



The U.S. Sustainability Alliance

Nick Gardner, Chair





THE U.S. SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE

The U.S. Sustainability Alliance – Our Story

2012

Set up under a USDA export-oriented program with support from 8 trade associations to share the values of U.S. farmers, fishermen and foresters and supply chain partner regarding sustainable practices and conservation programs.

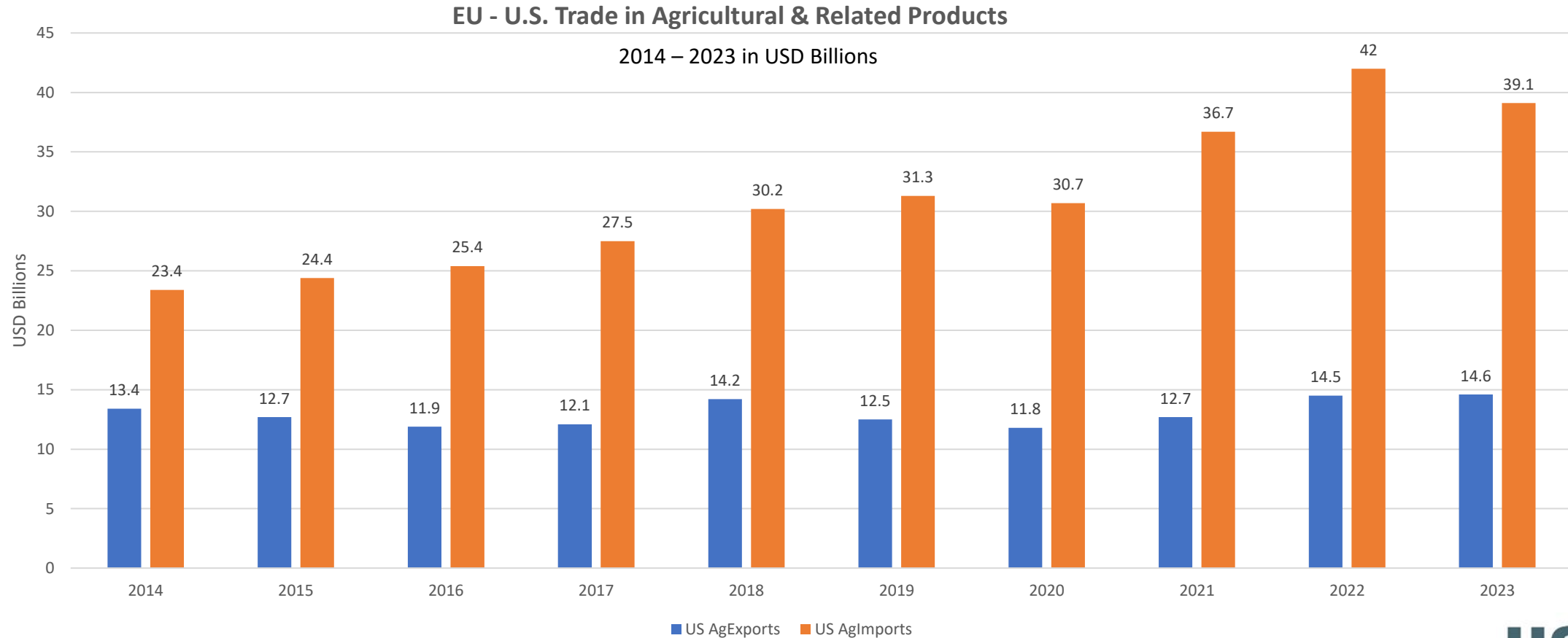
2024

Today there are 28 exporter associations (Cooperators).

