

AGRICULTURE



SMART SECTORS
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ECONOMICS

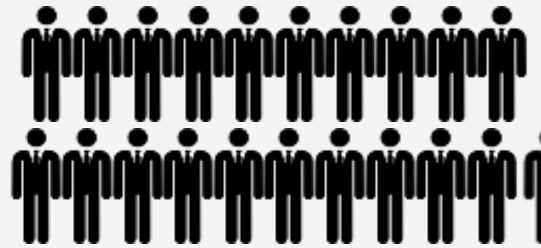


ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT



EFFICIENCY

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On-farm employment in the agriculture sector accounts for 2.6 million jobs in the U.S.

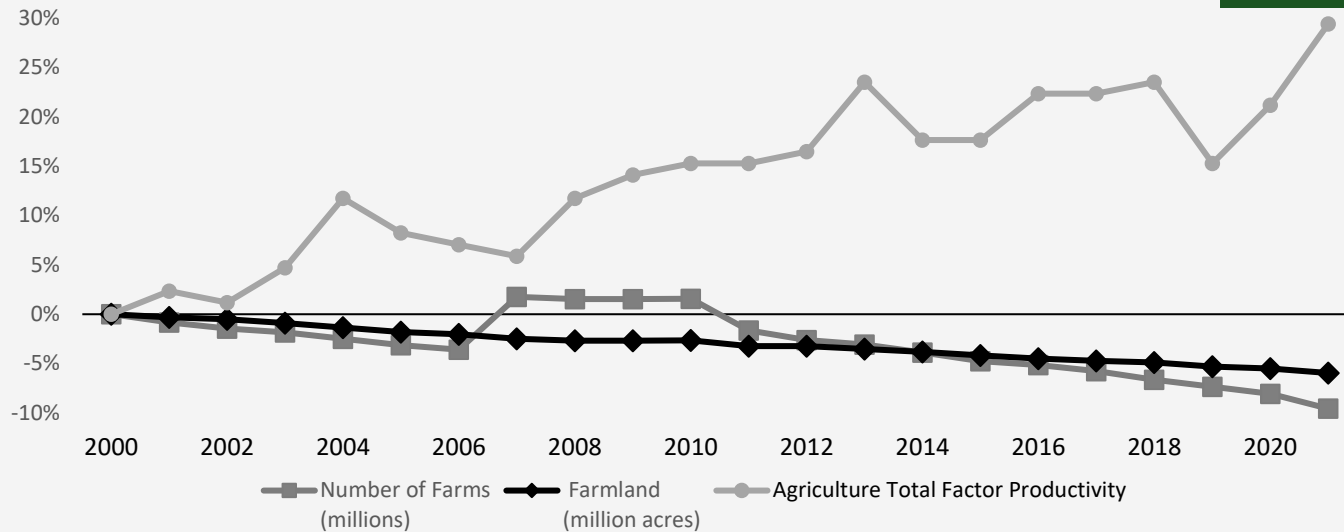
Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022



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Percent Change in Farms, Farmland, and Agriculture Total Factor Productivity (TFP) in the U.S. (2000–2021)

