

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Releases 2020 Sustainability Report



The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy has published its eighth Sustainability Report covering calendar years 2019 and 2020. This report provides updates since 2018 on the dairy community's proactive, transparent, and unified approach to measuring and reporting progress against goals as outlined by the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment. This is the only comprehensive summary of U.S. dairy's contributions against social responsibility priorities, including environmental stewardship, animal care, food safety, and community contributions.

A key feature of the report is the first formal analysis of aggregated data from dairy processors adopting the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment. The data represents approximately 70% of U.S. milk production and provides a baseline for future U.S. dairy sustainability reporting in key areas such as water, energy, GHG emissions, resource recovery, product quality and safety, community contributions, and workforce development. Among the analysis findings, 2020 data confirms that dairy processors' use of water that is extracted from milk during manufacturing for various facility operations enables them to return more water than they withdraw from municipal and other sources. In addition, resource utilization and waste diversion in dairy processing is detailed, with more than 95% of resources put to beneficial use.

Also described within the report:

- U.S. Dairy's 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals and details on a roadmap toward progress
- Quantification of growth of dairy product distribution in communities of need, with special emphasis on the industry's Covid response
- Real-world examples of U.S. dairy making a difference for people, planet and communities

An interactive web portal that allows for easy content navigation, search and social media can be accessed at: <http://2020report.usdairy.com>. The report PDF can also be downloaded.

We welcome your feedback on the report and the U.S. dairy industry's sustainability efforts. Please contact us at InnovationCenter@USDairy.com.

Join us for the Hybrid 2021 Sustainable Ag Summit + Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting

The Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting and seventh annual Sustainable Agriculture Summit are just around the corner. We received more than 325 responses to a recent survey on traveling to this year's meetings, representing nearly half of the typical annual Summit attendance. Based on that input, we will be moving forward with hybrid events on November 17-19, including an in-person component in Las Vegas, Nevada.



We heard from a large contingent of you who are comfortable and ready to return to in-person events, ensuring that our in-person option will present the robust networking opportunities that we know are a key value of both the Summit and Fall Meeting.

A group hotel rate is available at Caesars Palace through October 25, so be sure to [register](#) (one registration covers both events) and [book your stay](#) today.

For those attending virtually, virtual registration offers access to a live stream of main stage sessions for both events. Summit virtual attendance also includes dedicated virtual content, virtual exhibit booths and opportunities to connect with attendees on the online event platform.

Sustainable Agriculture Summit (Nov. 17-18)

This year's Summit – Regeneration and Resilience – will unite leaders from across the full food and agriculture value chain to explore the power of partnerships in driving systems change while providing actionable insights for U.S. agriculture's role in building a resource-positive future. A full [draft agenda](#) is available, with main stage sessions focused on:

- Transforming the Way America Produces and Consumes Food: Implications of the UN Food Systems Summit for U.S. Agriculture
- Wetter, Hotter, Drier: Regenerative Ag's Potential for Climate Resilience
- Advancing a Sustainable Approach to Agricultural Labor
- Delivering on Potential: Missing Links in Ecosystem Service Markets
- Producer Voices: A Town-Hall Conversation with Farmers from Across Agriculture
- Leading on the Global Climate Stage: U.S. Agriculture at COP26

Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting (Nov. 18-19)

Join your fellow Dairy Sustainability Alliance members and the broader dairy community as we convene to better understand the impacts global convenings this fall will have on U.S. dairy, hear from dairy farmers about how their various regions and farms are approaching sustainability and what the broader value chain can do to support those efforts, and re-connect with colleagues from across the country during sector discussion and input sessions. A draft agenda is [available here](#).

Plus, help us honor the 2021 Sustainability Award recipients and celebrate 10 years of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards program with a special ceremony and reception ahead of the Fall Meeting. This portion of the event will be available for in-person attendees only.

COVID-19 Event Policies

Our team continues to actively monitor COVID-19 policies and recommendations at the city, county, and state levels to ensure the safety of our attendees. With **90% of survey respondents reporting that they are or will be fully vaccinated by November**, we are looking forward to welcoming many of you back to an engaging in-person environment. To ensure a happy, healthy experience at the in-person events, we are enhancing our previously announced [COVID-19 precautions](#):

- **A virtual participation option** for those unable to join us in Las Vegas.
- **An in-person mask mandate.** Effective July 30, the State of Nevada mandated that everyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings in counties with substantial or high transmission, including Las Vegas. The directive aligns with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance related to mask requirements. All Summit and Fall Meeting staff and attendees will be required to properly wear a mask during the event, regardless of vaccine status or current local mandates.
- **Attendee health and wellness screening questionnaire prior to and each morning of the Summit and Fall Meeting** to ensure the health and safety of our team and attendees.
- **Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes** provided for attendee use. We encourage our attendees to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer frequently throughout your time at the Summit.
- **Modified meal services, physical distancing,** and other COVID-19 precautions will be in place to enhance the safety of our indoor conference environment.

If you have any questions, please visit the event sites, www.sustainableagsummit.org and <http://alliancemeeting.usdairy.com>, or contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

NZI in the News

The U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative (NZI), an industry-wide effort in support of the Innovation Center's 2050 Environmental Goals, continues its work to make sustainable practices and technologies more accessible and affordable for U.S. dairy farms of all sizes and geographies. In advancing its five-year plan to develop the on-farm pathway to 2050, NZI is building strong partnerships critical to success:

- In June, the Foundation for Food and Ag Research (FFAR) [publicly announced](#) that it awarded a \$10 million grant to support NZI. Specifically, the *Dairy Soil & Water Regeneration* project will support dairy farmers as they look to further improve soil health and water quality, increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through dairy feed production. By closing research gaps, this project is opening new market opportunities for farms and helping advance U.S. dairy toward its collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals.
- Also in June, [Nestlé announced](#) Trinkler Dairy Farm as the first farm to partner in the NZI Dairy Scale for Good pilot. As one of up to five pilot farms, Trinkler will play a key role over the next five years in demonstrating the economic viability of sustainable practices and technologies to inform the on-farm models and pathway to 2050.
- The Innovation Center [has joined](#) the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) as a Founding Circle member. ESMC is a non-profit, member-based organization that is launching a national scale program for agriculture in 2022 to pay farmers and ranchers for quantified, verified, certified, and outcomes-based soil carbon, net GHG, water quality, and water conservation credits generated from regenerative agricultural practices. Through this membership, ESMC will engage with NZI to inform economic modeling and ecosystem service market approaches

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

Fall Webinar Series

Each month the Dairy Sustainability Alliance hosts webinars for its members to provide program updates and resources, share learnings and insights, or dive deeper on key social responsibility topics. Watch for additional webinars to be added in the coming weeks.

Supporting Dairy Supply Chain Sustainability Progress

Tuesday, October 12 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Central

Sustainability is top of mind for a growing number of customers and consumers. In parallel, companies are increasingly asking their supply chains to demonstrate how they are prioritizing and progressing sustainability within their own businesses. Two global programs – the Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF) and SAI Platform’s Sustainable Dairy Partnership (SDP) – are working to drive a collaborative and common global approach to sustainability assurance and reporting.

As the national aggregator for both programs, the Innovation Center plays a critical role in supporting U.S. dairy companies who want to be part of these two complimentary efforts. Whether just starting out or looking to streamline existing efforts, the Innovation Center offers a variety of resources to support dairy community tracking, monitoring and reporting efforts, as we work pre-competitively to build a strong U.S. dairy supply chain. [Register here](#) for this webinar to learn more.



