



The U.S. Sustainability Alliance



May 2019

DID YOU KNOW?

On U.S. dairy farms, water is typically safely reused as many as five or six times.

Three Decades of U.S. Rice Sustainability

A new Rice Foundation report charts U.S. rice's commitment to sustainability over the past 36 years. The industry's greatest achievement, it finds, has been to boost crop yields, while reducing its environmental footprint. Rice per yield has increased by 62%, while production has increased by 32%. At the same time, the industry has made great strides in sustainability, including a 52% reduction in water use and a 41% reduction in GHG emissions. [Read more about rice's achievements](#) and its commitment to continuous improvement.

U.S. Census of Agriculture 2017: Good News for Sustainability

The 2017 Census of Agriculture, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last month, shows that notable progress has been made in the adoption of sustainable practices. Use of renewable energy has more than doubled since 2012. More farms are using no-till practices, while land dedicated to cover crops increased by almost 50%. [Read more about the census results here](#) - from farm size to the number of women in agriculture.

The Latest Facts on Dairy

U.S. dairy farmers take pride in their animals, land stewardship and long-term commitment to sustainable dairy farming to strengthen the industry's economic, environmental and social contribution. Since 1944, milk production has quadrupled, yet 4 liters of milk today uses 90% less cropland, 65% less water and 76% less manure. The U.S. dairy industry accounts for approximately 2% of the total U.S. GHG and in the past 60 years has reduced emissions by 63%. [View our fact sheet to learn more.](#)



Innovative Consortium Tackles Food Loss and Waste

A global consortium will bring together experts from industry, academia and not-for-profit to address the issue of food loss and waste which, according to the FAO, costs around \$940 billion per year. *The Consortium for Innovation in Post-Harvest Loss and Food Waste Reduction* will help farmers optimize food production practices, which is “critical for ensuring that farmers are profitable, food is plentiful and accessible, and the environment is preserved.” [Read more about their plans here.](#)

Marketing Sustainability Makes Business Sense

The Sustainable Share Index, from the NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business and Information Resources Incorporated (IRI), highlights the growing popularity of sustainable products. Products marketed as sustainable grew 5.6 times faster than conventionally-marketed products, while in more than 90% of individual product categories, the growth of sustainability-marketed products outpaced total category growth. [See the results in full.](#)



New LCA Clarifies Sustainability of U.S. Beef

A lifecycle analysis by an Agricultural Research Service-led team sheds new light on the sustainability of U.S. beef, concluding that it is “not a significant contributor to long-term global warming.” Spanning five years, seven cattle-producing regions and using data from more than 2,200 survey responses and site visits, the analysis found that cattle production in the regions studied accounted for just 3.3% of all U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. [Learn more about the analysis.](#)

A Sustainable Future with AI

Artificial Intelligence offers tremendous potential for the economy and for the planet, finds a new study by PwC, commissioned by Microsoft. If the global agriculture sector was to effectively adopt artificial intelligence (AI) systems, GDP would increase by up to 0.3% while GHG emissions would fall by up to 0.3%. [Read more about AI's potential and the applications making the biggest difference.](#)



The U.S. Sustainability Alliance strives to provide current and important articles about America's farmers, fishermen and foresters. Please let us know how we're doing by taking our 1-minute survey.

SURVEY



Copyright © 2019 | The U.S. Sustainability Alliance. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint information in whole or in part contained on the USSA website is granted, provided customary credit is given.

The U.S. Sustainability Alliance (USSA) is a group of American farmers, fishermen and foresters who have come together to explore and share our values, regarding sustainable practices and conservation programs.

Contact us:

<https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/contact-us/>