

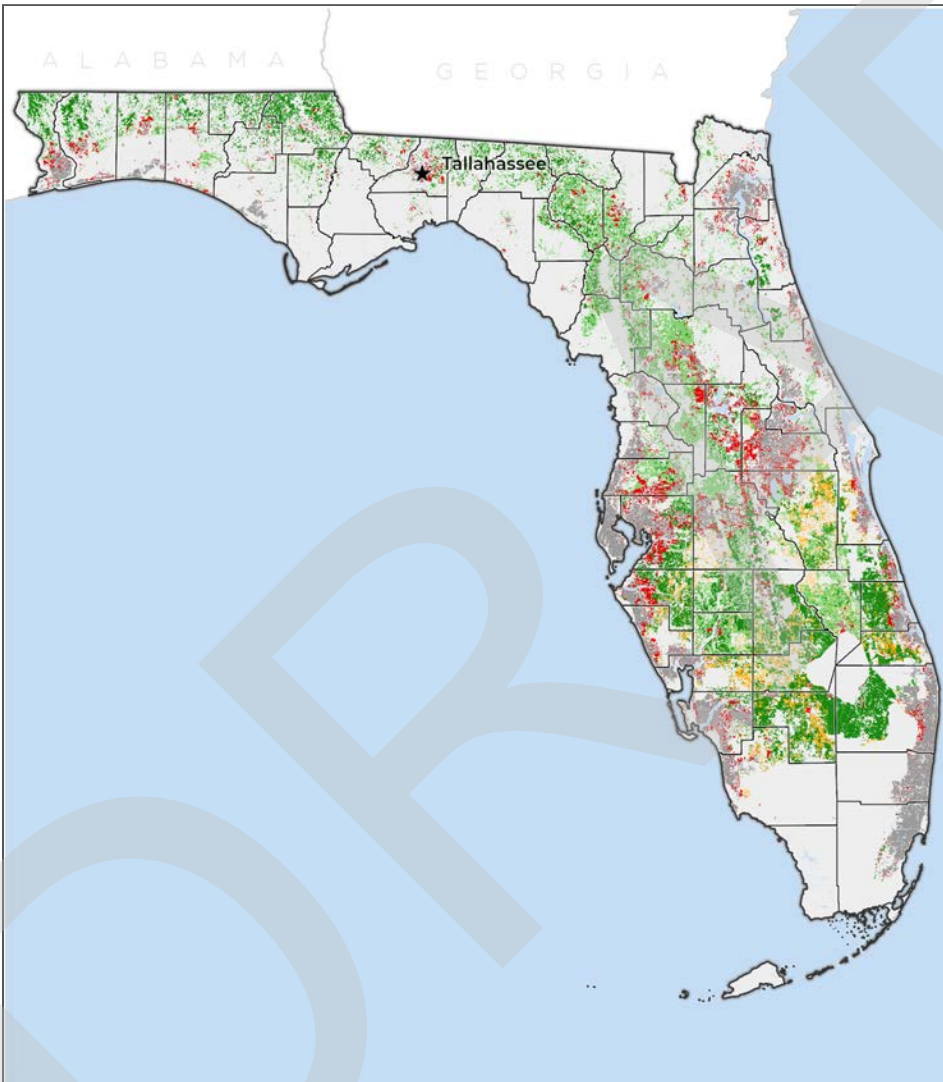
# THE STATE OF THE STATES

## Agricultural Land Conversion Highlight Summary

# Florida

**Farms Under Threat: The State of the States** mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state's agricultural land — and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016



#### CONVERSION THREAT

# HIGH

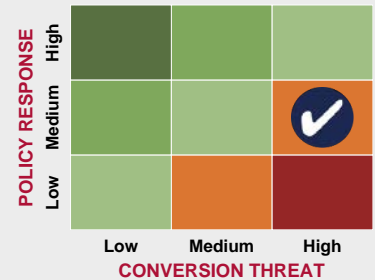
Florida scored for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.

#### POLICY RESPONSE

# MEDIUM

Florida scored for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.