USDA FAS USSA Cooperator Members

Agri-Bulk	Animal/Seafood & Related Products	Specialty
American Feed Industry Association	Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute	Almond Board of California
American Seed Trade Association	Food Export USA Northeast	American Hardwood Council
North American Export Grain Association	Leather and Hide Council of America	American Peanut Council
USA Rice	North American Renderers Association	California Prune Board
U.S. Grains Council	USA Poultry & Egg Export Council	Cotton Council International
U.S. Soybean Export Council	U.S. Dairy Export Council	Florida Department of Citrus
U.S. Wheat Associates	U.S. Meat Export Federation	Food Export Association of the Midwest
	U.S. Livestock Genetics Export	Inter-Tribal Agricultural Council
		Organic Trade Association
		North Carolina SweetPotato Commission
		Softwood Export Council
		U.S. Dry Bean Council
		U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council

EU – U.S. PARTNERS IN AGRICULTURE TRADE



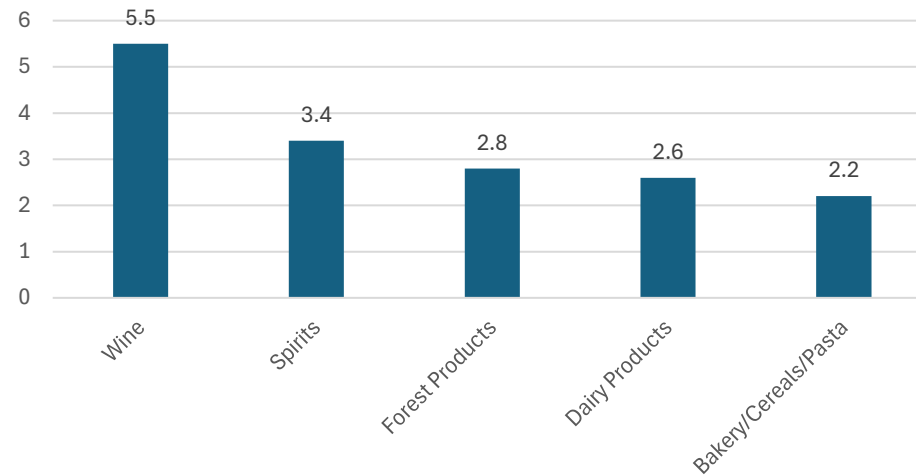
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census via GATS/USDA

EU – U.S. Top Trades

The products from our farms are already present across each other's dining tables . .

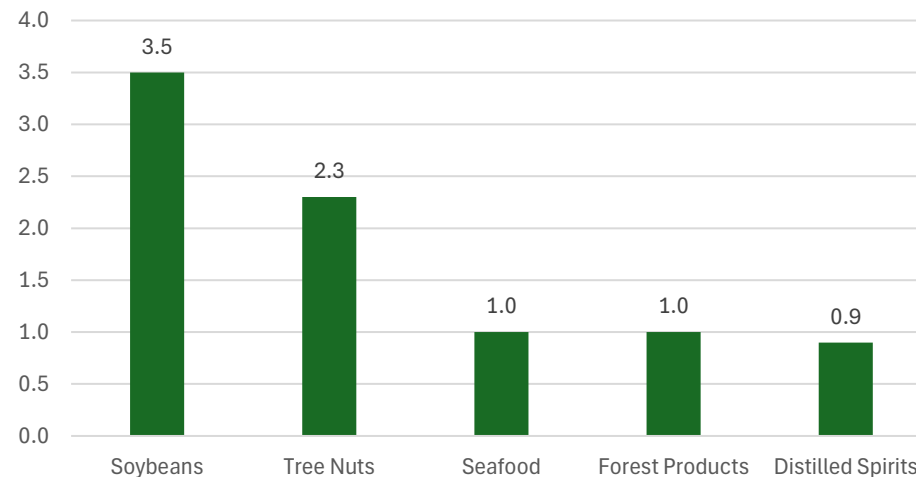
- The EU ranks fifth in total U.S. global exports
- The U.S. is the second most important destination for EU products, behind it's top market – UK
- Collectively, the members of the U.S. Sustainability Alliance export almost two-thirds of the U.S. food and agriculture related products to the EU-27

Top 5 Ag Exports from EU to U.S. (USD bn)



\$16.5 bill.

