
Female Farmers in California

— Hortencia Rodríguez —

Background

- 77,857 farms in CA
- Average size of farm: 328 acres
- 82% of farmers are male
- Average age of operator: 60.1 years



Policy Question



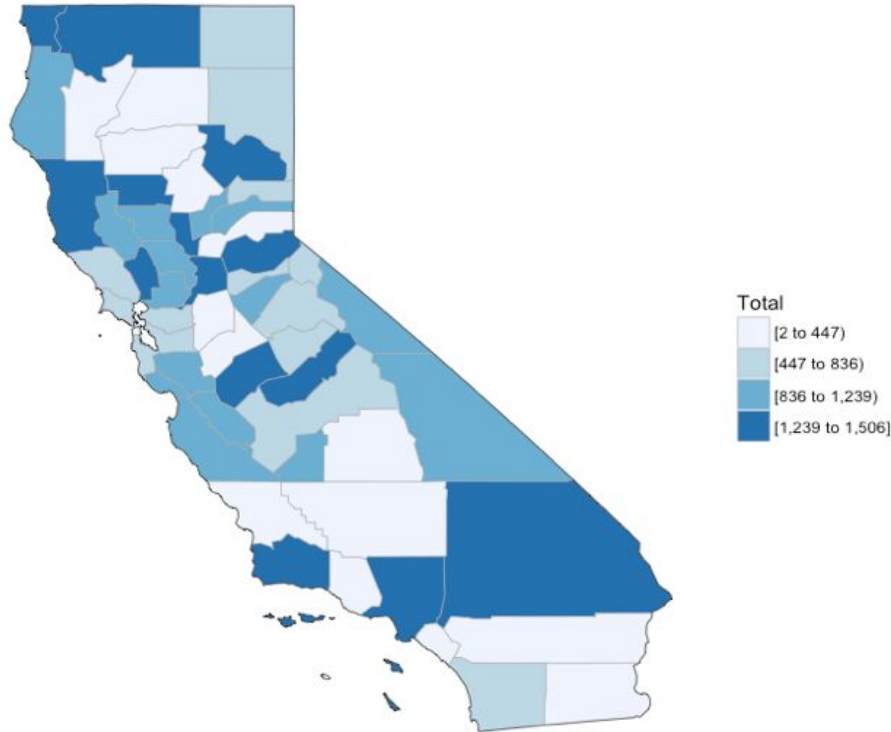
- Can we predict whether tenure status for female farmers will change?
 - If so by what parameters?
 - Crops
 - Soil type
 - Industry characteristic
- How can government geographically target policies that are specific for owners vs. renters?

Data

- Census of Agriculture
 - 2002
 - 2007
 - 2012
- National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA



Increase in Female Operators by County

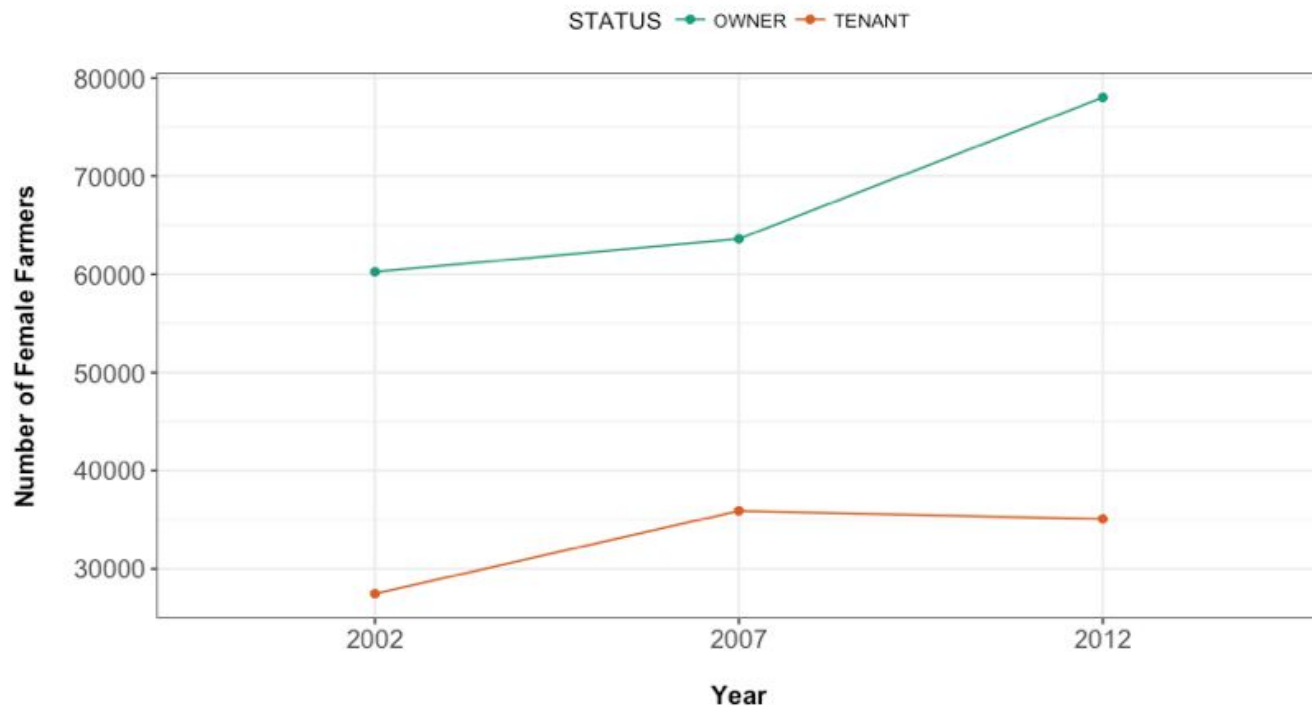


Crops by Acres in 2012



1	Orchards	3133004
2	Plums & Prunes	330057
3	Peaches	322058
4	Oranges	248310
5	Pears	240768
6	Pecans	103666
7	Tangerines	53448
9	Cherries	48717
9	Walnuts	39190
10	Grapes	38789

Female Farmer Tenure 2002-2012



Model

$$tenure\ status_i = \alpha + \beta Commodity_i + \gamma County_i + \delta Acres + \eta Operators + \varepsilon_i$$

Limitations

- Tenure data only in acres, not number of operators
- Number of female operators only available for some crops by county
- Personal identifiable information not included for some counties



Next Steps

- Run the model!
- Look at land use
 - Pastureland vs. cropland



Thank you