

Leadership in Action: Innovation Center Announces 2022 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards Winners



For more than a decade, the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards have been recognizing farms, businesses and partnerships for their leadership in implementing practices and technologies that have a broad and positive impact on the environment, their communities and their local economies. Now in their 11th year, the Awards have celebrated more than 80 winners from nearly 300 nominations.

“This year’s winners exemplify how forward-thinking and regenerative efforts across the entire supply chain have led to positive results and what it means to be an environmental solution,” said Barbara O’Brien, CEO of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.

“These all are solution- and results-oriented businesses who are not only making meaningful contributions locally but to the U.S. dairy industry overall,” said Marilyn Hershey, dairy farmer and chair of Dairy Management Inc.’s Board of Directors.

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy is pleased to announce the 2022 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards winners:

OUTSTANDING DAIRY FARM SUSTAINABILITY

Deer Run Dairy, Kewaunee, Wisconsin

At Deer Run Dairy, farming is a continuous learning process. Partners Duane Ducat, Derek Ducat and Dale Bogart actively participate in Wisconsin’s Demonstration Farm Network and Discovery Research program. The region’s topography, shallow soils, and proximity to Lake Michigan pose water quality challenges, and the partners have implemented numerous conservation practices to protect the water and to improve soil health. As big believers in the value of cover crops, they set and achieved a goal to seed 100% of their cropland with cover crops in the fall of 2021. Additional goals encompass the entire 1,850-cow operation, including minimal antibiotic use and feeding trials to reduce methane gas production in the rumen of the cow. All goals ladder up to the ability to be a profitable business on land that is sustained for generations to come.



Grayhouse Farms, Inc., Stony Point, North Carolina

When it came time to build a new dairy five years ago, Jimmy and Andy Gray designed a dairy that is, as Jimmy calls it, “conservation and efficiency by design” with dozens of water and soil conservation practices in use. The flush manure management and sand separation system allows sand to be recycled nearly 100 times, and a four-stage lagoon is designed to best utilize nutrients and water. The facility for their 1,120 cows was also built to maximize cow comfort, from ventilation and fans to rubber matting, sprinklers and sand bedding. Soil conservation practices include GPS placement of nutrients, cover crops, filter strips and 100% no-till farming. Land that is not well-suited for farming is cared for with an equal amount of attention to wildlife conservation. “We understand that we hold the title of this property, but we are the caretakers, and we must be vigilant in HOW we farm,” says Jimmy.



Steve and Cheryl Schlangen Dairy Farm, Albany, Minnesota

Steve and Cheryl Schlangen's mindset of continuous improvement is a way of life on their 60-cow, 200-acre farm in Stearns County, Minnesota. They count more than 30 conservation practices, from LED lighting and cover crops to a manure-stacking slab that prevents nutrient leaching into the water and a manure injection system that uses less time, less fuel and has virtually eliminated the need for commercial fertilizer on their crops. Their enthusiasm for sharing ideas and results with others has earned them a national reputation as leaders in regenerative agriculture. Schlangen Dairy provides a blueprint for beginning farmers and generational farms to follow.



Bar 20 Dairy Farm, Kerman, California

Bar 20 Dairy's on-farm energy investments have added up big for the environment. LED bulbs provide lighting in all the barns, reducing the demand for electricity by 75%. Two solar array installations provide electricity for the dairy barn and offset power usage of the farming operation. A dairy digester captures methane from the 7,000-cow herd and converts it into renewable electricity via fuel cells. Through a partnership with BMW North America, the combustion-free, dairy-derived electricity is transmitted via the utility grid to power electric vehicles. The methane emission reductions at the farm, when combined with the renewable energy generation, result in carbon emission reductions equivalent to providing clean power to over 17,000 electric vehicles per year. Electricity generated by the fuel cells also powers a feed mixing system, replacing diesel and reducing smog-forming emissions by 90%.



OUTSTANDING DAIRY PROCESSING SUSTAINABILITY

Milk Specialties Global, Monroe, Wisconsin

A whey processing project at Milk Specialties Global (MSG) demonstrates how making one change can deliver sustainability benefits across the supply chain. To meet surging demand for dairy protein in foods and beverages, MSG acquired a plant in Monroe, WI to collect and process whey, a by-product of cheesemaking, into whey proteins. However, the whey supply from local cheesemakers far outweighed processing capacity. Instead of trucking the whey to a larger plant, MSG found a way to double capacity at the plant without increasing the facility's footprint. Artisanal cheesemakers saw a waste product turn into a revenue stream. The local community benefited too: truck miles decreased by 237,232 miles, saving 47,446 gallons of diesel fuel and reducing GHG emissions by 486 metric tons; 2.9 million gallons of water are now reclaimed and returned to the local watershed; and more than 53,000 pounds of whey protein is produced annually to fuel athletes and animals around the globe.



