



## March 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to our March edition! This month, we reveal the truth about leather's environmental impact based on a new Life Cycle Assessment of U.S. cowhide production. We also feature a report on the robust regulatory framework underpinning sustainable agriculture in the United States. And we publish an article from USDA Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, reflecting on a century of agricultural trade. Other highlights include news on USSA's growing membership, the Economist Sustainability Week panel discussion on regenerative agriculture, and a focus on women in U.S. agriculture, featuring a story of pollinator conservation on a sister-run ranch.

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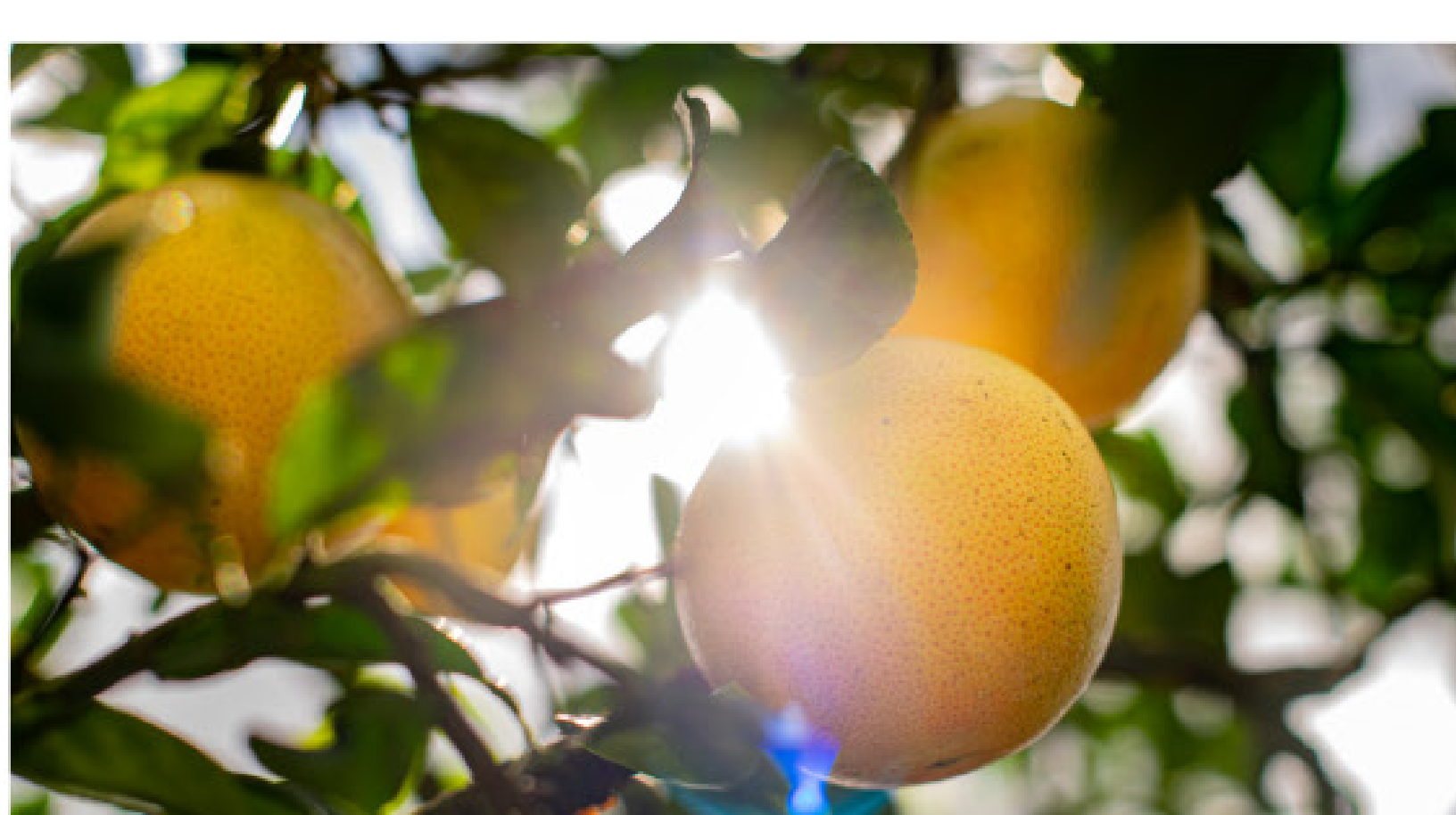


