

Leadership Perspective

Remarks from Mike Haddad, Chair Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Board of Directors and Chair, Schreiber Foods Inc.

Many of us were fortunate last month to hear in-person the welcome from Mike Haddad, our Innovation Center chair and chair of Schreiber Foods, as he kicked off the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting in Arizona. His remarks so motivated and energized the room that we wanted to capture and reinforce several key thoughts as we share with you our final Alliance newsletter for 2022. If you missed the meeting, we hope you'll be inspired as we were when you read and reflect on a few of Mike's quotes below (see his [full remarks here](#)). And for those who were in the room, we're confident that these perspectives bear repeating as we bring 2022 to a close and thoughtfully consider our path in the coming year.



The Innovation Center Principle

"When I first became connected with the Innovation Center in 2009, I was told I needed to be willing to share best practices. Willing to learn. Willing to teach. We are here today because that principle still exists. . . . The work of the Innovation Center continues to strive to get the right people in the room to work with each other on the things that are going to raise all boats."

Dairy as a Solution

"I see dairy as a solution, especially an environmental solution. *But*, we have to prove it. We will go faster by teaching and learning and challenging each other. We should share freely best practices. I know it is not always easy, but we don't want to 'hold back' the best ways to have dairy be a solution."

Building Trust

"We have to be sure that we are building trust with everyone who touches our products, from consumers who may know nothing about agriculture to the most sophisticated customers. We need to be able to provide assurance to them that our products come from a U.S. dairy industry that is working together to take care of the earth, to take care of our food, to take care of our animals, and to take care of our people."

The U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment

"The Stewardship Commitment is our way of demonstrating U.S. dairy cares. We are going to measure. We are going to report. We are putting our name on it and backing it up with information and proof. The Commitment gives us a way to tell our story. Because in the absence of information, others likely will fill the void to make one up, and that's not what we want. It needs to come from us."

Closing Thought

"We are better together!"

From all of us at the Innovation Center and the Dairy Sustainability Alliance, thank you for all you do, and have happy, peaceful holidays.

2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting + Sustainable Agriculture Summit in Review

Last month we gathered in Glendale, AZ for the 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting and Sustainable Agriculture Summit. With 300 attendees from 100+ organizations at the Fall Meeting, and 750+ attendees representing more than 430 organizations at the Summit, you helped us set record in-person attendance for both events.



Highlights of the week included:

- **The Kerr Family Dairy and Stotz Dairy opening their farms for a tour**, demonstrating the dedication dairy farmers in the West – and across the country – put into caring for their animals, their communities, and the environment. United Dairymen of Arizona and Dairy Management West – the farms’ cooperative and local dairy checkoff organization, respectively, provided additional insight into how the value chain supports dairy farmers.
- **Several USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities grant recipients previewing their projects and the goals they hope to achieve.** Panelists shared how their projects will provide technical and financial assistance for farmers, support the development of expanded markets and revenue streams, and help the dairy industry make progress toward its collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals at the field and farm levels.
- **Both meetings spotlighting western-agricultural issues, including methane mitigations and water quantity challenges**, with real life examples from farmers and businesses in the region, highlighting challenges they face, successes they’ve had, and the need for industry-wide collaboration that can build economically viable pathways for on-the-ground solutions.
- **Fall Meeting attendees providing feedback on a variety of topics, including circularity and emerging topics**, in Discussion and Input Sessions. These sessions provide a forum for dairy stakeholder input that is essential in U.S. dairy’s collective social responsibility efforts. The feedback provided is shared with Innovation Center committees and task forces leading efforts in the respective areas.

Recordings for Fall Meeting main stage sessions are [now available on our website](#). Summit sessions were not recorded.

We hope those of you who were able to attend walked away with actionable insights from our speakers, enjoyed re-connecting with colleagues across the dairy value chain, and developed new partnerships and ideas which will help us work together toward a future where U.S. dairy unlocks transformative good for people and the planet.

If you joined us in Phoenix but have not yet completed your post event surveys, you can still do so here ([Farm Tour](#), [Fall Meeting](#), [Summit](#)). We greatly appreciate your feedback and do use it as we plan future events.

