

# Agriculture's Role in Ecological Sustainability and Economic Justice

**Fred Iutzi, The Land Institute**

Farm & Food Conference, Kansas Rural Center, Nov. 8-9, 2019



INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF  
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
MARCH 4, 1933.

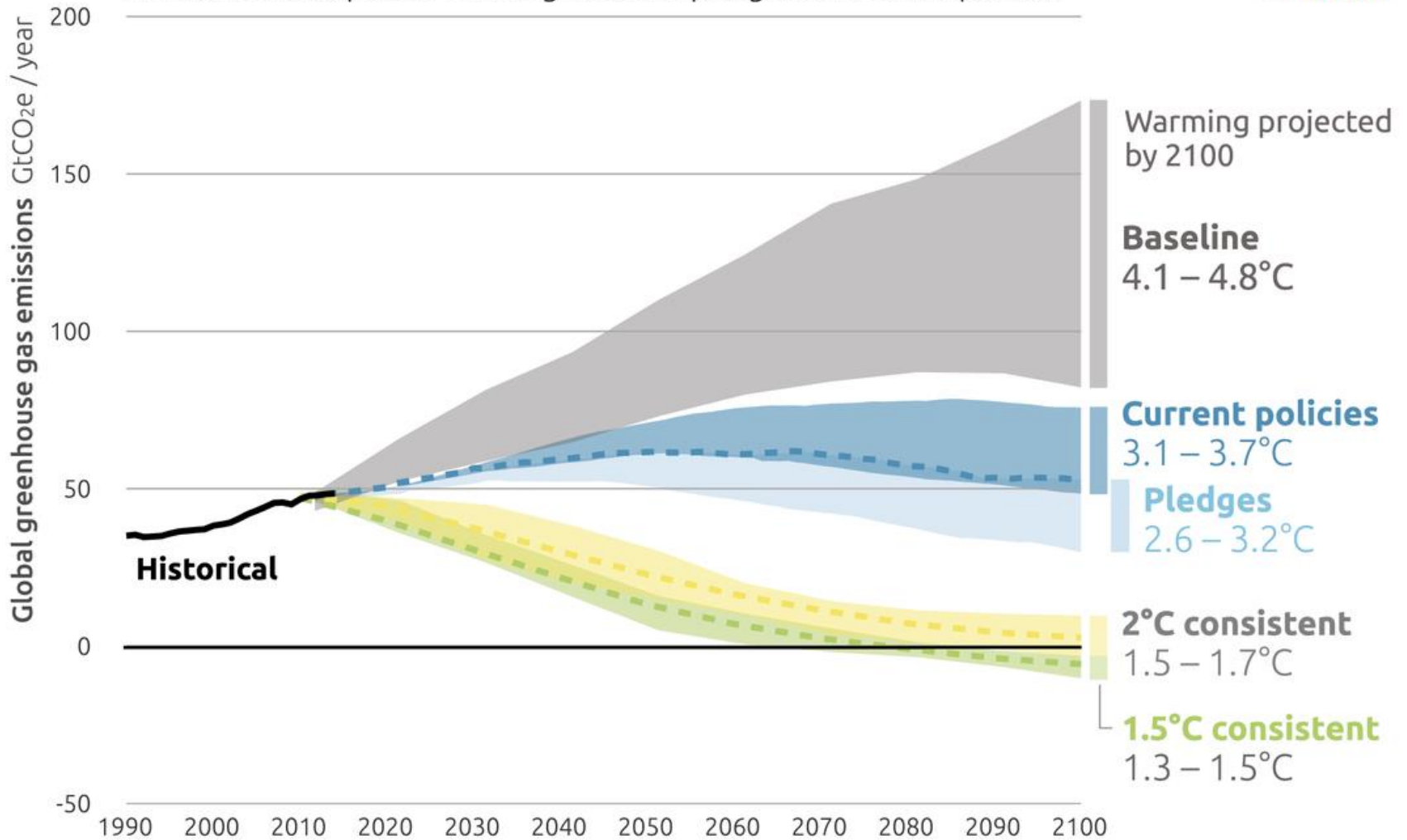
*This is Day of consecration.*

I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our nation impels. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

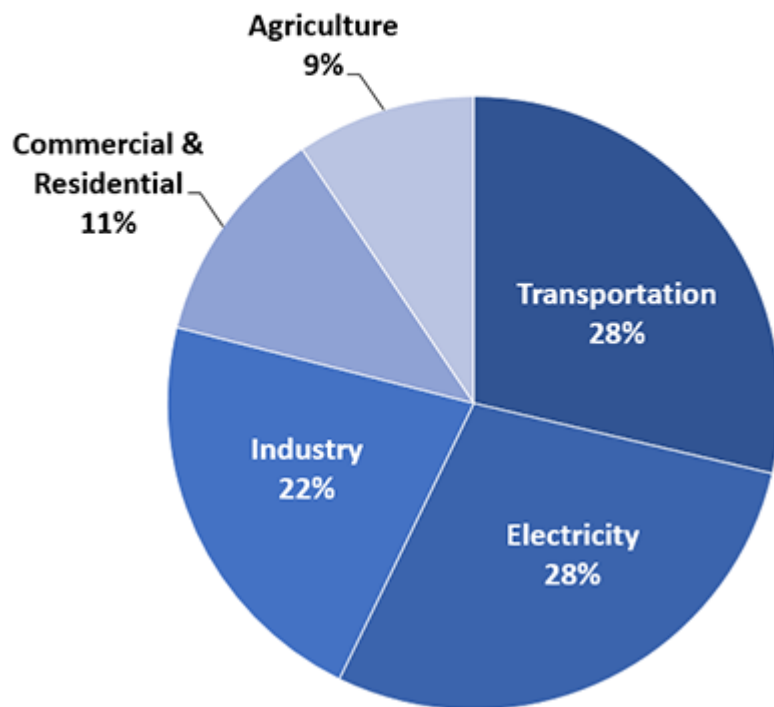
In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the

