

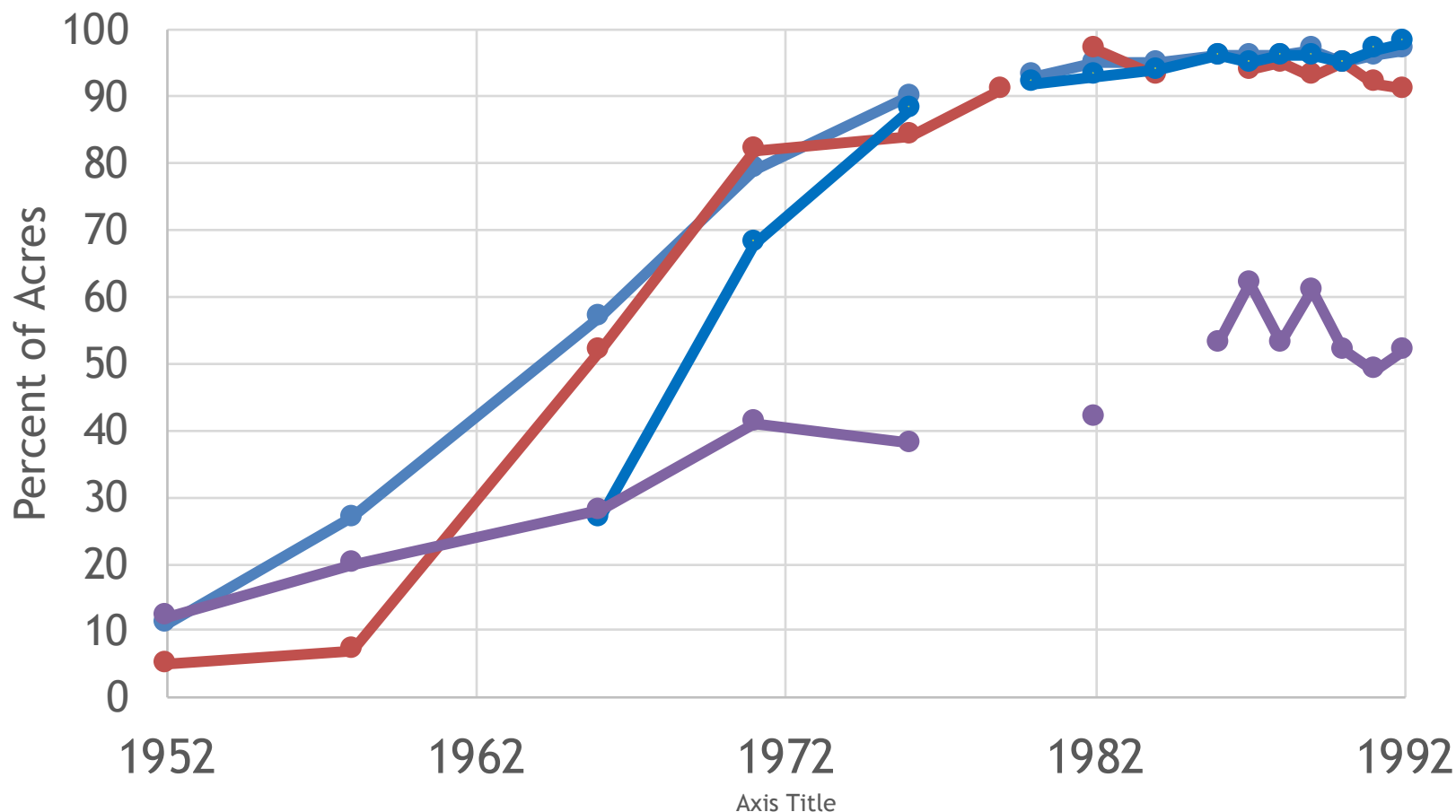
CHEMICAL SCIENCES ROUNDTABLE

The Future of Sustainable Agrochemistry Webinar Presentation