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers

Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association (MDVA) is a community of more than 900 dairy farm families. With 90% of these located within the critical Chesapeake Bay watershed, the cooperative recognizes its responsibility to bring environmental solutions to its members and their communities. Through supply chain and partnerships with corporations, customers, and conservation non-profits, they have delivered more than \$19 million in funds to make meaningful sustainability investments on member farms. To drive community impact, volunteers from MDVA and its partners participate in events such as planting riparian buffers on dairy farms and trash pick-ups along waterways. Planting riparian buffers helps protect critical waterways far beyond the reach of the farm, while also exposing people throughout the dairy supply chain to agriculture.



OUTSTANDING SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY

Bel Brands, Land O'Lakes Inc., Boadwine Dairy

This multi-year program is designed to demonstrate the value of feed production practices that improve soil health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports Bel Brands' and Land O'Lakes' shared ambitions to improve sustainable farming practices and reduce dairy's environmental footprint. The project provides cost incentives, access to resources and expertise, and the use of the Truterra™ Insights Engine to participating farms. The first pilot took place on Boadwine Dairy, a member-owner of Land O'Lakes, where efforts to improve soil health have been ongoing for more than ten years, and is being expanded to dairy farms ranging in size from 450 – 2,000 cows in two regions.



A formal celebration of the winners is scheduled in conjunction with the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting, Nov. 14-15 in Glendale, Ariz.

For more information about the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards program, please contact Jennifer.Block@dairy.org.

2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting Recap + Fall Save the Date

Last month, more than 270 dairy stakeholders from 150+ companies/organizations across the country – 200 of them in-person in Oak Brook, IL – participated in the hybrid 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting, *Unlocking Transformative Good for People and the Planet*. Attendees explored U.S. dairy's collective path to providing solutions that advance well-being and regenerate the environment while also caring for its animals and communities, including:

- Navigating the range of diverse social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities facing dairy businesses today.
- Exciting updates to the FARM Environmental Stewardship program that will support supply chain collaboration while offering deeper environmental and economic insights to farmers.
- Insight on consumer trends, marketing, education and smart technology tools used by some of the nation's leading retailers that are driving the marketplace and poised to make a difference now and into the future.

Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Summer 2022

- More about the Global Methane Pledge, what it could mean for U.S. dairy, and the opportunity it presents for research and leadership, including through the Greener Cattle Initiative collaboration, to reduce enteric methane emissions.
- How businesses that drive profit through purpose can accelerate growth and unlock transformative good.

Attendees also had the opportunity to:

- Dive deeper on existing methane reduction solutions related to manure; learn from other dairy businesses that are successfully transforming their workforce, food safety and sustainability cultures; and ask our panel of expert dairy scientists their burning sustainability science questions during breakout sessions.
- Provide their input and insights related to water, packaging and their Dairy Sustainability Alliance membership through small group discussion sessions. That feedback will be shared with Innovation Center committees and task forces leading efforts in those areas.

Recordings from all the main stage and breakout sessions are now available under the “Meetings” tab on the [event website](#). Please note, the closing keynote recording is only available to attendees and only through July 8. If you attended the Spring Meeting and need the keynote recording password re-sent, please contact Tammy.Taylor@dairy.org.

Join us this Fall



The **2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting** will be held November 15 in Glendale, AZ, with an optional farm tour on Monday, November 14. We will also be celebrating our 2022 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards winners.

Immediately following the Fall Meeting, we'll co-host the **2022 Sustainable Agriculture Summit**, *Meeting the Moment: Strengthening U.S. Food and Agriculture's Capacity to Drive Change*, on November 16-17. Summit organizers are currently accepting breakout session proposals for this year's event that share how bold collaborations and actionable strategies can scale and strengthen U.S. food and agriculture's capacity to drive change and build a more sustainable future.

Download the [Call for Proposals guide](#) to learn more about session guidelines and [submit your proposal online](#) by Friday, September 9.

Registration for both the Fall Meeting and the Summit will be opening in the next month.

