Higher productivity drives growth in U.S. agriculture

More output per unit of input
With declining use of inputs, productivity improvements expanded agricultural production.

Lower costs to produce commodities
Even as prices for agricultural inputs rise, rapid productivity improvements restrain the rise in agricultural output prices.

Technological advances brought about by agricultural research and development have both improved yields and reduced input requirements. Public agricultural research investments are responsible for about half of the measured productivity gain in U.S. agriculture.

Innovations in farm business size, organization, structure, and management further reduced the costs of production, keeping commodity prices low.

ERS is a leading source of data and economic analysis on agricultural productivity trends, the economic impacts of agricultural research and development, as well as factors influencing the adoption of new technologies and practices by U.S. farm operations and their economic effects.

For more information, see the ERS Website: