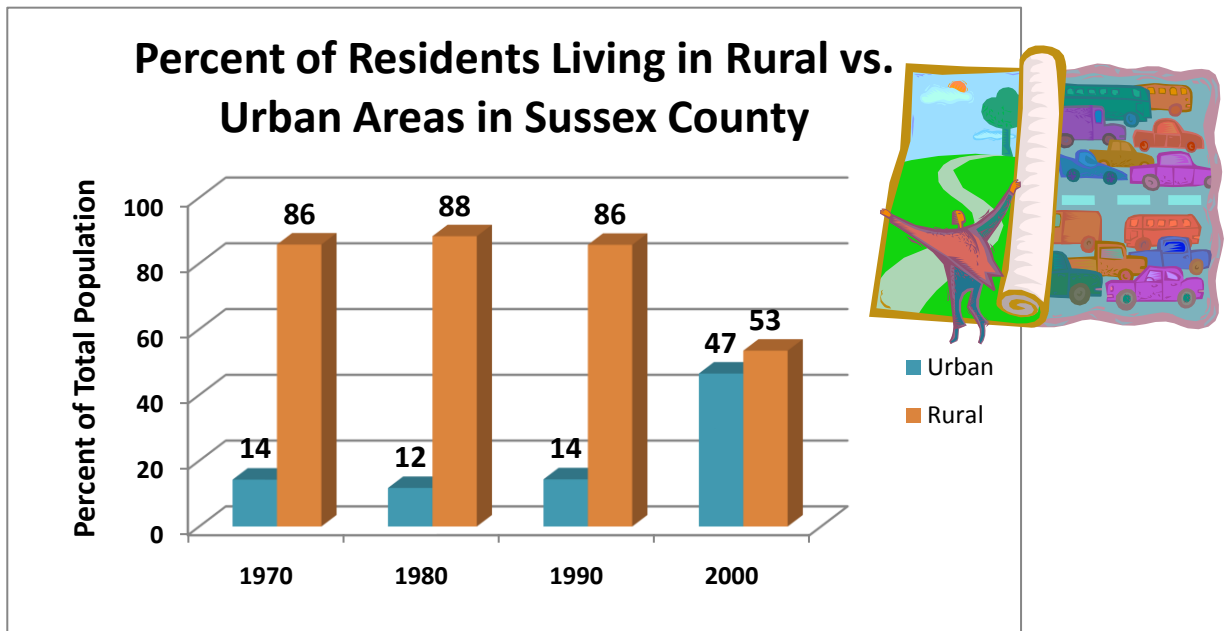


# The communities of Sussex County are changing.

Our communities are transitioning from agricultural into more “urban” and residential areas.



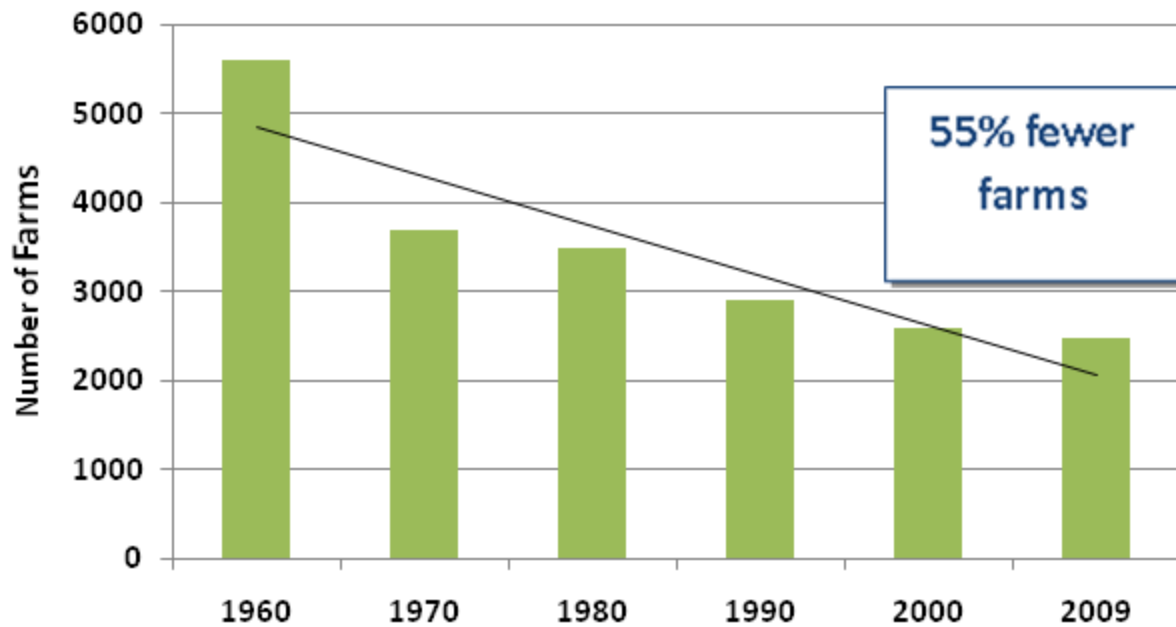
Data source: *Spatial Trends in Socioeconomics: Time Series Demographic Statistics 1970-2000*, NOAA’s Ocean Service, Special Projects.

