



March 2022 Newsletter



Meet Some of America's Exceptional Women Farmers and Producers

We couldn't let Women's History Month and International Women's Day go by without celebrating some of the many exceptional women in American agriculture and production. Here is just a snapshot of the women farmers

and fishermen we have interviewed over the past few years – from award-winning rice and organic producers to those who are raising the bar in animal welfare, water conservation and equitable farming. [Read more about these inspiring women.](#)



Conservation Practices Increase on U.S. Cultivated Cropland, Finds USDA Report

The use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods and advanced technologies has climbed in recent years. That's according to a new report from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service on progress made through voluntary conservation over ten years. The report found significant gains for soil health and soil carbon storage while identifying areas where additional, targeted nutrient management strategies are needed. [Read the report findings in full.](#)



USDA Plows \$250M into Domestic Fertilizer Market

To address rising fertilizer costs exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to support independent, innovative and sustainable American fertilizer production. \$250 million dollars will be made available through a new grant program – one of many government initiatives designed to "rebuild the economy towards resilience, security, and sustainability". [Read more.](#)



USSA Welcomes its 22nd Member

The USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council has become the 22nd member of The U.S. Sustainability Alliance. The Council was established in 1965 as a non-profit organization to promote and protect the interests of growers, processors, warehousemen and sellers of dry peas, lentils and chickpeas in the United States. [Read more.](#)



Regenerative Agriculture Produces Healthier Crops, Study Suggests

Crops grown using regenerative agriculture practices, such as no-till farming and cover crops, have a healthier nutritional profile than conventionally-grown crops, according to new research. The preliminary study by the University of Washington compared crops from farms following soil-friendly practices for at least five years with those from neighboring, conventional farms. [Find out more.](#)



Insight & Opinion:

Forget the Propaganda: Visit Our Farms

A *New York Times* video series that vilifies farmers as “planet-destroyers” is pure propaganda, writes fifth-generation New Jersey farmer John Rigolizzo, Jr. Far from being objective, he says these videos fail to include the views of real producers and bypass the sustainability success story of modern agriculture. [Read John’s article as he puts the record straight.](#)



Celebration of Sustainable Ag Takes Over the National Mall, Washington DC

On National Ag Day (22 March), the American agricultural community converged on the National Mall, Washington DC to highlight the innovations helping today’s farmers and ranchers be more sustainable. The Association of Equipment Manufacturers’ (AEM) Celebration of Modern Agriculture showcased the latest developments in equipment technology, in-field conservation practices, plant genetics, bioproducts, and more.

[Read the full story.](#)



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

The *Real Leather. Stay Different* international student design competition is back for a second year. Its mission is to find the world’s emerging design talent and promote slow, sustainable style over fast, throw-away fashion. Entrants are challenged to create an original design using real leather, a by-product of the meat and dairy industries.

[Read more about the competition.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

More than half (51%) of all farming operations in the United States have at least one female operator. (*Source: 2019 Agricultural Resource Management Survey*).



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 Dry Pea & Lentil 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 THIS MONTH:

Our March viewing recommendations are inspired by women – from a six-year-old fledgling farmer to a single mom pig farmer. These family farmers share a passion for the land and a drive for positive change.



+ The Carbon Neutral Pig, [a short film from U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action](#), tells the story of pig farmer Marlowe and her quest for carbon neutrality.

+ A New (Re) Generation, [a short film from Kiss the Ground](#), shows how one woman transformed the way her family managed their land for generations.

+ And now for a girl who is breaking new ground - literally! [Tune in to USDA Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh's chat with Kendall Rae](#), a young African American producer who, at six years old, is Georgia's youngest certified farmer.

We welcome your comments and views. Please contact us via [this form](#).

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