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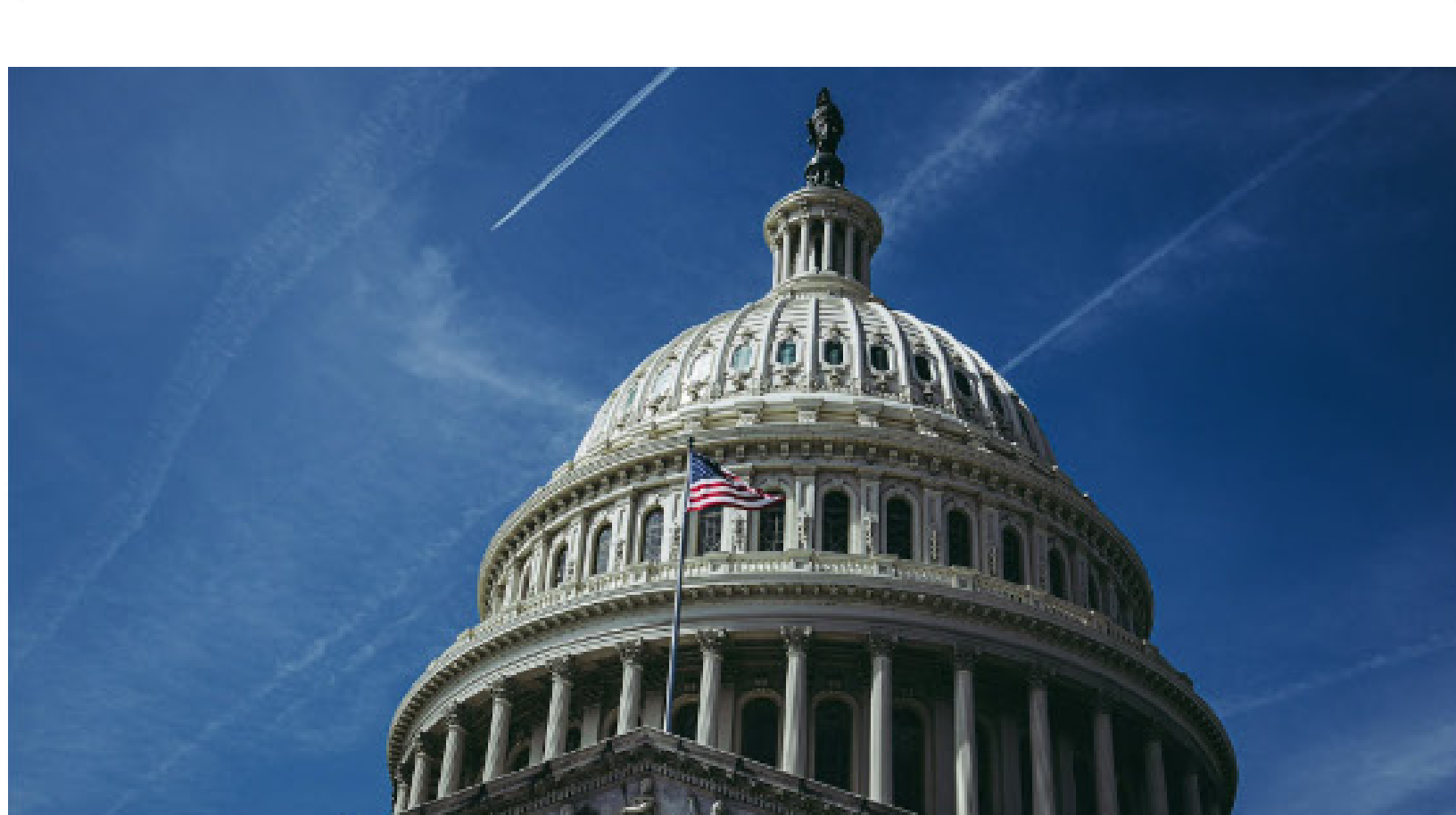
### Leather's Environmental Impact Significantly Lower than Previously Claimed