Join us in 2023

We can’t wait to see you again next year! Please save the dates to join us for our 2023 events:

- **Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting**, May 10-11, in Chicago-Rosemont, IL.
- **Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting**, December 5, in Charlotte, NC
- **Sustainable Agriculture Summit**, December 6-7, in Charlotte, NC

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

U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment Terms of Adoption Updated for 2023



Established in 2018, the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment continues to be U.S. dairy's social responsibility pledge, developed and championed by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. Following an established consultation process, the Commitment Terms of Adoption were updated at the October meeting of the Innovation Center Board of Directors and will go into effect in 2023.

The Commitment terms are formally reviewed every three to five years in accordance with a process approved by the Innovation Center Board of Directors in 2021 to ensure they remain current, relevant, and align core values in the industry. The updated terms will strengthen the ability of U.S. dairy to show consumers its dedication to sustainability through consistent data collection and reporting. Key updates include:

- A new term that companies complete and affirm a materiality assessment within two years of adoption. The addition recognizes the increasing expectation to conduct and implement materiality assessments to identify and prioritize sustainability topics that most matter to individual companies and their respective stakeholders.
- Updates to the language around active involvement in the FARM Environmental Stewardship Program (FARM ES) to assess on-farm GHG, energy, and nutrient management metrics, and application of that expectation to processors as well as cooperatives.
- Expansion of food safety term to include regular updates with guidance included in the Innovation Center's Food Safety and Traceability Guidance documents.

For more information about the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment and/or the updates to the Terms of Adoption, please contact Nancy.Sandbach@dairy.org.

USDA Announces Second Round of Climate-Smart Agriculture Funding Recipients

This week Secretary Vilsack [announced](#) another \$325 million in funding for agricultural projects intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [selected 71 projects](#) under the second pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (PCSC) funding opportunity, which is aimed at reaching small and underserved producers. Four of the 71 selected projects, two of which are officially classified as dairy, will direct more than \$14.7 million to support dairy farmers, processors, and related industries in some way.

Together with the first round of PCSC funding, USDA has now committed to investing more than \$3.1 billion in 141 projects through the PCSC program. The Secretary has also indicated there will be a concerted effort to monitor the projects' successes and struggles in order for them to be adapted and implemented around the country and potentially around the world.

Dairy Processor Working Group Develops New Guidance on Waste



Led by DMI Intern Andrew Albrecht, the Innovation Center's Dairy Processor Working Group Waste Team recently developed industry guidance to help dairy processors assess, manage, and mitigate their waste footprint. The [Dairy Processor Waste Audit Guidance](#) incorporates principles and criteria from [Total Resource Use and Efficiency \(TRUE\)](#) to support dairy companies in achieving TRUE certification while demonstrating leadership in waste sustainability, and ultimately working towards zero waste. The guide is available in the "Commitment Resources" section of the [U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment website](#).

For more information about the Processor Working Group or the Waste Audit Guidance, please contact Eric.Hassel@dairy.org.

COP27 Roundup

The 2022 UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, took place last month in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, bringing together more than 40,000 people to collaborate on climate solutions. U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) President and CEO Krysta Harden and Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) Chair Marilyn Hershey co-led a high-level U.S. delegation to highlight U.S. dairy's critical contributions to global climate and food security goals. Throughout the conference, the U.S. dairy delegation collectively participated in panels, program discussions, and bilateral meetings with other organizations active at COP. This [USDEC article](#) provides a one-stop roundup of U.S. dairy at COP27.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sheridan (ksheridan@usdec.org).

A Seat at the Table for the Next Generation of Dairy Stakeholders



A key tenet of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance is ensuring all stakeholder voices have a seat at the table in social responsibility discussions. As part of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting, we were excited to welcome two local high school students and their teacher to join us for the farm tour and meeting and to bring the “next generation” voice to our discussions. Both students, ninth graders from Casa Grande, AZ, acknowledged having limited exposure to agriculture before attending the meeting but were eager to learn and shared some of their key takeaways:

The biggest thing I learned from attending the Sustainability Alliance Meeting was that agriculture is a thriving and growing industry. What I thought was just physical labor turned out to be much more than that. There's so much work that goes into agriculture that you don't ever see! My favorite part of the conference was going to the farm and learning from the farmers. It was really interesting to hear some of their struggles and their solutions!

- Nevea'lee, 9th Grader at Casa Grande High School

My favorite part of the conference was the break[out] session rooms. They were very interesting and gave me a better understanding of sustainability. When talking to youth, I think most of my peers would be really interested in knowing more about things being done to care for animals and the earth.

