



Leadership Perspective: A New Year - Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Barbara O'Brien, President & CEO, Dairy Management Inc. and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy



As I reflect on 2023, the U.S. dairy industry made a significant impact on the global stage, most notably with a strong presence at the International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit in October. Nearly 100 U.S. dairy farmers and hundreds of key stakeholders from across the supply chain participated, a testament to our industry's remarkable leadership and commitment to progress.

In my address to the global audience at the Summit, I emphasized the potential inherent in the unique composition of U.S. dairy—a sizable, decentralized yet interdependent value chain characterized by diversity in size, geography, and practices. This diversity offers tremendous flexibility, which places U.S. dairy in a position to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and uncertain world.

At COP28 in Dubai, the U.S. Dairy Export Council and industry leaders actively represented U.S. dairy, ensuring the inclusion of perspectives from U.S. dairy farmers in climate discussions. Their efforts also included the promotion of the role of nutrient-dense dairy in sustainable food systems and placed emphasis on the significance of expanding international food trade for nutrition security.

When American dairy farmers and industry leaders united to establish the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy in 2008, our ambition was – and remains – to advance commitment, action, and knowledge sharing in pre-competitive social responsibility areas crucial to customers and consumers worldwide.

Looking ahead to 2024, we find ourselves at the intersection of health, wellness, sustainability and innovation. I am optimistic about the opportunities for U.S. dairy at a whole new level as we take collective action that is science-based and rooted in consumer insights data.

In the modern landscape of health and wellness, dairy products are increasingly recognized as essential components of a balanced and nutritious diet. As the importance of a holistic approach to wellness gains prominence, your dedication to providing nutritious and delicious options positions U.S. dairy not only as key to a sustainable food system, but also as a pivotal player in shaping the narrative of modern, food-as-medicine living.

Thank you for your leadership in 2023. U.S. dairy progress is bolstered by our ability to adapt to changing demands, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and champion sustainability advancement. Our commitment to collective action and accountability reinforces our leadership role in contributing to a global and sustainable food system that nurtures people, the planet, and local communities.

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Releases 2021-2022 Sustainability Report

The 2021-2022 Sustainability Report marks the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's ninth Sustainability Report published since 2010 and includes the industry's second and third year of aggregated processor data through the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment from 31 adopting companies.

The Report provides a transparent accounting of sector-wide developments and achievements, reinforcing U.S. dairy's dedication to collaborate pre-competitively in support of dairy as a catalyst to a healthier, more sustainable future. The report covers key areas such as water, energy, GHG emissions, resource recovery, product quality and safety, community contributions, and workforce development.

Key points include the following:

- Increased adoption of the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment, including:
 - 35 companies by 2022, representing 75% of U.S. milk production. Stewardship Commitment metrics and reporting guidelines correlate to global dairy sustainability indicators and are recognized as meeting global reporting standards.
 - Processor packaging metrics developed to establish a baseline from which to measure and demonstrate improvement. Packaging was identified as a new highly material priority for the dairy community in the updated National Materiality Assessment.
- Significant momentum gained behind efforts to make technology and best practices accessible and affordable to farms of all sizes and geographies, through the U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative. 26 projects spanning 338 farms across 19 states are currently underway, and nearly \$40 million in funding has supported on-farm pilots and critical research. Six national dairy organizations coordinate these efforts that prioritize closing knowledge gaps and advancing industry action to reduce methane and other GHG emissions, improve soil health, sequester carbon and protect water quality.
- Responded to increased demand for dairy at food banks during the pandemic by distributing more than 1.17 billion pounds of dairy products over two years through the Feeding America network.
- Marked 14 years of increased membership and multi-stakeholder engagement in the Dairy Sustainability Alliance® with 41 dairy farmer representatives and 179 member companies and organizations in 2022, adding 48 new members in 2021-2022.

An interactive web portal that allows for easy content navigation, search and social media can be accessed [here](#). The report PDF can also be downloaded.



Dairy Sustainability Alliance® News

2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® and Sustainable Agriculture Summit Recap



Last month we gathered in Charlotte, NC for the 2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting and Sustainable Agriculture Summit. With 320+ attendees from more than 170 organizations at the Fall Meeting, and 870+ attendees representing more than 480 organizations at the Summit, you helped us set record in-person attendance for both events.

