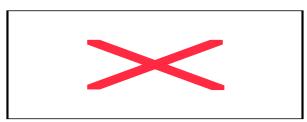
The Status of Agriculture in Barnstable County



Tom Stone, WHRC Katherine Beauchamp, APCC



Picture taken by Kelly O'Neill

THE WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER

Mission and Goals of Project

- Protect existing farms in Barnstable County
- Encourage future agricultural growth
- Encourage land use programs and regulations that ensure farmland protection
- Increase public awareness of local agriculture and its benefits

Rationale of the Agricultural Study

Need for understanding the current status of farming on Cape Cod!

- Unprecedented population growth
- Lack of policies, regulations, and programs that support agriculture
- Expanding interest in locally grown products
- Community desire to preserve Cape Cod's rural character

Components of Project

- •Assess the contribution to Cape Cod's economy of land currently in agriculture
- •Determine the loss of farmland in Barnstable County over time.
- ·Identify existing undeveloped land that is suitable for agriculture.
- Analyze the benefits of locally grown food and products.
- •Research the incentives and impediments to agriculture at the local, regional, state, and national level.

Our focus today:

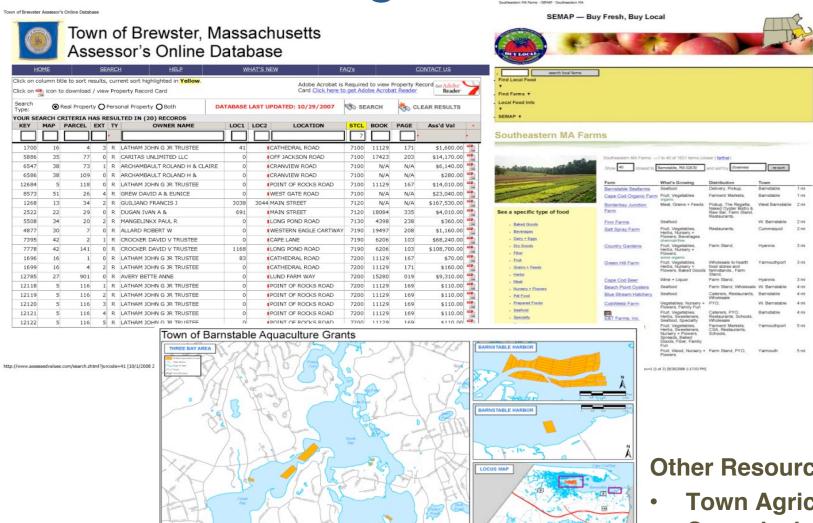
• Compile a detailed farm inventory of current agricultural land use on Cape Cod as well as historical land use.

The Farmland Inventory

Follows the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 128: Section 1A. Farming, agriculture, farmer; definitions include the following:

- Cultivation and tillage of the soil
- Dairying
- Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land
- Raising of livestock including horses
- Keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise
- Keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated animals used for food purposes
- Keeping of bees and furbearing animals for commercial purposes
- Forestry or lumbering operations

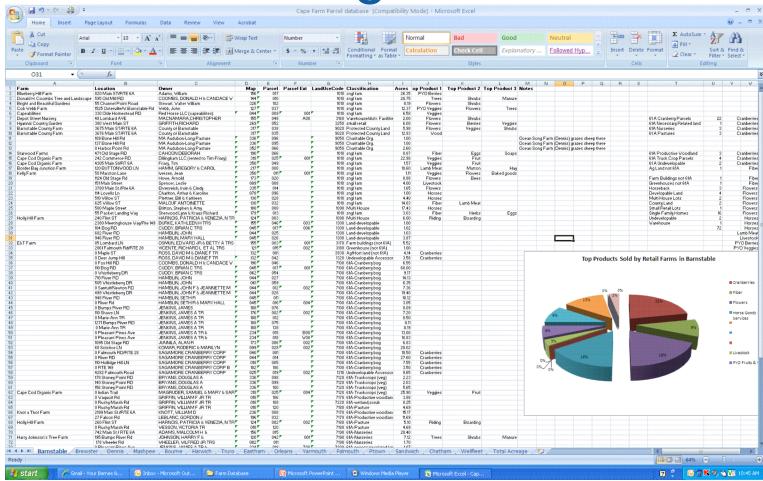
Collecting Tabular Data



Other Resources

- **Town Agricultural Commissions**
- Town historical recor

Processing the data



Information included:

