



Make the U.S. Dairy Traceability Commitment

On Sept. 10, 2013, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy[®] — established under the leadership of America's dairy producers through the dairy checkoff program — announced voluntary, enhanced dairy traceability best practices. The practices were designed by processors, for processors, to increase global competitiveness, help satisfy future requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and, in the rare event of a safety issue, quickly isolate products to protect public health and prevent brand damage.

Five processors, accounting for more than 20 percent of U.S. milk production, committed to adopting and applying the traceability best practices when they were announced. They are Darigold, Glanbia Foods, Hilmar Cheese Company, Leprino Foods and Michigan Milk Producers Association.

In the coming months, all processors will be asked to agree to the "U.S. Dairy Traceability Commitment." The goal is to see processor commitments cover at least 80 percent of the U.S. milk supply by Sept. 2014.

The U.S. Dairy Traceability Commitment says:

(Name of processor) commits to adopt and apply the recommended best practices for traceability outlined in the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's "Guidance for Dairy Product Enhanced Traceability." The best practices include these three pillars of dairy traceability for processors:

- Modeling physical plants to know where new lots enter and where products transform
- Creating a lot identifying mark that will be recognized and used by customers
- Utilizing enhanced record-keeping that will assist in expedient and effective recall capability

"Our 80 percent goal by September 2014 is ambitious but attainable," said Dermot Carey, vice president of the Ingredients Division at Darigold and the chairman of the Innovation Center's Traceability Subcommittee. "We want U.S. dairy to be the global leader for traceability."

If your company is ready to make the commitment, or simply has questions, contact Tim Stubbs at tim.stubbs@dairy.org. Your company will be listed in future updates and you can promote your U.S. Dairy Traceability Commitment in your marketing materials. Learn more about the traceability best practices [here](#).