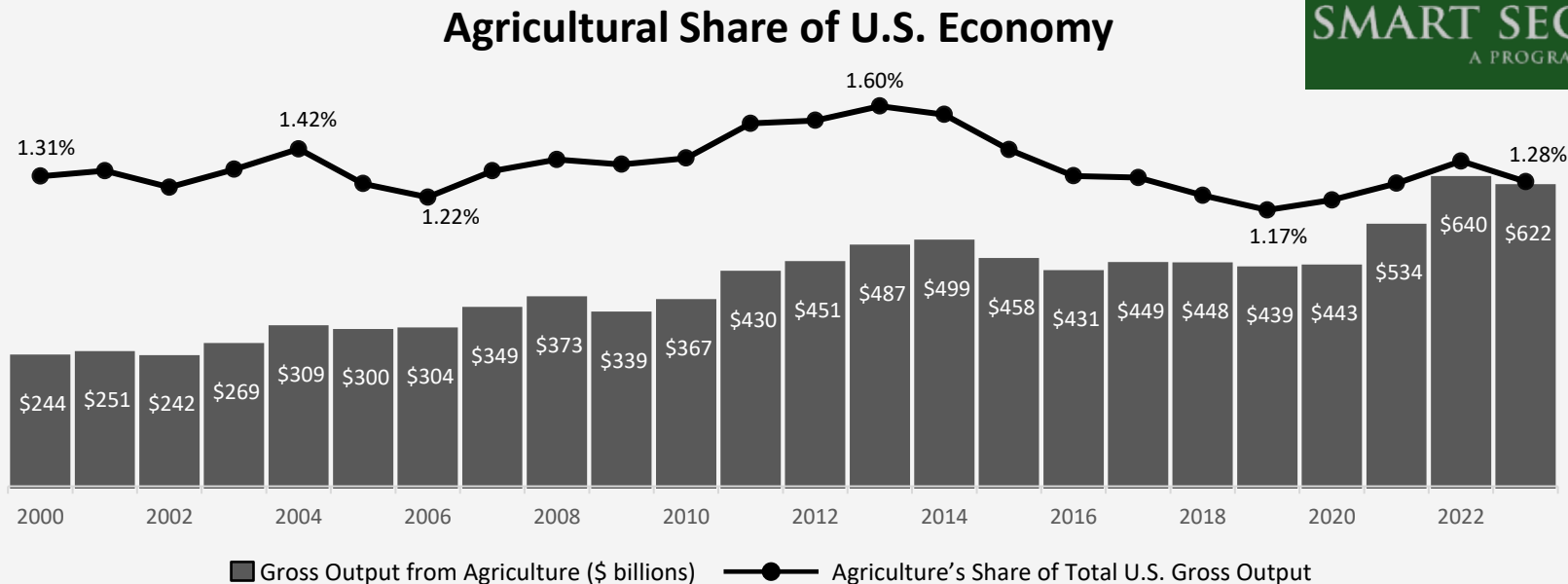


From 2000 to 2021, Agriculture TFP increased by 29%. Agriculture TFP measures the amount of agricultural output produced from the combined set of land, labor, capital, and materials utilized in farm production.

USDA Economic Research Service, 2024a / USDA Economic Research Service, 2024b



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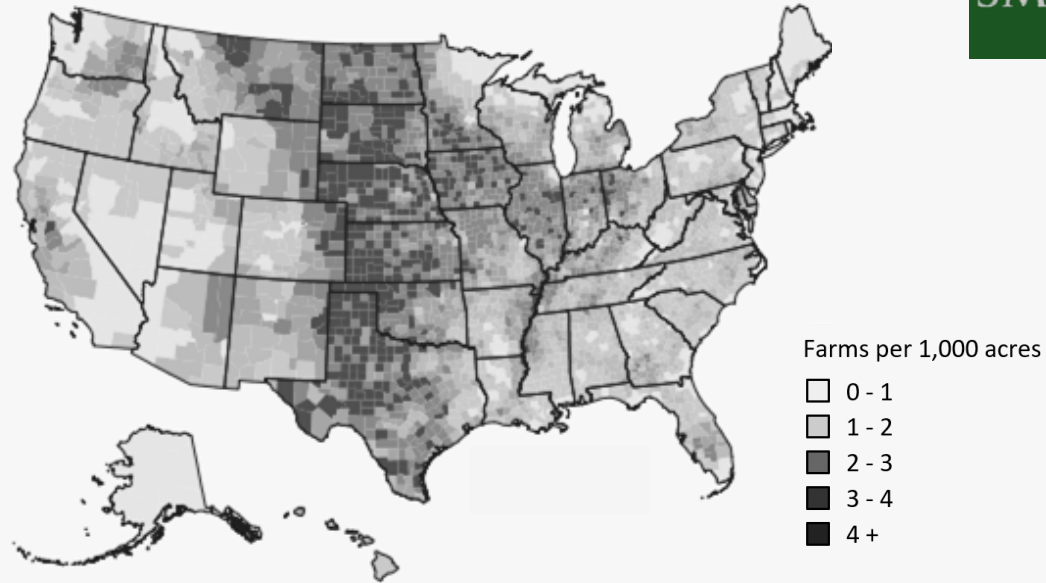
Between 2000 and 2023, the agriculture sector's gross output increased from \$244 billion to \$622 billion while its share of the U.S. economy stayed steady at approximately one percent.

