



U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment Handbook

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The information, indicators and metrics provided in this U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment (Stewardship Commitment) document are based on stakeholder input and statistical estimates, and not on actual assessments of your dairy farm's or company's operations or business needs. As such, the information, indicators and metrics should not form the basis for decisions without first obtaining appropriate professional, scientific, engineering and / or legal advice specific to your dairy farm or company. The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy (Innovation Center) and Dairy Management Inc. make no representations, warranties or guarantees related to the information, indicators and metrics provided in the Stewardship Commitment document of any kind, express or implied, statutory or otherwise, and specifically disclaim all implied warranties, including any warranties of merchantability, noninfringement or fitness for a particular purpose, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. In no event will the Innovation Center, Dairy Management Inc. or their affiliated entities be liable to any party for damages for loss of data, lost profits, or any indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising from use of the information, indicators and metrics provided in this Stewardship Commitment document, even if advised of the possibility.

ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

In 2018, the Innovation Center launched the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment (Stewardship Commitment) to document how U.S. dairy responsibly produces milk and dairy products, brings value to the communities it serves and reports progress credibly and transparently.

Governance and Oversight

The U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment is overseen by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy (Innovation Center), a voluntary organization that works pre-competitively with and through the dairy value chain to foster collaboration and progress to build a healthy and sustainable future for the dairy community, the people it serves and the planet we all share. Established in 2008 through the leadership and ongoing support of dairy farmers, the Innovation Center unites farmers, cooperatives, processors and buyers to address precompetitive priorities that strengthen and build trust in the U.S. dairy sector. While farmers continue to fund the mission at the heart of the Innovation Center, dairy companies also contribute by funding specific programs and initiatives that advance shared industry goals.

The Innovation Center is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of dairy company CEOs and executives, farmer representatives and industry leaders representing more than two-thirds of U.S. milk production. The Board sets strategic priorities informed by industry research, stakeholder insights and the U.S. dairy materiality assessment.

The Executive Operating Committee (EOC), a subgroup of the Board, oversees the work of several expert-led committees. These committees help guide the development and refinement of Stewardship Commitment terms and metrics as it relates to their focus areas. The Stewardship Commitment Committee was established to collaborate with the other committees and specifically advance adoption, reporting and credibility of the Commitment.

Dairy cooperatives and processors that adopt the Stewardship Commitment must submit a written affirmation statement signed by a senior executive or CEO. In doing so, adopters affirm to support the values of U.S. dairy, participate in the pre-competitive process, utilize best practices through Stewardship metrics, and communicate progress in alignment with industry and company values.

To identify and guide sustainability priorities in the U.S. dairy industry, the Innovation Center conducted the first national materiality assessment in 2018, which reflected the sustainability topics that mattered most from field-to-processor gate. Building from the second materiality assessment conducted in 2021, the 2025 U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment adopted the approach of double materiality — incorporating materiality guidance from sustainability standards — and received third-party verification for the first time. The double materiality approach expanded the assessment to consider U.S. dairy's impact as well as the financial risks and opportunities.

