



2023 Annual Report



Welcome



SEPT. 9, 10,
1953

20th

ANNIVERSARY MEETING



Timeline of Agricultural Innovation



- 1871** Invention of pasteurization
- 1892** The first gas-powered tractor invented
- 1906** Pure Food and Drugs Act passed
- 1910** Federal Insecticide Act passed
- 1921** Hybrid corn produced commercially
- 1933** The Agricultural Insecticide & Fungicide Association forms (CLA's original name) with headquarters in NYC
- 1934** Worst drought in U.S. history commenced (Dust Bowl)

1758 First threshing machine was invented, hugely improving efficiency in agriculture

1793 Cotton gin developed (a device to clean raw cotton)

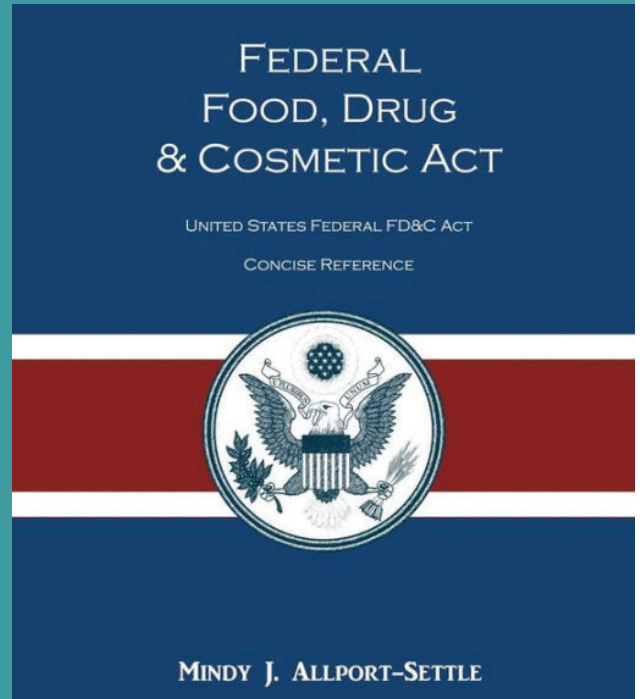
1801 Robert Trevithick demonstrates a steam locomotive

1809 French confectioner Nicolas Appert invents canning as a preservation method

1845 Irish potato famine begins

Mid-1800s Horse-powered machines began to supplement human labor

1862 President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture



1936 Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act passed

1938 Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act passed

1947 Congress passes the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), broadening the power of the USDA to regulate pesticides distributed in interstate commerce

1947 Organophosphate insecticides introduced

1949 The Agricultural Insecticide and Fungicide Association changes name to National Agricultural Chemicals Association and moves headquarters to Washington, D.C.

1950 Systemic insecticides introduced

1954 Number of tractors on farms exceeds the number horses and mules for the first time

1962 Silent Spring published; written by Rachel Carson, biologist and staff writer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1964 First field test of automated irrigation system performed

1964 Food Stamp Act and War on Poverty signed, introducing numerous programs designed to improve the American quality of life for those struggling to make ends meet

1968 One of the first seed treatment fungicides approved for use



1980 First American GMO patent

1980 More farmers use no-till or low-till methods to curb erosion

1988 Scientists warned that the possibility of global warming may affect the future viability of American farming

1989 More farmers began to use low-input sustainable agriculture techniques to decrease chemical applications

1990 Information technology and precision techniques increasingly used in agriculture

1990 Farm Bill established the Organic Food Production Act and the Pesticide Data Program

1970 President Richard Nixon formed the Environmental Protection Agency is formed and the first Earth Day is celebrated

1970 Agriculture accounts for 19% of U.S. exports

Early 1970s Major corn disease crisis requires revamping of hybrid corn production

1972 EPA issues cancellation order for DDT

1972 Clean Water Act enacted

1973 Endangered Species Act passed

1980s Biotechnology became a viable technique for improving crop and livestock products



1990s

GMO produce created through genetic engineering becomes available to consumers

1991

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) formed

1993

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) established among US, Canada, and Mexico

1994

NACA became the American Crop Protection Association

1995

The first genetically engineered corn plant with Bt genes was registered with the EPA

1996

Food Quality Protection Act amends FIFRA and FFDCA

1996

Agricultural exports set record at \$60.4 billion.

1996

Herbicide tolerant crops introduced, enabling low-till/no-till crop production.

1999

Fifteen percent of the U.S. held jobs in agriculture

2000

USDA unveils organic standards and official organic seal

2002

ACPA became CropLife America.

2003

CropLife America partners with environmental groups and industry allies to help pass The Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA)

2004

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act enacted

2005

The Energy Policy Act enacted

2006

Colony Collapse Disorder affecting honey bees first reported by apiarists

2007

Global food crisis hits, spurred by the increased demand for biofuels, which drove up the price of corn and soybeans; higher oil prices; poor weather; etc.

2007

PRIA is updated

2011

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act enacted

2012

PRIA is updated

2012

First self-driving tractor unveiled

2014

First GMO potatoes became available commercially for farmers to grow





2015

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the United Nations General Assembly

2016

The use of drones in agriculture is on the rise

2016

The National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard established

2017

The first GMO apple, named the “Arctic Apple” became commercially available

2018

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), a free trade agreement concluded between Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., is created as a successor to NAFTA

2019 PRIA is updated

2019 The Green New Deal is introduced

2020 Coronavirus pandemic hits

2021 21.1 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors—10.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

2021 CropLife America moves headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Arlington, VA, co-locating with the Agricultural Retailers Association, The Fertilizer Institute, RISE, CPDA

2023 PRIA 5 passed



What's Next?