#### HOW IS YOUR STATE DOING?



Florida is in an orange box because its conversion threat is higher than its policy response, relative to other states. Learn more at [www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat](http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat)

Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses

Above state median PVR\*  
Below state median PVR\*  
Farmland\*\*  
Rangeland

Urban areas  
Federal, forest, and other lands

\*Our Productivity, Versatility and Resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).

\*\*Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

## DEVELOPMENT THREATENS FLORIDA'S AGRICULTURAL LAND

From 2001-2016, 3.4% of agricultural land was developed or compromised. That's 298,000 acres.

Florida's farmland and ranchland was converted to:

- **Urban and highly developed (UHD)** land use, including commercial, industrial, and moderate-to-high-density residential areas.
- **Low-density residential (LDR)** land use, where scattered large lot development fragments the agricultural land base and limits production, marketing and management options for the working farms and ranches that remain.

### LDR PAVES THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural land in LDR areas in 2001 was

**11 TIMES MORE LIKELY**

to be converted to UHD by 2016, compared to other ag land.

160,000 acres

**54%**

of conversion was to UHD

138,000 acres

**46%**

of conversion was to LDR

### CONVERSION AFFECTED ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND



<b>CROPLAND:</b>	<b>48,000 acres</b>
<b>PASTURELAND:</b>	<b>125,000 acres</b>
<b>RANGELAND:</b>	<b>76,000 acres</b>
<b>WOODLAND:</b>	<b>50,000 acres</b>

## FLORIDA'S BEST LAND IS UNDER THREAT

We created the first-ever index of agricultural land quality that explicitly accounts for **productivity, versatility, and resiliency** (PVR). We used this PVR index to identify two categories of land: 1) the better half of each state's agricultural land and 2) **Nationally Significant land**, which is the best land in the country for long-term production of food and other crops.\*

Protecting high-PVR land is critical for the long-term resiliency and sustainability of agriculture, yet this land remains under threat in Florida:

#### Florida's Best Land

- From 2001-2016, 117,000 acres of this land were converted to UHD and LDR uses, or 2.6% of the total.

#### Nationally Significant Land

- 1,962,000 acres of land in Florida falls in this category, or 23% of total agricultural acres.
- 36,000 acres of Nationally Significant land were converted to UHD and LDR uses from 2001-2016.

\*These two categories are not mutually exclusive. The same land may be included in both categories.

## What's at stake?

▶ 8,417,000 acres<sup>1</sup> of ag land remain on 48,000 farms<sup>2</sup>



<b>CROPLAND:</b>	<b>2,528,000 acres</b>
<b>PASTURELAND:</b>	<b>3,063,000 acres</b>
<b>RANGELAND:</b>	<b>1,359,000 acres</b>
<b>WOODLAND:</b>	<b>1,467,000 acres</b>

▶ \$7.4 billion earned from cash receipts in 2017<sup>2</sup>

- \$342.0 million from local food<sup>3</sup>
- \$3.2 billion from agricultural exports<sup>4</sup>

▶ 20,000 acres were converted each year - jeopardizing \$17.4 million in annual revenue<sup>2</sup>

▶ Florida's top 3 agricultural products:<sup>2</sup>

- Nursery and Greenhouse \$2.3 billion
- Vegetables \$1.3 billion
- Fruit and Tree Nuts \$1.0 billion

▶ 80,000 farmers and 130,000 farm laborers dedicated to agriculture<sup>2</sup>

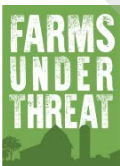
▶ 6 times as many producers over 65 as under 35 years old.

1. Farms Under Threat 2016

2. National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017

3. Sold directly to consumer and intermediate outlets

4. Economic Research Service 2017



**Farms Under Threat** is American Farmland Trust's multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to U.S. farmland and ranchland and to identify policy solutions to ensure the protection and conservation of America's diverse agricultural landscape. For more information about the initiative, visit AFT's website: [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org). For a copy of the full report and information on methods and analyses, visit AFT's Farmland Information Center: [www.farmlandinfo.org](http://www.farmlandinfo.org).



Explore our interactive maps at [farmland.org/placeholder](http://farmland.org/placeholder)