- Victoria, 9th Grader at Casa Grande High School

Both students agreed more of their peers should have experiences like this because they gained so much from being part of the meeting. And they weren't the only ones. Their teacher told us that his students will never forget their experience and moments like these are what make being a teacher worth it.

We will continue to find opportunities to engage youth as part of Dairy Sustainability Alliance events. As Nevea'lee put it:

I think it's incredibly important that the next generation is involved in these conversations because ultimately, they'll be the next ones trying to improve it.

[Click here](#) to hear more directly from the students.

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:



A One Health Perspective to Managing Zoonotic Disease

DMI's Dr. Stephanie Masiello Schuette developed the proposal for the recently released CAST Special Publication "[Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective](#)" and moderated the expert panel during a November [webinar](#) that featured the special publication contributors Dr. Lonnie King (The Ohio State University), Dr. Bernadette Dunham (George Washington University), and Dr. Laura Kahn (One Health Initiative).

Talking Methane Mitigation at the AIM for Climate Roadshow

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) hosted a [webinar](#) in November on the Greener Cattle Initiative as part of the Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate Roadshow at COP27. FFAR Executive Director Dr. Saharah Moon Chapotin moderated a panel that featured Dr. Juan Tricarico (DMI), Jessica Langley (JBS), and Lucas Huntimer (Elanco) to discuss the importance of pre-competitive research, collaboration, and shared resources in providing stakeholders with viable technologies and options to mitigate enteric methane emissions.



Exploring the Options

The Journal of Dairy Science published an [Invited Review](#) on "Current enteric methane mitigation options" co-authored by 20 global experts, including DMI's Dr. Juan Tricarico. The review describes various aspects of current potential mitigation options including its mode of action, efficacy, potential to combine with other strategies, effects on other emissions, impact on productivity, health and safety options, adoption potential, and research still required.

This invited review is based on the "Technical Advisory Group Report on Methane Emissions in Livestock and Rice Systems – Sources, quantification, mitigation and metrics" commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that is currently live for [public review](#) and is expected to be released shortly. Dr. Tricarico contributed to both the content and approach used to develop this landmark FAO report that also discusses all agricultural sources of methane emissions and the advantages and disadvantages of methane quantification methods.

Coming in 2023: New Tool to Evaluate Dairy Feed Additives for Enteric Methane

As part of the 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting, DMI's Stephanie Masiello Schuette and Juan Tricarico hosted a breakout session where participants tested a tool to evaluate feed additives for enteric methane mitigation developed with feedback from across the dairy value chain. The tool is meant to help dairy value chain stakeholders and farmers make informed decisions about feeding additives to mitigate enteric methane emissions. Over 150 attendees provided feedback on the tool. Watch for the tool to be released, along with accompanying guidance, in 2023.



Net Zero Initiative in the News

The U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative (NZI), an industry-wide effort in support of the Innovation Center's 2050 environmental stewardship goals, continues its work to make sustainable practices and technologies more accessible and affordable for U.S. dairy farms of all sizes and geographies:



- A new [U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative](#) webpage is now live on [usdairy.com](#). Visit the site learn to how U.S. dairy is accelerating progress toward the industry's collective 2050 environmental goals by advancing research and technology, on-farm pilots, and new market development.
- In addition to the October Dairy Sustainability Alliance [webinar](#), the Dairy Soil & Water Regeneration project was featured in a recent [Dairy Stream podcast](#) interview with Mara Cloutier at the Soil Health Institute and Lee Kinnard, dairy farmer of Kinnard Farms in Casco, Wisconsin. They discussed carbon associated with cover crops, reduced tillage, different manure-based products, and how soil health practices are practical on all-sized dairies.
- Newtrient's Chris Kopman joined Pete May, co-founder of GreenBiz Group, for a short [video interview](#) on dairy's work to accelerate climate-smart practices, which was followed by a more [in-depth article](#) on the same topic.
- The Innovation Center conducted a two-month review and development process on the upcoming GHG Protocol [Land Sector and Removals Guidance](#), set to launch in early 2023. Sustainability representatives from the Innovation Center's Environmental Stewardship Committee and Processor Working Group GHG Team were convened, representing a diverse array of stakeholders including farmers, cooperatives, processors, industry associations, and advisors. Over the course of seven meetings, the review group analyzed the guidance in deep detail, ensuring perspective from the full value chain was considered, and aligned on collective feedback to be submitted to the GHG Protocol for consideration.

