

# National Agriculture Week 2025



Left: The American farmer, Andy Stratton flies the flag with pride on his farm equipment. Above: Cathie and Andy Stratton of Holton, enjoy farming. Andy says this is one of his favorite photos.

SUBMITTED BY STRATTON FARMS



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## The link between agriculture and food security

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years running. Many businesses have been forced to raise their prices in an effort to combat a host of variables, including materials costs, labor shortages and political uncertainty across the globe. That's been hard on consumers' and business owners' pocketbooks, and precisely when inflation will simmer down remains a mystery.

Though the cost of many goods and services has skyrocketed in recent years, discussions about inflation often focus on the rising cost of groceries. According to USDA Economic Research, food prices in the United States rose 23.6 percent between 2020 and 2024. That's led many people to cut back on luxuries like dining out. As people dine out less, they may be looking to expand their culinary horizons at home, and that goal is best achieved when the agricultural sector is put in position to meet consumer demands. Indeed, that link is just one of the many ways that a thriving agricultural sector benefits everyone.

• A strong agricultural sector greatly benefits the economy. Job creation is widely cited as a pathway to economic recovery, and a well-supported agricultural sector can create millions of jobs. The agricultural tech firm Sabanto estimates 2025 began with around 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural sector. A 2022 report from Maryville University indicated the agricultural sector contributes \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy, employing as much as 10.3 percent of the nation's workers. The link between a thriving agricultural

sector and a strong economy is undeniable, making it a worthy endeavor to support policies that prioritize agriculture.

• A thriving farm is a productive farm. Modern grocery stores offer an abundance of healthy foods, and many of those foods are grown on farms. The Farm Bureau reports that a single acre of land can grow various crops, producing as much as 50,000 strawberries or just under 2,800 bushels of wheat. Consumers who enjoy visiting grocery stores that offer an array of fresh, nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables, should know that those options are only available when a thriving agricultural sector is prioritized.

• Farms are vital to production of other products as well. Maryville University notes a thriving agricultural sector is involved in more than just food production. IFP Energies notes that bio-based chemistry uses raw materials derived from biomass, such as plants like wheat, corn and potatoes, to produce an array of products, including inks, dyes and detergents. So it's not just the foods people eat that can be traced to a thriving agricultural sector. Bio-based chemistry also is considered green because it promotes a reduction of the environmental impact of industrial production.

There's no shortage of reasons to support a thriving agricultural sector. Indeed, consumers from all walks of life benefit in myriad ways when the success of the agricultural sector is prioritized. TF253872



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Beware and be cautious of your farmers. Slow down!

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SUBMITTED BY JESSICA MOBLEY

A flock of chickens at Triple Cross Ranch keep many eggs coming to the community.



SUBMITTED BY JESSICA MOBLEY

This little guy's name is Moo. Triple Cross Ranch raises cattle to be butchered later. They also have milk cows.

