

# Foreign holdings of Michigan forests

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## Brief Introduction

- R: Decision making in agri-food systems
- T: Food and ag policy (G); Food Mktg (U)
- Outreach and media
- Policy Experience
  - US Congress
  - US China Econ & Security Review Comm.
  - Dept. of Justice; US GAO
  - Federal Reserve Banks
  - MI Senate MDARD, other local governments



The New York Times



## Outline

- Foreign holdings of ag land in the US
- Foreign holdings of ag land in Michigan
- Canadian holding of forest land in Michigan
- MI legislations + drivers of legislative actions
- Q&A



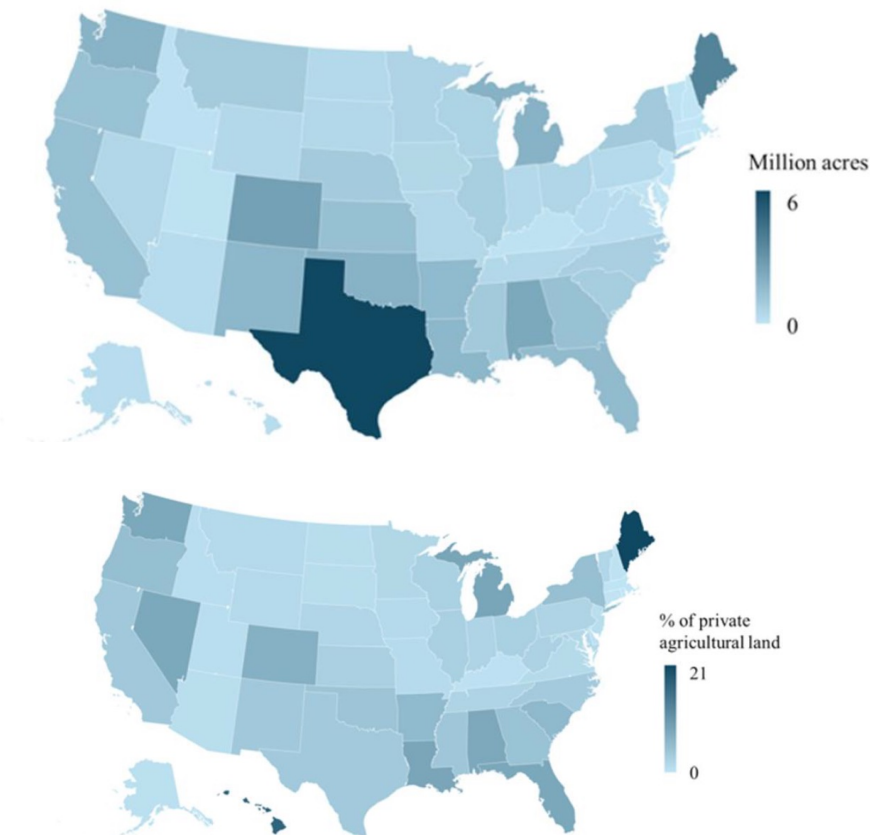
## Terminology

- The 1978 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (**AFIDA**) requires report of foreign holdings of agricultural land
  - Agricultural land: cropland, forestland, pastureland, and other ag land
  - Holdings: ownership + long-term leases