Past Webinars

Thanks to those who were able to attend yesterday’s Member Discovery Series webinar, *Farmer Perspectives on Data and Actionable Insights to Scale Farm Level Data Activities*, presented by Trust in Food, a Farm Journal Initiative, and The Sustainability Consortium. [Watch the recording](#) or check out the full [Farmer Perspectives on Data 2021](#) report for more information.

Curious about dairy foods and inflammation? You can [view the recording](#) of the National Dairy Council’s August 24 webinar, *Taming the Flame: Dairy and Inflammation*, which provided an in-depth look at the state of the science on dairy foods and chronic inflammation.

Hunger Action Month: How will you choose to end hunger?

September is Hunger Action Month, a time dedicated to driving nationwide awareness and inspiring collective action to help people facing the impossible choices of hunger. [Recent estimates](#) by Feeding America, the country’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, indicate that 42 million people, including 13 million children, in the U.S. may face food insecurity in 2021.

Raising Awareness

Feeding America has assembled a [Hunger Action Month toolkit](#) of marketing materials, turn-key content, ideas and thought starters that you and your organizations can use to participate and raise awareness throughout the month-long campaign, including:

- Add the [Hunger Action Month frame](#) to your Facebook profile
- Go orange – the color of hunger relief – to spread awareness and demonstrate your commitment to ending hunger in America
- Support your local food bank by volunteering or making a donation

Driving Action

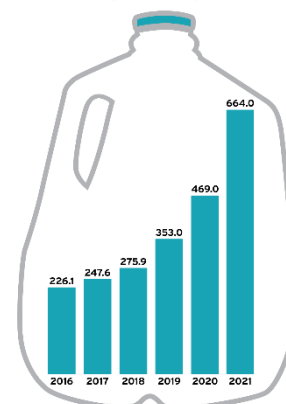
The dairy community is committed to ensuring those who face hunger have access to nutrient-rich dairy products. Over the past year, the U.S. dairy community stepped up efforts to collectively provide **664 million pounds of nutritious dairy products to millions of people** throughout Feeding America’s network, an **88% increase** from pre-pandemic figures.

But there is still more that can be done.

Feeding America has set the bold goal of distributing more than 900 million pounds of dairy products annually by 2025. The dairy community is partnering with Feeding America to support their growth strategies and provide reliable access to nutritious dairy products for those facing food insecurity. We are excited to explore even more innovative win-win solutions that are good for the Feeding America network and for dairy and that ultimately help to end hunger.

If you have any questions, please contact Tab.Forgac@dairy.org or Carole.Clemente@dairy.org.

MILLION POUNDS OF DAIRY
DISTRIBUTED IN THE
FEEDING AMERICA NETWORK
(2016 – 2021)



USDA Establishes Dairy Donation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently [released the interim final rule](#) that establishes the [Dairy Donation Program](#) as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Under the program, eligible dairy organizations that account to a federal milk marketing order and incur a qualified expense related to certain dairy product donations may apply for and receive reimbursements for those donations. The program is intended to facilitate donation of eligible dairy products and prevent and minimize food waste. This new program will make it possible for U.S. dairy companies to donate fresh, nutritious dairy products to nonprofit organizations reaching Americans struggling with hunger and food insecurity.

For more information, please contact Emily DeBord at 202-658-9369.

Waste Not: Exploring Food Loss and Waste

When we know millions of people in the U.S. alone are facing hunger, it is devastating to think of how much food, including dairy, is lost or wasted each year. Ensuring the food we produce ends up nourishing people, livestock or the earth – and not landfills – will also have a profound impact on the environment. This fall, learn how you can be part of the conversation – and the solution – to reducing food loss and waste:

ReFED Webinar Series: Following the Roadmap to 2030: Taking Action to Reduce U.S. Food Waste by 50 Percent

ReFED, a national nonprofit dedicated to ending food loss and waste across the U.S. food system is hosting a series of webinars that will explore key action areas to reaching a national goal of reducing food loss and waste 50% by 2030. Register for upcoming installments or view past recordings [here](#).