Dear CropLife America Members and Allies,

Change. Evolution. Innovation. In the dynamic world that we live in, change is coming at us so fast that we may not even recognize it. Change is a constant in our personal lives—from big events like welcoming a new child to smaller changes like a new exercise routine—our lives seldom stand still. Change is also ever present within the agricultural and pesticide industries. A new product comes to market. A new rule or regulation is released by EPA. A court hands down a decision impacting pesticide use. These daily occurrences shape our work, our lives, and our success in ways that we seldom acknowledge or appreciate.

The 90th Anniversary of CropLife America (CLA) gives us a moment to pause and reflect upon how these changes have brought us to where we are today. When Lea Hitchner and June Heitzman started as the first two staff of the Agricultural Fungicide and Insecticide Association, the organization's mission included developing wider markets, educating the public, and cultivating cooperation between producers and dealers. Some of these founding principles remain: CropLife America continues to educate the public and unite manufacturers, distributors, and growers in protecting access to pesticide tools. From this foundation, however, a complex and dynamic web of regulators, activists, judges, and politicians have woven themselves into the fabric of our industry in a way that Lea Hitchner might never have imagined. As challenges have grown, so has the investment and creativity of CLA's approach for managing these new threats.

The other exciting story as we reflect on the past 90 years is that of agriculture, science, and evolution. Hybrid corn was just becoming common in 1933, but corn yields that year were 22.8 bushels/acre compared with a national average yield today of 173.3 bushels/acre and record yields as high as 176.7 bushels/acre. Similarly, the tools that we use allow us to rapidly screen tens of thousands of compounds to find the one molecule that can help us create a new generation of pesticides. Through both improved science and stricter regulatory requirements, the products we're developing today use fewer resources and have a softer environmental footprint. As the world's population continues to grow, the technology advances that we have created help ensure continued food security and a more sustainable agricultural system.

We cannot know the challenges of the next 90 years. We can, however, continue to seek out answers for eliminating hunger, improving our environment, and helping ensure the health of our workers, our customers, and the consumers who depend upon us to protect their food, their homes, and their families. We can be proud of our history, but we cannot rest on our laurels. New partnerships, new messages, and new approaches to old problems are vital to continuing the greatest traditions of our industry that were first articulated nearly a century ago. It is a challenge that we can ably face, together.

Sincerely,



Chris Novak
President & CEO
CropLife America

Friends and Colleagues,

Ninety years ago, much of U.S. farming was in turmoil. A seven-year drought with high winds, dust storms and uncontrollable insect infestations led to devastating losses. Land prices and commodity prices plummeted. As many as 750,000 farms were lost from 1930 to 1935.

As CropLife America marks 90 years of innovation, this is a good time to reflect on how far agriculture has come. With tools like pesticides, growers now have technologies to protect crops, communities, and ecosystems from the threat of pests, weeds, and diseases. Our industry and policymakers have worked together to make available science-based technologies and regulatory frameworks to support farming and advance the health and wellness of people in America and around the world.

Today, CLA staff and member companies advance agriculture by engaging consumers, policymakers, the supply chain and other stakeholders to ensure farmers have the tools they need to deliver productive and profitable food systems. Throughout these pages, you'll find examples of innovation in agriculture and how our partnerships have evolved.

Our industry continues to confront many challenges with far-reaching impact. Just as it was 90 years ago, farming today is still full of risk. Extreme weather, including the impacts of droughts, floods, and other disasters are affecting crop yields, and in turn food prices. This reality demands that we examine a range of pressing issues such as how best to:


- Support farmers and ranchers to increase production in a sustainable way, preserving farmland for future generations.
- Ensure a sustainable future by incentivizing careers in food and agriculture.
- Develop and advance improved agricultural practices and other innovations.

Success in tackling these challenges will rely on full collaboration between CLA and our allies to advocate for agriculture. We represent a link in the chain that delivers innovative, sustainable solutions into the hands of growers, to protect the crops in their fields and increase production. Distributors and retailers are the trusted advisors to growers.

As we've seen all too often, legislative changes at the county, state or federal level can be hugely disruptive, depriving growers of effective solutions or adding unnecessarily to the complexity of managing and selling pesticides. Making the case for science-based legislation has never been more important. Government affairs is a critical activity for CropLife, helping to foster and strengthen bipartisan pathways in Congress that will underpin our industry's future by improving public understanding and trust. We are facing an increase in legislation in many states that impacts farmers' access to effective pest control solutions, and PRIA, the Farm Bill, and ESA will continue to be key focus areas. These challenges require us to come together as a coalition, a unified industry, to advocate for effective solutions.

Let's continue to look ahead, work together to be an effective voice for our industry, and lead innovation for the next 90 years.

Sincerely,



Andy Lee
Chairman
CropLife America Board of Directors

Innovation in Agriculture

How it started...

In The Beginning

Agriculture...Its story begins 12,000 years ago when humans first began to domesticate plants and animals. This evolutionary change in society forever altered the way people lived, brushing aside the traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle to make way for permanent settlements that grew into cities and civilizations. This way of life as we know it today stems, in part, from agriculture and the development of a reliable food system.

The Early Years

Looking back, one of the first notable innovations in modern agriculture was a product of the Industrial Revolution: the creation and adoption of machines to supplement human labor. The steel plow, developed by John Deere in 1837, allowed farmers to cultivate crops more efficiently because the smooth steel blade would not allow the soil to adhere to the blades as the former cast iron plows did. During this time, machines such as horse-drawn reapers, sulky plows, mowers, and threshing machines were created to help with planting, harvesting, and processing crops - which increased both productivity and efficiency.

Following the development of gasoline powered engines in the 1890s, tractors replaced the need for horses and mules as well as supplanted steam-powered engines and the back-breaking work it took to thresh wheat. Among the most important agricultural innovations that followed was the advancement of plant crossbreeding. Introduced in the 1920s, hybrid corn varieties overtook their predecessors rapidly, comprising nearly 100-percent of the corn grown in the Corn Belt by the end of the 1930s and nationwide by 1960. Farmers experienced unprecedented corn yields with these new hybrid varieties.

Pesticides have been a part of humans growing food for thousands of years. In fact, their use was documented in Homeric poems as early as the eighth century BC when the application of naturally occurring compounds were used by farmers to control fungal diseases. Sulfur compounds were developed as fungicides in the 19th century and arsenicals (compounds that contain arsenic) were used to control insects attacking fruits and vegetables. These natural compounds were effective for early farmers, but little was understood about their consistency and the corresponding health effects.



The need for reliable, consistent control of pests led scientists to look beyond natural compounds to man-made or “synthetic” chemistries. Early forays into synthetic chemistry were designed to improve the safety and efficacy of pesticide products, but these improvements often came with new questions. A case in point is DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) which was developed in the 1940s as the first modern synthetic insecticide. By killing insects like mosquitos, fleas, lice, bed bugs, and chiggers that carry diseases like malaria and typhus, DDT is recognized for saving thousands of lives during WWII. DDT and other chemical pesticides discovered during this time were widely and freely used for decades.

Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, however, first published in 1962, shined a light on the dangers of improper pesticide use and the need for better pesticide oversight and regulation. The book spurred significant regulatory changes for the pesticide industry. Due to the growing evidence of DDT’s environmental and toxicological effects, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began to take regulatory action in the 1950s and 1960s to prohibit many of DDT’s uses. Regulation of pesticides shifted from USDA to the newly created U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970, and EPA issued a cancellation order for DDT two years later.

How it’s going...

The Green Revolution

Starting in the 1960s, the Green Revolution can best be characterized as the widespread dissemination of agricultural practices and technologies led by Dr. Norman Borlaug. Dr. Borlaug conducted research in Mexico and developed new disease-resistant varieties of wheat that became a model for what could be done in other staple crops around the world. Combining Borlaug’s wheat varieties with new agricultural mechanization, Mexico was able to become self-sufficient in wheat production - eventually becoming a wheat exporting country by the 1960s.

About this time, a focus on a more holistic and integrated approach to pesticides and agriculture was building coupled with a groundswell of regulatory actions. By 1972, the Clean Water Act was enacted to establish the basic structure for regulating the discharge of pollutants into U.S. waters and the Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, laid the foundation for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. The primary pesticide law in the United States, the Federal Fungicide, Insecticide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA),



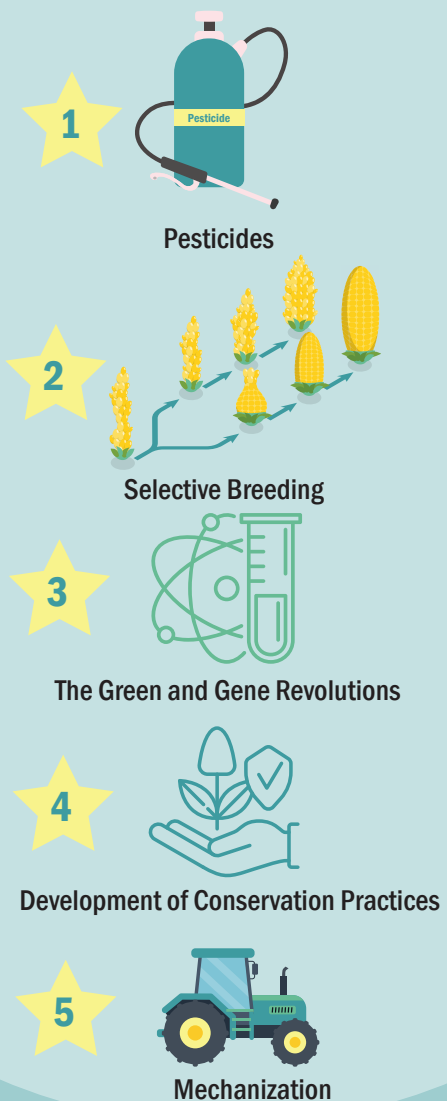
had originally been passed in 1947, but was amended in the 1970s to strengthen the law's regulation and enforcement provisions, broadening the legal emphasis on protecting health and the environment. FIFRA has been amended numerous times since then, and remains the foundation for our nation's regulation of pesticide development and use.

Innovation's Role In Sustainable Practices

While the term "conservation agriculture" wasn't officially coined until 1990, more and more farmers were using no-till or low-till methods to curb erosion in the 1980s. Biotechnology also began to dominate agricultural innovation by the late 1990s. Agricultural biotechnology was designed to create hardier crops that could grow in the harshest environments and could help farmers use less fuel, labor, fertilizer, and water to produce their crops. With a need for more and more food from fewer and fewer acres, biotechnology's promise of helping to decrease pressures on our natural resources was of paramount importance. Biotechnology, often referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs, allows plant breeders to take a desirable trait (like insect resistance or drought tolerance) found in nature and transfer it from one organism to the plant they want to improve, as well as make changes to an existing trait in a plant they are developing. Biotechnology allows improvements that are not practicable with traditional crossbreeding of related species alone and has proven to be an important tool for growers in the face of a changing climate.

While scientists began to worry about climate change at the end of the 1950s, the scientific community united in action in the 1980s with warnings that have only escalated over the decades. While it is undeniable that global agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, the agriculture sector employs lasting solutions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, and continues to build climate-smart agricultural tools and techniques. According to a 2022 report from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, carbon storage in cultivated cropland soils increased by an average of over 8.8 million tons per year, equivalent to reducing annual carbon dioxide emissions by 32.4 million tons. Fuel used in field operations dropped by an annual average of 110 million gallons of diesel fuel, in turn avoiding associated greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide.

