

Why it's time to end the 'farmers versus environmentalists' fight and work together

[Editor's note: Suzy Friedman is the senior director of agricultural sustainability at the Environmental Defense Fund.]

On paper, I appear to be the picture perfect stereotype of an east coast liberal: I've been working at environmental nonprofits for over 20 years, I'm an Ivy League grad, and I live in the "bluest" county in Virginia.

The reality is that I spend nearly every waking hour of my career [collaborating with farmers](#) – exploring ways to implement on-the-ground practices that help producers save money and protect yields while also reducing impacts to water and air. After years of building relationships, I'm proud of the diverse and unlikely partnerships I've formed. Many of my closest friends and allies would be labeled as "[big ag](#)."

...

[Sustainability and profitability can and must go hand-in-hand](#). For years, farmers have told me that environmental initiatives cannot come at the expense of profits. And that's never been more true than today....

I don't see the political divisions letting up anytime soon. But I do think agriculture is one area where, because sustainable farming practices can and do lead to big cost savings and even increased yields, farmers and environmentalists can meet each other halfway.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [There's good reason to end the agriculture versus the environment fight](#)

For more background on the Genetic Literacy Project, read [GLP on Wikipedia](#)