

PRODUCTION: LAND COMMODITIES

MASSACHUSETTS FARMING

Across the United States, the acreage of farmland decreased 1% and the number of farms decreased 4% between 2007 and 2012. Massachusetts, however, was **one of only 10 states that saw an increase in both the number of farms (1%) and land in farms (1%)** in the same time period.

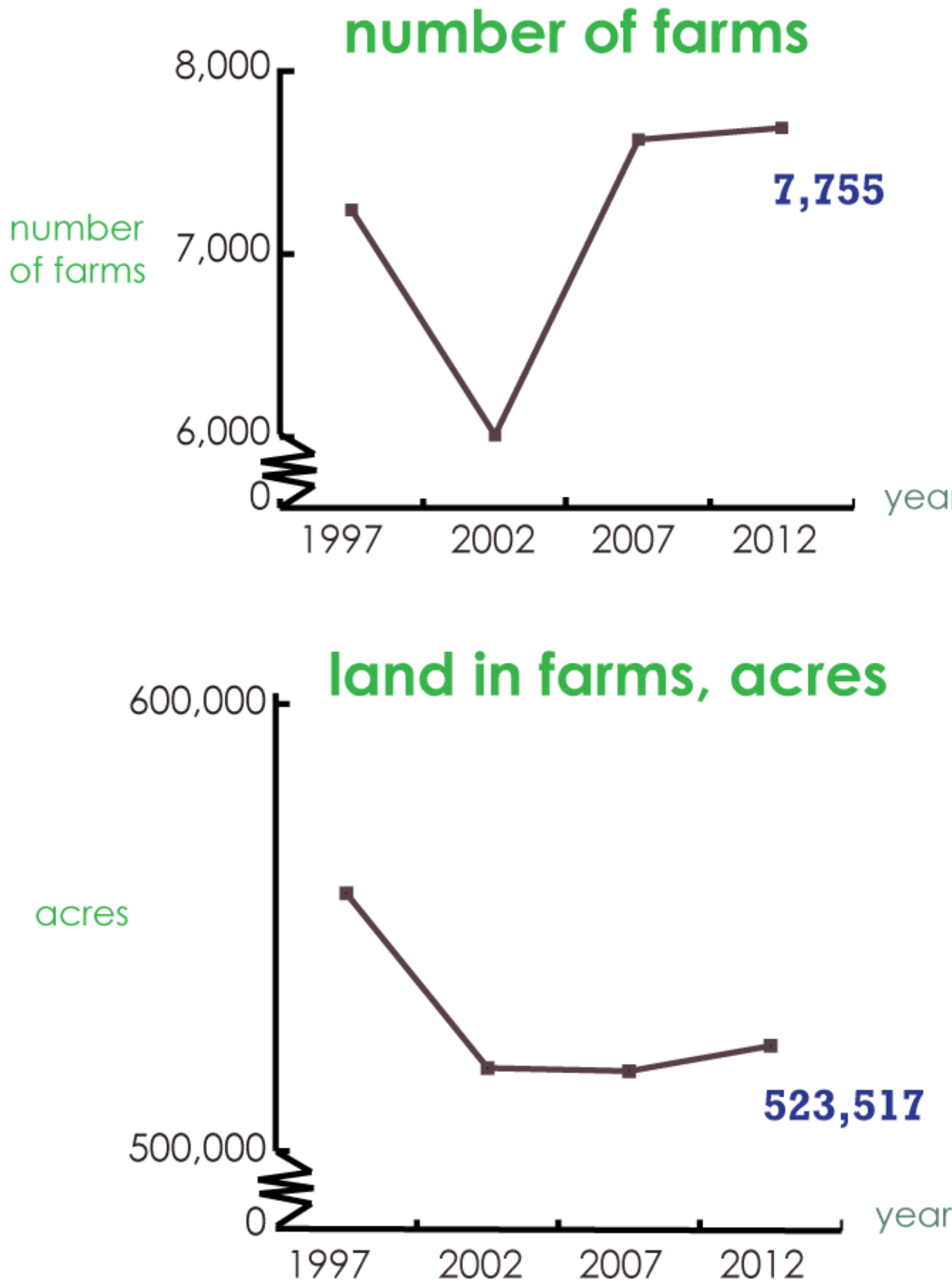
Massachusetts is a state of small farms. Two thirds of farms in the state are **smaller than 50 acres**, and two thirds gross **less than \$10,000** in market value from their products.