**George Frisvold
University of Arizona**

November 12, 2020

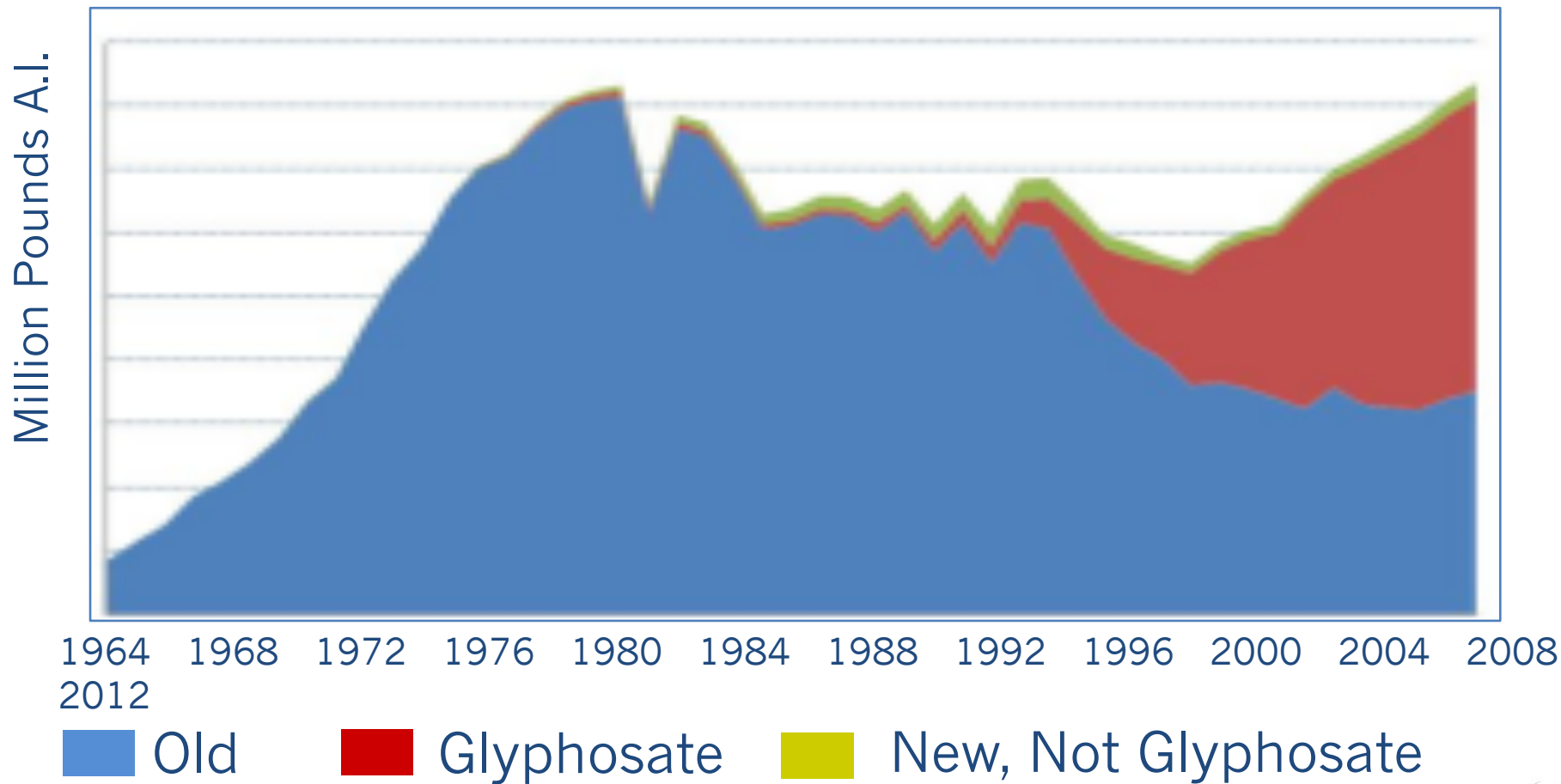
Acres treated with herbicides (Major US Crops)



