

## Leadership Perspective: Dairy's Key Role in Nutrition and Food Security

**A Letter from Jackie Klippenstein, Senior Vice President, Industry and Community Relations, Dairy Farmers of America & Chair, Co-Chair Innovation Center Food Security Task Force**

Recent statistics show that more than 38 million people in the U.S., including 12 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2021. And while hunger affects every community, we know it disproportionately impacts rural communities, people of color, and households with children or elderly family members. According to our partner and Dairy Sustainability Alliance® member Feeding America, in 2022 approximately 85% of the food banks in its network have seen a sustained or increased demand for food assistance each month. People are clearly struggling at a time when Feeding America's network of food banks also report a decline in food donations.



As an industry, U.S. dairy works hard to do its part so that no American has to choose between daily meals and paying for basic needs like medication, electricity, or childcare. Milk and other dairy foods are among the top three requested products by food bank customers, and the U.S. dairy community continues to work together to increase the amount of dairy going through local food banks, which has been even more critical the past two years given the global pandemic. In fact, more than double the amount of dairy products were distributed through Feeding America in their FY 2022, compared to FY 2016 (506 million pounds and 226 million pounds of dairy products, respectively).

September marks Hunger Action Month when many organizations and businesses bring attention to the ongoing and pressing need to identify solutions and provide resources to end hunger. And later this month, national leaders will convene at the White House for the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, whose stated goal by President Biden is to “end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030.”

Both Hunger Action Month and the White House Conference present moments in time to increase focus on the dairy community's long-standing efforts to ensure equitable access to health-promoting foods like dairy within charitable feeding systems.

The Innovation Center's Food Security Task Force is working with Feeding America to identify shared strategies to further increase availability of nutrient-rich dairy foods within charitable food systems and address infrastructure, access, and transportation opportunities. A key step earlier this year was partnering on the first Feeding America dairy symposium: Dairy Nourishes America: Connecting Knowledge to Action. This symposium, co-hosted by Feeding America, Dairy Farmers of America and the Innovation Center, was designed to share knowledge, identify solutions and create regional partnerships that will further help more dairy reach the food insecure (check out *Dairy Nourishes America: Connecting Knowledge to Action!* below). In a forthcoming report, Feeding America will detail some of the results and insights from that conference. In the meantime, contact Task Force staff lead [Jacqi.coleman@dairy.org](mailto:Jacqi.coleman@dairy.org) to learn more about how your organization can get involved.

Solving for food insecurity is bigger than any one sector and will require ongoing partnerships and collaborations. The U.S. dairy community has consistently shown we are up for the challenge and can play a vital role in helping to create a positive food future and ensure nutrition security for all.

Thank you for all that you do.

*Jackie Klippenstein*

## Agendas Released for Fall Meeting + Sustainable Agriculture Summit



The [Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting](#) and [Sustainable Agriculture Summit](#) are back fully in-person this year and registration is booming! Come join your colleagues **November 14-17**, in **Glendale, AZ** and learn from sustainability experts, surface shared learnings through interactive sessions, and make connections through engaging networking events.

Draft agendas for both events have just been released; visit the event websites linked above to learn more.

This year, **each event will require its own registration**. If you plan to attend both the Fall Meeting and the Summit, **you will need to complete two separate registrations**. If you register for the Fall Meeting first, you will receive a \$100 discount code that can be used towards your Summit registration. More info on each meeting is below.

### Hotel Block Sold Out

In a first for the Dairy Sustainability Alliance and Sustainable Ag Summit, the entire event hotel has completely sold out during the meeting. There are many hotel options within walking distance of the events, and we are working to secure an overflow hotel block nearby. We will share that information when available.

### 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting

The Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 15** and offers a variety of opportunities to network, provide feedback on U.S. dairy social responsibility initiatives, learn about key topics impacting the food and agriculture industry, and discover how companies working with the multi-stakeholder Dairy Sustainability Alliance are addressing social responsibility in their own companies.

