



December 2021 Newsletter



Is Big Ag Next in the Firing Line for Activist Divestment Campaigners?

Calls for financial institutions to divest from fossil fuels have become a cornerstone of NGO climate campaigning over the past decade. However, SIGWATCH analysis of NGO campaigning data suggests that large-scale agriculture is the next target for divestment. In this exclusive article, SIGWATCH's Charlotte Moore explains more about this emerging trend, what it means for the agriculture sector and how it can mitigate the risk. [Read more.](#)



Transition to Sustainable Agriculture Requires Further Collective Action

The latest National Indicators Report from Field to Market summarizes progress towards sustainable agriculture across eight environmental indicators and 11 U.S. commodity crops. It finds that progress across five of the indicators has largely plateaued over the last decade and points to opportunities for U.S. agriculture to contribute to climate change mitigation through further collective action. [Read the report findings.](#)



Sustainable Agriculture Can Save Land and Water Resources from Breaking Point

Satisfying a growing demand for food is putting untenable pressure on the world's soil, land and water ecosystems, warns a new report from The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Many resources are stressed to the limit, it says, but more inclusive, adaptive and sustainable

land and water management can reverse the trend and protect our future food security. [Read the report findings.](#)



CAST Study Clarifies Benefits of GMOs for Consumers, Producers and the Environment

GMOs are not only safe for consumers, they also use less land, energy, and chemicals than non-GMO crops. That's according to a new study from The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) which concludes that the carbon footprint of agriculture would certainly increase if the technology were no longer available. [Read more about the findings.](#)



Rice Farmer Scott Matthews on Why Irrigation is Like a Giant Math Equation

Scott Matthews hails from Weiner, Northeast Arkansas where he grows rice and soybeans in rotation on approximately 730 hectares. His family has

been farming in this area for about 120 years and he has just harvested his 31st crop. We spoke to him about his commitment to water conservation and the pioneering irrigation practices he is using on his farm. [Read Scott's story.](#)



Rice Industry Leaders Recognized for Outstanding Conservation Practices

USA Rice has honored two industry leaders for their efforts in conservation and sustainability. Louisiana rice and crawfish farmer Jeff Durand, a long-time advocate of no-till cultivation, is the recipient of The USA Rice Distinguished Conservation Award while The Powell Group is The USA Rice Sustainability Award winner. Its achievements include the creation of more than 300 hectares of wetland habitat and planting more than 150,000 trees. [Read more about the award winners.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Sustainable soil use and resource conservation efforts by American farmers has increased by almost 14 million hectares in just five years. (Source: [American Farm Bureau Federation](#))



A Century of American Sustainability

For more than 100 years, there has been an ongoing commitment to sustainability through conservation programs and practices that protect natural resources.

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 TUNING IN TO:

- + The North American Renderers Association has launched a new quarterly podcast - *The Invisible Industry*. [Listen in for the low-down on agricultural rendering and its sustainability benefits.](#)
- + What happens when an American peanut farmer and a couple of pro video gamers switch jobs? [Watch and find out.](#)
- + Four episodes of USSA's new podcast series are now available for download. [Tune in for real-life experiences and expert views on family farms, animal welfare, tech and innovation, and water conservation](#) – and be on the lookout for our new episode on soil health coming soon.