- Retail name (if retail)
- •Owner(s)
- Assessor's ID
- Physical address

- ·Land use code
- Classification
- Acreage
- Top products produced

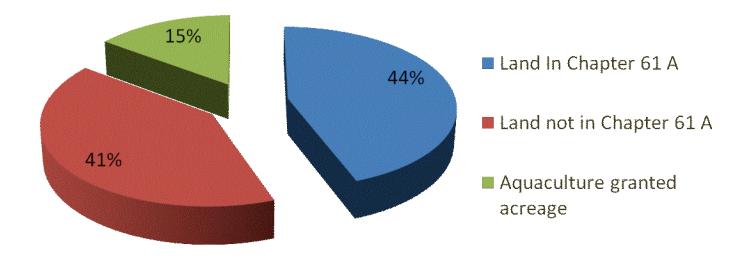
Results #1: Acreage in Agricultural Use on Cape

Cod							
	Land in	Land not in	Aquacultur	Total Farmland			
Town	61A	61A	е	acreage			
Barnstable	380	311	174	865			
Brewster	70	154	8	232			
Dennis	37	78	30	145			
Mashpee	37	40	26	102			
Bourne	424	78	0	502			
Harwich	48	326	0	374			
Truro	0	58	0	58			
Eastham	0	1	21	22			
Orleans	15	23	25	63			
Yarmouth	124	68	27	219			
P Forbinoetow	426	210	24	660			
n	0	2	8	10			
Sandwich	170	293	0	463			
Chatham	6	32	4	42			
Wellfleet	0	3	233	236			
Totals	1737	1675	580	3992			

3,992 acres in agriculture in Barnstable County.
2007 acres less than the USDA Agricultural census in 2002 (5,999 acres).

Barnstable, Falmouth, Bourne, Sandwich and Harwich have the highest acreage of farmland.

