

Updated January 2026

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's® Dairy Sustainability Alliance® is a multi-stakeholder group spanning the dairy value chain, including industry suppliers, farmers, cooperatives, processors, food chain, government, dairy checkoff, civil society, and other agricultural groups. Collectively, Dairy Sustainability Alliance members strive to measure, improve, and communicate dairy's role in a sustainable food system while providing nutritious products in a way that makes the industry, people, and our planet economically, environmentally, and socially better.

All efforts and outcomes of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance are precompetitive and technology neutral and will be made available to the entire industry.

Why Become a Dairy Sustainability Alliance Member?

From its founding in 2008, the Dairy Sustainability Alliance has recognized that no one company or sector can address sustainability alone. The Dairy Sustainability Alliance provides a precompetitive forum where member organizations can:

- Convene to share knowledge
- Collaborate on issues and opportunities affecting the industry at large
- Accelerate progress on common sustainability/social responsibility priorities
- Contribute to the long-term viability of the U.S. dairy industry

Membership is at the corporate level and open to companies and organizations all along the dairy value chain who are committed to being leaders in sustainability and who demonstrate their desire and ability to further the dairy community's social responsibility efforts. There is no cost to join or annual membership fee. Engagement from differing perspectives is encouraged, and constructive discussion that advances dairy sustainability is welcomed.

Current Membership

There are more than 200 companies and organizations members of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance, including 40 dairy farmer representatives from across the country and farms of varying size and production styles.



Members may represent one or more of the following value chain sectors:

Industry Suppliers

Companies and organizations that supply goods and services to the other value chain sectors

Farmers

Individuals who are actively engaged in the ownership and/or management of dairy cattle in the U.S.

Cooperatives

Companies and organizations that procure and market milk on behalf of U.S. dairy farmers

Processors

Companies and organizations that process milk or other dairy ingredients into saleable products

Trading Companies

Companies that distribute dairy products and ingredients for use in food and feed channels

Food Chain

Retailers, grocers, foodservice and CPG brands that procure and sell dairy products and/or products that include dairy ingredients to consumers.

Government

Public organizations for which all affairs and matters are governed by the state

Dairy Checkoff

Organizations funded by America's dairy farmers through the dairy checkoff

Civil Society & Other Agricultural Groups

Academic, non-government, non-profit or non-commercial organizations, institutions, and associations with a stake in the dairy value chain

Member Responsibilities

Dairy Sustainability Alliance members agree to:

1. Organizational commitment to support socially responsible, economically viable and environmentally sound dairy food systems that promote the current and future health and well-being of dairy consumers, communities, cows, employees, businesses, and the planet
2. Designate appropriate contact(s) within the organization to serve as its representative(s) on the Dairy Sustainability Alliance
3. In-person representation at a minimum of one Dairy Sustainability Alliance [meeting](#) per year
4. Active engagement with the dairy community's social responsibility efforts
5. Ongoing support of dairy communication efforts (see below)
6. Completion of an annual member renewal form

Membership will be evaluated annually.

An organization's time commitment is dependent on its desired level of involvement to fulfill the above member responsibilities. Some examples of active engagement and communications support include:

- Attending or presenting at Innovation Center sponsored meetings, webinars, and workshops
- Supporting/adopting the [U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment](#) and/or the [National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- Utilizing industry developed sustainability materials, like reporting guides, toolkits, communications playbooks, and food safety resources
- Participating in the Dairy Processor Working Group or similar Innovation Center-aligned collaborative effort
- Mentioning Innovation Center or Dairy Sustainability Alliance engagement in sustainability report or website

Members can contact Innovation Center staff to determine additional engagement opportunities and the appropriate level of involvement.

How to Join

Companies and organizations interested in joining or simply learning more about the Dairy Sustainability Alliance should contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org or visit www.usdairy.com/sustainabilityalliance.

Individuals interested in being part of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance but whose company or organization is not yet ready for membership may join as Associate Members. Please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org for more information.

Dairy farmer representatives are appointed by the Innovation Center with approval from the Innovation Center president and Dairy Management Inc. board chair.