An **optional farm tour on Monday afternoon (Nov. 14)** kicks off the week. Space for this tour is limited so be sure to indicate your attendance when you register.

During a special ceremony and reception following the Fall Meeting, we'll honor and celebrate with the [2022 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards recipients](#).

[Registration for the Fall Meeting](#) is **not included** in the Sustainable Agriculture Summit registration. However, we will offer a \$100 discount to those attending both events. **After you register for the Fall Meeting, you will receive your Summit discount code** at the very bottom of your registration confirmation email from Eventbrite under "Additional Information." If you have any questions or concerns about registering, please contact [Tammy.Taylor@dairy.org](mailto:Tammy.Taylor@dairy.org).

### 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Summit

This year's Summit, *Meeting the Moment: Strengthening U.S. Food and Agriculture's Capacity to Drive Change*, will unite leaders from across the full food and agriculture value chain to explore 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. [Register here](#) to join us **November 17-18** for the Sustainable Ag Summit. Discounted rates for farmers and students, as well as new single day rates, are available.

### Save the Date

Also, save the date to join us 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](mailto:Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org).

# Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Fall 2022

## Fall Webinar Series

Thanks to our presenters and all who were able to join us for our webinars so far this month - [FARM Animal Care Version 5 Listening Session](#) and [From Starting Solids to Mealtime Meltdowns: Strategies to Promote Happy and Healthy Eating with Kids Eat in Color](#). The FARM Animal Care webinar provided an overview of the proposed changes for version 5 of the program and helped to kick off a [public comment period](#) that runs through Friday, October 28. The National Dairy Council-hosted Starting Solids to Mealtime Meltdowns webinar explored the role dairy foods play in complementary food introduction and picky eating management. You can view a recording of each webinar via the links above.

More webinars are coming your way this fall that will provide program updates and resources, share learnings and insights, help you prepare for the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting and dive deeper on key social responsibility topics.

### Dairy Soil and Water Regeneration Project: Supporting 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals

Friday, October 14, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central

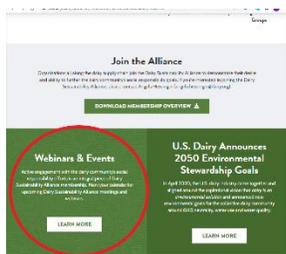
DMI and the Innovation Center are advancing several research projects that support U.S. dairy in reaching our collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals. This webinar will highlight those projects before diving into a deeper look at the collaborative Dairy Soil and Water Regeneration Project that is focused on building soil health to reduce greenhouse gases, improve water quality, and enable new economic benefits. [Register here](#).



### Member Discovery Series Webinar - Corporate-Nonprofit Partnership Model: How to Collaborate Successfully to Implement Conservation on Farms

Thursday, October 20 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Central

In 2018, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association (MDVA), Turkey Hill, and additional corporations partnered to create a Corporate Sustainability Model. Working with MDVA farms in their corporate partners' supply chains, this partnership set goals to improve water quality and farm operations, leveraged millions of dollars from public and private grants, and successfully implemented more than 100 practices (manure management systems, heavy use area protection, riparian forest buffers, and more). This webinar will present the partnership's development process to corporations who are interested in collaborating with a nonprofit to support farms in their supply chain. [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](http://www.usdairy.com).

## USDA Announces First Round of Climate-Smart Agriculture Funding Recipients

Last week Secretary Vilsack [announced](#) the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing up to \$2.8 billion in [70 selected projects](#) under the first pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (PCSC) funding opportunity. Of the 70 selected projects, 9 are officially classified as dairy with 17 overall directly supporting dairy farmers, processors and related industries in some way.

The \$795 million in funding for dairy-related projects represents unprecedented investment that will provide technical and financial assistance for farmers, support the development of expanded markets and revenue streams, and help U.S. dairy make progress towards its collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals at the field and farm levels.