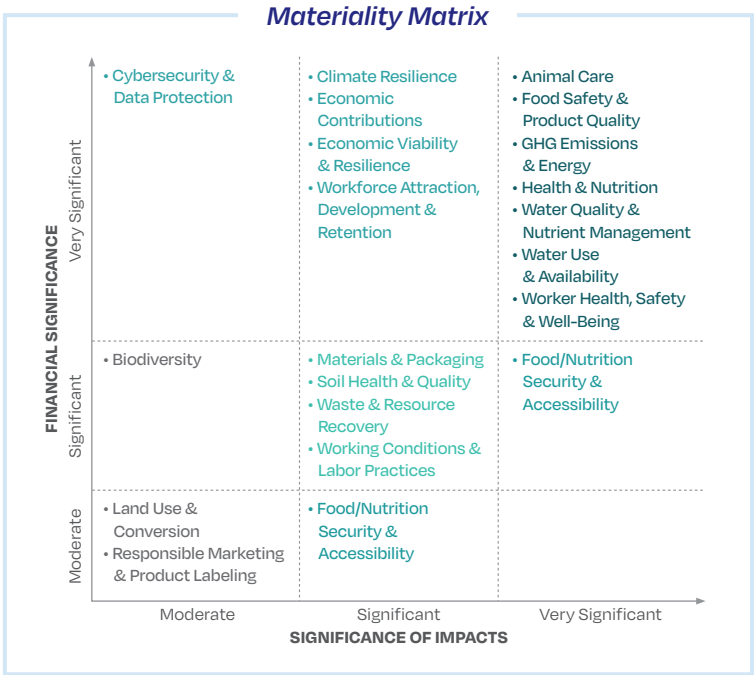
Terms and Metrics Development

The Stewardship Commitment is built on a foundation of clear terms (principles that define shared commitments) and credible metrics (measures of progress). Together, these elements provide the framework for demonstrating and tracking industry-wide sustainability performance. For long-term relevancy and value, the Stewardship Commitment is updated regularly to reflect the latest science, insights and priorities, as well as the most recent U.S. Dairy materiality assessment.

A formal and transparent process governs how terms and metrics are created and approved. This process is:

- Led by the Stewardship Commitment Committee
- Guided by the AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard
- Informed by input from:
 - Board members and industry committees
 - Members of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance®
 - Stakeholders through a public comment and review period
- Anchored in U.S. dairy's third-party verified materiality assessment

To ensure alignment and credibility, the Stewardship Commitment also draws upon globally recognized frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the GHG Protocol, where appropriate, while harmonizing with other sustainability programs to reduce duplication and streamline reporting such as the National Dairy FARM Program and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative's Sustainable Dairy Partnership.



ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Dairy cooperatives and processors that adopt the Stewardship Commitment sign a written affirmation statement and annually affirm that the company meets the rigorous terms outlined below. As of July 2025, companies representing more than 77% of the U.S. milk production have adopted the Stewardship Commitment. Participation is updated regularly at www.usdairy.com/commitment.

Terms of Adoption

Animal Care



Environment



Food Safety & Traceability



Community



Transparency & Communication



Engagement & Strategic Alignment



Dairy cooperatives and processors that, in the exercise of their independent business judgment, decide to adopt the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment agree to the following:

- 1 Active membership in the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® and agreement to its terms of membership.
- 2 Enrolled and in good standing with the National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) animal care program and/or sourcing from 100% FARM-enrolled farms.
- 3 Completion and affirmation of a company materiality assessment within two years of Commitment adoption, OR incorporation of the most recent Innovation Center U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment into company priorities and strategic considerations.
- 4 Use of Stewardship Metrics for areas assessed by the company as priorities. At a minimum, this includes:
 - a Dairy cooperatives and processors use the current version of the FARM program for animal care reporting.
 - b Dairy cooperatives and proprietary processors (i.e., those with direct-ship contracts) are actively involved in the FARM Environmental Stewardship Program (FARM ES), using it to assess on-farm GHG, energy and nutrient management metrics.
 - c Dairy processors report annually using measurements consistent with methodologies outlined in the Dairy Processor Handbook (e.g., GHG, water, energy, resource/waste recovery); processors use the Processor Stewardship Reporting Tool to support aggregated U.S. dairy reporting.
 - d Dairy processors adopt and apply food safety plans which they regularly update and follow the guidance in the Innovation Center's Food Safety and Traceability Guidance documents.
 - e Dairy cooperatives and processors report community contributions.
- 5 Engagement in Innovation Center volunteer and partnership opportunities to discuss and inform future indicators, metrics and reporting needs, and active stakeholder communication aimed at telling U.S. dairy's social responsibility story.
- 6 Recognition of U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment adoption in dairy company's sustainability messaging, customer outreach and on their website.
- 7 Affirmation of U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment adoption and agreement with terms through an annual verification questionnaire.

Note: The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy follows all applicable antitrust regulations. Each company is encouraged to exercise its own independent business judgment regarding whether or not to participate in this initiative and if so how. None of the suggested activities will take any action toward antitrust-prohibited subject matters such as pricing, allocation of customers or markets, boycotts, refusals to deal, or any other matter that could be construed as a combination in restraint of trade.

Active involvement in FARM ES is defined as meeting one (or both) of the following levels of enrollment in each FARM ES version cycle: Evaluations must be completed on member or direct-ship farms selected using the FARM ES Sampling Protocol, which is representative of the entire organization's farmgate milk supply, - OR - Evaluations must be completed at 100% of member or direct-ship farms. For organizations currently not meeting the active involvement definition, definition must be fully met within the FARM ES v.3 cycle (2024-27).

ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Value and Benefits

The U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment is the industry's framework for advancing and demonstrating transparent, science-based sustainability progress.

Dairy cooperatives and processors that adopt the Stewardship Commitment signal to customers, investors and other stakeholders that not only are they aligned behind a unified standard of continuous improvement, they directly contribute to industry progress and reporting. The Stewardship Commitment provides a collaborative platform and consistent voice that benefits the entire U.S. dairy value chain.



BENEFITS TO FARMERS

Reflects long-standing farmer values underscoring decades of commitment to caring for animals, protecting resources and producing safe milk.

Ensures science-based practices are recognized reinforcing and driving alignment to tools like the FARM Program that were developed with direct input from farmers to simplify and streamline measurement and reporting.

Strengthens competitiveness and confidence ensuring farmers' milk is recognized in the marketplace as responsibly produced, sustainable and trusted.

Amplifies the farmer story by showcasing the responsible practices that farmers do every day to nourish people and protect the planet.



BENEFITS TO COOPERATIVES AND PROCESSORS

Provides built-in credibility through transparent reporting and shared sustainability standards, giving stakeholders confidence in company performance.

Elevates company commitment and leadership, enabling strong, consistent storytelling - backed by credible data - about dairy's essential role in responsibly and sustainably nourishing a growing population.

Simplifies measurement and reporting by aligning to common reporting standards, frameworks and questionnaires.

Drives collective progress as actions are taken in lockstep with others across the industry, building momentum no matter where a company is on its sustainability journey.



BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS AND CONSTITUENTS

Serves as a trusted signal of responsible sourcing giving consumers confidence that the dairy they purchase - in all forms - meets rigorous sustainability standards.

Supports corporate sustainability goals, reporting and communications given alignment to globally recognized frameworks and standards.

Fosters more effective collaboration with suppliers creating a shared foundation of transparent, consistent and credible data across the dairy supply chain.

Helps future-proof your supply chain by reinforcing responsible sourcing practices and minimizing reputational risk.

ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Cooperatives and Processors adopt the
U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment

Acts + Reports

Terms of Adoption

- Common principles and expectations for sustainability leadership
- Participation in FARM Animal Care and FARM Environmental Stewardship
- Participation in U.S. dairy's pre-competitive, multi-stakeholder input process to develop and align on important industry priorities

Metrics and Reporting

- Standardized measurement and reporting into the Processor Stewardship Reporting Tool (PSRT) by all adopters
- Consistent, credible tracking of progress and performance

Drives Sustainability Progress *through aligned action and reporting*

Company-level

- Company-level action, progress reporting and communications
- Customer reporting such as through Sustainable Agriculture Initiative's Sustainable Dairy Partnership

Industry-level

- U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report
- Progress update to 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals
- Annual reporting to Dairy Sustainability Framework

Globally recognized best practices and guidance protocols for development of sustainability and reporting standards.



Alignment in the Value Chain through the National Dairy FARM Program:

The Stewardship Commitment requires participation in FARM Animal Care and FARM Environmental Stewardship. This drives alignment across the value chain so that farmers, co-ops and processors use a single set of on-farm tools and standards. For farmers, it reduces complexity by ensuring one consistent platform for measurement. For adopters, it simplifies data collection and reporting, enabling more credible, consistent information across suppliers.



Dairy Sustainability Framework

National Representation on a Global Stage through the Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF):

The Innovation Center is an aggregating member of the DSF, which connects dairy sustainability efforts worldwide. Data from Stewardship Commitment is submitted for DSF reporting, ensuring that all U.S. dairy companies adopting the Commitment are recognized globally as DSF members.



