

HISTORY AND CHANGES IN PRODUCTION AND PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE OLD PEANUT BELT IN NORTH CAROLINA

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Northampton and Halifax counties



Demographics



- ▣ Total acres 343,409
- ▣ Number of farms 319
- ▣ Total land in farms 162,758 acres
- ▣ Average farm size 510 acres
- ▣ Harvested cropland 104,567 acres

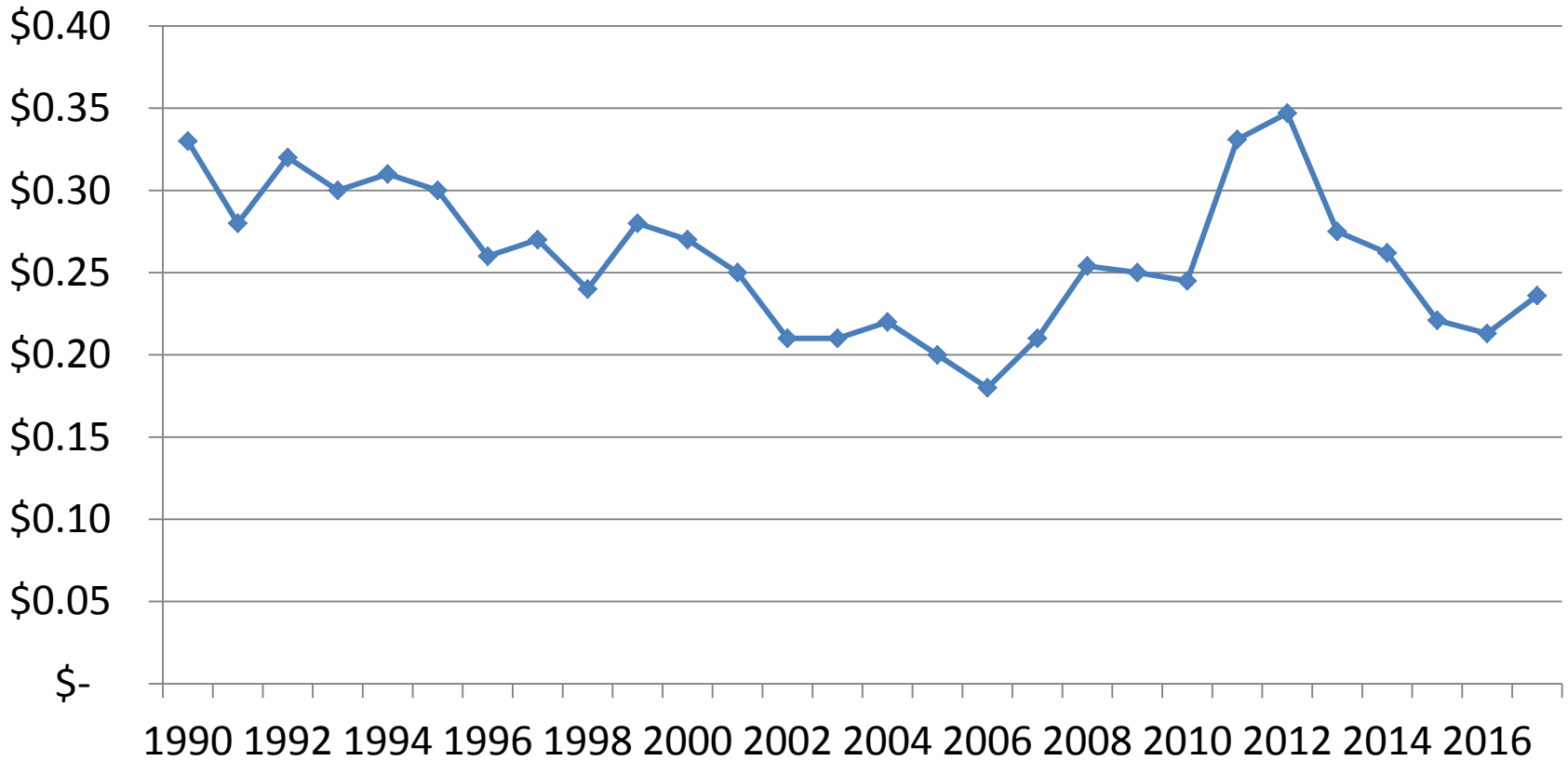
Demographics

- ▣ Total acres 463,414
- ▣ Number of farms 341
- ▣ Total land in farms 195,896 acres
- ▣ Average farm size 574 acres
- ▣ Harvested cropland 113,130 acre