Save the Date

Also save the date to join us in the Chicago area again next year for the **2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting**, May 10-11, in Rosemont, IL.

If you have any questions about the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® or Alliance meetings, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Feeding America and U.S. Dairy to Host Midwest Symposium

The U.S. Dairy community has long been committed to providing nutritious dairy products to those facing food insecurity. Join us **June 23-24** in **Kansas City, KS**, at an opportunity for champions across the value chain to build more relationships and create solutions that increase our neighbors' access to dairy products they need and desire.



The first in a nation-spanning series, this Midwest-focused symposium will allow key leaders to align resources and identify actions to increase dairy options at food banks in their communities. Participation is expected by representatives from food banks, partner supply operations, policy experts and the dairy community. Bringing together key participants from Feeding America and the dairy value chain will help to:

- Build dairy champions within Feeding America
- Increase participation in dairy purchase programs by food banks for a consistent supply of dairy
- Maximize industry participation in federal purchase programs for dairy such as TEFAP
- Open further distribution opportunities within the Feeding America network
- Build local relationships to address barriers to dairy distribution

Your participation in this symposium will help build long-term, sustainable solutions to sourcing dairy and help Feeding America reach its goal of increasing access to nutritious dairy in its system. [Register today.](#)

If you have any questions about the symposium or U.S. dairy's food security efforts, please contact Tab.Forgac@dairy.org.

Innovation Center Announces Three-Year Strategic Plan

On a webinar last month, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy shared its three-year strategic plan for the organization. Approved by the Innovation Center Board of Directors in January 2022, the plan, which aligns U.S. dairy behind a framework of shared priorities, goals, work and metrics, focuses on the top areas where the U.S. dairy community can provide value as a solution, make a positive impact and inspire new belief in dairy.

The Innovation Center seeks to deliver its vision of *a future where U.S. dairy unlocks transformative good for people and the planet* by adding value through three strategic pillars and the priorities embedded within them:



- **Advance Well-being:** Deliver dairy nutrition that meets emerging and personalized health needs
- **Regenerate the Environment:** Optimize dairy solutions that enhance natural resources and ecosystems
- **Care for Animals and Communities:** Ensure healthy animals, a vibrant workforce and safe, high-quality dairy foods

Foundational to this work is the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment, U.S. dairy's social responsibility pledge, which will be used to demonstrate the industry's commitment to action and to measure and report progress against these collective priorities.

You can watch the [webinar recording](#) to learn more about the plan, how current initiatives fit and where additional workstreams will be developed to advance solutions that help unlock dairy's transformative good for people and the planet.

For more information about the Innovation Center and its efforts, please contact Sarah.Hanson@dairy.org.

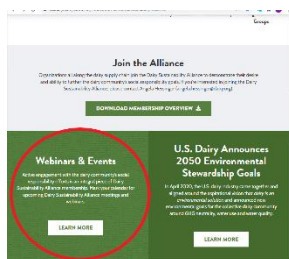
Summer Webinar Series

Thanks to our presenters and all who were able to join us last week for our *Leveraging the National Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy: Guidance to Simplify Company Assessments* webinar. The webinar provided an overview of the national assessment and its role, explained how individual companies can complete their own assessment using the *Materiality Guide for U.S. Dairy* (latest version coming in July), and shared the results of a pilot with Darigold to do just that. You can [view a recording here](#) or download all the latest Commitment resources at www.USDairy.com/Commitment. More webinars are coming your way this summer that will provide program updates and resources, share learnings and insights, and dive deeper on key social responsibility topics.

FARM Animal Care Version 5 Listening Session

Wednesday, September 7 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Central

The FARM Animal Care Program standards are revised every three years to reflect the most current science and best management practices within the dairy industry. Standards, rationale, and accountability measures are reviewed and revised by the FARM Animal Care Task Force and National Milk Producers Federation Animal Health and Well-Being Committee with input from industry stakeholder groups including farmers, animal scientists and veterinarians. Dairy Sustainability Alliance® members will have the opportunity to learn about the revisions proposed for FARM Animal Care Version 5 (set to launch in July 2024) during this town hall style listening session, which will help kick off the public comment period for the recommendations. [Register here](#).



Looking for more past webinars or to register for an upcoming one?

Catch up on anything you may have missed, re-watch your favorites or find out more about upcoming offerings by clicking on "Webinars & Events" on the [Dairy Sustainability Alliance page](#) of www.usdairy.com.