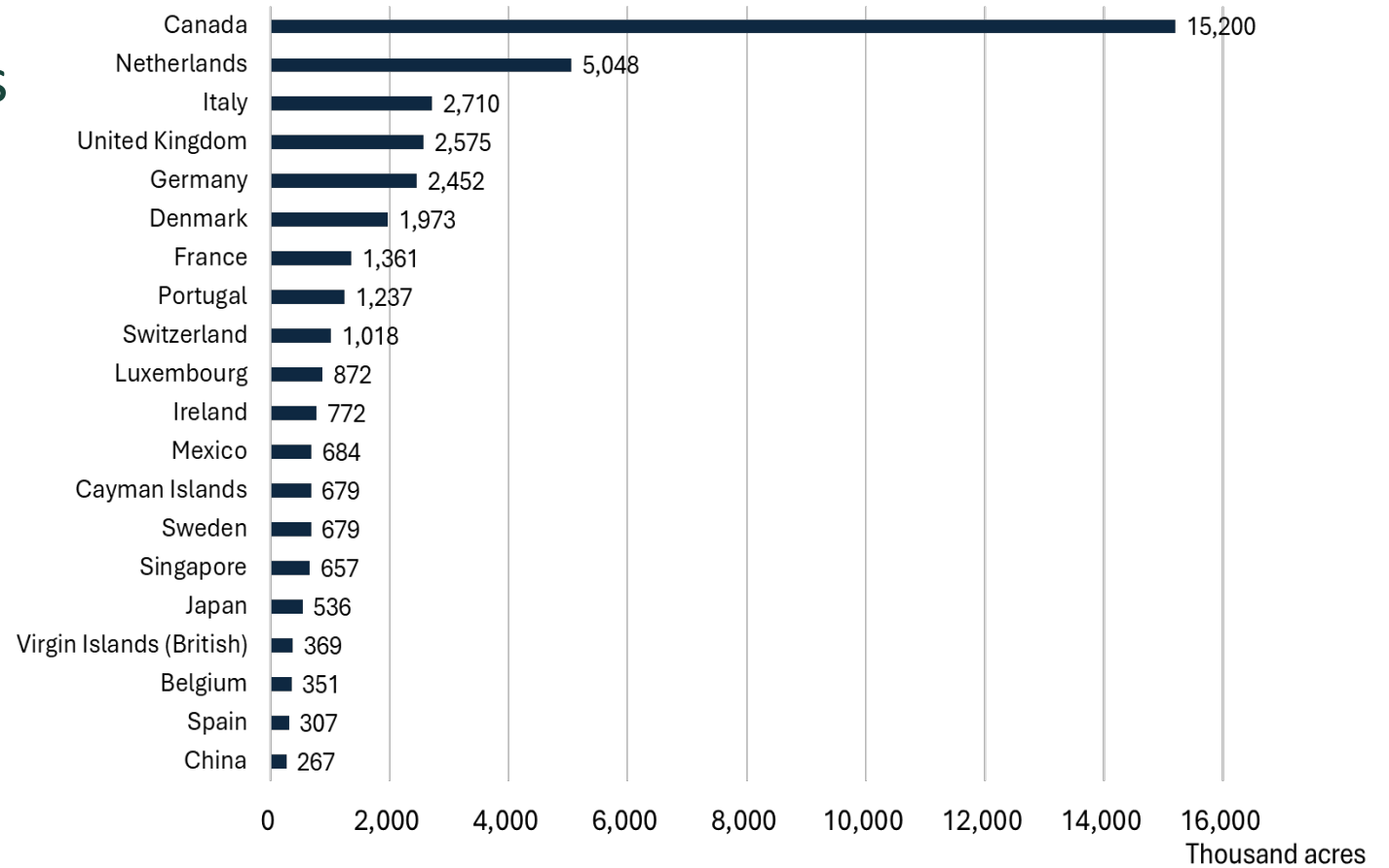


## Foreign holdings of state private ag land as of 2023

- FHAL in all 50 states. Totaling 45 million acres, or 3.5%
- Except for Maine, reported holdings are concentrated in the south and west
- Michigan ranks #6 in acreage; #3 in %