Results #2: Farmland Acreage Distribution for Barnstable County

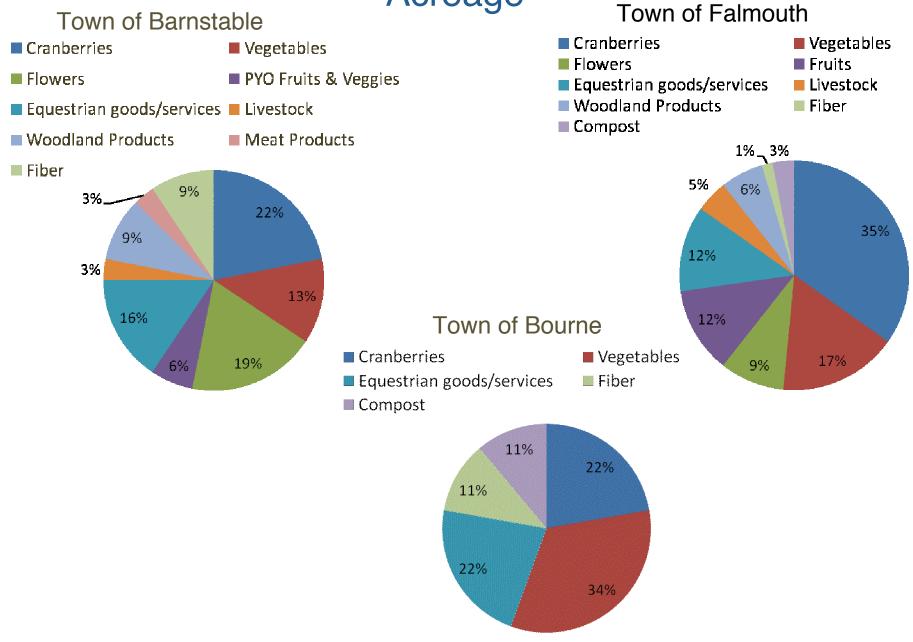


Results #3: Largest Farm Parcels in Barnstable

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Farm	Town	Classification	Acres	Top Product
Country Farm Estates *State listed APR	Sandwich	Accessory Land	228	
Barnstable County Farm	Barnstable	County Protected Land	97	Flowers
Grazing Fields Farm LTD.	Bourne	61A-Productive Woodland	63	Riding
Not retail	Harwich	Ag/Hort land not classified 61A	53	
Perry's Farm	Truro	Farm Buildings not classified 61A	35	Veggies
Green Hill Farm	Yarmouth	Two Family Home	33	Veggies
Mashpee Wampanoag Equestrian Center	Mashpee	Horseback not classified 61A	30	Riding
Not retail	Barnstable	61A–Nurseries	28	
Blueberry Hill Farm	Barnstable	Single Family Home	26	PYO Berries
Cape Cod Organic Farm	Barnstable	61A-Truckcrops	26	Veggies

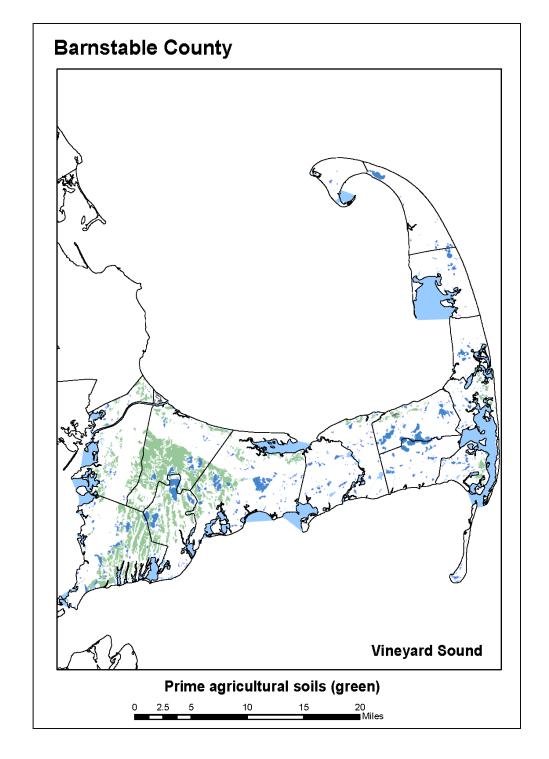
Results #4: Top Products in Towns with Highest Acreage