Projects from the second PCSC funding pool will be announced later this year. Ultimately, USDA's anticipated investment will triple to more than \$3 billion in pilots that will create market opportunities for American commodities produced using climate-smart production practices.

## New Briefing Note Available on GWP\* Modeling

[Global Dairy Platform](#) has [released a report](#) summarizing the work done with global partners in the dairy and beef sectors to understand the implications of using global warming potential to calculate historical and predict future atmospheric warming resulting from changes in methane emissions. The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy was a funding partner in this effort.

The most commonly used and recommended methodology to measure warming is the Global Warming Potential using a 100-year perspective (GWP<sub>100</sub>), which has been in use since 1990 and assesses the warming effect of a ton of a specific GHG compared to a ton of carbon dioxide, based on the energy added to the climate system over 100 years. However, shortcomings in quantifying the warming effects of short-lived climate pollutants like methane, which has an atmospheric lifetime of approximately 12 years, are now being recognized and acknowledged. The newer GWP\* methodology quantifies the warming of current (or projected) methane emissions relative to the change in emissions over the previous 20 years.

Using GWP\* produces more accurate estimates of the [global](#) historic contributions and predicted future temperature changes caused by methane emissions over time. However, GWP\* use is limited to estimating global effects because the warming impacts of individual regions or farms who take the same emissions reduction actions today will differ if they had growing, stable or decreasing emissions over the last 20 years (known as "grandparenting effect").

*If you have any questions related to global warming potential modeling, please contact [Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org](mailto:Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org).*



## Updates from the FARM Program

### Public Comment Period for FARM Animal Care Version 5 Now Open

The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management – or FARM – Program helps ensure the success of the entire dairy industry across five program areas. Standards for the FARM Animal Care program area 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.



A summary of recommendations was shared during a Dairy Sustainability Alliance webinar earlier this month ([recording available here](#)). **A public comment period for the proposed recommendations is now open and will run through October 28.** More details and how to submit comments during this period will be available on the Animal Care [Version 5 development webpage](#).

Additional opportunities for dialogue about the proposed recommendations will be provided at industry events including American Association of Bovine Practitioners annual conference, World Dairy Expo and at the NMPF/Dairy Management Inc. Joint Annual Meeting.

### FARM Environmental Stewardship Launches Conservation Practice Questionnaire

FARM Environmental Stewardship (ES) last month officially launched the Conservation Practice Questionnaire (CPQ). The CPQ serves as an optional add-on to the existing FARM ES Version 2.0 evaluation. The questionnaire covers dairy farmers' field and dairy-level conservation practices to capture a holistic sustainability story.

FARM ES held a pilot program earlier this year to field-test the CPQ. The goals of the pilot were to test the CPQ at dairy farms throughout the country and receive feedback from producers and evaluators. Nine FARM ES participants piloted the CPQ, including **Agri-Mark, Associated Milk Producers Inc., Foremost Farms, Glanbia, Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Northwest Dairy Association, Sartori Cheese and United Dairywomen of Arizona**. A total of 31 farms participated and provided feedback, which has been kept anonymous and used only for the continued development of the CPQ. After the pilot concluded, the FARM ES Task Force reviewed the findings to make refinements to the questionnaire before approval.

The CPQ has been integrated into the FARM ES evaluation application and is available for participant use. If you are interested in the questionnaire or would like more information, please reach out to [dairyfarm@nmpf.org](mailto:dairyfarm@nmpf.org).

### FARM Animal Care Receives PAACO Re-Certification

The Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) again certified the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Animal Care (AC) Program as an approved animal welfare evaluation. PAACO provides training and certification credentials for animal welfare auditors and audits for all sectors of food animal production.

To receive PAACO certification, the FARM Program went through a thorough review process of its Animal Care Version 4 standards, resources and evaluator training materials as compared to standards set by the PAACO Board of Directors. The review ensured that the FARM Program evaluation includes all the key components required for evaluation of livestock animal welfare and is committed to continuous improvement. "The FARM Program has been awarded recertification of its audit instrument by PAACO and we commend them for their commitment to continuous improvement," said PAACO Executive Director Collette Kaster. This is the second year in a row that FARM AC has received PAACO certification.

