

Leadership Perspective: U.S. Dairy is Ready for the Road Ahead

A Letter from Mike Haddad, Chair, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Board of Directors and Chairman, Schreiber Foods Inc.



As the world struggles with escalating concerns regarding climate change, unending disruption caused by the pandemic, and the horror of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there's only one thing that's certain: it's never been more important to consider what's right for humanity and our planet in every decision we make.

The broad adoption of this principle can be seen in the significant uptick in conscious consumerism. In December 2021, the ninth annual [Conscious Consumer Spending Index \(CCS Index\)](#) revealed record-breaking levels of socially responsible spending, with the CCS Index climbing to an all-time high, jumping 25% from 2020. Today's consumers are deeply concerned about how their actions and choices affect the world around them, and they are more informed and more aware of their impact than ever. They also expect brands and businesses to mirror their values. According to [Edelman's 2022 Trust Barometer](#) (if you missed the webinar earlier this month, [learn more here](#)), people expect businesses to play a role in addressing societal problems – especially climate change (52%), economic inequality (49%), and workforce reskilling (46%).

Many – including U.S. dairy – are heeding the call. Within our own industry, dozens of dairy companies have committed to sustainability initiatives and targets that collectively support U.S. dairy's 2050 environmental stewardship goals of achieving greenhouse gas neutrality, optimizing water usage, and improving water quality. On a global scale, nearly every country on Earth committed to reaching net zero by mid-century at the 26th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November, and over 111 countries have joined the U.S. in signing the [Global Methane Pledge](#) to cut methane emissions by 30% in the next eight years.

As more and more businesses, sectors, and entities step up, make commitments, and demonstrate progress, we can be proud of how well-positioned U.S. dairy is to meet the rigorous standards of today, tomorrow, and beyond. Our industry has been at the forefront of agriculture for many years, advancing sustainability and social responsibility actions benefitting communities here and around the world. And, today, we are more aligned than ever on our path forward.

At the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Board meeting in January, an updated strategic plan was approved for 2022-2025. It reasserts the focus on dairy as a transformative solution that can advance health and wellbeing, regenerate the environment by supporting our natural ecosystems and resources, and foster healthy animals and communities. Embedded in the plan are the sustainability topics identified as top priorities for our industry and its stakeholders in the [2021 Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy](#).

It's imperative to demonstrate action and progress, and U.S. dairy is delivering on both. Our entire industry has been taking actions big and small to drive meaningful change, and every individual, every farm, and every dairy business can play a role in achieving our environmental stewardship goals. As we work together to further advance our collective impact, the [U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment](#) will continue to serve as a critical tool for demonstrating and documenting how our industry is responsibly producing dairy products and reporting on key priorities like animal care, environment, food safety, and community engagement.

U.S. dairy is on the right path, and we must continue to work in tandem and stay focused on our long-term vision. At the [Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting](#) in May, we will discuss the updated strategic plan and the next steps we will take together to ensure we have thriving dairy communities and a more sustainable world for generations to come – I hope you will join us.

Registration Open for 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting



Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Spring 2022

Registration is [now open](#) for the **2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting**, *Unlocking Transformative Good for People and the Planet*. We are excited to be back in-person in Oak Brook, IL, with a virtual option available.



The food marketplace is rapidly changing. Both consumers and other stakeholders seek demonstrable proof of positive progress and a commitment to provide solutions to today's challenges.

The increased urgency around both climate change and social aspects of sustainability requires a holistic approach, and there is increased recognition and expectation that business profit goes hand-in-hand with the ability to provide societal benefits. Amidst the day-to-day business considerations and the volatility of rising costs, global conflicts, supply chain disruptions and extreme weather events, there exists the opportunity for transformation and innovation.

Join us **May 18-19 in Oak Brook, IL** for the 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting as we explore U.S. dairy's collective path to providing solutions that advance well-being and help regenerate the environment while also caring for our animals and communities. Learn how you can be part of the continued collaboration that will be necessary to help us reach a future where dairy unlocks transformative good for people and the planet.