CropLife America's Top Five Agricultural Innovations



In addition to the nation's farmers and ranchers increasing use of conservation tillage, cover crops, and other sustainable practices to increase soil health and contain carbon, precision agriculture began to rise in popularity. Precision agriculture is a farming management concept based on observing, measuring, and responding to variable threats in crop fields. Using information technology that helps growers evaluate real-time data, precision agriculture tools help ensure crops and the surrounding environment are treated with exactly what they need to increase health, productivity, and profitability. Using precision agriculture, growers are able to use today's more targeted pesticides in a more strategic way – applying them only when and where they are needed and in the smallest amounts possible – often in only ounces per acre or less.

All of these improvements and innovation in farming have allowed U.S. agricultural output to increase by 400 percent with no collective rise in required operating costs and with 10 percent less land required since approximately 1933. With the current estimates of population growth and continued effects from climate change, more must be done. So, what does the future of agricultural innovation look like?

Where we're headed...

One farmer
supplied food to
approximately...

1940 (18.5)



1950 (27.2)



1960 (46.2)



1970 (72.8)



1980 (100.4)



1990 (129)



2000 (144)



Keep Innovating

Pesticide manufacturers will continue to invest in digital technology and advanced pest control products to help reduce agriculture's negative impact on the planet. Manufacturers develop products in response to farmers' needs and endeavor to create solutions that are more targeted and more selective to control weeds, disease, and insects that threaten our food supply. Advances in crop genetics will continue to store carbon in the soil while boosting nutrient use efficiencies. Digital tools will advance to scout, map, and prescribe climate-smart solutions to issues in the field, and automation will become more sophisticated to transform the harvesting process and reduce food loss on the farm.

Throughout history, agriculture has experienced massive change and through this evolution, lessons have been learned, changes implemented, and new discoveries made. Chemistry has improved so our pesticides have become more precise and targeted – but it's not just about chemistry! Growers focus on the entire ecosystem and take an integrated approach to pest management to grow our food responsibly. While the specifics of future agricultural advancements are not completely known, the continued drumbeat of innovation shows we're headed towards a more sustainable future.



Communications

Our Work

We know that talking about pesticides is difficult and that many in the agriculture community could benefit from messages that resonate and tools to help ensure conversations with others are productive. The goal of [The Pesticide Discussion](#) is to provide tested, resonant messages, and tools and tips to members and allies so they may train their own colleagues on effective ways to discuss pesticides.

CLA communications launched a nationwide, [regional public relations strategy](#) beginning in 2019 to engage local media outlets and continue to build relationships with journalists nationwide. In 2023, we have worked with our state and federal policy teams to execute targeted op-ed, letters-to-the-editor, and earned media opportunities in key issue areas across the country.

When it comes to information and facts about pesticides and agriculture, CropLife America has the answers. But many times, a quick Google search of the word “pesticides” brings up activist organizations and NGOs that spread misinformation. Through our [web and SEO work](#), our goal is to be the first to the pesticide conversation and draw users to our website and resources and push through the misinformation.

Our Impact

12

Trainings held in 2023

550

New people trained

16

Member
Companies

45

Ally
Organizations

22

Implementation Plans

19

Earned media placements
from January to May in our
designated key states

10

Social media packages,
intended to continue the spread
of positive information and
shared with CLA members and
allies for promotion on their
social channels

10% ↑

Increase in website
clickthrough rate

7.65% ↑

Increase in organic
user traffic

17.68% ↑

Increase in time spent
on website



Listing position improved

Our Work

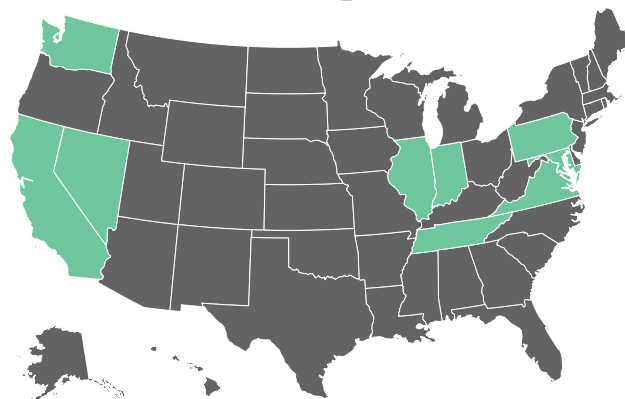
In addition to The Pesticide Discussion trainings held in D.C., the communications department, travels across the country throughout the year to train large groups at the request of members and allies on [how to effectively talk about pesticides and tell your story](#).

CLA continued to host complementary [webinars](#) with guest speakers to keep members and allies informed on our most pressing and emerging issues.

The [Universal Food Forum](#), hosted by Michigan State University and supported by the communications team, was held on July 12 in Washington, D.C., with engaging panels on a variety of topics with speakers of varying opinions and a closing keynote discussion featuring U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.

CLA's communications team collaborated with the [Sustainability Committee](#) to craft messages around pesticides' role in agricultural sustainability as well as create draft definitions for common climate-smart terms. These messages were tested in California focus groups in early 2023.

Our Impact



6

Webinars held in 2023

500

Attendees

Topics included:

- EU regulatory decisions
- Pollinator health and research
- Endangered Species Act

175

Total Attendees



- 15 media
- 40 government employees
 - 50 academia
- 70 industry, ally and NGO

The resulting talking points will help members effectively discuss the way pesticides enable climate-smart agricultural practices that help conserve our natural resources.

Government Relations

Our Work

CLA's government relations team worked with stakeholder groups and coalitions, such as the Pesticide Policy Coalition and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) Coalition, and **activated the CLA grassroots network to communicate funding priorities** for EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs to members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations.

With the passage of PRIA 5, CLA and RISE leadership meets regularly with EPA to **discuss and track the progress of improvements** that were designated in PRIA 5, including implementation of new maintenance fees, creation of centralized guidance webpage, consulting with state partners on bilingual labeling accessibility, etc.