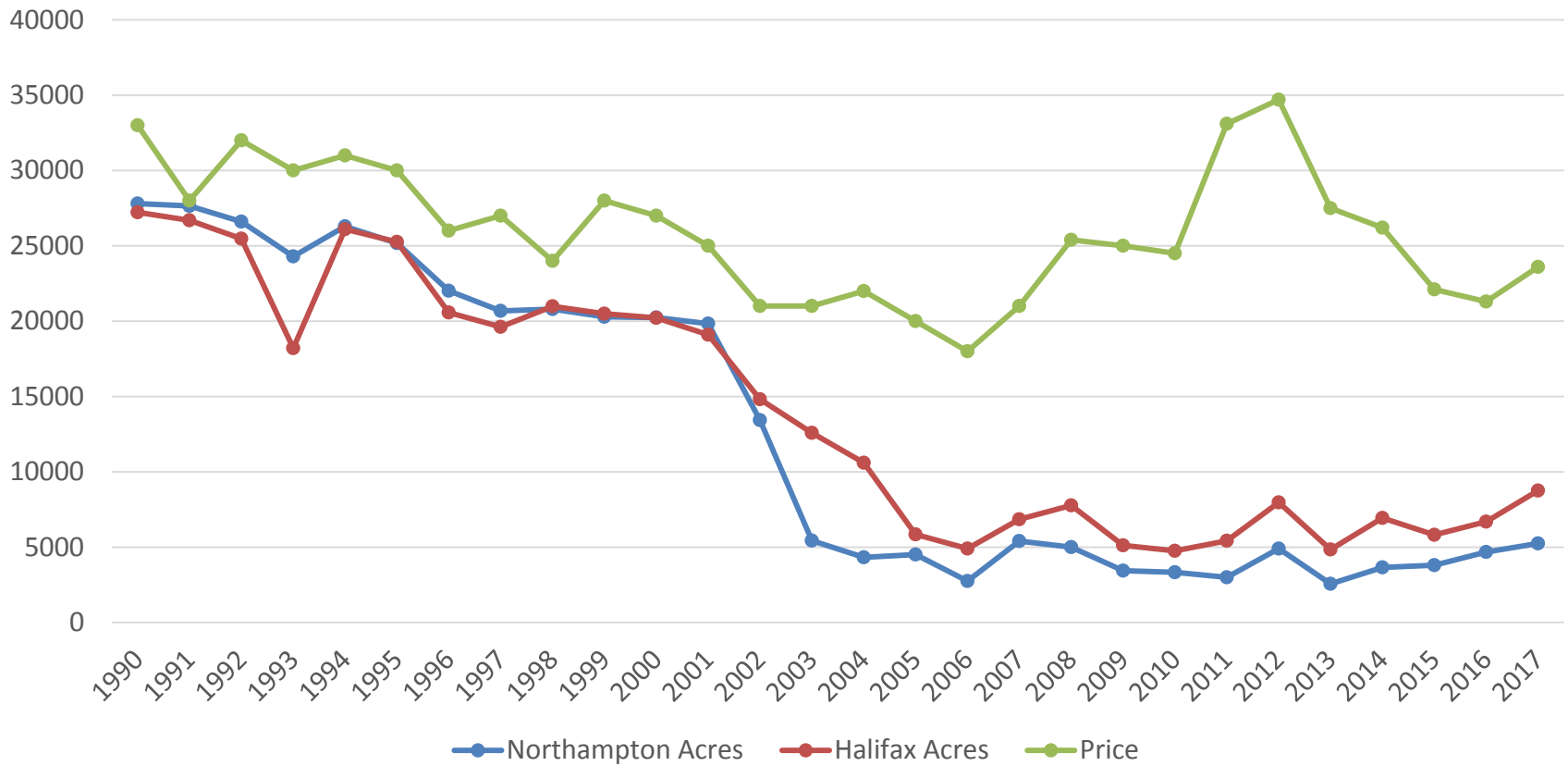
Northhampton peanut price

\$ per pound



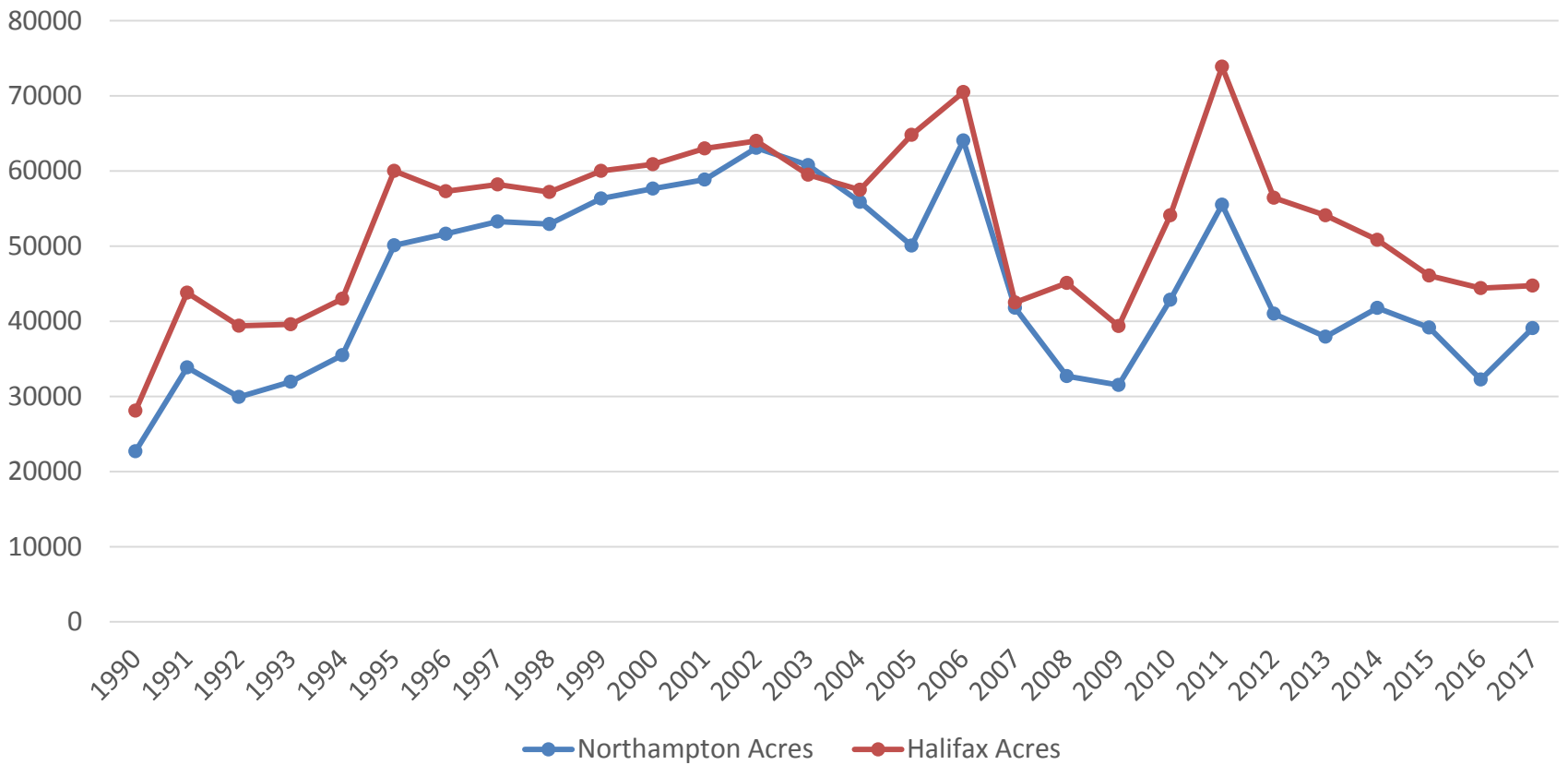
Halifax/Northampton Peanut Acres

Peanut Acres with Average Peanut Price 1990 - 2017



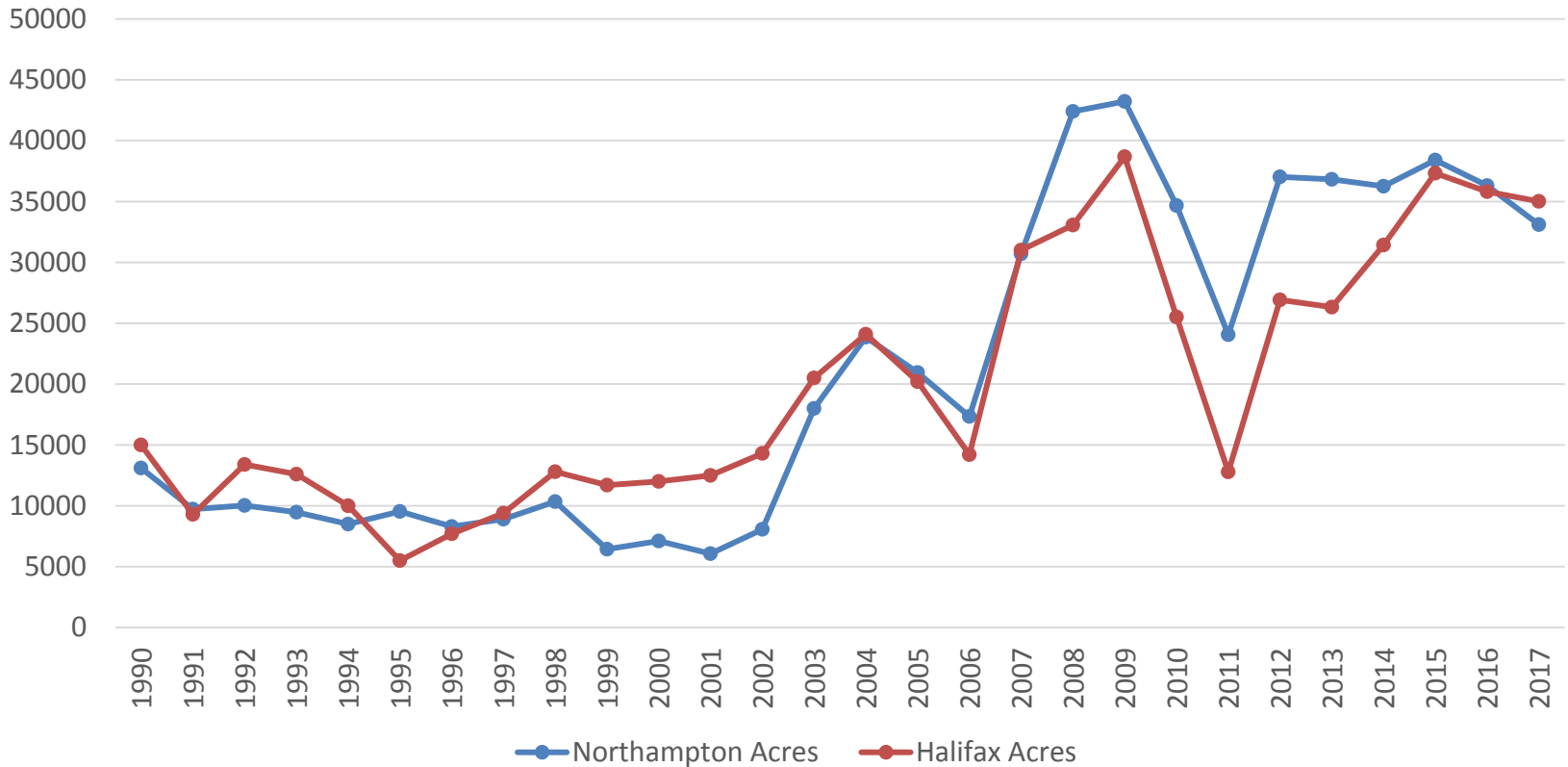
Halifax/Northampton Cotton Acres


Cotton Acres 1990 - 2018



Halifax/Northampton Soybean Acres

Soybean Acres 1990 - 2018



A photograph showing two green tractors pulling white harvesters in a field. The tractors are moving from left to right, and the harvesters are collecting crops. The field is filled with golden-brown crops, likely cotton or soybeans. The background is a dense line of green trees under a clear sky.

Quota buyout

Peanut acres shift to cotton and soybeans
Landowners fear rent would go down,
competition keeps this from happening?

Change in the Infrastructure

The shelling industry consolidates
Severn Peanut becomes the main player in the in-shell market
Local buying points start to close down
Grower have new contract options here recently






Quota buyout:

Some growers sold equipment to growers in the new peanut growing area. To others it was a form of culture shock...equipment getting too old anyway.

Remaining growers: Thought they could make a profit with some cultural changes.

