Agriculture's Role in the Lee County DR/GR

Presentation to the

Southeast Lee County DR/GR Committee

Ft. Myers, Florida

April 9, 2008

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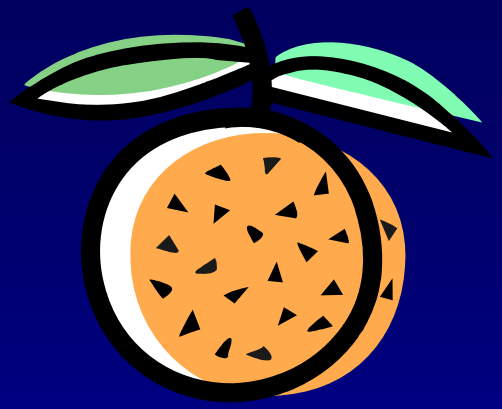
University of Florida – IFAS

Southwest REC



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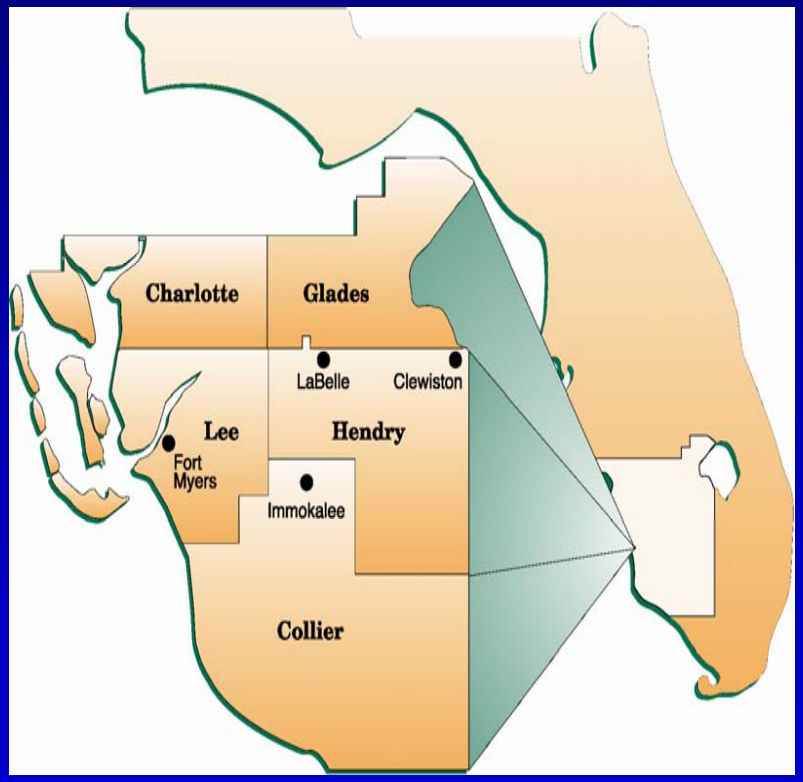
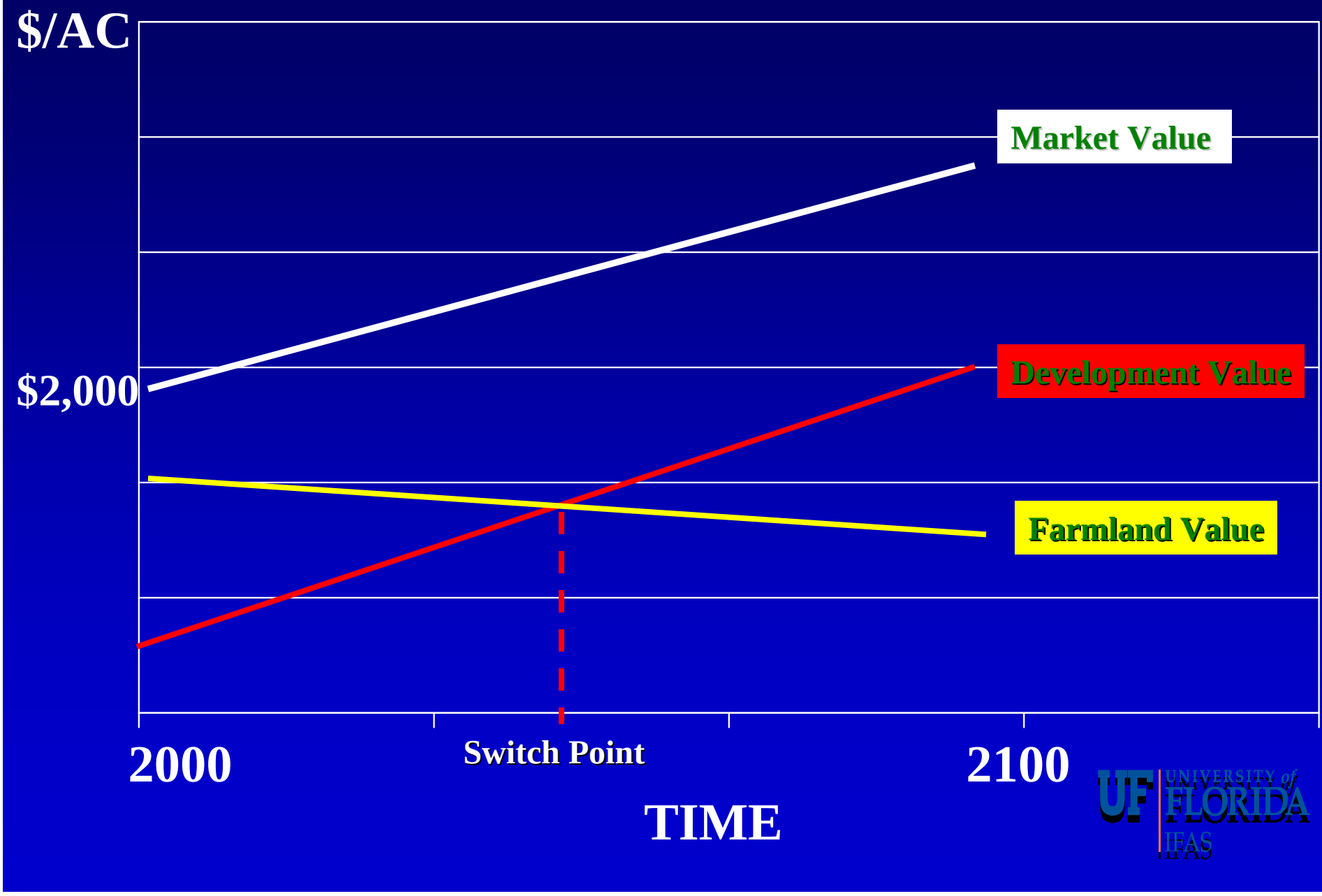


