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# Why Has Pasture-based Dairying Developed in Missouri



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# Grazing Growth in MO

## □ Climate

- Few days below zero
  - No prolonged days of freezing
  - All grazers in SW MO out-winter
  - Average rainfall:
    - SW MO 43 inches
    - Central MO 39 inches
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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

- **Climate allows:**
  - **Forage diversity**
    - **Cool season**
    - **Warm season**



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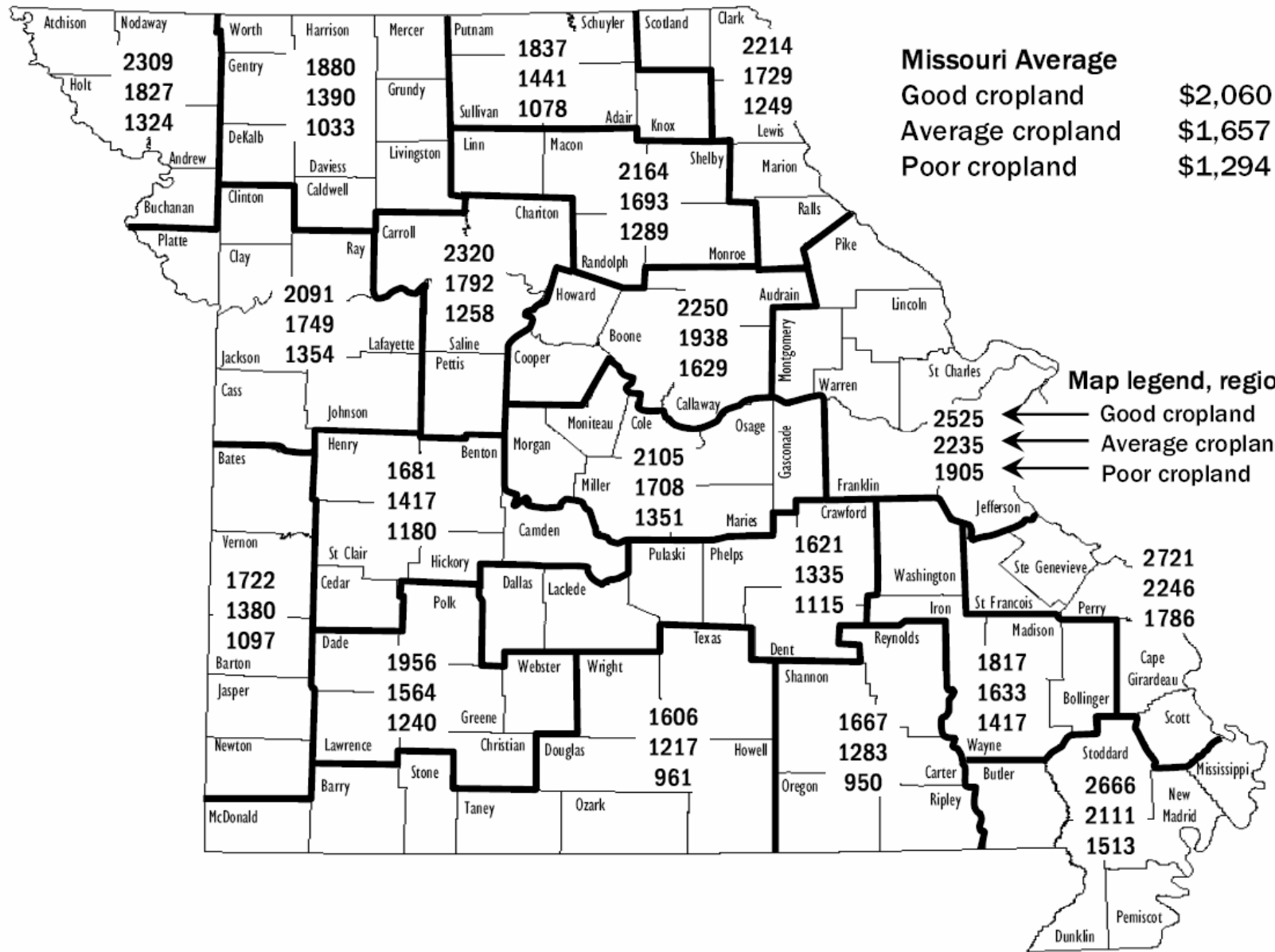
# Grazing Growth (cont.)

## ■ Land

- ❑ **30% of MO's 114 counties have less than 10,000 citizens**
- ❑ **USDA, 1/1/05 land prices averaged \$1740/acre (including buildings)**



**Map 1. Estimated cropland values per acre for July 2005**



**Map legend, region averages:**

- ← Good cropland
- ← Average cropland
- ← Poor cropland

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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

## ■ Land

- ❑ **30% of MO's 114 counties have less than 10,000 citizens**
- ❑ **USDA, 1/1/05 land prices averaged \$1740/acre (including buildings)**
- ❑ **Prices vary based on distance from trading centers**



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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

- **Grass state**
    - **3.5 million acres used for forage production (2002 USDA Ag Census)**
    - **MO national ranking**
      - **3<sup>rd</sup> in all hay**
      - **2<sup>nd</sup> hay, excluding alfalfa**
  - **High quality alfalfa available at a reasonable price**
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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

## ■ Grains

- MO national ranking
  - Soybeans 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Corn grain 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Winter wheat 11<sup>th</sup>

## ■ By-products

- From corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cotton
  - Breweries
  - Access to prices weekly  
<http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/AllProducts.asp>
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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

- **Dairy infrastructure**
    - **Processing capacity**
    - **Equipment dealers in most areas**
    - **Feed mills/farm supplies**
    - **Large animal veterinarians**
    - **Opportunity for organic production if desired**
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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

## ■ Livestock

### □ MO's rank

- 2<sup>nd</sup> beef operation
- 6<sup>th</sup> dairy operations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> all cows

### □ Opportunities for marketing

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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

- **University of Missouri SW Research Center Seasonal MIG Dairy**
    - **Helps answer real grazing issues**
    - **Advisory committee composed of regional dairy grazers**
    - **In a state of transition following our trip to New Zealand in 2005**
      - **Developing a “system”**
      - **You will see the beginning today**
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# Grazing Growth (cont.)

- **Supporting infrastructure**
    - Dairy grazing groups
    - MU specialists that understand and promote dairy grazing
  - **Intangibles**
    - Good place to live
    - Friendly people
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