Note: Gross output values are not adjusted for inflation.

Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023



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In 2022, the 1,900,487 farms in the U.S. accounted for roughly 39% of total U.S. land area.

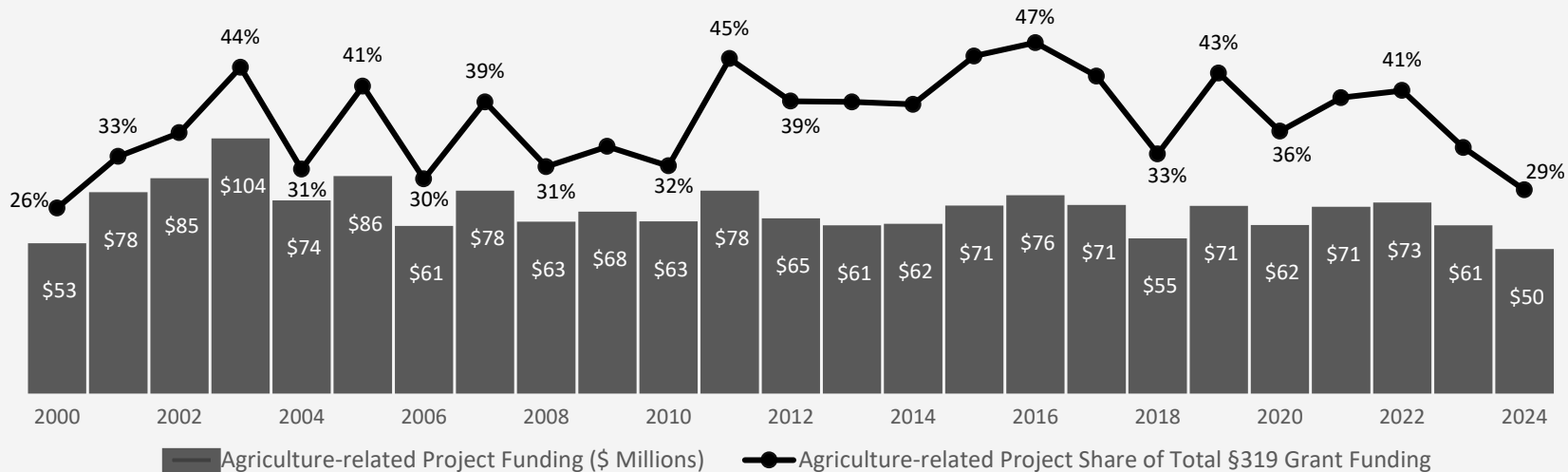
USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022a



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Clean Water Act §319 Nonpoint Source Funding for Agriculture-related Projects