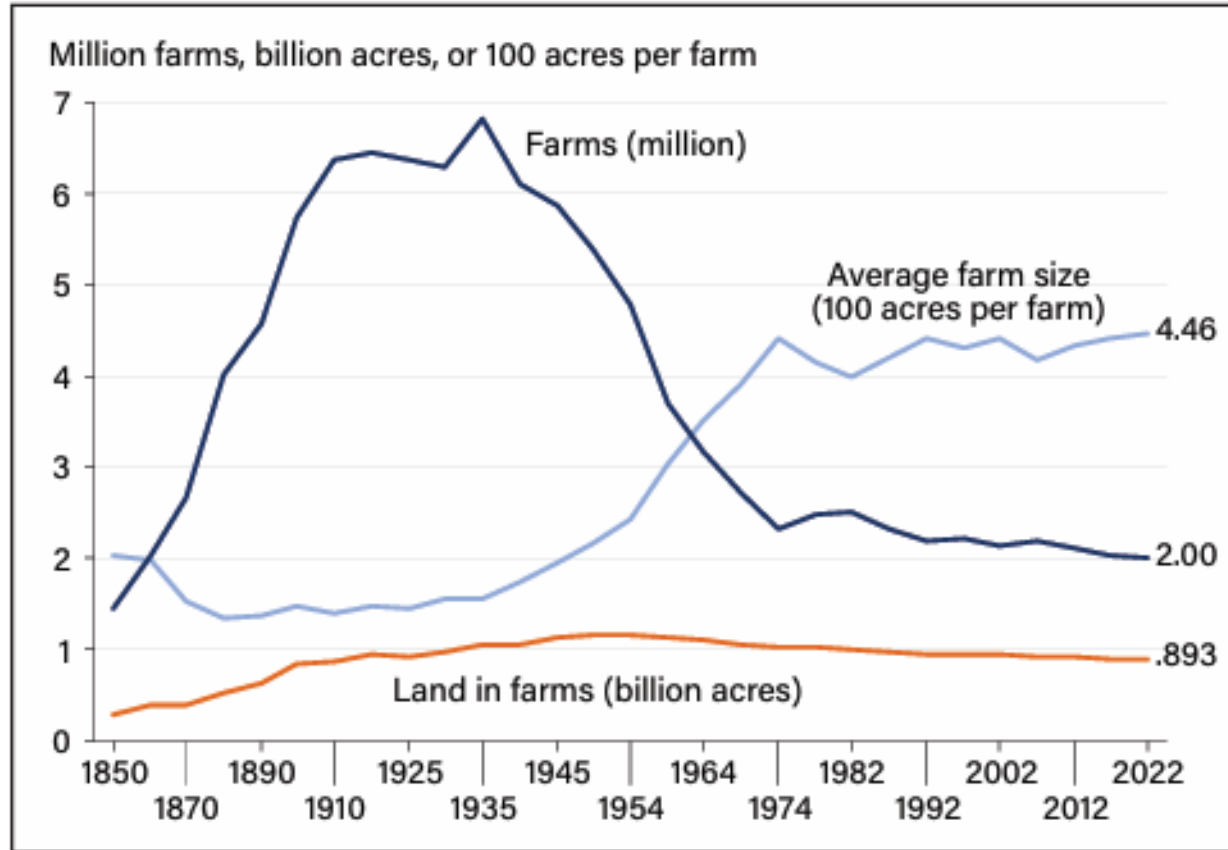
Top 5 Ag Exports from U.S. to EU (USD bn)



\$8.7 bill.