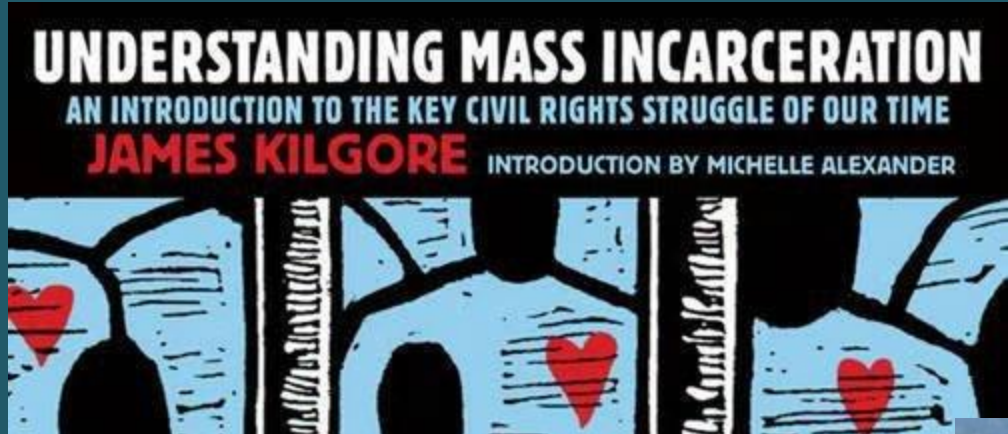
# 2100 WARMING PROJECTIONS

Emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies



## Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2016





Farm. Food. Life.

modern farmer

POLITICS

## How Did African-American Farmers Lose 90 percent of Their Land?

AUG 19, 2019

Brian Barth

A combination of obscure legal mechanisms and racist institutions enabled—and continues to enable—developers to weasel it away.

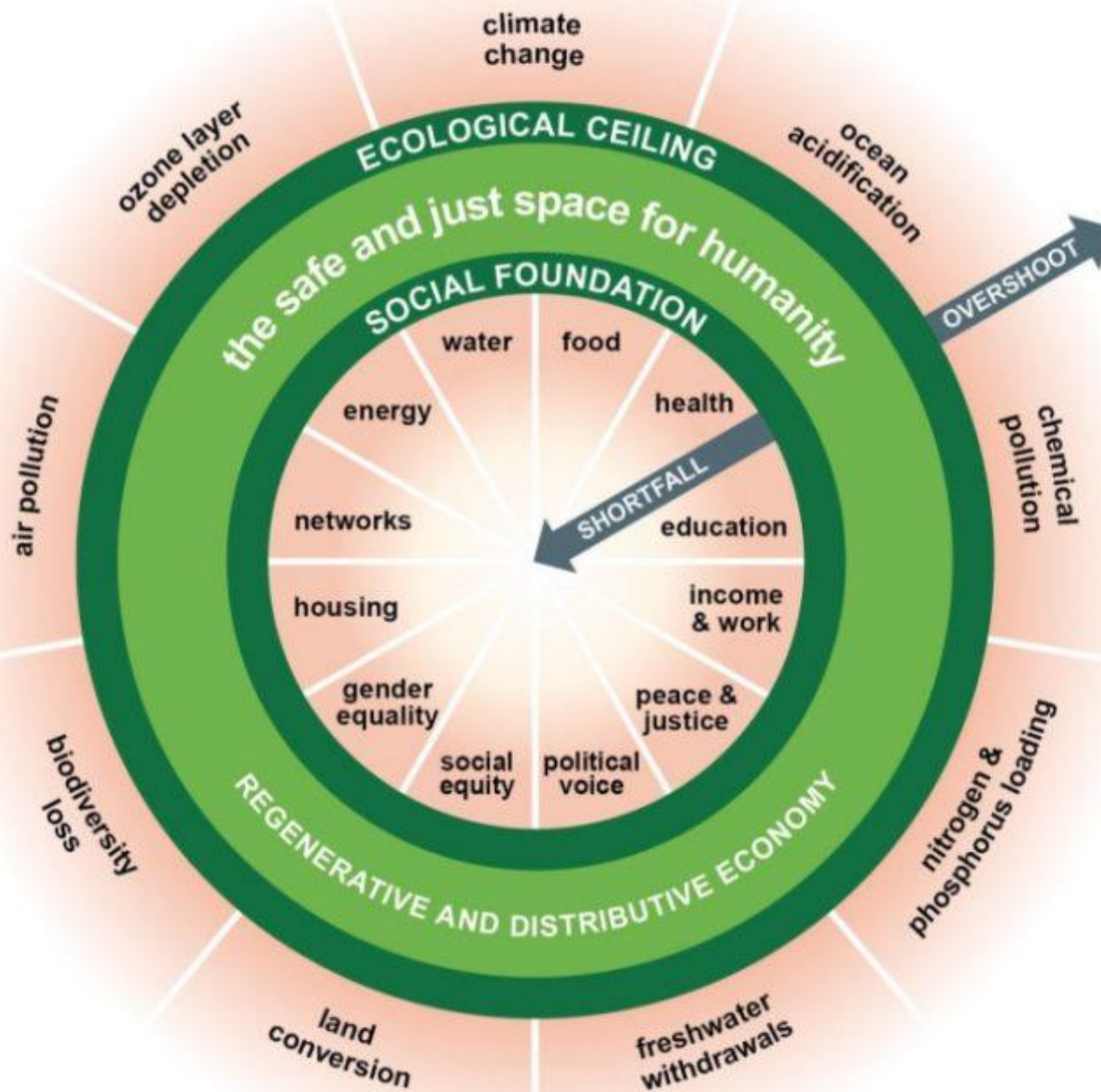


“Most rural communities are faced with decline in growth, resources and opportunities.”