[Register today](#) and [make your reservation](#) to join us at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center. Early Registration will be available through April 25 at rates of \$300 for Members, \$400 for non-Members and \$150 for virtual. A special hotel group rate is also available until April 25, or until the group block sells out. Be sure to reserve your room early to secure this discounted rate.

Virtual attendees will have access to a livestream of main stage sessions along with Zoom links to participate in onsite breakout sessions and a virtual discussion and input session with other remote attendees. Additional details and a draft agenda are available on the event website: <http://AllianceMeeting.USDairy.com>.

Following the Spring Meeting, we invite you to stay for the afternoon and join industry leaders for **Health and Sustainability: A Focus on Dairy Animal Nutrition, Feeding and Management**, a complimentary symposium sponsored by Phibro Animal Health, along with the Innovation Center and DMI.

Animal agriculture is in the spotlight as countries around the world work to achieve aggressive UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Healthy animals are vital to tackling critical goals including poverty, public health and climate change. While the U.S. dairy industry has an excellent track record for animal care and environmental stewardship, forward thinking and continued innovation in nutrition and overall farm management is key to keeping animals and dairy businesses healthy.

The symposium features an impressive lineup of dairy animal health experts who'll address the role of nutrition, feed ingredients and farm management on the path to a more sustainable future. Learn more and register [here](#). A separate registration is required.

We will also host a **pre-webinar on May 10** (see "Spring Webinar Series" below for details) to introduce the Innovation Center's three-year strategic plan and lay the foundation for further discussions at the Spring Meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Spring Meeting, we highly encourage you to participate in this webinar.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please visit <http://AllianceMeeting.USDairy.com> or contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Innovation Center Releases 2021 U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment



2021 Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy
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In 2021, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy conducted a refresh of the national materiality assessment completed in 2019. The process was designed to review the topics from the 2019 assessment and to consider any necessary changes to ensure the latest insights and stakeholder expectations and interests are reflected.

The [2021 U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment](https://www.usdairy.com/commitment) is now available in the resources section of [www.usdairy.com/Commitment](https://www.usdairy.com/commitment). Along with extensive research, more than 150 participants from the Dairy Sustainability Alliance and beyond, including farmer, cooperative, processor, customers/brands, environmental nonprofits, industry organizations, and others actively contributed to this resource. This assessment further bolsters the positioning of U.S. dairy's sustainability priorities and leadership in the market and on the world stage through the lens of a globally recognized process and standard.

While all identified topics are noted as important to the dairy category, individual company priorities and their level of importance may vary. As such, the [Materiality Guide for U.S. Dairy Companies](#) is provided to aid companies in conducting their own assessment, while the national assessment serves as an industry-aligned foundation that is referenced throughout the document. Note that while the current company guidance references the 2019 assessment, this will be updated in the coming months and include a case study that demonstrates application of the 2021 national assessment to a dairy company's assessment development process.

A [webinar](#) to walk through these materials in detail will be part of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Webinar Series.

If you have any questions about the 2021 U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment, please contact Joe.McMahan@dairy.org.

Spring 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.

Leveraging Dairy's On-Farm Environmental Story to Reach Gen Z

Friday, April 8 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Central

When it comes to wellness, Gen Z prioritizes mind, body, and environmental impact. They prioritize purpose over profit and will change their behaviors to align with their values. To build trust, relevance, and sales among this critical demographic, it's essential to communicate in ways that align with their priorities. This next generation of consumers wants reassurance that the products they purchase are not negatively impacting the environment and is also looking to demonstrate they are environmentally conscious to their peers based on purchases they make.