*If you have any questions, please contact Emily Yeiser-Stepp at [eyeiserstepp@nmpf.org](mailto:eyeiserstepp@nmpf.org).*

## REMINDER: Stakeholder Comment Period for Proposed Packaging Metrics Closes Oct. 24

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy is in the middle of a 60-day stakeholder consultation process for proposed processor packaging metrics, as part of the organization's [defined industry-wide process](#) for refining or adding U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment metrics.



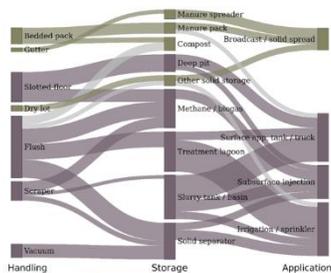
The proposed packaging metrics were first presented back in May as part of the Discussion & Input Sessions at the 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting and have been updated reflecting input to date from the consultative process. The Dairy Sustainability Alliance is now asked to review the metrics and [provide feedback](#) before the consultation period **concludes on October 24, 2022**. Background on development of the proposed metrics and the questions you will be asked to respond to as part of the consultation survey are [available here](#). Please review them prior to [submitting comments](#) for your company/organization.

Please note that if you start the survey, but do not finish, you will have two weeks to complete it from the time you began. Survey respondents are encouraged to collaborate with their colleagues to submit feedback on behalf of their organization, rather than individually.

If you have any questions, please contact [Eric.Hassel@dairy.org](mailto:Eric.Hassel@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:

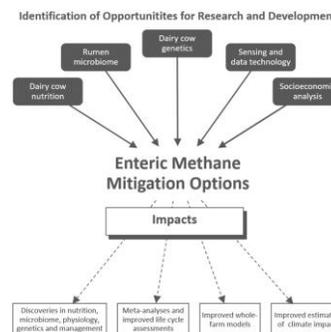


### The Complexity of Manure Management

A [recently published study](#) utilized data from the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) to examine and quantify the relationships between manure handling, storage, and application technologies currently utilized by farmers to better understand the complexity of existing dairy manure management systems and the economic, social, and environmental trade-offs associated with changes or technology adoption. The study highlights the complexity of dairy manure management systems and demonstrates that shifts in one system component (handling, storage, and application) may not be possible without commensurate shifts in other components.

### ADSA Symposium Papers on Methane

Three scientific review articles that were developed from the Innovation Center-sponsored American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Symposium [Advances in Enteric Methane Mitigation in Dairy Cattle: The Last Decade and Future Prospects](#) are now available online. In the [first review article](#), Dr. Alexander Hristov summarizes the existing nutritional options to inhibit enteric methane emissions, focusing primarily on inhibitors, electron sinks, oils and fats, and tanniferous forages. In the [second review article](#), Dr. Dipti Pitta helps us understand that microbes play an important role in methane formation and the effects methane inhibitors have on ruminal microbiome composition and activity. In the [third review article](#), the Innovation Center's Dr. Juan Tricarico synthesizes the knowledge gaps and challenges facing enteric methane mitigation and describes five critical areas of research to develop requests for applications under the [Greener Cattle Initiative](#).





