REPUBLICAN LEADER GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON

Full Committee Hearing

Climate Change and the U.S. Agriculture and Forestry Sectors

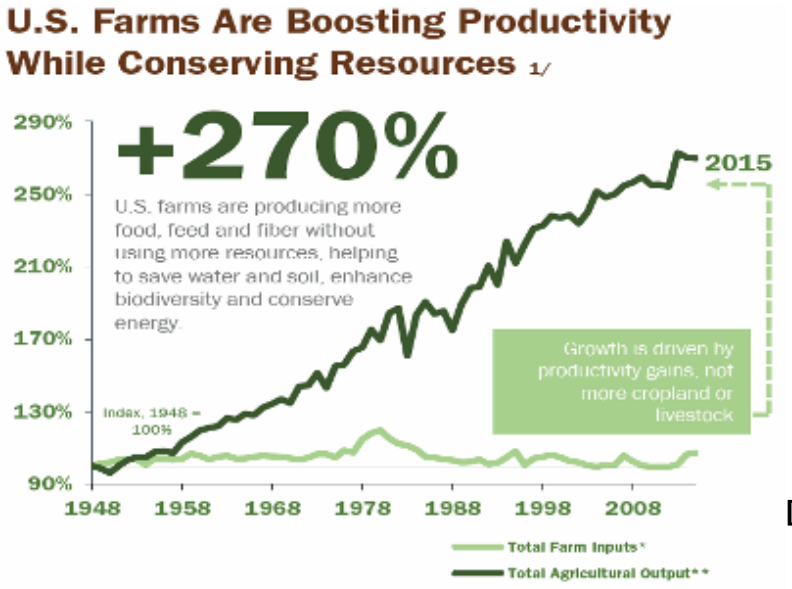
SUPPLEMENTAL FACT SHEET

THE UNITED STATES IS A LEADER IN GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

- The U.S. leads the world in reducing carbon emissions and investing in renewable energy.
- The U.S. has trended downward over the last two decades with overall reductions even greater than the next 12 emissions-reducing countries combined.
- In 2019, U.S. power sector carbon emissions were 33% lower than 2005—exceeding the Clean Power Plan target of 32% by 2030.
- 2020 power sector emissions are on track to be 40% lower than 2005, though that figure is distorted due to the COVID pandemic.
- Within ten years, nearly 90% of all emissions will come from outside the United States.
- There is a growing public misconception that reducing U.S. animal production, specifically the production of beef, is necessary to fight climate change. In fact, American beef's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is just 3.3% of all U.S. emissions. Between 1990 and 2016, total methane emissions per unit of beef production dropped 10%. **[1] [2] [3]**

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST EFFICIENT IN THE WORLD

- The United States is the most efficient producer of agricultural products.
- Productivity relative to resource use for agriculture is up 287% in the U.S. since the 1940's while total farm inputs were mostly unchanged over the period.
- Not only are farmers conserving resources, they're doing it while producing more food, feed, and fiber.
- Agriculture contributes less than 10% of all U.S. emissions.
- The 2018 Farm Bill, which is the greenest farm bill ever, provides $63 billion in budget authority for dedicated funding (over 10 years) to be used for conservation and energy efficiency programs.



[4]

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION ARE KEY TO CONTINUED PROGRESS

- Precision agriculture helps determine which fertilizer is best for current soil conditions and where exactly on the field it needs to be applied. This allows farmers to know the exact amounts required, saving money and lowering emissions.
- American farmers are proactively and voluntarily planting more cover crops, implementing diverse crop rotations, and using more conservation tillage methods. Since 2012, sustainable soil use and resource conservation efforts increased by 34 million acres, or 17%. **[5]**
- Since 1990, the United States Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Sector has been a net sink source of emissions, with an estimated offset 11.1% of total United States emissions from all other sources in 2017.

CITATIONS

[1] American Farm Bureau Federation, “Farmers for a Sustainable Future," https://www.fb.org/land/fsf

[2] Suszkiw, Jan. Agriculture Research Service, Study Clarifies U.S. Beef's Resource Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. (March 2019). https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2019/study-clarifies-us-beefs-resource-use-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions/

[3] American Farm Bureau Federation, "Agriculture and Greenhouse Gas Emissions," ://www.fb.org/market-intel/agriculture-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions

[4] Farmers for a Sustainable Future, https://unitedegg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/FFASF-Sustainable-Flyer.pdf

[5] American Farm Bureau Federation, “Farmers for a Sustainable Future," https://www.fb.org/land/fsf