—●— Corn —●— Cotton —●— Soybeans —●— Wheat

Source: Osteen & Fernandez-Cornejo,
Pest Management Science (2013)

Herbicides on 4 Major Crops



Sustainability Issues

- Complementarity between HT crops, agricultural chemicals, & conservation tillage
- Evolution of herbicide resistance in weed species



Complementarity of HT seeds with Conservation Tillage

Perry, E. D., Moschini, G., & Hennessy, D. A. 2016. Testing for complementarity: Glyphosate tolerant soybeans & conservation tillage. *Am J Ag Econ* 98, 765-784.

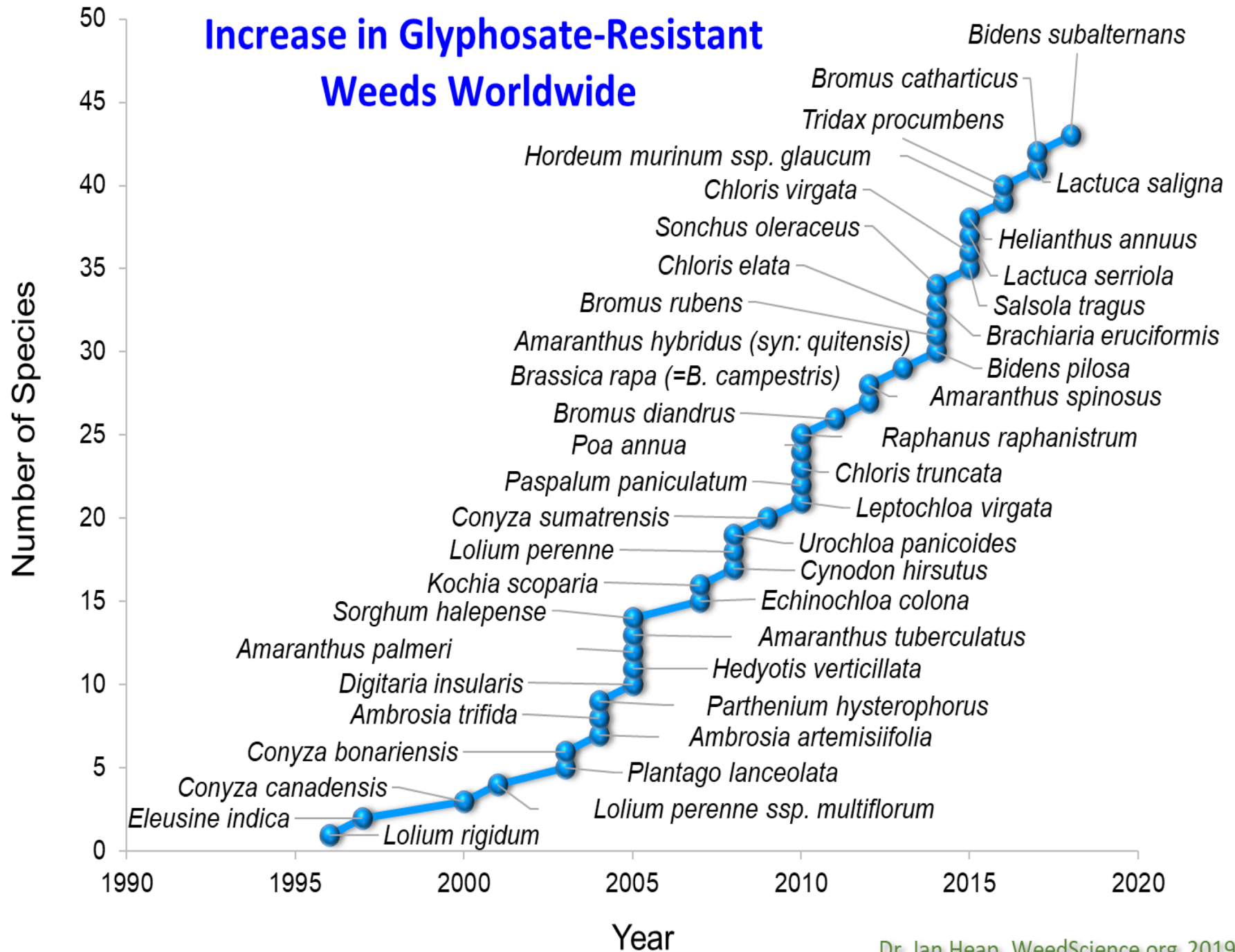
Roberts, R. English, B. C. Q. Gao, Q. & J Larson, J. 2006. Simultaneous Adoption of Herbicide-Resistant and Conservation Tillage Cotton Technologies. *J Ag & App Econ* 38, 629-43