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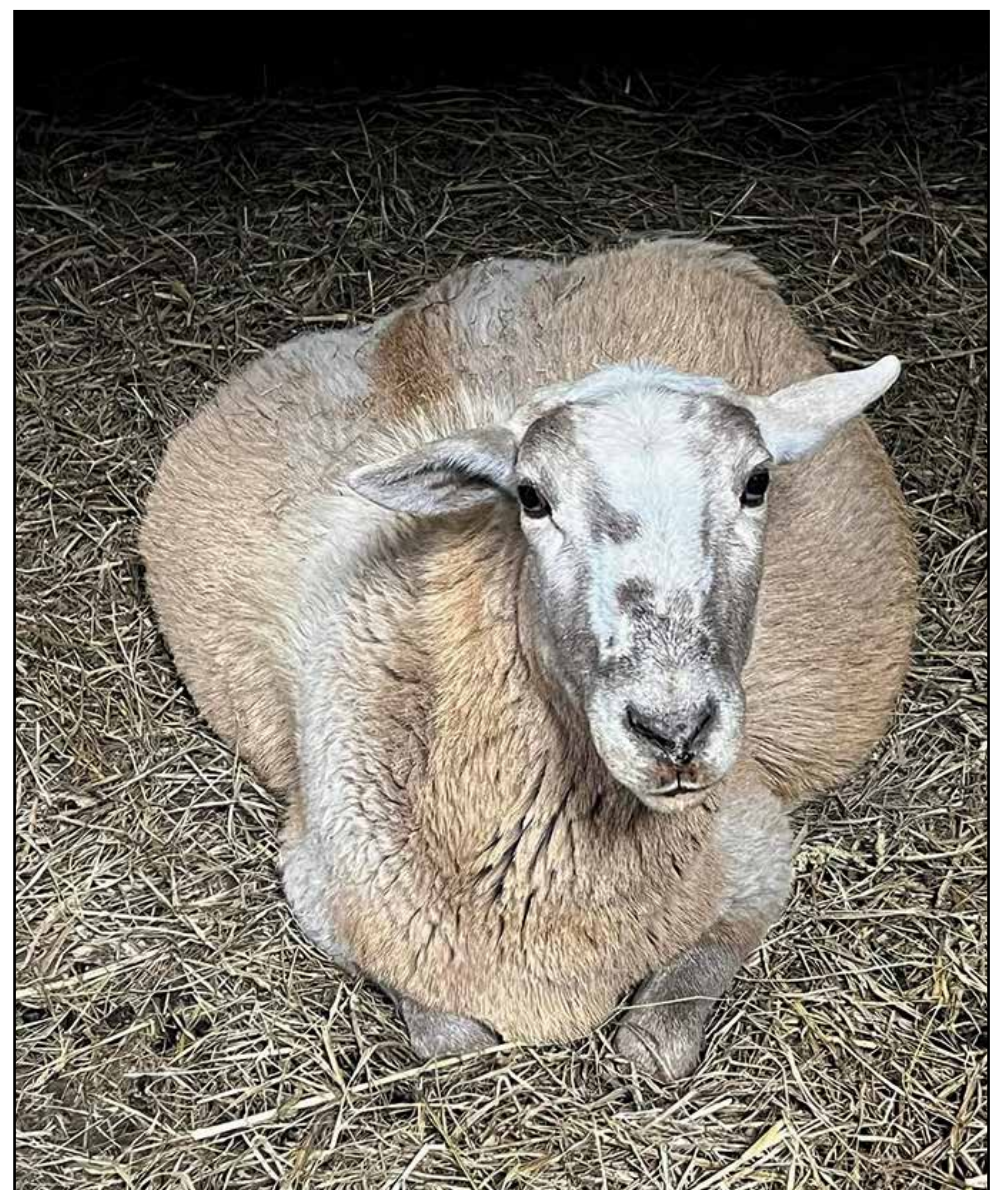


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SUBMITTED BY JESSICA MOBLEY

Bonnie, a sheep at Triple Cross Ranch, is shown with two of her lambs in the stable.



SUBMITTED BY JESSICA MOBLEY

This is Annie. She is a sheep at Triple Cross Ranch and is expecting any day.



SUBMITTED BY STRATTON FARMS

You might see Stratton Farms in the fields loading down the semis getting ready to take grain to Aurora.

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SUBMITTED BY LAUGHERY VALLEY AG

Pictured is an older model CountryMark farm truck used by Laughery Valley Ag Co-op.



SUBMITTED BY STRATTON FARMS

Just enjoying some watermelon as the cows will then enjoy the rhines! It's all in the day of a farmer.



SUBMITTED BY STRATTON FARMS

A farmer's work is never done. This night picture shows either Andy Stratton or Eric Wall on the midnight shift.



SUBMITTED BY JESSICA MOBLEY

It's never ending at Triple Cross Ranch as here is another five ton of cow feed.

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The big red tractor chugs along as farming season is in full swing for the Strattons of Holton.



SUBMITTED BY STRATTON FARMS

Harvest time is a busy time of the year for the Stratton Family of Holton. They have three children.



SUBMITTED BY LAUGHERY VALLEY AG

Right: Newer technology assists Laughery Valley Ag Co-op in enhancing agricultural results.



# Thank You Farmers

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