Dairy Management Inc. recently conducted research to gain insight on how best to address and engage Gen Z on dairy and the environment. Learn what matters most to Gen Z, key content themes that resonated well with the group, and a formula to consider when sharing your own on-farm sustainability stories. No registration is necessary, just join using the information below. You will also receive a separate calendar invite.

continued

Join Zoom Meeting: [Click here to join](#)

Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Spring 2022

Meeting ID: 962 1898 9675

Passcode: 326613

This will be operated as a Zoom meeting for optimal participant engagement, so your camera and microphone will be on. Please be sure to mute yourself upon entering and turn off your camera if you prefer.

Spring Meeting Pre-Webinar – A Framework for Unlocking Transformative Good: The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy’s Strategic Plan

Tuesday, May 10 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central

In January 2022, the Innovation Center Board of Directors approved a three-year strategic plan for the organization. The plan, which aligns U.S. dairy behind a framework of shared priorities, goals, work, and metrics, focuses on the top areas where the U.S. dairy community can provide value as a solution, make a positive impact, and inspire new belief in dairy. Learn more about the plan, how current initiatives fit, and where additional workstreams will be developed to advance solutions that help unlock dairy’s transformative good for people and the planet. [Register here.](#)

This webinar will lay the foundation for further discussions at the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting on May 19. Whether or not you plan to attend the Spring Meeting, we highly encourage you to participate in this webinar.

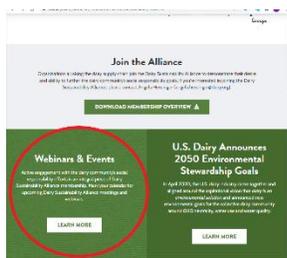


Leveraging the National Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy: Guidance to Simplify Company Assessments

Thursday, June 9 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Central

Conducting a materiality assessment plays an important role in informing an organization’s sustainability strategy, initiatives and reporting. Furthermore, the marketplace increasingly expects dairy companies to complete a materiality assessment, as seen with the assessment requirement within the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) Sustainable Dairy Partnership (SDP).

In 2021, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy conducted a refresh of the national materiality assessment from 2019. The [2021 Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy](#), along with the upcoming 2022 update of the Materiality Guide for U.S. Dairy, provides a strong foundation upon which dairy companies can conduct their own assessments. Learn about how the national assessment can inform and simplify company-specific materiality assessments and requirements within the SDP using a simplified yet credible process. [Register here.](#)



Looking for 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.

New Resources Launched to Support Dairy Processor Sustainability

Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Spring 2022

The Dairy Processor Working Group, a subgroup of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance focused on pre-competitively driving progress towards the industry's Environmental Stewardship Goals at the processor level, has developed and released two new guidance documents available on www.usdairy.com/research-resources.

These guidance documents are intended to help dairy processors and manufacturers improve upon their greenhouse gas (GHG) and water use footprints. Specifically:



The *Dairy Processor GHG Reduction Opportunities Guidance* contains strategies, practices, technologies, and supplementary resources to assist dairy processors in reducing and mitigating GHG emissions within their plant operations, and throughout their supply chains. The guidance highlights emission mitigation tactics across common topics within dairy processing, including building and infrastructure energy efficiency, and product hauling and distribution. Further, the guidance also outlines reduction opportunities outside of direct operations, such as renewable energy options, improved packaging, waste reduction, on-farm collaborations, and carbon offsetting.



The *Dairy Processing Water Definitions and Reuse Opportunities* guidance provides consistent definitions for water recycling and reuse within food production and processing and highlights widely applicable opportunities and applications for water reuse in dairy processing operations.

Going forward, the Innovation Center hopes that these guidance documents help dairy companies continuously improve upon their GHG and water intensities, two key metrics tracked within the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment and measured and reported through the Processor Stewardship Reporting Tool. The Processor Working Group is currently developing a third industry guidance document focused on waste reduction in dairy processing operations and plans to release it later in 2022.

If you have any questions about these resources, please contact Eric.Hassel@dairy.org.

Food Safety Resources + Classes Available for Processors of All Sizes and Geographies

The Innovation Center's Food Safety Committee has been driving the industry-wide identification and adoption of world class food safety practices and initiatives for more than a decade, developing a broad portfolio of [resources](#), classes, and guidance documents to help processors grow their businesses while ensuring the safety of their products. As their popular workshops begin to transition back to in-person events, see below to make sure you have all the latest food safety resources.

