

# Animal Ag Sustainability Facts



America's corn farmers continue to produce more on less by implementing sustainable farming practices. Since 1980, soil loss per bushel of corn has decreased by 51 percent, corn production has seen a 30 percent decrease in greenhouse (GHG) emissions per bushel and the energy used to produce a bushel of corn has decreased by 38 percent.

The animal agriculture industry has also been able to reduce its environmental footprint by decreasing water use, lowering GHG emissions, using less land and overall have a smaller carbon footprint. Let's explore the environmental impacts and sustainability practices of some of our top customers.

## Beef



**U.S. farmers and ranchers produce 18% of the world's beef with only 8% of the world's cattle.**



**On average, it takes 2.6 pounds of corn to produce one pound of beef. Researchers have even found that on a pound-for-pound basis, beef produced with grain diets actually produce significantly less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than strictly grass-fed.**



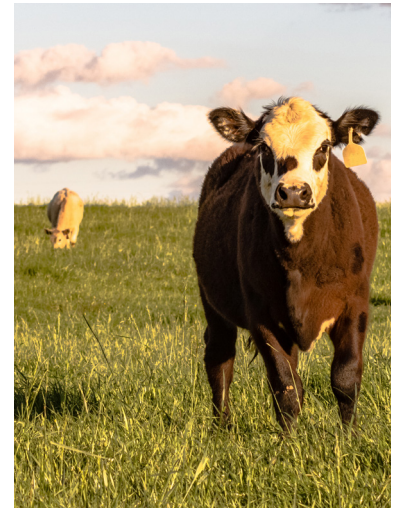
**U.S. beef production practices allow for the U.S. herd to represent 8% of the global cattle population while providing 18% of the world's beef.**



**The U.S. beef industry recycles 99% of every carcass to make pharmaceuticals, gasoline alternatives, and hundreds of other household and industrial uses.**



**With modern-day production practices, U.S. farmers and ranchers have reduced carbon emissions by 2.3 gigatons since 1975.**



## Dairy



**The U.S. dairy sector has reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 63% over the past 60 years.**



**Thanks to increasingly modern and innovative dairy farming practices, the environmental impact of producing a gallon of milk today involves 30% less water, 21% less land, 21% less manure and a 19% smaller carbon footprint than it did in 2007.**



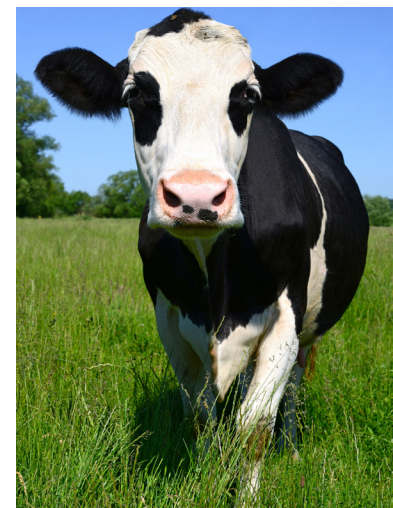
**U.S. dairy contributes 2% of all U.S. GHG emissions.**



**The dairy industry continues to use anaerobic digester systems to convert manure into electricity, fuel for cars and trucks, fertilizer, and fiber. In 2014, 82% of on-farm systems were located on dairy farms.**



**On dairy farms, water is typically used as many as five to six times. Water used to clean milking parlors could be later reused to clean production areas, and then sent to irrigate fields.**



# Animal Ag Sustainability Facts



## Poultry



Hens now use 32% less water per dozen eggs produced.



Hens are producing 27% more eggs per day while living longer.



Modern-day egg production releases 71% lower greenhouse gas emissions.



Producing the same amount of chicken today has 50% less impact on the environment than it did in 1965.



When converted to CO2 equivalents, the U.S. broiler industry is less than 0.1% of the total global greenhouse gases.



## Swine



In the U.S., pork production accounts for less than 0.3% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



Per pound of pork produced in the past 55 years, U.S. pork producers have reduced land use by 76%, water use by 25%, energy use by 7% and their carbon footprint by more than 7%.



Over the past 60 years, pig farmers have produced 262% more food with 2% fewer inputs.



Pig farmers are using 75.9% less land, 25.1% less water, 7% less energy, and generating 7.7% less carbon emissions in the past six decades.



99% of PQA-certified sites comply with animal welfare practices.



## Sources

### Beef

<https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/raising-beef/beef-sustainability>  
<https://www.beefresearch.org/sustainability/q19a/index.html>  
<https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/u-s-beef-fact-sheet/>

### Dairy

<https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/10-facts-us-sustainable-agriculture/>  
<https://www.usdairy.com/sustainability/environmental-sustainability>  
<https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/US-Dairy-Factsheet-The-Facts.pdf>

### Poultry

<https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/u-s-poultry-and-eggs-fact-sheet/>  
<https://www.nationalchickencouncil.org/national-chicken-council-unveils-new-sustainability-resources/>

### Swine

<https://www.pork.org/environment/sustainable-pig-farming/>  
<https://thepigsite.com/news/2020/01/us-pork-industry-releases-new-sustainability-report>  
<https://www.porkcdn.com/sites/all/files/documents/WeCare/npb-sustainability-report-executive-summary.pdf>