

Farmer Friendly?

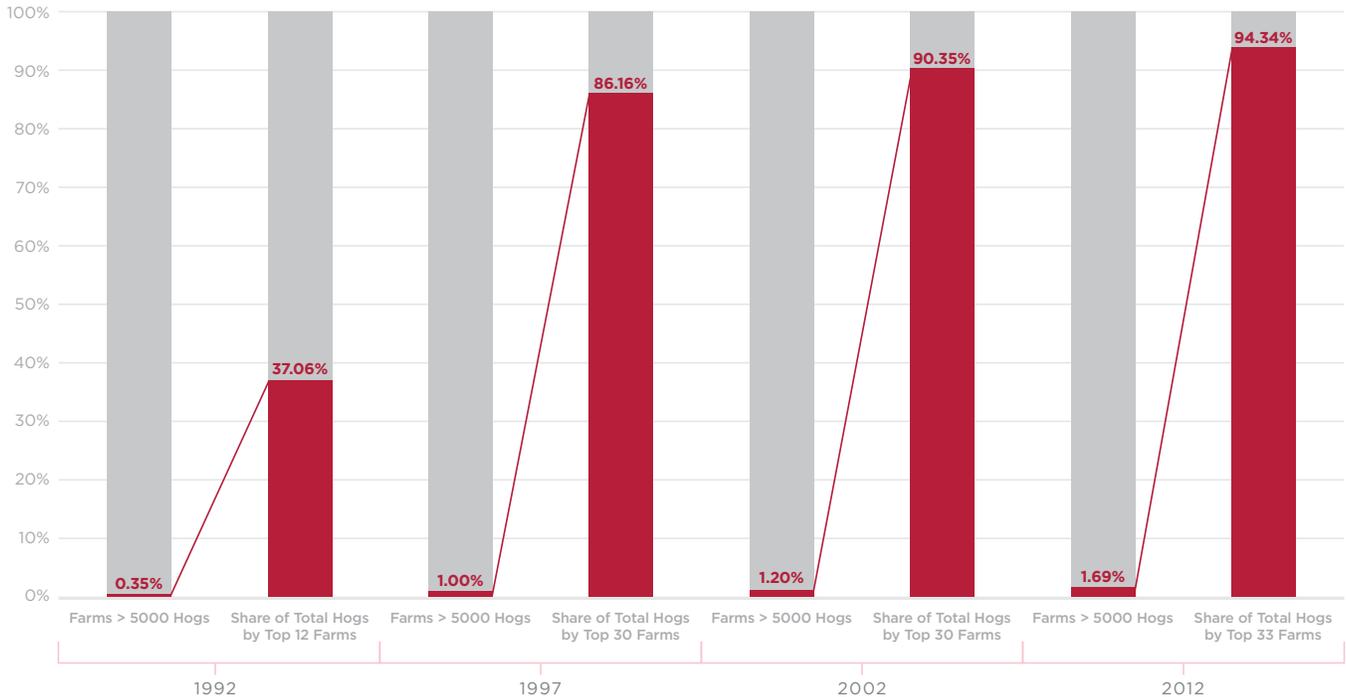
In Oklahoma's original 1907 Constitution, corporations were forbidden from owning land outside of cities, towns, or suburbs. There were exceptions, to be sure—but the people who wrote Oklahoma's constitution were keenly aware of the dangers posed by corporate ownership of land, especially agricultural land.

Over time, these concerns relaxed, and the state developed a robust system of prohibitions and exemptions for corporate

ownership of agricultural land. Perhaps the most consequential of these developments occurred in 1991, when the Legislature amended the agricultural laws, in large part to permit hog-farming corporations to operate within the state.

Here's what happened in Oklahoma's hog-farming industry after these changes went into effect.

The Oklahoma Hog Market From 1992-2012



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Source: USDA Census of Agriculture



The Oklahoma Hog Market From 1992-2012

1992

In 1992, there were only 12 farms in Oklahoma, out of 3,415, with a herd size of more than 5,000 hogs. Those 12 farms produced 96,599 of the 260,682 hogs in the state.

37% PRODUCED BY .35% OF THE FARMS

1997

In 1997, there were 30 farms in Oklahoma, out of 3,002, with a herd size of more than 5,000 hogs. Those 30 farms owned 1,455,927 of the 1,689,700 hogs in the state.

86% PRODUCED BY 1% OF THE FARMS.

FROM 1992 TO 1997, THE NUMBER OF FARMS SHRUNK BY 12%.

2002

In 2002, there were again 30 farms in Oklahoma, out of 2,491, with a herd size of more than 5,000 hogs. Those 30 farms produced 2,030,022 of the 2,246,926 hogs in the state.

90% OF THE HOGS PRODUCED BY 1.20% OF THE FARMS.

FROM 1997 TO 2002, THE NUMBER OF FARMS SHRUNK BY 17%.

2012

In 2012, there were 33 farms in Oklahoma, out of 1,947, with a herd size of more than 5,000 hogs. Those 33 farms produced 2,174,309 of the 2,304,749 hogs in the state.

94% OF THE HOGS PRODUCED BY 1.69% OF THE FARMS.

FROM 2002 TO 2012, THE NUMBER OF FARMS SHRUNK BY 22% -
AND FROM 1992 TO 2012, THE NUMBER OF HOG FARMS
IN OKLAHOMA SHRUNK BY 43%.