



**U.S. Dairy
Sustainability Awards**
Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy®

Oakhurst Dairy: *U.S. Dairy Export Council Award for Outstanding Dairy Processing & Manufacturing Sustainability*

Honorable Mention

Portland, Maine-based Oakhurst Dairy's commitment to preserving the splendor of their home state is more than a slogan. The Bennett family shared some of their sustainable initiatives during a recent visit.

Rooted in community enrichment



The Bennett family's Oakhurst Dairy in Portland, Maine, has been enriching the local environment and dairy industry for two decades. From 1993 to 2000, Oakhurst spearheaded the Millennium Tree Challenge, which resulted in the planting of more than 1,000 trees in Portland, Maine. The success of the Millennium Tree Challenge inspired other Maine cities to follow suit with similar projects.

"We didn't think of it as sustainability back then ... it was the right thing to do for our community," President Bill Bennett says, adding that those initiatives make the Bennett family "even more proud of the city we grew up in and that our business started in."

A commitment to continuous improvement



Oakhurst remains at the forefront of sustainable efforts — meeting 14 percent of their company's fuel needs with biodiesel fuel and using an innovative hybrid delivery truck system.

Oakhurst is striving to improve every facet of its operation by 2014. Over a two-year period, Oakhurst reduced its greenhouse gas emissions, transportation fuel use, water use and plant energy by approximately 10 percent each.

"It's an evolving journey. We have to continuously find new ways to move ahead, reducing our carbon footprint and the amount of water that we use, trying to be leaders in those areas," Bennett says.



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Sustainability makes good business sense



Receptiveness to new ideas and long-term foresight are two of many qualities that distinguish Oakhurst. In 2008, Oakhurst Dairy became home to one of the largest commercial solar thermal systems in the Northeast with the installation of 72 thermal hot water solar panels — approximately 2,500 square feet — on the roof of its headquarters. The panels preheat domestic water and reduce consumption of heating oil by more than 7,500 gallons per year.

According to Bennett, these values focus on preserving the environment while running a “sustainable,” profitable business. “We’re going to be doing sustainable projects forever. It’s just part of who we are.”

To learn more about Oakhurst Dairy’s measurable results, visit USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards.