



Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Newsletter

Spring 2025

One Week Until 2025 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting

The **2025 Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting** kicks off next week!

There's still time to [register](#) to join us **May 21-22** in **Rosemont, IL**, when we'll examine the current sustainability landscape, explore the challenges and opportunities it presents for U.S. dairy, and network with colleagues from across the country. Arrive early to start connecting with fellow attendees at our Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening, sponsored by Elanco.



The full Spring Meeting agenda and speaker list are [now available](#) on the event website. Sessions *will not* be recorded this time, so be sure to join us in-person to catch all the valuable information that will be shared. An attendee list will also be available to those registered when the conference app launches this week.

While the hotel block has closed, some rooms are still available at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. Please contact Tammy.Taylor@dairy.org for help securing a room.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Dairy Sustainability Alliance® News

Sustainable Agriculture Summit Launches 2025 Call for Proposals and Sponsorship Prospectus

The Innovation Center is proud to co-host the [Sustainable Agriculture Summit](#) – the premier sustainability event *for agriculture and by agriculture*, bringing together the full food and agriculture value chain to surface actionable insights that spur collective action and deliver lasting impact on environmental, social, and economic sustainability in U.S. agriculture.

The **2025 Sustainable Agriculture Summit** will be held **November 19-20** in **Anaheim, CA**. Registration for this year's Summit, *Uniting Agriculture for Resilient Outcomes*, opens this summer.

Share Your Expertise

Summit organizers have opened their annual Call for Proposals. In addition to breakout sessions, we are pleased to offer expanded learning opportunities through the addition of interactive workshops and facilitated roundtable discussions. Help us advance knowledge sharing across sectors by [submitting a proposal](#) for a **breakout session, workshop, and/or roundtable discussion**.

The [2025 Call for Proposals Guide](#) includes more information on selection criteria and submission requirements for all three proposal types. [Proposals must be submitted online](#) by July 25, 2025.



Show Your Support for the Summit

Showcase your brand and connect with participants from across the U.S. and around the world by sponsoring or exhibiting at the 2025 Sustainable Agriculture Summit. By sponsoring the event, your organization can reach nearly 1,000 in-person attendees and more than 7,000 agriculture sustainability leaders through event communications.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to fit a wide range of budgets and goals, ensuring we've got the perfect option for your needs. In addition to a host of returning favorites, we've added several NEW sponsorship opportunities, including:

- **The Collaboration Center** – This customizable space is in the heart of the meeting space, providing prominent visibility and allowing your brand to take center stage in a dynamic, high-traffic area where attendees will gather, connect, and collaborate throughout the event.
- **Sponsored Breakfast Sessions** – This new content opportunity offers attendees an additional chance to learn about the latest in ag sustainability. Held in a breakout room during the breakfast hour, you'll develop and lead a session on a sustainability topic of your choice.
- **Sunrise Yoga** – Help attendees start their day with a mindful moment in a peaceful and inviting outdoor space.

Explore the [2025 Sponsorship Prospectus](#) to learn more about all the sponsorship opportunities being offered this year.



Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting

The Summit will once again follow the **Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting**, which will be held **November 17-18**, also in Anaheim. Watch for more info on the Fall Meeting in coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela.Hessinger@dairy.org.

Advance Well-Being

Introducing a New Chapter of the H&W Playbook: The First 1,000 Days



Health & Wellness Playbook
How to effectively showcase dairy's role as a modern health & wellness solution



Building on the foundation of the [U.S. Dairy Health & Wellness Playbook](#), which we highlighted [during a session](#) at last November's Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting, we are thrilled to introduce the next chapter: *The First 1,000 Days*. This critical period—from conception to a child's second birthday—is recognized as a critical window for brain development and lifelong health outcomes. Nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood plays a vital role in shaping a child's future, and dairy foods can make a powerful contribution.

This chapter, beginning on page 45 of the Playbook, examines six key benefit areas and provides consumer and category insights, social media thought-starters, and audience-specific messages tailored for:

- Pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Parents of children aged 6 months to 1 year
- Parents of children aged 1 to 2 years

New resources and assets will continue to be added to the Playbook throughout the year as they become available.