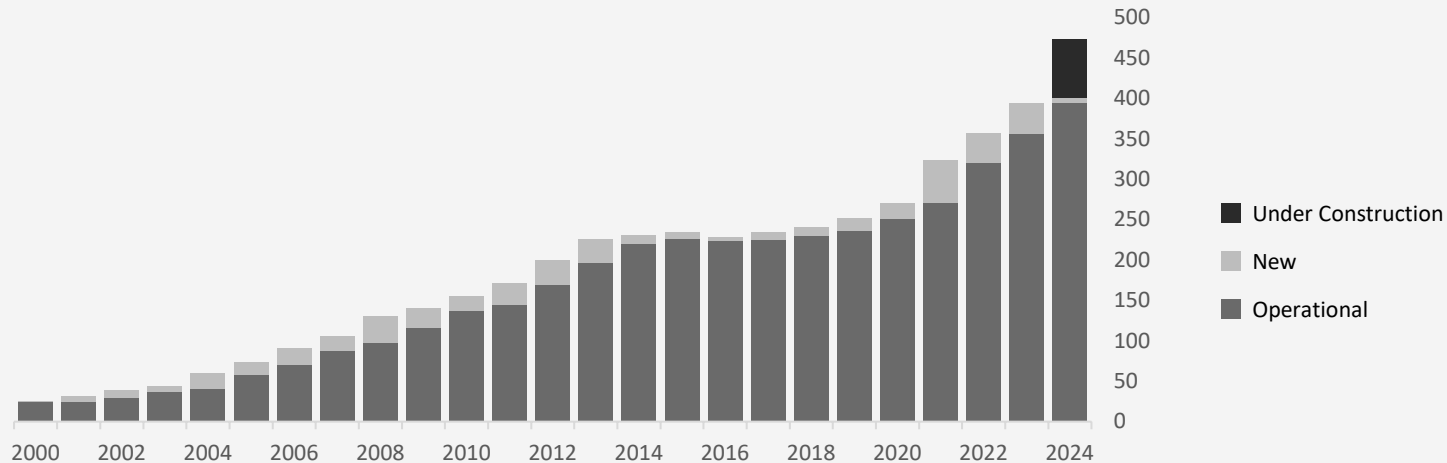
Under §319, states, territories, and tribes receive grant funding to manage nonpoint source pollution. About 30% to 40% annually goes towards agriculture-related projects.

U.S. EPA, 2022 | U.S. EPA, 2025





Biogas/Anaerobic Digesters on U.S. Livestock Farms



The number of anaerobic digesters on U.S. livestock farms has grown from 25 in 2000 to 400 in 2024, a 1,500% increase. Digesters help farms diversify revenue by producing biogas, a renewable energy source, and digestate, a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

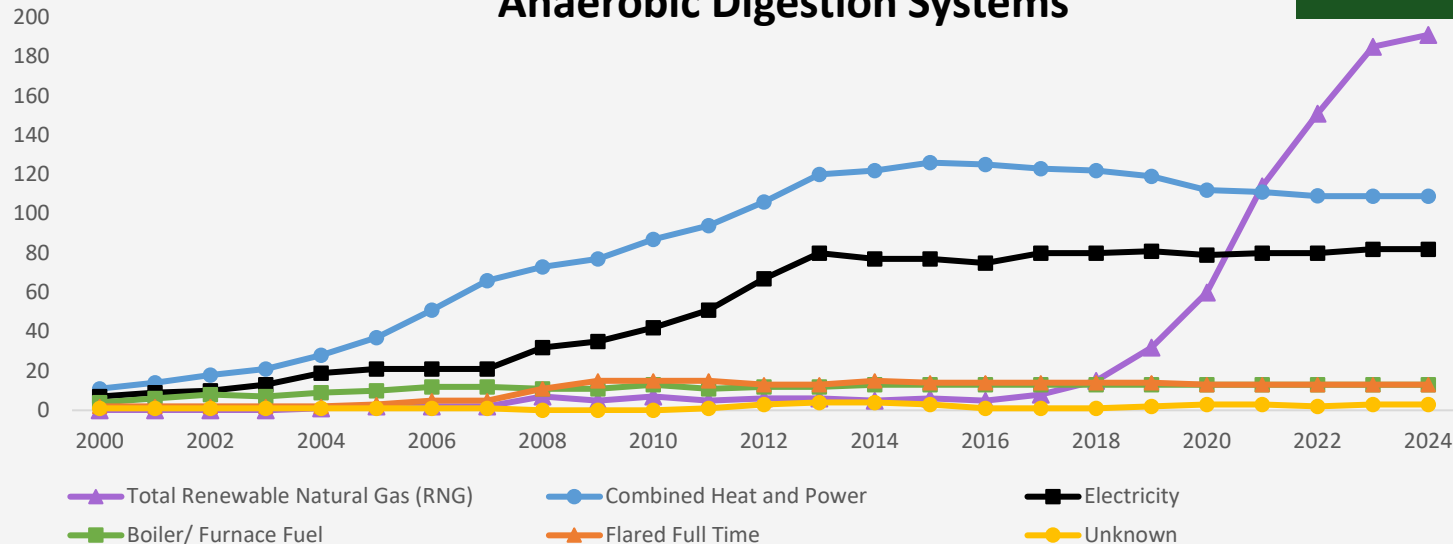
U.S. EPA, AgSTAR, 2024a



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Biogas Projects for Manure-based Anaerobic Digestion Systems



