EVERY FARMER, EVERY ACRE AND EVERY VOICE MATTERS
to create sustainable food systems

BRODY STAPEL, WISCONSIN DAIRY FARMER
FEBRUARY 13, 2020
Agriculture’s Impact

$2.8 trillion

Created by Andrei Yushchenko from Noun Project
America's Dairyland

No. 1 Dairy State!
23% of the total dairy farms in the U.S. are in Wisconsin.

In 2018, Wisconsin produced over 30 billion pounds of milk. That’s 14% of the total U.S. milk production.

The Wisconsin dairy industry generates $45.6 billion each year for the state’s economy.

This is more than the combined value of Florida citrus and Idaho potatoes.

Wisconsin dairy farms help fuel the state’s economy, creating 154,000 jobs and generating $1.26 billion in state and local taxes.

Wisconsin averages 150 cows per herd, well below the U.S. average of 251.

95% of Wisconsin dairy farms are family owned.
Agriculture’s Challenges

WE LOSE 175 ACRES OF FARMLAND EVERY HOUR, MOSTLY TO URBAN ENCROACHMENT.

According to American Farmland Trust, the United States loses about 175 acres of farmland every hour, mostly due to the expansion of urban and suburban areas. This equates to nearly 3 acres of farmland lost per minute – farmland that cannot be replaced once gone.

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance

DISASTER EVENTS HAVE CAUSED OVER $560 BILLION IN DAMAGES IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 2010-2019 - AND THEY ARE INCREASING.

Eight of the last 10 years in the U.S. have experienced greater than the average number of billion-dollar disaster events, many of them from intense storms (thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and blizzards) that greatly impact agriculture.

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance
A Solution to Climate Change

Currently, U.S. soils store 100 times more carbon than total U.S. emissions in a year.

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance

Agriculture carbon removal estimates

8.4% Total US Agriculture GHG Emissions
3.0% Total US Agriculture GHG Emissions

-4% Total US Agriculture GHG Emissions

Baseline
1-5 years Practically Achievable
-46% Change from baseline
3-5 years Practically Achievable + Frontier Technology
-147% Change from baseline

12.4% drop in total U.S. GHG emissions

Source: Climate Change Plan for America’s Farmers and Ranchers 2019

Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation

- 31 organizations
- Sensitive watersheds
- Continuous improvement
- Stakeholder partnerships
- Innovative solutions
Dairy Strong Sustainability Alliance

Continuous improvement:
- Land use
- Soil health
- Nutrient management
- Water quality/quantity
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy use
Technology on the Farm

• 250 cows, 1,100 acres
• Fitbits for cows
• Precision technology
• Adaptability
Changing to Cover Crops

- Reduce soil erosion
- Manage nitrogen, nutrients
- Boost water-holding capacity
- Protect water quality
- Sequester carbon
- Control weeds
- Increase yields
Looking to the Future