SUSTAINABILITY STARTS ON THE FARM

U.S. soybean farmers ensure sustainable planting, growth and harvest through these practices.

55%

Farmers have increased their yields by 55% on roughly the same amount of land through conservation practices.

Decreases achieved in:
- Carbon Emissions
- Energy/Fuel Use
- Greenhouse Gas
- Soil Erosion
Crop residue is broken down by earth worms and increases beneficial organic matter.

Through soil conservation practices, U.S. farmers have reduced soil erosion by **65% per metric ton** of U.S. soy production since 1980.
SUSTAINABILITY STARTS ON THE FARM

REDUCING FUEL AND ENERGY USE

ENERGY USE

By increasing productivity of

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

DECREASED BY 46% FROM 1980-2012

DECREASED BY 47% FROM 1980-2012

CONSERVATION TILLAGE
SUSTAINABILITY STARTS ON THE FARM

ADVANCED IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

MODERN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Irrigation water applied per incremental metric ton decreased 42% from 1980-2012.

Center pivot irrigators have sprinklers closer to the ground which reduces soil erosion and provides increased reach into the field.

Irrigation water applied per hectare decreased 10% from 1980-2012.

WATER MANAGEMENT
Water storage ponds are a farmer's weapon against climate variability, helping to maintain high yields.
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Farmers manage the amount and placement of fertilizers to decrease toxic run-off into groundwater.

Proper amounts and strategic placement of nutrients allow crops to reach their full potential and minimize the impact on the environment.
Cover crops maintain the space in which other staple crops usually remain. They are beneficial to the farmer by maintaining healthy soil and indirectly supporting neighboring environments.
Practicing crop rotation replenishes nitrogen in the soil and protects against pests and disease.
Farmers scout fields in order to identify insects, weeds and diseases that may affect crops.

Many beneficial insects — beetle larvae and a variety of flies — as well as larger predators such as toads, snakes, birds, skunks, shrews and moles prey on grasshoppers.

Many species of lady beetles and their larvae, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps are among the natural predators of the soybean aphid.
GPS SYSTEMS

Satellite technology allows precise application of seed and fertilizer.

Sprayers now come equipped with state-of-the-art GPS systems which allow the driver to see the areas which need to be sprayed, and avoid overlapping previously sprayed areas.
Waterways and grassways provide cover and habitation for small birds and animals.

Waterways and grassways reduce erosion by slowing natural run-off in natural drainageways.
Soil erosion decreased 66% per ton of U.S. soy production since 1980.

Terraces enhance soybean yields by reducing erosion and increasing water, nutrient and pesticide infiltration.
Forest buffers help prevent hazardous run-off from farmlands, allowing infiltration of surface water and reducing flood and erosion damage.

800,000

Hectares of wetlands and riparian buffers were restored by the Conservation Reserve Program.
BUFFER STRIPS

Buffer strips help control air, water and soil quality.

50% Nutrients & Pesticides
60% Pathogens
75% Sediment
SUSTAINABILITY STARTS ON THE FARM

U.S. SOYBEAN FARMERS ARE 100% COMMITTED TO ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY