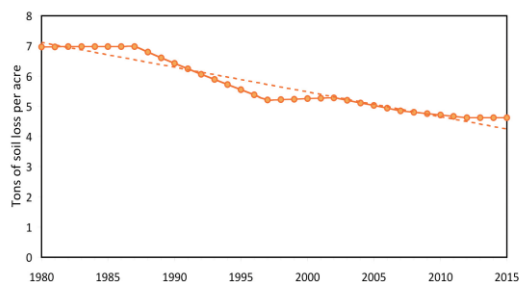


Sustainability

Wheat growers are committed to maintaining and improving long term farm productivity that supplies abundant food for people at home and across the world. That long-term productivity commitment also includes conserving resources and adopting new technology and best management practices that result in greater efficiencies for both crop production and the use of natural resources.

Wheat growers are having a positive impact on the environment, as new plant traits and crop protection tools become available and production management practices change. According to the 2016 *Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators for Measuring Outcomes of On Farm Agricultural Production in the United States*, from Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, over the last 35 years, U.S. wheat producers have increased resource efficiency in land use, soil conservation, irrigation water use, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

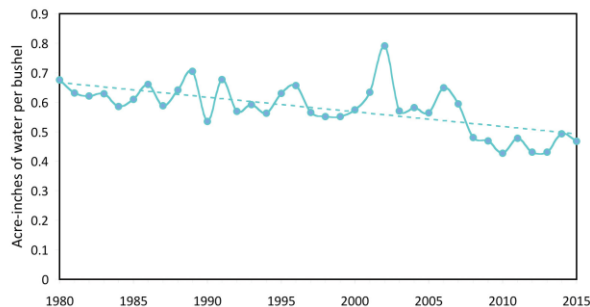
Wheat growers are also producing more bushels per acre. These production efficiencies are important to feed a growing population. Specifically, from the Field to Market Report:



Soil Conservation indicator for Wheat

www.fieldtomarket.org/national-indicators-report-2016/wheat

Wheat production in the United States improved almost 20 percent on the energy use indicator between 1980 and 2015.

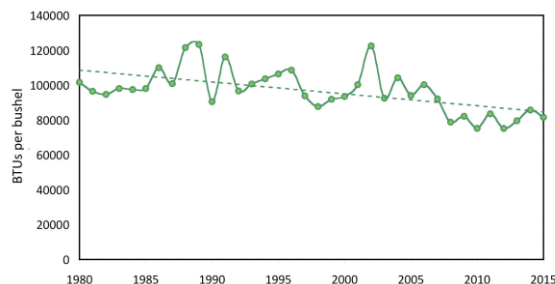


Irrigation Water Use Indicator for Wheat

www.fieldtomarket.org/national-indicators-report-2016/wheat

Soil Conservation on wheat production in the United States improved over 30 percent on the Field to Market soil conservation indicator between 1980 and 2015.

Adoption of conservation tillage practices for wheat have increased since the mid-1990s, with roughly 20 percent in reduced or no-till in 1985 increasing to close to 60 percent of wheat acreage in reduced or no-till in 2015.



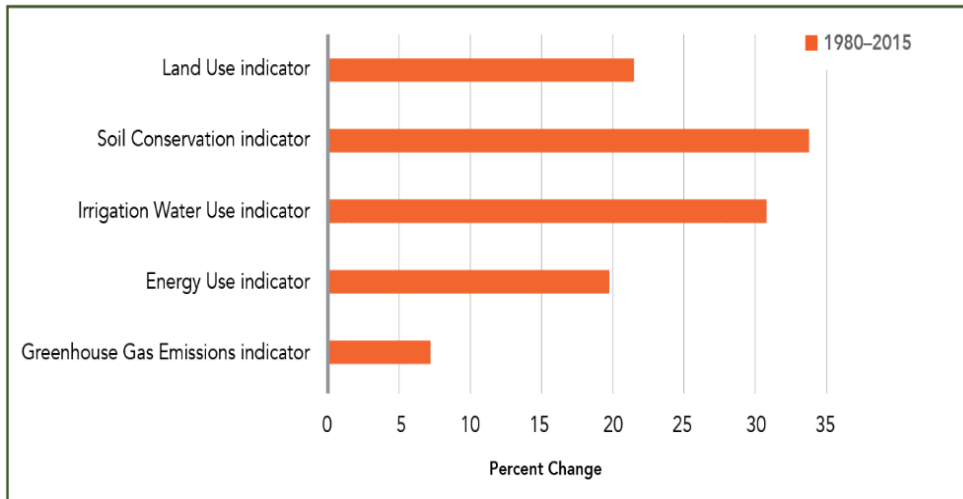
Energy Use Indicator for Wheat

www.fieldtomarket.org/national-indicators-report-2016/wheat

The irrigation water use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions indicators for wheat production have all improved on a per-bushel basis, with either steady or increasing per-acre trends.

Growers use different sources of information to guide their cropping and conservation decisions. These include USDA conservation programs, state conservation programs, Land Grant extension resources, university research and hired field agronomists. Some of these programs offer financial assistance, but growers must pay a portion of the cost to implement conservation practices. Natural resource concerns, cropping rotations, pest pressures, and climate vary across the wheat growing regions of the U.S. Understanding those differences and recognizing that not all farming operations are the same is important and relevant for wheat production as it is grown in 42 states. The conservation activities or changes to management practices that growers implement on their farm can be costly initially, sometimes requiring new equipment and changes in farming practices with uncertain impact on a producers' crop yield, crop quality and ultimately the price received for the crop.

Federal investments into wheat research result in new tools farmers can use to be more productive and to fight local disease and pest pressures efficiently, using only the crop protection tools necessary. These research investments are critical for wheat and NAWG supports continuing and expanding that research. The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) invested in the Soil Health Partnership to expand our understanding of the soil health benefits of wheat production and impacts of soil health on wheat quality through a network of on-farm research sites. NAWG is an active member of Field to Market and individual wheat growers are participating in supply chain sustainability projects in their local area. NAWG and NWF are engaged in efforts to support the long-term productivity, profitability and sustainability of U.S. wheat production. These efforts along with federal farm policy and crop insurance provide a safety net that farmers rely on to help mitigate the uncertainties of farming and balance the economic viability and environmental health of farming operations.



Percentage of change (improvement) in wheat production based on Field to Market Indicators over 35 years.
www.fieldtomarket.org/national-indicators-report-2016/wheat

Over the last 35 years, wheat farmers continued to improve their use of natural resources. Growers are on their land every day and know more than anyone else what it takes to be a good steward of their land to ensure that it will be productive today, tomorrow and years in the future.

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