Food Safety Resource Map Launched

To better support companies who want to know "Is there someone who can help me?", a state-by-state list of individuals and organizations to contact as well as links to national resources, including the food safety [help hotline](#), has been compiled. It includes local extension and university staff with dairy and food safety experience, links to regional dairy and food safety organizations, and other useful local resources. This tool is currently available on www.safeicecream.org and will be posted to additional websites soon. To see what is available in your area, click on your state in the [Food Safety Resources Map](#).

In-Person Workshops Return

Interactive Map of Local, State, Regional and National Dairy Food Safety Resources



The Innovation Center's Food Safety Team has over 100 industry experts involved in offering food safety workshops across the country. The workshops are unique because they were designed by industry experts for the benefit of the entire dairy industry and offer a rare opportunity to share on a topic which protects public health and the industry. The course designers and instructors are food safety, sanitation, quality, and microbiology professionals from across the dairy industry. Classes offer a great opportunity to learn, share experiences, and ask food safety related questions of the trainers and your peers.



The Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2022
Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops

March 8-9 Tempe, AZ Host: United Dairymen of Arizona	August 3-4 Green Bay, WI Hosts: Schrieber Foods & Soputo
March 30-31 St. Louis, MO Hosts: Prairie Farms & Glanbia Nutritional	September 14-15 Syracuse, NY Hosts: HP Hood, Wells Enterprises & Agri-Mark

Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops teach “HOW” to implement best practices that address the “WHAT” of Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements by offering practical and applicable guidance through hands-on, interactive exercises including Best Practices (GMP, raw/RTE separation, sanitation, sanitary design, floors), Environmental Monitoring, and Corrective Actions exercises. Significant learning comes from student interactions with peers from other companies and the subject matter expert trainers. This workshop is ideal for employees of medium to large companies. Most attendees are from corporate quality, food safety, and processing plants (plant managers, quality, supervisors, sanitation, engineering, and maintenance).

See the full list of future workshop offerings in the “Upcoming Events” section below and visit www.usdairy.com/foodsafety to register or for additional resources.



The Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2022
Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop

September 27 - 28
Plymouth, WI
Host: Sargento Foods

Supplier Food Safety Management Workshops were designed for dairy companies and their suppliers who are seeking to assure the food safety performance of their supply network. It is designed to help companies identify, quantify, and mitigate risks from ingredients, packaging, equipment, and services. In addition, it provides a science-based template to develop their own supply-chain program and supply chain preventive controls, with elements including: identifying potential hazards, assessing if systems are in place to control identified hazards, and assessing supplier performance/FDA compliance history.

Registration Coming Soon: Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop – September 27 & 28, 2022 in Plymouth, WI (hosted by Sargento Foods)

If you have any questions about the Innovation Center's food safety offerings or resources, please contact Tim.Stubbs@dairy.org.

Updates from the FARM Program

The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program recently released its [2021 Year in Review](#) highlighting new initiatives and program area advancements. The annual report chronicled the FARM Program's many activities and accomplishments of the past year, which included adding the [FARM Biosecurity](#) program area, implementing the [FARM Excellence Awards](#), and developing a formal partnership program. Learn more [here](#).

FARM Animal Care Program Announces Version 5 Survey Results

The FARM Program shared [the results](#) of its Animal Care Version 5 Development Survey, which summarizes stakeholder perspectives on animal care issues of importance and captures ideas and levels of support for potential changes to the industry’s animal care standards. FARM Animal Care is updated once every three years to ensure relevance to current industry best management practices and scientific research related to on-farm animal care.



Stakeholders identified care for sick animals, calves, and non-ambulatory cattle as dairy’s greatest priority to maintain focus on for [Version 5](#). The survey also showed general support for making minor modifications and adding clarity to the program while avoiding large overhauls. Most survey respondents, including farmers, showed they would willingly support small changes to better address animal care vulnerabilities. Respondents also were in consensus that standards that aren’t direct measures of good animal welfare practices should be updated to prioritize an outcomes-based approach.