New Resource Launched to Support Dairy Processor Sustainability

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy has developed the *Sustainability Resource Guide for U.S. Dairy Processors* in collaboration with the International Dairy Foods Association. The Guide supports dairy processing companies seeking to align their operations with sustainability metrics and goals generally used throughout the dairy industry and aligned with global reporting metrics. This new online resource offers an interactive and searchable portal allowing readers to easily access key resources that support their sustainability planning efforts.

The Guide is helpful not only to companies in the early stages of creating a sustainability plan but also to those already on the journey. Numerous resources developed by the U.S. dairy community as part of its pre-competitive industry wide commitment to sustainability are included, addressing topics such as: conducting your own materiality assessment, setting goals and measuring progress, making industry connections, and much more.

The interactive Guide is [available here](#) or you can find it under “Starting a Sustainability Journey” on the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment website, www.USDairy.com/Commitment.

If you have any questions about this resource or how to start your company's dairy sustainability reporting journey, please contact Jennifer.Block@dairy.org.



Updates from the FARM Program

Progress Continues on FARM Animal Care Version 5

FARM governance committees continue to make meaningful progress in the refinement and revision of the Animal Care pillar as they look to the fifth version of the program.

The FARM Animal Care Task Force, comprised of dairy farmers, veterinarians, dairy welfare academics and cooperative/processor staff, has met over a dozen times in the past year to review existing standards, industry-wide survey results and numerous other sources of feedback to inform their recommendations for improving the program. Thus far, Task Force meetings have highlighted the refinement and guidance related to the various animal observations conducted during an on-farm evaluation. Additionally, a continued focus of pain management has been discussed.

The Task Force will present their recommendations for program modifications to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) Animal Health and Well-Being Committee at the end of the summer. Once approved by the Committee, the revisions will be put forward for a public comment period beginning after Labor Day and running through the end of October. A final proposal from the Committee will be presented to the NMPF Board of Directors in March of 2023, with Version 5 of the program implemented starting July 2024.

The FARM Program will host several industry-wide town halls to provide updates and answer questions related to Version 5 development. The next town hall will be Thursday, June 30; [register here](#). A listening session for Dairy Sustainability Alliance® members will also be offered on **Wednesday, September 7** as part of the public comment period this fall (see full description in webinar series above); [register here](#).



Online Modules for Calf Care and Quality Assurance Program Unveiled

Farmers raising dairy calves now have access to new training resources and certification through the [Calf Care and Quality Assurance](#) (CCQA) program. CCQA promotes a way of thinking that prompts calf raisers to approach management decisions with thoughtfulness and an appreciation for the responsibility they have to their animals, consumers, the environment and the broader cattle industry.

The program was developed with an understanding of the diversity of calf-raising enterprises, being science- and outcomes-based while maintaining facility type and size neutrality. While the practices identified in the animal care reference manual are not the only practices that can meet the desired outcomes, the program provides a framework that serves as a resource for anyone working in the calf-raising industry. In addition to the manual, online modules and self-assessment tools, CCQA will release an audit tool later this year. Completion of the CCQA online modules provides certification equivalent to Beef Quality Assurance certification.

Certification through CCQA helps ensure optimal calf health and welfare and is the first, collaborative educational tool that provides guidelines for calf raisers. The CCQA program is a joint initiative led by the FARM Program and the Beef Quality Assurance program, with support from the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association and the Veal Quality Assurance program.

FARM Environmental Stewardship Releases GHG Fact Sheets

This spring, FARM Environmental Stewardship released a series of [greenhouse gas \(GHG\) fact sheets](#). This first set of fact sheets reviews GHG emissions generally, as well as emissions and opportunities for reduction in the areas of feed production, energy use and enteric emissions. The fact sheets are a valuable educational resource for FARM evaluators and dairy farmers interested in learning more about on-farm emissions.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Yeiser-Stepp at eyeiserstepp@nmpf.org.

Greener Cattle Initiative Issues Request for Research Applications

The [Greener Cattle Initiative](#), an industry collaborative created by the [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) and the Innovation Center, issued a request for applications to advance enteric methane reduction research. A total of \$4.67 million are available under this call with applicants able to request up to that amount or a portion of the funds available. Matching funds are optional for this program. Visit the [Greener Cattle Initiative Request for Applications webpage](#) and watch [this webinar](#) for additional information including details on how to apply. **Pre-applications are due on June 22, 2022.**



For more information about the Greener Cattle Initiative or this opportunity, please contact Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org.