Throughout the week, key themes emerged around advancing commitments and action through forums like the Dairy Sustainability Alliance and Sustainable Agriculture Summit; transparently communicating progress to stakeholders; sustainable food production; and investments in new research, technologies and practices on-farm and throughout the supply chain that reinforce a commitment to protecting natural resources and minimizing dairy and ag's environmental footprint – all while ensuring economic viability and uncovering new revenue opportunities for farmers and organizations.

Other highlights of the week included:

- **Grayhouse Farms and White Rock Farms opening their farms for a tour**, demonstrating the dedication dairy farmers put into caring for their animals, their communities, and the environment. Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative and The Dairy Alliance – the farms' cooperative and local dairy checkoff organization, respectively, provided additional insight into how the value chain supports dairy farmers.
- Individual dairy companies sharing how they are **demonstrating action and making impact** towards shared U.S. dairy priorities.
- **Fall Meeting attendees providing feedback on a variety of topics, including a definition of "circularity" for U.S. dairy and a measurement approach to water quality measurement**, in Discussion and Input Sessions. These sessions provide a forum for dairy stakeholder input that is essential in U.S. dairy's collective social responsibility efforts. The feedback provided is shared with Innovation Center committees and task forces leading efforts in the respective areas and future updates will be brought back to the Dairy Sustainability Alliance.
- Pre-recorded **remarks from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack**, stating convenings like the Sustainable Ag Summit are critical to working toward an agricultural future that is sustainable and climate smart. The Secretary also stressed the importance of working quickly to get the nearly \$20 billion made available for conservation programs through the Inflation Reduction Act into the hands of producers.

Recordings for Fall Meeting main stage sessions are [now available on our website](#). Summit sessions were not recorded. A more in-depth summary of the meetings is available [here](#).

If you joined us in Charlotte but have not yet completed your post event surveys, you can still do so here ([Farm Tour](#), [Fall Meeting](#), [Summit](#)). We greatly appreciate your feedback and do use it as we plan future events.

We can't wait to see you at one of our meetings this year! Please save the dates to join us for our 2024 events:

- **Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting**, April 17-18, in Rosemont, IL
- **Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting**, November 18-19, in Minneapolis, MN
- **Sustainable Agriculture Summit**, November 20-21, in Minneapolis, MN

If you have questions about Dairy Sustainability Alliance membership or meetings, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

New Year, New Webinars

Kick off your 2024 Dairy Sustainability Alliance engagement by attending one of our webinars, and watch for more webinar opportunities to be added throughout the year.

Food Safety in Practice: Guidance for Proactive Foreign Material Prevention

Wednesday, January 31 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Central



The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy provides a forum for open sharing of food safety practices. Recent collaboration among senior experts from numerous U.S. dairy companies led to the development of guidelines for effective foreign material prevention in dairy based products. This webinar will review their conclusions and share specific guidance for cheese, ice cream, yogurt, powders, and other dairy products, with practical and proven strategies to prevent and respond to foreign material. Speakers will include experts from Sargento, Schreiber Foods, Grande, Blue Bell Creameries, Prairie Farms, Hilmar Cheese, Wells Blue Bunny, and United Dairymen of Arizona.

[Register here](#) to join us.

This webinar will be geared towards those with roles in the dairy production plant, so please share this invite with anyone in your organization (production, maintenance, engineering, quality, plant management, etc.) who may benefit.

Member Discovery Series Webinar: Genetic Advancement of the Dairy Cow: Health, Profitability, and Sustainability Are One-and-the-Same

Thursday, March 28 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central



Dairy farmers have a strong legacy as stewards of the animals and land in their care. To demonstrate the interconnectedness of this stewardship, Zoetis recently collaborated with Farmers for Sustainable Food on a study to demonstrate how improved animal health and genetics are associated with environmental sustainability outcomes. The study was completed on six farms in the U.S. and consisted of a multi-site records evaluation over two birth years. In this Member Discovery Series webinar, presented by Zoetis, learn more about the study's results and how genetic results for lifetime profitability and wellness were shown to be correlated with observed cow profitability on farms, methane intensity per cow, and reduced antibiotic use. You'll also learn how Zoetis is collaborating with dairy to help bring advanced tools to producers to evaluate the relative impact of animal health, productivity, and genetic improvement on the carbon footprint of dairy farms. [Register here](#) to join us.

Dairy Sustainability Alliance 2024 Membership Renewal

Membership in the Dairy Sustainability Alliance is evaluated on an annual basis and is dependent on each member organization's fulfillment of their responsibilities during the previous year. Please be on the lookout later this month for the annual Member Renewal Form, which will be due March 1. The form will be sent to your company's designated primary contact.