We encourage you to share this resource with your teams and explore how it can support your company's innovation, marketing, and communication strategies.

If you have any questions about the Health & Wellness Playbook, please contact Paul.Ziemnisky@dairy.org or Katie.Brown@dairy.org.

Real Dairy Milk and the Power of 3

National Dairy Council has created two new educational resources summarizing decades of science into simple and impactful takeaways about dairy foods' crucial and singular role in supporting healthy, accessible eating patterns across communities and generations.

- [The Power of 3 Daily Servings of Dairy Foods](#) focuses on the evidence-based reasons why meeting the recommended daily servings of dairy foods is so important.
- [Real Milk, Real Benefits: Health Consequences of Replacing Real Dairy Milk](#) highlights dairy milk's unique nutrition, health and wellness benefits and the potential consequences of replacing dairy milk with plant-based alternatives.

To underscore the content's credibility, multiple third-party health and nutrition organizations have signed onto the resources to echo their support, including endorsements from the National Medical Association, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, School Nutrition Association and more. The fact sheets have already been widely shared across the nutrition thought leader community, with further promotion opportunities yet to come.

Feel free to incorporate these takeaways into your own messaging on the nutritional value of dairy foods and to share the resources with others in your network.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin.Coffield@dairy.org.

Regenerate the Environment

2020 Farmgate LCA Sets New Baseline for U.S. Dairy Sustainability

The new [2020 farmgate life cycle assessment \(LCA\)](#) for U.S. dairy has been published in the high-impact, peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Science & Technology*—marking an exciting milestone in our industry’s sustainability journey. The farmgate LCA shows that U.S. dairy is focused on delivering nutrition efficiently, producing more food with fewer resources and lower emissions per gallon than ever before.

Specifically, the farmgate LCA found that between 2007 and 2020:

- U.S. milk production increased by 28% to help meet growing demand for nutritious, affordable foods
- The greenhouse gas emissions per unit of milk declined by 13%
- Total greenhouse gas emissions from milk production rose by 10%



This distinction between absolute and intensity matters: Emissions intensity reflects efficiency (emissions per unit of milk), while absolute emissions reflect total output, and both metrics are essential for understanding progress.

The LCA also breaks down the primary sources of on-farm emissions: feed (49%), enteric methane (27%), manure (19%), and energy (5%). These insights validate where current efforts are focused and highlight where future progress can be most effectively targeted. It also better accounts for regional differences, recognizing that every farm has unique opportunities for impact.

Later this year, a processor level LCA will build on this work by incorporating emissions from the processing stage, together offering a fuller picture of dairy’s environmental impact and strengthening our ability to measure progress toward the U.S. dairy community’s 2050 environmental stewardship goals. These studies will provide data and a modeling framework to inform the 2025 Goals Progress Report and shape a strategic roadmap grounded in science and technology.

Consumers and customers can feel confident that by choosing dairy, they’re supporting an industry that delivers more nutrition per unit than many alternatives, while working to reduce emissions per gallon. As the U.S. dairy sustainability journey continues, this work will guide future efforts and reinforce the industry’s commitment to continuous improvement.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim.Kurt@dairy.org.

New Research Opportunity: Exploring the Link Between Cow Health, Economics & the Environment

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR), [Dairy Management Inc.](#) (DMI) and [Zoetis](#) are launching the [Dairy Health, Efficiency & Resource Dynamics \(Dairy HERD\) Initiative](#). The goal for this \$1.3 million research collaboration is to advance research in animal health, support development of new economic opportunities, and improve environmental outcomes for the U.S. dairy industry.

The U.S. dairy industry continues to make meaningful progress toward its environmental stewardship goals. Between 2007 and 2017, [producing a gallon of milk required 30% less water, 21% less land, and generated 19% fewer greenhouse gas emissions](#), thanks to innovations in genetics and herd management, among other practices. Dairy farmers’ long-standing commitment to animal health and well-being plays a key role in sustainability, supporting both productivity and environmental performance.

