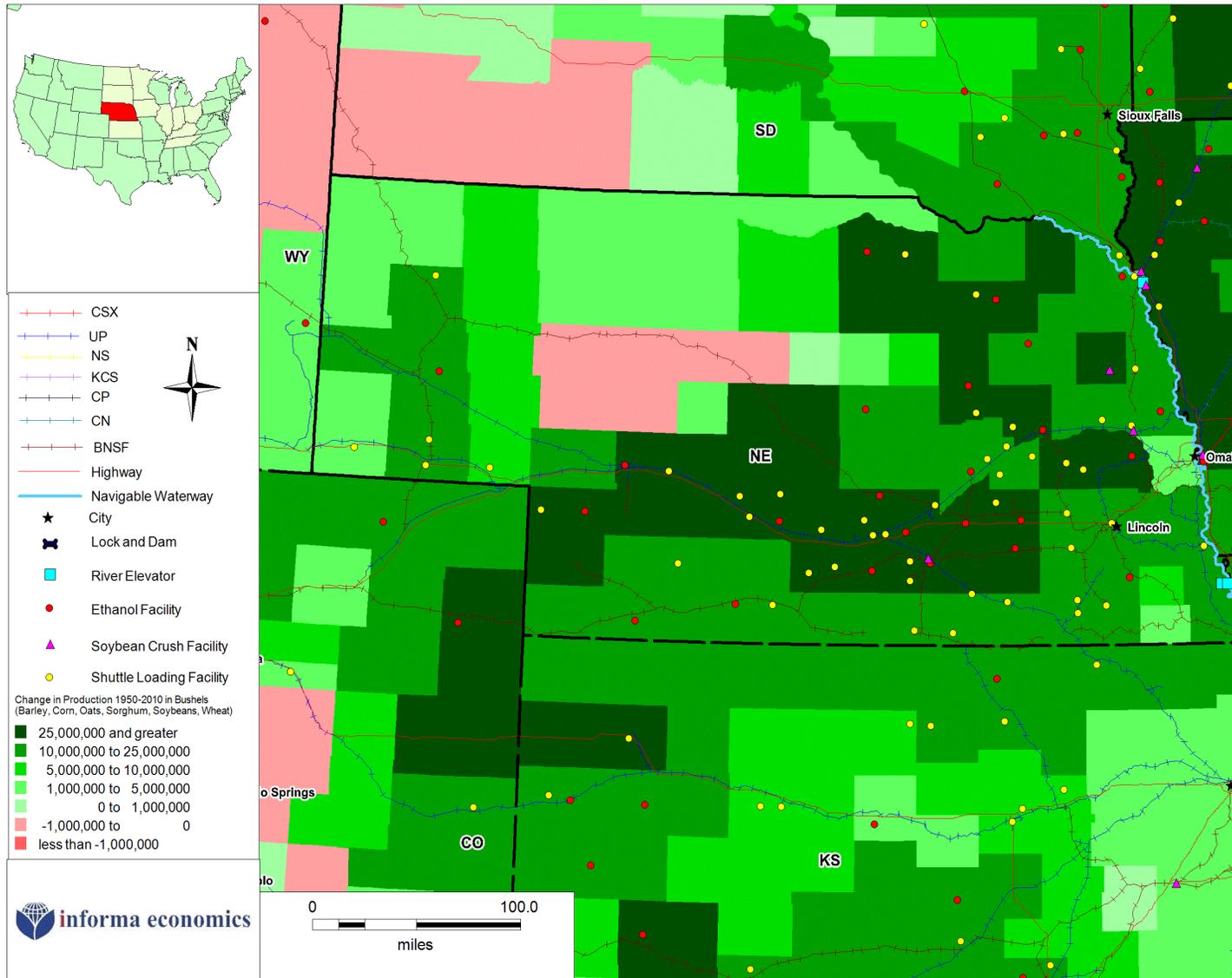
- Nebraska crop production consists primarily of corn, soybeans, and wheat.
- Crops are moved from production regions by truck, rail and/or some barge to elevators and processing facilities.
- Nebraska has 482 miles of interstate; 3,215 miles of rail lines; 320 miles of waterways; 15,395 bridges and 93,615 miles of roadways.
- Nebraska has four soybean crush facilities; 64 shuttle facilities; 27 ethanol plants; 414 grain elevators; and two river elevators.



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Nebraska: Change in Production from 1950 to 2010



Production

- Crop production in the state has been increasing in the majority of the state, with exception to a few counties in the central west.
- Production of grains and soybeans has increased by nearly 1.6 billion bushels from 1950 to 2010.
- Historically, Nebraska has produced predominantly corn and sorghum.
- Corn production in Nebraska has increased to nearly 1.5 billion bushels, while soybean production totals nearly 267 million bushels. The state produces sorghum and oats.