Co-Existence Works in America

Fred Yoder
Farmer
Plain City, Ohio

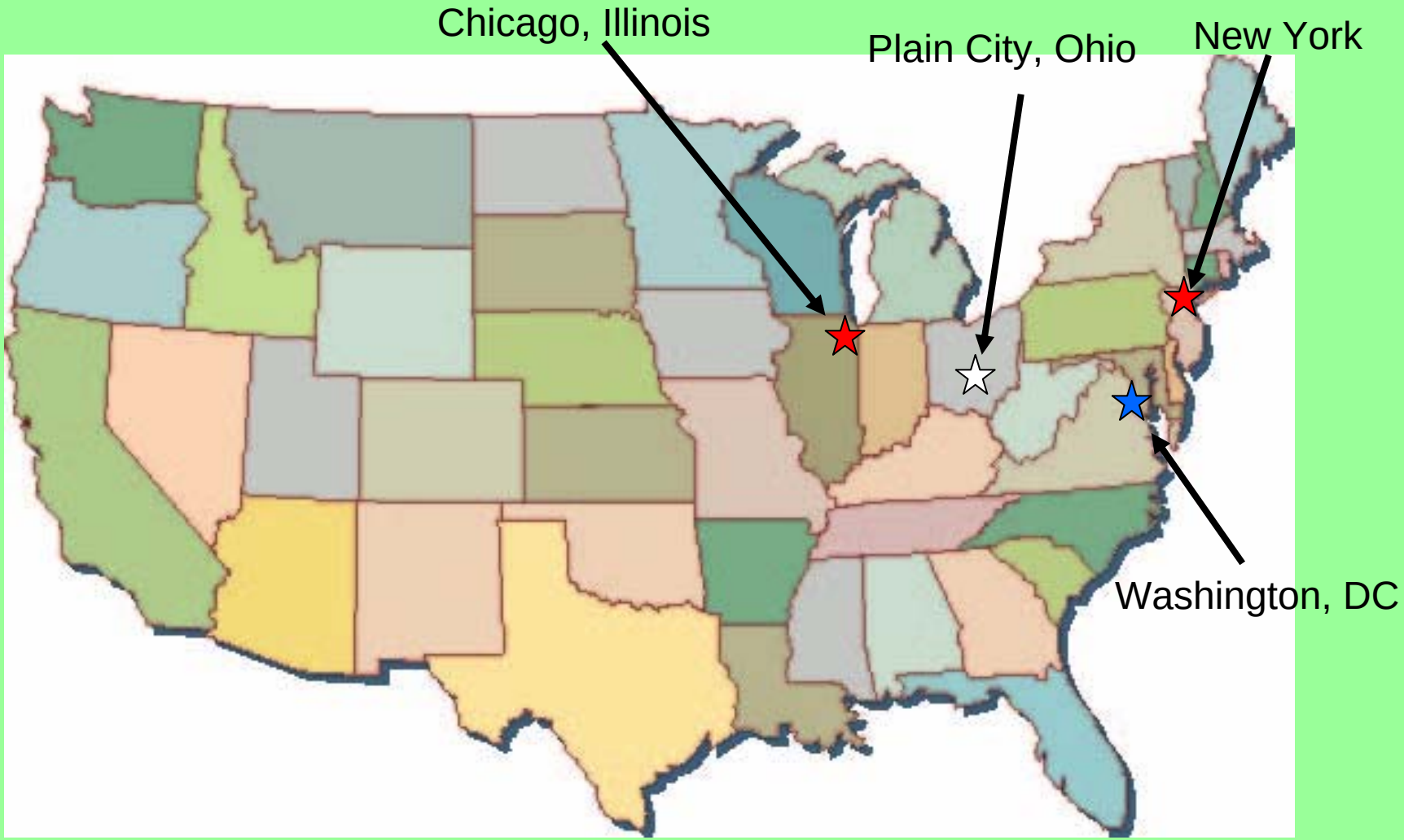
Fred Yoder

- Family Farm
- Corn, soybeans, wheat
- Seed Dealer

Fred Yoder