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

Recognized by the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Sept. 29 will mark the second [International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Waste](#), a time to prioritize action as part of resilient and sustainable food systems. Discover what you can do to stop food loss and waste.

The UN FAO has also endorsed a [Voluntary Code of Conduct on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#), which offers a menu of actions that countries, supply chains and other stakeholders can take to reduce food loss and waste.

Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity for Food Waste

The EPA is currently seeking applications for projects from states, tribes, territories, and nonprofit organizations to divert food waste from landfills by expanding anaerobic digester capacity in the United States. The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$2 million. Individual projects could be in the range of \$50,000-\$200,000 for the funding period of two years. **Applications are due by Oct. 7, 2021.** To learn more, visit the [EPA Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity webpage](#).

UN Food Systems Summit Set for Sept. 23-24

The United Nations (UN) has confirmed that the first [UN Food Systems Summit](#) (UN FSS) will take place as a virtual event on Sept. 23-24 in New York as part of the UN General Assembly.



During a Pre-Summit gathering at the end of July, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed outlined five expected outcomes for the September event:

- **A Statement of Action from UN Secretary-General António Guterres.**
- **A compendium of UN FSS work**, which will serve as a reference document for resources that informed the UN FSS.
- **Continuation of National Food Systems Dialogues beyond the conclusion of the UN FSS**, which are already planned in many countries to inform future policies and strategic pathways. U.S. dairy, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, co-convened its own independent dialogue in April and submitted an [official feedback form](#) summarizing the discussion and recommendations to the UN FSS.
- **Multi-stakeholder action coalitions on a variety of sustainable food systems themes**, to be refined leading up to the Summit. Themes may include: 1) Nutrition and Zero Hunger; 2) School Meals; 3) Food Loss and Waste; 4) Agroecology, Sustainable Livestock and Agriculture Systems; 5) Aquatic and Blue Food; 6) Living Incomes and Decent Work; 7) Resilience; and/or 8) Implementation.
- **A bi-annual UN FSS follow-up process**, possibly led by Rome-based UN agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD, CFS) and World Benchmarking Alliance to “take stock” of commitments set at the UN FSS.

U.S. dairy will continue to engage in the UN FSS process. A dedicated team will be participating in the UN FSS later this week to learn the outcomes and planned actions, which will help inform U.S. dairy's continued food system efforts. Through commitments and action – like our FARM Program, Net Zero Initiative and food security/hunger [game-changing solutions](#) – we will demonstrate that our farmers and processors produce foods that are a sustainable source of affordable nutrition, good for the planet and contribute to community vitality and resilience.

Initial outcomes and implications of the UN FSS will be examined as part of this year's Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting and the Sustainable Agriculture Summit, November 17-19 virtually and in Las Vegas.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean.Ragalie-Carr@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 science behind her role.



Science & Technology

In June, the [Council for Agricultural Science and Technology](#) (CAST) released a commentary addressing the application of current and new agricultural science and technology critical to meeting the Biden administration goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change pressures described in the [Climate 21 Project](#).

In the commentary titled "[The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation](#)," the Innovation Center's Dr. Tricarico describes the opportunity for animal agriculture to reverse climate change, identifies where focus and investments are needed, and discusses how farmer adoption of new mitigation practices and technology must provide environmental and socio-economic benefits to both consumers and producers.

Dr. Tricarico also talks about how technology improves sustainability in an [interview with Cainthus](#) – a computer vision and artificial intelligence company – on enteric emissions reductions necessary to support net zero carbon dairy farming by 2050.

The Ins & Outs of Byproduct Feeds

Often called the "original recyclers," cows have the ability to digest and attain nutrients from feedstuffs humans cannot. A recent [scientific article](#) describes results from the most comprehensive study conducted to date on byproduct feeding to dairy cattle in the United States. The study, "[Nutritional contributions and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions from human-inedible byproduct feeds consumed by dairy cows in the United States](#)", also examines the nutrients byproduct feeds supply and compares their enteric and manure non-CO₂ emissions to the emissions related to feeding only forages and grains, or to disposing byproducts through landfill, composting, and/or combustion.



