**CONSUMERS**

Farm and ranch families make up less than 2% of the U.S. population.

About 8% of U.S. farms market foods locally through avenues such as farmers’ markets, farm stands and food hubs.

Americans spend nearly $14 billion each year on food for holiday activities, with Independence Day shopping accounting for the most dollars spent.

Americans throw away an estimated 25% of the food they bring home each month.

**MODERN FARMERS**

Today, each farm produces food and fiber for 166 people annually.

By 2050, farmers and ranchers will have to grow about 70% more food than what is now produced in order to feed a growing population.

Total U.S. corn yield has increased by nearly 360% since 1950.

America’s farmers produce 965 billion pounds of grain, including corn, wheat, oats, rice, barley, rye and sorghum, each year.

There are about 3.4 million U.S. farm operators who work on 2 million farms.

Women make up 36% of the total number of farm operators, and 56 % of all farms have at least one female decision-maker.

The average farm size is 441 acres.

Today, 98% of all U.S. farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships, or family corporations.

Today, 87% of U.S. ag products sold are produced on family farms or ranches.

**TRADE & ECONOMICS**

In 2018, $140 billion worth of American agricultural products were exported around the globe.

Canada is the largest consumer of American agricultural goods, with import totals reaching over $20 billion per year.

About 25% of all U.S. agricultural products by volume are exported yearly.

President Abraham Lincoln established the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862.

Farmers and ranchers receive only 15 cents, on average, out of every retail dollar spent on food.

For 2017, farm-level production expenses were 35% higher than in 2007.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Careful stewardship by America’s food producers has spurred a 34% decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982.

Conservation programs in the farm bill help farmers prevent soil erosion, preserve and restore wetlands, clean the air and water, and enhance wildlife.

No-till farming is a popular conservation practice used by farmers to reduce erosion (soil loss) while using less energy.

Many farmers enhance the environment through crop rotation – growing different crops in succession on the same land.

Contour farming – planting crops across the slope of the land – conserves water and protects soil.

Advanced conservation practices are used on more than 50% of cropland acres.

**PRODUCTION**

Biotechnology crops are grown in 24 countries, reducing herbicide and pesticide use by 18%.

U.S. farmers grew biotech varieties of corn, soybeans, cotton, alfalfa, potatoes, papaya, squash, canola, apples and sugar beets in 2017.

In 2017, about 185 million acres were used to grow biotechnology crops in the U.S.

There are 6,386 floriculture operations in the U.S. The top-producing states by value are California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

A typical Holstein dairy cow weighs 1,500 pounds and will produce an average of more than 25,000 pounds of milk each year.

One day’s production for a high-producing cow is 105 pounds of 3.5% milk. This could be used to make 4.8 pounds of butter or 8.7 gallons of ice cream or 10.5 pounds of cheese.

Americans consume more than 3 billion pizzas annually.

On any given day, one in eight Americans will eat pizza.

The world population is estimated to rise to 9.8 billion people by 2050.

The use of ethanol in gasoline in 2018 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 55.1 million metric tons – equivalent to removing nearly 11.7 million cars from the road for an entire year.

Solar panels are used by 90,142 U.S. farms to generate electricity.

An acre is about the size of a football field.

One acre can produce 821 pounds of cotton that can be used to make 215 pairs of jeans.

One acre can produce 1,300 pounds of fiber from industrial hemp that can be used to produce rope, clothing, shoes, paper and building materials.

One acre can produce 2,784 pounds of wheat or 50,000 pounds of strawberries.

One bushel of wheat produces about 42 pounds of flour, which can be used to make 42 loaves of bread or 42 pounds of traditional pasta.

America’s farmers and ranchers produce 10% of total world food production on just 8% of the world’s land.

Nearly 1.8 billion acres in the U.S. are devoted to farming, either as cropland, timberland or for fish farming.

Agriculture and related industries provide jobs for more than 21 million Americans, or 11% of the total U.S. workforce.