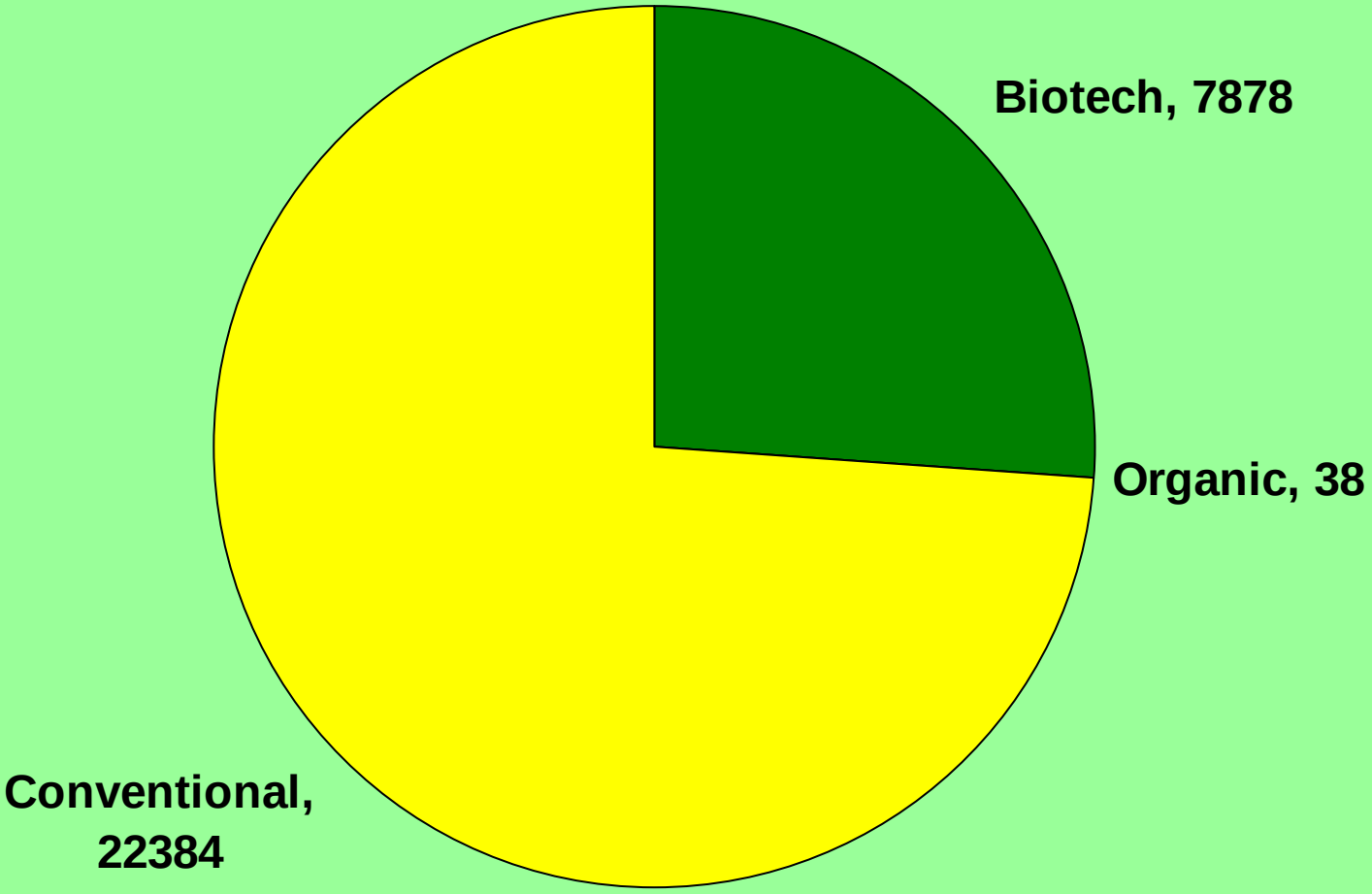
- Ohio Corn Growers – Past President
- National Corn Growers Association – Board of Directors
- NCGA Past President
- Past Chair – Biotechnology Working Group