Additionally, CLA government relations staff worked with EPA to **encourage the establishment of training programs for new Office of Pesticide Programs staff.**

CLA assisted with specific outreach to secure original cosponsors of **H.R. 4288** introduced June 22, 2023, to reinforce and strengthen federal label preemption.

CLA **pesticide industry policy priorities** were highlighted on Capitol Hill through partner fly-ins, Pesticide Policy Coalition FIFRA 101 meetings, and state association meetings.

We provided leadership and helped to gain global alignment on pushing back against the prescriptive EU Green Deal/Farm to Fork initiatives.

CLA's government relations team engaged with international governments on variety of issues such as World Trade Organization (WTO) reform, EU Green Deal, MRLs, sustainability.

We submitted comments to the U.S. government on Section 301 tariff review.

Our Impact

2M↑

Funding increased over FY '23 funding levels

Because of CLA's outreach, both the House and Senate Appropriations bills did not reduce funding from last year towards EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, even though a majority of the EPA budget was cut significantly.



These changes come after the CLA government relations team's successful leading of stakeholder groups to work with EPA Office of Pesticide Programs to improve transparency and efficiencies that bolster the science-based regulation of pesticide products as codified in FIFRA.

Without federal preemption, pesticide regulation would suffer. Some examples: Politics would trump science in determining which pesticides could be used in which states and farmers living in certain states might not have the tools they need to control weeds, insects, and fungal diseases that threaten the health and safety of their crops.

248

Meetings Held

CLA has worked closely with CLI, CLC and other CL regions to align on outreach in capitol, embassies and stakeholders with one voice.

The U.S. notified the WTO of two specific trade concerns for the European Union regarding EU MRLs and pesticide policies as well as the EU import tolerances for certain pesticides to achieve environmental outcomes in third countries. Engagement and strategic alignment with U.S. grower stakeholders on sanitary and phytosanitary trade matters with 19 other countries supporting one or the other or both.

CLA provided comments to share the pesticide industry voice to the impacts these tariffs has had on the industry. Our comments provide input to the mandatory four-year review of the Section 301 actions, the review should be completed sometime in the fall.

Government Relations

Our Work

CLA, a [member of the Food & Ag Climate Alliance](#) since 2021, continued its work to support FACA's Farm Bill recommendations, co-chairing the research extension innovation Farm Bill working group.

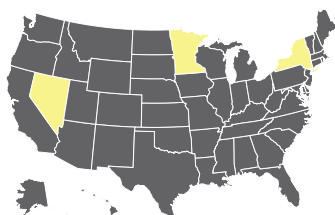
The government relations team achieved alignment with stakeholders on language to reauthorize and bolster the Interagency Working Group on the [Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#) in the upcoming Farm Bill.

The team worked with stakeholder groups and coalitions, such as the Pesticide Policy Coalition and environmental NGOs, to achieve report language in both the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Bills that calls on the Agencies to [use the best available data and maps for ESA risk assessments](#).

The government relations team worked with stakeholder groups and coalitions to achieve [higher funding levels towards U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service endangered species consultations for pesticide registrations](#) in both the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Bills.



- State Pesticide Legislation Defeated by CLA
- State Pesticide Legislation *Not* Defeated by CLA



Only **5** negative bills passed (MN, NY, NV) out of **530** total state bills tracked this session.

Our Impact

We included language in FACA's Farm Bill recommendations and regulatory comments to [emphasize that pesticides are climate-smart inputs that enable climate-smart agriculture](#) when used in combination with tillage management, integrated pest management, and other conservation practices.

This will help [facilitate greater coordination and alignment between Agency staff](#) on the intersection between the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Endangered Species Act.



Higher funding for additional staff to carry out these consultations will help address the bottleneck of pesticide registrations that are held up by endangered species consultations.

Bills Defeated

- Neonicotinoid non-ag and rodenticide restriction bill (CT)
- Treated seed labeling and regulatory regime legislation (MN, CA)
- Roll back of statewide pesticide preemption (CO)
- Neonicotinoid, dicamba, and treated seed disposal bills (IL)
- Neonicotinoid legislation (NM)
- Aerial application ban bill (VA)
- FIFRA exemption included in EPR law (IL)
- Maintained FIFRA exemption laws (NY, MD)
- Secure deference in PFAS law for the Department of Agriculture to retain authority of PFAS pesticide requirements (MN)
- CLA/RISE amended PFAS pesticide testing bill to study (MD)

Other State-Related Initiatives

- Executed targeted advocacy campaigns in CA, CO, and NY with plans to engage in MI and expand to additional priority states
- Californians for Smart Pesticide Policy initiated an economic study on the economic benefits of pesticides and impact of California Department of Pesticide Regulation registration timelines
- Worked with Southern Crop Production Association to identify foreign ag land exemption language and secure language in LA and OK
- Worked with the CLA communications and PR teams to place [over 16 media hits to support lobbying efforts](#)
- Working with NY state partners, [generated over 300 grassroots letters and calls into legislators and Governor's office](#).

Our Work

Amicus briefs help educate the court about possible public policy implications of a decision, providing the court with economic, social science, or historical perspectives, as well as technical assistance or industry data necessary to make informed decisions.



CLA's legal team co-hosted, with the American Bar Association, an **annual update on legal issues facing the pesticide industry**, focusing on ESA, PRIA, PFAS and international trade.

We closely engaged on legislative and regulatory **PFAS action in Maine** that would have compromised members' confidential business information.

CLA's legal department closely coordinated with the Law Committees and legal staff of CLI and CLE to examine and **address legal issues related to the Commission's decision to lower the maximum residue levels (MRLs) of certain neonicotinoids** to technical zero to protect pollinators in foreign jurisdictions.

The legal team continue to provide leadership and support for members and other stakeholders as EPA continues to improve the **process for Endangered Species Act review of pesticide registration decisions**.

