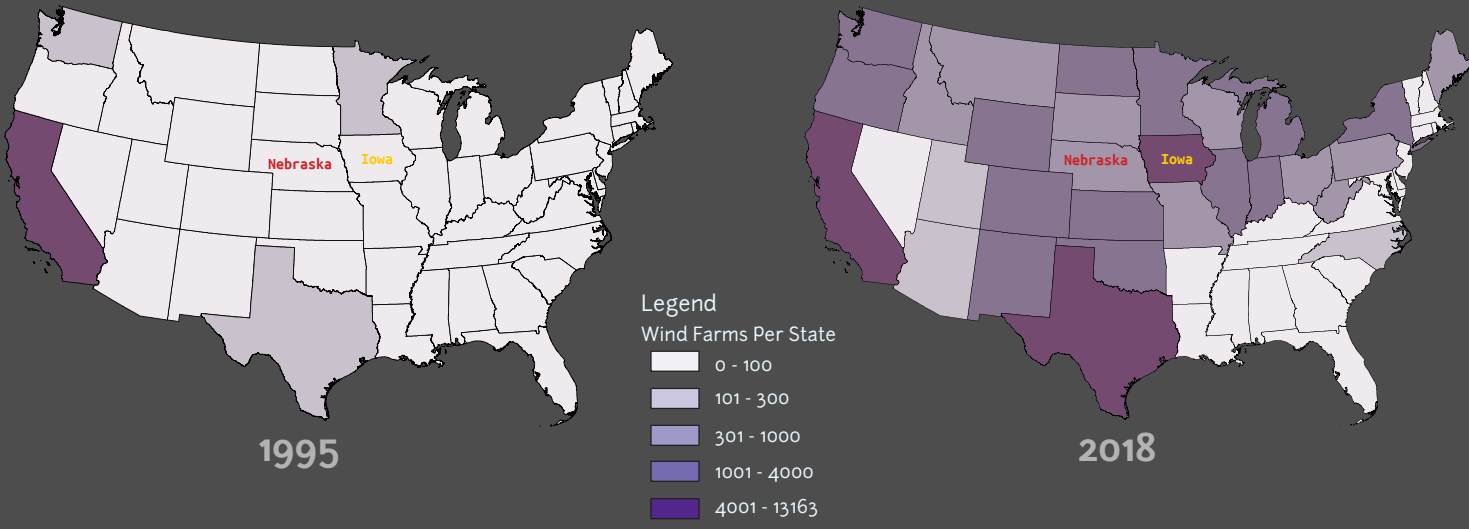


WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT: A BORDER PROBLEM?

ADAM MILLER: GEOGRAPHY 572

Using wind as an energy source has been growing in popularity across the world. Wind is considered a renewable resource, and is often thought of as an energy source that could help limit climate change.

