

2022 Work Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture/European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Collaboration Platform on Agriculture

Background: The European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG-AGRI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) created the Collaboration Platform on Agriculture (CPA) to: a) collaborate and deepen communication, b) exchange knowledge and information, and c) promote mutual understanding and trust between the United States and European Union on agricultural challenges.

For the 2022 CPA work program, USDA and DG AGRI selected four topics of mutual interest:

1. Soil Health
2. Approaches to Improving Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation
3. Food Systems Resilience and Adaptation
4. Communication

This document outlines the activities for the 2022 work program to be agreed and conducted between DG AGRI and USDA. Specific activity details are furthered in concept notes between USDA and DG AGRI technical leads.

Activity 1. Workshop on Measurement, Trends, Drivers, and Sustainability Impacts of Agricultural Productivity Growth

- Description: This workshop will include presentations and discussions on the measurement, trends, drivers, and sustainability impacts of agricultural productivity growth. While the focus will be on EU and US experiences, the workshop will also examine ramifications for global economic, social, and environmental sustainability.
- Timeline: first week in May (before May 5)
- Participants: Internal government
- Location: Virtual

Activity 2. Soil Health Webinar with Option for U.S. Field Visit

Description: This webinar will be an opportunity to share information on soil health and the importance of soil testing and methodologies early in the process. Following Commissioner Wojciechowski and Secretary Vilsack's meeting in Dubai, USDA and DG AGRI are considering if the U.S. CPA field visit could accommodate a specific visit to the soil field trial site discussed in Dubai. If not, other options can be developed.

- Timeline: June
- Participants: up to 100 (USDA, DG AGRI, external stakeholders)
- Location:
 - Webinar: virtual
 - Field visits: TBD, options near Washington, DC, Kentucky, and South Dakota

Activity 3. Hybrid Discussion on Reducing Methane Emissions with Option for U.S. Field Visit

- Description: This virtual roundtable will be an opportunity to discuss promising technologies and share knowledge around innovative solutions to reduce enteric and manure methane. The discussion during the virtual roundtable will build on an earlier field visit (to take place concurrently in June alongside the Soil Health field visit or virtually, depending on DG AGRI's ability to travel and USDA's budget).
- Timeline: September
- Participants: ~25 (USDA, DG AGRI)

- Location:
 - Webinar: virtual
 - Field visits: Great Lakes, Ohio, Wisconsin, or virtual

Activity 4. Roundtable on Validation and Marketing of Sustainability Claims in Food and Agriculture (option, to be determined after summer break)

- Description: Food producers and manufacturers are increasingly seeking to attract consumers with claims about the sustainability of their foods. Creation of fair and open markets for products with such claims – including products with claims of reduced GHG emissions, environmental conservation, and social and economic welfare benefits – requires credible, science-based validation. This roundtable will include presentations and discussions on the importance of science-based evaluation and validation of such claims and will examine various approaches to this evaluation and validation.
- Timeline: November
- Participants: Internal government
- Location: Virtual

Activity 5. Stakeholder Public Event on the Future Challenges of Agriculture with Option for EU Field Visit

- Description: This event for producers, researchers, and industry and other stakeholders from both sides to engage about the future of agriculture and the challenges ahead in the presence of representatives from USDA and AGRI with a field visit to follow. This event occurs in the same week as the EU Ag Outlook in Brussels.
- Timeline: December 6, 2022 with optional field visit on December 7
- Participants: 100, USDA, DG AGRI, EU and U.S. external stakeholders
- Location: Brussels, Belgium; remote may be possible

Activity 6. EU Agricultural Outlook

- Description: This is the annual EU Agricultural Outlook conference, free, in-person.
- Timeline: December 8-9
- Participants: Public
- Location: Brussels, Belgium

Activity 7. 2022 CPA Stocktaking

- Description: This is an opportunity for high-level DG AGRI and USDA principals to discuss the CPA objectives, progress made in the first year, and set the stage for the 2023 planning meetings in the coming days.
- Timeline: Depending on USDA principal, December 8 or 9
- Participants: DG AGRI and USDA
- Location: Brussels, Belgium
- Organizing lead: DG AGRI

Activity 8. 2023 CPA Planning Meetings

- Description: Following preparatory work (advance stakeholder outreach and 2023 topic development and agreement), 2023 CPA leads hold intensive meetings to draft 2023 work program that can be picked up following holidays to finalize and launch first quarter activity.
- Timeline: December 12-14 TBC
- Participants: USDA and DG AGRI
- Location: Brussels, Belgium