If you have any questions about the Net Zero Initiative, please contact Annie.Kramer@dairy.org

Updates from the FARM Program

New FARM Resources Available

The FARM Biosecurity Program provides dairy farmers with the tools they need to protect their herds and employees. As a first step to prepare for a foreign animal disease outbreak, farms should incorporate protocols found in the new [Everyday Biosecurity Manual](#). Many everyday biosecurity best practices, including vaccines and utilizing different equipment for manure and feed handling, are already being performed on dairy farms across the country.



Additionally, the [Milk & Dairy Beef Drug Residue Prevention Reference Manual](#) has been revised for 2022-2023. This manual is a quick resource to review antimicrobials approved for dairy animals and can also be used as an educational tool and resource for farm managers and employees to develop on-farm best management practices.

Animal Care Version 5 Development

The Animal Care Version 5 open comment period closed October 28. The Animal Care Task Force, Farmer Advisory Council, and NMPF Animal Health and Wellbeing Committee will now review the submissions and consider all feedback before the final approval process with the National Milk Producers Federation Board of Directors early next year. You can [watch the recording](#) of the December 1 FARM Industry Town Hall for the latest updates. A summary of submitted responses will be available January 2023.

2022 FARM Excellence Award Winners Announced

The FARM Program announced the winners of its second annual FARM Excellence Awards in October at the 2022 DMI/NMPF Joint Annual Meeting in Aurora, Colorado.

Through these awards, the FARM Program recognizes program farms and evaluators who go above and beyond industry standards through their commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. This year's recipients are:

- Animal Care & Antibiotic Stewardship — MVP Dairy, LLC (Danone North America)
- Environmental Stewardship — Kibler Dairy Farms, Inc. (Dairy Farmers of America)
- Workforce Development — Double A Dairy, LLC (Glanbia Nutritionals)
- Evaluator of the Year — Ruth McCuin (Agri-Mark, Inc.)

Learn more about the winners on the [FARM Program website](#).

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

White House Convenes Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

Against a backdrop of 34 million Americans facing food insecurity, including 9 million children, in September, the Biden-Harris Administration convened the first White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health in more than 50 years and announced a bold goal: *to end hunger in America and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030 so fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases.*

The conference led to a number of key outcomes, anchored by a new [national strategy on hunger, nutrition and health](#). Highlights of the strategy include:

- **Improving food access and affordability** through more access to free school meals, summer electronic benefits transfer, and greater Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility
- **Integrating nutrition and health** with pilot programs and expanded access to nutrition and obesity counseling through Medicare and Medicaid
- **Empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices** via proposals for front-of-package labeling, updates to the nutrition criteria for the “health” claim on food packaging, and expanding fruit and vegetable incentive in SNAP
- **Supporting physical activity for all** by expanding the CDC’s Physical Activity and Nutrition Program to all states and territories, investing in efforts to connect people to parks and other outdoor spaces, and funding updates to and promotion of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans
- **Enhancing nutrition and food security research** by implementing a vision for advancing nutrition science and bolstering funding to improve metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity and access

With its nutrient-dense package, dairy represents an increasingly important solution to the growing challenges of food insecurity. And with ongoing research through the National Dairy Council and GENYOUth’s efforts to improve nutrition and physical activity for youth in U.S. schools, the U.S. dairy industry is already activating against this national objective.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie.Brown@dairy.org.

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.

New Tools for High Moisture/Hispanic Style Cheesemakers

Fresh style cheeses (e.g., Queso Fresco, Panela, Paneer) are rapidly gaining popularity and growing in volume, but also tend to be high in moisture and pH, which puts them at a much greater risk for microbial growth and serious illness outbreaks. To support this rapidly growing segment of dairy, the Innovation Center developed and released a [Simplified Guidance Checklist](#) for cheesemakers in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Given the diversity of the workforce and increasing need for basic food safety training, the Innovation Center also launched new employee food safety training videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). These tools and many more may be found at www.usdairy.com/artisan and at www.usdairy.com/spanish.



