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June 2024 Newsletter

This month, we bring you an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's adaptation plan to mitigate the growing risks of climate change. We also feature an innovation challenge to find breakthrough solutions to agriculture's most pressing challenges. And we report on global research that has identified a way to save nearly half of the 1.3 billion tons of food wasted annually.

Finally, don't miss our article from the American Feed Industry Association's Leah Wilkinson reflecting on the significance of the FDA approving Bovaer, a methane-reducing feed ingredient, for use in the United States.

Keep reading for more on these stories and other news on dairy, research and innovation, and international trade.

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Updated Climate Adaptation Plans Seek to Build Resilience Nationwide

Communities across the United States are experiencing the impacts of climate change, from droughts affecting crop yields and floods damaging infrastructure to wildfires destroying entire communities. To mitigate these growing risks and the impact on their operations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies have released updated climate adaptation plans in line with the Biden Administration's National Climate Resilience Framework. [Read more about USDA's Climate Adaptation Plan.](#)



Can the Feed Industry Provide the Solutions Agriculture Needs?

In a landmark move, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Bovaer® - a feed ingredient that reduces enteric methane emissions from dairy cows - for use in the United States. What are the implications of this decision, and why is it so significant? Leah Wilkinson, Vice President of Public Policy & Education at the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), shares her views. [Read Leah's article.](#)



Innovation Challenge Aims to Spark Transformative Agricultural Research

The global search is on for breakthrough research projects in food and agriculture! The "Nourishing Next Generation Agrifood Breakthroughs" Innovation Challenge will offer up to \$2 million to transdisciplinary teams led by early-career scientists to undertake transformative research. To be successful, the projects must simultaneously address climate, nutrition security, and equity. [Read more about the global Innovation Challenge.](#)



Image credit: Nicole Smith, made with Stable Cascade

Improved Refrigeration Could Cut Global Food Waste Emissions by 41%

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), approximately one-third of the food produced globally each year goes to waste. However, University of Michigan researchers have found that fully refrigerated supply chains could almost half the 1.3 billion tons of food wasted annually while cutting the associated greenhouse gas emissions by 41%. [Read more about the study.](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages farmers to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production for 10 to 15 year periods. In FY23, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) issued \$1.77 billion in payments to 667,000 participants for the conservation of more than 23 million acres of private land (9.3 million hectares).

Source: USDA's 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan



Meet Dairy Farmers the Beck Brothers - Sustainability Champions and TV Stars!

Thanks to increasingly modern and innovative dairy farming practices, the environmental impact of producing a gallon of milk has shrunk significantly. The process now requires 30% less water and 21% less land and creates a 19% smaller carbon footprint than it did in 2007. To mark National Dairy Month, we visit a New York dairy farm to look at some of the advances that have led to these improvements. [Meet the Beck Brothers, the stars of a new TV documentary!](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Here are some of the other stories that made the headlines this month:

- USDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the White House have published a national strategy to tackle food loss and waste, which accounts for 58% of methane emissions from U.S. landfills, as reported [here](#).
- In a trade first, U.S. Under Secretary Alexis Taylor visited Vancouver on USDA's inaugural trade mission to develop export markets for Tribal and Native Hawaiian businesses and products. Find out more [here](#).
- In innovation news, USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the University of Wisconsin are building a world-class dairy research facility that will house robotic milking systems and chambers for measuring GHG emissions, as outlined [here](#).
- We end with a powerful endorsement of sustainable U.S. soy! The European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) has confirmed that the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) meets the sustainable production standards in its updated 2023 Soy Sourcing Guidelines. Find further details [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.

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