



Hours of Reality

— Truth in Action —

Continuing the Conversation: FARMERS

The Climate Crisis Is a Farming Crisis

As a farmer, you don't have to call it the climate crisis to live it.

Just ask the families across the American Midwest who lost their homes and entire crops [to catastrophic floods last spring](#). Or the farmers in southeast Australia [struggling through the worst drought in modern history](#). Or the Indian farmers hearing rising temperatures [could slash their incomes up to 25 percent](#) in coming years.

It's time for us to start calling this what it is: a climate crisis. It's time for us to start talking to each other about it. Because with more searing heat, longer droughts, and devastating floods on the way if the world doesn't act, we can't afford not to.

It might be a hard conversation to start, but it's an easy story to tell. In fact, the basics are just 11 words long:

We must change. We can change. We will change. Here's how.

Below are some talking points to help you tell the story of what's happening to the planet and how

we solve it. Your voice matters, so tell the story in your own way and the way right for your audience.

WE MUST CHANGE

- **We're facing a global climate crisis, thanks to fossil fuels.** Greenhouse gas emissions from oil, coal, and natural gas are causing temperatures to rise and throwing nature out of balance.
- **Scientists agree it's us.** [Over 97 percent of climate scientists](#) agree that human activities like burning fossil fuels are driving this crisis.
- **The climate crisis is an existential crisis for farmers.** We've had wild seasons and one-off disasters before, but this is different. Unless we act, we'll see rainfall become more erratic, droughts get longer, floods hit more often, and hotter temperatures slash yields of everything from corn to wheat to rice.
- **We have to act quickly.** [Scientists warn that unless we slash emissions by 2030](#), we'll leave our children a future where extreme storms, droughts, and unpredictable seasons make the hard work of farming a monumental challenge.

WE CAN CHANGE

- **We don't need to wait for tomorrow — the tools to stop rising temperatures and create a future we're proud to give our children are here today.**
- **With renewables like wind and solar, we can leave fossil fuels behind and power our lives without destroying our planet.** Clean energy is affordable and abundant. [More energy from the sun's rays strikes the earth every hour than humanity uses in an entire year.](#) [Globally, wind could supply the Earth's electricity needs 40 times over.](#)
- **Farmers can lead the fight for a livable future.** About [25–30 percent of global emissions come from the food system.](#) If we turn to renewables and embrace more sustainable practices in our work, we can make a huge dent in the emissions driving this crisis and putting our homes and farms in danger.

WE WILL CHANGE

- **The world is with us.** More and more people recognize our climate is changing and want action. [Seven in 10 Americans support government action on climate.](#) [Eight in 10 EU citizens want more support for clean energy over fossil fuels.](#) Clear majorities worldwide [see climate as the top threat today.](#)
- **Farmers are leading by example in the fight for a livable future.** Farmers see the danger and are taking action. As just one example, the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales is committed to [reaching net-zero emissions by 2040](#) by improving productivity, embracing renewables, and other solutions.
- **Farmers are turning to regenerative agriculture, with low-cost, low-risk approaches that cut carbon and support families.** [Centuries-old practices](#) — including no-tillage, cover cropping, multi-crop rotations, agro-forestry, silvopasture, and moving livestock out of concentrated feeding operations and back across the land — enable farmers to both remove carbon from the atmosphere and build up healthier and more productive soil for the long term.

HERE'S HOW

- **We make 2020 the turning point.** We'll make 2020 the year the nation acts on climate at every level. Meanwhile, world leaders will meet to rally countries to act as one planet and create a stronger Paris Agreement.
- **Farmers can shape the conversation.** Farm states will be a focus for climate action. We can make sure the climate crisis that threatens our farms, our families, and our future is at the top of the agenda.
- **One question for every elected official: "What will you do about the climate crisis threatening our farms?"** National leaders and elected officials need to have a plan for solving the crisis. We can make sure they do.
- **If farmers are talking about the climate crisis, the rest of the nation will too.** We may never get the thanks, but we feed the nation. We're taking action, but we can't solve this on our own. If we talk about the crisis and get people everywhere to understand the danger to the crops in our fields and the food on their plates, they'll start talking too and make our elected officials act.