



October 2021 Newsletter



## Launching at COP26, US-led AIM Initiative Gains Additional International Support

The Agriculture Mission for Climate (AIM), a joint initiative led by the U.S. and UAE to transform global agriculture, now has the support of 30 nations – over three times as many as when it was announced in April. The initiative, whose goal is to increase investment for innovation in climate-smart agriculture and food systems, is also supported by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the UK’s COP26 Presidency. [Read more about the initiative, which officially launches at COP26.](#)

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## **USDA Invests Over \$3 Billion in More Resilient, Climate-Smart Agriculture**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing \$3 billion to address the most pressing issues in the food system. The funding will be focused on: drought resilience and response, animal health, relief for market disruptions, and school nutrition programs. A further \$146 million investment in research will support climate-smart agriculture, with funding committed to research projects in areas ranging from hemp to cellular agriculture. [Read more.](#)

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## **U.S. Dairy Industry Honors Sustainability Commitments Despite Pandemic Disruption**

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic, the U.S. dairy industry stood by its social and environmental commitments in 2020. According to the

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's biennial report, more than 95% of resources from processors was recovered, redirected and put to beneficial use while, by using the water present in milk, U.S. dairy processors were net positive for water. [Read more about the dairy industry's achievements.](#)

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## Technology and Innovation Go Under the Microscope in Latest USSA Podcast

Technology and innovation go under the microscope in the latest episode of USSA's podcast. Featuring expert views and farmer perspectives, we consider the differing approaches between the U.S. and Europe and how technology could play a major role in sustainable food production. Hear about GMOs, the cost benefits of variable rate technologies and how farmers everywhere want access to the best tools but sometimes politics stand in the way. [Find out more.](#)

And listen to *This Is U.S. Sustainability* on [Apple](#), or [Spotify](#).

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## Wheat Farmer Peter Hvidsten on Why Less Input Means Better Output

Peter Hvidsten is a fifth-generation wheat farmer from Northwest Minnesota who farms with his wife Kristen and father Tim, who is semi-retired. The main technologies he uses on his 4,000-acre (1,600-hectare) farm are GPS auto-steer and variable rate fertilizing, with reduced tillage a more recent practice. He spoke to us about the precise cost, productivity and sustainability benefits of using the right amount of fertilizer where it's needed and reducing tillage passes on his fields. [Read his story.](#)

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### ***Insight & Opinion: The Answer Lies in the Soil***

Increasing urbanization, erosion, nutrient imbalance, intensive farming and climate change are placing huge demands on the availability and health of

the world's earth. In many croplands across the world, the layer of fertile topsoil is thinning, making it more difficult to grow crops for food. That is why conserving and building the fertility of our soils is perhaps the biggest challenge for today's agriculture. USSA's David Green explains how American farmers are rising to the challenge. [Read David's article.](#)

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## **Kent Swisher Named President and CEO of the North American Renderers Association**

Congratulations go to Kent Swisher, the incoming President and CEO of the North American Renderers Association (NARA). Kent has worked for NARA for 18 years and currently serves as the Senior Vice President of International Programs. He will assume leadership when current NARA President and CEO Nancy Foster retires on 31 December. [Read more.](#)

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

3.3 billion people rely on seafood for almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of protein, making it the world's largest traded food commodity. Source: [USSEC](#)

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**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.**

**USSA Member Organizations:**

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute; Almond Board of California; American Hardwood Export Council; American Peanut Council; Cotton Council International; Food Export Association of the Midwest; Food Export USA Northeast; Leather and Hide Council of America; North American Export Grain Association; North American Renderers Association; Organic Trade Association; Softwood Export Council; USA Poultry & Egg Export Council; USA Rice Federation; U.S. Dairy Export Council; U.S. Dry Bean Council; U.S. Grains Council; U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.; U.S. Meat Export Federation; U.S. Soybean Export Council; and U.S. Wheat Associates

[Learn More About Our Members](#)

**WHAT WE'RE WATCHING AND READING THIS MONTH:**

+ Field to Market recognizes outstanding stewardship and conservation efforts by farmers and other supply chain partners. [Take a look](#) at some of its 2021 honorees.

+ This video from DelicioUS – a platform that connects U.S. food and agricultural products with buyers and food enthusiasts -- sums up what's special about food from the United States. Scroll down on the homepage to [DelicioUS – Live](#).

+ The [Savor the States blog](#) is a great source of stories on American farmers and producers, from an Alaskan fisherman and cotton growers to a grapefruit farmer and walnut growers.