Location



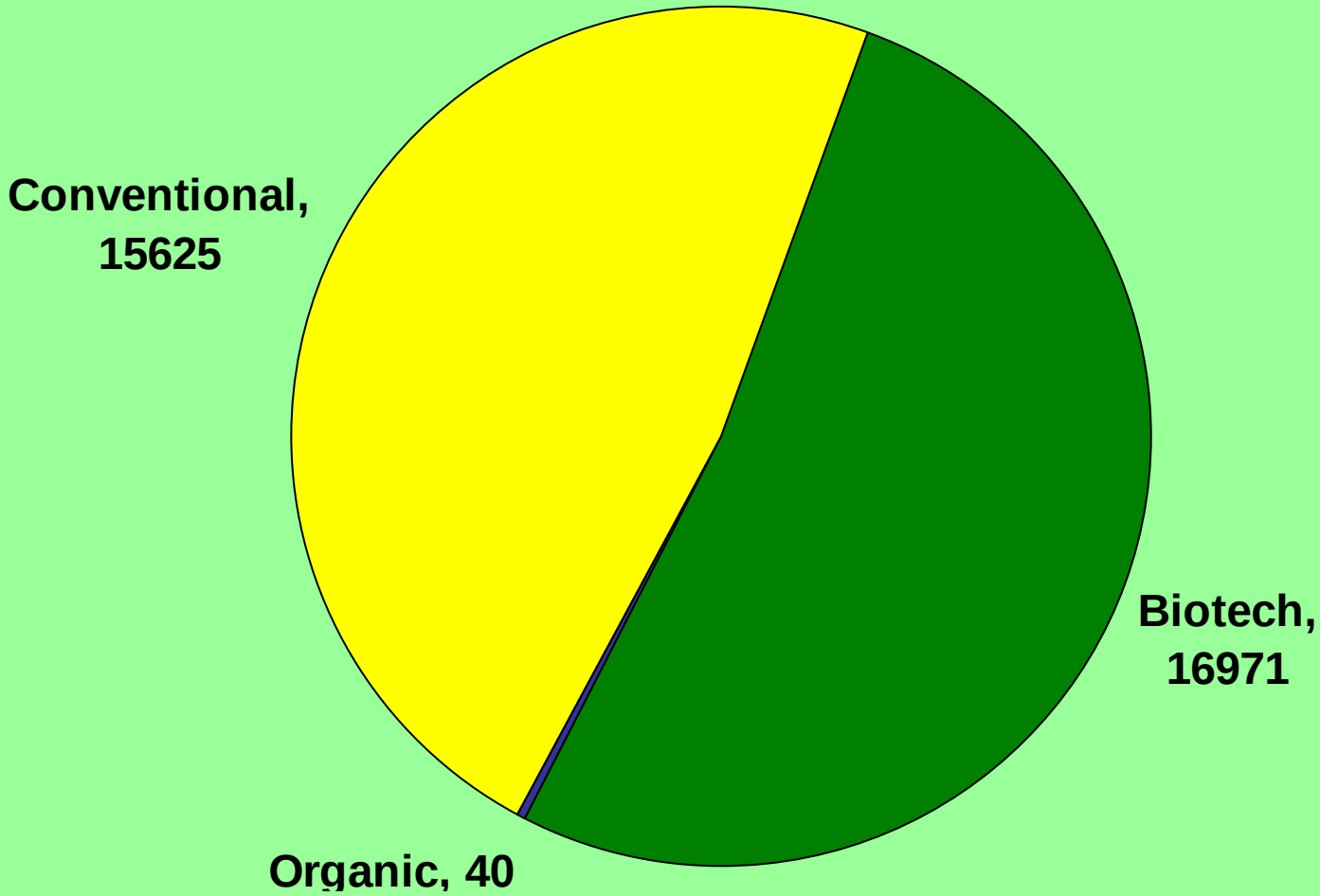
U.S. Corn Acreage, 2001

(1,000 Hectares)



Data Source: USDA, NASS; USDA, ERS

U.S. Corn Acreage, 2005
(1,000 Hectares)



Data Source: USDA, NASS; USDA, ERS

Three levels of Organic

- "100 percent organic"
  - must contain 100 percent organically produced ingredients..
- "organic"
  - must contain not less than 95 percent organically produced raw or processed agricultural products. Any remaining product ingredients must be organically produced, unless not commercially available in organic form
- "made with organic (specified ingredients)"
  - must contain at least 70 percent organically produced ingredients

National Organic Standards

- Established by the “Organics Food Production Act of 1990”
- Certified cultural practices — not end product
  - USDA certifies process – not end product

