

American Agriculture: Growing A Climate For Tomorrow

Agriculture producers in the United States account for over 86% of the United States' agricultural products and services, such as food items, clothing, and food production. Agriculture directly impacts everyone and everything in our communities, cities, countries, and world; however, over 53% of Americans say that they don't know where their food or clothing comes from. The same consumers that buy groceries and other essential items daily don't know where their food comes from, nor see the labor behind what they benefit from. Consumers should understand where their food comes from, why it is crucial, how technological advancements can help food production, and the hardships that farmers and ranchers face to produce the items consumers use daily.

Agriculture producers around the United States work seven days a week, 365 days a year, to provide Americans with the overlooked luxuries they have. Grocery stores are stocked with items that agriculture producers spend hours upon hours producing. Each item is conveniently in one place, ready for consumers to access and enjoy. \$9 billion of local edible food commodities are produced by farmers and delivered to stores near consumers. Each food item or product in the grocery store starts with a farmer creating some aspect of the product. The relationships between farmers and consumers are highly vital to not only the producer but the consumer as well. Without that producer, consumers would be starving and paying excruciating high prices for food and other commodities. In addition to the relationship between consumers and producers, the relationship between producers and producers is essential too. Producers depend on each other to gain products and insight from one another. For example, a beef producer relies on a feed producer to sell them feed so they can feed their cattle. Then that feed producer depends on a crop producer to produce and sell them crops so that they can make feed. The

supply and demand chain between producers and producers and producers and consumers is a very carefully orchestrated web of knowledge, and it is imperative to keep the economy running smoothly.

While farming and producing agricultural commodities can be taxing, technological advancements in the agriculture field are helping to create more food, make everyday tasks more manageable, and improve the quality of agricultural products. Agriculture producers are starting to use precision agriculture to enhance economic stability, profitability, and the protection of the environment. Precision farming information technology (IT) ensures that all the crops and soil receive precisely what they need for optimum health and productivity rates. Examples of precision farming techniques are the use of drones, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and irrigation technologies. These techniques can be expensive for agriculture producers but can benefit the producer and consumer in the long run. The goal of precision agriculture is to learn new management practices to increase the profitability of agriculture production. FarmersEdge states that “accurately decreasing fertilizer, herbicide or seed rates in areas where it will not be economical to utilize is one of the key benefits of precision agriculture.” Precision agriculture increases yields because of applying agronomic principles at a high resolution, which can reduce costs and cause increases in overall profitability. Using agricultural technology can help produce more food and agricultural commodities while helping keep costs down and providing a high productivity rate.

An agriculture producer's job is always a challenging one. These producers face the most difficult situations and all weather conditions every day of the year. Agriculture producers get no days off; they are responsible for keeping the economy running and have to handle the stress of rising costs and deadlines. An agriculture producer faces workplace machinery accidents,

chemicals and pesticides, hot and cold working conditions, and animal unpredictability. The reality is that farming is a dangerous job. For many agriculture producers, their job is more than providing food to communities and the risk they face; it is about keeping the world turning and keeping the economy afloat and doing it with pride and a passion for what they do. While their jobs are dangerous, underpaid, and underappreciated, agriculture producers face harsh conditions to provide consumers with food and other commodities.

Understanding where food comes from and why it is vital to the economy, how agricultural technology advancements can help the producer and consumer, and the struggles that agriculture producers face can help consumers become more appreciative of producers and can make them more educated about agriculture. Each aspect of producing commodities and food is beneficial for the economy and crucial for the survival of consumers. Promoting a sustainable future with abundant food, renewable fuel, and job stability for farmers and other agricultural pathways is essential, not only for ourselves but for the world and generations to come.

Works Cited

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