



U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards Program names judges

Shannon Linderoth, Associate Editor | Updated: October 6, 2011

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy announced during World Dairy Expo yesterday that its newly launched awards program will be judged by a panel of experts from academic institutions, USDA, EPA, World Wildlife Fund, media and dairy industry leaders.

In September, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, in affiliation with the Dairy Research Institute, announced the [U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards](#), a new program to recognize dairy farms, businesses and collaborative partnerships for efforts that deliver outstanding economic, environmental and/or social benefit, thus helping advance sustainability of the dairy industry.

The Innovation Center and Dairy Research Institute were established by America's dairy farmers to foster innovation and research across the industry. The awards are divided into three categories: dairy farm, dairy processing/manufacturing and energy conservation/generation.

"In the U.S. dairy industry, we have learned that there is incredible power in working together, pre-competitively, through our entire value chain and beyond," says Paul Rovey, an Arizona dairy producer, member of the judges panel and chair of Dairy Management Inc. "This program is a great example of how system-wide collaborative efforts can help dairy secure a bright future, providing healthy products, healthy businesses and a healthy planet to future generations."

The judges panel brings together leading experts on the economic and environmental issues and opportunities facing the dairy industry today. This varied experience will enable the panel to assess nominations from diverse perspectives as they evaluate and select the winners. All nominations will be evaluated based on the program's or project's results as measured by triple bottom-line success — economic, environmental and social. Judges also will assess the potential for adoption of the idea by other dairy farms and businesses; demonstrated learning, innovation and improvement; and scalability.

Judges for the inaugural U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards are:

- Robert Bonnie, senior advisor to the Secretary for Environment and Climate, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Jim Carper, chief editor, *Dairy Foods*.
- Jason Clay, senior vice president, Market Transformation, World Wildlife Fund.
- Lawrence Elworth, agricultural counselor to the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Molly Jahn, professor, Laboratory of Genetics and Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

- Larry Jensen, president, Leprino Foods and chair, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.
- Matt Kistler, senior vice president, Walmart.
- Steve Larson, managing editor, *Hoard's Dairyman*
- James Linn, department head, professor of Dairy Nutrition, University of Minnesota; and president, American Dairy Science Association.
- Joel Makower, chairman and executive editor, Greenbiz Group Inc.
- Randy Mooney, dairy producer and chairman, National Milk Producers Federation.
- M. Gatz Riddell, executive vice president, American Association of Bovine Practitioners.
- Paul Rovey, dairy producer and chairman, Dairy Management Inc.
- Connie Tipton, president and chief executive officer, International Dairy Foods Association.
- Dave White, chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

Nominations are being accepted at: USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards through Dec. 1 for the following awards:

- The *Elanco* Award for **Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability**
- The *U.S. Dairy Export Council* Award for **Outstanding Dairy Processing & Manufacturing Sustainability**
- The *Center for Advanced Energy Studies/Idaho National Laboratory* Award for **Outstanding Achievement in Energy**

Winners of the inaugural U.S. Dairy Awards will be announced in February 2012 and will be recognized at a special awards ceremony held in Washington D.C. The awards are part of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Commitment, an industry-wide effort to measure and improve the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the dairy industry. For more information on the U.S. Dairy Awards Program, visit USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards.