



January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, which celebrates America's family farmers and ranchers. We're excited to share a new video series featuring stories of stewardship from U.S. wheat growers - it's essential viewing! - and the latest USDA data on U.S. farms and ranches, from ownership to financial performance. Other highlights include an article by Krysta Harden, president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, on how the dairy industry is working to address climate change and global hunger. Keep reading for more on these stories and other sustainability news and views - including a new data-rich resource on U.S. agricultural exports.

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Ninety-seven Percent of U.S. Farms Are Family Farms

Farming and ranching in the United States is a family affair. As of 2022, 97% of farms are family farms accounting for 90% of total production – an 8.4% increase since 2021. That's according to the latest edition of *America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance* – an annual U.S. Department of Agriculture publication. [Read the report's key findings, from financial performance to the use of government assistance.](#)



Five Wheat Farmers, One Conservation Goal

U.S. Wheat Associates, a USSA member, has launched *Stories of Stewardship* - a video series in which U.S. wheat farmers share their long-standing commitment to sustainability. The first episode showcases the conservation practices of five farming families from different parts of the United States. These farmers aim to produce safe, wholesome wheat for the world while sustaining their livelihoods and protecting the land for future generations. [Read more about this new series.](#)



U.S. Dairy Aims to Protect the Planet While Feeding the World

Criticism that food trade contributes to climate change is exaggerated, writes Krysta Harden, president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council. She argues that it is possible to feed the world while protecting the planet. The U.S. dairy industry is committed to achieving both goals and is taking concrete steps to reach its target of GHG neutrality by 2050. [Read how U.S. Dairy is addressing the challenges of climate and hunger.](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

The almond industry is committed to zero waste and uses everything the orchard grows. For example, almond hulls are repurposed as dairy feed, reducing the need to grow alfalfa hay and saving 440 billion gallons of water each year.

Source: *The Almond Almanac*



Wellman Farms: Innovation Helps Us Improve

Steve Wellman, a grain and cattle farmer and former Director of Agriculture for Nebraska, is a strong advocate of research, innovation, and conservation. He practices no-till, grows genetically modified corn and soybeans, and has implemented several measures, including contour terraces, to prevent soil erosion on his 700-hectare farm. [Read more about Steve's approach to soil and water management.](#)