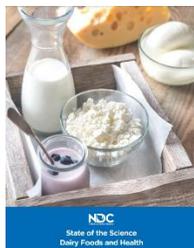
## Translating the Science

Enteric methane mitigation continues to be a topic of widespread interest and discussion. Dr. Juan Tricarico, Vice President of Sustainability Research at Dairy Management Inc., spent his summer actively engaging the scientific and professional communities on enteric methane mitigation:

- Moderated a session on “GHG Mitigation with the Use of Feed Additives” at the [8<sup>th</sup> International Greenhouse Gas & Animal Agriculture Conference \(GGAA\)](#), which was held for the first time in the United States. The conference was attended by 470 people from 46 countries who presented the latest research on the mitigation of agricultural greenhouse gases, measurement, and modeling. Coming out of the event, it was clear there are still various compounds with potential to mitigate enteric methane that require substantial research to build strong evidence on their safety and efficacy before they can be tested on commercial farms. Dr. Tricarico was encouraged that more feed additive choices could be developed in the next 5-10 years.
- Presented about “sustainability in practice at the dairy farm sector” during the 2022 ASAS-CSAS Annual Meeting Production, Management and Environment Symposium: [Sustainability: Moving from Buzzword to Application](#). The presentation emphasized that practicing dairy nutritionists can make valuable contributions to the sector environmental stewardship goals by formulating balanced rations, understanding the critical factors required to evaluate nutritional options to mitigate enteric methane, and understanding and articulating the environmental value feed ingredients provide in addition to nutritional contributions and cost savings.
- In May, [The Daily Churn](#) explains that the U.S. dairy sector is on its way to mitigate enteric methane emissions. While in this [Dairy Business article](#), Dr. Tricarico advises that research must prevail in the process of developing and marketing feed additives for methane mitigation for farmers to choose from depending on their individual farming conditions.
- The true nutritional and environmental benefits of including by-product feeds in dairy cattle rations instead of disposing them through other methods is explained and quantified in the [UDA Magazine Summer Issue](#) (p. 8).

If you have any questions, please contact [Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org](mailto:Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org).

## State of the Science: Dairy Foods and Health



National Dairy Council, which is committed to research and education about dairy’s role in the diet and its contributions to nutrition and health, has released a new resource: [State of the Science: Dairy Foods and Health](#). The resource provides summaries of the current body of science across three broad categories – Milk, Cheese, Yogurt and Health; Emerging Topics; and Public Health Across the Lifespan – along with a reference list of the studies.

If you have any questions about this resource or National Dairy Council, please contact [Erin.Coffield@dairy.org](mailto:Erin.Coffield@dairy.org).

## 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 Goals, continues its work to make sustainable practices and technologies more accessible and affordable for U.S. dairy farms of all sizes and geographies:



- **Emmi Roth** has made a multi-year financial commitment to support the **Dairy Soil & Water Regeneration (DSWR) project**, a six-year research initiative across five major dairy regions that is designed to provide measurement-based assessments of dairy's GHG footprint for feed production. The company will support efforts to not only apply key learnings from this project, but also support U.S. dairy farmers in their efforts to improve environmental sustainability. Through the DSWR project, Emmi Roth is helping advance the U.S. dairy industry toward its collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals to achieve GHG neutrality, optimize water use and improve water quality. You can learn more about the DSWR project on our [October 14 webinar](#).
- Work has begun with Michigan State University on a series of small farm case studies that will look to demonstrate how sustainability practices can be implemented on small and mid-sized farms with fewer than 1,500 cows. As part of the pilot, one farm has been selected from each of four regions – Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and Northwest – and will receive a full report on their environmental footprint and the economic impact of sustainability practices. The pilot will also create producer facing videos, illustrating each farm story to help share learnings, as well as work identify supply chain partners to support each farmer in taking the next steps on their sustainability journey.

If you have any questions about the Net Zero Initiative, please contact [Annie.Kramer@dairy.org](mailto:Annie.Kramer@dairy.org)

## United States to Host the 2023 IDF World Dairy Summit in Chicago

The United States has been selected to host the [International Dairy Federation \(IDF\) World Dairy Summit](#), the world's biggest dairy conference, in October 2023 in Chicago. The Summit provides an opportunity to showcase the dairy sector's innovations in sustainability, nutrition and health, standards, safety, and quality, to accomplish its purpose of nourishing the world with safe, nutritious and sustainable foods.

