



Why Soil Health?

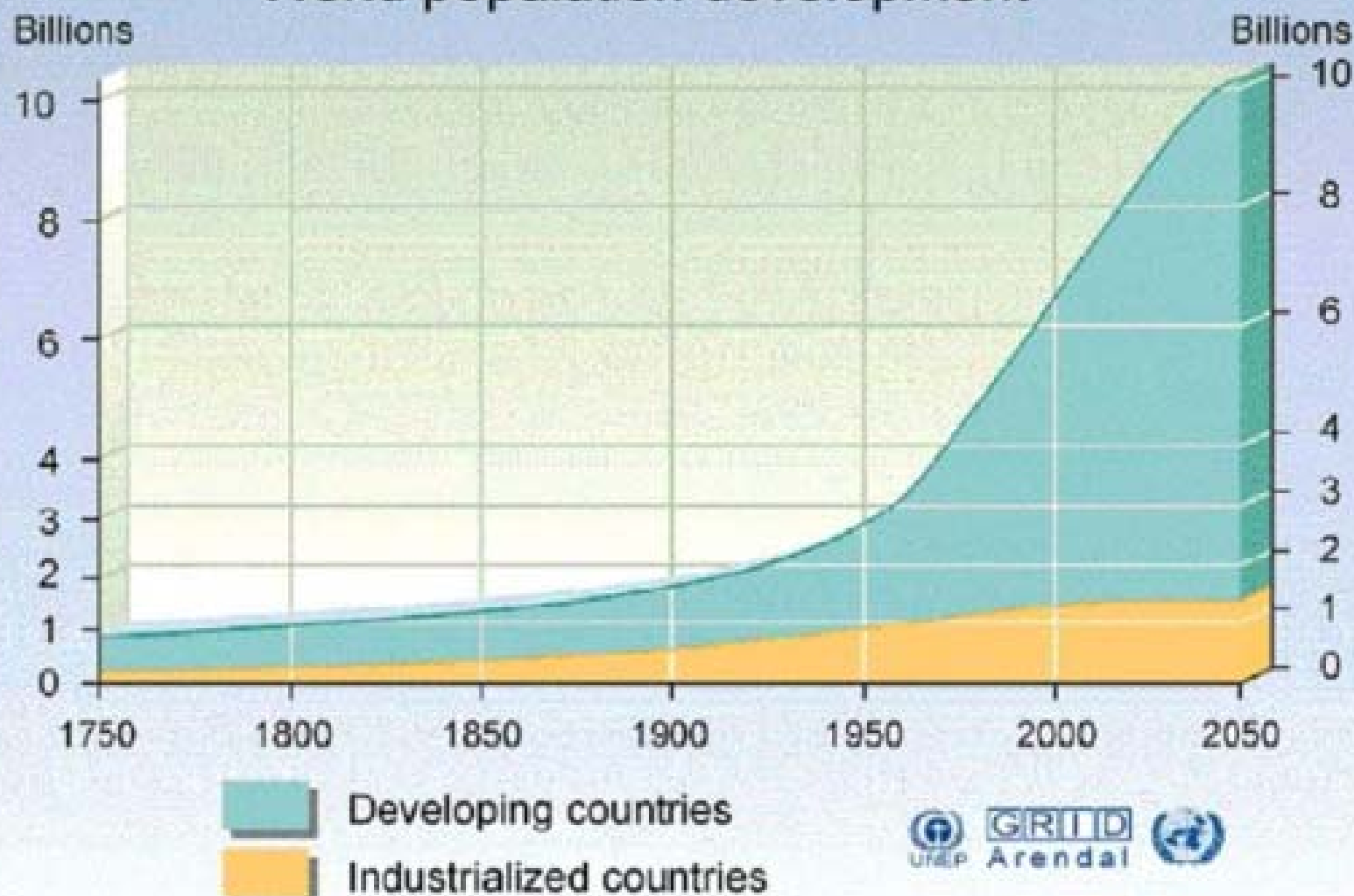
Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D.
Deputy Chief for Science & Technology
USDA-NRCS
Washington, DC