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

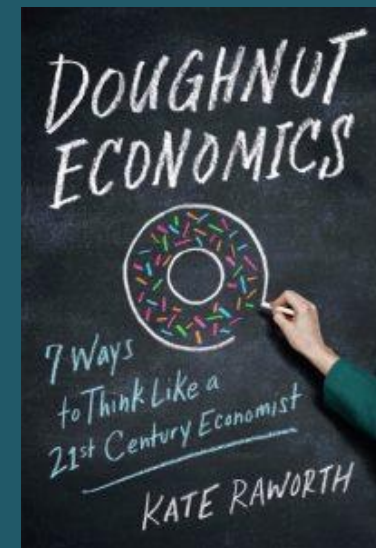


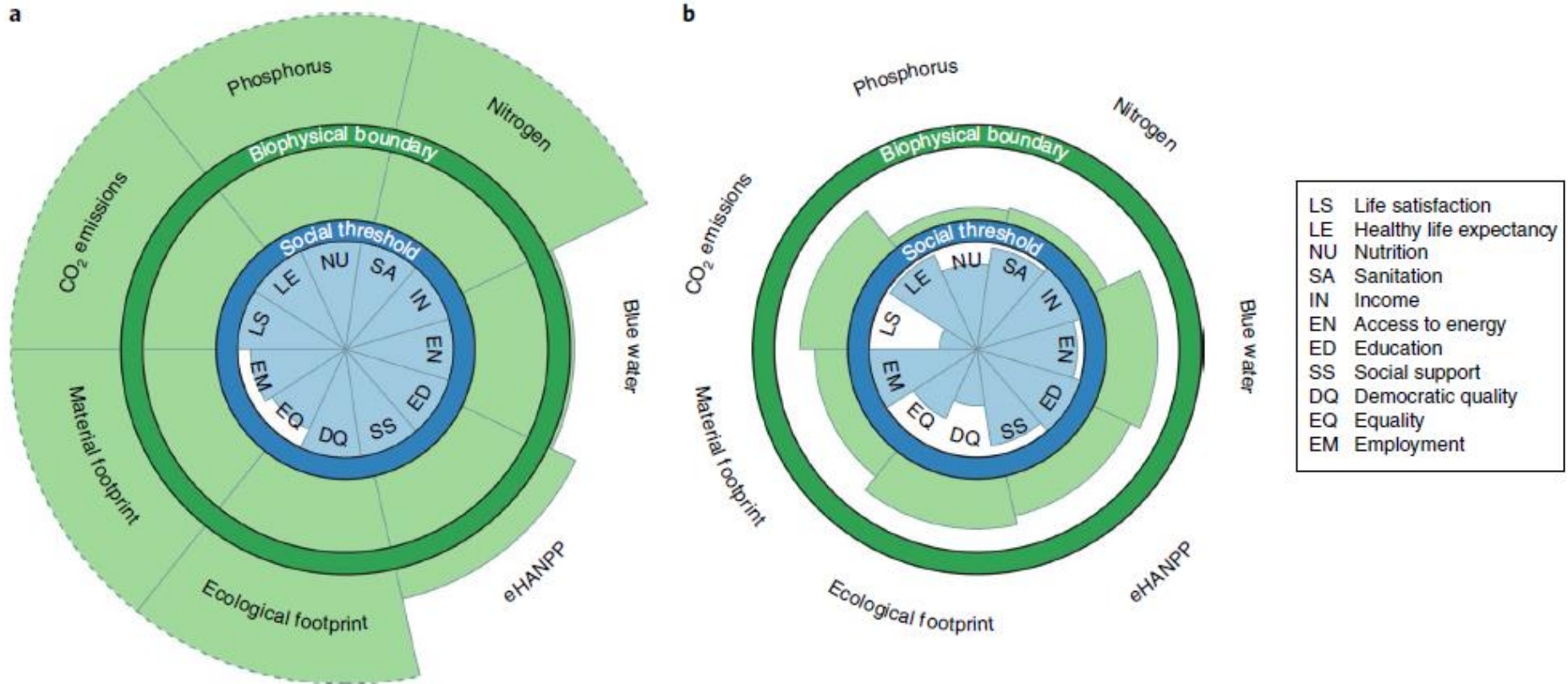
# Living in the doughnut



Raworth, 2017

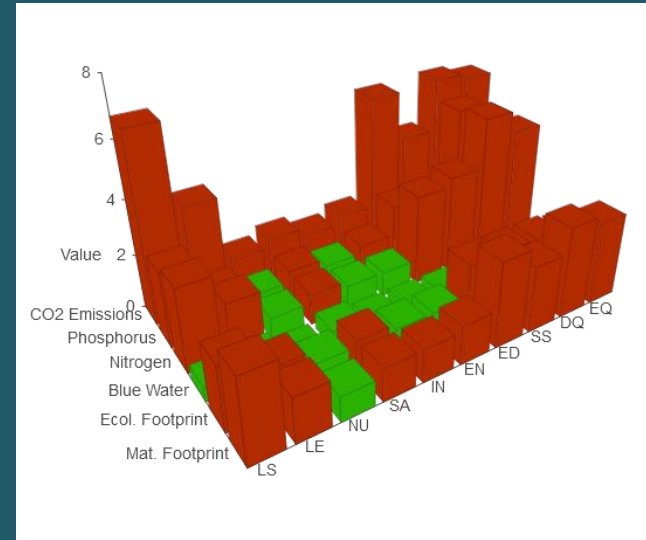
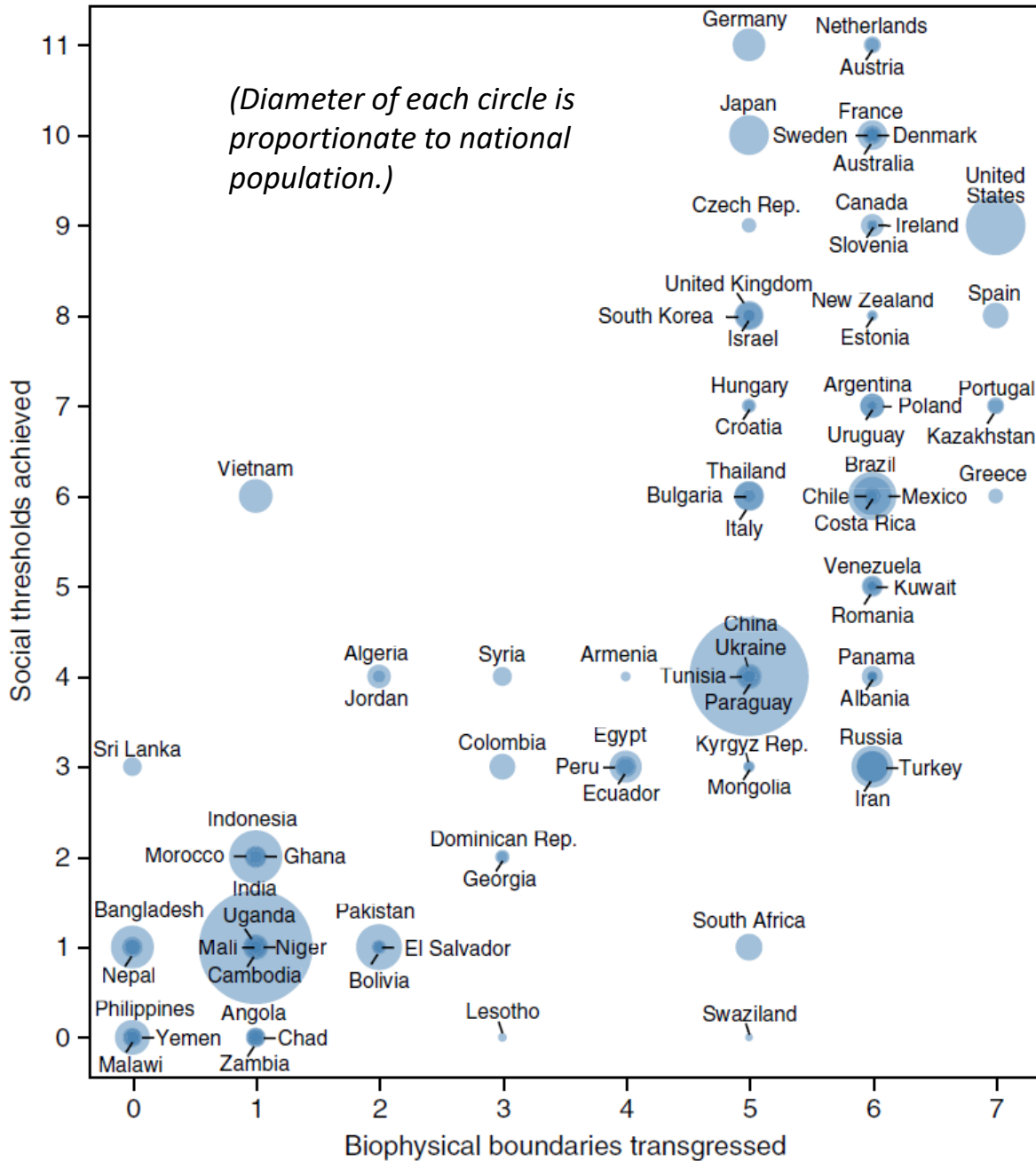
[www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/](http://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/)





