U.S. CORN SUSTAINABILITY

STEWARDS OF THE LAND
U.S. CORN FARMERS

As stewards of the land, we understand the responsibility we have for creating a more environmentally and economically sustainable world through continued advances in land, water and energy usages.

Social Impact

Corn is grown in almost every state of the U.S, and it is an important part of the cultural and economic fabric of many rural communities.

U.S. corn's ample availability contributes to **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY**, insulating customers from political, operational and climate-related risks.

Economic Impact

The corn industry creates more than **46,000 JOBS** directly, and supports employment in transportation, real estate, chemical manufacturing and many other sectors.

The crop value of U.S. corn is estimated to be $59.6 billion. In addition, the corn industry is estimated to generate **$2 BILLION IN WAGES**, contributes **$3.8 BILLION TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT** and positively impacts the U.S. trade balance.

U.S. CORN SUSTAINABILITY

U.S. Corn farmers are committed to continuous improvement in the production of corn, a versatile crop providing abundant high-quality food, feed and biobased products.

Corn is a key source of nutrition for people and animals, and is used in consumer products such as biofuels and plastics.

U.S. corn farmers actively participate in government and supply chain initiatives to increase conservation practices.

Technological integration by U.S. corn farmers has reduced the amount of energy required to produce a bushel of corn by 56% since 1980.

U.S. corn production is based on a national system of conservation laws and regulations that guarantee high environmental standards in farming.

Nature-based solutions like stream buffers and cover crops are being adopted by U.S. corn farmers.

U.S. corn production has reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 48% since 1980. The adoption of biotechnology and new practices have contributed to greater efficiency.

U.S. corn farmers embrace new technologies and adopt improved production practices.

From 1980 through 2020, U.S. corn yields improved by 88%. This means more product can be grown with minimal increases in land use.

U.S. corn farmers reduced soil erosion by 40% from 1980-2020.

The adoption of innovative farming tools by U.S. corn growers include yield monitors, soil sensors, yield mapping and satellite guidance systems.

From 1980-2020, irrigation water efficiency in corn production improved by 56% thanks to U.S. corn farmers adopting cutting edge water management practices.

Biotechnology has enabled increased yields while reducing the use of pesticides, fertilizers, fossil fuels and GHG emissions.

CORN SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE PROTOCOL

A New Tool
The Corn Sustainability Assurance Protocol (CSAP) offers international corn buyers and export markets insights into the sustainability of U.S. corn production practices and regulations.

Farmer Driven
The CSAP was initiated within a farmer-led working group at the U.S. Grains Council, to let the world know about sustainability of U.S. corn production practices.

Export Focused
The CSAP helps corn exporters address disclosure requirements and sustainability procurement guidelines in international markets, for stakeholders that may not be familiar with the regulatory framework or production practices of U.S. corn production.

Continuously Improving
The CSAP compiles the best practices and regulations for U.S. corn to which producers adhere, establishing a baseline of sustainable production practices that are continuously improving, as farmers leverage new technologies and tools.

SUSTAINABILITY & CORN TRADE

The U.S. Grains Council uses tools, including CSAP to support sustainable U.S. corn trade.

CSAP
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

CSAP
Corn Sustainability Assurance Protocol

U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Air Quality
2. Water Quality & Quantity
3. Soil Health & Productivity
4. Land Use, Sensitive Habitats & Biodiversity
5. Crop Health & Agricultural Best Management Practices
6. Agrochemical & Nutrient Management
7. Waste & Pollution
8. Working Conditions & Labor Relations
9. Worker & Public Safety
10. Community Relations

USGC TOOLS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE CORN TRADE

CSAP — Corn SUSTAINABILITY Assurance Protocol

- The CSAP compiles and describes the regulations, processes and best practices that ensure sustainable corn production.

- It offers insights into U.S. corn production sustainability practices and outlines U.S. laws and regulations that provide assurances of compliance.

- The CSAP describes key impact categories, outlines continuous improvement goals, and compiles best agricultural practices and regulations associated to U.S. corn production.

- It defines how the volume of sustainable U.S. corn to be used in the Sustainable Corn Exports (SCE) web-platform is to be determined.

SCE — SUSTAINABLE Corn Exports Web Platform

- The SCE allows corn exporters and importers to issue shipment-specific records of sustainability that can be passed along the supply chain.

- U.S. corn farmers do not have to take any action to have their corn considered for use under the CSAP and the SCE platform, thanks to the use of the mass-balance sourcing approach.

- The volume of U.S. sustainable corn is tied to the number of corn acres participating in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. The latter defines the minimum verification threshold established by the CSAP.

- There is no cost to corn producers, exporters, importers or supply chains stakeholders to use the SCE platform.

RESOURCES
FOR U.S. FARMERS

For more information, visit our website,
SUSTAINABLE CORN EXPORTS
at www.SustainableCornExports.com

Or contact

TRADE POLICY DEPARTMENT
U.S. Grains Council
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CSAP
Corn Sustainability Assurance Protocol

U.S. GRAINS
COUNCIL

U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL

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