Growing Small Businesses Safely



The Food Safety Committee works through industry volunteers and with partners like the American Cheese Society, North American Ice Cream Association, International Dairy Foods Association, The Dairy Practices Council, and Universities to expand development of tools to help smaller processors. Curated resources for cheesemakers and ice cream makers can be found at www.safecheesemaking.org and www.safeicecream.org, including a map of local food safety experts, easy to use templates, reference guides, and other training materials.

More direct, hands-on support is provided by our university partners with assistance from a USDA education grant in a program which combines individual support via office hours and a 1:1 hotline with a series of self-paced education modules designed to help small to mid-sized dairy producers prepare or refine their FSMA required food safety plan. In-person versions of this program are held in conjunction with industry conferences, including the American Cheese Society and North American Ice Cream Association annual meetings. Learn more at [Artisan Dairy Food Safety Coaching](#) and [Office Hours Schedule](#).

In-Person Workshops

Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops teach best practices to 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.

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

The Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2023 Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop

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|--------------------------|---|
| Feb. 28 - March 1 | Visalia, CA
<i>Hosts: Hilmar Cheese & Leprino Foods</i> |
| May 23 - 24 | Twin Falls, ID
<i>Hosts: Glanbia Nutritionals & Agropur USA</i> |
| August 2 - 3 | Plymouth, WI
<i>Hosts: Sargento Foods & Foremost Farms USA</i> |

Dairy Campaign Earns International Acclaim



The dairy checkoff's "[Reset Yourself with Dairy](#)" campaign earned a best-in-class International Milk Promotions (IMP) Trophy at the recent International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit 2022 in India, winning against finalist campaigns from France and Switzerland. The IMP Trophy competition showcases the best international generic advertising campaigns created in the areas of innovation, nutrition marketing, and marketing communications. It's been 11 years since a U.S. organization was recognized with an award.

Congratulations to the "Reset Yourself with Dairy" team! You can [learn more here](#) about the campaign and the award.

Dairy Nourishes America: Connecting Knowledge to Action

The first-ever Feeding America dairy symposium in June 2022 brought together stakeholders from food banks, dairy processors and cooperatives, manufacturers, and government to build relationships and create solutions that increase access to fresh dairy products for people facing food insecurity. Key to this Midwest convening of 80 changemakers was the desire to establish and build strong connections across a broad spectrum of food-bank stakeholders. [Click here](#) to read the Symposium Report and [check out this video](#) with Jackie Klippenstein, Co-Chair, Innovation Center Food Security Task Force and Senior Vice President of Government, Industry & Community Relations at Dairy Farmers of America, to hear her perspectives on the symposium.



Planning is underway for the next dairy symposium to be held in Spring 2023 on the West Coast. If you desire to create constructive partnerships that would positively impact communities through dairy's nutritional value, consider joining this best-in-class convening to collaborate and create sustainable partnerships between food banks and the dairy community. [Click here to learn more.](#)

If you have any questions about the dairy symposium or Dairy Nourishes America efforts, please contact Tab.Forqac@dairy.org.

Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to **Lisa Watson**, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Lisa has been serving the food and ag industry – including dairy – in a variety of roles for more than 35 years, most recently serving as Social Responsibility Officer for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and as executive staff lead for both the Dairy Sustainability Alliance and U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment. If you've attended one of our meetings lately, she has greeted you warmly from the stage and guided you through the event as our fearless emcee. And through her leadership, she has helped to shepherd the Stewardship Commitment into the robust program we have today, with adoption by companies representing more than 75% of U.S. milk production. Thank you, Lisa, and best wishes for a happy retirement.



Coming in January: Annual Dairy Sustainability Alliance Member Renewal

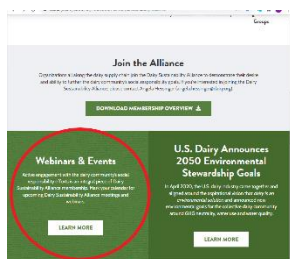
As you return from the holidays, please watch for and complete your annual Member Renewal Form, which will be distributed in mid-January and due by March 1. The survey will be sent to your company's designated primary contact.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Exploring the Science of Cheese

It turns out the dairy industry's social responsibility efforts aren't the only things grounded in science – so is our cheese! A recent [Smithsonian article](#) explores the science of cheese. Read up so you can impress all your family and friends with your extensive knowledge of the cheese ecosystem at your holiday gatherings this month.

