

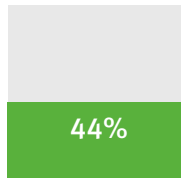


USA

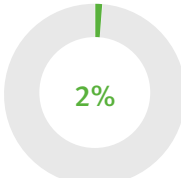
United States of America

Key facts: Agriculture in the USA

- Agriculture in the U.S. is generally highly intensive and industrialised.
- Beef production accounts for more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions from livestock in the U.S.; 90% of beef is consumed domestically.
- Intensive livestock farming is associated with high methane and nitrous oxide emissions from manure that have increased 60% since 1990.
- The U.S. Farm Bill is an all-encompassing law that governs agricultural and food programmes and related policies. The bill is revisited and renewed every five years, including in 2023.
- Wildfires have had a significant impact on agricultural systems in certain regions. In 2020, California experienced its largest wildfire season in recorded history.



406 mio ha
used for agriculture
Total area: 914 mio ha



3 mio
employed in agriculture
Total labour force 167 million

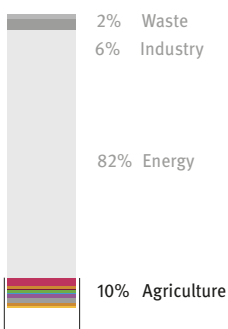
Main agricultural products



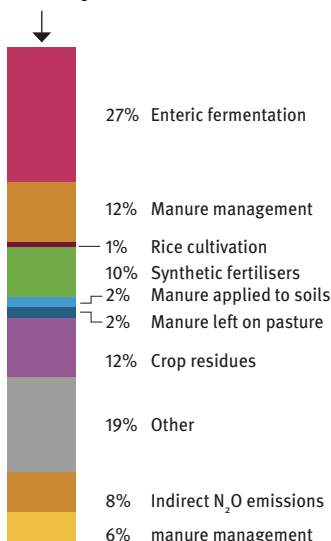
Soybean Maize Wheat

Dairy milk and meat are also major products by volume and income

Total national emissions
6,571 MtCO₂e (except LULUCF)



Agricultural emissions
148 MtCO₂e



Key areas with high mitigation potential

Three mitigation options are highlighted here that are important in the national context due to the share of emissions produced from the activity, the magnitude of possible emissions savings, and feasibility of implementation. These 3 measures form part of a broader set of measures that would be needed to address agricultural emissions in the country, especially demand side measures that reduce the consumption of animal products and thus livestock emissions.

- Improve nutrient management**
Apply fertiliser more precisely and grow more legumes.
- Improve manure management**
Cover lagoons, separate solids, and use digesters to produce biogas.
- Improve grazing land management**
Modifying grazing practices to encourage vegetation growth and sequester carbon.

Key challenges for implementing mitigation measures

- Many mitigation measures require **upfront investment** that, when coupled with uncertainties around the impact of changing practices on economic returns, present a financial and economic barrier to farmers.
- Currently, **national policies like subsidies promote high-emitting agricultural practices** such as fertiliser overapplication and meat production.
- Changes toward healthier and more environmentally friendly diets face **social and cultural barriers**.

Recommendations for enhancing mitigation in the agricultural sector

- Enhance the national climate mitigation framework for agriculture, e.g. by **clarifying the role of agriculture in achieving climate targets**.
- Align overall agricultural policy framework** with climate mitigation objectives.
- Reform subsidies** in agriculture to avoid incentivising over-use of fertiliser.
- Develop demand-side measures to **change dietary choices and reduce food waste**. For example, national laws to standardize and clarify date labels coupled with informational programs.

Sources for data on emissions: FAO (2022): Emissions Totals [Dataset]. <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GT>. USA (2022): 2022 Common Reporting Format (CRF) Table. <https://unfccc.int/documents/461947>.