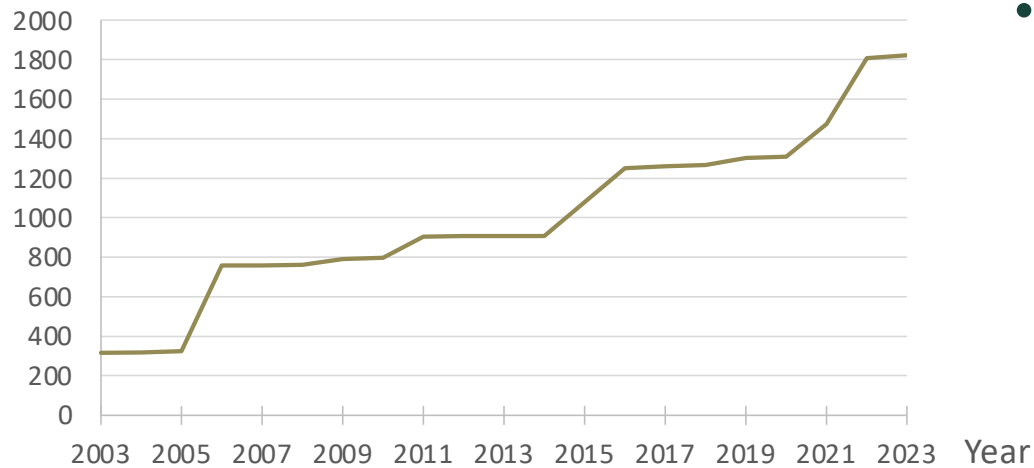


## Top 20 countries with the most holdings of ag land in the US

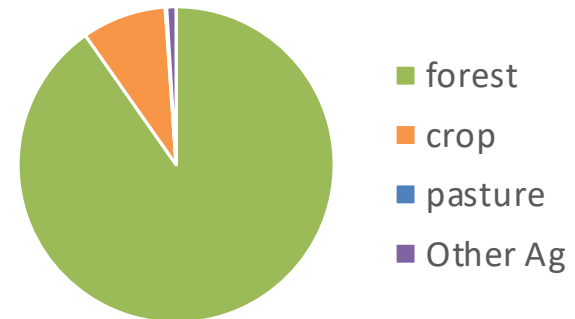


## FHAL in Michigan

Thousand acres

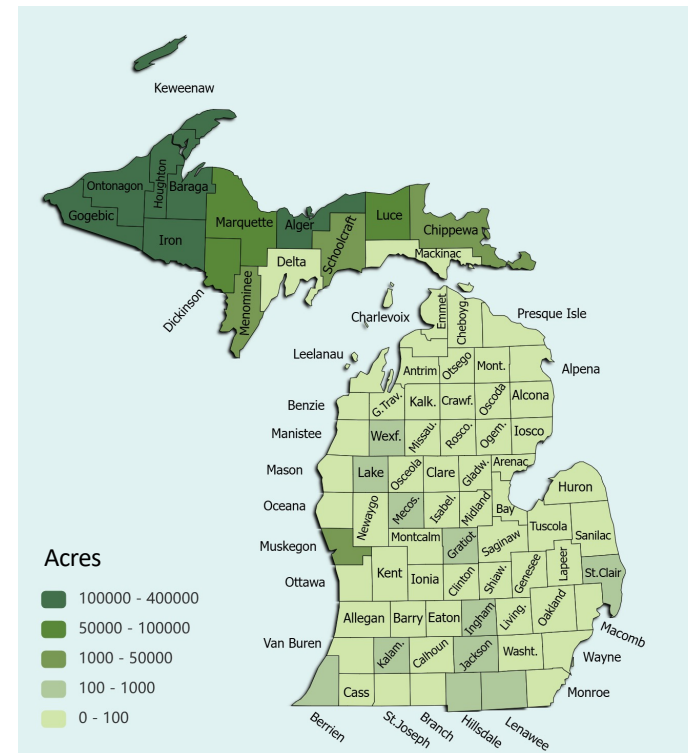


- 92% owned
- Forest land takes up 90% of all FHAL
  - 99.7% owned



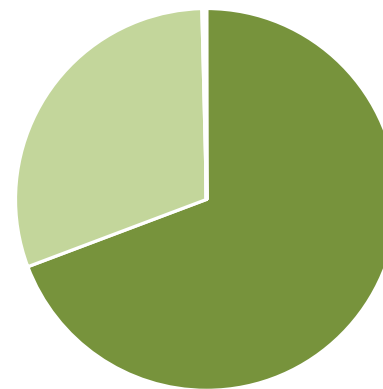
## Foreign holdings of forest land in Michigan