U.S. FARMS & PRODUCTIVITY

Farms, land in farms, and average acres per farm, 1850-2022



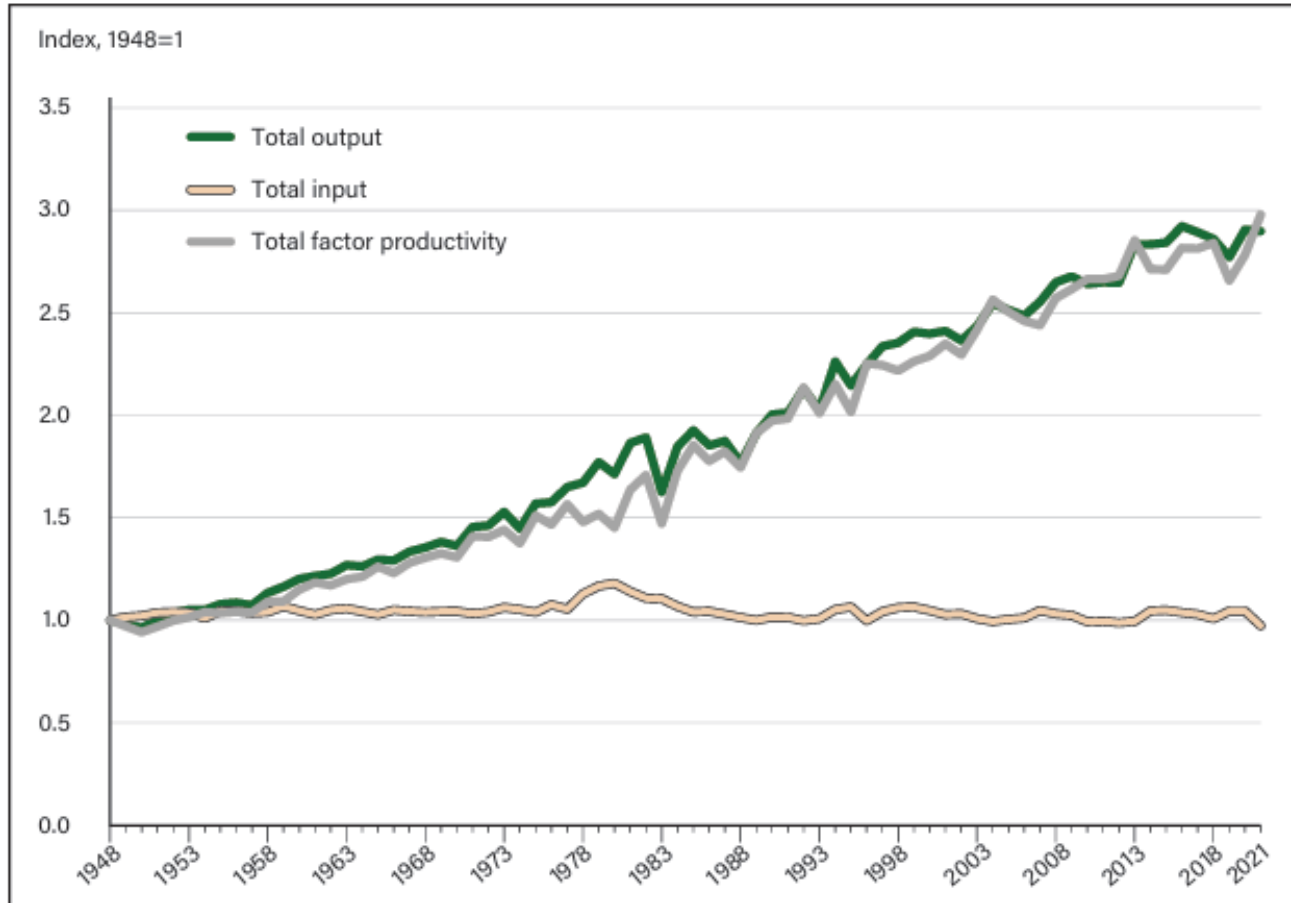
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture (through 2017) and *Farms and Land in Farms: 2022 Summary* (February 2023).

In the United States, farming is a family business

- 1.9 million farms in 2023 covering 879 bn acres
- Average farm size in 2023 was 464 acres
- 95% are family owned

U.S. FARMS & PRODUCTIVITY

Trends of growth of output, input, and total factor productivity, 1948-2021



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service. "Agricultural Productivity in the U.S." data, January 2024 release.

Productivity and conservation are both key to sustainably feed a growing world:

- Agricultural output between 1948 and 2021 increased annually by 1.5% while land in farms and labor declined
- Improved animal & crop genetics - new technologies (GMOs), equipment, precision farming
- New technologies help farmers be more sustainable

U.S. SUSTAINABILITY: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS



Sharing the values of America's farmers, fishermen and foresters and their sustainability & conservation practices

Establish U.S. producers as good-faith participants in the global challenge of sustainability, based on more than a century of environmental protection and conservation