**Fig. 3 | National performance relative to a 'safe and just space' for two countries. a**, The United States. **b**, Sri Lanka. Blue wedges show social performance relative to the social threshold (blue circle), whereas green wedges show resource use relative to the biophysical boundary (green circle). The blue wedges start at the centre of the plot (which represents the worst score achieved by any country), whereas the green wedges start at the outer edge of the blue circle (which represents zero resource use). Both the social thresholds and biophysical boundaries incorporate a range of uncertainties, and should be interpreted as fuzzy lines. Wedges with a dashed edge extend beyond the chart area. Ideally, a country would have blue wedges that reach the social threshold and green wedges within the biophysical boundary. See Supplementary Data for data for all countries and <https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk> for an interactive website that produces plots for all countries.

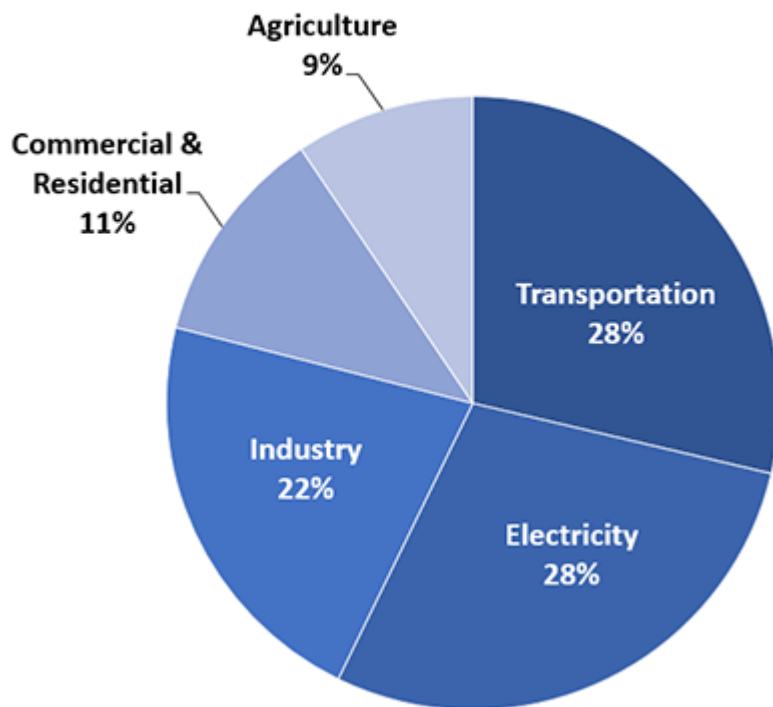