This is the first time since 1993 that the U.S. has hosted the IDF World Dairy Summit, which provides a vital forum for dairy leaders, experts, farmers, processors, traders and journalists worldwide to discuss how to further advance the collective global dairy sector forward in a positive, sustainable way.

The theme of the IDF World Dairy Summit 2023 is "BE Dairy – Boundless Potential. Endless Possibilities."

For more information about the 2023 IDF World Dairy Summit, visit [www.idfwds2023.com](http://www.idfwds2023.com). For more information about IDF, visit [www.fil-idf.org](http://www.fil-idf.org).

## Dairy Nourishes America: Connecting Knowledge to Action!

The first-ever Feeding America dairy symposium, which was held in Kansas City in June, brought together stakeholders from across the value chain, including food banks, dairy processors and cooperatives, manufacturers and government. The overall goal was to create constructive partnerships that will positively impact communities by building relationships and creating solutions that increase access to nutritious dairy products to the millions of people facing food insecurity. Feeding America, the nationwide network of more than 200 food banks serving 60,000 food pantries and charitable meal programs, has set an ambitious goal of increasing the quantity of dairy distributed through their charitable food system to 10% of the total pounds of food distributed annually by 2025.



To accomplish this bold goal, Feeding America, the dairy community, and partner organizations focused on issues and opportunities to enhance the distribution of dairy to those facing food insecurity. Discussion areas included: the value of dairy in diets of people across the life span; understanding current USDA dairy programs such as [The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#) and the [Dairy Donation Program \(DDP\)](#); and Feeding America's own

programs, such as Milk2MyPlate and Shredding Hunger. New models born out of food banks' desire to provide more dairy to their clients as well as the development of new solutions to the complicated logistics of sourcing and delivering dairy were also discussed.

Attendees successfully connected with partners and allies to develop action plans to drive additional nutritious dairy to food banks and develop promising next steps – everything from researching new options for mobile refrigeration, to educating food bank and food pantry staff on the incomparable nutritional benefits of dairy, to raising the all-important resources with which to provide dairy in food bank sourcing plans.

Jackie Klippenstein, Sr. Vice President, Government Industry & Community Relations at symposium host Dairy Farmers of America, shares a summary of the symposium [here](#). The next dairy symposium will be held in early 2023.

*If you have any questions, about the Dairy Symposium or Dairy Nourishes America efforts, please contact [Tab.Forgac@dairy.org](mailto:Tab.Forgac@dairy.org).*

## Growing Gen Z Engagement in Agriculture

Most in the dairy community are familiar with Fuel Up to Play 60, [GENYOUth](#)'s flagship program dedicated to youth wellness in partnership with the NFL, but did you know the organization also has a program to empower youth as entrepreneurs? GENYOUth's Adventure Capital (AdCap) program partners with global leaders in business, technology and innovation to empower students 13+ to think and act like entrepreneurs by providing tools and resources to help turn students' ideas into lasting, meaningful change for their community and their peers. Students from across the country create a Project Design (independently or by collaborating with peers) and pitch for funding to bring their big ideas to life. To date, almost 4,000 students and over 900 schools have participated in GENYOUth's AdCap program.



This fall, GENYOUth is working on two AdCap programs with Corteva Agriscience and Dairy Sustainability Alliance member Domino's, to help educate how teachers teach and students learn about where food comes from:

- **Domino's: Farm to Pizza:** This program will focus on peers educating peers on where food comes from, sustainable agriculture initiatives, and how farmers and businesses like Domino's are helping protect the environment through food production practices. It includes workshops focused on farming, procurement and production with presentations by farmers, Lepirino and Domino's. The winning student teams will visit Domino's HQ in Ann Arbor and a Michigan dairy farm.
- **Corteva:** With Corteva, GENYOUth is creating a national experience for schools leveraging select American Farm Bureau Purple Plow resources via a classroom Innovation Kit to engage and build foundational understanding of how science and technology are utilized in food and fiber production. Likewise winning teams will be hosted at Corteva's HQ in Indianapolis.