National Organic Standards Specific Requirements

- **Land Requirements**
  - Have had no prohibited substances applied to it for a period of 3 years
  - **Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones to prevent the unintended contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management**

- **Soil fertility**
  - Implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the condition of soil and minimize soil erosion
  - The producer must manage soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials
  - The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water
  - The producer must **not** use:
    - Sewage sludge (biosolids)
    - Burning as a means of disposal for crop residues produced on the operation

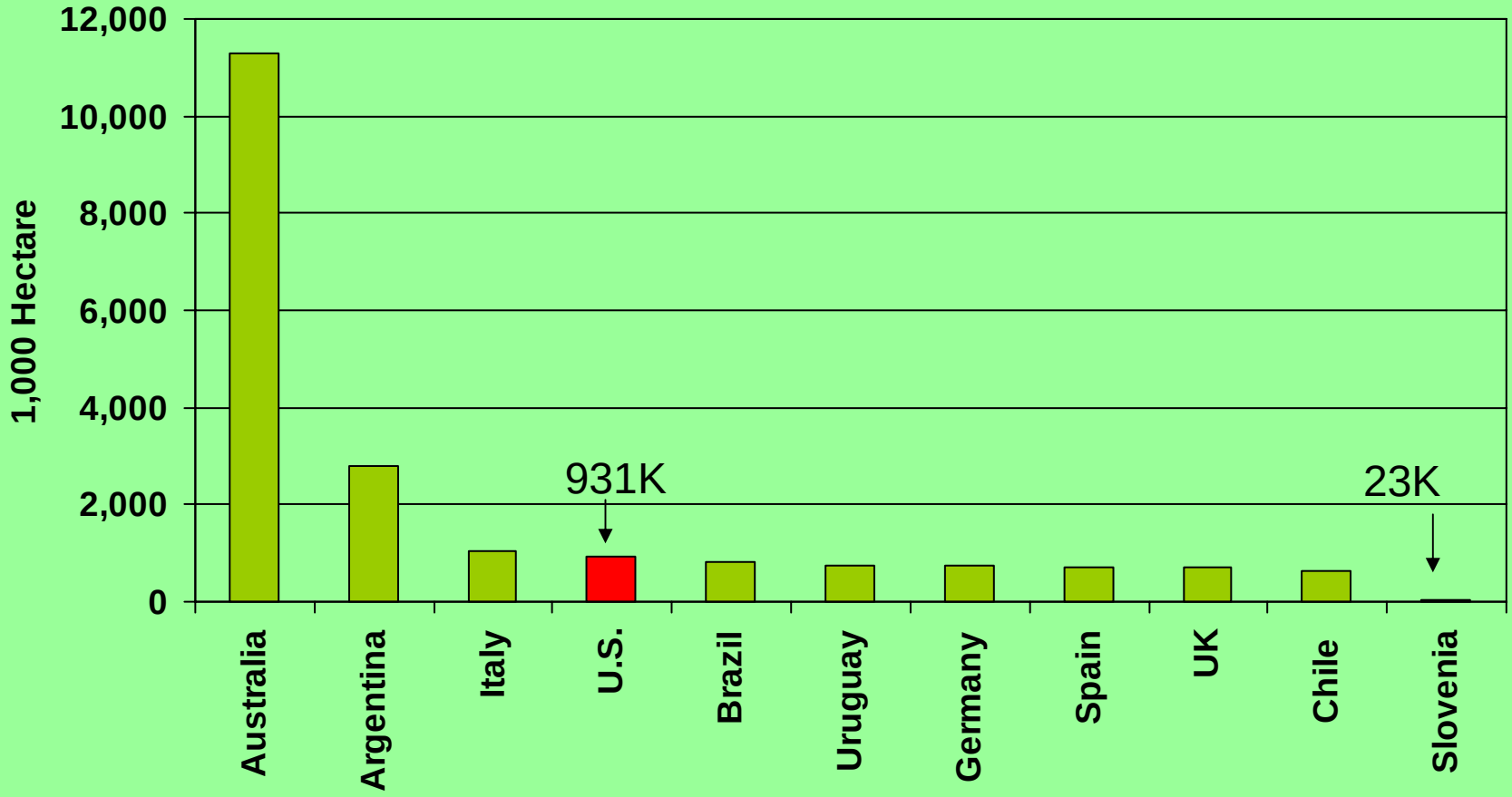
National Organic Standards Specific Requirements (Continued)