Our Impact

CropLife America filed...

1. Three amicus briefs in **FIFRA preemption litigation**, supporting deference to EPA's human health assessments and resulting labeling on pesticide products.
2. An amicus brief supporting an appeal to EPA's Environmental Appeals Board, noting the industry wide policy implications of EPA's preferred regulatory approach to DCPA.
3. Supplemental briefing in the **Prop 65 glyphosate case** arguing that new warnings for glyphosate violate the First Amendment.
4. An amicus brief in the sulfoxaflor litigation, **resulting in a remand without vacatur**, with the Ninth Circuit finding that vacatur would likely harm the environment and disrupt agriculture. Filed a second amicus brief opposing plaintiffs' petition for a rehearing.
5. Helped reach a favorable decision in **Helena v. Cox** after filing an amicus brief before the Texas Supreme Court. This ruling requires plaintiffs to provide credible evidence on causation to survive summary judgment.

At the meeting, **EPA General Counsel committed to participating in a farm tour**, which he and several of the Office of General Counsel staff subsequently attended in 2023.

CLA worked closely with outside counsel and RISE to obtain a positive result. Continue to engage on legal issues related to PFAS, including hosting a webinar for RISE and CLA members on those PFAS-related legal issues, monitoring litigation and regulatory action regarding containers.

Continued engagement includes webinars and outreach to grower groups about how the Commission's actions could impact U.S. grower groups.

This includes coordinating litigation and regulatory priorities and sharing information with members and other stakeholders regarding recent litigation.

Our Work

The legal team organized multiple ESA webinars discussing EPA's Workplan.

CLA recruited a former Environmental DOJ litigator to join CLA as our **new Deputy General Counsel**.

An **intervention** happens when an outside group or individual asks to join an already existing lawsuit as either a plaintiff or defendant. Intervenor usually have a stake in the outcome of the case and want to help their side win. Once a group is allowed to intervene, they fully participate in the rest of the case — meaning they file briefs with the court, participate in trials or oral arguments and appeal decisions if desired

Our Impact

We met with EPA leaders to **communicate the need for a science-based and efficient registration review process**.

A **heightened level of expertise** and a **unique perspective** within CLA's legal team.

1. Moved to intervene in a lawsuit challenging EPA's decision to renew the registrations of Enlist One and Enlist Duo. **CLA seeks to intervene to protect member interests** in products with glyphosate and 2,4-D, as well as to oppose plaintiff activists' position that the Endangered Species Act requires a final Biological Opinion before EPA can register a product.
2. Moved to intervene in a lawsuit alleging that EPA failed to implement an endocrine disruptor screening program as directed by the Food Quality Protection Act. **CLA seeks to ensure the court correctly interprets EPA's obligations under the FQPA**, any court-ordered deadlines are reasonable, and industry can advocate for reasonable solutions in the ongoing settlement discussions.
3. Moved to intervene in lawsuit where activists challenge EPA's denial of their petition to regulate treated seeds as pesticides and ask the court to rule that treated seeds do not qualify for the treated article exemption under FIFRA. **CLA seeks to prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens on those who sell, produce, and grow crops from treated seeds**.
4. Filed motion to intervene in the California treated seed litigation after closely monitoring the litigation and state legislation. **CLA seeks to provide the court with an industry perspective on the economic and regulatory consequences of regulating treated seeds as pesticides**.

Science and Regulatory

Our Work

CLA science and regulatory team engaged with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy staff to inform them about the robust risk assessment process pesticides undergo, and the sustainability initiatives supported by the pesticide industry.

In April 2023, CLA hosted a workshop and invited a wide variety of stakeholders to discuss [label requirements for drone application](#), including what already exists on the label that does not need to be changed and what clarifications can be added.

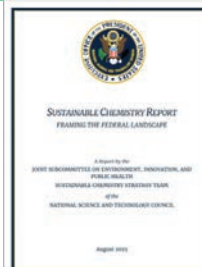
CLA's science and regulatory team, in collaboration with the CropLife International and regional CropLife associations, defeated Annex-VIII proposal at the Rotterdam Convention (RC).

CLA's science and regulatory team secured a \$65,000 grant from value chain partners to support [EU MRL projects](#).

CLA is continuing work to develop a [database of bio-monitoring studies](#) focused on publicly available monitoring data.

The 2023 [CLA/RISE Regulatory Conference](#) had a high registration rate and sponsorships with staff of all levels at EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs in attendance and actively participated as speakers and attendees.

Our Impact



These engagements led to a balanced Sustainable Chemistry Report.

25

Participants including CLA members, EPA, state regulators, drone applicators, and academic researchers.

CLA and allies successfully [advocated for maintaining the core consensus-based decision-making process at the RC by maintaining a single list of chemicals under Annex-III](#). Creation of a new Annex-VIII would have led to the collapse of procedural integrity and provided disproportionate advantage to some members of the RC.

\$65K

The grant will be used to demonstrate the impact of non-scientific changes to Maximum Residue Levels on agricultural trade.

These studies could be useful to registrants and regulators of pesticides looking to integrate this data into assessments.

350

Registrations



\$120K

In sponsorships

Our Work

The science and regulatory team continues to work on improving agency relations, holding several committee and working group meetings this year with EPA staff. From speaking on panels at the 2023 Regulatory Conference to the bimonthly meetings CLA staff holds with the director of the Office of Pesticide Programs and other senior staff, as well as frequent meetings with other high level staff, particularly on ESA and PRIA implementation, CLA's science and regulatory team continues to engage and collaborate.