Cultural changes

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- More dependent on disease advisories
 - Willing to tolerate more worm pressure
 - Minimal land prep (turbo till in wheat cover during the fall)
 - No treatment for rootworm
 - New Varieties/ good disease resistance
 - Less labor
 - Less fuel use
 - Longer rotation
 - No fumigation

Agent's Role



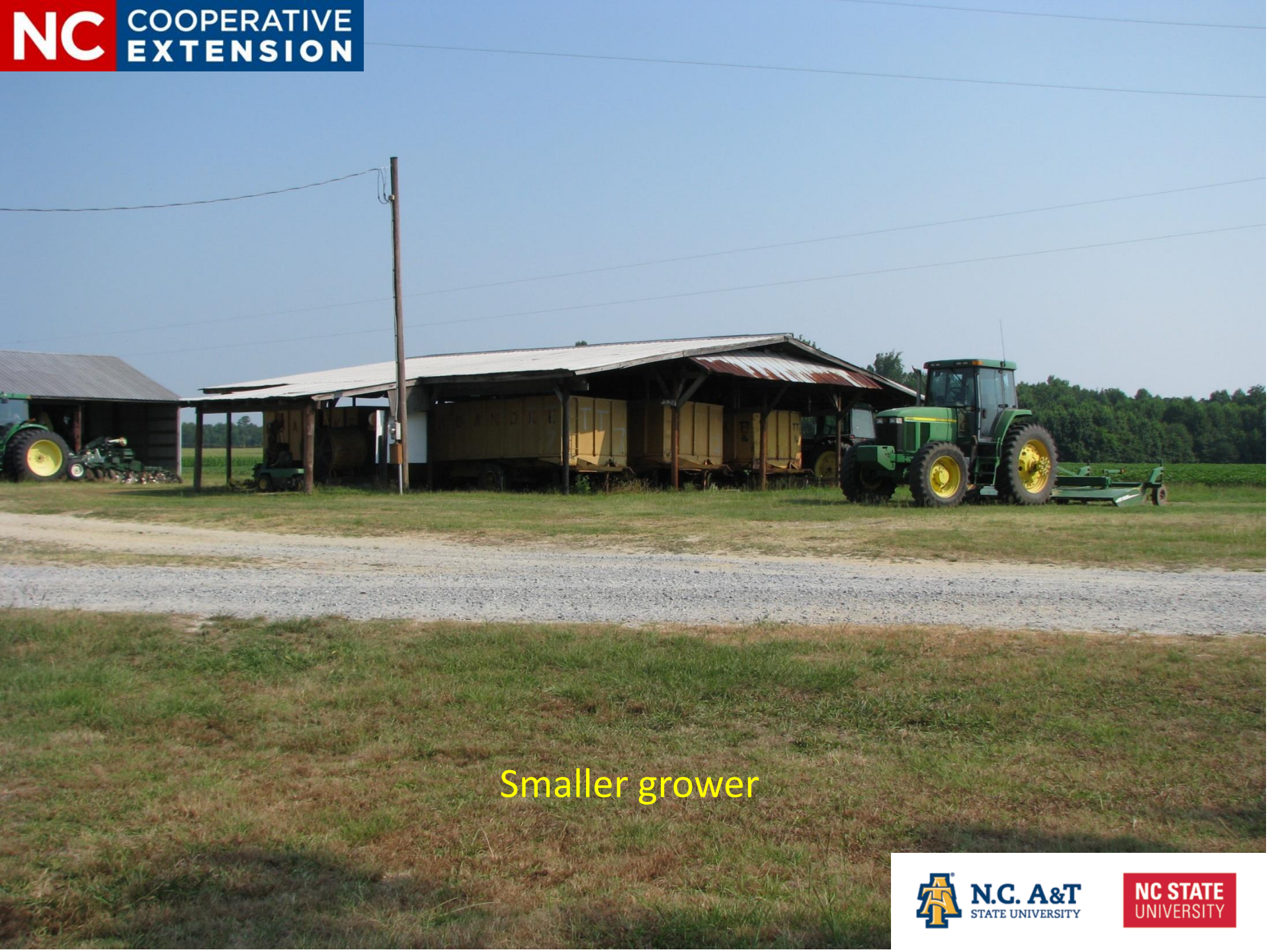
Advisories
Discussion groups
Scouting schools
On -farm test
Pod blasting
Trouble shooting
Production Meetings
Lend an ear

Large Growers









Smaller grower



