

# NEW PARADIGM FOR CONSERVATION

*FARM FOUNDATION FORUM*

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**Jonathan Coppess**

*Gardner Ag Policy Program*

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# THINKING ABOUT CONSERVATION PARADIGMS.



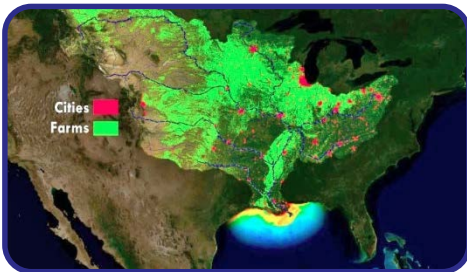
## DEVASTATION IN THE DUST BOWL ERA

- Homesteading and WWI expansion for wheat in the Plains
- Depression + Dust = Conservation + Acreage Reduction + Price Support



## EROSION IN THE TARGET PRICE ERA

- Chasing high prices and exports, from fencerow-to-fencerow
- Crisis + Erosion = target prices + CRP + compliance



## NUTRIENT LOSS IN THE RFS ERA

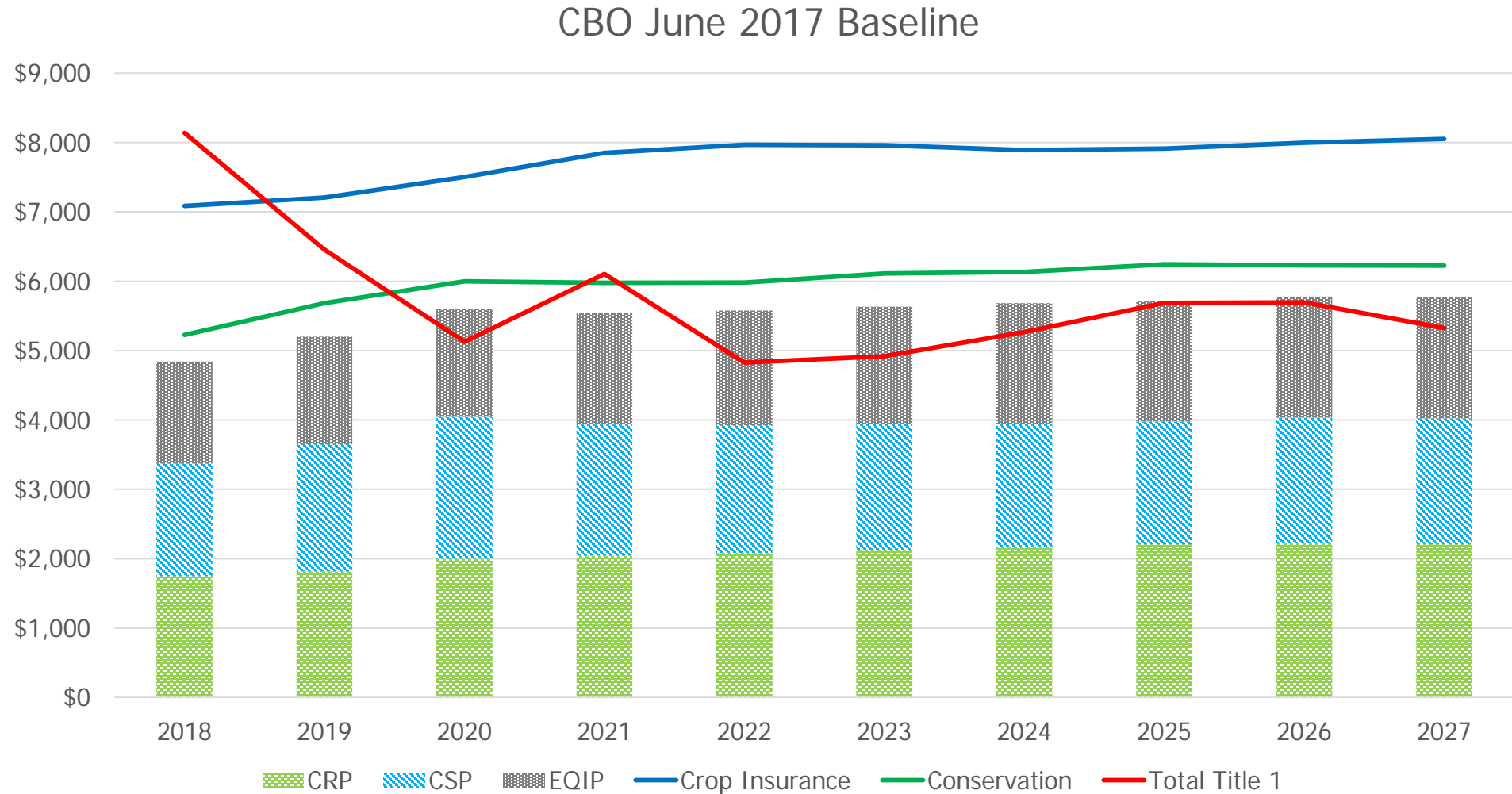
- Yields (GE) + Acres (RFS & high prices) = nutrient loss
- Working lands challenges on a massive scale; EQIP, CSP, RCPP...?



