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July 2022 Newsletter



## USDA Highlights Importance of Innovation at G20 Meeting

At the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists in early July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) highlighted the importance of research and development in addressing the most pressing issues in global agriculture. USDA's chief scientist Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young said that ambitious investment in agricultural innovation will create a "surge of solutions", enabling the world to "meet nutritional needs, increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and conserve nature and biodiversity" while adapting to climate change. [Read more.](#)

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## **Secretary Vilsack on How American Agriculture Rises to the Challenge of Climate Change**

U.S. farmers are at the sharp end of climate change, writes U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, but they are adapting and rising to the challenge. Their climate smart practices are already making a difference. And USDA programs and investments will help advance their efforts, empowering American agriculture to meet consumer demand, protect the environment, and tap into new market opportunities. [Read Secretary Vilsack's article.](#)

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## Food Export-Northeast Plans First U.S. Shellfish Trade Mission to Europe for September

Food Export USA-Northeast is leading a trade mission to Europe to help expand markets for U.S. shellfish growers from the Northeast, following the resumption of U.S.- EU trade in shellfish products. According to Food Export USA-Northeast's Andrew Haught, the mission is an opportunity for companies from the region to learn about the European market and meet importers. European buyers, in turn, will experience the distinctive flavors and premium quality of northeast U.S. shellfish. [Read more.](#)

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## USDA Invests \$10M in Bioproducts Pilot Program

On a visit to a family-owned creamery in Iowa, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced a pilot program to support the development of bio-based products that have lower carbon footprints. Secretary Vilsack described the program as “a critical part of USDA’s commitment to enhancing the circular economy and providing additional revenue streams for farmers.” [Read more.](#)

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**Hardwick Planting Company, the First regenagri**

## Certified U.S. Cotton Farm, Partners with Citizens of Humanity

Hardwick Planting Company, Louisiana, is the first cotton farm in the United States to be certified by regenagri, an international agriculture initiative, and the first to join Citizens of Humanity Group's regenerative farming program. The multi-generation farm will supply cotton for the brand's premium denim labels using regenerative practices, including minimum tillage, cover cropping, and afforestation. [Read more about the new partnership.](#)



## U.S. Soybean Farmer Kenny Brinker's Sustainability Practices Focus on Soil Quality and Erosion Control

Soil health is top of mind for U.S. soybean farmer Kenny Brinker, who grows soybeans and corn and operates a farrow-to-finish hog operation in Auxvasse, Missouri. When Brinker first bought his current farm in the 1990s, the soil was so poor that the pH was in the 4.5 to 5 range, with some phosphate readings in the single digits. But through a series of practices, including no-till and cover crops, he has been able to stem erosion and bring the soil back to health. [Read Kenny's story.](#)





## FAO and OECD Highlight Role of Investment in Innovation, Infrastructure and Human Capital to Raise Agricultural Productivity

Despite the immediate challenges created by the war in Ukraine, the latest *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook* urges the global community to stay focused on achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the report, meeting SDG 2 on Zero Hunger while keeping agricultural emissions on track to reach the Paris Agreement targets will require investment in innovation, infrastructure, and human capital. [Read more.](#)

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### DID YOU KNOW?

America's forests are a key response to climate change. They already capture more than 10% of the nation's carbon emissions each year and have the potential to do even more. (Source: [USDA](#))

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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 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 LISTENING TO THIS MONTH:**

With the vacation season in full swing, we're sharing USSA's podcast recommendations for the summer break. Simply add a cold drink and relax while genning up on sustainability and innovation in U.S. agriculture!



- + Tune in to [The Sustainable Dish](#) featuring Dr. Frank Mitloehner, a professor and air quality extension specialist at UC Davis, to find out what's going on in the world of beef.
- + The [Farmbits](#) podcast hosted by Nebraska Extension explores the trends, realities, and value of digital agriculture, from UAVs to precision conservation. Check out this [recent episode](#) on robotics and hear an early-career dairy farmer's experience of working in a fully automated dairy.
- + It would be remiss of us not to mention the [This is U.S. Sustainability](#) podcast in which we debunk some of the most common myths in U.S. agriculture and cover topics ranging from animal welfare to technology and innovation. Subscribe now and be the first to hear about our next series due out in September!



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United States Sustainability Alliance · 16305 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 200 · Chesterfield, MO 63017 · USA