Frisvold, G., A. Boor, A. & J. Reeves, J. 2009. Simultaneous Diffusion of Herbicide Resistant Cotton & Conservation Tillage. *AgBioForum* 12, 249-57

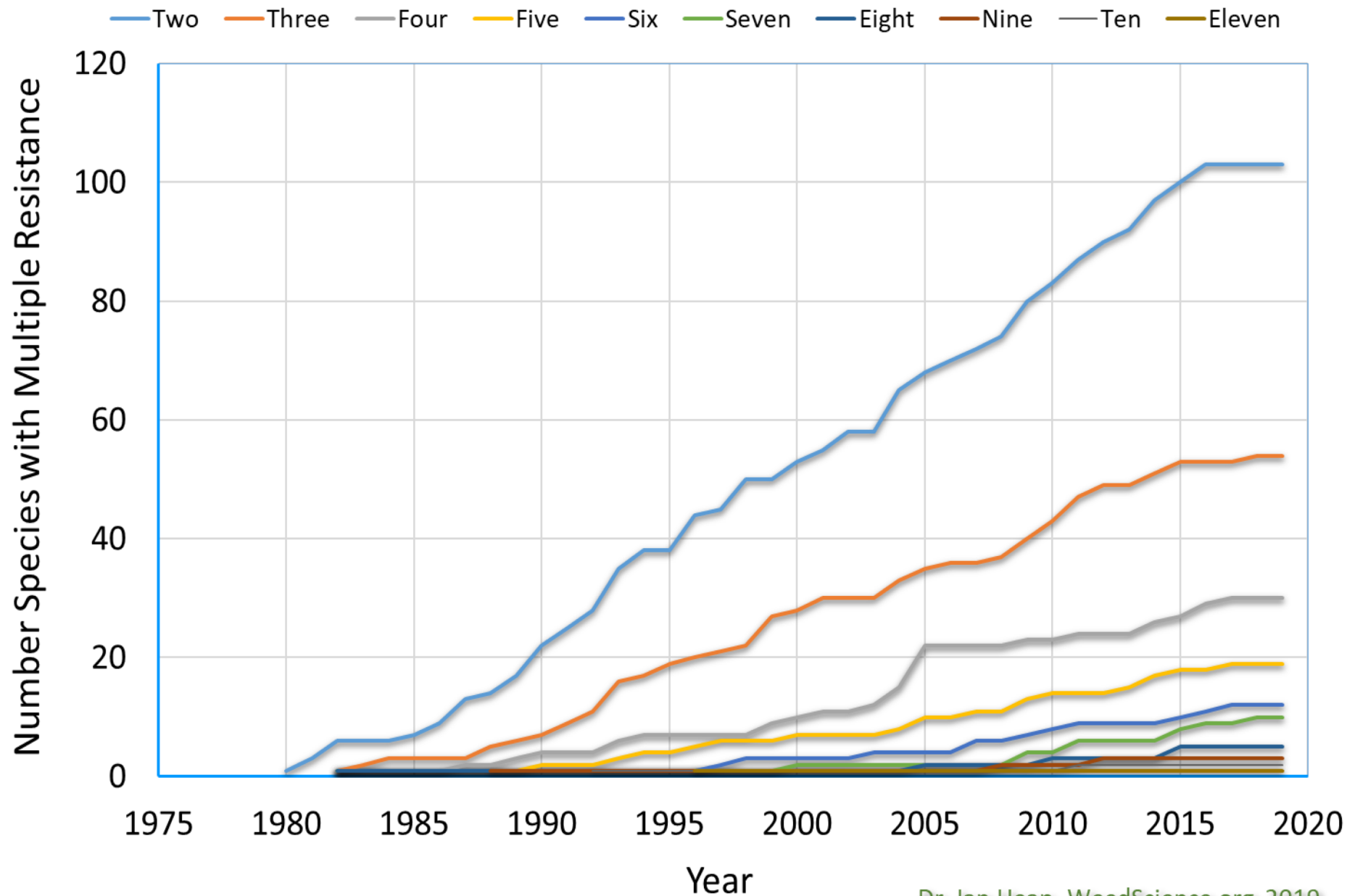
Fernandez-Cornejo, J., Klotz-Ingram, C. & S. Jans, S. 2002. Farm-level Effects of Adopting Herbicide-Tolerant Soybeans in the USA. *J Ag & App Econ* 34, 149-64