U.S. Dairy Water Efforts Highlighted in Forbes

U.S. dairy's collective efforts to prioritize water use and quality are highlighted in [a special section](#) of Forbes magazine focused on water stewardship. On page 4, read about U.S. dairy's actions to accelerate solutions across a diverse industry through technologies, projects and collaborations aimed at water usage optimization and improved water quality. Past U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards Winners Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership and Farmers for Sustainable Food are two of the specific examples shared.

If you have any questions about U.S. dairy's environmental stewardships efforts, please contact Karen.Scanlon@dairy.org.

New Opportunity to Nominate Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Farmer Representatives

The Dairy Sustainability Alliance has been the primary forum for the Innovation Center to convene and gather input from the entire dairy value chain since its creation nearly 15 years ago. It has also been a key opportunity for dairy farmers to have a seat at the table as the value chain has worked collaboratively to advance dairy sustainability and social responsibility.

While all dairy farmers are always welcome to participate in Dairy Sustainability Alliance events, to ensure consistent farmer participation, official farmer representatives of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance represent the dairy farmer voice in the precompetitive forum. There are currently more than 40 [Dairy Sustainability Alliance farmer representatives](#) representing farms of various sizes, management practices and geographies, while the farmers themselves bring an array of skills and experience to the group.

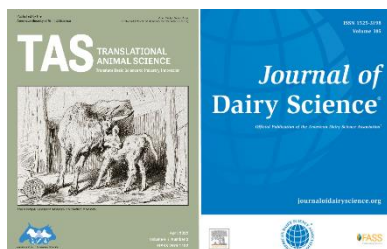
In addition to serving as national checkoff board chairs and on Innovation Center Committees, farmer representatives are selected based on previous national involvement or nominated by their state and regional dairy checkoff program, each of which can recommend one farmer from their area.

Following a pilot in 2021, new this year, **dairy cooperatives and dairy producer trade associations who are Dairy Sustainability Alliance members, may also recommend one farmer from their organization to serve as a Dairy Sustainability Alliance farmer representative.** Nominations are reviewed by the DMI Board Chair and Innovation Center leadership. Involvement by farmer representatives recommended by dairy cooperatives and dairy producer trade associations is a joint investment between the Innovation Center and the nominating organization. Appointed farmers serve three-year terms.

More information on the farmer representative's responsibilities, nomination process and funding agreement can be found in our [Farmer Representative Recommending Organization Guidelines](#) document or by contacting Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Cows and Climate Change

It will take all of us working together to achieve the dairy community's 2050 environmental stewardship goals. That includes the cow herself. Here's the latest behind her role, and this time around it's all about translating the science.



Advancing the Science

Two articles published this spring help to further advance the understanding of and identify knowledge gaps around enteric methane mitigation interventions:

- A [board invited review article](#) in the April issue of *Translational Animal Science* presents an update on enteric methane mitigation interventions that include dietary reformulation, feed additive inclusion, and selective breeding. The article describes knowledge gaps including the need to develop regionally based solutions that best suit the animal's breed, diet, and management. Additionally, investigating upstream and downstream GHG emissions is critical to understand the net GHG reductions resulting from the adoption of enteric methane mitigation options.

- Another [scientific article](#) in the *Journal of Dairy Science* quantified the impact of nitrate and 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) on the carbon footprints of milk from cattle produced in confined-feeding systems across the United States. The potential net GHG reductions reported were 5.6 (nitrate) and 13.9 (3-NOP) billion kilograms of CO₂-eq on average across the United States.

Taking the Methane Mitigation Show on the Road

Translating the science on enteric methane mitigation requires engaging all stakeholders, and Dr. Juan Tricarico, Vice President of Sustainability Research at Dairy Management Inc., has been doing just that:

- Speaking to a global audience at the [Livestock Methane Forum](#), Dr. Tricarico summarized the scientific evidence on enteric methane mitigants, emphasizing the importance of clear evaluation standards for feed additives.
- As part of an Innovation Center-sponsored panel for Sustainability Week Insight Hour by Economist Impact, titled [Dairy Methane Emissions: How to Achieve Reductions](#), Dr. Tricarico, Tim Kurt (FFAR), Emily Johannes (Nestlé), and Steven Hamburg (Environmental Defense Fund) discussed new research around feed additives, the role of a dairy cow's digestive system and how together, they may help minimize enteric methane emissions.
- At the [30th Annual Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference](#), Dr. Tricarico explained how enteric methane mitigation is a key focus area of the 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals, Net Zero Initiative, and Dairy Scale for Good to dairy cow nutrition scientists and practitioners
- In a May 2022 article for [Hoard's Dairyman](#), Dr. Tricarico showed that by-product feeds offer a far more positive environmental impact than imagined.