The results of this survey, which received 682 responses from farmers, veterinarians, and dairy-industry leaders nationwide, will be used to inform all levels of governance of FARM and will help guide ongoing discussions about the development of Version 5. A [Town Hall webinar](#) is scheduled for today to provide the latest updates. The National Milk Producers Federation Board of Directors provide final approval on FARM standards, which will come into effect starting July 1, 2024.

FARM Environmental Stewardship Evolves in Version 3

NMPF and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy are collaborating to update the greenhouse gas (GHG) model that powers the FARM Environmental Stewardship Program (ES). With the launch of FARM ES Version 3.0 in 2024, the program will transition to a “process-based” model through work with RuFaS – an initiative involving researchers from across the country focused on environmental modeling of dairy farms. Shifting to a process-based model offers several benefits for addressing customer requests while offering more insights to farmers and FARM participants, including:

- A more robust and accurate model, while remaining practical and easy to use
- Farm-level environmental and economic insights through scenario analyses to support informed decision-making about the adoption of practices and technologies
- Increased functions to enable farmers, cooperatives, and processors to work with supply chain customers interested in investing in on-farm interventions and GHG reductions

Through this upgrade, FARM ES will be positioned to better support the dairy community’s efforts to achieve its 2050 environmental stewardship goals, including to become GHG neutral or better. Stakeholder engagement and feedback will be widely solicited throughout the next couple of years. You can also learn more about the evolution of FARM ES at the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting in May.

FARM to Host Upcoming Trainings, Discussion Groups

The FARM Program announced upcoming evaluator trainings for Animal Care and Workforce Development (WFD), including both virtual and in-person offerings throughout the year. FARM Environmental Stewardship (ES) and WFD evaluators will also have the opportunity this year to participate in quarterly discussion group activities. These 45-minute virtual meetings are voluntary and will allow the FARM evaluator network to exchange ideas and best practices on program implementation. Sessions will also feature subject matter experts and topical discussion for continuing education opportunities. For more information about the evaluator trainings or discussion groups, contact dairyfarm@nmpf.org.

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



- In February, the Innovation Center's Karen Scanlon, Executive Vice President of Environmental Stewardship, opened [Net Zero for NY Dairy: What You Need to Know](#), by presenting on U.S. dairy's collective field and farm efforts through the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative. The two-day virtual conference hosted by Cornell University gathered dairy industry experts to shed light on what getting to "net zero" means for dairy producers, highlighting information about dairy cattle and greenhouse gases, as well as current and future farm practices and technology that help reduce greenhouse gases. Other presentations covered consumer trends and industry sustainability, methane management, crop strategies for reducing or sequestering GHGs, nutritional strategies and genetic strategies to reduce GHGs. Presentations from the event are [available here](#).
- During Starbucks Annual Meeting on March 16, Michael Kobori, chief sustainability officer, highlighted the important role of dairy in Starbucks' menu, noting that "more than half of our handcrafted beverages are made with dairy, which makes Starbucks a large purchaser of dairy in the United States." Supporting the long-term health of the dairy industry is part of Starbucks commitment to a resource positive future. Kobori remarked that the investment in the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative was necessary because "to achieve our bold aspirations, we need to not only work with our suppliers, but across the entire dairy industry and with all who touched Starbucks." His mention of the NZI partnership built on remarks from Nichole Embertson, program manager of environmental stewardship for sustainable dairy, who spoke on screen of the possibility of dairy reaching net zero emissions. Last year, [Starbucks announced](#) a five-year commitment of up to \$10 million to support NZI research, on-farm pilots and initiatives to scale best practices across the industry, including a [partnership on Alliance Dairies](#) in Florida. A recording of Starbucks Annual Meeting webcast is available [here](#).