Sustainable
Dairy
Partnership
Business to Business

Consistent Reporting to Customers through the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform's Sustainable Dairy Partnership (SDP):

Through participation in SAI Platform's Dairy Working Group, the Innovation Center collaborates with dairy customers, companies, and national programs to provide U.S. perspectives and advance recognition of the Stewardship Commitment. The SDP, built on DSF criteria, provides a consistent global approach to dairy sustainability in commercial relationships between dairy companies and their buyers. By adopting the Stewardship Commitment, companies can demonstrate and satisfy many SDP requirements, streamlining efforts.

Industry Progress Reporting through the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report:

Aggregated national data reported by adopters of the Stewardship Commitment through the Processor Stewardship Reporting Tool (PSRT) is incorporated into the biennial U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report. The latest report featured trends and insights in areas across sustainability, including metrics that enable progress tracking against the industry-wide 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT METRICS

Priority	Indicator & Metric
DAIRY PROCESSING	
Activity / Intensity ¹	Dairy Production: Lbs. of production output
GHG Emissions & Energy	Energy Use by Source: Total energy use (measured by MMBTU and kWh) by source type*
	Renewable Energy: Percentage of grid electricity generated from renewable sources
	Renewable Energy Mechanisms: Percentage of reporting adopters with a power purchasing agreement or renewable energy credit that defines how the electricity purchased is sourced
	GHG Emissions: Total GHG emissions by Scope 1 and 2 and by GHG type*
Water Use & Recycling	Water Withdrawal: Gallons of water withdrawn by source of water supply*
	Water Efficiency: Gallons of water withdrawn/lb. of production output
	Water Recycling & Reuse: Gallons of water supplied that are captured for reuse within the facility + milk water captured for use*
	Milk Water Use: Gallons of water captured from milk for use within facility*
	Surplus Water: Discharge volume – water withdrawn*
Water Quality	Water Discharge & Quality: Policy, program or monitoring system to ensure routine compliance with industrial or storm water permit parameters (Y/N)
Waste & Resource Recovery	Waste Diversion: Percentage of waste stream (lbs.) diverted from landfill or incineration without energy recapture
	Throughput Efficiency: Total waste stream*
	Resource Utilization: Food/organics (a) repurposed to feed hungry people, (b) donated or repurposed as animal feed and non-food recycled or composted (lbs.), (c) repurposed for industrial uses or compost and non-food repurposed for energy recovery (lbs.) and (d) waste sent to landfill or incineration without recapturing energy (lbs.)
Materials & Packaging	Recycled Content: Research/investment in use of post-consumer and/or post-industrial recycled content (Y/N)
	Material Optimization: Exploring options to reduce or replace non-recyclable and/or non-compostable packaging (Y/N)
	Material Utilization: Materials used for product packaging by primary, secondary, and tertiary packaging
Workforce Development	Jobs: Total number of jobs supplied and full-time employees at the end of year
	Benefits: Indirect and non-monetary benefits available to employees
Worker Health & Safety	Leading Indicators: Leading indicators to measure/encourage safe worker behavior (Y/N; Optional description)
	DART Rate: Days of restricted work activity or job transfer (DART) rate
Community Impact (including Food Security & Accessibility)	Volunteering: Volunteer activities performed by employees
	Donations: Monetary and product donation activities
	Educational Opportunities: Describe community educational events per year
	Product Contributions: Dairy donated or consistently supplied to a non-profit organization to feed food insecure people (Y/N)
Food Safety & Product Quality	Food Safety Programs: Validated, verifiable food safety programs and management systems in place (Y/N)
	Food Safety Program Reassessments: Frequent reassessment of food safety programs to ensure efficacy and to reflect new food safety tools/practices and ensure continuous improvement (Y/N)
	Traceability: Commitment to voluntary U.S. Dairy Traceability Guidelines (Y/N)
DAIRY FARM / MILK PRODUCTION	
Activity / Intensity	Milk Production: Lbs. of Fat- and Protein-Corrected Milk (FPCM)
GHG Emissions & Energy	Energy Use: Total energy use (converted to MMBTU)*
	GHG Emissions: Total GHG emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)*
Water Use & Recycling	Water Use: Gallons of water withdrawn (for lactating cows)*
Water Quality & Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management Plan: Written Nutrient Management Plan implemented and maintained (Y/N)
Animal Care	FARM Animal Care: Participation in the FARM Animal Care program (Y/N)
FIELD / FEED PRODUCTION	
GHG Emissions	U.S. dairy's LCA for U.S. Milk underpins GHG and energy metrics for feed production. Metrics mirror those used at the dairy farm and are reported in aggregate.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Plans: Written and implemented plans or programs that preserve restore and/or improve biodiversity
	Biodiversity Practices: Implemented practices that preserve, restore and/or improve biodiversity
Land Use, Water & Soil	The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy® continues to work with Field to Market® to ensure these indicators and metrics are useful and relevant to dairy.

