



The Regions of North America



The Agricultural Core (AKA the Midwest)



Essential Question for Today:
You tell me!

The Agricultural Core



Figure 11.1 The agricultural core.

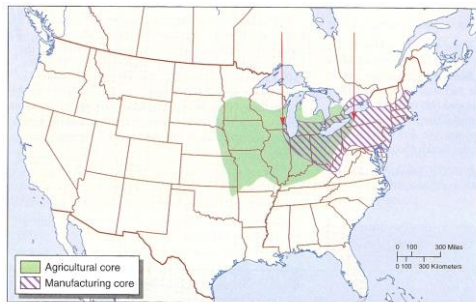


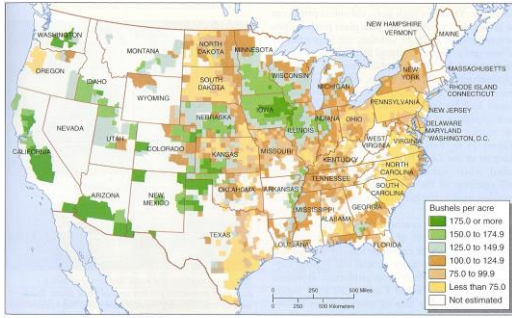
Figure 11.2 Overlapping regions. Occupying some of the same territory on the earth's surface, the agricultural core is a small town and farm landscape from the Great Lakes to the Great Plains, while the manufacturing core is an urban and industrial landscape between the Great Lakes and Megalopolis.

The Agricultural Core



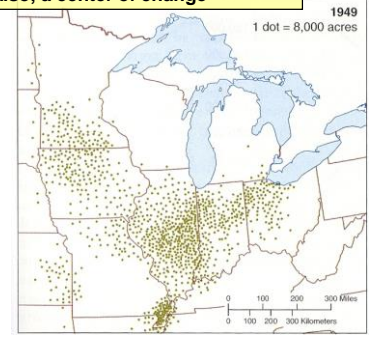
- Now is your chance to give a sense of what you think are the key issues and questions you have about the agricultural core

Key Production Region for Major Crops



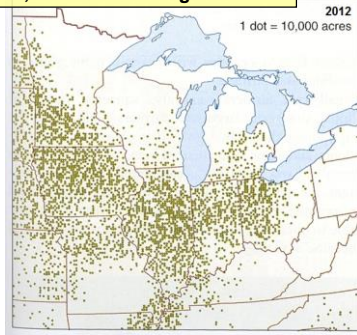
Also, a center of change

Soybean Acreage, 1949



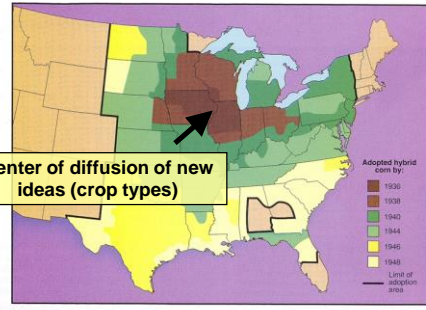
Also, a center of change

Soybean Acreage, 2012



The region innovates by trying new crops

Center of diffusion of new ideas (crop types)

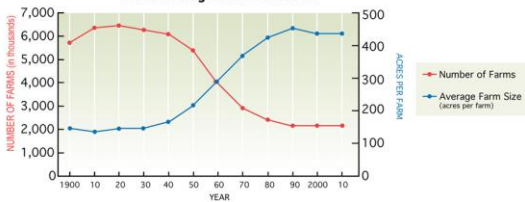


The adoption of hybrid corn proceeded rapidly following its effective introduction in the Corn Belt in the early 1930s. The map patterns show areas in which 10% or more of the corn acreage was planted to hybrid seed in the specified years.

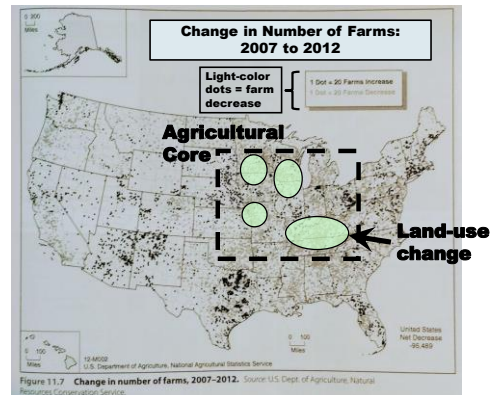
Source: Redrawn from data in Zvi Griliches, "Hybrid Corn and the Economics of Innovation" in Science 113(3423):277 (July 28, 1960), Figure 3.


The region has also seen change in other ways

As the Number of Farms Declined, Their Average Size Increased



Change in Number of Farms: 2007 to 2012





The Agricultural Core

- **Video case study:** an examination of the conversion of farm land to urban land in the *Chicago metropolitan region*
 - What's driving this conversion?
 - Who are the major players?
 - What's the geography of the situation?
 - Note any maps or situations that are remarkable in the video

Second Half of Video 24: "Cityscapes, Suburban Sprawl"
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series180.html>