



Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy launches second year of awards program

Posted: Thursday, September 6, 2012 8:00 am

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, established under the leadership of dairy farmers, is now accepting nominations for the second year of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards. The award program recognizes dairy farms, businesses and collaborative partnerships for their contributions to healthy people, healthy products and a healthy planet and showcases that sustainability makes good business sense.

Nominations are open through Nov. 15, 2012, to all segments of the U.S. dairy value chain – from farm to table – for the following categories: Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability; Outstanding Dairy Processing & Manufacturing Sustainability; Outstanding Achievement in Renewable Energy; and Outstanding Achievement in Energy Efficiency

“It is a commitment to continuous improvement and leadership that sustains dairy farms and businesses from one generation to the next, regardless of unpredictable weather or economic conditions,” said Paul Rovey, owner of Rovey Dairy and chairman of Dairy Management Inc. “Through the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards, we want to recognize individuals across the dairy supply chain for their successes as a result of innovation, ingenuity and persistence.”

This year’s gold-level sponsors include the Center for Advanced Energy Studies/Idaho National Laboratory, DeLaval, DVO Anaerobic Digesters, Elanco, MilkPEP, Pfizer Animal Health and World Wildlife Fund. Silver-level sponsors include Dolphin WaterCare, quasar energy group, Syngenta and U.S. Dairy Export Council.

An independent panel of judges will evaluate all nominations 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 practices by other dairy farms and businesses; demonstrated learning, innovation and improvement; and scalability.

The inaugural U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards recognized seven dairy operations in March 2012 from across the dairy supply chain.

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. Launched in 2008, the Sustainability Commitment has the support and participation of hundreds of organizations across the industry as well as others from academic, government and nongovernmental organizations.

Winners of the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards will be announced in April 2013. In addition, honorees will share their stories and passion for sustainability on a national scale in forums and venues, and will be featured on USDairy.com/Sustainability.

Deadline for applications is Nov. 15, 2012. There is no fee to enter. For more information or to nominate, go to USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards.

Click [here](#) for online version.