¹Intensity metrics are leveraged and reported to emphasize efficiency, align with global standards, and are especially useful for industry-aggregated reporting. Intensity measures normalize data, making collective progress visible even as overall production levels or product mixes shift. Please note metrics with an asterisk (*) as these indicate an intensity metric is applied.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT METRICS – DAIRY PROCESSING

Adopters of the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment with dairy processing operations are required to report annually on a set of standardized sustainability metrics. These metrics enable both company- and industry-level progress tracking against core sustainability priorities.

All processing metrics are submitted through the Processor Stewardship Reporting Tool (PSRT). Developed specifically to support the Stewardship Commitment, the PSRT allows adopters to input facility-level data and automatically generate company dashboards, while contributing to aggregate industry-level reporting.

Participation in the Processor Stewardship Reporting LLC – an independent entity governed by a committee elected by the LLC membership – is required for any adopter with processing capacity. Membership in the LLC enables access to the PSRT at a significantly discounted rate.

Adopters reporting annually through the PSRT help to demonstrate dairy’s collective progress at the processing level and reinforce the industry’s commitment to transparency, stewardship, and continuous improvement.

Alignment of Stewardship Commitment Metrics

The GHG Reporting Guidance associated with the GHG-related Stewardship Commitment metrics received the “Built on GHG Protocol” endorsement from the World Resources Institute (WRI), a founder of both the GHG Protocol and Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). This assures stakeholders that Stewardship Commitment GHG metrics align and comply with GHG Protocol standards and SBTi methodologies, while supporting supply chain and other required disclosures such as in CDP. Additionally, where applicable, Stewardship Commitment metrics closely align with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) disclosure standards, supporting those seeking to develop a GRI-aligned report.