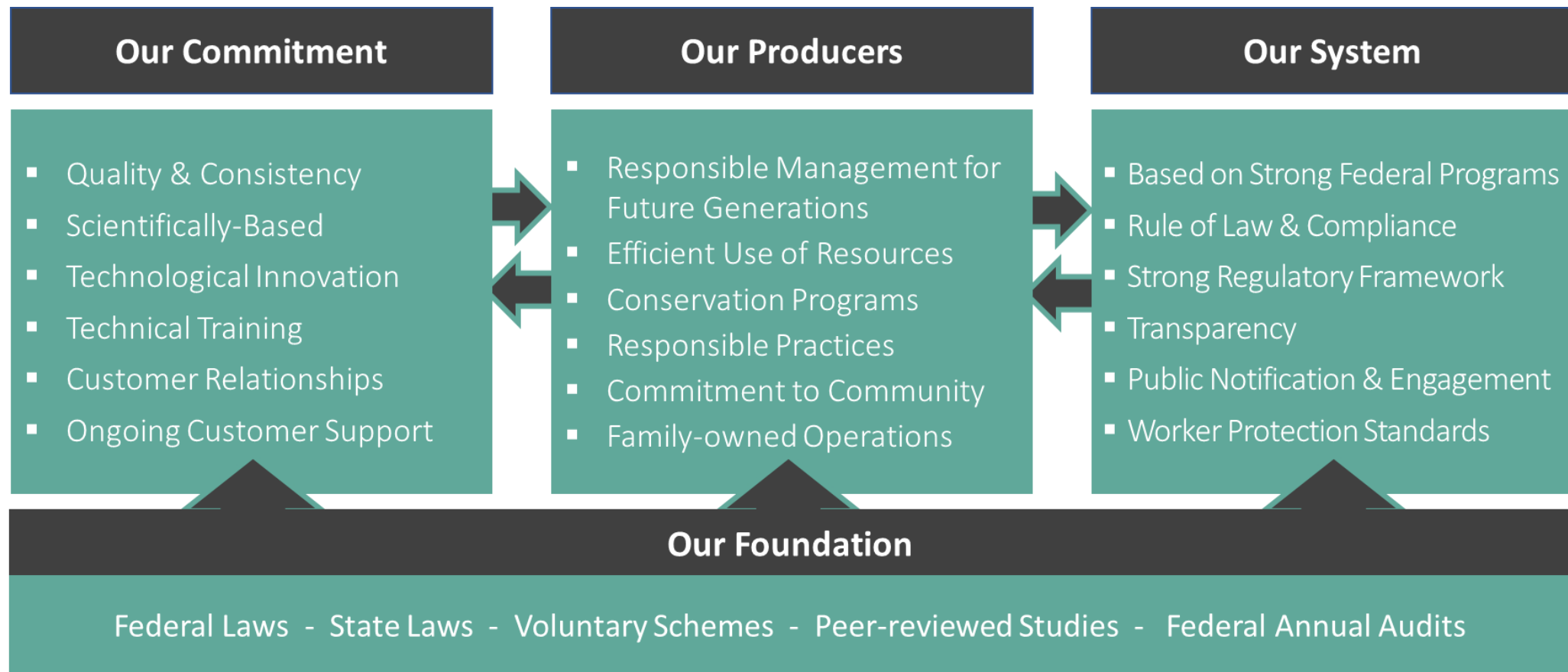
Develop relationships with EU audiences to ensure ongoing collaboration, dialogue & exchange of information & ideas

October 2024: EU officials from Czech Republic, Poland & Spain meet with U.S. Sustainability Alliance Washington DC and on Iowa farm visits

U.S. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY

Toward the Shared Goal of Sustainability

Predictable, Consistent Supply of Safe Products - Diverse Agricultural Profile - Continuous Environmental Improvement



Broad scope of U.S. Sustainability Alliance activities	
Roundtables (in cooperation with USDA FAS EU Posts)	Conferences / Speaking opportunities
Cooperator Factsheets / Informational Material	Media Outreach
Direct Stakeholder Engagement	USSA Web / Blog and Social Media Channels
Cooperator input	