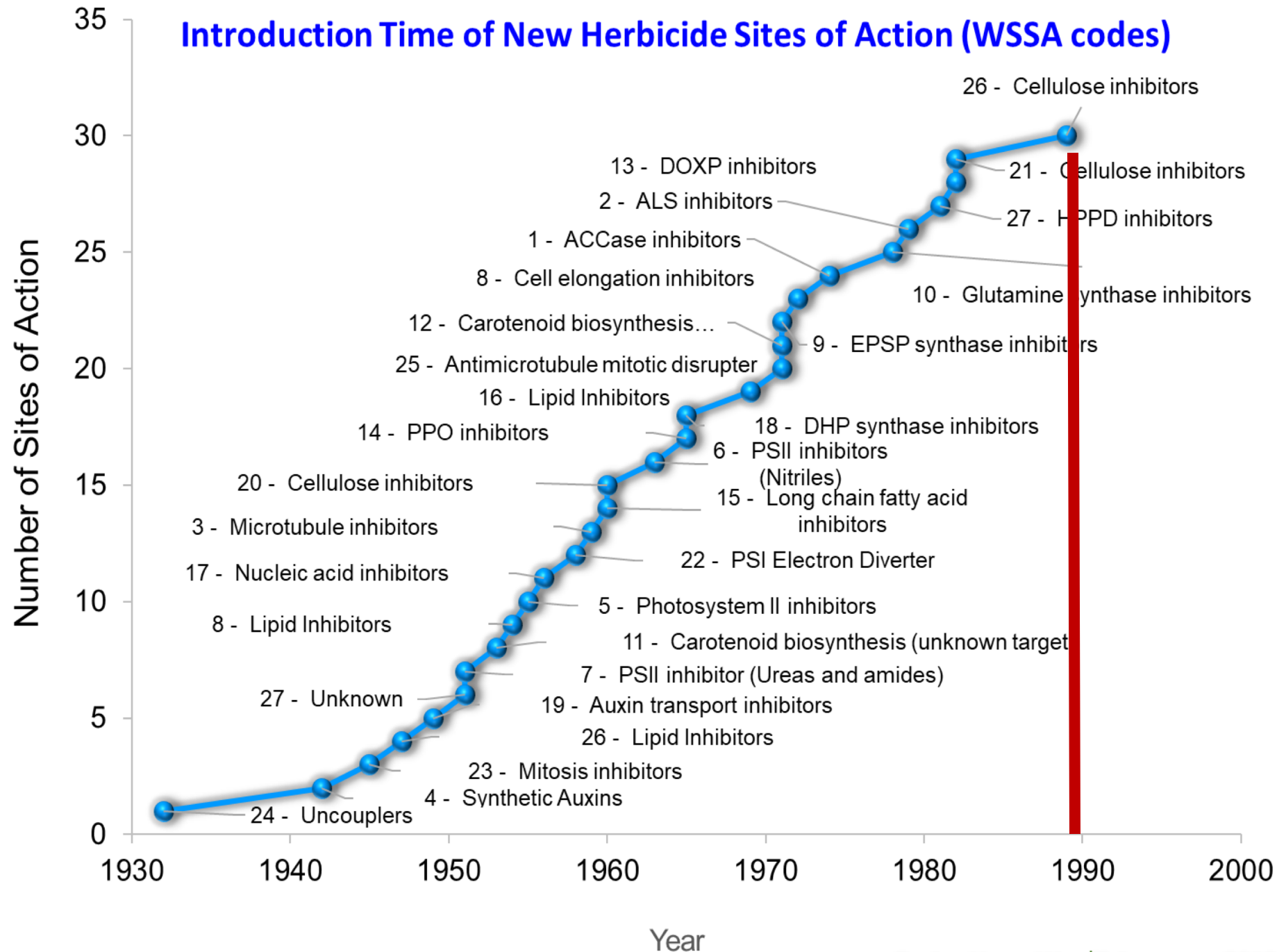
Increase in Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds Worldwide

