



April 2024 Newsletter

Our April edition celebrates a significant milestone for USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program as the first commercially produced products hit U.S. grocery shelves. We also announce a record investment in partner-driven conservation and share the results of a new study on the economic impact of the U.S. food and agriculture sectors. Other stories include how AI can help solve agriculture's biggest challenge and a report on the US-EU Collaboration Platform on Agriculture's April gathering, which focused on food chain resilience, measuring sustainability, and innovation. Keep reading for more U.S. sustainability news and views.

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Photo by Spice

U.S. Rice is the First Climate-Smart Commodity to Market

The first commercially produced product funded by USDA's \$3 billion Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program is now available to U.S. consumers. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack attended the launch of the new climate-smart rice, which claims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 95%. [Read more about the first climate-smart products to market.](#)



Food and Agriculture's Impact on U.S. Economy Grows by 12%

A new study supported by USSA members estimates food and agriculture's contribution to the U.S. economy. *Feeding the Economy*, published by 32 food and agriculture groups, reveals that the economic impact of the food and agriculture-related industries grew by 11.8% in the past year, reaching \$9.63 trillion - a fifth of total U.S. output. [Read more about food and agriculture's economic contribution.](#)



USSA Participates in Second US-EU Collaboration Platform on Agriculture Event

U.S. Sustainability Alliance members joined the US-EU Collaboration Platform on Agriculture for its second stakeholder session in Washington, D.C., on April 8-9. The event was led by officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the EU's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). Highlights included panel discussions on topics including food chain resilience and sustainability measurement and a field tour of Maryland farms. [Read more about the event.](#)



Photo by NCBA

Texas Ranch Crowned National Environmental Stewardship Champion

G Bar C Ranch in North Texas is the national winner of the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP), presented annually by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). The cattle ranch is owned by the Ellis family, who are committed to nurturing the environment while remaining economically sustainable. They see themselves as caretakers of the land, maintaining biodiversity, natural habitat, and clean waterways. [Read about G Bar C Ranch's exemplary stewardship practices.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2023, 70% of U.S. soy exports shipped with a Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) certificate, which verifies sustainable soybean production. This is a 56.44% increase from 2021.

Source: The Positive Momentum of Sustainable U.S. Soy



AI Paves the Way for Healthier Soils

Artificial Intelligence (AI) promises to revolutionize how farmers grow and produce food. It can help automate tasks, help manage pests, monitor growing conditions, and improve decision-making. As USSA's David Green and Maite Caballero explain, AI can also help solve agriculture's biggest challenge - conserving and building soil fertility. [Read their article about harnessing AI for healthier soils.](#)



Climate-Smart Agriculture and Conservation Get a \$1.5 Billion Boost

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing a record \$1.5 billion in partner-driven conservation and climate solutions through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The funding marks a 50% increase from 2023, following an unprecedented demand in the program. [Read more about the investment and past RCPP projects.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING THIS MONTH

This month, we're staying close to home and highlighting some of the latest USSA news and views:

- In the United States, some 20 federal laws and policies, in addition to those at the state level, govern conservation, the environment, and the protection of waterways. Read more about them in USSA's new concise guide. Access it [here](#).
- The U.S. Grains Council's Carlos Suárez, a USSA Management Council member, discussed innovation and sustainable food production with the Spanish non-profit *La Fundación Antama*. Read his interview [here](#).
- In addition, Food Export-North East's Colleen Coyne shared her expertise on science-based fishery management in the United States with *Open Access Government*, a digital publication about public policy. Read Colleen's article [here](#).

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

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-five farming, fishery, forestry associations, and related production & processing sectors who are together responsible for more than \$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; Florida Department of Citrus; 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.

[Learn More About Our Members](#)



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