- **Seeds and planting stock**
  - The producer must use organically grown seeds
  - Except,
    - Non-organically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent organically produced variety is not commercially available
    - Non-organically produced planting stock to be used to produce a perennial crop may be only after the planting stock has been maintained under a system of organic management for a period of no less than 1 year
    - Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used when it is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations

Adventitious Presence

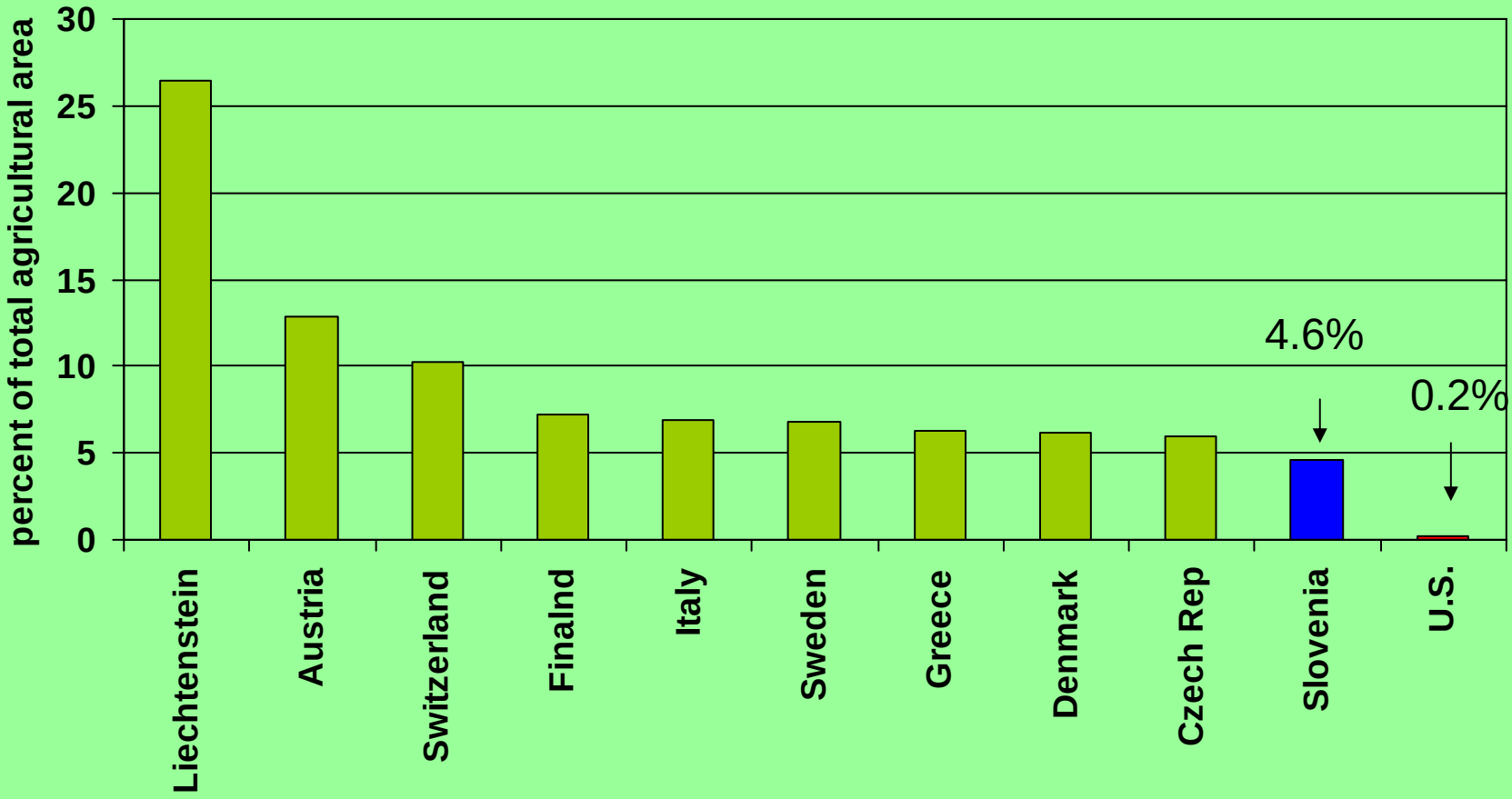
- Pollen Drift (especially relevant to corn production)
- Organic producer must maintain buffer for certification
  - USDA certifies producer is following process.
    - If product tests positive for Biotech, or other non-approved substance, the producer does not loose certification. Product marketability is between Buyer and Seller

