

SUSTAINABLE FARMING



The National Corn Growers Association is proud to be part of *Field to Market: The Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture*, a collaborative stakeholder group involving producers, agribusinesses, food and retail companies, and conservation organizations striving to develop a supply chain system for agricultural sustainability.

The primary objectives of Field to Market are to identify criteria for sustainable agriculture that are open to the full range of agricultural technology choices and to support the implementation of production systems that lead to broad performance improvements against these criteria.

The alliance defines sustainability as meeting the needs of the present while improving the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by focusing on these specific, critical outcomes: increasing agricultural productivity to meet future nutritional needs while decreasing impacts on the environment, including water, soil, habitat, air quality and climate emissions, and land use; improving human health through access to safe, nutritious food; and improving the social and economic well-being of agricultural communities.

In its first report, dated Jan. 12, 2009, the alliance looked at environmental resource indicators in five areas: water use and quality, land use and biodiversity, soil loss, energy use and climate impact. The report reviewed indicators for corn, cotton, soybeans and wheat and reported on progress from 1987 to 2007.

Results for corn:

Land Use	Amount of land to produce one bushel of corn	▼ 37%
Soil Loss	Soil loss per bushel, above a tolerable level	▼ 69%
Irrigation	Irrigation water use per bushel	▼ 27%
Energy	Energy used to produce one bushel	▼ 37%
Climate	Emissions per bushel	▼ 30%

For more information:

http://www.keystone.org/spp/env-sustain_ag.html