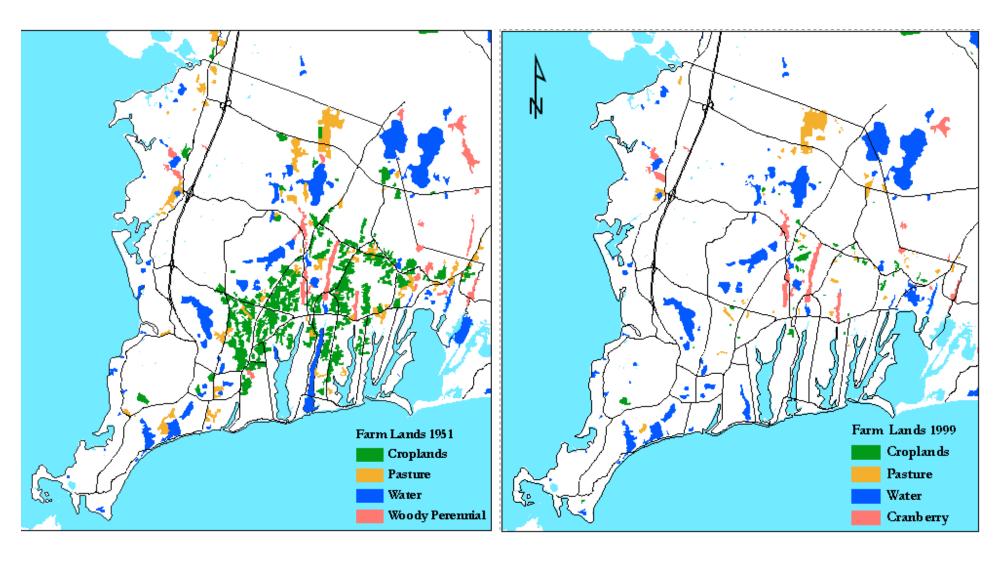
Spatial Data

Acquiring spatial data lets us locate the agricultural lands, see where they are in proximity to prime soils, and serves as a check on the tabular data. Ideally, these independent data sets will match but if they do not then looking at the discrepancies may provide us with useful information.

Finally, a key use of the spatial data with a GIS system lets us make a series of maps such as changes in agricultural lands over time, locations of retail farms, and proximity of agricultural lands to conservation or town-owned lands.



Falmouth Farmlands 1951 to 1999



Other Spatial Data

- Soils
- Parcels
- OpenSpace
- •Land

Cover:

1951 (CC)

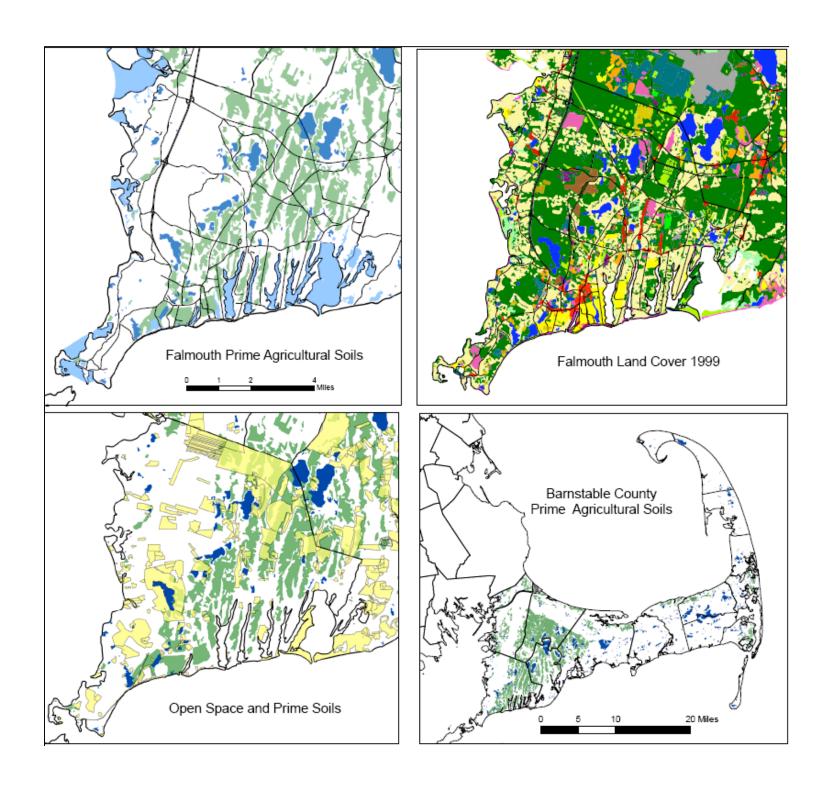
1971,

1985,

1990,

1999,

2005?



Uses for the Farmland Inventory

- Provide current agricultural status of Barnstable County
- Provide a comparison of independent tabular and spatial data sets
- Identify priority parcels currently unprotected
- Utilize as a planning tool for the town development plans



Where do we go from here with the information?

- Work to keep all existing farms
- Help Land Trusts to include protecting farmlands in their mission
- Grow locally
- Support & publicize local farms
- Distribute maps of our agricultural resources
- Encourage more community gardens
- Discourage outdated Blue Laws from inhibiting future growth

Entering the "New Food Age"

- We need to rethink our food model
- We need to revitalize and maintain local farms
- We cannot consider smart growth without local agriculture



Picture taken by Kelly O'Neill

Thank You!

This project would not be possible without the support of:

- Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust
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- The Sheehan Family Foundation