If you have any questions about the Net Zero Initiative, please contact Kelly.Sheridan@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, and this time around it's all about enteric methane.



What do the U.S. Dairy Industry's 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals and the Net Zero Initiative Mean to Practicing Dairy Nutritionists?

Dairy Management Inc. and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
Southwest Nutrition Conference February 10, 2022

Balancing the Nutritional and Environmental Value of Rations

An [article](#) by DMI's Dr. Juan Tricarico, Vice President of Sustainability Research, in the [2022 Southwest Nutrition Conference](#) Proceedings describes the critical roles dairy cow nutritionists play to support progress towards the U.S. dairy industry's 2050 environmental stewardship goals. The contributions by dairy cow nutritionists include: 1) formulating balanced dairy cattle rations, 2) evaluating nutritional enteric methane mitigation options and incorporating them into feeding programs, 3) articulating the environmental value feed ingredients provide in addition to their nutritional contributions and cost savings.

Innovations in Enteric Methane Mitigation

Dr. Tricarico also led a [Greener Cattle Initiative](#) (GCI) panel during the [2022 Animal AgTech Innovation Summit](#). The expert panel featured GCI participants from Genus, ADM, Elanco and JBS, who discussed the importance of sharing knowledge and accelerating the development of scalable and commercially feasible technologies that reduce enteric methane emissions and enable the production of sustainable beef and dairy. The panel explored the rationale and motivation for joining GCI and the most exciting innovations for enteric methane mitigation requiring further research and development. You can learn more about the Greener Cattle Initiative and U.S. dairy's approach to methane during the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting in May.



Perspectives on Feed Supplements

Feed supplements are emerging as strong candidates to effectively mitigate enteric methane emissions from dairy cattle, but the challenges of adoption are varied and many. Comments made by Minnesota dairy farmer Suzanne Vold during a [2021 Sustainable Ag Summit virtual breakout session panel](#) on the opportunity to transform feed supplements from promise to a real solution, were featured in the article, "[A farmer's view on feeding to cut emissions](#)," published in the February Journal of Nutrient Management.

Life Cycle Assessment in Food and Agriculture

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) [held a webinar](#) earlier this year to discuss the goals, strengths and limitations governing the use of life cycle assessments in food and agriculture. Dr. Tricarico, who moderated the webinar, notes that agricultural LCA are particularly complex. While LCA do provide quantitative and risk-based assessments of outcomes resulting from decisions made by people, LCA themselves don't make decisions. Another important thing to keep in mind, he says: results from one LCA cannot be directly compared to another. A one-page commentary from the webinar is [available here](#).

Goals, Strengths, and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment in Food and Agriculture

CAST Commentary QTA2022-1

January 25, 2022



Celebrating 50 Years as the Trusted Source for Agricultural Science and Technology

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

USDA Extends Deadline for Climate-Smart Commodities Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has [extended the deadlines](#) for its [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) program:

- First Funding Pool – Proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million – **May 6, 2022**
- Second Funding Pool – Proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999 – **June 10, 2022**



The Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity will finance pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products that use climate-smart production practices and include innovative, cost-effective ways to measure and verify GHG benefits. Funding will be provided to partners through the USDA's [Commodity Credit Corporation](#) for pilot projects to provide incentives to producers and landowners to:

- Implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands;
- Measure/quantify, monitor, and verify the carbon and GHG benefits associated with those practices; and
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Applications will be accepted via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) through 11:59 p.m. ET for each of the above dates.

For more information about the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity, visit USDA's [website](#).

