

About your Foundation

When the Foundation began in 2002, its Founding Friends believed that establishing a charitable Foundation was vital for dairy producers. Giving back to the community and to the next generation is the height of professionalism. Dairy producers have that opportunity to support the profession they love through Dairy's Foundation.

When we work together, we have the power to accomplish more. Our industry faces many issues, and those issues do not stop at state lines. Milk flows across the country, and so should our ideas, resources and solutions.

In addition to the big issues, each dairy region has its own strengths and challenges. For this reason, we established a grant program to bring great ideas and pilot projects to light. Our goal is to strengthen our people and maintain public trust in what we do on our dairy farms.

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

Impact



Cornerstone Dairy Academy™

Cornerstone Dairy Academy grows leaders. Each educational track focuses on a unique suite of communication and leadership skills. Programs culminate with putting concepts into practice at the PDPW Conference. This program has been especially effective for those with strong technical skills who want to pair that knowledge

with the communication skills necessary for advancement and leadership in the dairy industry. Last year Cornerstone Dairy Academy accepted participants from 16 states.

Young Guernsey Leaders

Leaders in the American Guernsey Association recognized that they were missing an opportunity to involve young people in leadership. The Foundation provided seed money to create a leadership program for leaders ages 21-25. Young leaders participated in the program, enhancing leadership skills and building mentor-internship relationships that will strengthen the dairy community long-term.

"As members graduate from their junior membership, we foster their enthusiasm and passion as they step into leadership positions in their organization. Thank you for championing our efforts."

~ Bonnie Ayers, American Guernsey Association

Indiana Dairy Producers

Milk flows beyond state borders and issues ripple across an industry. Professionalism and commitment to continuous improvement must be closely held values for all dairy producers, regardless of regional strength. The Foundation provided the opportunity for Indiana dairy producers to attend the PDPW Business Conference. They expanded their networks and relationships within the dairy community.

PDPW Youth Leadership Derby®

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

"I loved going to Youth Leadership Derby because of new experiences and meeting new people. The hands-on activities were my favorite. We worked one-on-one with veterinarians and nutritionists".

~Lilly Feider





PDPW Dairy Mentor Program

This program pairs college students with producer-mentors to share real-world experiences on dairy farms, as well as build lifelong friendships. Last year a record number of students and mentors were paired.

PDPW Dairy's Visible Voice®

The Foundation seeks to shape a proactive, prepared dairy community, ready to rise to

challenges. One key way to foster this vision is to help dairy producers become more effective in communicating what happens on today's farms. PDPW's Dairy's Visible Voice training series teaches listening, speaking and communication skills necessary for farms to engage 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

Food Armor® – HACCP for Proper Drug Use

The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association began Food Armor to address food safety on dairy farms with its six-step program for proper drug use, which has proven to reduce residues in meat and milk. Food Armor is part of a larger initiative between WVMA and Professional Dairy Producers called "What Matters®". The umbrella initiative focuses on dairy farmers and veterinarians working together to ensure safe milk and meat." Food Armor has now become the national model for dairy partnership for safe meat and milk.

"We are getting results from our Food Armor program. With increased testing we are seeing a decrease in the number of violations. We have increased Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationships on our farms."

~ Dr. Katie Mrdutt, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association



Yahara Pride Farms – Agricultural Runoff Reduction Project

This producer-driven project has implemented practices to reduce agricultural runoff in the Yahara River watershed. The farmers involved in the Yahara Pride project are exploring new conservation technologies, developing a farm certification program, and monitoring water quality in the watershed. Our grant helped support Ag Innovation Days featuring demonstrations and discussion about the latest conservation equipment and best nutrient management practices.

"This whole process could not have happened without funding. If government pays for it, we take the 'farmer-driven' aspect out of the process. It is the 'farmer-driven' that makes Yahara Pride so successful."

~ Dennis Frame, Timber Ridge Consulting

"It is very important to lead rather than be led. We have to get the word out about the good things agriculture is doing and will continue to do in the future."

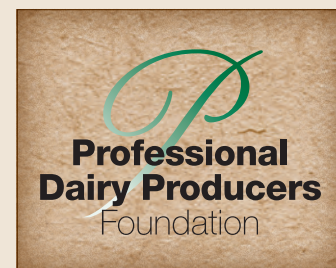
~ Jeff Endres, Dairy Farmer, Yahara Pride Farms

One Foundation, Two Ways to Support

An "I Believe" gift crystallizes your commitment to the dairy profession. To date, "I Believe" gifts have supported important efforts, especially helping young people consider and start their dairy careers.

The "Two Cents for Tomorrow" campaign is independent, professional dairy producers pledging two cents for every CWT produced 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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