31% of farmland in Massachusetts is **cropland**, and **85% of that is harvested cropland**. Of harvested cropland, **27%** is for **vegetables, berries and orchards**, and **30%** is used for **animal production**.

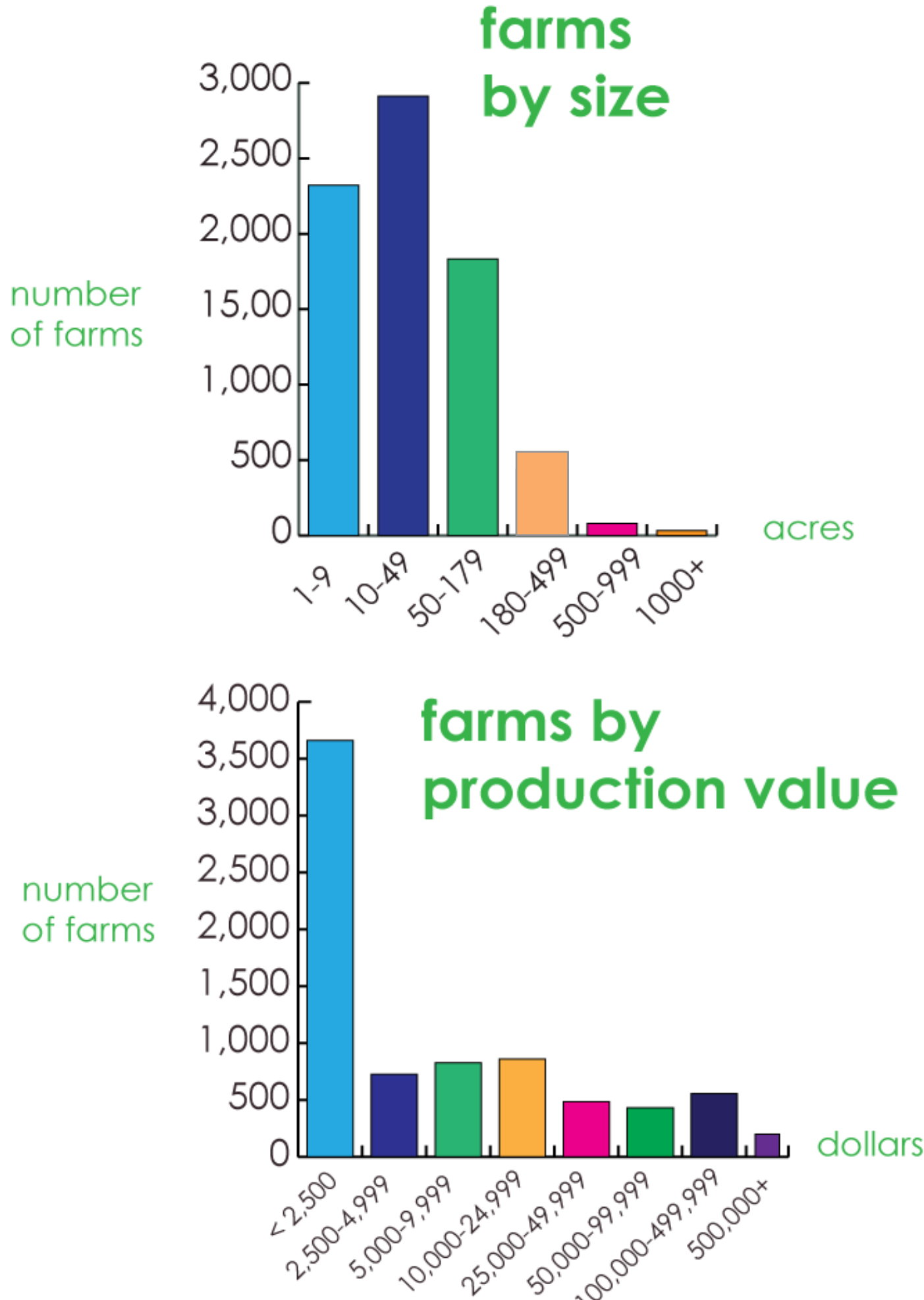
Massachusetts is exceptional in selling direct to market. It is the **birthplace of the CSA**, and has the **highest percentage of community supported agriculture farms in the country**. Massachusetts also has a strong network of **farmer’s markets** and culture of **“buying local.”**



FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

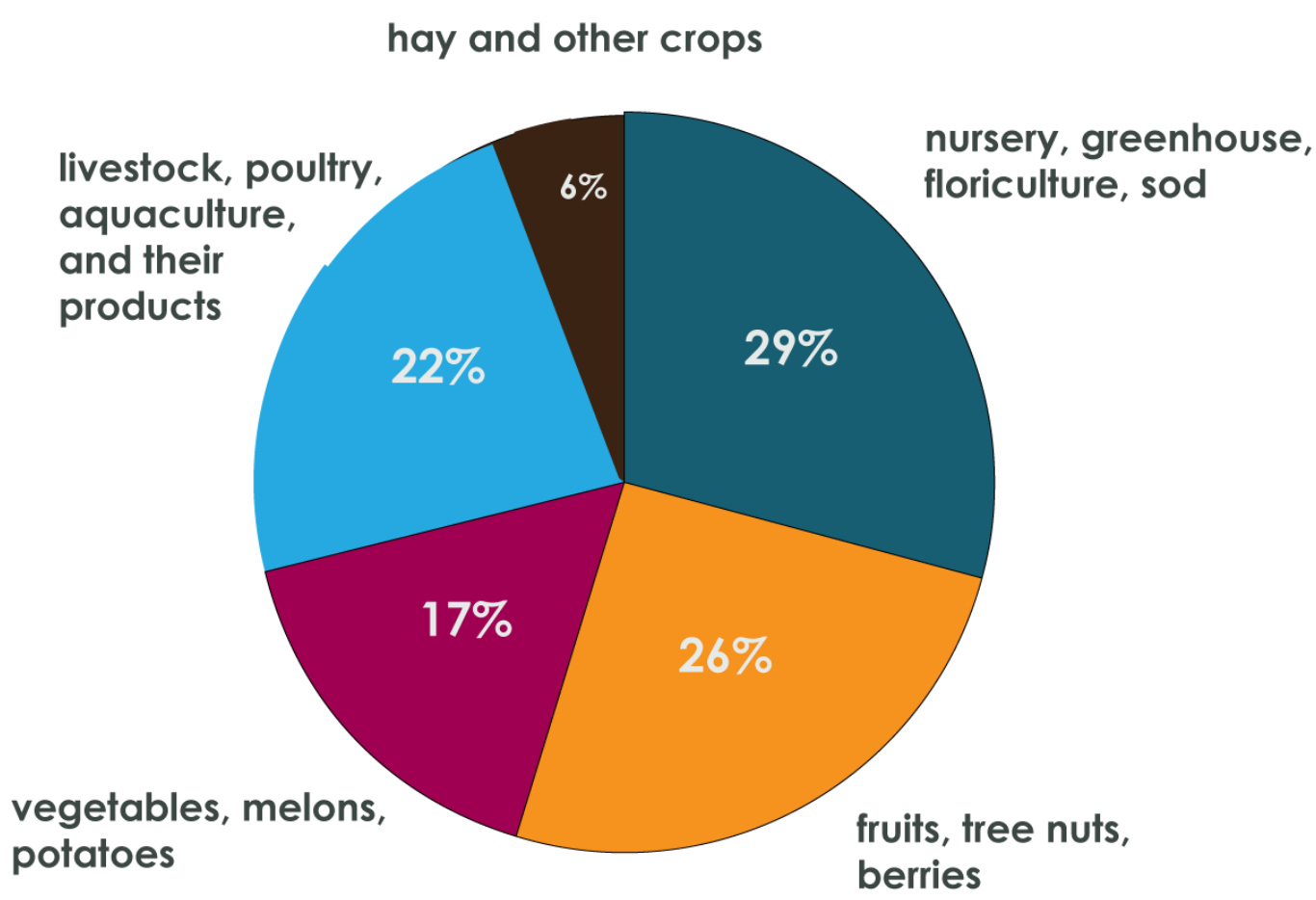


SIZE AND PRODUCTION VALUE

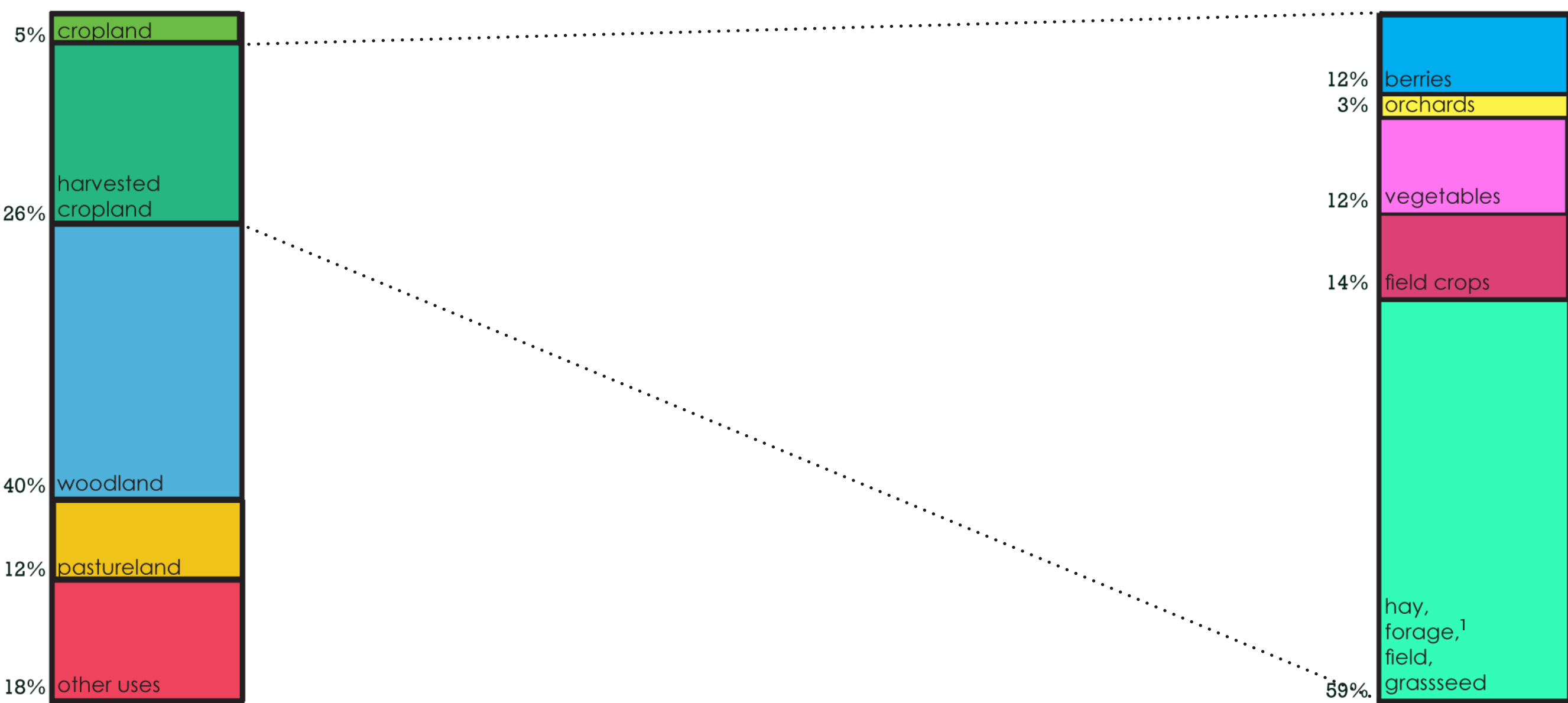


AGRICULTURE MARKET VALUE

Massachusetts agricultural products brought in **\$492,211,000 in market value 2012**. 78% of the total market value was crops, and 22% was livestock. Non-edible nurseries and greenhouses contributed the most to crop sales, and milk and aquaculture contributed most to livestock sales. Food for **human consumption made up 65% of total market value**.



FARMLAND BY USE



HARVESTED CROPS

FARM OPERATORS

The average farm operator in Massachusetts is **56, white, and male**. That being said, Massachusetts operators include a **greater share of women and a relatively high share of beginning farmers** compared to U.S.



Data source for all statistics:
U.S. Census of Agriculture 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012

Notes:
1. Forage crops are eaten by animals raised for food production.

MASSACHUSETTS FOOD SYSTEM PLAN