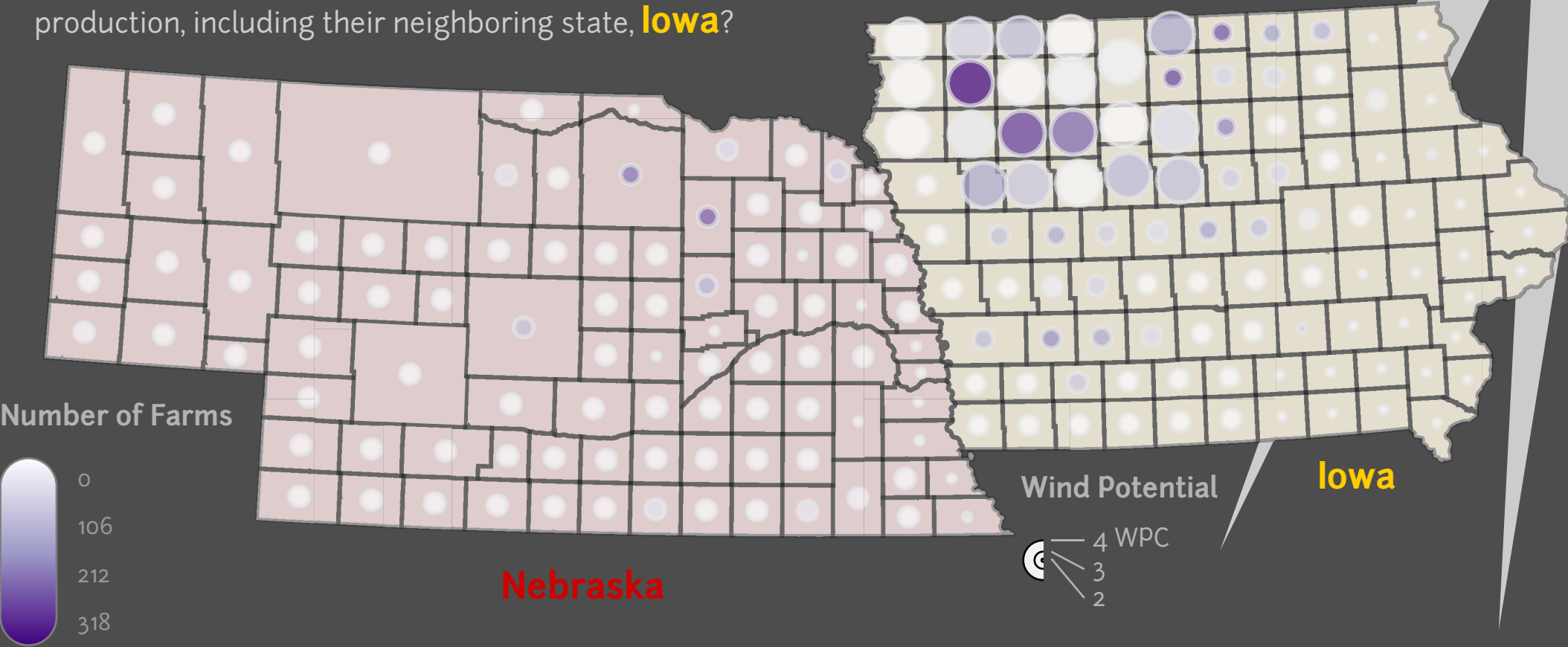
National Growth of Wind Farms



Across the United States, wind energy usage is increasing, however some states have more room for growth potential than others..

Potential Capacity	Generation
1	Texas
2	Kansas
3	Montana
4	Nebraska
5	South Dakota
6	North Dakota
7	Iowa
8	Wyoming
9	Oklahoma
10	Alaska
18	Nebraska

How can **Nebraska**, a state with so much potential capacity be trailing so many states in production, including their neighboring state, **Iowa**?



Iowa does have more counties with a wind potential (WPC) of 4, but even their counties with a WPC of 2 & 3 have more farms than their **Nebraska** counter-parts.

Unfortunately, like so many other issues, the likely culprit is.....

POLITICS...

Iowa

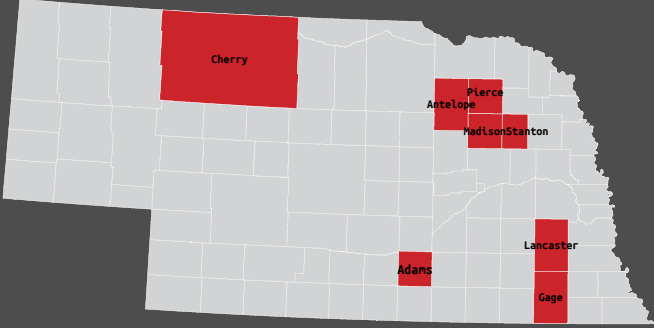
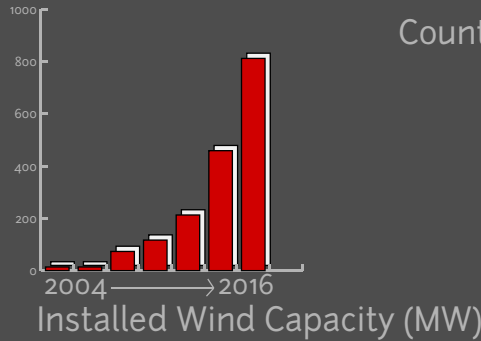
Created a law in 1983 encouraging wind farm development

Nebraska

Took until 2016 to remove detrimental laws for development
In the past 2 years, individual counties have implemented regulations, making development almost impossible

It's not all bad news for **Nebraska** though....

- 4 wind farms have been built in the last 2 years
- 4 others are under construction
- 17 more are proposed



To pick up the slack, individual companies have moved progress forward.

FACEBOOK

Buying from a a new wind farm with 101 turbines

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER

Building a new wind farm with 71 turbines
40% of portfolio will be from renewable energy

LINCOLN ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Led the way by building 2 turbines in 1998, and have bought energy from several wind farms

Small steps are being made to overcome rising opposition and increase wind power in **Nebraska**. However, other states, including **Iowa**, have a head start and also continue to grow.