The number of biogas projects producing renewable natural gas, which can be used for vehicle fuel, increased from 5 in 2014 to 191 in 2024.

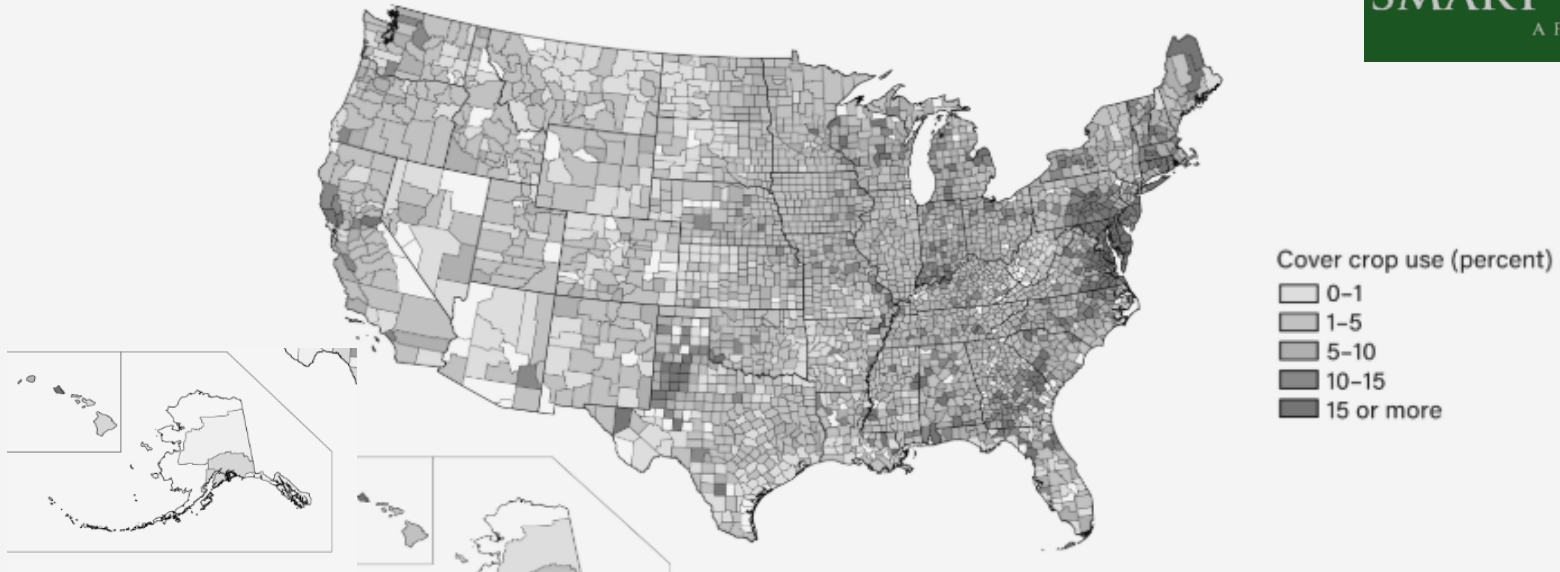
U.S. EPA, AgSTAR, 2024b



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Cover Crop Use



Planting cover crops (e.g., rye, winter wheat, oats, and clover) before planting harvested crops (e.g., corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat) reduces fertilizer use and soil erosion, while improving soil structure, moisture, and nutrient content. From 2017 to 2022, U.S. cropland planted with cover crops grew by 17%, reaching roughly 18 million acres.

