



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, and most affordable food supply the world has ever known. The U.S. agricultural industry is also an economic engine that fuels this country and its people.



- 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 \$288 billion to produce \$369 billion in goods in 2010—U.S. ag-related sales alone were larger than the GDPs of 200 other countries. *Source: USDA, World Bank*
- American agriculture is one of the few U.S. business sectors to boast a trade surplus, exporting \$108 billion in farm goods in 2010. *Source: USDA*
- Agricultural exports alone generated 920,000 full-time jobs, including 608,000 in the non-farm sector in 2008. *Source: USDA*
- Americans spend just 9.5% of their disposable income on food—less than the consumers of any other country. *Source: USDA*
- When gasoline prices more than doubled in 2007 and 2008, food prices only increased by 5.1%, only a small portion of which could be attributed to farm commodity prices. *Source: Congressional Budget Office*
- In 2009 alone, the ethanol industry:
 - Displaced the need for 364 million barrels of oil.
 - Provided nearly 400,000 U.S. jobs.
 - Contributed \$53 billion to the U.S. economy, \$8.4 billion in tax revenue, and \$16 billion in household income. *Source: Renewable Fuels Association*

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

— President Thomas Jefferson