

U.S. SOY SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE PROTOCOL: TRANSFERABLE CERTIFICATES

What is the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol?

- The U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) is a protocol that outlines the regulations, processes, and management practices that ensure sustainable soy production on the vast majority of U.S. soybean farms.
- It is a national-based system of sustainability and conservation laws and regulations combined with careful implementation of best production practices on more than 300,000 U.S. soybean farms.
- The SSAP aggregates how U.S. Soy farmers contribute to the improvement of environmental, social, and economic sustainability outcomes.
- The SSAP's quantifiable and results-driven approach was developed through a multi-stakeholder process – including participants across the entire value chain. It is regularly reviewed and updated.

The SSAP is also widely recognized and positively benchmarked against the:

- European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) 2021 Soy Sourcing Guidelines
- Global Seafood Alliance Best Aquaculture Practices
- Tokyo Olympic Procurement Committee
- Consumer Goods Forum
- SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment 3.0 (FSA) – Silver Equivalent



What is an SSAP Shipment Certificate?

- An SSAP shipment certificate provides verification to international customers that the soy grown in the United States is produced in a sustainable manner.
- SSAP shipment certificates can be issued for any type of U.S. Soy exported from the U.S., allowing for processing conversions into various types of soy including meal, oil, flour, and hulls

What is an SSAP Transferable Certificate?

- With SSAP transferable certificates, exporters of U.S. Soy can now transfer certificates to their international customers. And those international customers can transfer certificates as they sell SSAP verified soy through the value chain.
- SSAP shipment certificates can be transferred to U.S. Soy customers 4 times after the point of export. The system will also allow for transferability based on processing conversions into various types of soy including meal, oil, flour, and hulls.

U.S. Soy Sustainability Goals

U.S. Soy farmers' commitment to sustainability is a long-term promise rooted in conservation programs created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture over 75 years ago and defined by continuous improvement. U.S. Soy and partner organizations are dedicated to focusing resources on research, outreach, and measurements to stay true to this promise of sustainable farming.

The United Soybean Board (USB), American Soybean Association (ASA), and the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) created a national strategy for further enhancing U.S. Soy sustainability. Using year 2000 as a benchmark (from the Field to Market National Indicators Report),

U.S. soybean farmers aim to achieve the following by 2025:

- **Reduce land use impact by 10%** (measured as acres per bushel)
- **Reduce soil erosion by 25%** (measured as tons per bushel)
- **Increase energy use efficiency by 10%** (measured as BTUs per bushel)
- **Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 10%** (measured as pounds CO₂-equivalent gasses emitted per year)

Value of SSAP Transferable Certificates?

Exporters can improve the certificate transparency and record keeping of their own sustainability efforts, while enabling international customers of U.S. Soy to also demonstrate a verifiable commitment to sustainability. Customers can now benefit by receiving an SSAP certificate in their name for the exact amount and the exact product type of their global deliveries. SSAP transferable certificates can be used for customers' sustainability reporting down the value chain.

How to get started with SSAP Transferable Certificates?

Exporters:

1. Register as an exporter on the SSAP Platform ([USSES.org/register](https://ussec.org/register)).
2. Request a Sustainable Allocation for the current marketing year.
3. Create a shipment-specific SSAP certificate for U.S. Soy.
4. Transfer all or part of any shipment certificate to your customers as they purchase SSAP verified soy.

Customers:

1. Register as a customer on the SSAP Platform ([USSES.org/customer-register/](https://ussec.org/customer-register/)) or work with your supplier to register you as a customer.
2. As you purchase SSAP verified soy, request a transferable SSAP certificate from your supplier.
3. Certificates will be received electronically in the SSAP Platform after the supplier transfers a certificate.
4. When you sell SSAP verified soy to your customers, you can transfer an SSAP certificate to them.

For more questions on the SSAP and SSAP transferable certificates, contact us at sesadmin@ussec.org or (636) 449-6046.

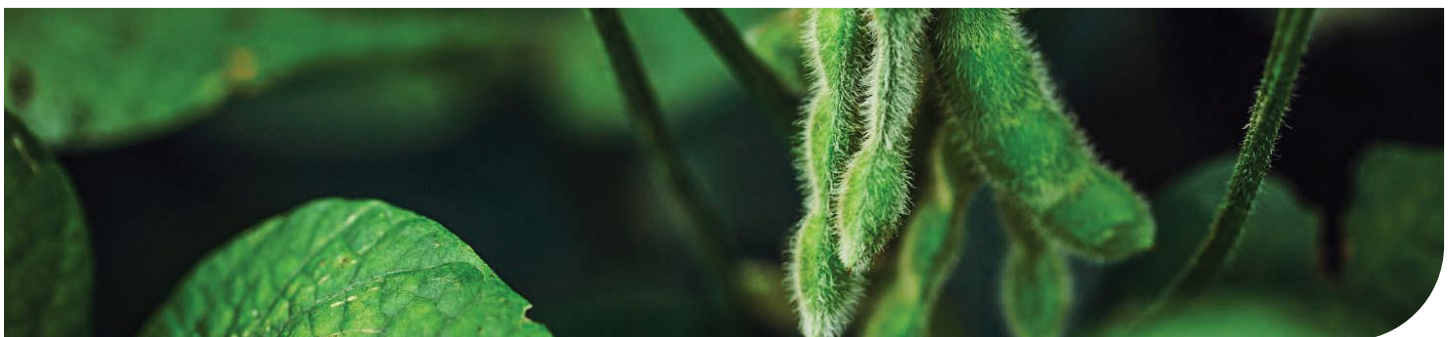
Between 1982 and 2017, the amount of cropland in the U.S. decreased by over 21.3 million hectares, while forest land has increased by 2.1 million hectares.¹

8.4 million hectares are removed from production to protect the environment in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).²

More than 18.2 million hectares of production land are enrolled in the USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).³

USDA invests approximately US \$6 billion annually in agriculture conservation efforts, including staffing over 2,500 conservation offices employing 10,000 individuals in conservation and compliance.⁴

See for yourself how U.S. Soy is sustainable by downloading the SSAP and registering to receive SSAP certificates at ussec.org.



¹U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020. Summary Report: 2017 National Resources Inventory, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC, and Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/2017NRI_Summary_Final.pdf

²U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. Conservation Reserve Program fact sheet. End of October 2020. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/Conservation/PDF/crp-one-pager-oct-2020.pdf>

³Communication with NRCS Technical Staff

⁴NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

About U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC): Soybeans are the United States' No.1 food and agricultural export. The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) is focused on building preference, improving the value, and enabling market access for the use of U.S. Soy for human consumption, aquaculture, and livestock feed in 82 countries across the world. USSEC is a dynamic partnership of U.S. soybean producers, processors, commodity shippers, merchandisers, allied agribusinesses, and agricultural organizations; and connects food and agriculture industry leaders through a robust membership program. USSEC is farmer-funded by checkoff funds invested by the United Soybean Board, various state soybean councils, the food and agriculture industry, and the American Soybean Association's investment of cost-share funding provided by U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). To learn more, visit www.ussec.org and www.ussoy.org, and engage with us on USSEC's LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and U.S. Soy's LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



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