Field to Market to Finance Climate-Smart Adoption

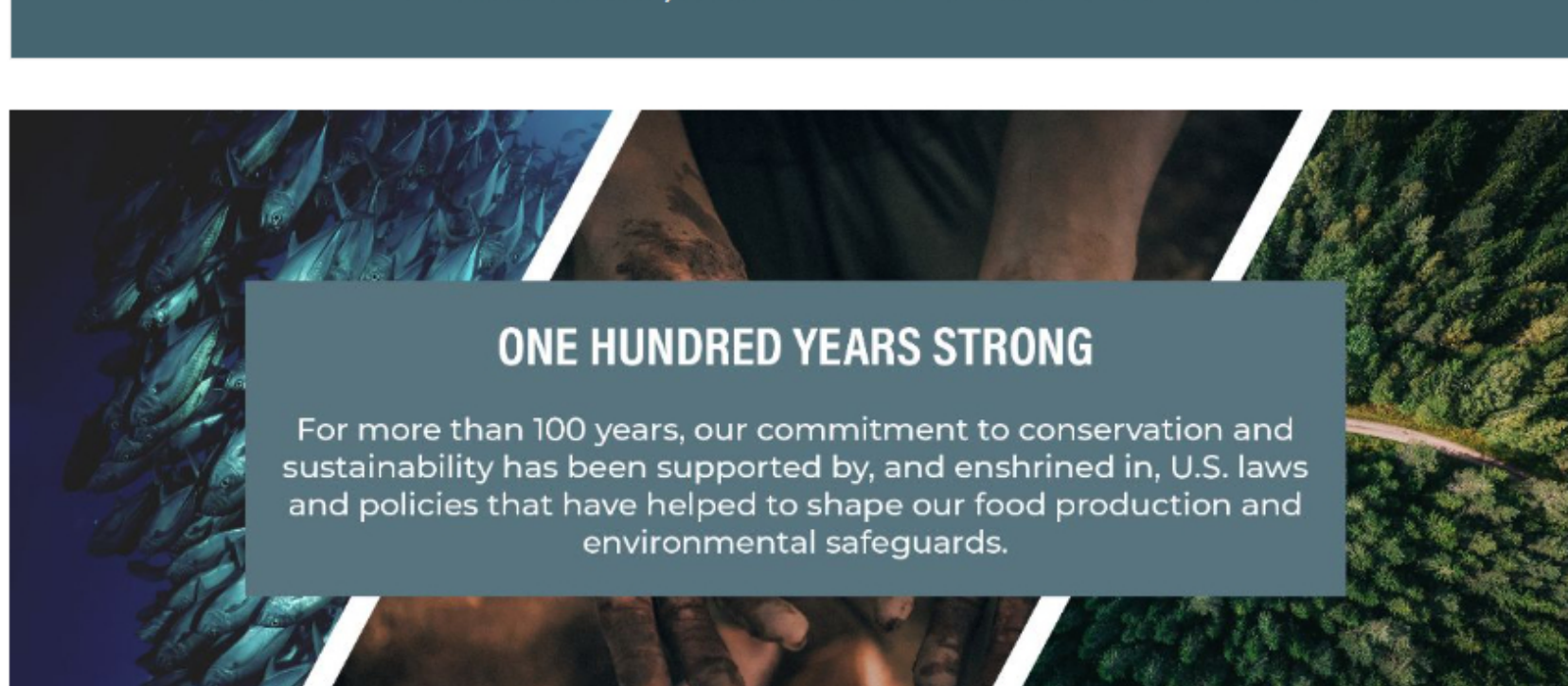
Field to Market: the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture has received USDA funding to provide financial support to U.S. farmers and accelerate their adoption of climate-smart agriculture. The Climate-Smart Agriculture Innovative Finance Initiative, part of USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, will provide \$81 million to producers and reduce GHG emissions by an estimated 2.79 million metric tons. [Read more about the initiative.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING THIS MONTH

For the [lowdown on food and agricultural exports for each U.S. state, look no further than USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and Your State](#) - which features fact sheets and success stories. [Here's a sneak preview of what to expect:](#)

- Almonds are California's most valuable export crop. In 2022, the Golden State's almond exports totaled \$4.7 billion, with the European Union (EU) being its top market. [Read the fact sheet here.](#)
- Oregon's wine industry has earned international recognition, with exports of wine and related products totaling \$1.5 billion in 2022. The leading export markets are Canada, the EU, and the UK. [Find more facts here.](#)
- Louisiana is the second largest exporter of U.S. seafood. In 2022, it exported \$5.4 billion worth of fish and seafood, with \$1.12 billion going to the EU – its number one international market. [Find more facts here.](#)

For more on the above, check out our social media accounts!



ONE HUNDRED YEARS STRONG

For more than 100 years, our commitment to conservation and sustainability has been supported by, and enshrined in, U.S. laws and policies that have helped to shape our food production and environmental safeguards.

The USSA is the voice of U.S. sustainable food and agricultural production. It represents the fertile lands and expansive waters of a great country and gives a voice to all that work and rely on them for food, clothing and materials.

Today, we represent more than twenty farming, fishery and forestry associations and supply chain partners who are together responsible for close to \$8 billion of annual U.S. food and agricultural exports to the UK and EU.

USSA Member Organizations:

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute; Almond Board of California; American Feed Industry Association; American Hardwood Export Council; American Peanut Council; California Prune Board; Cotton Council International; Food Export Association of the Midwest; Food Export USA Northeast; Intertribal Agriculture Council; Leather and Hide Council of America; North American Export Grain Association; North American Renderers Association; North Carolina SweetPotato Commission; Organic Trade Association; Softwood Export Council; 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; U.S. Wheat Associates; USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council; USA Poultry & Egg Export Council; and USA Rice Federation.

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