



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

October 2024

LATEST NEWS



FARM Announces 2024 Excellence Awards Winners

Farmer leaders in animal care, antibiotic stewardship, sustainability and workforce best practices, along with a top FARM Program evaluator, were recognized at the fourth annual FARM Excellence Awards presentation held at National Milk Producers Federation's annual meeting.

Winners were announced October 22 during the Awards Luncheon at the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDB), and United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA) in Phoenix, Arizona.

The awards recognized three farms and one evaluator who go above and beyond industry standards and best management practices through their commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. The 2024 FARM Excellence Award recipients are:

- **Animal Care & Antibiotic Stewardship — Carlson Dairy LLP** (*First District Association*)
- **Environmental Stewardship – Double S Dairy** (*Saputo Cheese USA, Inc.*)
- **Workforce Development — Oakridge Dairy** (*Dairy Farmers of America*)
- **Evaluator of the Year — Nicole Frank** (*First District Association*)

Visit the FARM website for more information about the [FARM Excellence Awards](#).

Veterinarians Challenge the Norm at Annual Conference

The American Association of Bovine Practitioners held its annual conference, “Challenging the Norm”, Sept. 12-14 in Columbus, OH. The three-day event, with over 1500 attendees demonstrated the industry’s commitment to best practices for cattle care and teaching the next generation of dairy and beef veterinarians. The conference included continuing education on beef, dairy, welfare topics, practice management, student/new graduate topics, practice tips and other sessions, plus preconference seminars and clinical forums.

FARM’s Senior Director of Animal Care, Beverly Hampton Phifer, was joined Thursday, Sept. 12 by Dr. Richard Doak, Dr. Judy Kull and Dr. Valerie Smith for FARM’s session on “Preparing your clients for FARM Animal Care Version 5”.

FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 Set to Launch Oct. 31

FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 launches Oct. 31. Version 3 updates include the implementation of the Ruminant Farm System model, a whole-farm model that simulates dairy farm production and environmental impact. FARM ES Version 3 gives dairy farmers a scientifically robust tool with more advanced features to assess the impact of potential practice or technology changes.

Nicole Ayache, NMPF chief sustainability officer, talked about Version 3 details with [Hoard’s Dairyman](#) and the [In Udder Words](#) podcast. To learn more about the development of Version 3, click [here](#).

Jonker Highlights Global Efforts in Antimicrobial Resistance

Dr. Jamie Jonker, NMPF’s chief science officer and International Dairy Federation’s science program coordinating committee chair, highlighted industry efforts in the newest edition of the IDF Animal Health Report.

“This edition of the IDF Animal Health Report focuses on case studies, research and actions that dairy farmers and other relevant actors around the world are taking to address AMR within a One Health framework,” said Jonker. “The articles contain actionable information for the global dairy sector to accelerate progress on AMR control.”

As a recognized knowledge partner, IDF continues to bring its science-based expertise to the international stage, contributing to global efforts to combat AMR through a One

Health approach that integrates animal, human, plant health and the environment. To read the full report, click [here](#).



FARM's Yeiser Stepp Speaks to WPR on All Things Dairy

Emily Yeiser Stepp, executive director of the FARM Program, spoke with Wisconsin Public Radio Oct. 2 discussing everything from the excitement around exhibiting at World Dairy Expo to H5N1.

Yeiser Stepp has been attending World Dairy Expo since 2005 as a cattle exhibitor and youth judge, providing her with a unique perspective on what this week means to the dairy industry. In the interview, she talked about representing NMPF on the World Dairy Expo Board of Directors and connecting with stakeholders on industry-wide efforts to promote safe, wholesome milk. To read more, click [here](#).

NEW & UPDATED RESOURCES

ICYMI: H5N1 Biosecurity and Management Strategies for Dairy Farms

The FARM Program partnered with Uplevel Podcast's Peggy Coffeen for a conversation with dairy farmers and experts on H5N1 during World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI earlier this month.

Hear insights from Dr. Jason Lombard of Colorado State University and Dr. Keith Poulson of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab on the ongoing outbreak. Miquela Hanselman, who leads the FARM Program's biosecurity efforts shares biosecurity steps producers can take to mitigate transmission risk and Michigan dairy farmer Brent Wilson reflects on how H5N1 affected his herd, and the lessons learned. California producer

Brian Pacheco also discusses strategies he employs to protect his herd from the outbreak in his region.

A recording of the session is available [here](#).