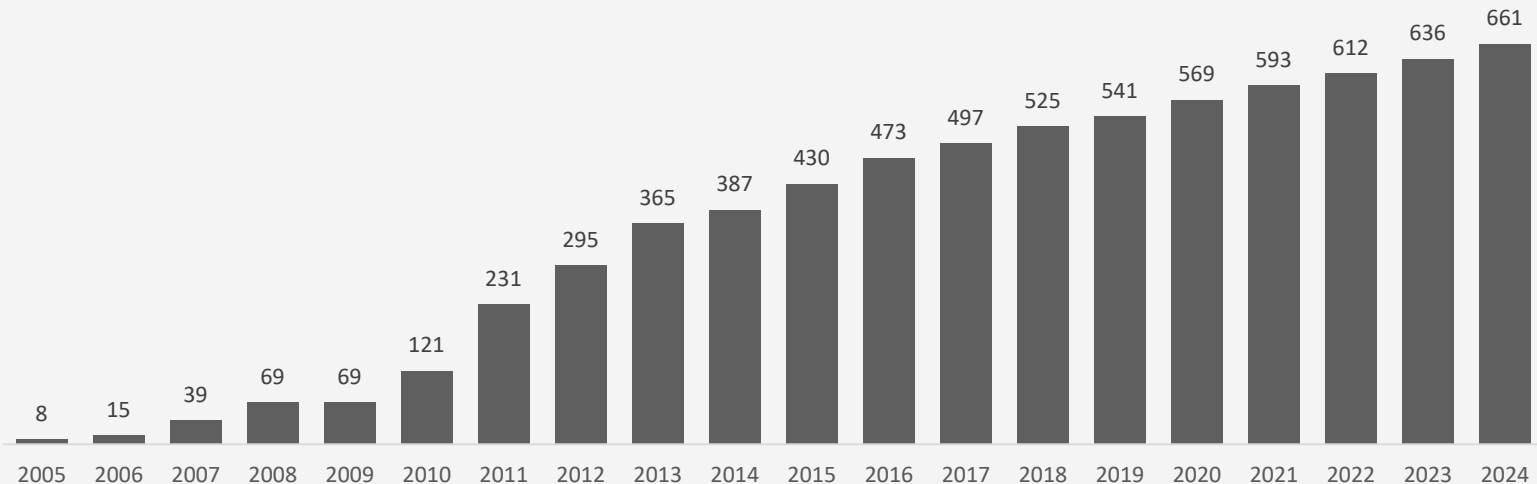
USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022b



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Cumulative Number of Water Bodies with Improved or Sustained Water Quality (Agriculture-related)



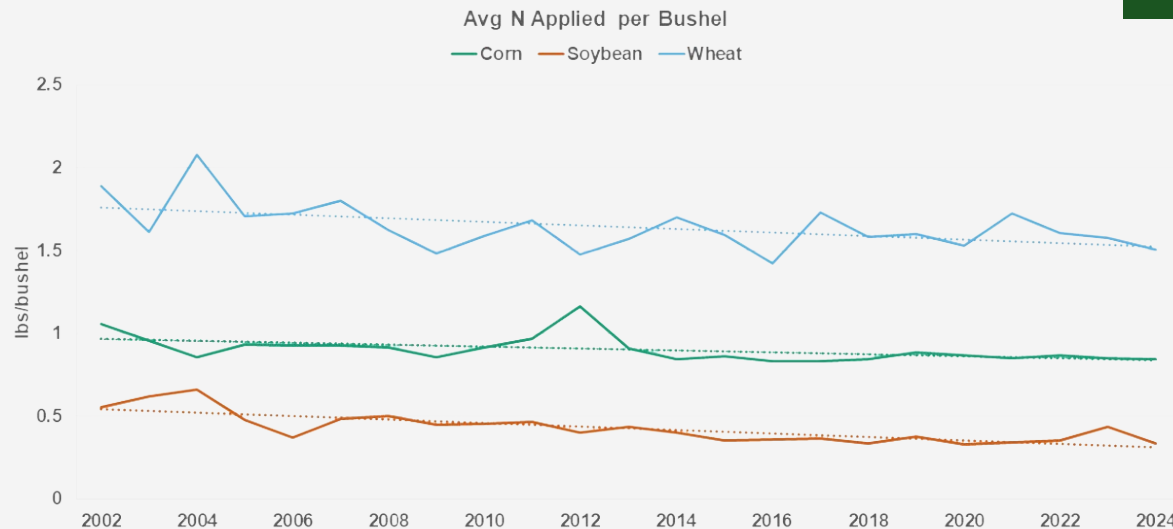
Since 2005, 661 water bodies have achieved water quality improvements or sustained prevention of water quality degradation by addressing nonpoint source impacts from agriculture-related activities.