Winter Webinar Series



Thanks to all of this year's webinar presenters and those who were able to join us for one or all of our offerings.

We'll have a full slate of webinars for you in 2023, but in the meantime, 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.

Member Briefs

Knowledge sharing and collaboration are key tenets of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance. Find out what's new with some of our 175+ member companies and organizations:

- Welcome to the newest Dairy Sustainability Alliance members, [101 Inc.](#), [Alliant Energy](#), [Avolta Development](#), [LF Bioenergy](#), [RoadRunner Recycling](#), [Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.](#) and [Veregy](#).
- **American Farmland Trust** [has released](#) its updated [CaRPE Tool™](#) and the first of a [series of briefs](#) to help states estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction opportunities from the implementation of climate-smart cropland and grazing land management practices to demonstrate how adoption of these practices can contribute to state and national climate emissions reduction goals.
- Do you recycle your takeout pizza boxes? **Domino's** says you should be. Their pizza boxes are made of 70+% recycled content. To continue to meet the demands for recycled content in corrugated packaging, Domino's is [spreading awareness](#) of pizza boxes' recyclability. In the past, some paper mills and others in the recycling industry have expressed concerns about accepting pizza boxes because of fear of food contamination. However, [an industry-endorsed study](#) found that grease and cheese residue at typical levels did not have a significant impact on recyclability of pizza boxes.
- Water is California's most precious resource these days – and a growing resource concern form many other regions as we [learned at the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting](#). **Dairy Cares** [shares](#) how a growing number of California dairy farms are saving about 36 percent of the water needed to grow feed crops by using a Subsurface Drip Irrigation system to apply dairy effluent (known as SDI-E). Using this method, dairy farmers apply a mix of fresh water and manure-nutrient water directly to the plant's roots via drip lines. The approach increases the nutrient use efficiency of crops, meaning more of the applied fertilizer makes it into the plant, better protecting groundwater. Already, 26 California dairy farms are implementing the system on one or more fields, resulting in a collective annual water savings of more than 1.3 billion gallons of water.

- **Farmers for Sustainable Food** (FSF) connects farmers to organizations throughout the supply chain to share ideas and collaborate on sustainability projects that make a real difference. FSF recently partnered with the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, a farmer-led group, to analyze data from 15 farms for the 2019-2021 crop years to determine the impact of on-farm conservation on sustainability metrics, farm finances, and local water resources. Their latest video shows the [results of the pilot project](#). The project will continue through 2024 and is one example of how the dairy industry is making progress towards its 2050 environmental stewardship goals.
- U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards emcee and dairy farmer **Amanda Freund** and National Dairy FARM Program Vice President **Emily Yeiser-Stepp** were among those [recently recognized](#) by Dairy Girl Network (DGN) with a Forward Under 40 (+4) Award. The award recognizes four passionate dairywomen working to better our industry. Congratulations to Amanda, Emily, and the other recipients!
- **GENYOUth** and **Domino's** partnered to engage students in an AdVenture Capital challenge to educate their peers on where food comes from. Over 30 student teams from schools across the country participated in three online workshops focused on farming, procurement, and pizza production, and heard from experts from Horning Farms in Manchester, MI; Leprino Cheese; and Domino's. The top three student teams won grants of \$2,000 to bring their project to life and a trip to Domino's World Resource Center. They also visited a dairy farm and learned about the pizza business from Domino's executives as well as career opportunities in the pizza and dairy industries. [Learn more about](#) the winning projects.

Upcoming Events

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
Feb. 28- March 1	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Hilmar Cheese and Leprino Foods Click here to register.</i>	Visalia, CA
March 1	DEADLINE: Member Renewal Forms Dues	
Spring	Dairy Nourishes America Symposium with Feeding America Click here learn more or to get involved.	West Coast
May 10-11	2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting	Rosemont, IL
May 23-24	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Glanbia Nutritionals and Agropur USA. Click here to register.</i>	Twin Falls, ID
Aug. 2-3	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Sargento Foods and Foremost Farms USA. Click here to register.</i>	Plymouth, WI
Oct. 1-6	World Dairy Expo	Madison, WI
Oct. 12	National Farmers Day	
Dec. 5	2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting	Charlotte, NC
Dec. 6-7	2023 Sustainable Agriculture Summit	Charlotte, NC