If you have questions about Dairy Sustainability Alliance membership or meetings, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Advance Well-Being

Save the Date: Dairy Nourishes America Eastern Symposium



DAIRY NOURISHES AMERICA
EASTERN SYMPOSIUM
April 29 – May 1, 2024
Rochester, New York

This spring, Feeding America, the dairy community and partner organizations will gather for the **Dairy Nourishes America Eastern Symposium, April 29 – May 1, 2024 in Rochester, NY.**

Mark your calendar to join this interactive, multi-day experience that will bring together food bankers and individuals from across the dairy value chain with the goal of increasing access to the protein and other

nutrients provided by dairy products in food banks. The Eastern Symposium needs you as a key player to create solutions and build relationships that will power forward momentum to increase dairy options available for food banks and serve people facing hunger in their communities.

Registration will open in early 2024. Follow the QR code to sign up to receive the registration information. In the meantime, please save the date on your calendar. Reach out to Tab.Forgac@dairy.org or Katie.Bambacht@dairy.org if you have questions.

USDA Report Finds More Households Struggled with Hunger in 2022

According to recent USDA data, over 44 million people in the U.S., including 13.4 million children, struggle with food insecurity, an increase of 10.3 million over the previous year. To highlight the role dairy can and is playing in eliminating hunger, National Dairy Council distributed a press release that has been picked up by more than 1,000 outlets, including by the LA Times, reaching nearly 156 million people, highlighting the interplay of food insecurity and nutrition and how dairy foods can be a solution.

If you have questions about the release, please contact Erin.Coffield@dairy.org.

Regenerate the Environment

U.S. Dairy Awarded More Than \$96 Million in RCPP Funding

In November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) announced the investment of more than \$1 billion to advance partner-driven solutions on agricultural land. Of the 81 projects receiving funding in 2023, ten include dairy and represent a total funding of \$96.4 million. This amount in RCPP-awarded funding is greater than the amount generally invested through USDA conservation funding on dairies in a given year.

Congratulations to those Dairy Sustainability Alliance member companies and organizations who are part of awarded grants: **Dairy Farmers of America, AgSpire, Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold, California Dairies Inc., Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative, Newtrient, Tillamook County Creamery Association, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Glanbia, Foremost Farms, Agropur, and Stonyfield Organic/Lactalis US Yogurt.**

View the full list of 2023 RCPP projects [here](#).

FAO Publishes Report on Methane Emissions in Livestock

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) published a report in September, titled "**Methane emissions in livestock and rice systems: Sources, quantification, mitigation and metrics.**" The report focuses on both the sources and sinks of methane gas, outlines how emissions can be measured, describes a broad sampling of mitigation strategies, and evaluates the kind of metrics that can be used to measure both emissions and their mitigation on the climate system. Chapters 5 and 9 are of particular interest to dairy, and a summary of report highlights can be found [here](#).

While many barriers still exist for implementation of most of the 30 enteric methane mitigation strategies evaluated, the report provides a guide, with examples, for practitioners to select a metric or combination of metrics that are suitable to address their objectives.

The report is the result of collaborative efforts within the FAO Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership's technical advisory group, a multidisciplinary team composed of 54 international scientists and FAO experts. DMI's Dr. Juan Tricarico contributed to both the content and approach used to develop this landmark FAO report.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org.



Study Identifies Annual Methane Emissions Reduction Levels Necessary to Stabilize and Possibly Reverse Impact of Global Cattle Sector

In October, the study, "[Retrospective and projected warming-equivalent emissions from global livestock and cattle calculated with an alternative climate metric denoted GWP*](#)" co-authored by Juan Tricarico, was published in PLoS ONE.

GWP* is an enhancement to GWP (Global Warming Potential) and a more accurate and sensitive methodology to calculate global warming effects of methane (CH₄) emissions or mitigation over several years. This study, in particular, used GWP* to 1) compare the impact of historical (1750-2019) fossil fuel CO₂, land use change CO₂ and global livestock CH₄ emissions on atmospheric warming, and 2) examine the implications on future global temperatures of adopting three CH₄ mitigation scenarios that lead to no additional warming from global cattle CH₄ emissions (without consideration to CO₂ and N₂O emissions from the sector).

