



## The Hand That Feeds U.S.

### Agriculture Grows America's Economy

America's farmers and ranchers do more than just produce the safest, most abundant, most affordable food supply the world has ever known—a benefit to all consumers. U.S. agriculture is also an economic engine that powers the country's economy and creates jobs.



- 21 million American jobs have their root in the U.S. food and fiber industry—more than five times as many workers as the U.S. automotive manufacturing, sales and service sectors combined. *Source: American Farm Bureau Federation, Dept. of Labor*
- U.S. farms and ranches spent \$241 billion to produce \$297 billion in goods in 2007—U.S. ag-related sales alone were larger than the GDPs of 200 countries. *Source: USDA, CIA World Fact Book*
- American agriculture is one of the few U.S. business sectors to boast a trade surplus, exporting \$115 billion in farm goods in 2008. *Source: USDA*
- Agricultural exports alone generated 841,000 full-time jobs, including 482,000 in the non-farm sector, according to a 2006 USDA study.
- American consumers spend just 9.8% of their disposable income on food—less than any other country. *Source: USDA*
- When gasoline prices more than doubled in 2007 and 2008, food prices only increased by 5.1%, and only a small portion of this could be attributed to farm commodity prices. *Source: Congressional Budget Office*
- In 2008 alone, the ethanol industry displaced the need for 321 million barrels of oil and provided nearly a half million jobs, \$65 billion to the U.S. economy, \$7.2 billion in tax revenue, and \$20 billion in household income. *Source: Renewable Fuels Association*

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***"Agriculture . . . is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness."***

— President Thomas Jefferson