- In 1970, 86% of residents lived in “rural” areas. In 2000, 53% of residents lived in “urban areas”.
- In 1970, 8% of rural residents lived on farms. In 2000, only 3% of rural residents lived on farms.
- This shift is likely due to changes in land use in recent decades. Rising land value has led many farmers to sell large tracts of land to developers, shifting zoning from agricultural use to mixed-use or high density developments.
- Countywide, over 10,000 acres of farmland were converted to residential use from 1992-1997 (Delaware Office of State Planning and Coordination).
- Between 2000 and 2009, Delaware lost 14% of its farmland acres (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service).

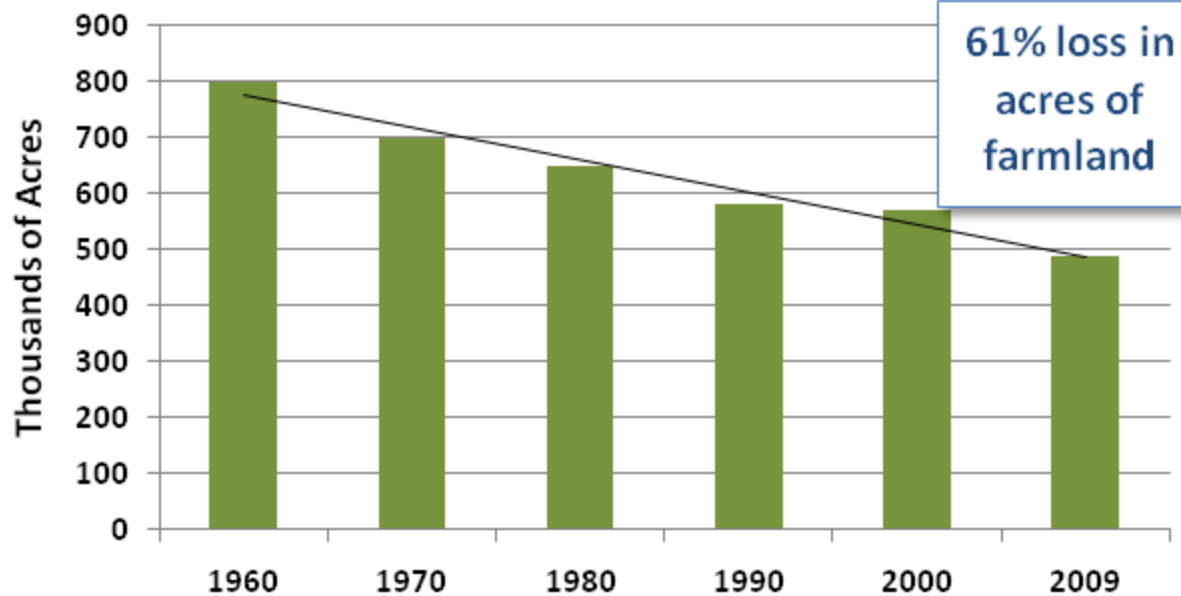


*\*The U.S. Census Bureau defines “urban” as all territory, population, and housing units located within an urbanized area (UA) or urban cluster (UC). These areas encompass densely settled territory, which consists of core census block groups or blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding census blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile.*

## Number of Farms in Delaware



## Land Held in Delaware Farms



Data source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (1960-2010).