U.S. COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

- Conservation improvements for 80 + years
- USDA invests in conservation programs
 - 12,000 + employees in conservation
 - *\$57.6 billion dollars invested from 2014-2023*
 - USDA surveys farmers & provides production & environmental metrics
- Conservation offices in 2,200 + locations
- 19 federal laws & policies on conservation, plus state laws & industry standards
- U.S. Sustainability Alliance members develop their own sustainability programs often in partnership with other organizations

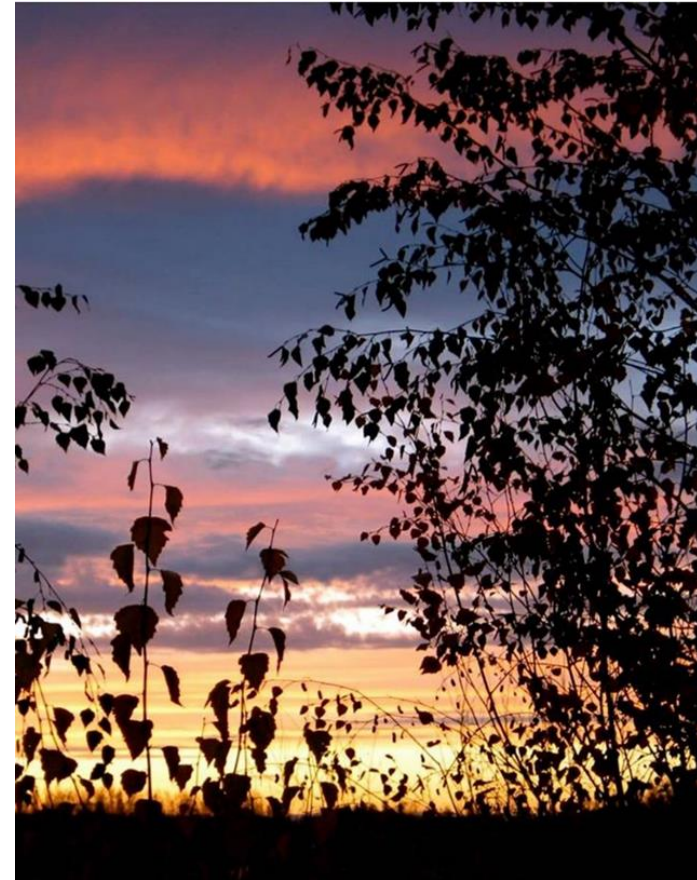


SUSTAINABILITY: OUR CHALLENGE

DIFFERENT PATHWAYS TO THE SAME GOAL

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- EU Green Deal
 - Biodiversity
 - Farm to Fork
 - Sustainable Food Systems
- U.S. Sustainable Productivity Growth
- Agriculture Mission for Climate
- U.S. & EU Collaborative Platform on Agriculture

The common goal will best be reached by mutual understanding & recognition of the different roads to get there



SUSTAINABILITY: OUR CHALLENGE

DIFFERENT PATHWAYS TO THE SAME GOAL

- Sustainability is a global challenge, but requires local solutions
- U.S. ambition of achieving a 50-52% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 which goes hand in hand with investment on climate-smart agriculture and forestry. This move is helping U.S. farmers be more proactive with agricultural sustainability
- Climate change and food security top of global agendas, there is an opportunity for the EU and U.S. to better align policies affecting agriculture and trade.



Thank you

www.thesustainabilityalliance.us



An aerial photograph showing a dense forest of green trees on the left, a paved road curving through the middle, and a body of water on the right.

U.S. LAWS AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Department of Agriculture

Conservation Compliance

Conservation Reserve Program

Conservation Stewardship Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Technical Assistance and Other Conservation Programs

Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology

National Organic Program

Lacey Act

An aerial photograph showing a dense green forest on the left, a paved road with a white line curving through the middle, and a body of water on the right.

U.S. LAWS AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Department of Commerce

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management & Conservation Act

Environmental Protection Agency

Clean Air Act (including air emission aspects of CERCLA and EPCRA)

Clean Water Act

Renewable Fuel Standard and Biofuels Policy

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

An aerial photograph showing a dense green forest on the left, a paved road curving through the middle, and a body of water on the right.

U.S. LAWS AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Department of Health and Human Services

Food Safety Laws (including USDA laws)

Department of the Interior

Endangered Species Act

Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Act