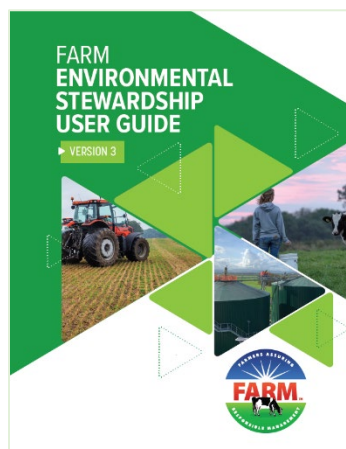
Building on this foundation, the Dairy HERD Initiative aims to deepen the understanding of how animal health practices contribute to economic and environmental outcomes, helping quantify and accelerate the benefits of what many farmers are already doing. These outcomes will help support the U.S. dairy industry’s collective 2050 environmental stewardship goals, which include reducing emissions, optimizing water use and recycling, and improving water quality.

To ensure the results benefit farmers and the broader industry, the findings will be integrated into existing models and decision-support tools—helping farmers enhance both efficiency and profitability.

FFAR is currently accepting research proposals of \$500,000 to \$1 million per project, for work lasting up to two years. **Applications are due June 25, 2025, with award notifications expected by fall 2025.**

Learn more and apply at foundationfar.org/news.

FARM Program Releases FARM ES Version 3 User Guide and Trainings



In February, the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program released the [FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 User Guide](#), providing key information about the evaluation tool to its participants and aiding evaluators when completing Version 3 evaluations.

The guide details the data inputs of the new FARM ES evaluation to foster consistency and confidence in data collection. It also explains the output of the Version 3 assessment to support results interpretation. Participants can also expect a prep guide later this spring that details how farmers can prepare for an on-farm evaluation.

FARM ES Version 3, launched last October, gives dairy farmers a scientifically robust tool with more advanced features to assess the impact of potential practice or technology changes. Version 3 incorporates the Ruminant Farm System (RuFaS) model, a whole-farm

model that simulates dairy farm production and environmental impact. FARM continues to create resources for on-farm best management practices, advancing its mission of continuous improvement within the dairy industry.

Evaluator Training Courses

In tandem with the guide, the FARM Program also launched a self-paced online training course. The training contains six modules that evaluators can choose to complete in one sitting or over multiple sessions. The course covers Program expectations, how to consistently collect the data inputs, and how to interpret results. Evaluators must complete the course to be certified to complete FARM ES Version 3 assessments.

To complement the self-paced, online training, FARM evaluators also have the option of enrolling in advanced training sessions that take a deeper dive into several FARM ES topics. Each session is designed to address key areas of the evaluation process such as data inputs, interpreting results, and available resources. Sessions also explore the new scenario analysis function of the Version 3 evaluation tool, so evaluators can better support farmers in using this new functionality to inform decision-making.

FARM ES Version 3 guidance materials and training sessions are funded in part through generous support from Unilever and Domino's.

To learn more about FARM ES and how to participate in Version 3, please visit <https://nationaldairyfarm.com>.

Technical Guidelines to Develop and Implement Methane-Reducing Feed Additives for Ruminants Published

Six articles published in a special issue of the *Journal of Dairy Science* provide guidelines to aid scientists and industry leaders developing feed additives to mitigate enteric methane

emissions from cattle. These guidelines cover various aspects, including [identifying bioactive compounds](#), [testing at the animal level](#), [model development](#), understanding the [mode of action](#), [regulatory evidence requirements](#), and [carbon accounting](#). The guidelines were developed with contributions from 60 researchers across 46 institutions in 23 countries, reflecting a global consensus on the topic.



A webinar held in February provided an overview of these guidelines, and a [recording is available](#) for viewing on the Global Research Alliance's Feed Additives Flagship Project website. The project aims to accelerate the development and use of feed additives to mitigate enteric methane emissions, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

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

Climate-smart Water Technologies and Strategies for a Resilient Forage Production System

A review article co-authored by DMI's Reza Afshar and recently published in *Advances in Agronomy* aims to identify, compile, and assess a wide array of water-smart and novel on-farm water conservation techniques and practices that may assist farmers. The article, [Climate-smart water technologies and strategies for a resilient forage production system](#), summarizes proven as well as cutting-edge and pioneering irrigation research and climate-smart water technologies applicable to forage production systems. The large scale of forage production combined with the growing needs for enhanced water productivity presents future opportunities to effectively utilize these tools and techniques. This could help shape a new era of water management and efficiency, ensuring a more sustainable and resilient forage production system.