<https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk>

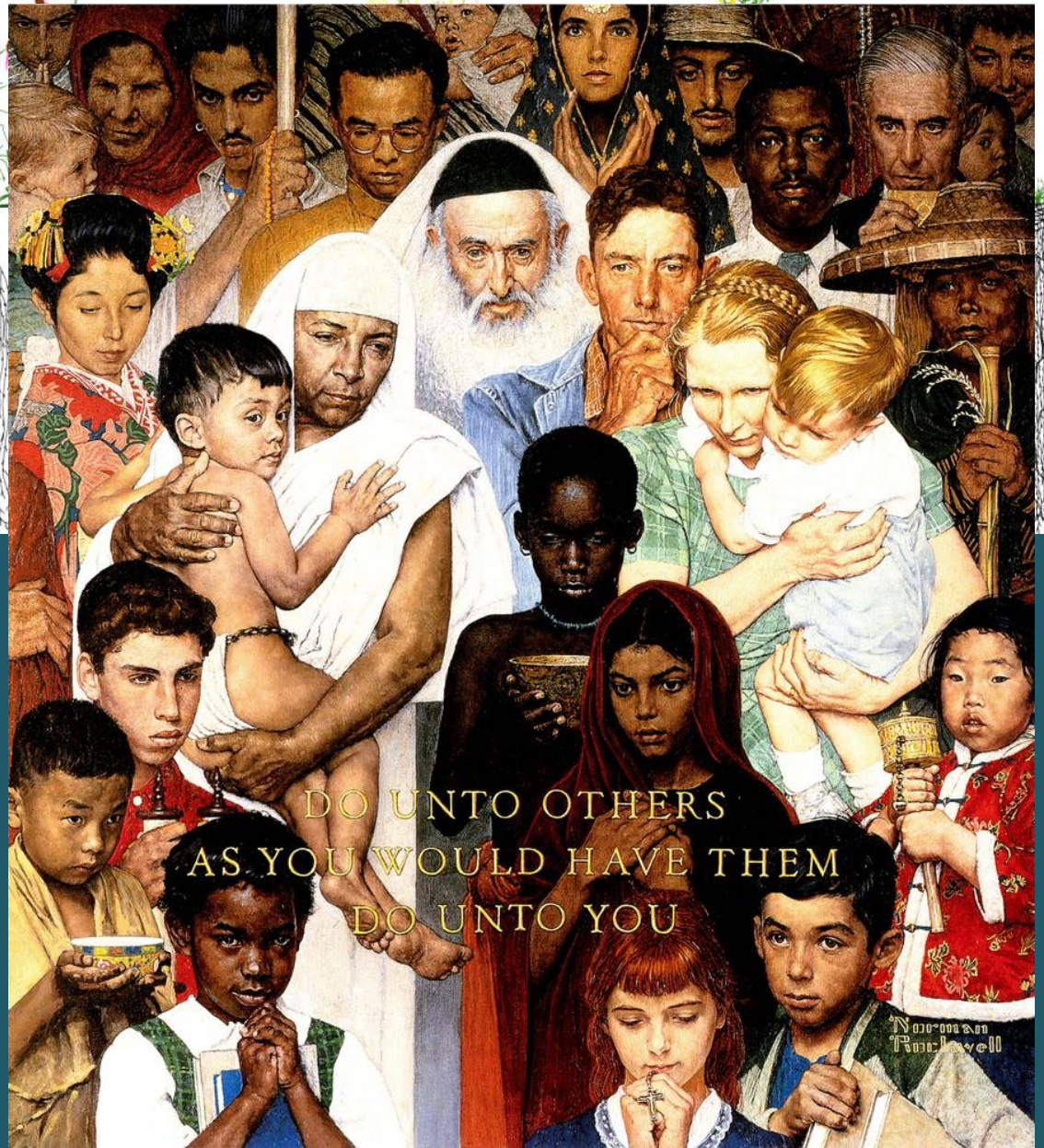
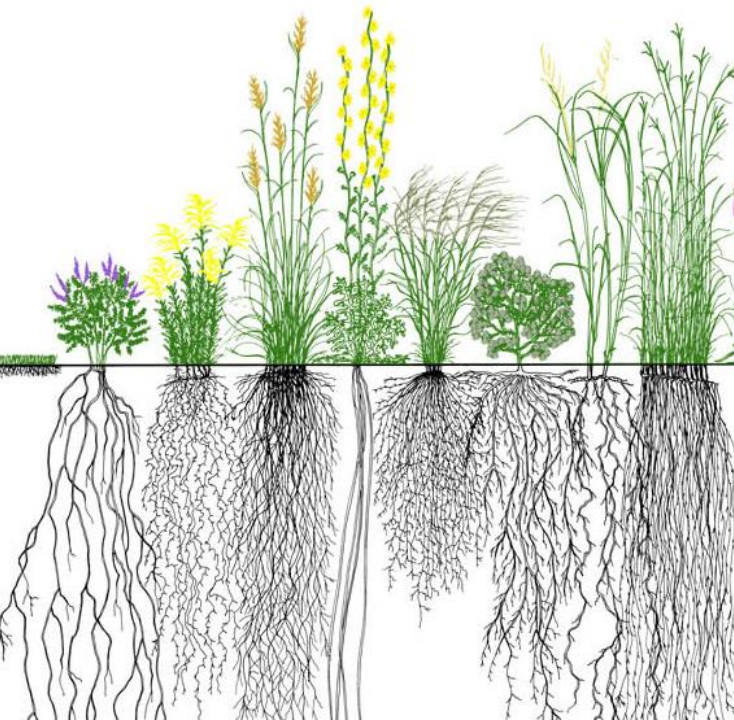
O'Neill et al., 2018  
 doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0021-4

## Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2016



Human economic activity  
100%





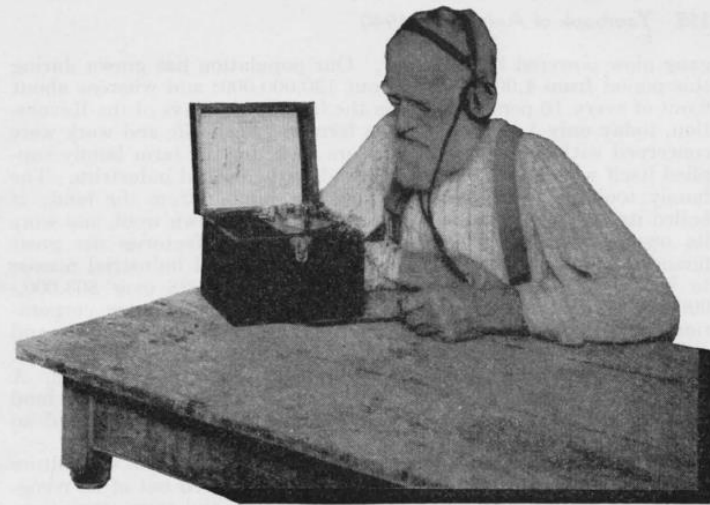
DO UNTO OTHERS  
AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM  
DO UNTO YOU

Norman Rockwell



The Land Institute

# Farmers IN A CHANGING WORLD



## Old Ideals Versus New Ideas in Farm Life

by PAUL H. JOHNSTONE<sup>1</sup>

**WHAT** do you as a farmer think of the importance of farming in the general scheme of things? Do you envy city people, or do you tend to look down on them a little? What kind of education do you want, and how would you go about it? Do you work for its own sake, or do you think of farming as a means of making money? What comforts affected your attitudes? How do you think the "typical farmer" is like? Do you think your father has given you the same answers?