Let's Talk Methane

Today, join Drs. Frank Mitloehner, Alex Hristov, Ermias Kebreab, Dipti Pitta, Yvette de Haas, and Juan Tricarico for "[Advances in Enteric Methane Mitigation in Dairy Cattle: The Last Decade and Future Prospects](#)", part of the American Dairy Science Association's 2021 Annual Meeting Fall Webinar series. Learn about advances from the last decade that already contributed to or hold potential for reducing enteric methane emissions from dairy animals and future prospects for research.

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

Livestock-Derived Foods and Sustainable Healthy Diets

In June, the UN Nutrition, a United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for nutrition, released a discussion paper entitled “[Livestock-derived foods and sustainable healthy diets.](#)” The paper attempts to present the complex role of livestock-derived foods (LDF) in global sustainable food systems and diets. It addresses the valuable contributions that LDF make to human nutrition and discusses their “important and often controversial interface with two key areas: human health and the environment.”



- **Health and Nutrition:** The report finds that health and nutrition effects of LDF are “complex” and vary based on the context (e.g., by country), time of life (e.g., early childhood), and type (e.g., beef). Broadly, the report concludes that LDF “can have consequences for human health if they are absent or deficient in the diets of certain vulnerable groups, or if consumed to excess by others.” The authors say food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) should “vary depending on context when it comes to meat consumption” and advise “reducing consumption” in high-income countries, “moderating consumption” where per capita intake is increasing, and, in low-income populations, encouraging dietary diversity and “some meat and dairy products.”
- **Sustainable Production:** The report discusses the pressures that livestock systems place on natural resources but also finds that sustainable systems could be “integral to climate change solutions.” In particular, according to the report, LDF along with livestock production:
 - Account for 14.5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contribute to freshwater withdrawals and loss of biodiversity, though GHG estimates are “based on OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] production systems” and better data would be helpful.
 - Contribute globally to GHG emissions in varying degrees based on species, with beef production contributing the most, followed by “dairy cattle, pigs, buffalo, chickens, small ruminants and other poultry.” Feed production accounts for 45% of emissions and ruminant enteric fermentation for 39%.
 - Are “critically important to the livelihood and food security of millions of people.”
 - Could “mitigate climate change” through the use of “mixed and efficient” systems, e.g., feed conversion rates, rangeland management, use of crop residues as feed.
 - Can contribute to “equitable access to healthy diets” including cost reduction for vulnerable populations, gender equality and animal welfare.
- **Research:** More research is needed to build the evidence base on the role of livestock-derived foods within sustainable healthy diets. It should include: “Deeper insights into the bidirectionality of climate change and livestock-derived food production...” and cross-disciplinary collaborations between ecologists and public-health nutritionists “to optimize biodiversity and dietary diversity.”

If you have any questions, please contact Jean.Ragalie-Carr@dairy.org.

Innovation Center & FARM Program Host “Dairy 101” Customer Webinar

On July 13, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and the National Dairy FARM Program co-hosted a webinar for dairy customers. The event, which drew 65 pre-registered attendees from more than a dozen companies, focused on providing introductory level dairy education and included insights on dairy production, the FARM Animal Care Program, and how milk travels from farm to fridge. Four dairy farmers from California, Washington, Florida, and Wisconsin showcased their dairy farms virtually to help provide an understanding of the regional differences in dairy production. The recording of the webinar is now available [here](#).

If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact Josh.Luth@dairy.org.