New Pocket Guides for FARM Program Areas Now Available

FARM has added new pocket guides for animal care and antibiotic stewardship program areas. Drug Residue Prevention pocket guides are available for purchase in the [FARM store](#). Animal Care evaluators should reach out to their trainers to access the new Version 5 Evaluator Pocket Guide. These guides provide easy access to information surrounding animal care standards and approved antibiotics used for treatment in dairy cattle.

Evaluators to Receive Details for FARM ES Version 3 Launch

FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 launches at the end of the month. Primary managers and evaluators will receive an email with specific details on how to navigate Version 3 evaluations on launch day. This notice will also include a toolkit with resources on how to share information on FARM ES Version 3.

Answers to 2024 Cattle Traceability Rule Available

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association created an FAQ for producers about USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's regulation regarding animal disease traceability for interstate movements. This informational document outlines requirements, implementation dates and other key information to ensure compliance with the rule.

To learn more, visit: [National Cattlemen's Beef Association \(ncba.org\)](https://ncba.org).

DATABASE UPDATES

October Database Updates

The National Dairy FARM Program Database was updated Oct. 15 to include general improvements, new features and bug fixes.

Major Updates:

- **Action Plan Date Selection Restriction:** The date field in the Action Plan Follow-up/Resolution overlay has been restricted, preventing users from selecting a date before the action's generated date. This fix resolves negative time calculation issues in the resolution time reports.
- **Evaluation Sync Across Devices:** Resolved an issue where evaluations started on one device (e.g., mobile) were not visible on other devices (e.g., desktop). The app now automatically syncs with the server upon login, ensuring that evaluations

are updated and accessible across all devices without needing to clear browsing data.

- **ACv5/ESv3 Error Display:** Resolved an issue where validation errors in the evaluation app were being displayed twice with slightly different messages. Now, validation errors will only display once, streamlining error communication for users.

Your feedback is crucial in shaping our updates and ensuring the FARM Program meets your needs. Please continue to report any issues or suggestions to farmtechsupport@nmpf.org.

[View the Full Release Notes](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FARM Working TogetHER with Dairy Girl Network

Dairy Girl Network is hosting its fifth National Conference, Forward TogetHER, Nov. 5-7 at Stoney Creek Hotel in Independence, MO. This event brings together women in the industry to learn and grow personally and professionally. The FARM Program proudly sponsors this event.

Forward TogetHER will include over 25 dynamic speakers, breakout sessions and panel discussions. Session topics range from sustainability, people management, technology, milk markets, technical herd topics and leadership. Be sure to tune in to “Starting Strong: Building a Career in the Dairy Industry”, a panel discussion featuring Rebecca Pfeffer, Dr. Carlyn Peterson, Katie Schmidt and Kristen Metcalf. FARM will host a virtual booth for attendees to interact with online.

To view the conference agenda overview, please click [here](#).

Animal Care Evaluator Trainings Set for 2025

Training sessions for Animal Care evaluators have been scheduled for 2025. Evaluators can reserve their spot in the FARM Database. More information regarding registration links, cost and hotel details will be provided in January. As a reminder, new evaluators must attend an in-person training to receive certification.

- Feb. 12-23 - Virtual
- Mar. 11-13 - Harrisburg, PA*
- Apr. 23-24 - Virtual
- May 21-22 - Fort Wayne, IN
- Jun. 17-19 - Platteville, WI*
- Jul. 9-10 - Virtual
- Aug. 13-14 - Twin Falls, ID
- Sep. 17-18 - Virtual
- Nov. 5-6 - Green Bay, WI
- Dec. 2-4 - Fresno, CA*

**New Evaluator Training Offered*

On the Calendar

- **Oct 29-30:** 2024 HPAI Impact and Insights Forum, Arlington, VA
- **Oct.30-31:** [FARM Workforce Development Training](#), Virtual
- **Nov. 5-7:** [Dairy Girl Network TogetHER Conference](#), Independence, MO
- **Nov. 6-7:** [FARM Animal Care Version 5 Training](#), Green Bay, WI
- **Nov. 18-19:** [Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting](#), Minneapolis, MN
- **Nov. 20-21:** [2024 Sustainable Ag Summit](#), Minneapolis, MN
- **Dec. 3-5:** [FARM Animal Care Version 5 Training](#), Fresno, CA

Note: "Industry Events" are not hosted by the National Dairy FARM Program and inclusion on the [FARM Events calendar](#) is not an official FARM Program endorsement. Have an Industry Event you'd like to add to the calendar? Email event details to dairyfarm@nmpf.org.

Questions? Contact dairyfarm@nmpf.org

