



# Farmers for a Sustainable Future:

The U.S. farmers and ranchers we represent are committed to producing the world's food, feed, fuel, and fiber supply in a sustainable way. As stewards, we promote soil health, conserve water, enhance wildlife habitat, use nutrients efficiently, and responsibly care for livestock and poultry. We are committed to supplying the world with safe, high-quality, and affordable food, fuel and fiber. Efficiency gains are key to our livelihood and are the foundation for future environmental progress; in this context, farmers and ranchers are constantly searching for better ways of production. For decades, we have pursued innovation by investing in practices and technology aimed at improving productivity, providing clean and renewable energy, and enhancing sustainability.

These innovations have yielded an agricultural system in America that has a carbon footprint approximately three times smaller than total global emissions from farming. Combined, U.S. agriculture, land use and forestry are a net sink for emissions, removing 172 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions from the atmosphere in 2017 alone.

## Guiding Principles

Livestock and crop production are the backbone of American agriculture, and ensuring they continue sustainably is critical for future success. Farmers have embraced technologies that reduced emissions and increased efficiency. Building upon the strong foundation of voluntary stewardship investments and practices, including those in the Farm Bill, we look forward to working with policy makers to further advance the successful sustainable practices used by U.S. agricultural producers. Throughout this process, lawmakers must ensure that any governmental analysis characterizing U.S. crop and livestock systems reflects U.S. agriculture's leadership globally in sustainable farming practices.

### We support:

-  **Incentivizing innovation:** Voluntary, incentive-based programs that enhance farmer and ranchers' profitability and production methods, which have already allowed agriculture to achieve significant sustainability gains.
-  **Reducing barriers:** The examination of existing state and federal programs to identify efficiencies, reduce regulatory obstacles, and improve program delivery.
-  **Science-based research:** The development of new technologies and practices to help farmers and ranchers achieve greater efficiencies and enhance sustainability.
-  **Resilient infrastructure:** Initiatives to maintain and improve infrastructure capacity to support farm and ranch operations, rural communities, and related agricultural businesses.
-  **Focusing on outcomes:** Market-based solutions, led by farmers and ranchers, that improve rural communities while recognizing the diversity of agricultural practices, climates, challenges, and resources needs.

Farmers for a Sustainable Future is motivated to ensure that farm families maintain their ability to respond and adapt to climatic events and that public policies do not threaten the long-term resiliency of our rural communities. Congress must protect American agriculture and production practices from undue burden, and respect farmers' and ranchers' ability to innovate and solve problems.

American farm families want to leave the land better than when it was first entrusted to our care. We want to protect the planet, feed and clothe people, and promote vibrant communities. Working with our partners, land-grant universities, and policy makers, Farmers for a Sustainable Future and the hundreds of thousands of farmers and ranchers we represent intends to continue finding solutions for the challenges of the future.

**FSF represents U.S. farmers and ranchers committed to sustainably producing the world's food, feed and fiber supply.**

