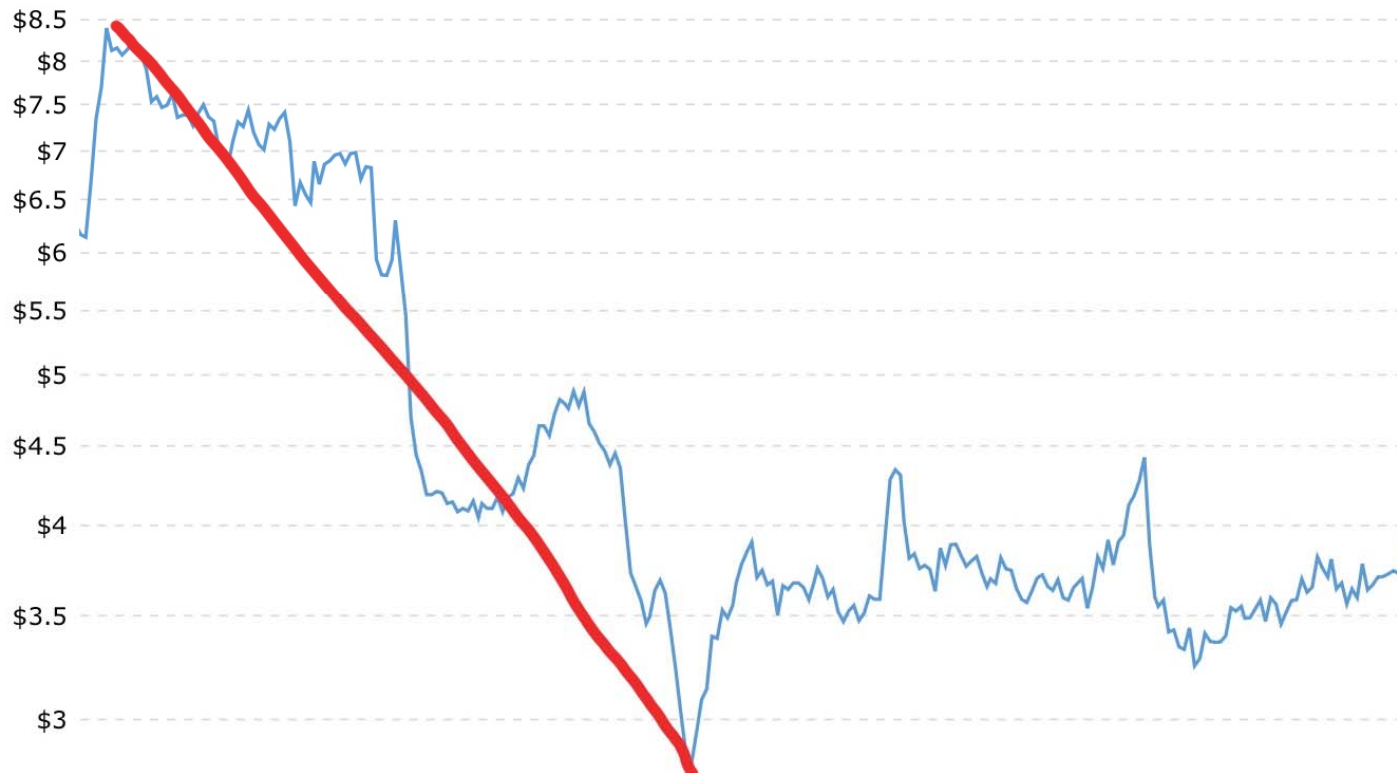


How communities can support agriculture

And why they should

Show Recessions Log Scale [Download Data](#) [Export Image](#)

Click in chart area to zoom or select date range: [YTD](#) | [6 Months](#) | [1 Year](#) | [5 Years](#) | [10 Years](#) | [20 Years](#) | [All Years](#)



Worst 3 year drop since 1930's

Corn prices falling out of bed

There is some good news

- By 2050 there will be more than 9 billion people in the world
- They will need 70% more food (UN FAO)
- How do we hang on until then without depopulating?