If you have any questions, please contact Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org.

Dairy Farmers Talk About How They Share Their Sustainability Stories

In a recent episode of the *Your Dairy Checkoff Podcast*, dairy farmer hosts, Amanda Freund (Connecticut, @cowpots) and Austin Allred (Washington, @royalfamilyfarming), talked with fellow dairy farmers, Tara Vander Dussen (New Mexico, @nmmilkmaid) and Melissa Hildebrand Reed (Kansas, @hildebrandfarmsdairy), about how they share their story with consumers in real life ways that build trust and sales for dairy.

To help consumers who become more separated from farm life understand how life has changed on the farm, these dairy farmers have taken to both in-person and online consumer outreach to connect directly with the public, answer their questions and become their connection to agriculture. They do this by sharing their stories about sustainability, cow care and life on the farm. [Check out the episode](#) as the farmers share insights into how they plan sharing their story into their days, the platforms they use and how often they're doing it.



Food Safety Resources + Classes Available for Processors of All Sizes and Geographies

The Innovation Center's Food Safety Committee has been driving the industry-wide identification and adoption of world class food safety practices and initiatives for more than a decade, developing a broad portfolio of [resources](#), classes, and guidance documents to help processors grow their businesses while ensuring the safety of their products.

Food Safety "Local Resources" Map Launched

To better support companies who want to know "Is there someone who can help me?", a [state-by-state list](#) of individuals and organizations to contact as well as links to national resources, including the food safety [help hotline](#), is now available. The map includes contact information for local university extension staff with dairy and food safety experience as well as regional dairy and food safety organizations.

Interactive Map of Local, State, Regional and National Dairy Food Safety Resources



In-Person Workshops

The Innovation Center's Food Safety Team has over 100 industry experts involved in offering food safety workshops across the country. The workshops are unique because they were designed by industry experts for the benefit of the entire dairy industry and offer a rare opportunity to share on a topic which protects public health and the industry. The course designers and instructors are food safety, sanitation, quality, and microbiology professionals from across the dairy industry. Classes offer a great opportunity to learn, share experiences, and ask food safety related questions of the trainers and your peers.

The Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2022

Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops

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| March 8 - 9 Tempe, AZ Host: United Dairywomen of Arizona | August 3 - 4 Green Bay, WI Hosts: Schreiber Foods & Soputo |
| March 30 - 31 St. Louis, MO Hosts: Prairie Farms & Glanbia Nutritional | September 14 - 15 Syracuse, NY Hosts: HP Hood, Wells Enterprises & Agri-Mark |

Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops teach best practices which help protect your customers in alignment with Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements. The classes provide essential information and practical approaches with hands-on, interactive exercises including Best Practices for GMP, RTE separation, sanitation, sanitary design, environmental monitoring, and corrective actions. Significant learning comes from interactions with peers from other companies and the subject matter expert trainers. Most attendees are from corporate quality, food safety, and processing plants (plant managers, quality, supervisors, sanitation, engineering, and maintenance).

See the full list of future workshop offerings in the "Upcoming Events" section below and visit www.usdairy.com/foodsafety to register or for additional resources.

The Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2022

Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop

September 27 - 28
Plymouth, WI
Host: Sargento Foods

Supplier Food Safety Management Workshops were designed for dairy companies and their suppliers to help assure the food safety performance of their supply network by helping identify, quantify, and mitigate risks from ingredients, packaging, equipment, and services. The course will help you develop a supply-chain program and supply chain preventive controls, with elements including: identifying potential hazards, assessing if systems are in place to control identified hazards, and assessing supplier performance.

[Register here](#) for the upcoming Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop, September 27 & 28 in Plymouth, WI (hosted by Sargento Foods).

If you have any questions about the Innovation Center's food safety offerings or resources, please contact Tim.Stubbs@dairy.org.

GENYOUth: Partnerships in Purpose that Drive Dairy Impact

A key strategic pillar in the Innovation Center's strategic framework (see earlier in this newsletter) is *Advance Well-Being*, something that has been the mission of GENYOUth from day one. [GENYOUth](#) provides resources for America's students to build healthy, high achieving futures – while amplifying dairy's role in promoting youth health and wellness. With 1 in 6 kids food insecure, 30 million students reliant on school meal programs, and average daily meal participation taking a nosedive during the pandemic, children are at risk of going hungry and the need to feed has never been greater. GENYOUth provides schools with critical meal delivery resources and equipment to ensure at-risk students have access to daily nutrition, including dairy.



