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Dairy promoters get a chance at awards

By P.J. GRIEKSPoor

IF you or someone you know has done an outstanding job in promoting the dairy industry, there just may be an award for that.

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy is teaming up with the Dairy Research Institute to give out three national awards for programs or projects that promote the sustainability of the dairy industry by delivering outstanding economic, environmental or social benefit.

The three categories of awards are dairy farm, dairy processing and manufacturing, and energy generation or conservation. Nominations for the new awards will be accepted through Dec. 1. Winners will be announced in February.

"Across the entire U.S. dairy industry, the sustainability commitment is producing model programs and processes for improved efficiency and business value," says Mike McCloskey, owner and general manager of Fair Oaks Farms and the chairman of the Innovation Center's Sustainability Council. "These awards provide an opportunity to recognize and share advances in production practices and technology that will help us meet the needs of an ever-growing population."

The Elanco Award for Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability will recognize

Key Points

- Awards are geared toward dairy sustainability programs and projects.
- Applications can be across the board in the dairy industry.
- The deadline is Dec. 1. There's no fee to enter a nominee.

dairy farms that show the highest standards of excellence. Farms can be of any size, location or type.

The U.S. Dairy Export Council Award for Outstanding Dairy Processing and Manufacturing Sustainability will recognize excellence in processing.

The Center of Advanced Energy Studies-Idaho National Laboratory Award for Outstanding Achievement in Energy will recognize the work of any farm or processor that shows exemplary performance in generating renewable energy, or in conserving energy in its operations.

All nominations will be judged on the program or project's success as measured in economic, environmental and social success. Judges will also be looking for ideas that have the potential to be duplicated by other dairy farms and businesses.

There is no fee to enter. For more information or to make a nomination, go to www.usdairy.com/sustainability/awards.