Both programs will be launched this Fall for execution in the 2022-23 school year. Any school can apply to participate and have the opportunity to win a grant to bring their project to life at their school. Information is available on [www.AdCapYouth.com](http://www.AdCapYouth.com).

To learn how you can work with GENYOUth to engage and educate students in your sustainability initiatives, contact [Karen.Kafer@GENYOUth.org](mailto:Karen.Kafer@GENYOUth.org).

## 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 members, [Premier Nutrition Company](#), [Silostop](#), [Thremile Canyon Farms](#), and [Yara North America](#).
- **Farmers for Sustainable Food**, the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance and their partners recently [released the latest findings](#) from its Milkshed Sustainability Project Pilot. Three years of results found that implementing conservation practices has maintained (and in some cases increased) yields and generated positive gross returns per acre all while improving water quality and conserving soil. This farmer-led project was a recipient of a Sustainability Award from the Innovation Center in 2021 and is one of several projects exploring on-farm practices as part of the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative.
- A growing number of Wisconsin farmers are working together to implement agricultural practices that build soil health and help improve water quality in their local watersheds, including some practices that will also help capture and hold carbon in the soil. **The Nature Conservancy** [profiles five farmers](#) who are leading the way on changing management practices and, in doing so, helping their farms remain resilient and profitable in the face of ever-changing conditions.
- While California dairy farmers have been busy adopting more planet-smart practices, so have the people who process and deliver milk. From packaging and recycling to electric trucks, California dairy processors are innovating to implement planet-smart practices across their operations. **Dairy Cares** [featured several unique approaches](#) being put in place to help U.S. dairy reach its 2050 goals.
- Ensuring access to dairy within charitable feeding systems – whether during Hunger Action Month or throughout the year – takes many forms. Earlier this summer, **Southeast Milk, Inc.** and **Land O'Lakes Inc.** [partnered to provide monetary and product donations](#) that will help Second Harvest Food Bank feed families throughout Central Florida. In addition to donating product to community food pantries across its seven regional areas, **Dairy Farmers of America** is also [donating commercial refrigeration](#) to make it easier for them to keep fresh foods like dairy on hand. Every donation – be it financial, product, infrastructure or even time – can have a big impact.
- **Prairie Farms Dairy** has [developed a video series](#) featuring its member farm families and team members aimed at closing the gap between consumers and the food they eat by dispelling common dairy farm myths.
- **Yum! Brands, Pizza Hut and Dairy Farmers of America** [recently announced a partnership](#) that aims to help farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over the course of three years, farms that are involved in the pilot will have their annual GHG and energy footprints evaluated. They will also be provided with SCiO cups – a lab-grade dry matter analyzer that is used to examine cow feed – and be able to adopt other practices and technologies that will make them more sustainable. In addition to supporting the partners' individual GHG emissions goals, they will advance U.S. dairy's efforts to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.

