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June 2022 Newsletter



Organic Trade Association Applauds USDA's "Historic" Investment in Organic Production

Organic Trade Association (OTA) welcomes USDA's plans to invest up to \$300 million in a new Organic Transition Initiative program as part of a framework to transform the U.S. food system. OTA's CEO and Executive Director Tom Chapman says that USDA's "historic investment" is a significant win for the organic industry that will help American farmers "adopt practices that are both good for their businesses and the climate". [Read more.](#)



Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Plans to Transform the U.S. Food System

USDA has announced a new framework aimed at transforming the U.S. food system for the benefit of producers, consumers, and rural communities. According to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, a transformed food system will help America become more resilient and competitive in the face of current and future challenges. It will also make it easier to mitigate the effects of climate change without sacrificing agricultural production. [Read more about the new Food System Transformation framework.](#)



Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Announces 2022 Sustainability Award Winners

Seven exceptional farms, businesses, and partnerships have been recognized for their sustainability leadership by Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, the farmer-founded voluntary organization. The winners are commended for their achievements in areas including methane gas reduction and water use efficiencies that support the dairy industry's 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals. [Read more about the winners.](#)



US Cotton Trust Protocol Recognized as Sustainable Cotton Standard by Germany's Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

The US Cotton Trust Protocol has successfully met the rigorous criteria set by Siegelklarheit, the German federal certifying body. This means it is compatible with the reporting framework required by members of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (PST) who can now use the Trust Protocol as a standard to calculate their share of sustainable cotton. [Read more about this achievement.](#)



Insight & Opinion: Could Technology and Innovation in Agriculture Feed the World?

In the United States, innovative approaches have boosted agricultural output by 400% over the past 90 years with no net increase in inputs and 10% less land. However, modern agriculture is often feared rather than revered, writes U.S. Sustainability Alliance's David Green. The challenge is to advance consumer understanding of farmer practices to drive acceptance of what might be new but is definitely needed. [Read David's article in full.](#)



Grayhouse Farms Recognized for Excellence in Conservation and Cow Care

Grayhouse Farms, North Carolina is the winner of an Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award, honored by Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy for its exemplary commitment to environmental stewardship and animal care. Practices used by the third-generation farm include no-till farming, stream exclusion, and cover crops. Its barns are also first-class, offering ventilation, sand bedding and other features to keep the cows cool and comfortable. [Read more.](#)



USDA Invests \$1.92M in New Agribusiness Innovation Center at NC A&T State University

USDA is investing \$1.92M to establish an Agriculture Business Innovation Center at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (NC A&T) State University, a Historically Black College and University. The new innovation center will act as a technical assistance hub to support agriculture-based business opportunities nationwide, with a focus on outreach to socially disadvantaged populations and historically underserved communities. [Read more.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Honey bee pollination adds more than \$18 billion in value to agricultural crops annually. (Source: [USDA](#))



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

WHAT WE'RE READING AND LISTENING TO THIS MONTH:

+ Scientists at USDA's Agricultural Research Service are constantly developing innovations to help American farmers work smarter. These include [the discovery that](#), far from being a nuisance or a pest, grasshoppers may have an influence on carbon sequestration.



+ Did you know that changing cows' diets could lower the amount of methane in their belches? A UC Davis Professor believes that the secret lies [in adding seaweed to their feed](#).

+ In other innovation news, [Goodyear recently announced](#) it will be swapping petrochemicals for soybean oil in its manufacturing process to produce more sustainable tires.



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