



January 2021

DID YOU KNOW?

Women play a key role in over half (51%) of all U.S. farming operations. The highest share of female principals can be found in farms specializing in poultry and other livestock (31% and 30%, respectively).

Source - [America's Diverse Family Farms: 2020 Edition](#)

Ninety-eight Percent of All U.S. Farms are Family Owned and Operated



Family farms are the beating heart of U.S. agriculture, confirms a new report from USDA's Economic Research Service. 90% of farms are small (with gross cash income less than \$350,000) and account for around a fifth of production. However, the largest share of the value of production occurs on large-scale family farms. [Read more about the size and diversity of America's farms.](#)

EU Consumers Rank Taste, Safety and Cost Higher than Food Sustainability

European consumers rank taste, safety, and cost ahead of environmental issues when it comes to sustainability of their food. This is the main finding of a European Commission Special Eurobarometer survey of 27,237 consumers across the 27 member states. [Read more about the findings.](#)





Farming Sustainably with GMOs: Views from a Fourth-generation Soybean Farmer

Monte Peterson farms soybeans and corn on 1,620 hectares (4,000 acres) in Valley City, North Dakota first farmed by his great grandfather in the 1890s. Writing in digital publication *Open Access Government*, he explains why he uses genetically modified crops in order to farm more sustainably and safely. [Read his insights here.](#)

Farmers Need More Support to Scale Up Conservation Efforts

Row crop farmers are willing to adopt conservation practices and believe that doing so improves their profitability in the long run. However, “they don’t feel that they can, or should, individually shoulder the burden of the agronomic and financial risks associated with adopting new practices.” That’s according to research from *Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture*, in partnership with Trust in Food and Aimpoint Research. [Read more about the findings.](#)



Organic Farmer Jeff Huckaby on Carrots, His Career and a Bright Future



Jeff Huckaby, President of [Grimmway Farms](#) and Cal-Organic Farm, is a fourth-generation farmer who learned to grow carrots and potatoes working for his grandfather at an early age. He’s also a first-generation organic farmer, voted 2020 Organic Farmer of the Year by the Organic Trade Association for his significant contribution to organic agriculture and trade. We spoke to him about his career, how he got into organic and what it means for

the future of U.S. agriculture. [Read his story.](#)

The Search for the Next “Slow Fashion” Leather Designer is On

The Leather & Hide Council of America is taking its successful student design competition global. This year, students from around the world will be able to compete in an open invitation contest, aimed at showcasing the beauty and sustainability of real leather while recognizing tomorrow’s design talent. The competition will run alongside existing national campaigns in Italy, the UK, China and Taiwan. [Find out more.](#)





U.S. Lobster is Back on the Menu in Europe

Washington has given the green light to a mini trade deal between the United States and EU, which will eliminate customs duties on U.S. lobster imports. Tariffs will be removed for the next five years, retroactive to 1 August 2020, and the EU will work to make the removal permanent. [Read more about this good news for EU imports of U.S. lobster.](#)

Vital Resource on U.S Sustainability Policies and Laws Undergoes Major Update

The policy and laws resource on the U.S. Sustainability Alliance website has undergone a major refresh to reflect the latest regulatory changes. This includes significant updates to more than 20 pages on the laws and regulations that have protected and enhanced farms, forests and waters in the United States for more than 100 years. [Read more about America's century-long commitment to sustainability.](#)



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

[SURVEY](#)

Copyright © 2021 | 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.

We welcome your comments and views. Please contact us at:

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