A public-private partnership between the National Dairy Council and the NFL, GENYOUth has raised over \$200 million to create healthier school communities through results-driven partnerships with supporters including America's dairy farmers, Kroger, Albertsons, ACME Markets, CUB, PepsiCo, Florida Blue, SAP, Domino's, Land O'Lakes and Corteva. The innovative and sustainable programs help schools, engage students, and drive school meal participation and dairy consumption:

- **Grab and go meal carts.** GENYOUth has delivered over 500 carts to public schools since 2017, helping to increase average daily participation by as much as 27% and providing access to over 50 million school breakfast opportunities a year.
- **Smoothie programs.** Smoothie equipment helps increase participation by up to 25%, delivering delicious milk, yogurt and fruit combinations kids love.
- **School cafeteria make-overs.** Starting earlier this year, Kool Kitchens cafeteria transformations, including smoothie programs, in 5 Los Angeles high schools have been underway, with early indications showing a sustained increase in school meal participation of 25%, and expansion of the smoothie program to 67 LAUSD high schools.

If you'd like to explore how you can become a GENYOUth purpose-driven partner and drive further impact at schools, contact natasha.freimark@genyouthnow.org.

Learn more about GENYOUth and its impact at <https://genyouthnow.org/reports/genyouth-2021-annual-report/>.

Member Briefs

Knowledge sharing and collaboration are key tenets of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance. Find out what's new with some of our 165+ member companies and organizations:

- Welcome to the newest Dairy Sustainability Alliance member, [Monarch Joint Venture](#).
- *Health and Sustainability: A Focus on Dairy Animal Nutrition, Feeding and Management* symposium, sponsored by **Phibro Animal Health**, along with the Innovation Center and DMI, followed the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting last month. An impressive lineup of dairy animal health experts, including dairy producers, nutritionists and other specialists, addressed the role of nutrition, feed ingredients and farm management on the path to a more sustainable future. In case you missed it, the symposium is now available free of charge on Phibro Academy – [2022 Dairy Sustainability Symposium: Health and Sustainability \(pahc.com\)](https://pahc.com).

- Last month, **Elanco Animal Health** [announced it had secured](#) the exclusive U.S. licensing rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize **Royal DSM**'s methane-reduction product Bovaer for beef and dairy cattle. Dozens of peer-reviewed studies and on-farm trials in 14 countries have shown that Bovaer, also known by its organic compound name 3-NOP, has the capability to reduce enteric methane emissions by approximately 30% for dairy cows. The product is still undergoing FDA approval, but once cleared for use in the U.S., Bovaer could be a significant tool for farmers to reduce enteric methane emissions on their operations and help U.S. dairy reach its overall GHG neutrality goal.
- Telling dairy's social responsibility story is not only a requirement for Dairy Sustainability Alliance membership, it's also essential if we want others to know about the fantastic work of the amazing people and businesses that make up the U.S. dairy community. Whether through CSR reports ([Starbucks](#), [Land O'Lakes](#), [United Dairymen of Arizona](#), [fairlife](#)), as part of Earth Month ([Glanbia](#), [Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative](#), [Michigan Milk Producers Association](#), [Dairy Farmers of America](#), [HP Hood LLC](#)), to celebrate June's National Dairy Month ([IDFA](#), [DairyMAX](#), [Darigold](#)), or as part of their everyday communications strategy ([Foremost Farms USA](#), [Cabot Creamery Co-operative](#), [Hiland Dairy Foods](#)) our members are talking about the impact of their efforts and the efforts of the collective industry.
- In the Los Angeles, CA area, **Unilever** is partnering with food tech group Robomart to [launch a U.S. ice cream delivery pilot](#). The fleet of on-demand, Ice Cream Shop Robomarts are "hailed" using the app's patented "one-tap" grocery ordering technology, bringing the automated mobile stores directly to the user – along with Unilever brands such as Ben & Jerry's, Breyers, Good Humor, Magnum and Talenti. The Ice Cream Shop Robomarts are a unique spin on delivery services, which have seen a rise in consumer popularity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Chobani** [announced a \\$1 million gift](#) to help fund construction of the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE), the nation's largest dairy research facility. The research dairy will be operated like a commercial farm and will host a variety of ongoing research experiments managed by the University of Idaho faculty and staff. The dairy is designed to represent an average dairy in southern Idaho, so the research conducted at the site will be immediately applicable to dairy farms in Idaho and throughout the region. Facilities like the Idaho CAFE contribute to the cutting-edge research that is needed to develop and deploy environmental solutions for the dairy industry now and into the future.
- Earlier this month, the **California Milk Advisory Board** (CMAB) announced a partnership with **Feeding America** and the California Association of Food Banks to [deliver 192,000 pounds of cheese to food banks](#) throughout the state as part of a new pilot project. Part of the CMAB's #CADAIRY4GOOD, the pilot is phase one of an ongoing partnership with Feeding America that will deliver over \$1 million in resources to food banks and feeding programs to source California dairy foods including cheese and fluid milk, one of the most requested and least donated items at food banks. This effort and others like it are examples of how U.S. dairy is working to Advance Well-Being and enhance nutrition security to increase dairy availability in the hunger system.