According to a preliminary Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of U.S. cowhide production, leather's environmental impact is significantly lower than reported by the Higg Index. The independent study, funded by the Leather and Hide Council of America, found that the index commonly used in the textiles industry overstates the climate impact of U.S. hides by as much as 8,000 times. [Read more about the LCA findings.](#)



### Florida Department of Citrus Joins The USSA

The U.S. Sustainability Alliance continues to grow with the addition of the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC), a Florida government executive agency responsible for marketing, research, and regulation of the Florida citrus industry. FDOC expands USSA's membership to 27 associations in farming, fisheries, forestry, and related production and processing sectors. [Learn more about USSA's newest member.](#)



### USSA Launches Regulatory Guide to U.S. Sustainable Agriculture

A new U.S. Sustainability Alliance report provides insight into the laws, policies, and programs that support U.S. sustainable agriculture. While there is a perception in Europe that U.S. agricultural production is light on oversight, a robust framework of laws governs the sustainability and conservation of U.S. land and waters, some dating back more than a century. [Read more about the key areas covered in the report.](#)



### USDA Under Secretary Alexis Taylor on A Century of Agricultural Trade

Alexis M. Taylor, USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, reflects on a century of growth, innovation, and progress in agricultural trade in the United States. She outlines the factors that have contributed to trade success, from technology to productivity gains, and highlights the challenges presented by global food insecurity and climate change. [Read Under Secretary Taylor's article.](#)



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture continues to be one of the leading economic development drivers in Indian Country. Tribal producers nearly doubled economic revenues in the past five years, reporting \$6.4 billion in 2022, up from \$3.6 billion in 2017 - a 77.8% increase.

Source: The Intertribal Agriculture Council



### U.S. Soy Talks Regenerative Agriculture at Economist Sustainability Week

Sustainable U.S. soy featured prominently at Economist Impact's 9th annual Sustainability Week in London, sponsored by The U.S. Soybean Export Council. Meagan Kaiser, a soybean farmer and soil scientist, participated in a panel discussion on regenerative agriculture with experts from BASF, McCain Foods, and Heineken Group. [Read about the key topics discussed.](#)



### Meet the Calhouns: Sisters, Fourth-generation Ranchers, and Conservationists

Nancy, Merry, and Susie Calhoun are sisters, fourth-generation cattle ranchers, and award-winning conservationists in California's Livermore Valley. Their goal is to "maximize the utilization of the land and resources while conserving the plants and wildlife". This has seen them plant milkweed and other pollinator-friendly vegetation and embark on a project to restore native Valley Oak trees. [Read more about conservation practices on 3 Calhoun Sisters' Ranch.](#)

#### WHAT WE'RE READING THIS MONTH

To mark Women's History Month, we're sharing some of the latest data and industry reports about women in U.S. agriculture:

- The 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture provides an insight into the diversity of women working in U.S. farming and ranching. Watch this video from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for the key data points. View it [here](#).
- Researchers at Penn State and the University of Wisconsin-Madison have found that U.S. counties with more women farmers also have longer life expectancies and lower poverty rates. Read the report [here](#).
- According to the American Farmland Trust (AFT), women farmers and ranchers in the United States still face an uphill battle despite their growing role in agriculture. Read more about AFT's findings and solutions for creating a more equitable farming sector. Access the report [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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