Calf Care & Quality Assurance Program Publishes Animal Care Reference Manual



Last month, the [Calf Care & Quality Assurance \(CCQA\) Program](#), which is jointly led by the National Dairy FARM Program and the Beef Quality Assurance Program, published the first volume of its [Animal Care Reference Manual](#). This manual assists farmers and ranchers who raise different breeds of male and female calves intended for dairy and/or beef production systems. It was designed to help calf raisers continually improve animal care outcomes on the farm while ensuring optimal health and welfare throughout the supply chain.

In addition to the manual, the CCQA program also offers resources specific to the needs of calf raisers such as protocol templates and animal observation scoring reference guides. Online and in-person opportunities for individuals looking to be CCQA-certified, as well as a facility self-assessment, will be available later this fall. The CCQA program serves as a streamlined program for calf care and management and a supplement to the FARM Animal Care Program.

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

FARM Lunch Panel at World Dairy Expo

The National Dairy FARM Program will host a luncheon at World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI on Sept. 30 that will feature a panel discussion from industry stakeholders involved in the newest FARM initiatives: FARM Biosecurity and the Calf Care & Quality Assurance (CCQA). Space is limited and [registration](#) for this in-person only event is required.



Panelists for the luncheon include:

- Josh White, Executive Director, Producer Education, National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Kris Scheider, Wisconsin, Foremost Farms Dairy Farmer
- Dr. Jennifer Van Os, PhD, Animal Welfare Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, UW – Madison
- Justin Potts, Senior Manager, Dairy 2025, Land O' Lakes.

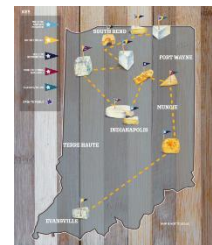
NMPF and the FARM Program will also sponsor two World Dairy Expo Seminars: [Dairy Cow Productivity: More Important to the Profitability of Your Dairy Operation than You Think](#) presented by Peter Vitaliano, Ph.D., Vice President, Economic Policy and Market Research at NMPF and [Practical Employee Management Strategies](#) presented by Dr. Robert Hagevoort, Associate Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist, New Mexico State University.

Plus, visit the FARM Team in the Exhibit Hall at booth EH 4508 where farmers can register to win a pizza party for their employees.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Yeiser-Stepp at eyeiserstepp@nmpf.org. You can also connect with the FARM Team in-person at the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Annual Conference (booth 625).

Hit the Road for Cheese

This summer [marked the launch](#) of the [Indiana Cheese Trail](#). The trail, which currently features 10 stops, spans the whole state and is not designed to do in a single day or even in a particular order, but rather for turophiles (connoisseurs of cheese) to experience the variety of creameries that make up the trail. While not all locations have public storefronts, you can pick up their products in local markets. If the Midwest is a bit far from where you live, consider checking out the cheese trails [California](#), [Vermont](#), [North Carolina](#) and the [New York Finger Lakes](#) have to offer.



Member Briefs

Knowledge sharing and collaboration are key tenets of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance. Find out what's new with some of our 150+ member companies and organizations:

- The Dairy Sustainability Alliance added **9 new members** over the summer. Welcome to [Cooler Management LLC](#), [EnTech Solutions LLC](#), [Feeding America](#), [H2Ok Innovations Inc.](#), [Nelson-Jameson Inc.](#), [Olam International Limited](#), [Pivot Energy Inc.](#), [Proliant Dairy LLC](#), and [UpField Group](#).
- **The Hershey Company**, **Land O'Lakes** and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have partnered to form [Sustainable Dairy PA](#), a new initiative that will install on-farm best management practices to reduce GHG emissions, provide wildlife habitat, and help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *Sustainable Dairy PA* has begun to work with dairy farmers in south-central Pennsylvania and is actively building a list of their conservation needs that will guide the program's priorities. In addition to working with the initial 119 farms, the initiative has the potential to reach more than 400 Land O'Lakes member farms supplying milk to Hershey as funding and support grows.
- In June, **California Dairies Inc.** (CDI) launched a new [farm-to-consumer sustainability effort](#) aimed at measuring, validating, and further improving sustainable business practices. Bringing together a team of experts with substantial dairy industry knowledge, as well as expertise in environmental stewardship, employee welfare, animal husbandry and beyond, the initiative will work to quantify the current baseline status of CDI's supply chain in key areas of sustainability, as well as lay out a roadmap of goals and targets going forward. CDI considers the work being done as part of this initiative as key to helping deliver on its commitment to the industry's 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals.
- **Daigold, Inc.** recently [announced plans](#) to build a state-of-the-art, climate-friendly facility in the Port of Pasco. When operational, the plant will feature technologies and strategies to cut per unit GHG emissions by 25% compared to existing baselines; deploy anaerobic digestion technology as part of on-site wastewater treatment and as a means to extract methane for use as a natural gas substitute; be designed to accommodate future electric vehicles, including a potential conversion of the company's semi fleet; as well as have access to both rail and barge facilities, slashing the distance milk trucks travel by 5 million miles annually.

- Last month, **Bel Brands USA** and **Dairy Farmers of America (DFA)** [announced a 12-month pilot program](#) designed to reduce GHG emissions by cutting on-farm energy usage through the adoption of energy-efficient and cost-effective on-farm milk cooling methods. The farm will work with DFA's sustainability team to capture data on the energy and economic savings of the innovative sustainable milk cooling practices compared to the high-energy flash chillers, with the goal of replicating these practices on other U.S. dairy farms in the future, if proven successful. The findings of the program will ultimately help inform future best practices for dairy farm sustainability throughout the supply chain, specifically management and mitigation practices to help address the seasonal spike in energy use without compromising cow care.
- **Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA)** has announced [new sustainable packaging goals](#) aimed at avoiding additional and unnecessary packaging; utilizing more recycled content; making all packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable, and educating consumers on actionable ways to reduce food waste and properly dispose of TCCA packaging. The company utilized a science-based lifecycle assessment to study the environmental impact of its current packaging to inform opportunities to further reduce its environmental impact. TCCA is also applying its focus on sustainable packaging for the benefit of the broader industry as the Innovation Center's Processor Working Group looks at how advances in sustainable packaging will support progress toward the industry's collective environmental goals.
- In August, **Farmers for Sustainable Food** [released results](#) from the first year of a farm-level sustainability project with the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance (LASA), **Grande Cheese Company** and **Houston Engineering** (check out our [July webinar](#) on the 2021 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Award-winning project and its [replicable framework](#)). Key findings (based on 2019 data) show that existing conservation practices on the participating farms are already reducing the amount of sediment reaching local streams and rivers by 28 percent, while adding cover crops to half of all fields in the project area could lead to even more significant pollution reductions. The report also found that farms with livestock or that use manure for most crop nutrient needs scored better than the project benchmark for GHG emissions and energy use. Given the results achieved in year one, the Innovation Center is supporting the extension of the project for two more years as part of the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative (NZI).
- Hosted by **Idaho Dairymen's Association**, **Newtrient** presented the "risks and rewards" of emerging renewable natural gas opportunities at a dairy farmer workshop. A [recording of the workshop](#) addresses how to identify the size of the opportunity, structure contracts and business considerations, as well as offers time to hear from a handful of developers in the space.
- As we highlighted during the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® [Spring Meeting](#), knowing where their food is coming from and trusting that it is sustainable and nutritious is important to Gen Z and millennial consumers. To help them get closer to the source, local state and regional checkoff organizations spent the summer highlighting farms and farmers across the country. **Dairy MAX's** new "[Dairy Up Close](#)" campaign follows five different dairies in the region to get up close and personal with the farmers and see what makes them tick. **American Dairy Association Mideast** introduced the world to [Macy Conrad](#), a next-generation Ohio dairy farmer who's passionate about protecting the planet and believes in the dairy community's environmental commitments. **The Dairy Alliance** has found success leveraging influencers to help build trust with the younger generation, reaching over 300,000 new consumers from a single Instagram influence during National Dairy Month. Most recently they worked with TikToker SpurWeezy who [highlighted his experience](#) touring a Virginia dairy farm.
- In a bi-monthly series on their website called "[Farmer Focus](#)," the **National Milk Producers Federation** and the **National Dairy FARM Program** bring to life stories from dairy farmers across the country. In their [latest installment](#), Dairy Sustainability Alliance Farmer Representative **Sutton Rucks** and his family talk about life during the initial COVID shutdown, when the family not only took care of their herd of 1,500 cows on Milking R Dairy in Okeechobee, FL, but were also up until 2 or 3 a.m. each night making ice cream.
- EPA has released its 2021 list of [SmartWay High Performers](#) identifying carriers, logistics and shipper partners that are leading the way on clean freight. **Ruan Transportation Management Systems** was recognized in the "Truck carrier fleets, Carbon Metric" category. Carbon is also a leading indicator of fuel use, which means those recognized move heavier loads, packing their trailers more efficiently – and still consume thousands of gallons of less fuel annually. SmartWay High Performers are identified based on a set of fleet data, fuel use and other information that partners annually compile and voluntarily submit to EPA. Fewer than 10 percent of all SmartWay carriers operate fleets efficient enough to make the SmartWay High Performer list for carbon emissions.
- To reflect the efforts and achievements of its members and to share critical information on how all participants in the dairy supply chain are working together to significantly lessen their impact on the environment, the **International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA)** introduced a new [Sustainability Recognition Platform](#). Visitors to the platform will find the latest information on the commitments and impact of both IDFA's members and U.S. dairy broadly, as well as additional resources for dairy companies.