Our Impact



50

Committee and working group meetings held this year

30 +

Comments Filed

- Examination of Microcosm/Mesocosm Studies for Evaluating the Effects of Atrazine on Aquatic Plant Communities
- Vulnerable Species Pilot Program
- Enlist Biological Opinion
- Ethylene Oxide Proposed Interim Decision
- Atrazine Science Advisory Panel Nominations
- Cyantraniliprole Biological Evaluation
- Carbaryl/Methomyl National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion
- Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program White Paper
- Endangered Species Act Workplan Update
- Carbaryl Proposed Interim Decision
- Proposed Interim Decisions for the Rodenticides
- Revised Methomyl Proposed Interim Decision
- Dicamba Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment Comments
- Proposed Removal of PFAS Chemicals from Approved Inert Ingredient List for Pesticides
- Revised Proposed Interim Decision for Atrazine
- Organophosphate Revocation Petition
- Cumulative Risk Assessment Framework
- Fish and Wildlife Interagency Draft Rule
- Norflurazon Proposed Interim Decision
- Atrazine SAP Nominations concern comments
- Bilingual Label comments
- ESA New Ai Comments
- PFAS (State Legislatures (oral and written) and other organization)

7

Publications, posters, and presentations produced

- Evaluation of SEAWAVE-QEX model performance across different watersheds and pesticide properties. Presentation at American Chemical Society
- Advancing agricultural Uncrewed Aerial Spray Systems (UASS) via engagement on product labeling, operator safety needs, and advocacy for best management practices. Presentation at American Chemical Society
- Critical Review and Recommendations to Improve the Quality and Reproducibility of the U.S. EPA Chronic Mysid Testing Guideline: Update on a CropLife America and CropLife Europe Project. Poster at Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Europe and North America.
- Uncrewed Aerial Spray Systems: Spray Drift, Operator Exposure, Crop Residue, and Efficacy: Equivalency with Conventional Application Techniques. Manuscript submitted and pending approval by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.
- Uncrewed Aerial Spray Systems: Spray Drift, Operator Exposure, Crop Residue, and Efficacy: Equivalency with Conventional Application Techniques. Presentation at Remotely Piloted Aerial Application Systems (RPAAS or drones) Workshop
- Barriers to Regenerative Agriculture (Manuscript in preparation)
- EPA Risk Analysis Framework for Pesticides: Overview of Policy and Consumer Confidence (Manuscript in preparation)

Sustainability

Life Cycle Assessment of the Impacts of Pesticides on U.S. Corn, Soy, and Cotton

The primary goal of this Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is to analyze the environmental impacts of pesticides for weeds, insects, and disease for corn, soy, and cotton production in the U.S. Midwest. This assessment provides CropLife America with insight regarding the impacts of pesticides across the life cycle of each crop.

The scope of this LCA is a cradle-to-farm gate assessment of corn, soy, and cotton. The impact categories analyzed were energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions, land use, and others from IMPACT World+ for each crop, comparing production with and without pesticide use in total across the U.S. Results across all three crops and four scenarios were similar, with decreased efficiencies and negative environmental impacts as pesticide use was decreased. The highest impact was seen with the removal of insecticides, followed by herbicides and disease control. The impacts of removing insecticides were as much as four times higher for impact categories such as global warming potential, fossil energy use, water consumption, and land occupation (for example) than the baseline across all three crops.

The impacts of implementing cover crops were also analyzed, with mixed results across impact categories compared to the baseline. For example, cover crops require more fossil energy use than the baseline, but because cover crops reduce nitrogen losses thus reducing nitrous oxide emissions, the global warming impact is neutralized. The complexity of managing multiple metrics for improved outcomes, balancing the tradeoffs and communicating the intricacies of cover crops became clear through the analyses.



The Sustainability Committee coordinated with CLA's communications team to craft messages around pesticides' role in agricultural sustainability as well as create draft definitions for common climate-smart terms. These messages were tested in California focus groups in early 2023. The resulting talking points will help members effectively discuss the way pesticides enable climate-smart agricultural practices that help conserve our natural resources.

Sustainability

Our Members' Sustainability Stories

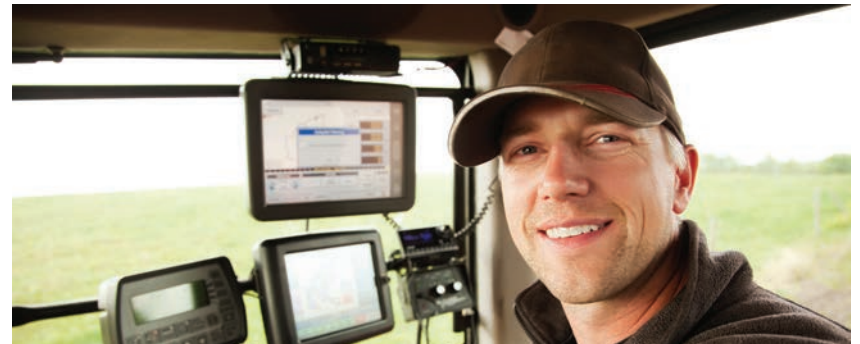


Corteva is using precision agriculture drones to enable growers to produce healthy, high-yielding crops. The Holcomb family in Kentucky uses Granular Insights, Corteva's precision agriculture monitoring tool, to "do more with less" on their farm. Using Granular, aerial imagery, and variable-rate seeding, the Holcombs can spot problems in their field early, address problems quickly, and produce crops more efficiently. "We're able to do things through all this technology that we weren't able to do 10 years ago," says the Holcomb family. "That directly increases yields and that directly puts more food on the tables around the world."



Valent USA is partnering with growers to diversify crops and protect soil health across US farms. Practicing no-till, cover cropping, and using variable-rate technology is helping growers like Billy McDaniel and his family maintain both profitability and long-term viability on their sixth-generation North Carolina farm, which grows tobacco, soybeans, and a variety of other crops. Diversification is key to sustainability for the McDaniels, and Valent has helped them plant cover crops on every acre of their farm over the past two years. "Farming has changed a lot in the last 50 years and even in the last 15 years," says McDaniel. "It's constantly getting better with the chemistries and tools we use, and we're trying to get it right."