- Forbes recently [profiled a manure recovery technology](#) that was developed with Natural Prairie Dairy, the organic dairy farm of **Dairy Sustainability Alliance farmer representative Cheri De Jong**. The closed loop system created with the technology allows the farmer to upcycle manure into clean water and fertilizer that can be used to grow crops for cow feed.
- Last month, **Nestlé** announced the launch of a free digital platform that offers young innovators and entrepreneurs a place to learn new knowledge and skills, test ideas and grow businesses in areas ranging from food science and technology to the development of products and services, including regenerative agriculture and sustainable packaging. Programs like these can help introduce students to the variety of careers in food and agriculture, while also helping to bring about the solutions that will help the value chain advance sustainability progress.
- Sustainability is not something that can be accomplished alone. To that end, **Bel Brands** has been partnering with cooperatives to improve sustainability in its supply chain. Last year, Bel Brands and **Dairy Farmers of America** initiated a pilot to support the adoption of energy-efficient and cost-effective on-farm milk cooling methods. [First year results](#) show that the use of energy efficient methods, like natural well water systems and barn cooling methods, are important for reducing GHG on dairy farms while also increasing milk production. To build on this success, the two are beginning a new pilot in which Bel Brands will work with a small DFA-member dairy farm to test the smaller farm viability of equipment that has so far been thought only to be useful on a larger dairy. The hope is to promote practices that can be replicated on other farms in the future. In a separate pilot program, Bel Brands is partnering with **Land O'Lakes Inc.** to support the adoption of sustainable farming and feed production practices that improve soil health and reduce GHG emissions. The two also [announced plans to expand](#) this three-year pilot program by adding five additional farms ranging in size from 450 to 2,000 cows.
- Yin Woon Rani, CEO of **MilkPEP**, has been named a Founding [BRIDGE](#) board member. BRIDGE is a purpose-driven community whose mission is to create a cultural shift in companies where Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) principles flow through all facets of an organization, from the C-Suite and marketing, through product development, procurement and customer service.
- In July, **Vanguard Renewables**, which works with dairy farmers and food companies to convert food waste and cow manure into an energy source, [announced it was acquired by BlackRock Real Assets](#), the world's largest asset management company. The acquisition will help drive Vanguard's next phase of growth, including its plans to scale its Farm Powered® program and commission more than 100 anaerobic digesters to produce renewable natural gas across the country by 2026. U.S. dairy can play a key role in the circular economy and in providing renewable energy sources, but investments like this one will be essential to help scale technologies and solutions to farms and business of all sizes and geographies.
- **Chobani** and **Schreiber Foods** are among the [latest companies to join](#) the Farm Powered Strategic Alliance, a collaboration to boost food waste reduction and recycling and expand renewable energy production across America. [Learn more about resource recovery and food waste reduction efforts at the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall meeting.](#)
- To progress toward its net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) goal, **Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA)** [has set an interim goal](#) of a 30% reduction in Scopes 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions by 2030. TCCA's environmental sustainability goals, which align with U.S. dairy's 2050 environmental stewardship goals, are backed by its newly developed Climate Action Plan that defines their strategy for making climate-related progress over time, including improvements to its facilities and fleet and working with its supply chain partners.

# Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Fall 2022

- **Saputo** has [released its 2022 Saputo Promise Report](#), which highlights and transparently reports the company's progress towards its ESG objectives in seven key areas.
- Ann Sorensen, Senior Research Advisor at **American Farmland Trust**, has [received the Hugh Hammond Bennet Award](#) from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The award recognizes Ann's extraordinary accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources that has advanced the science, policy, and implementation of conservation through applied research, innovative pilot projects, farmer engagement, and science-based advocacy.

## Upcoming Events

Ongoing	<a href="#">Food Safety Basics for Ice Cream Makers Online Training Course</a>	Online Training
Ongoing	<a href="#">Food Safety Basics for Artisan Cheesemakers Online Training Courses</a>	Online Training
Sept. 27-28	Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop <i>Hosted by Sargento Foods. <a href="#">Click here</a> to register.</i>	Plymouth, WI
Oct. 2-7	<a href="#">World Dairy Expo</a>	Madison, WI
Oct. 12	National Farmers Day	
Oct. 14 <i>11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Central</i>	Dairy Soil and Water Regeneration Project: Supporting 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals <a href="#">Click here</a> to register.	Webinar
Oct. 20 <i>2:00-3:00 p.m. Central</i>	Member Discovery Series Webinar - Corporate-Nonprofit Partnership Model: How to Collaborate Successfully to Implement Conservation on Farms <a href="#">Click here</a> to register.	Webinar
Oct. 24	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Comment Period Closes for Proposed U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment Processor Packaging Metrics	
Oct. 28	<b>DEADLINE:</b> Comment Period Closes for National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program Version 5	
Nov. 14-15	<a href="#">2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting</a> <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	<a href="#">2022 Sustainable Agriculture Summit</a>	Glendale, AZ