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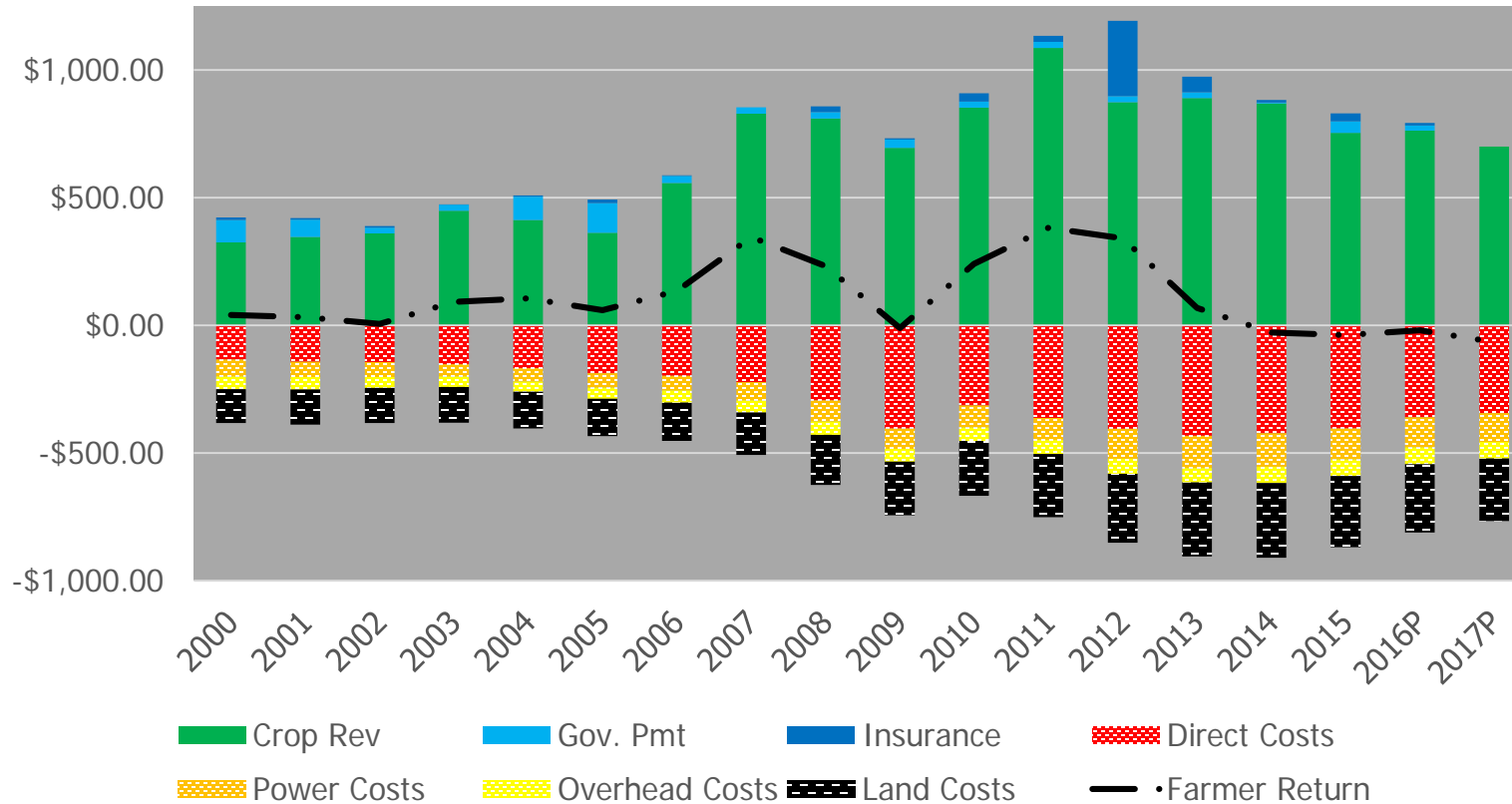
# BASELINE CHALLENGES FOR FARM BILL

- Budget rules and CBO baseline creates 'zero-sum' policy effort.
- Adding funds to one title must come out of others.
- Expanding CRP acres would require offsets, possibly working lands.



