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May 2022 Newsletter



## President Biden Announces Actions to Boost U.S. Food Production and Feed the World

Visiting a family farm in Illinois, President Biden outlined the actions his administration is taking to address “Putin’s price hikes”, lower operational costs for U.S. farmers, and make food more affordable for everyone. Measures range from improving technical help for precision agriculture to expanding double cropping insurance for planting a second crop on the same land in the same year. [Read more.](#)

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## **U.S. Better Positioned than Competitors to Meet Rising Global Demand for Dairy**

With global milk production constrained, U.S. dairy farmers and suppliers have an opportunity to meet rising demand. That's according to U.S. Dairy Export Council President and CEO Krysta Harden, speaking at two major conferences. She said that U.S. farmers are investing in the right places – notably technology and sustainability – which gives them an edge over their competitors. [Read more.](#)

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## The Consequences of The War in Ukraine on America's Food Supply

The United States is the fifth largest exporter of rice in the world. And while it typically produces around 1.2 million hectares (three million acres), that figure oscillates depending on a number of economic, weather and regulatory factors. Peter Bachmann, USA Rice's Vice President of Policy & Government Affairs, considers what happens to commodity production when the war in Ukraine is added to the mix. [Read Peter's article.](#)

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## NIFA Invests Nearly \$4M in Two New Centers of Excellence at 1890 Land-grant Institutions

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is investing nearly \$4 million in two new 1890 Centers of Excellence at Delaware State University and Tennessee State University. The 1890 land-grant institutions (historically black universities) will be working on projects to advance smart agriculture, conserve and promote natural resources, and explore renewable energy. [Read more.](#)

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## Meet the Soil Health Advocate Who Hosted President Biden on His Farm

Jeff O'Connor is a sixth-generation soybean farmer from Kankakee County, Illinois who recently hosted a few special visitors on his family farm – President Biden and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. We go behind the scenes at Jeff's 325-hectare (800-acre) operation to find out more about the sustainable practices he's using to boost soil health. [Read Jeff's story.](#)

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## U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Doubles Grower Participation in Second Year

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol has announced that grower participation for the 2021/ 2022 crop doubled since its pilot last year. There are now an estimated 445,000 hectares (1.1 million acres) enrolled in the program that aims to set new standards in U.S. cotton production. The Trust Protocol's 600+ members include brands, retailers, mills and manufacturers from J.Crew to Levi Strauss & Co. [Read more.](#)

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## Cornell's Martin Wiedmann Wins 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award

This year's Borlaug CAST Communication Award goes to Dr. Martin Wiedmann, Gellert Family Professor in Food Safety at Cornell University. Dr. Wiedmann is recognized for communicating technical information to non-technical audiences. Notably, he was instrumental in Cornell's COVID-19 Food Safety Response Team, providing science-based facts and advice on mitigation strategies to the food industry and consumers. [Read more.](#)

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## UK Platinum Picnic Honors the British Monarch, Celebrates Sustainable U.S. Ingredients

The U.S. Embassy in London recently hosted a VIP picnic in honor of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Guests, including celebrity chefs, catering students, and food industry professionals, enjoyed British and American classics made using the finest, sustainable U.S. ingredients, from California almonds to Alaska seafood. [Read more.](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Peanuts are nitrogen-fixing; they take nitrogen from the air and turn it into food. As a result, peanut plants don't need a lot of extra fertilizer and can rely on the nutrition left by previous crops. [[PQ](#), The National Peanut Board]



**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 AND LISTENING TO THIS MONTH:**

+ Almond grower Christine Gemperle recently spoke to *The Prepared Foods* podcast about the climate-smart practices she's using. [Tune in](#) for the scoop on whole orchard recycling, cover cropping, and micro-irrigation.



+ A new video series describes the work of USDA Climate Hubs and partners to help U.S. farmers, ranchers, foresters, and communities respond to climate change. [Here's how they're helping farmers prepare for drought.](#)

+ June is National Dairy Month and what better way to celebrate than hear from a third-generation farmer in America's Dairyland - Wisconsin. [Watch and listen](#) to the Pagel family talk about treating the farm as an ecosystem and protecting their father's legacy.



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