PART 2

**Agriculture and the  
National Welfare**



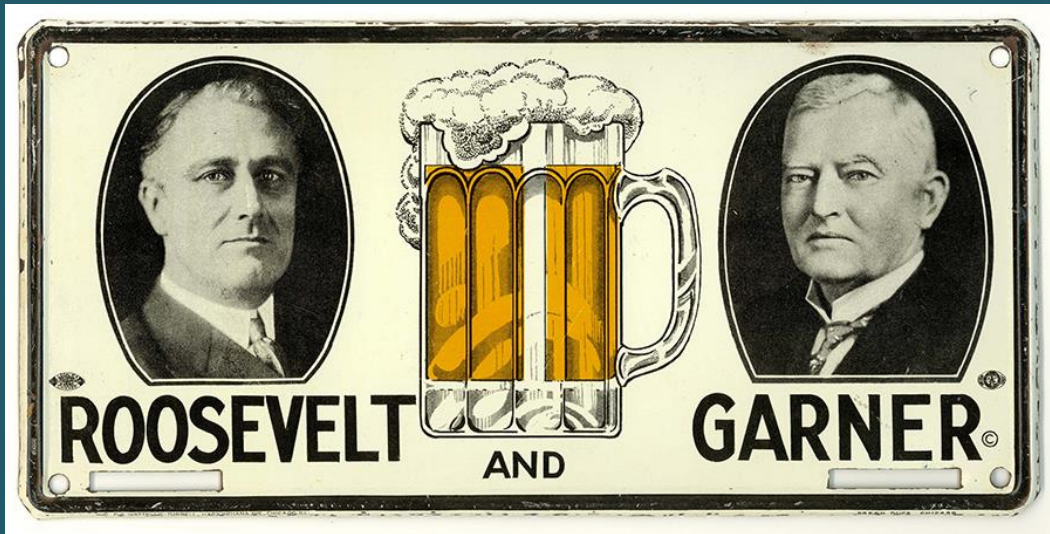


Tom McCoy, *New York Herald*, Mar. 5, 1933

Jordan Johnson, Creative Action Network



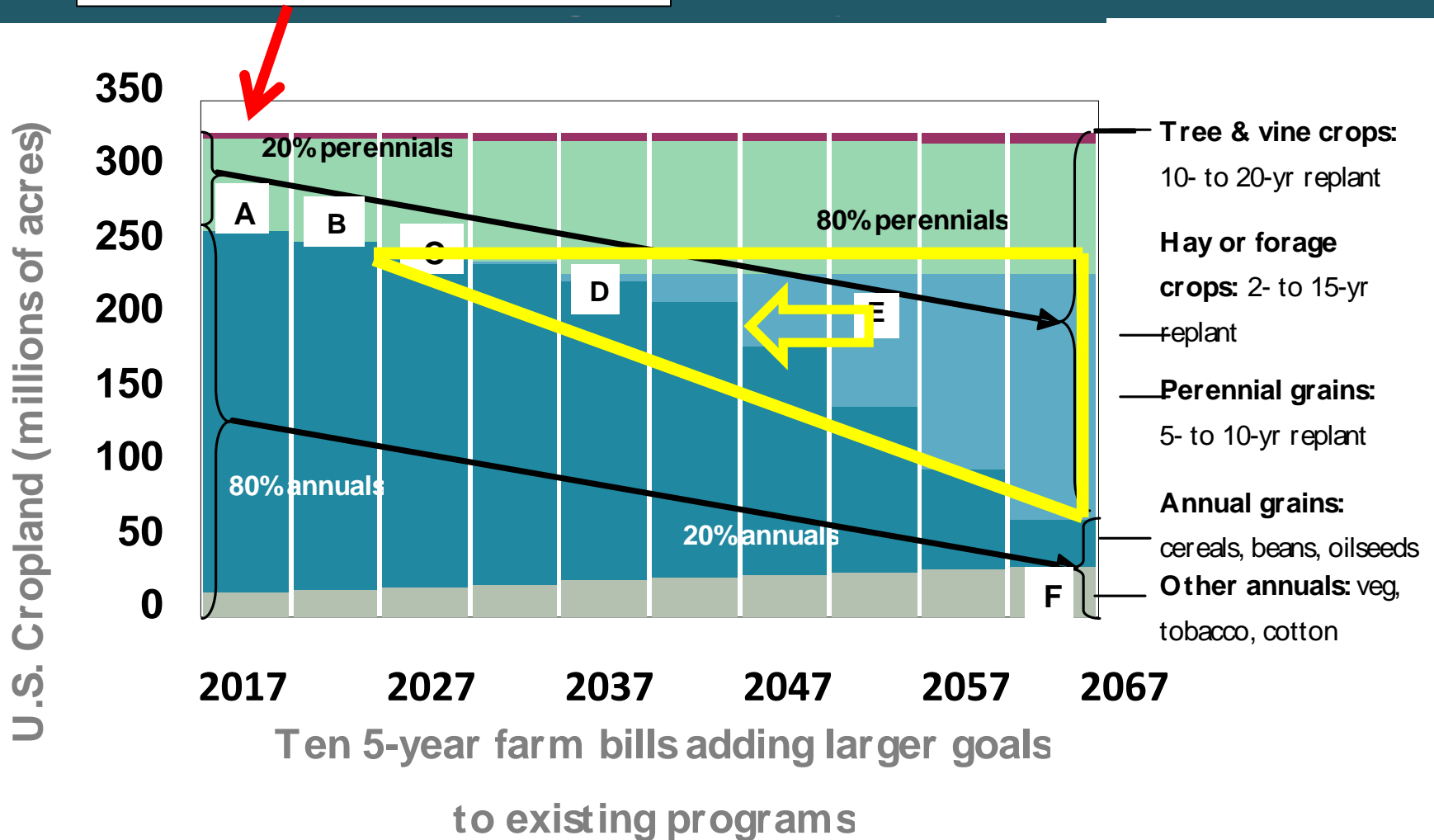




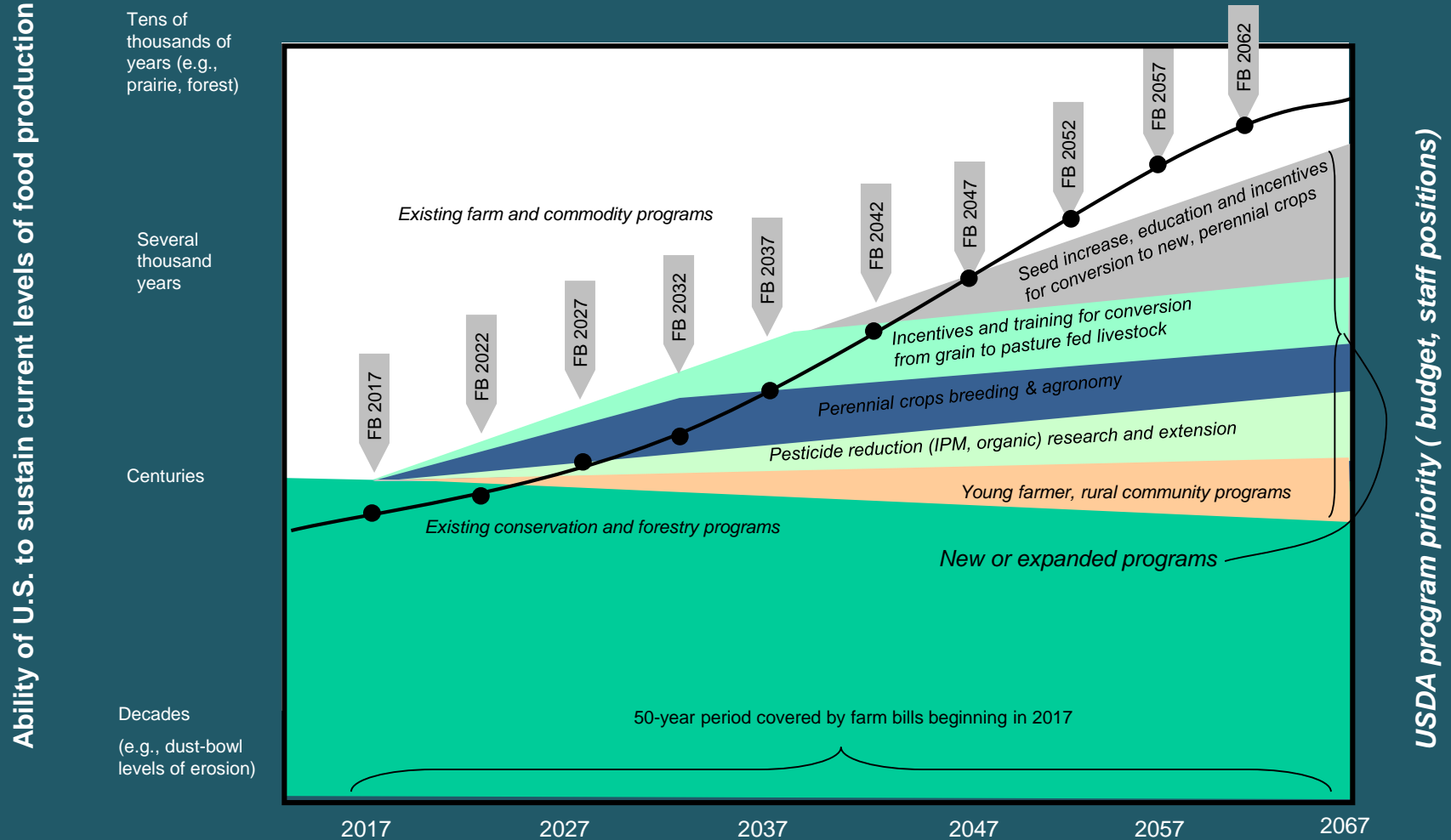


# Pathways to perennials at scale

**RESEARCH SCALE-UP NEEDED  
AT THIS TIME POINT**

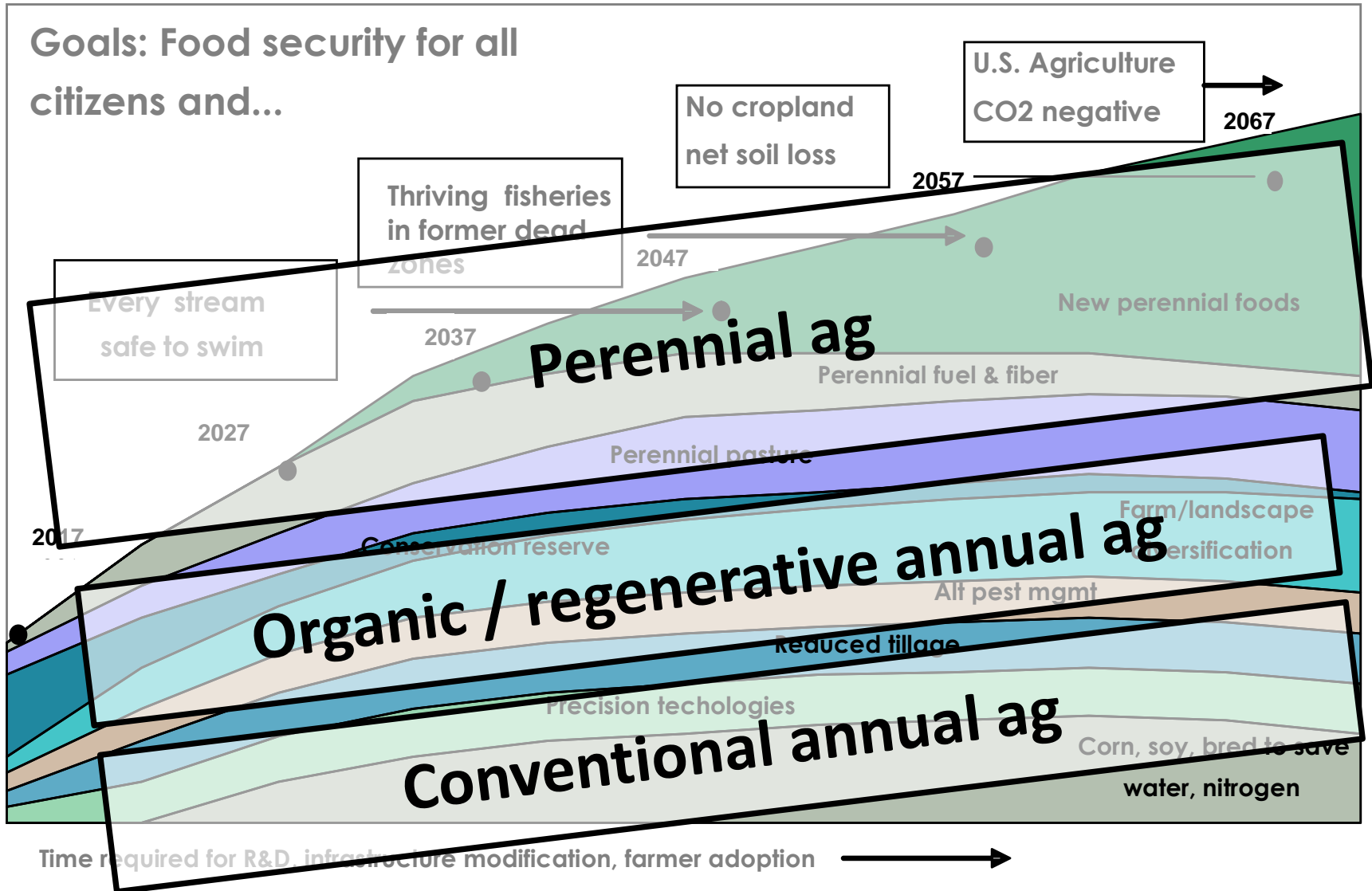



# Changes in USDA program priorities to increase the productive lifespan of US cropland



Estimates—changing over time as annual grains are replaced by perennial crops--of the remaining productive life of U.S. agriculture shown on the left-hand axis. Colored areas and captions in italics refer to change in USDA priorities (right-hand axis) as the result of new policies reflected in the next 10 farm bills.

# Perennialization of US (& global) agriculture





“If I have any lasting worth, it will be because I have tried to make people remember what the earth is meant to look like.”

- Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

# Stopping Climate Change Is Hopeless. Let's Do It.

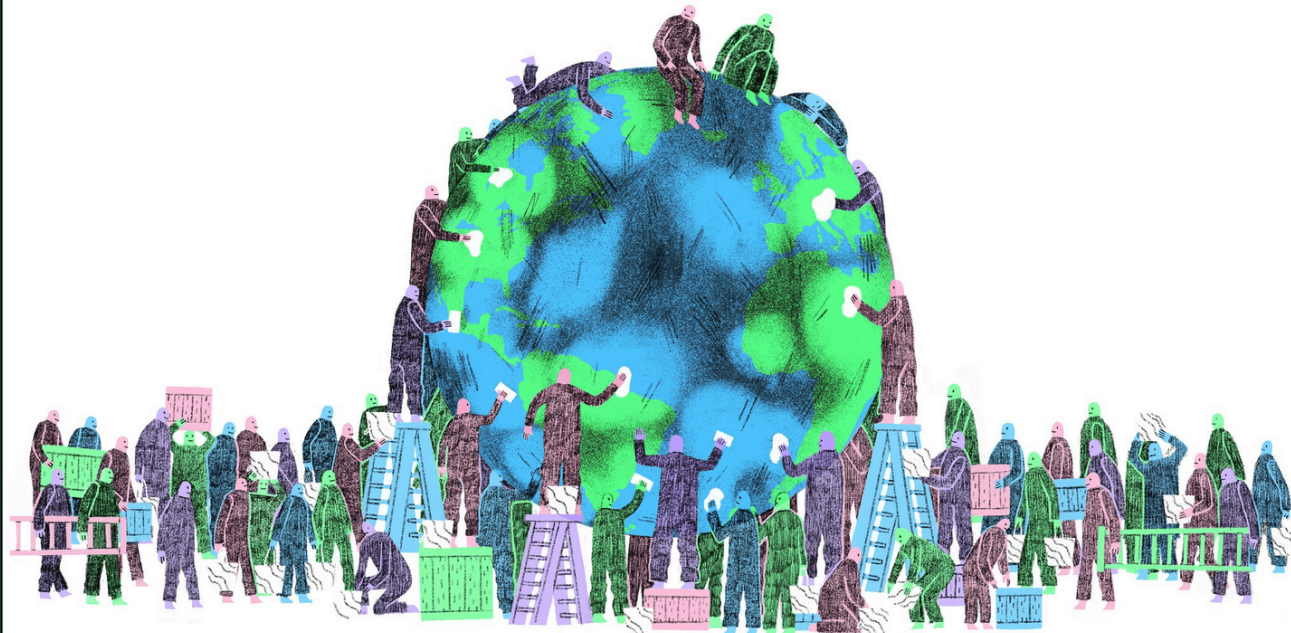
The New York Times

It begins with how we live our lives every moment of every day.

**By Auden Schendler and Andrew P. Jones**

Mr. Schendler is a climate activist and businessman. Mr. Jones creates climate simulations for the nonprofit Climate Interactive.

Oct. 6, 2018

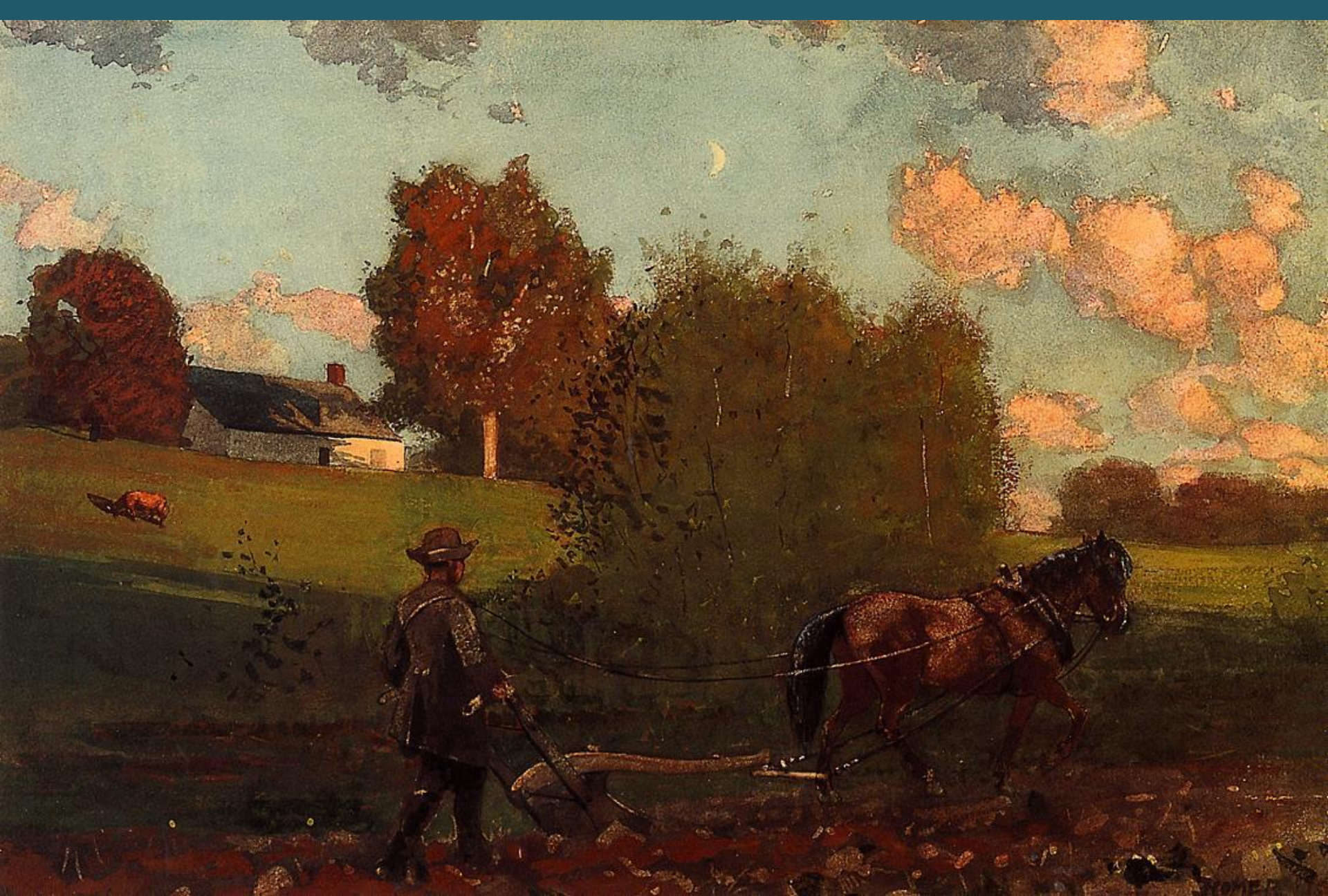


[www.nytimes.com/2018/10/06/opinion/sunday/climate-change-global-warming.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/06/opinion/sunday/climate-change-global-warming.html)

Looking down  
the long furrow  
of our history...







*The Last Furrow*, Winslow Homer (1878, USA)



[www.landinstitute.org](http://www.landinstitute.org)