An overarching conclusion is that sustained annual reductions in methane emissions of 0.32% by the global cattle sector would stabilize their future effect on global temperature while greater reductions would reverse historical past contributions to global warming by the sector in a similar fashion to increasing carbon sinks.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org.

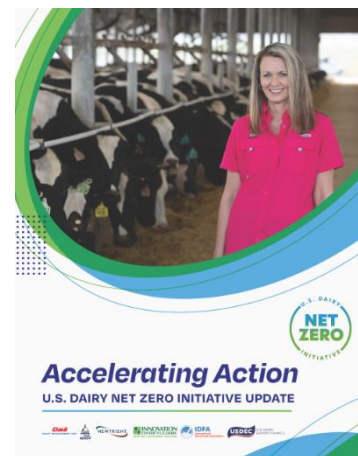
Accelerating Action: A U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative Update

In November, U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative (NZI) partners released the [Accelerating Action: A U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative Update](#) progress report and accompanying [executive summary](#) of the ongoing workstreams and early insights of this multi-year initiative to advance research, analysis, and modeling; establish on-farm pilots; and support scaled impact to propel industry-wide change.

Our [November 8 webinar](#) reviewed the report and referenced several other webinars and sessions related to NZI and the plan for measuring progress towards the industry's collective 2050 goals that may be of interest:

- [Environmental Project Deep Dive: Dairy Feed in Focus](#) webinar (Oct. 4, 2023)
- [Environmental Science Update](#) main stage session from 2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting (May 11, 2023)
- [Measuring Up: A Roadmap to Reporting U.S. Dairy's Environmental Progress](#) main stage session from 2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting (May 11, 2023)
- [Dairy Soil and Water Regeneration Project: Supporting 2050 Environmental Stewardship Goals](#) webinar (Oct. 14, 2022).

If you have questions about this study, please contact Jacqi.Coleman@dairy.org.



USDEC Advocates for Practical and Feasible Approaches to Managing Ag Plastics

In September, the UN FAO hosted a regional consultation supporting the development of the organization's voluntary code of conduct on agricultural plastics. The consultation, which brought together stakeholders from across North America, was a unique opportunity for the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) to advocate for practical and feasible approaches to managing plastics used in U.S. dairy production. USDEC's input aimed to ensure that any recommendations considered tradeoffs, reflected the diversity in livestock production systems around the world and didn't compromise safety or sacrifice productivity. The organization also advocated for limiting the scope of guidelines developed by FAO to the use and recovery of plastics in agriculture. With so many local, state, regional and international efforts focused on other parts of the plastics lifecycle, this effort represents a unique opportunity to get things right for farmers around the world rather than diluting focus and jeopardizing impact.

The development of the FAO Voluntary Code of Conduct is happening in parallel to the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment (INC). INC-3 took place in Nairobi, Kenya in November.

To learn more about USDEC's work on plastics or have example of plastics management programs you would like USDEC to highlight, please contact Kelly Sheridan (KSheridan@usdec.org).

FAO Hosts First Conference Exclusively on Sustainable Livestock

In September, USDEC represented U.S. dairy in Rome at the FAO [Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation](#), which was designed to be a neutral forum for representatives from member states, producer organizations, research and academic institutions, development agencies, civil society and private-sector bodies to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing livestock production globally.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in dialogues on innovations and pathways to efficiently produce more nutritious, safe and accessible animal-sourced foods (ASF) with a reduced environmental footprint and contribute to vibrant local and diversified livestock systems that are more resilient to shocks and disruptions. USDEC was able to speak to the important, evidence-based health and nutrition benefits that dairy provides and its essential role in sustainable food systems. The global food challenge isn't just about providing more food—it's about providing access to essential nutrients from foods produced in a manner that sustains people and the planet for generations to come, such as U.S. dairy products.

The Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation is slated to take place every two years following the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment. The event is expected to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable livestock production to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals and help establish priorities to advance sustainable livestock transformation.

For more information, please contact Kelly Sheridan (KSheridan@usdec.org).

Global Methane Hub Joins Greener Cattle Initiative Steering Committee

The Global Methane Hub has joined the Greener Cattle Initiative steering committee. The Global Methane Hub's vision is to collaborate with governmental and non-governmental entities to scale up cost-effective solutions in methane mitigation and contribute to transformational change in the energy, agricultural, and waste management sectors. It brings additional resources and perspective from philanthropic foundations committed to mitigating methane emissions from agriculture and other sectors to help address knowledge gaps on enteric methane mitigation in dairy and beef cattle through investments in research.