3 Challenges

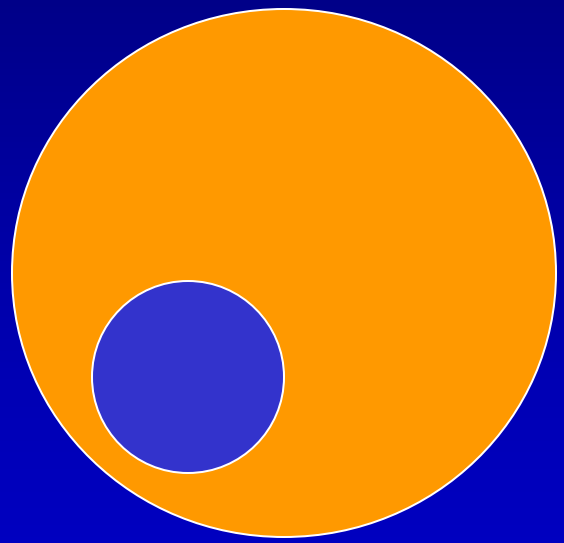
- Economics of commodity markets
- Development pressure on land prices
- Regulations

General Time Trend of Land Values



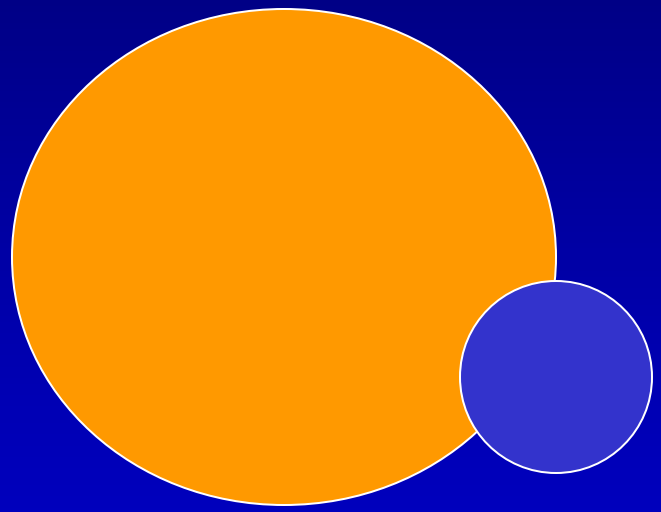
Regulations:
Facilitating Commerce

- **Trade & Commerce**
  - **Legal contracts**
  - **Grades & standards**



Regulations:
Protecting the Public Interests

- Min Wage
- Environment
  - Water use permits
  - ESA



Lemonade from Lemons

"Farming" Environmental Services

- Wildlife habitat / Open Space
- Urban waste recycling
- Water quality
- Water storage
- Carbon sequestration

Question?

How do we measure values for "non-market" goods?