30 year depopulation

The last significant downturn
in agriculture

Lightest colors lost 50% of
their population

Can we survive that again?

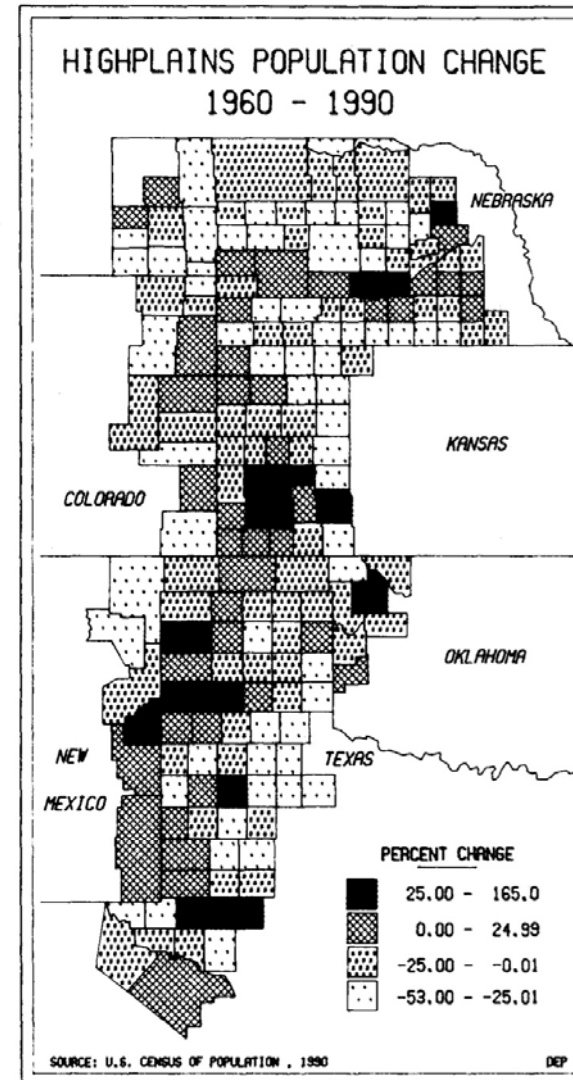


Figure 1. Population change in the high plains, 1960-90. Reprinted from Kromm and White 1992 by permission of University Press of Kansas.

What can we do?

- Any thing that lowers cost of production
 - Taxes
 - Regulation
- Alternative crops - hemp etc.
 - Banking
 - Taxes
- Water policy
 - Renewable source for the Ogallala Aquifer
 - Additional storage - no more buy and dry

Global prices, local expenses

Sure we're productive

We also have a high tax and regulatory burden

Alternatives

- Hemp
 - Banking issues
 - Still lumped in with marijuana
- Organic
- Farm to table
- Agritourism
- Recreation