If you have questions about this partnership, please contact Juan.Tricarico@dairy.org.

Sustainable Dairy Content Available via Decode 6



Decode 6 seeks to drive innovation in the agricultural sector by bringing clarity to carbon and ecosystem markets through transparent, unbiased and freely accessible educational content. Through its network of contributors, Decode 6 translates content into accessible, reviewed educational material and serves as a central repository and reference source for content. Thanks to a sponsorship from Dairy Management Inc, Decode 6 has produced a suite of sustainable dairy content suited to the educational needs of dairy farmers and advisers, including:

- **Interpreting & Understanding a Dairy Farm's Environmental Footprint Assessment**, by Sage Saffran, NMPF
- **Managing Dairy Cattle Rations to Reduce Nutrient Loss & Optimize Milk Production**, by Conor McCabe, UC Davis
- **Can Dual-Use Cover Crops & No-Till Make Dairy Farming More Sustainable?** by Sam Glaze-Corcoran, UMASS Amherst
- **How Does Manure Impact Soil Microbes & Soil Carbon Sequestration on Cropland & Pasture?** By Gerald Sims, New Mexico State University

For more resources, please visit <https://decode6.org/articles>.

EPA Releases New Food Waste Reports and Wasted Food Scale

Over one-third of the food produced in the United States is never eaten, wasting the resources used to produce, transport, process, and distribute it – and much of it is sent to landfills, where it breaks down and generates methane. In October 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released two new reports quantifying methane emissions from landfilled food waste and updating recommendations for managing wasted food:

- **"From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways (Part 2)"** examines the environmental impacts of managing food waste. This report completes the review that began in the **2021 companion report**, which analyzed the environmental footprint of food waste in the farm to consumer supply chain. Part 2 synthesizes the latest science on the environmental impacts of how food waste is commonly managed in the U.S.
- **"Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste"** presents EPA's first ever published modeled estimates of annual methane emissions released into the atmosphere from landfilled food waste. EPA conducted an analysis to estimate annual methane emissions from landfilled food waste from 1990 to 2020. The agency found that while total emissions from MSW landfills are decreasing, methane emissions from landfilled food waste are increasing, and 58 percent of methane emissions released to the atmosphere from municipal solid waste landfills are from food waste. This data confirms that diverting food waste from landfills is an effective way to reduce emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, from municipal solid waste landfills.

The From Field to Bin report also presents a new **Wasted Food Scale**, ranking the eleven common wasted food pathways from most to least environmentally preferable. The new Wasted Food Scale replaces the agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy and reflects the latest science, technological advances and changes in operational practices in the wasted food pathways since the Food Recovery Hierarchy was developed in the 1990s.

The Innovation Center includes "accelerating the circular economy" as a core component of its environmental strategies and key opportunities for U.S. dairy to address food waste, including donating, upcycling, using as animal feed and utilization of anaerobically digested biosolids, span the scale's list of preferred food pathways. EPA's research confirms that preventing food from being wasted in the first place (i.e. source reduction), is still the most environmentally beneficial approach.

Information regarding EPA's new reports and Wasted Food Scale were taken from EPA's October "In the Loop with EPA" email.



Care for our Animals & Communities

National Dairy Farm Program Launches Enhanced Biosecurity



The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program announced in October the launch of **FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced**, a new aspect of the FARM Biosecurity Program that includes training and an online database.

The FARM Biosecurity Program has two parts: Everyday Biosecurity for common disease threats and Enhanced Biosecurity for highly contagious foreign animal diseases. The FARM Biosecurity resources aim to protect dairy cattle, build resiliency, and future business continuity opportunities for the dairy industry. FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced includes an online database to develop and securely store dairy producers' enhanced biosecurity plans (EBP) and an online training that helps users write those plans. FARM has also developed a FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced Biosecurity Prep Guide and Database User Guide to complement these tools.

The new FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced incorporates the on-farm elements of the Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan for Continuity of Business, which was designed to help the dairy industry prepare for an FMD outbreak. The FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced database not only securely stores the EBP plans, but with producer permission will share the plans with state animal health officials for their approval to speed up issuing a movement permit in the event of an FMD outbreak.

To learn more about the FARM Program or access protocol templates and training aids, visit the FARM website: nationaldairyfarm.com.

If you have questions about the FARM Program, please contact dairyfarm@nmpf.org.