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



SCIENCE
BASED
TARGETS
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION



Priority	Indicator & Metrics
Activity / Intensity ¹	Dairy Production: Lbs. of production output
GHG Emissions & Energy	Energy Use by Source: Total energy use (measured by MMBTU and kWh) by source type*
	Renewable Energy: Percentage of grid electricity generated from renewable sources
	Renewable Energy Mechanisms: Percentage of reporting adopters with a power purchasing agreement or renewable energy credit that defines how the electricity purchased is sourced
	GHG Emissions: Total GHG emissions by Scope 1 and 2 and by GHG type*
Water Use & Recycling	Water Withdrawal: Gallons of water withdrawn by source of water supply*
	Water Efficiency: Gallons of water withdrawn/lb. of production output
	Water Recycling & Reuse: Gallons of water supplied that are captured for reuse within the facility + milk water captured for use*
	Milk Water Use: Gallons of water captured from milk for use within facility*
	Surplus Water: Discharge volume – water withdrawn*
Water Quality	Water Discharge & Quality: Policy, program or monitoring system to ensure routine compliance with industrial or storm water permit parameters (Y/N)
Waste & Resource Recovery	Waste Diversion: Percentage of waste stream (lbs.) diverted from landfill or incineration without energy recapture
	Throughput Efficiency: Total waste stream*
	Resource Utilization: Food/organics (a) repurposed to feed hungry people, (b) donated or repurposed as animal feed and non-food recycled or composted (lbs.), (c) repurposed for industrial uses or compost and non-food repurposed for energy recovery (lbs.) and (d) waste sent to landfill or incineration without recapturing energy (lbs.)
Materials & Packaging	Recycled Content: Research/investment in use of post-consumer and/or post-industrial recycled content (Y/N)
	Material Optimization: Exploring options to reduce or replace non-recyclable and/or non-compostable packaging (Y/N)
	Material Utilization: Materials used for product packaging by primary, secondary and tertiary packaging
Workforce Development	Jobs: Total number of jobs supplied and full-time employees at the end of year
	Benefits: Indirect and non-monetary benefits available to employees
Worker Health Safety	Leading Indicators: Leading indicators to measure/encourage safe worker behavior (Y/N; Optional description)
	DART Rate: Days of restricted work activity or job transfer (DART) rate
Community Impact (including Food Security & Accessibility)	Volunteering: Volunteer activities performed by employees
	Donations: Monetary and product donation activities
	Educational Opportunities: Describe community educational events per year
	Product Contributions: Dairy donated or consistently supplied to a non-profit organization to feed food-insecure people (Y/N)
Food Safety & Product Quality	Food Safety Programs: Validated, verifiable food safety programs and management systems in place (Y/N)
	Food Safety Program Reassessments: Frequent reassessment of food safety programs to ensure efficacy and to reflect new food safety tools/practices and ensure continuous improvement (Y/N)
	Traceability: Commitment to voluntary U.S. Dairy Traceability Guidelines (Y/N)

¹Intensity metrics are leveraged and reported to emphasize efficiency, align with global standards, and are especially useful for industry-aggregated reporting. Intensity measures normalize data, making collective progress visible even as overall production levels or product mixes shift. Please note metrics with an asterisk (*) as these indicate an intensity metric is applied.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT METRICS – MILK PRODUCTION

Adopters are encouraged to engage with the dairy farms and measure a core set of dairy farm metrics designed to demonstrate U.S. dairy farmers’ long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, animal care and continuous improvement. These metrics are grounded in nationally recognized standards and collected through robust, science-based programs, enabling consistent, credible reporting across the industry.

The foundation for these metrics is the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program, which is available to all U.S. dairy farms, cooperatives, and processors. Implemented by trained, certified evaluators, dairy producers can measure, report and demonstrate their commitment to key areas of responsible production through the FARM program.

Animal care is a core component of the Stewardship Commitment; as outlined in Term #2, adopters must either be in good standing with FARM Animal Care or source exclusively from farms that are. Currently covering 99% of U.S. milk supply, the FARM Animal Care program focuses on key areas including animal housing, health protocols, employee training, veterinary oversight, and recordkeeping.

Additionally, Stewardship Commitment adopters that are considered cooperatives or proprietary processors (i.e., those with direct-ship contracts) are required to be actively involved in the FARM Environmental Stewardship (FARM ES) program, as outlined in Term #4B. This requirement directly supports efforts to advance the industry’s 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals, as the FARM ES program is U.S. dairy’s national program to measure and report on-farm environmental progress. Conducted by trained second-party evaluators, FARM ES offers standardized and comprehensive estimates

of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy use, in addition to assessing the establishment of written, implemented and maintained nutrient management plans. These results are confidential, facility-specific, and designed to support continuous improvement.

FARM Animal Care is both ISO-compliant and PAACO-certified, reflecting high standards for ethical and science-based livestock care.

Foundations of FARM ES GHG Metrics

The methodologies behind the GHG metrics in FARM ES are based on the latest cradle-to-farm gate life cycle assessment (LCA), ensuring statistically robust estimates and alignment to best practice standards such as from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Dairy Federation (IDF), the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the GHG Protocol Land Sector and Removals (LSRS).