- Global Dairy Platform**, which coordinates World Milk Day activity on behalf of the dairy sector, shared that there were celebrations in 100 countries, reaching 1.38 billion impressions for the global campaign from over 199,000 social media posts (May 1 to June 2), far exceeding previous years. This year's theme focused on sustainability, which helped showcase dairy's commitment to innovation in reducing the sector's environmental footprint. A wide variety of farmer videos from across the globe demonstrated how the sector is embracing technology to help create a sustainable future for dairy. [This final report](#) summarizes results and contains highlights of some of the great dairy-friendly content that was shared.

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
September	Hunger Action Month	
Sept. 21 4-6 p.m. ET	Advances in Enteric Methane Mitigation in Dairy Cattle: The Last Decade and Future Prospects Click here to register for this webinar, which is part of the ADSA 221 Virtual Annual Meeting Webinar Series	Webinar
Sept. 23-24	UN Food Systems Summit 2021	New York, NY / Virtual
Sept. 28 – Oct. 2	World Dairy Expo Visit the Innovation Center/DMI at Booth #4320-4322 + the National Dairy FARM Team at Booth #EH4508	Madison, WI
Sept. 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	
Sept. 30 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CT	National Dairy FARM Panel at World Dairy Expo Click here to register for this in-person only event	Madison, WI
Oct. 12	National Farmers Day	
Oct. 12 1-2 p.m. CT	Supporting Dairy Supply Chain Sustainability Progress Click here to register for this webinar	Webinar
Oct. 25	DEADLINE: Group Hotel Rate Ends for Sustainable Agriculture Summit + Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting	
Nov. 2	Supplier Food Safety Management Class at the Dairy Practices Council (DPC) Conference	Pittsburgh, PA
Nov. 6	Artisan Dairy Food Safety Plan Coaching Workshop at the National Ice Cream Retailers (NICRA) Conference	Orlando, FL
Nov.17-18	2021 Sustainable Agriculture Summit	Las Vegas, NV
Nov. 18	2021 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards Ceremony & Reception	Las Vegas, NV
Nov. 19	2021 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting	Las Vegas, NV