National Dairy FARM Program Announces 2023 Excellence Award Winners

The National Dairy FARM Program has **announced** the winners of its third annual FARM Excellence Awards:



- **Animal Care & Antibiotic Stewardship** — Ingleside Dairy Farm, Inc. (*Dairy Farmers of America*)
- **Workforce Development** — Newmont Farm LLC (*Agri-Mark, Inc.*)
- **Evaluator of the Year** — Jim Kauffman (*Associated Milk Producers Inc.*)
- The 2023 FARM Excellence Award for **Environmental Stewardship** was awarded to a Dairy Farmers of America farm that wished to remain unnamed.

The FARM Excellence Awards were created in 2021 to celebrate farms that are dedicated to continuous improvement in one or more FARM Program areas, and a FARM Program evaluator for their exceptional care and attention to the farms they evaluate. The awards are judged by FARM Farmer Advisory Council members and other subject matter experts. Farms and evaluators can be nominated by fellow dairy farmers and evaluators, members of their communities, extension, cooperative or processor staff, veterinarians, or other industry professionals.

Learn more about the awards and this year's winners [here](#).

Extra Moos

Sustainability, Trade and More at the IDF World Dairy Summit 2023



BE Dairy

*Boundless Potential.
Endless Possibilities.*

IDF World Dairy Summit
October 16-19, 2023 | Chicago, USA

More than 1,240 dairy leaders from 56 countries registered for the International Dairy Foods (IDF)

World Dairy Summit (WDS) 2023, which took place at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center in October. The Summit delivered four days of dynamic programming, including eight main sessions and 21 break-out sessions focused on policy, scientific and technical insights, and exclusive market analysis.

The topic of sustainability in all its aspects—social, economic and environmental—was another recurring theme at IDF WDS and was mentioned in virtually every session. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack cited 18 dairy projects funded through USDA's Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities initiative. University researchers provided updates on studies aimed at measuring cows' methane emissions and efforts to reduce them through more precise feeding regimens, different feed additives and genetically modifying gut microbes. U.S. and global dairy leaders cited clean energy developments, projects to reduce, reuse or recycle packaging, and efforts to improve water quality.

With so many global dairy leaders, particularly corporate as well as farmer and scientific, on the ground in Chicago, hosting the IDF WDS was a once in a generation opportunity for U.S. dairy to demonstrate its global dairy leadership in the sustainability space. A key achievement for the Summit was the U.S. driven **official IDF WDS 2023 statement**, which concludes with a call to action for governments, global organizations and the world's food and beverage sectors to "Be Dairy." The statement includes a nine-point plan or roadmap for policymakers and organizations to work together to meet and support the dairy sector's critical contributions and ambitions to an ever more important driver of sustainable food systems and a more sustainable future.

Key Dairy Sustainability Alliance Contacts for Early 2024

If you attended the Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting, you will not be surprised to learn that Angela Hessinger, who manages Dairy Sustainability Alliance membership, engagement and events, will be out on maternity leave for a period between late January-late April 2024. During that time, several other Innovation Center staff will be available to answer your questions and from Dairy Sustainability Alliance support:

**Membership and 2024
Membership Renewal**

Erin DeGennaro Erin.DeGennaro@dairy.org

**Meetings, including
Sustainable Agriculture Summit**

Tammy Taylor Tammy.Taylor@dairy.org

General Inquiries

Alexa Williams Alexa.Williams@dairy.org

Upcoming Events

Jan. 31 <i>1:00-2:00 p.m. Central</i>	Webinar: Food Safety in Practice: Guidance for Proactive Foreign Material Prevention Click here to register.	Webinar
March 1	DEADLINE: Member Renewal Forms Due	
March 28 <i>11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central</i>	Member Discovery Series Webinar: Genetic Advancement of the Dairy Cow: Health, Profitability, and Sustainability Are One-and-the-Same Click here to register.	Webinar
April 17-18	2024 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting	Rosemont, IL
April 30-May 1	Dairy Nourishes America Eastern Symposium	Rochester, NY
April 30 & May 1	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by: Leprino Foods & Hilmar Cheese</i>	Greeley, CO
July 30 & 31	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by: Foremost Farms & Sargento Foods</i>	Madison, WI
Oct. 1 & 2	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by: HP Hood & Wells Enterprises</i>	Batavia, NY
Nov. 18-19	2024 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting	Minneapolis, MN
Nov. 20-21	2024 Sustainable Agriculture Summit	Minneapolis, MN
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