Water is life

These counties grew 1960-1990 because of center pivot irrigation

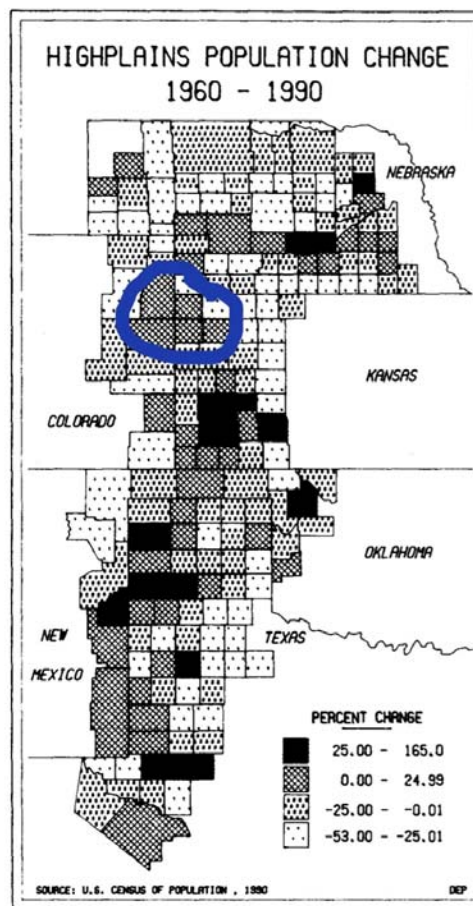


Figure 1. Population change in the high plains, 1960-90. Reprinted from Kromm and White 1992 by permission of University Press of Kansas.



We lose this.....

We lose half our people, plus

We cannot effectively
advocate these policies
as individuals

There just aren't enough of us.
76.4% of the West's
population is in cities.



PORTS-TO-PLAINS
ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland



PROVIDING A VOICE & NEW NECESSARY LEADERSHIP
PRO 15

Action 22 inc.
Giving voice to Southern Colorado



Join an organization

Make it regional
To be effective

**We must also revive
our communities**

Rural America Is the New ‘Inner City’

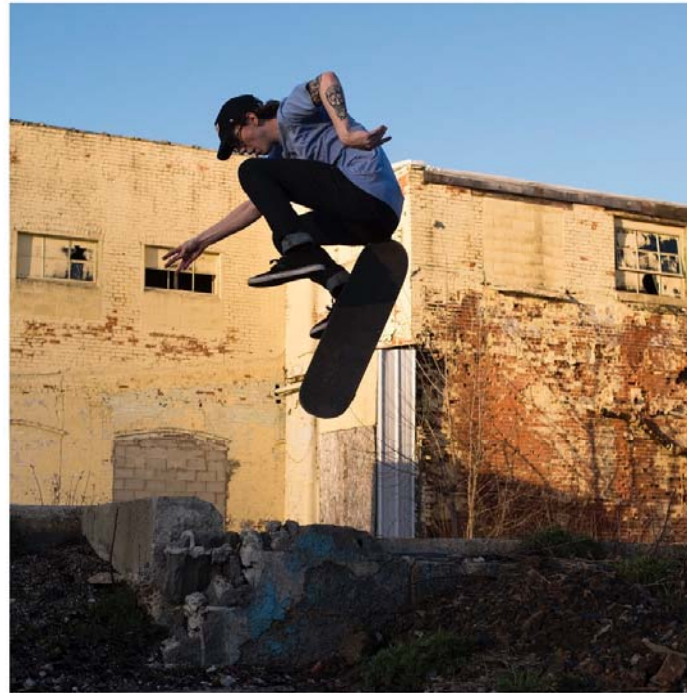
A Wall Street Journal analysis shows that since the 1990s, sparsely populated counties have replaced large cities as America’s most troubled areas by key measures of socioeconomic well-being—a decline that’s accelerating

IN DEPTH

By Janet Adamy and Paul Overberg

At the corner where East North Street meets North Cherry Street in the small Ohio town of Kenton, the Immaculate Conception Church keeps a handwritten record of major ceremonies. Over the last decade, according to these sacramental registries, the church has held twice as many funerals as baptisms.

In tiny communities like Kenton, an unprecedented shift is under way. Federal and other data show that in 2013, in the majority of sparsely populated U.S.



Joey Dunson, 21, skates behind the abandoned Kenton Hardware Company

than were born—the first time that’s happened since the dawn of universal birth registration in the 1930s.

For more than a century, rural towns sustained themselves, and often thrived, through a mix of agriculture and light manufacturing. Until recently, programs funded by counties and townships, combined with the charitable efforts of churches and community groups, provided a viable social safety net in lean times.

Starting in the 1980s, the nation’s basket cases were its urban areas—where a toxic stew of crime, drugs and suburban flight conspired to

We cannot let this happen

WSJ

Reinvigorate locally

- Run for city council
- Run for school board
- Run for hospital board
- Start a "boomerang" program



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