Bayer sees biologicals as a potential gateway to regenerative farming that preserves soil health and protects crop yields while preventing crop-destroying pests and diseases. Following an open innovation model, Bayer is collaborating across their R&D pipeline, partnering with Ginkgo Bioworks and Kimitec to advance biologicals research. Together, they've invested \$60 million to date into researching bio-inspired fertilizers and biological seed treatments to protect crops precisely and efficiently. Bayer believes that in the future, biologicals could be an important part of an integrated system to produce high-yielding, healthy, safe, nutrient-dense crops in a sustainable manner.



Pollinators and agriculture go hand-in-hand, and it's important to protect pollinators to support healthy crops. As part of Operation Pollinator, **Simplot is collaborating with Syngenta**, CropLife America, and the Wood River Land Trust on a project to preserve pollinator health and habitat on potato fields. The project will monitor pollinator variety and abundance in potato fields before and after habitat installation as well as evaluate the costs and benefits of different habitat types to inform growers on how best to sustainably protect pollinator populations as part of their IPM plans.



Administration

CropLife America, RISE and CropLife International were pleased to welcome six interns to our organizations. This year's group of interns were outstanding and added so much to the work and culture of our organizations.

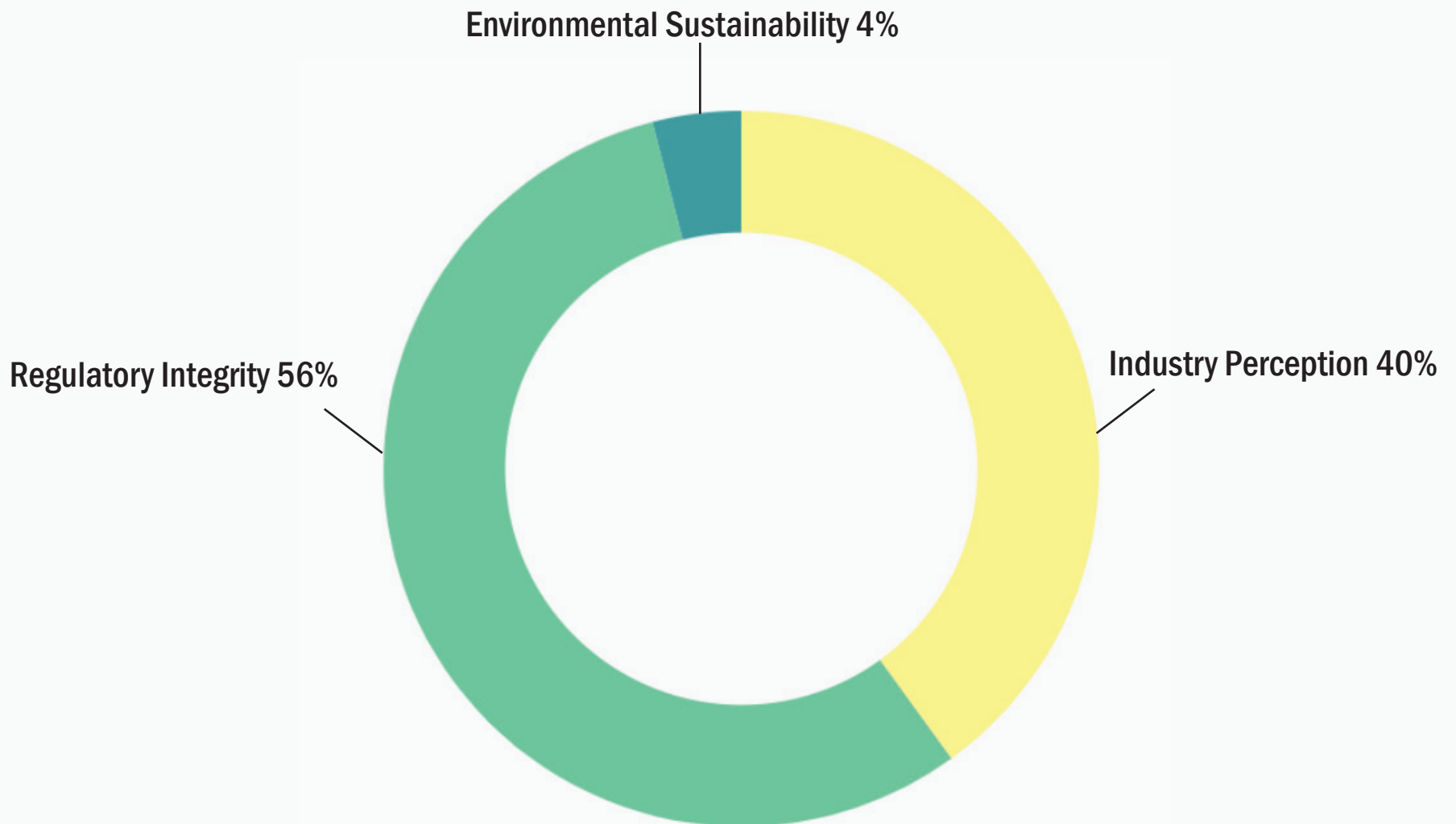
In addition, CropLife America continues to spearhead the D.C. Ag Intern Network, this year with over 120 interns participating. Throughout the summer organizations host programs and opportunities for interns in the network to get together and learn more about agriculture and public policy and have fun!

This is a tremendous pipeline of talent for our industry, and we are glad to help make these connections each year. We wish our six interns and *all* the D.C. Ag Intern network participants the best in their future endeavors!



Operational Overview

CLA's strategic plan and the resulting prioritization of issues allows the association to plan and monitor where CLA resources are allocated for the benefit of our members. The following chart depicts the major issues CLA dedicates resources to managing as part of its business plan during the first half of 2023.









CropLife America
www.croplifeamerica.org