- Concentrated in the Upper Peninsula
- Most intended to stay as forest land
- Top 3 countries holding MI forest land:  
 #1 Singapore (30%)  
 #2 Netherlands (26%)  
 #3 Canada (20%)



## Canadian holdings of MI forest land

- 99% of Canadian-held MI forest land is owned by Great Lakes Forests 1 LLC & Great Lakes Forests 2 inc.
- Principal place of business: US



### Owner name

- Great Lakes Forests 1 LLC
- Great Lakes Forests 2 inc
- CAN-AMERICAN XMAS TREES
- ROGERS, DAVID P.
- HOAG, LAURA
- Applewood Land Company, LLC
- SLAWSON, WILLIAM F.
- HOLLI, DOLORES
- HEDLEY, DOUGLAS & LOIS
- BEATTIE, EDNA M.
- MURTAGH, MARILYN M. & ANDREW J.
- MACGREGOR, ROBERT & MARGARET
- FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE 32
- MONTAGUE, MARGARET
- MCKINLAY, RICHARD & HOWARD ARMSTRONG
- David Elliott
- ANDERSON, DORIS R.



## MI legislative proposals in 2025

- HB4233 & HB 4234
  - HB 4233 prohibits **foreign principal** from acquiring ag land (including forest land).
  - HB 4234 prohibits any interest of **foreign principal** with 20 miles of any military installation or key facility in the state
  - The current versions passed by the House don't prohibit Canadian holdings



## MI legislative proposals in 2025

- Foreign principal:

(c) "Foreign principal" means any of the following:

(i) The government or any official of the government of a foreign country of concern.

(ii) A political party, member of a political party, or any subdivision of a political party in a foreign country of concern.

(iii) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons, or a subsidiary of a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons, organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.

- Foreign country of concern:

1. The People's Republic of China
2. The Russia Federation
3. The Islamic Republic of Iran
4. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
5. The Republic of Cuba
6. The Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro
7. The Syrian Arab Republic
8. Any agency or other entity under the significant control of the countries above







## Food Policy

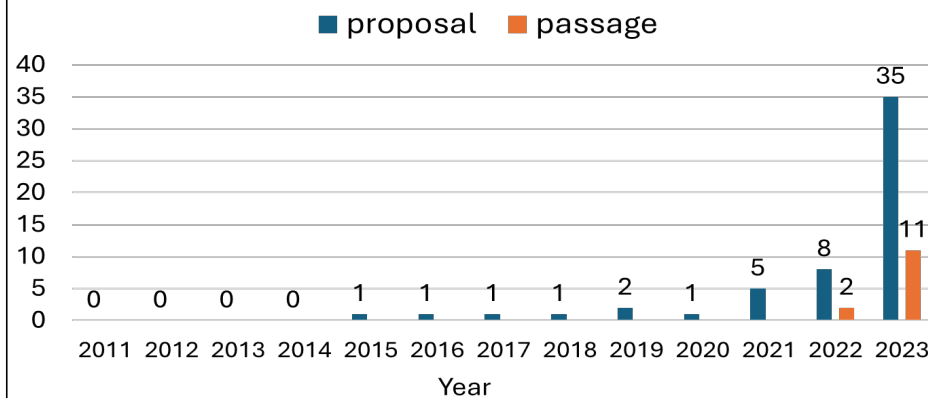
Volume 134, July 2025, 102859



# Drivers of state legislative actions restricting foreign holdings of U.S. agricultural land

Lin Lin , David L. Ortega  

Number of states with bill proposal & bill passage



## Analyzing data from 2021 to 2023



**Individual  
legislator's  
behavior**

**Legislator  
characteristics**

**District  
characteristics**



**State-level  
outcome**

**Legislative /  
Political factors**

**Demographic  
factors**

**Agricultural  
factors**

**China factors**



## Drivers of state legislations:



Protect state agricultural assets & restrict further foreign landholdings



Political factors & national security concerns raised by the China-related activities also play a role





Economic considerations hold back legislations

Balance between national security & economic interests



# Thank you!

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- **Questions or Comments**



Study link. Scan me

