

Dairy's Foundation

The Professional Dairy Producers Foundation raises funds and awards grants and sponsorships for educational programs and initiatives that benefit the dairy community. PDPF is committed to uniting the industry on issues of common concern to achieve its vision of a professional, proactive and prepared dairy community.

Working together, we accomplish more. Dairy faces many issues, and those issues do not stop at state lines. Milk flows across the country, and so should ideas, resources and solutions. In addition to shared issues, each dairy region has its own strengths and challenges. For this reason, PDPF established a competitive grant program to bring great ideas and new projects to light. The Foundation's goal is to strengthen its people and maintain public trust in what happens on dairy farms.

If you'd like more information about your dairy foundation, visit www.dairyfoundation.org

Impact

Altoona-Blair Agriculture Career Day

Altoona-Blair County Development Corp held a two-day career day at Kulp Family Dairy Farm near Martinsburg, Pennsylvania. 1200 seventh graders focused on a multitude of dairy farm career opportunities including veterinary science, agronomy, accounting/finance, information technology, genetics, insurance and more. Sixteen interactive stations allowed students to experience a modern dairy farm and to become aware of the many career options available to them.



"We need young people to realize that you don't need to grow up on a farm to have a successful career in agriculture. Many students are not aware of the various occupations they have access to on a farm. Anything the community does to educate the public and especially young people about modern agriculture and the fact that it is a business that touches many lives and careers is a benefit to all of us."

- David Hileman, Hilecrest Farms

PDPW Food & Policy Summit

Dairy farmers are losing tools and are wondering what is next. Consumers make food buying decisions that affect farm economics, production practices and whether or not dairy farms can use proven technologies. Dairy farmers, veterinarians, lenders, processors, regulators, industry CEO's, consumers and food system executives came together to engage in critical dialog about the dairy meat and milk industry.

"Farmers no longer can raise crops and livestock without the consumer in mind. Consumers want to make food choices that align with their values. Food production is a huge responsibility that we all have to work together on, remembering agriculture's common goals and supporting one another-regardless of size or means of production. Open your barn doors, share your story, farmers have nothing to hide, be the ones to provide information about how food is raised."

- Ben Brancel, Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Management Assessment

A joint program between PDPW and UW - Extension, Center for Dairy Profitability, Management Assessment Center assesses a dairy managers skill level by identifying and evaluating individual management and leadership capabilities. Targeted at dairy producers with great leadership and management potential, this program helps to identify strengths and opportunities for developing into the manager your family, team and business needs you to be. A key component in the program is the opportunity to learn and interact with other dairy producers. After assessment and feedback in nine critical business management skills, participants develop a personalized professional development plan tailored to their management skill needs.



PDPW Dairy's Visible Voice®

The Foundation seeks to shape a proactive and prepared dairy community, ready to meet challenges. One key way to bring this to life is to help dairy producers become more effective at communicating what happens on the farm today. PDPW's Dairy's Visible Voice training series teaches listening, speaking and communication skills necessary for farms to engage positively with their communities.

"Every farm should appoint someone to be its 'visible voice.' Public communication is not comfortable for everyone, and yet it is very much needed as we interact more and more with consumers and others in the food system. We are doing so many wonderful things on our farms and we need to tell these stories! Dairy's Visible Voice training is a key way our dairy farms can be proactive and prepared for the challenges ahead."

- Mitch Breunig, Dairy Farmer, Sauk City



PDPW Youth Leadership Derby®



This fun, hands-on weekend recruits for dairy careers among teens, ages 15-18 years old. Nearly 800 youth have benefited from the Derby since it began in 2004.

"I learned so much from YDL and had a great time. The work stations on the tour were excellent. The career roundtable helped me feel encouraged about a dairy career."

- Jim Stille, YLD participant

Northern Indiana Dairy Trail



To celebrate the dairy industry, 12 modern farms in northern Indiana opened their dairies to the public in June and October of 2016. The dairy trail gave consumers the opportunity to draw the connection between farms and food, while highlighting the important role of technology in producing safe, nutritious dairy products for the public. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about animal care and feeding, milk production, and the influence of dairy farming in the community and on the environment. Each farm had a little different story to tell about how they produce milk, from robots, to automatic calf feeders, and digesters, while sharing modern milk production with consumers.

Cornerstone Dairy Academy™

Cornerstone Dairy Academy grows dairy leaders. Each dynamic educational track focuses on a unique suite of communication and leadership skills. Programs culminate with putting concepts into practice at the PDPW Business Conference. Cornerstone is a way to enhance professionalism, communication and leadership skills needed for success in the 21st century workplace. This year Cornerstone Dairy Academy accepted 97 participants from 16 states who were able to participate in one of three pillars: Influential Leadership, Visionary Leaders, and Servant Leaders.



One Foundation, Two Ways to Support

An "I Believe" donation crystallizes your commitment to the dairy profession. "I Believe" donations support important efforts that ensure that dairy farms remain viable and socially responsible for generations to come.

The "Two Cents for Tomorrow" campaign is independent, professional dairy farmers donating two cents for every hundredweight of milk produced on their farm, to support programs that grow the next generation, build producer professionalism and public trust in what we do.

For more information, visit www.dairyfoundation.org, or call 800-947-7379.




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