Member Briefs

Knowledge sharing and collaboration are key tenets of the Dairy Sustainability Alliance. Find out what's new with some of our 170+ member companies and organizations:

- The Dairy Sustainability Alliance added **6 new members** so far in 2022. Welcome [AB Energy USA](#), [Arm & Hammer Animal and Food Production](#), [Burt Lewis International Corp](#), [Emmi Roth](#), [Vanguard Renewables](#) and [Vyla Inc](#).
- **Farmers for Sustainable Food**, the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, and their partners recently released their [Pilot Milkshed Sustainability Project Year Two Report](#). In year two of this initiative, project benchmarks were created for alfalfa, corn grain, and corn silage, and data is beginning to support implementing various environmentally friendly practices into cropping systems results in similar yields and greater gross return per acre. This preliminary conclusion allows farmers to gain confidence in implementing conservation practices on-farm while still maintaining a positive financial return on their investment. As of January 2022, 15 farms are enrolled that manage 32,670 acres of farmland. This farmer-led sustainability initiative is one of several projects exploring on-farm practices as part of the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative.
- The [next generation of California dairy farmers](#) invite you to join them, industry leaders, world-renowned researchers, policymakers, global food and nutrition professionals, and many other expert speakers for the virtual **California Dairy Sustainability Summit** on April 14-22, hosted by **Dairy Cares**, **California Dairy Research Foundation**, **California Milk Advisory Board**, California Dairy Quality Assurance Program and the Dairy Council of California. Learn about important partnerships and the latest advancements in planet-smart, sustainable dairy farm practices. Explore new research, groundbreaking projects, and innovative technologies. Make connections, ask questions of speakers and research poster presenters, and say hello to new and old friends as you visit the virtual expo hall. Speakers will highlight innovative technologies, partnerships, and projects on California's family dairy farms as well as global efforts that are driving progress. Ultimately, the program aims to promote education and collaboration to ensure the continued availability of affordable, nutrient-rich foods—now and for future generations. Learn more and register [here](#).
- A panel of dairy industry and farming experts will take a deep dive into sustainability at the **American Dairy Products Institute/American Butter Institute** [Joint Annual Conference](#) on Tuesday April 26. The session – “Actions Beyond Words” – features Innovation Center staff, Dairy Sustainability Alliance members (**Agropur**, **International Dairy Foods Association**, **National Milk Producers Federation**, **Select Milk Producers**) and a past Sustainability Award winner (2018 Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award winner Royal Dairy) discussing ways their organizations and members are implementing their social responsibility initiatives.
- Global dairy brand **Fonterra** will [trial the first modern electric milk tanker](#) this May at one of its plants near Auckland, New Zealand. The truck has a range of approximately 87 miles on a full charge and can carry about 6,800 gallons of milk. Factors being assessed include how far it can go, how easy it is to charge, milk collection, maintenance, efficiency, cost, and driver comfort and safety. While this trial is taking place overseas, similar innovative technologies could make their way to the U.S. and serve as another way dairy companies reduce their transportation footprint.
- Following the release of an [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) assessment report](#) earlier this year, **Bel Brands** [announced a commitment](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout its entire value chain by 25% by 2035 (compared to 2018 and taking growth into account). The company will also integrate a carbon impact analysis tool at all levels of decision-making within the company, which will provide a consolidated and ongoing perspective of the company's carbon footprint for all its markets, brands, and products, and is working to define “carbon” budgets much the same way it does financial ones. Steps like this help to foster a sustainability culture throughout the entire company, as opposed to limiting it to a single department.