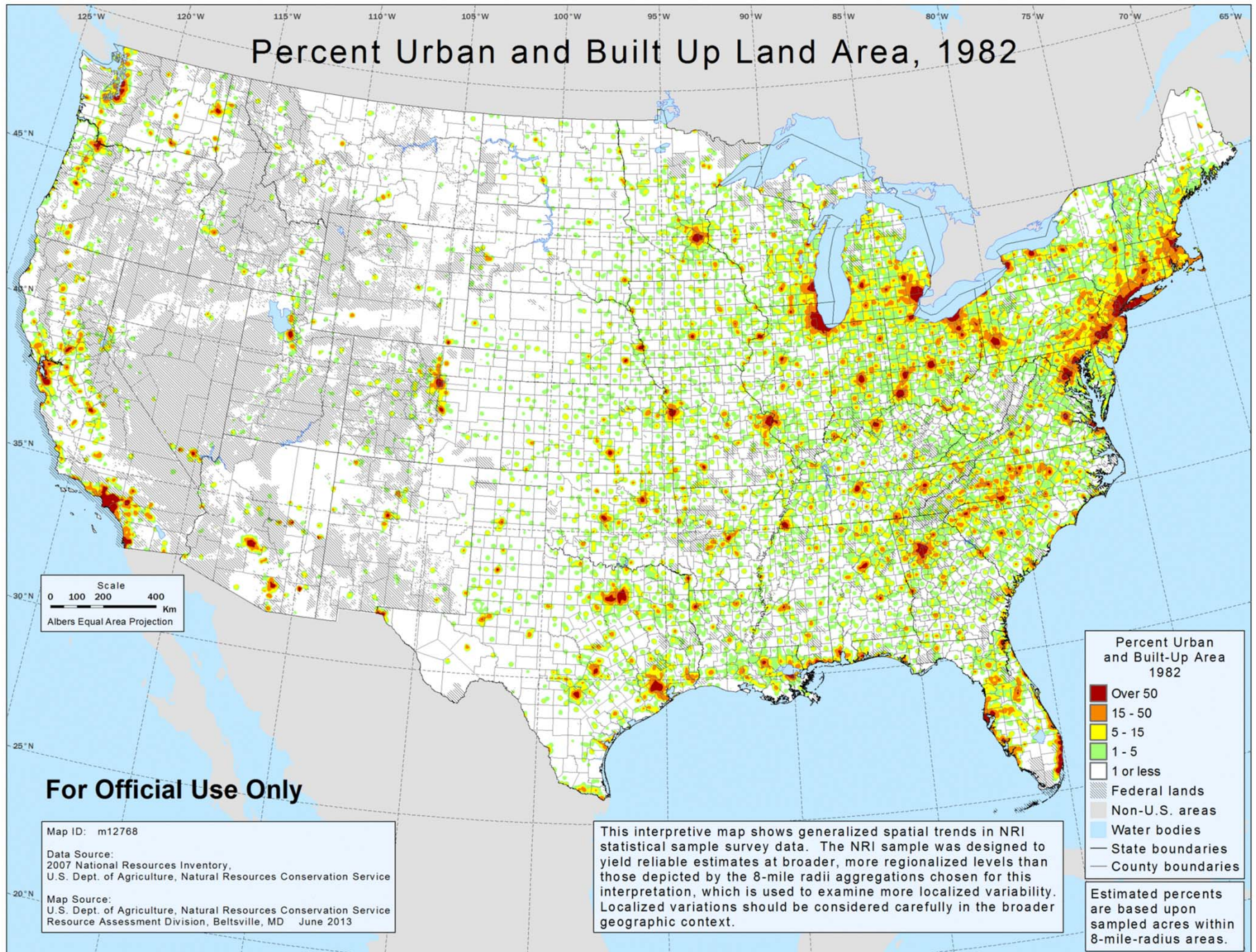
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

World population development

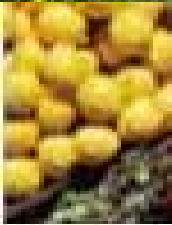


Percent Urban and Built Up Land Area, 1982



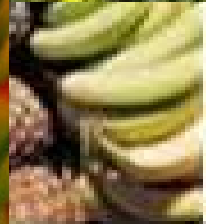
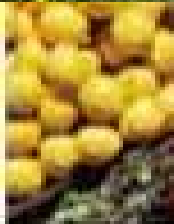
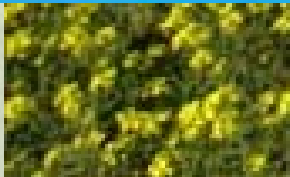
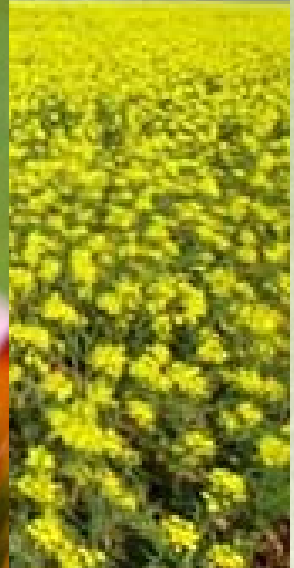








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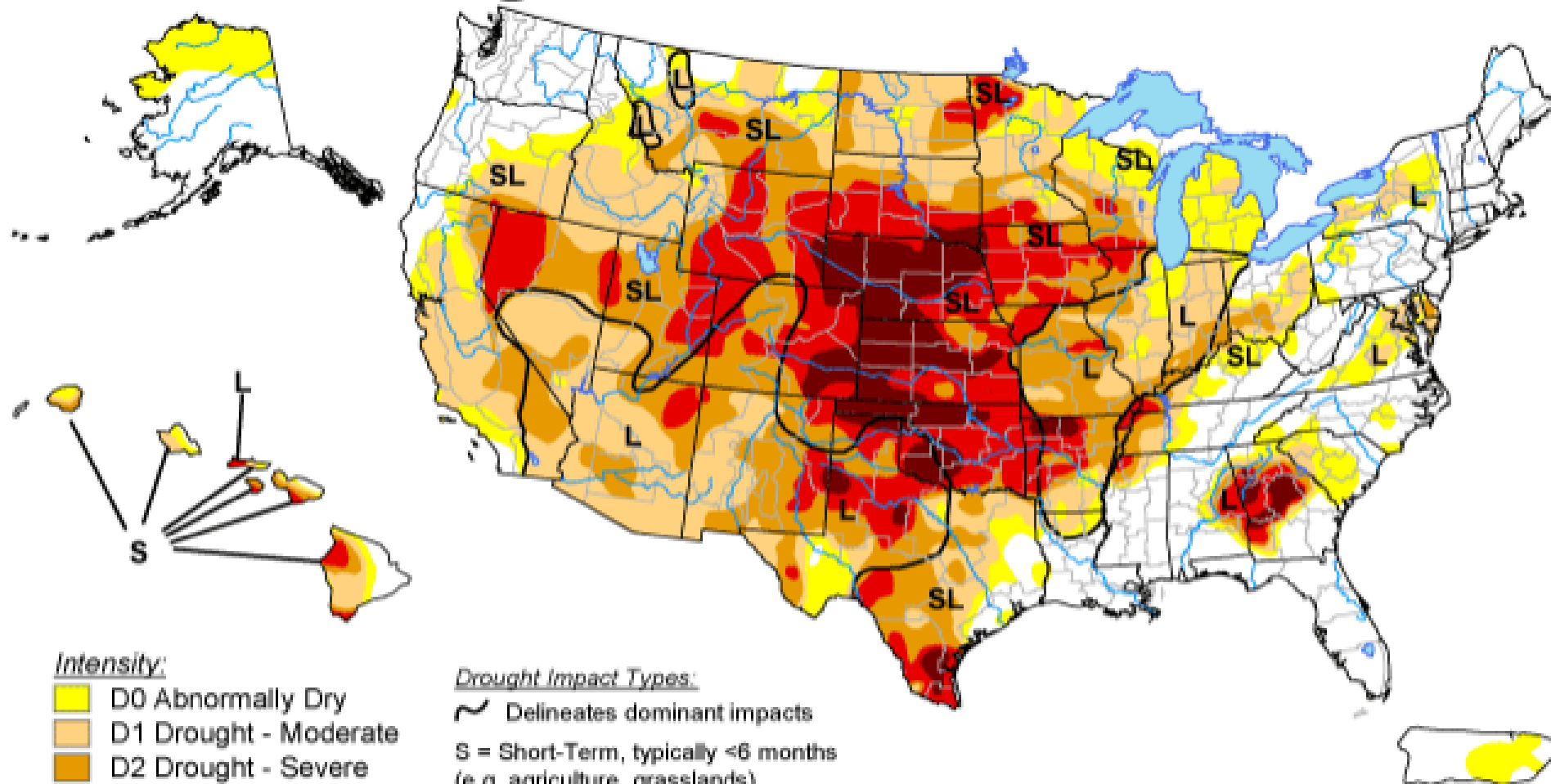




U.S. Drought Monitor

September 25, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, September 27, 2012

Author: Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



**So, what's soil health
“got to do with it?”**

Everything!!!



Improving Soil Health Can:

- ✓ **Increase water infiltration**
- ✓ **Increase available water holding capacity**
- ✓ **Improve water quality**
- ✓ **Increase nutrient availability**
- ✓ **Detoxify chemicals**
- ✓ **Save energy**
- ✓ **Improve plant health**

All while maintaining or increasing production!!!



USDA-NRCS Activities:

- Ensure Scientific Basis
- Evaluate Economics
- Model Benefits
- Align CIG Priorities
- Leverage PMCs
- New Division - Training
- Develop Partnerships
- Communications





Conventional System

Soil Improving System