- The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology announced that Cornell University Professor Dr. Martin Wiedmann, a member of the Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center and contributor to the **Innovation Center's Food Safety Committee**, has earned the [2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#). The Borlaug CAST Communication Award honors the legacy of Dr. Norman Borlaug and is presented annually for contributions to the advancement of science through communication in the public policy arena. Wiedmann and his team are passionate about communicating research findings to a range of audiences from pre-K to industry leaders and are regularly asked to help the food industry with a range of microbial food safety and quality challenges.
- A consortium including Illinois-based LanzaTech and **Danone** has [discovered a new route to manufacturing monoethylene glycol \(MEG\)](#) – a key building block for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resin, fibers and bottles – from captured carbon emissions. The technology converts carbon emissions from steel mills or gasified waste biomass directly into MEG, proving direct production of MEG at laboratory scale. Many dairy companies utilize PET-based packaging – a clear, strong, lightweight, versatile plastic that can be easily and repeatedly recycled (into rPET) – meaning demand is quite high, but the supply of rPET is relatively low. If scaled successfully, this innovative method of creating PET has the potential to introduce more sustainably produced, readily recycled PET – and as a result, cheaper rPET – into the supply stream, which enables dairy companies to increase the amount of recycled content in their products, thus reducing their environmental impact, improving their packaging footprint, and accelerating the circular economy.
- To help reach both its sustainable packaging and net zero GHG goals, **Kraft Heinz** is [partnering with Pulpex](#) to develop a paper-based, renewable and recyclable bottle made from 100% sustainably sourced wood pulp. The partners are working on a prototype that could be used for HEINZ Tomato Ketchup bottles and other packaging formats in years to come. Pulpex's current data indicates the carbon footprint of Pulpex bottles is materially less than glass and plastic on a bottle-by-bottle basis. Once used, they are also expected to be widely and readily recyclable in paper waste streams. Although not currently envisioned for dairy, innovations like these will be necessary as the industry continues to address its packaging footprint.

Upcoming Events

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| Ongoing | Food Safety Basics for Ice Cream Makers Online Training Course | Online Training |
| Ongoing | Food Safety Basics for Artisan Cheesemakers Online Training Courses | Online Training |
| June | National Dairy Month | |
| June 30 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern | FARM Animal Care Version 5 Town Hall <i>Presented by National Milk Producers Federation. Click here to register.</i> | Webinar |
| July 20 | Artisan Cheese Food Safety Workshop <i>American Cheese Society Pre-Conference Workshop Click here</i> | Portland, OR |
| Aug. 3-4 | Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Saputo and Schreiber Foods. Click here to register.</i> | Green Bay, WI |
| Sept. 7 12:00-1:00 p.m. Central | FARM Animal Care Version 5 Listening Session Click here to register. | Webinar |

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| Sept. 14-15 | Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by HP Hood, Wells Enterprises, and Agri-Mark. Click here to register.</i> | Syracuse, NY |
| Sept. 27-28 | Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop <i>Hosted by Sargento Foods. Click here to register.</i> | Plymouth, WI |
| Oct. 2-7 | World Dairy Expo | Madison, WI |
| Oct. 12 | National Farmers Day | |
| Nov. 15 | 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting <i>Optional Farm Tour on Monday, Nov. 14</i> | Glendale, AZ |
| Nov. 15 | U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards Ceremony & Reception | Glendale, AZ |
| Nov.16-17 | 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Summit | Glendale, AZ |