# CONSERVATION AND FARM (RISK) PERSPECTIVES

Corn: Per-Acre Revenue, Cost and Returns (Central IL)

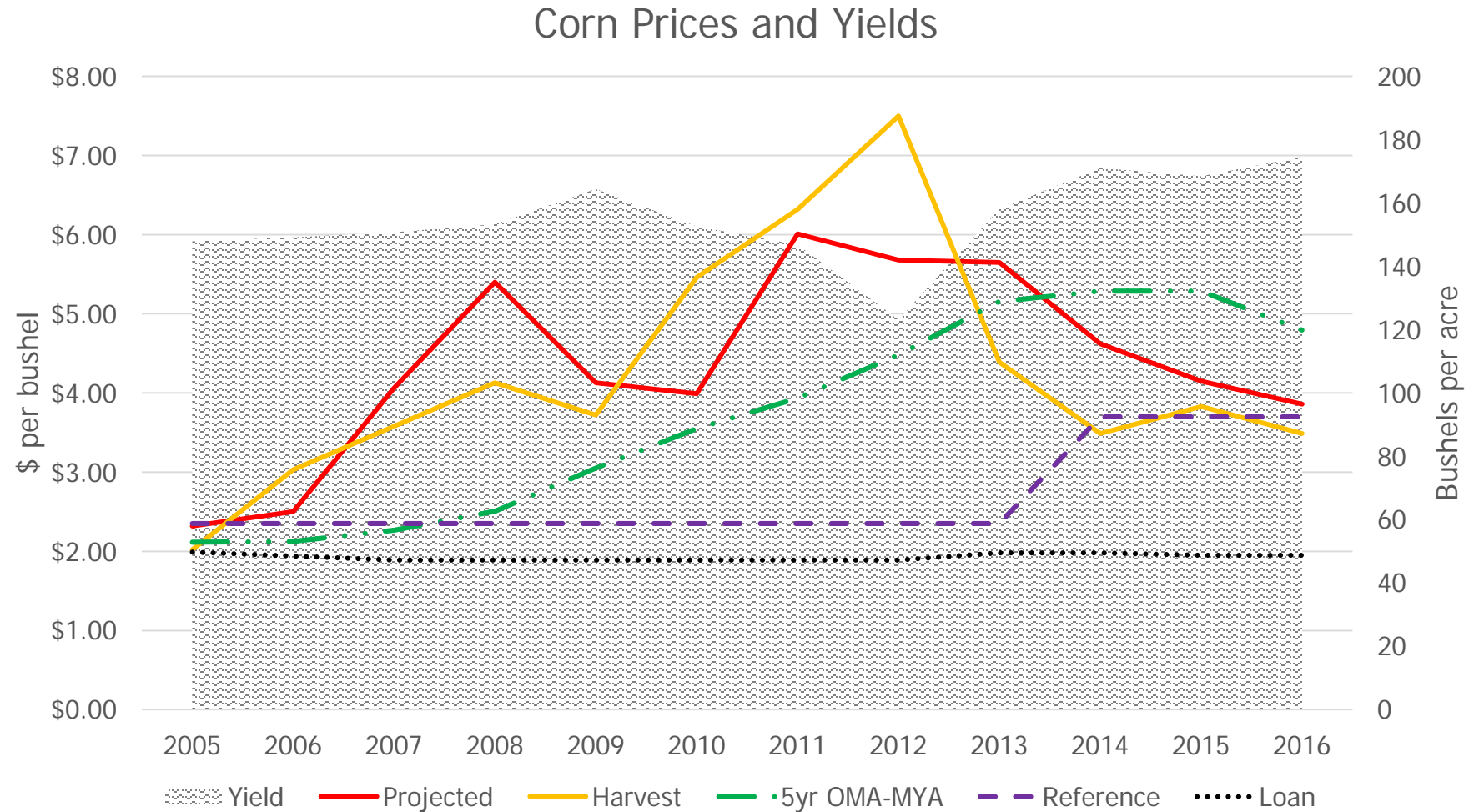


- ✓ Lower crop prices + costs slow to adjust = farm income squeeze.
- ✓ Conservation risks being a “nice to have” item when times are good, abandoned in the squeeze.
- ✓ Example: cover crops at \$25 to \$30 per acre.
- ✓ Nutrient loss requires conservation that is relevant to farming, risk & finances.



# THINKING ABOUT A NEW PARADIGM

- Farming's twin risks.
- Conservation and relevance.
- In a baseline-challenged (zero-sum) effort.



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# THANK YOU!

**Jonathan Coppess**

*Gardner Agriculture Policy Program*

**University of Illinois**

**[jwcoppes@illinois.edu](mailto:jwcoppes@illinois.edu)**



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