U.S. EPA, 2024





Estimated Nitrogen Fertilizer Use Efficiency (lbs./bushel) by Crop



Between 2002 and 2024, the efficiency of use of nitrogen (N) fertilizer has improved, meaning less fertilizer is being used to produce each bushel of corn, soybeans, and wheat. The efficiency of use of phosphorus and potassium have also improved.













Farmdoc Daily, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2025



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References:

-  [Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022](#): Employment statistics are from the chart image and accompanying text.
-  [USDA Economic Research Service, 2024a](#): Obtain farm and farmland values on page 5.
-  [USDA Economic Research Service, 2024b](#): To obtain productivity values, scroll to the File Downloads section, select “CVS Format of National Data,” download “Table 1,” and filter the attribute column to “Total factor productivity (TFP).”
-  [Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023](#): Obtain sector and total U.S. gross output by clicking on “Interactive Data Tables,” then “KLEMS” and “Composition of Gross Output by Industry.”
-  [USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022a](#): Obtain the infographic on page 1.
-  [U.S. EPA, 2022](#): To obtain NPS funding for agriculture-related projects, select “Project Summary Report” under Select Report, “Grant Fiscal Year” under Year Type, set the Min Year equal to “2000” and the Max Year to “2024,” select “Any” for EPA Region and State, and click “Search.” When the table downloads, type in “Agriculture” in the search bar and select the “Go” button. Then, under the “Actions” dropdown, select “Download,” “CSV,” and “Download.” Repeat the above steps for “Silviculture” and “Animal Feed.” In total there should be three csv files. Compile the files and remove any duplicates. To obtain total funding for each year, sum all state funding for each year.
-  [U.S. EPA, 2025](#): To obtain Section 319 NPS program funding, download “Historic 319 Funding (xlsx)” under the 319 Grant Funds History section.
-  [U.S. EPA, AgSTAR, 2024a](#): To obtain biogas/anaerobic digesters data, click on “Show/Hide Data” under the “Manure-based Anaerobic Digesters Operating in the U.S. (Updated through June 2024)” chart.
-  [U.S. EPA, AgSTAR, 2024b](#): To obtain manure-based biogas project data, click on “Show/Hide Data” under the “Biogas Uses for Manure-based Anaerobic Digestion Systems (Updated through June 2024)” chart. Sum the CNG and Pipeline values together to create “Total Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)” project type.
-  [USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022b](#): The chart image is available for download.
-  [U.S. EPA, 2024](#): Click on “Data Filters,” set the Min Year equal to the Max Year, leave the “TMDL?” buttons unselected, Type of Success Story as “-ALL-,” Pollutant Class unselected, select “Agriculture” under the Pollution Source and click “Apply Filter(s).” To retrieve national data for multiple years, re-enter the values above for each year separately. The values presented in this Snapshot are cumulative.
-  [Farmdoc Daily, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2025](#): See Figure 3.

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The agriculture sector includes crop production ([NAICS 111](#)) and animal production and aquaculture ([NAICS 112](#)). Establishments in this sector are involved in the production of crops, animal husbandry, and the harvest of fish and other animals from farms or their natural habitats.

Companies classified into these NAICS range from large, multinational agriculture and produce corporations to small, individually owned or family-owned farms.

The Smart Sectors [Agriculture Sector Information](#) page has more details on the industry and related EPA programs.