



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Resources, events, and the latest happenings with the FARM Program.

October 2023

LATEST NEWS

New Program Update: Biosecurity – Enhanced

The FARM Program earlier this month announced the launch of [FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced](#), a new aspect of the FARM Biosecurity Program that includes training and an online database.

FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced, includes an online database to develop and securely store dairy producers' enhanced biosecurity plans (EBP) and an online training that helps users write those plans.

FARM has also developed a FARM Biosecurity – Enhanced Biosecurity Prep Guide and Database User Guide to complement these tools. Those interested in taking the EBH training course can request course access with their existing FARM Database login credentials, or email dairyfarm@nmpf.org.

The FARM Program and National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) would like to thank the United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (USDA NADPRP) for funding the FARM Biosecurity initiative through a cooperative agreement, and Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle with Preventalytics who was instrumental in the development of the FARM Biosecurity resources.



FARM Excellence Awards

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the 2023 FARM Excellence Awards. The winners and their nominators have all been notified. We look forward to announcing the award winners publicly in November at the [Joint Annual Meeting](#).

Animal Care Version 5 Training

As a reminder, there will be a few upcoming adjustments for Version 5 evaluator management:

Version 5 Certification Options:

1. If a Participant has >10 Evaluators, they can maintain 1 trainer per 10 evaluators.
2. If a Participant has <10 Evaluators, the Evaluator(s) must attend a FARM-hosted training.

Therefore, trainer certification will no longer be open access.

Evaluators at organizations with less than 10 Evaluators should save the date for one of the following 2024 training course options:

Version 5 Trainings	
Date	Location
Feb. 13-15	Minneapolis, MN
*March 13-14	Harrisburg, PA
*April 24-25	Indianapolis, IN
*May 22-23	Pittsburgh, PA
June 11-13	Platteville, WI
*July 10-11	Cincinnati, OH
*Aug. 14-15	Boise, ID
Sept. 17-19	Buffalo, NY
*Nov. 6-7	Green Bay, WI
Dec. 3-5	Phoenix, AZ

*Training will only be offered for seasoned (not first-time) FARM Evaluators at these sessions.

Evaluators are now able to reserve their spot in a 2024 Version 5 training course through the FARM database. Spots will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If a course becomes full, additional courses at the same location may be offered, based on interest and availability.

A little more than half of the current Animal Care evaluators have reserved their spot for a 2024 training. If your first choice training is full, please email dairyfarm@nmpf.org to be placed on the waitlist.

Version 4 Certification

Evaluators who need to complete Version 4 evaluations before Version 5 is in effect will need to maintain a Version 4 certification, even if they have been trained in Version 5 leading into July 1, 2024.

FARM will host a free, virtual certification course Dec. 12 for those whose certification lapses Jan. 1 – June 30, 2024. Evaluators whose certification lapses next year should register for the virtual, free course in the FARM Database.

Additionally, Evaluators may participate in any Version 4 Trainer-hosted course.

FARM at World Dairy Expo



FARM Program staff loved connecting with so many people at the World Dairy Expo through our booth and the FARM informational session. The FARM Program's presence at World Dairy Expo each year offers an opportunity for FARM Program staff to share program updates face-to-face, and to receive feedback from producers and evaluators.

FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 development updates

The work to develop FARM Environmental Stewardship (ES) to Version 3 continued through the summer. In May, FARM ES Cohort 2 began, with a goal to test the RuFaS model on 20-25 farms. Cohort 2 is wrapping up this month. The RuFaS team will use this anonymized data to run through the model and ensure it works well for all production styles and regions of the United States. Cohort 2 Feedback Sessions for those that participated to discuss how the process went and gain insights on how FARM ES Version 3 can be best implemented are being hosted this week and next week.

In addition to Cohort 2 work, there have been both Task Force and Working Group meetings held throughout the year to help inform development further. The FARM ES Task Force met this month to discuss the addition of water quality, water use and ammonia metrics that are possible with the RuFaS model to FARM ES Version 3.

The FARM ES Version 3 Working Group also met to review pre-set scenarios for FARM ES Version 3. With the new model, FARM ES will be able to run 'what-if' scenarios on farms that have been evaluated to see the projected impact of implementing different management styles on-farm. Since many of these scenarios will require the adjustments of multiple data points, some will be 'pre-set' in the FARM ES evaluation tool. This feedback from the Working Group is being communicated with IT developers as work continues for the new version of FARM ES.

ICYMI: FARM and Hoard's Dairyman partnership

Last month, we announced an upcoming partnership with Hoard's Dairyman to make it easier than ever to find and share articles that meet the continuing education requirement for the Animal Care Program. This partnership has now officially launched—Look for the FARM Continuing Education Badge on Hoard's Dairyman articles in print editions, or check out the library on their website. Learn more [here](#).

[Go to the Hoard's website library](#)

DATABASE UPDATES

Latest database updates went live Oct. 17

The National Dairy FARM Program Database was updated Oct. 17 to include general improvements and bug fixes. The October release made backend adjustments that should not have changed anything in your view or user experience. This was the last update to the existing FARM database before we transition to a new site early next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting and Sustainable Agriculture Summit Dec. 4-7

Registration is now open for the 2023 Dairy Sustainability Alliance® Fall Meeting, Dec. 4-5 and the Sustainable Agriculture Summit Dec. 6-7 in Charlotte, NC.

[Register for the Alliance Meeting](#)

[Register for the Summit](#)

On the Calendar

Nov. 13-15: Dairy [Joint Annual Meeting](#)



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