If you have any questions, please contact Reza.Afshar@dairy.org.



Dairy Soil & Water Regeneration Preliminary Findings Represented at Dairy Strong Conference



The [Dairy Soil & Water Regeneration](#) (DSWR) project is an eight-year study initiated by Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) in collaboration with the [Soil Health Institute \(SHI\)](#) and eight institutions across the U.S. The study explores the impacts of soil health and manure management practices on GHGs, water quality outcomes, and agronomic factors such as yield and forage quality. At the 2025 Dairy Strong Conference in Green Bay, project representatives participated in [a panel discussion](#) to share the preliminary findings from an on-farm survey of baseline soil health and carbon storage, as well as extensive field trials, highlighting DSWR’s unique, multidisciplinary approach. Those early findings show that some soil health indicators, like soil organic carbon, have responded positively to the conservation practice changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim.Kurt@dairy.org.

Care for Our Animals and Communities

2025 Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop Schedule Announced

Since 2010, the Innovation Center has trained more than 5,200 people through 120 food safety workshops. The Innovation Center’s Food Safety Committee will continue these training opportunities by offering four Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops in 2025.

Led by food safety leaders from companies across the dairy industry and applicable for traditional and dry facilities, the trainings feature lectures, Q&A sessions and hands-on exercises designed to help dairy processing facilities improve pathogen control practices including PEM, sanitation, and sanitary design. The workshops have been designed for all employees, including plant managers, production supervisors, sanitation, engineering, maintenance, and all levels of corporate/plant quality.

Registration for all workshops is available at www.usdairy.com/events.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim.Stubbs@dairy.org.

Innovation Center Food Safety Committee Announces 2025

DAIRY PLANT FOOD SAFETY Workshops

April 30 - May 1 | Visalia, CA
Hosts: Hillmar, California Dairies, Inc. & Leprino Foods

July 9 - 10 | Green Bay, WI
Host: Schrieber Foods

September 23 - 24 | Lubbock, TX
Hosts: Continental Dairy Facilities Southwest, LLC & Glanbia

November 11 - 12 | Cashton, WI
Hosts: Organic Valley & Land O'Lakes

Food Safety Training Schedule: New Tool Helps Processors Invest in their Employees

Food Safety Training Schedule & Resources

Developed by a team of industry, trade association, and academic volunteers.

Version 3

Food safety isn’t just a priority in the dairy industry – it’s an everyday commitment. The industry upholds rigorous standards, ensuring every step of the process meets the highest levels of safety and quality. A key part of this effort is equipping employees with the right training.

Developed by a team of industry, trade association, and academic volunteers through the Innovation Center’s Food Safety Committee, the [Food Safety Training Schedule](#) was written for small processors and serves as an overview and tools for training employees before they even enter the plant, on Day 1, and over time as they learn and grow their food processing and food safety expertise. The Training Schedule helps processors identify which training topics are most important and provides free posters, videos, checklists, and other tools to support the employee learning journey.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim.Stubbs@dairy.org.



Upcoming Events

May 21-22	Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Spring Meeting	Rosemont, IL
June	National Dairy Month	
June 11	Webinar: Health & Wellness Q2 Update Click here to register	
July 9-10	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Schreiber Foods; Click here to register</i>	Green Bay, WI
Sept. 23-24	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Continental Dairy Facilities Southwest, LLC & Glanbia; Click here to register</i>	Lubbock, TX
Nov. 11-12	Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop <i>Hosted by Organic Valley & Land O'Lakes; Click here to register</i>	Cashton, WI
Nov. 17-18	Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting	Anaheim, CA
Nov. 19-20	Sustainable Agriculture Summit	Anaheim, CA