- In February, **Nestlé** [announced the creation](#) of the Nestlé Institute of Agricultural Sciences, which CTO Stefan Palzer says will “accelerate the translation of science into concrete solutions that can be implemented at farm level.” Among other efforts, the Institute, which will be based in Switzerland, aims to reduce emissions in dairy farming, develop regenerative agriculture practices, improve biodiversity and soil health, and explore new approaches to upcycling agricultural side streams that reduce nutrient loss and food waste. Researchers will work in close collaboration with internal and external partners to assess and combine science-based solutions that lower the environmental impact of agricultural production.
- Last month, **USDA** Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh [announced](#) the members of the Agriculture Department’s Equity Commission, created to address historical discrimination at USDA. Rick Smith, President and CEO of **Dairy Farmers of America**, will serve as one of the commission’s 15 members. As noted in the [2021 Materiality Assessment](#), Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has received increased attention and recognition of importance for sustainable development. Individual companies and industry-wide initiatives can play a valuable role in promoting DE&I across dairy and agriculture more broadly.
- Congratulations to Jeremy Travis, Vice President of Quality and Technical Services at **Hilmar Cheese Company** and chair of the Innovation Center’s Food Safety Committee, [who earned](#) **International Dairy Foods Association’s** 2022 Food Safety Leadership Award. The award honors an individual, group or organization for demonstrating outstanding leadership directed at enhancing food safety within the dairy products industry.
- A [collaboration](#) with **Land O’Lakes, Inc.**, internet service provider Cal.net and Microsoft will expand broadband internet access to residents of Tulare, CA and the surrounding community. Cal.net is installing high-speed broadband technology in a total of 16 sites including the Land O’Lakes Dairy Foods Tulare plant, improving broadband connectivity to residents in the area. This effort has the potential to directly benefit more than 255,000 local residents and provides a unique example of how Land O’Lakes is supporting its local community.
- Last year, **Shell** announced its goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Part of that initiative includes working with dairies across the country to produce renewable compressed natural gas (R-CNG) as a fuel for heavy-duty on road transport. [One of those projects](#) is at High Plains Ponderosa Dairy in Kansas, a member of **Dairy Farmers of America**, to construct the first integrated dairy manure to RNG facility, which is expected to produce more than 500,000 MMBtu a year of negative carbon intensity RNG using cow manure from the dairy. Initiatives like this will help dairy be part of the solution to reducing emissions from both transportation and agriculture in the coming decades.
- The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, on behalf of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI), developed the [Anaerobic Digestion Screening Tool](#) to assist stakeholders in assessing the technical and financial feasibility of proposed anaerobic digestion projects. The Excel-based tool enables users to evaluate anaerobic digestion opportunities for a variety of feedstocks, including livestock manure, agricultural residues, food waste, and wastewater.

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
March 30-31	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Prairie Farms Dairy and Glanbia Nutritionals. Click here to register.</i>	St. Louis, MO

Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter



Spring 2022

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| March 31 | FARM Animal Care Version 5 Town Hall Webinar
Click here to register for this webinar. | |
| April 8
12:00-1:00 p.m.
Central | Leveraging Dairy's On-Farm Environmental Story to Reach Gen Z
<i>No registration is necessary, just join using the information below. You will also receive a separate calendar invite.</i>

Join Zoom Meeting: Click here to join
Meeting ID: 962 1898 9675
Passcode: 326613 | |
| April 22 | Earth Day | |
| May 10
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central | Spring Meeting Pre-Webinar – A Framework for Unlocking Transformative Good: The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's Strategic Plan
Click here to register for this webinar. | |
| May 18-19 | 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting | Oak Brook, IL |
| May 19 | Health and Sustainability: A Focus on Dairy Animal Nutrition, Feeding and Management
<i>Co-hosted by Phibro Animal Health and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy</i>
Click here to register. | Oak Brook, IL |
| June | National Dairy Month | |
| June 9
12:00-1:00 p.m.
Central | Leveraging the National Materiality Assessment for U.S. Dairy: Guidance to Simplify Company Assessments
Click here to register for this event. | |
| Aug. 3-4 | Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop
<i>Hosted by Saputo and Schreiber Foods.</i> Click here to register. | Green Bay, WI |
| Sept. 14-15 | Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop
<i>Hosted by HP Hood, Wells Enterprises, and Agri-Mark.</i> Click here to register. | Syracuse, NY |
| Sept. 27-28 | Supplier Food Safety Management Workshop
<i>Hosted by Sargento Foods. Registration coming soon.</i> | Plymouth, WI |
| Oct. 2-7 | World Dairy Expo | Madison, WI |
| Oct. 12 | National Farmers Day | |
| Nov. 15 | 2022 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting | Phoenix, AZ |
| Nov.16-17 | 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Summit | Phoenix, AZ |