

US Dairy Industry Strengthens Food Sustainability

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy

Rosemont, Ill. — The Innovation Center for U.S Dairy[®], established under the leadership of dairy farmers, announced the publication of the [2013 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report](#) [1]. In the report, the Innovation Center outlines its progress to measure, communicate and improve the social, environmental and economic performance of the dairy industry. This progress has helped strengthen dairy's role in a sustainable food system.

“Together, we can meet the challenge to provide nourishing dairy foods and beverages to a growing population while facing a changing climate and finite natural resources,” said Tom Gallagher, CEO of the Innovation Center and Dairy Management Inc.[™], the nonprofit organization that manages the dairy checkoff. “We are building partnerships, sharing knowledge and taking collective action to develop innovative, sustainable solutions that will help us meet this challenge efficiently and responsibly.”

Since the Innovation Center's inception in 2007, steps the industry has taken include:

- Completing a series of comprehensive life cycle assessments to understand the environmental impacts of dairy products from farm to table
- Piloting a set of science-based Smart Tools to help the industry measure, manage and improve on those impacts
- Developing the Stewardship and Sustainability Guide for U.S. Dairy to provide a voluntary framework for tracking and communicating the industry's continuous improvement

Highlights from the 2013 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report

A focus on food waste

Forty percent of all food produced in the U.S. is never eaten. Meanwhile, 49 million Americans are food-insecure. A 21st century sustainable food system must not only increase production with limited resources, but also address food waste and inefficiencies. The U.S. dairy industry is focused on developing partnerships that enable a cycle of feeding people first, then feeding animals and finally returning the nutrients to the land that grows our food.

Delivering a range of healthy choices

Through individual and collaborative efforts with the Innovation Center, National Dairy Council[®] and Dairy Management Inc., dairy food companies, retailers and

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brands invest significant resources in nutrition research and product innovations that meet the needs of consumers. Through new product development and reformulation of existing products, dairy foods and beverages can meet a range of tastes and nutrition and health needs, as well as address other factors such as price and convenience.

Wholesome milk starts with a cow's healthy diet

To keep cows healthy and productive, dairy farmers work with animal nutritionists to combine ingredients that meet the nutritional requirements of their cows. Thirty-five percent of a cow's feed is grown on the dairy farm, and the rest is usually sourced from local farmers and businesses. In addition, after producing food and beverages (such as orange juice) and material (such as cotton) for people, many companies pass along to dairy farmers the leftover, unused plant parts for use as nutritious feed for cows.

Healthy people, healthy products, healthy planet

Efficiency will be critical for increasing the world's food production by an estimated 70 percent to feed a projected global population of 9.6 billion people by 2050. At the same time, responsibility is critical for assuring customers and consumers that the dairy foods and beverages they enjoy are nutritious, safe and environmentally sustainable.

Through the Innovation Center, the dairy industry is committed to action so that together, we can provide consumers with the nutritious dairy products they want, in a way that makes the industry, people and the earth economically, environmentally and socially better — now and for future generations.

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy[®] is a forum for the dairy industry to work together pre-competitively to address barriers and opportunities to foster innovation and increase sales. The Innovation Center aligns the collective resources of the industry against common priorities to offer consumers nutritious dairy products and ingredients, and promote the health of people, communities, the planet and the industry. The Board of Directors for the Innovation Center includes dairy industry leaders representing key producer organizations, dairy cooperatives, processors, manufacturers and brands. The Innovation Center is staffed by Dairy Management Inc[™]. Visit USDairy.com [2] for more information about the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.

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[1] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/FZsS82gs86QmbIECzCZShNKVJ6XbVEVpjvohdETpvd7barXPVJ6X8VdVUQsFzzqdShPWqdTPhOr9Rffbsj-5b4_w2JgcX2uAvlZ2mYKrR0PI9WhZnQ9rOVJZ4wWDHb_nVxBVNfHTbFILLYeuvvuVqWdAkRrzCul3PWApM6CQjr9K_9TLuZXtLSsTsS02rExIEBKnozt9Xa6A97OCmOfHlZek2edQbEra9oLhKAZB3i4zVjb5U-JmcPqQuvhv

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