Priority	Indicator & Metrics
Activity / Intensity ¹	Milk Production: Lbs. of Fat- and Protein-Corrected Milk (FPCM)
GHG Emissions & Energy	Energy Use: Total energy use (converted to MMBTU)*
	GHG Emissions: Total GHG emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)*
Water Use & Recycling	Water Use: Gallons of water withdrawn (for lactating cows)*
Water Quality & Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management Plan: Written Nutrient Management Plan implemented and maintained (Y/N)
Animal Care	FARM Animal Care: Participation in the FARM Animal Care program (Y/N)

Tools & Resources

Animal Care

- **Producer Resources**, <https://bit.ly/37O8CEx>: Resources include the Animal Care Reference Manual, training materials and farmer tools.
- **Year in Review**, <https://bit.ly/3jGCiFI>: Provides an annual report of FARM progress and details the national results of on-farm assessments.

Environment

- **FARM Environmental Stewardship**, <http://bit.ly/2pRA3Uc>: Resources include fact sheets, data collection templates, an Environmental Stewardship reference manual and training videos.
- **Newtrient**, www.newtrient.com: Helps dairy farmers and other stakeholders assess manure management opportunities and challenges to make informed decisions. Resources include a catalog of technologies and vendors, and education materials.

¹Intensity metrics are leveraged and reported to emphasize efficiency, align with global standards, and are especially useful for industry-aggregated reporting. Intensity measures normalize data, making collective progress visible even as overall production levels or product mixes shift. Please note metrics with an asterisk (*) as these indicate an intensity metric is applied.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT METRICS - FEED PRODUCTION

Adopters are encouraged to engage with feed producers and measure a core set of feed production metrics. Feed production represents a significant area of sustainability impact and opportunity for U.S. dairy. Although dairy farmers grow only about 35% of the feed they use - limiting their access to primary data for the majority of their feed supply - this area remains a critical priority for sustainability progress across the value chain.

To address gaps in data and measurement for feed production, the Innovation Center collaborates with leading organizations to support research, projects and tools that enable credible reporting and continuous improvement.

As part of Term #4B of the Stewardship Commitment, applicable adopters must be actively involved in FARM ES, which captures key indicators related to feed production. The Innovation Center collaborates with FARM ES to develop and refine feed production metrics, thus ensuring that participation in FARM ES aligns with important feed production metrics. For example, the Innovation Center introduced biodiversity metrics in 2021, which were integrated into a voluntary conservation practice questionnaire within the FARM ES program in 2022. These metrics assess the presence of biodiversity

enhancing practices and plans, helping to better understand current efforts and inform future improvements in this area.

Because roughly 45% of dairy cattle feed consists of corn silage and alfalfa, the Innovation Center also collaborates with Field to Market to harmonize on-farm sustainability metrics. The formal partnership also helps enable U.S. dairy to track sustainable production of dairy feed crops through Field to Market's nationally recognized sustainability metrics platform. Companies may also engage directly with Field to Market to meet individual supply chain goals and reporting needs.

Continued industry engagement in these initiatives is critical to advancing the credibility, consistency, and transparency of U.S. dairy's sustainability leadership — both for on-farm-grown and purchased feed.

Priority	Indicator & Metrics
GHG Emissions	U.S. dairy's LCA for U.S. Milk underpins GHG and energy metrics for feed production. Metrics mirror those used at the dairy farm and are reported in aggregate.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Plans: Written and implemented plans or programs that preserve restore and/or improve biodiversity
	Biodiversity Practices: Implemented practices that preserve, restore and/or improve biodiversity
Land Use, Water & Soil	The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy® continues to work with Field to Market® to ensure these indicators and metrics are useful and relevant to dairy.

Tools & Resources

- Field to Market, www.fieldtomarket.org:** Learn about Field to Market membership. See examples of ongoing projects and how farmers and the supply chain are working together to catalyze continuous improvement.
- Fieldprint® Platform, <http://bit.ly/2sZkSOH>:** An assessment framework that empowers brands, retailers, suppliers and farmers to measure environmental impacts in crop production and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, <https://bit.ly/3C7EkJ2>:** Provides technical and financial assistance to farmers. Programs, such as the Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET), are available to support and advance sustainable feed production.
- Dairy Conservation Navigator, <https://www.dairyconservation.org>:** Resource includes science-based information about dairy conservation, including practices and technologies that reduce farmer’s environmental impact.