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Measures of Economic Gain
Northeast Florida Study

- **Kiker and Hodges (2004)**
- **4 county area (3,115 sq.mi)**
- **Ag & Forestry: $400 million**
- **Recreation: $530 million**
- **Value of natural ecosystems:**

$1.5 Billion

Willingness-to-Pay
Silvopasture Study

- **Shrestha & Alavalapati (2004).**
- **Case study in the Lake Okeechobee region**
- **Silvopasture – WQ, carb seq, habitat**
- **Household survey (152) south-central FL**
- **Results: Avg household WTP**

$30 – 70/year for 5 years

Actual Public Expenditure
Panther Habitat Study

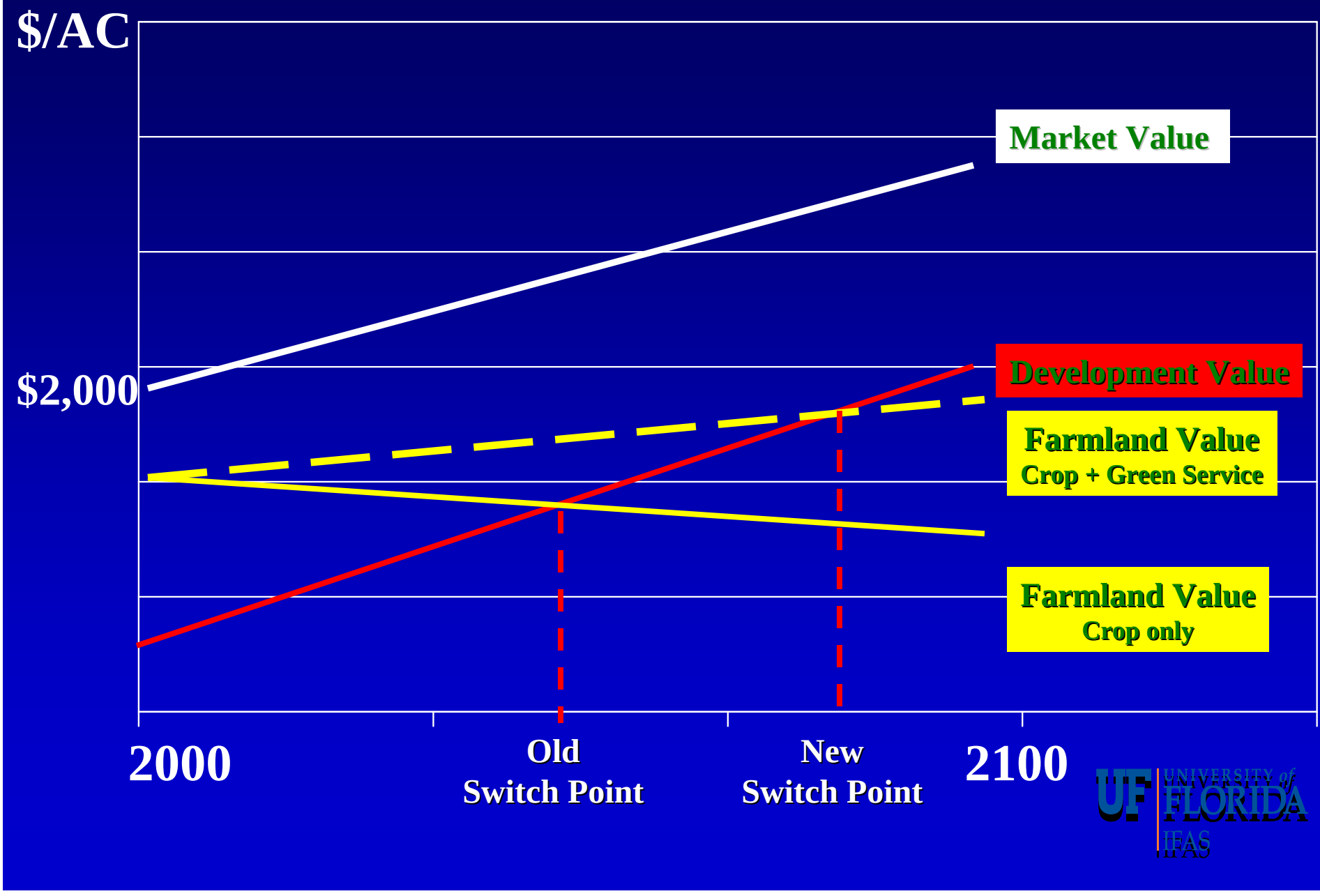
- **Main & Roka (1998)**
- **4 public tracts in SWFla**
- **Land acquisition and annual maintenance**
- **Results:**

$30/acre-year

Creating New Revenue Streams, NOT Subsidies

- Public – Private partnerships
- Conservation easements / TDRs
  - Buying the house
- Eco-service payments
  - Annual maintenance of the house

Revised Time Trend of Land Values



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Outline for further work

- Economic valuation studies
- Quantifying ecological benefits
- Political consensus
  - Aligning Environmental with Agricultural interests
  - Creating viable revenue streams