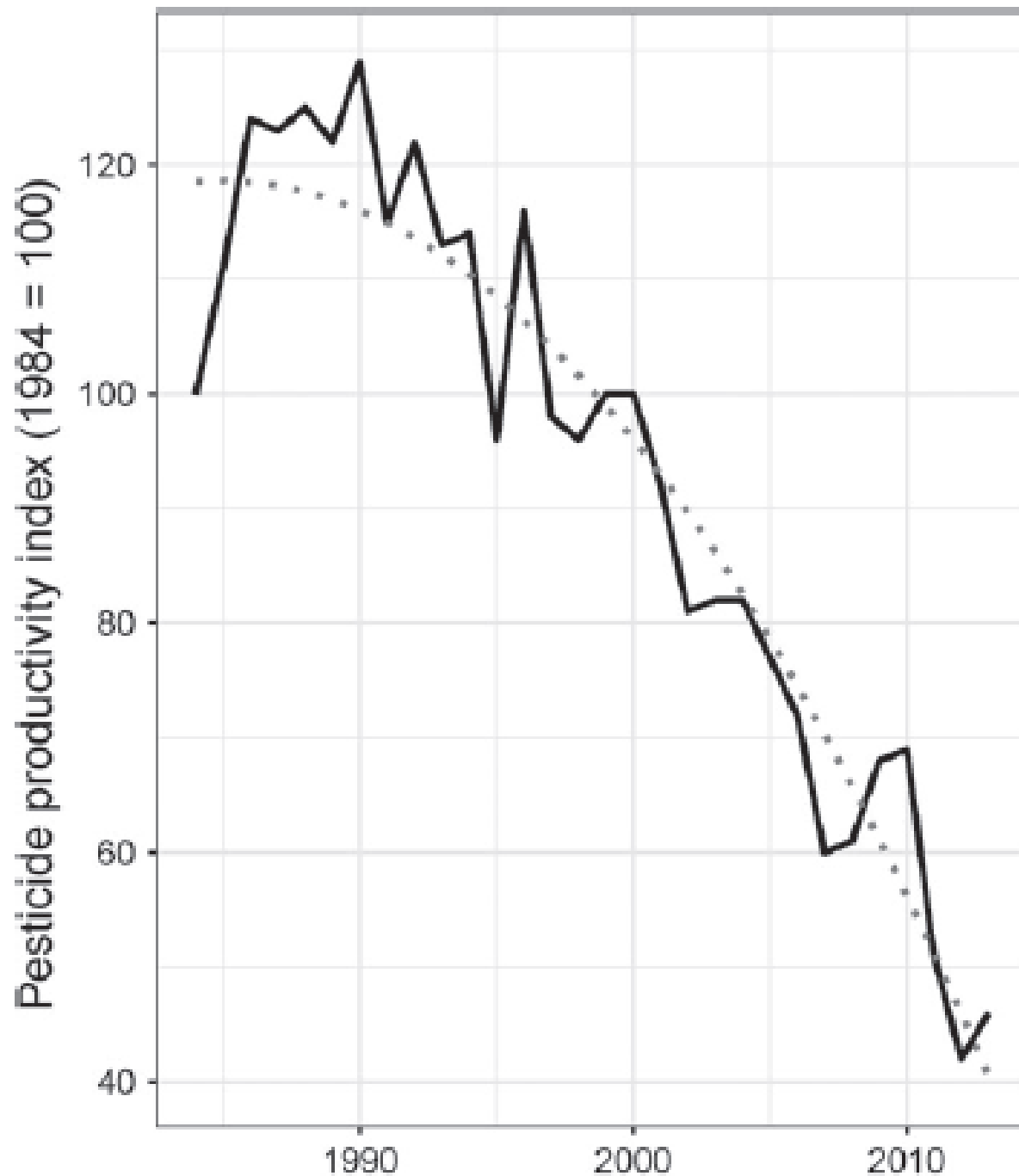


Weed Species with Resistance to More than One Site of Action



Introduction Time of New Herbicide Sites of Action (WSSA codes)





Crop output per unit of quality adjusted pesticide input has been declining

Source: Davis & Frisvold, *Pest Management Science* (2017); USDA, ERS

Efficacy of agricultural chemicals is an “exhaustible resource”

- Cycles of depletion and discovery (not unlike minerals or petroleum)
- Resistance management as a common pool resource management problem
- Resistance management as a “weakest-link public good”



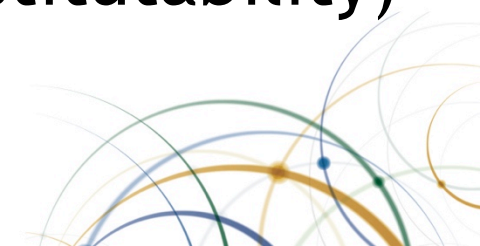
Farmer Adoption of Resistance Management Practices

- Good news: Most farmers are adopting most practices most of the time
- Bad news: This appears to be insufficient to delay resistance in many cases
- Key question: What are critical adoption thresholds?
 - Is issue a traditional extension problem, or ...
 - More akin to a pest or disease eradication problem?
 - When is private action sufficient; when is collective action necessary?



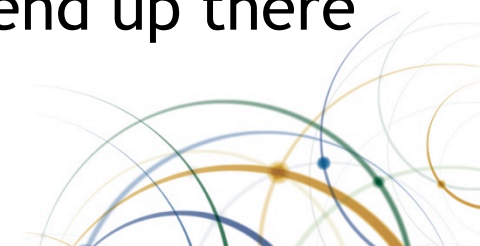
Moving Forward (Sustainably)

- Diversity is key
 - Diversity in herbicide strategies
 - Diversity of tactics overall (combining chemical & non-chemical tactics)
- Non-chemical innovations (infotech, precision ag, a.i., drones, robotics)
 - More precise, effective chemical applications (complementarity)
 - Improved non-chemical control (substitutability)



Emerging Business Models

- Selling pest management services vs. agricultural chemicals *per se*
- Ag chemical use will become more information- & skill-intensive
- Greater consumer & food processor attention to how crops are grown
- Medical analogy
 - Going to pharmacist vs. general practitioner
 - You don't start with pharmacist, but you may end up there



Thank You

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