Land Under Organic Management



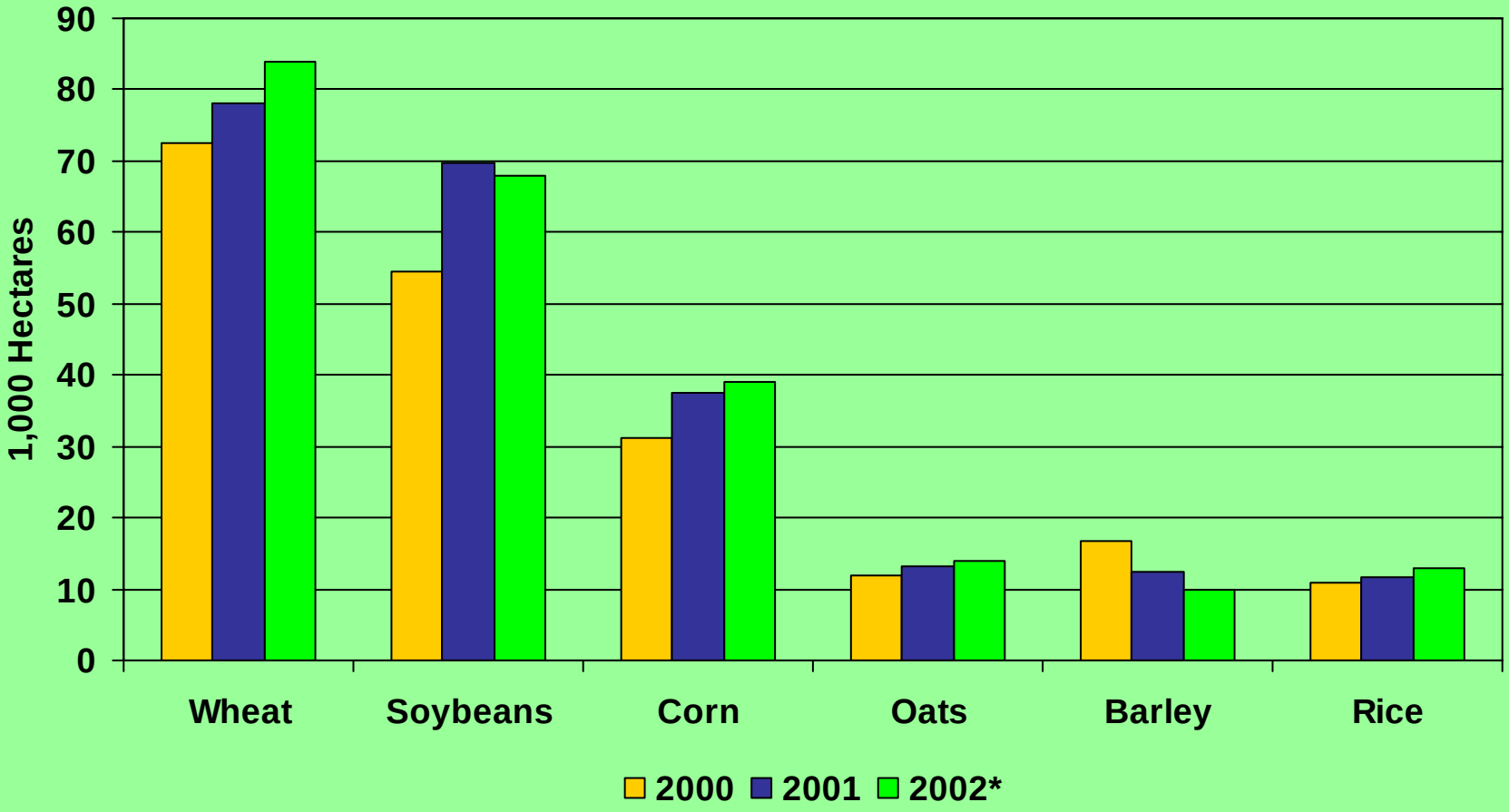
Source: SOEL Survey, Feb 2005

Land Under Organic Management



Source: SOEL Survey, Feb 2005

U.S. Certified Organic Grain Acreage



Source: USDA, ERS

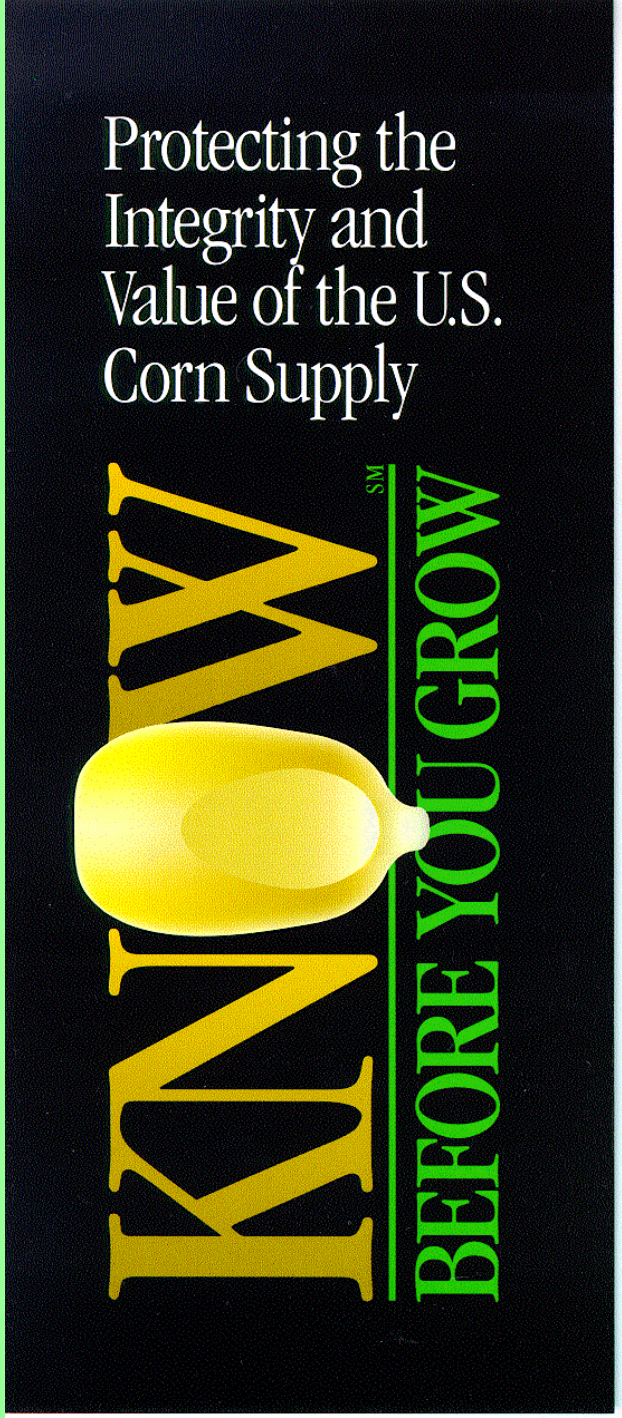
* 2002 data industry estimates

Making Co-existence Work

- Coordination is the key
  - Altering planting dates
  - Altering maturities
  - Altering crops
  - Buffers
  - Natural or Man-made barriers

NCGA & Co-existence

- Know Before You Grow
- Grain handling database
- www.ncga.com



Proof that Buffers work

No cross pollination (no yellow kernels) →

Organic Blue Cornfield near yellow non-organic field

Yellow Corn next to Blue Corn

Man-Made Buffer

Why We Use Biotechnology?

- Reduce the use of insecticides and herbicides.
- Enhance our production capabilities.
- Save money.
- Conserve water and soil.
- Selective insect control.
- Provide our customers a better product.

Why We Use Biotechnology? (cont.)

- Improve nutritional properties.
- Improve shelf life of food.
- Provide new tools for producing vaccines and drugs.
- Potentially helps feed a world population growth that could reach 10 billion people by 2050.

Why Do We Grow Organic?

- Growing Demand
- Profit Opportunities
- Perceived Value

Thank You!

Any Questions?