

Fun Fact Sheet

Agriculture's Environmental Success Story: Growing More with Less



The latest National Resources Inventory report, released April 27, 2010 by the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service, put some substantial meat on the bones of an environmental message farmers and ranchers have long conveyed. They said that farmers and ranchers are careful and caring stewards of our nation's natural resources.

The Miracle of Productivity:

America's farmers and ranchers are doing their part to feed a growing world. Total U.S. crop yield (tons/acre) has increased more than 360 percent since 1950.



More Food with Fewer Resources:

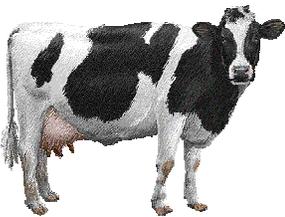
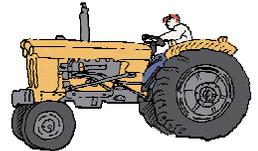
While farm and ranch productivity has increased dramatically since 1950, the use of resources required for production has declined markedly.

These resources include items such as: labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, etc.

U.S. Farm Land Use:

Since 1982, U.S. land used for crops has declined by 70 million acres. Conservation tillage has grown from 17 percent of acreage in 1982 to 63 percent currently.

Conservation tillage is a farming practice used to reduce erosion (soil loss) on cropland while using less energy.



More Milk with Less Feed:

Dairy cow production has become more efficient since 1980. The pounds of feed a cow needs to consume to produce 100 pounds of milk has decreased by more than 40 percent on average in the last 30 years.

Soil Erosion in Decline:

Careful stewardship by America's food producers spurred a nearly 50 percent decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982.



These facts, based on in-the-field science, are worth sharing. Farm and ranch families today are caring for our natural resources while feeding our nation. In fact, they are doing so with greater efficiency than ever before. More with less. Any way you slice it, that makes sense for people and our planet.