



# 2020 US-IDF ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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## RESILIENCY & ADAPTABILITY

The global dairy industry has always been resilient, but this year truly tested the sector, proving its ability to adapt to the situation thrown at it by Covid-19. Our industry emerged strong, continuing to provide consumers with safe, quality products, while also offering nutritious, versatile comfort foods during these stressful and challenging times.

US-IDF also remained resilient, continuing to be at the table even if only virtually. US-IDF continued to be an important gateway for the U.S. dairy industry to influence decisions at the global level. Through its membership in IDF, the organization gains insight into emerging issues relevant to the U.S. dairy industry. Through its member volunteer network, US-IDF has a voice, influencing positions and then working through IDF to influence decision-makers at the global level as international standards and guidelines are crafted at venues such as Codex, FAO, OIE, and others.

This report highlights the key achievements and impacts that US-IDF and its members had during 2020. We hope you will circulate this within your organization to illustrate the value of US-IDF membership, and to encourage other staff to actively engage in the work of US-IDF.



Shawna Morris, National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF)  
US-IDF Chair

## FOCUS ON STANDARDS

### Front of Pack Labeling

The overarching objective of Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) should be to deliver accurate, science-based and transparent nutrition information on the principal display panel to enable consumers to make informed, balanced and mindful product choices that support positive public health outcomes. However, some would like to use FOPNL and related nutrient profiling to stigmatize certain products and warn against their consumption due to fat, salt or sugar levels which could discourage consumption of nutrient-dense dairy products.



US-IDF members Nick Gardner, U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC); Michelle Slimko, National Dairy Council (NDC) and Ashley Rosales, Dairy Council of California (DCC) played a significant role within the joint IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health (SCNH)/Standing Committee on Standards of Identity and Labeling (SCSIL) Action Team (AT). The AT developed the IDF position paper on guiding principles

for FOPNL and multiple responses to consultations during the Codex discussion on FOPNL and Nutrient Profiling Models (NPM) that are used to classify the nutrient content of foods. The bottom line is that IDF engagement in this work helps to protect and accurately represent dairy's contribution to healthy diets. This work is made even more urgent as more and more countries are considering implementing FOPNL and NPMs and look to Codex for guidance.

### IDF Bulletin - Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms

From “soy yogurt” to “oat milk” to “vegan cheese”, the use and misuse of dairy definitions, designations and sales descriptions is taking place in numerous markets around the world. To make it clear what international standards call for in this area, an IDF Action Team crafted [Bulletin 507](#) to address the Protection of Dairy Terms and published that guidance document in 2020. Numerous US-IDF members contributed to the Action



Team's questionnaire regarding various national approaches to regulating and marketing experience with the use of dairy terms by plant-based imitators. Those members included John Kelly and Chris Thompson of USDA; Miquela Hanselman, Clay Detlefsen, Jamie Jonker and Shawna Morris of NMPF; Nick Gardner, USDEC, and others contributed to the IDF questionnaire. Nick Gardner, as a member of the IDF Action Team, worked extensively to review, update and clarify the 2005 IDF Bulletin on the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms, ensuring that information was in sync with US terms and guidelines, and drawing upon the support of other US-IDF members as needed to do so.

### Cheese Fact Sheets

IDF developed and published in 2020 two new fact sheets on cheese to provide short, scientific fact sheets titled, "What is scientific titled "What is Cheese?" and "Style & Varieties of Cheese". The goal for these fact sheets was to provide clear, science-based information for use by both technical professionals and those not directly involved in the area of dairy science and technology. Several US-IDF members were active contributors to ensure that information was consistent with US cheese regulations and practices and did not inaccurately describe widely-used cheese types as being produced solely in Europe. Those members included: Bill Graves, NDC; Dean Sommer and Juan Romero of The Center for Dairy Research (CDR); Larry Rasmussen, Leprino; Nick Gardner, USDEC; and Shawna Morris, NMPF.



### Chlorates Fact Sheet

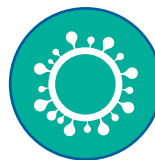
In a continuing effort to provide science-based information for the dairy industry, its suppliers and end users, IDF has built a knowledge platform that consists of Fact Sheets on various timely topics related to all things dairy that provide guidance

on proactive management of emerging risks from farm through processing. This includes a series of fact sheets on chemical contaminants developed by the Standing Committee on Residues and Chemical Contaminants (SCRCC) in collaboration with several other Standing Committees. The first in this series relates to the use of chlorates in manufacturing plants. US-IDF members Allen Saylor, EAS Consulting Group; Nate Banner, Neogen; Steve Holmes, Charm Sciences; John Allan, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) and Nick Gardner, USDEC, contributed to the development of this paper, securing modifications to it to ensure that the paper was entirely accurate, balanced in its treatment of the relevant risk factors, and did not discourage safe and appropriate U.S. use of chlorates to prevent foodborne illness.



### COVID & its impact on the dairy sector

As Covid-19 broke out worldwide, IDF launched an effort to gather and disseminate information on Covid-19 impacts on the global dairy industry. US-IDF member and IDF Scientific Program Coordination Committee (SPCC) member Jamie Jonker, NMPF, helped craft a survey for IDF members to gather data as well as spear-headed organization of US responses to the survey, working closely on the latter with fellow US-IDF and SPCC members Novakovic, Cornell, and Ying Wang, DMI.



The final set of results was released in December and provided data to illustrate the dairy sector's resilience as the strength of food supply chains came under scrutiny. At the same time, IDF gathered resource materials – including several documents developed by US-IDF members – to quickly disseminate food and worker safety information needed by the global dairy sector.



## Food Additives

US-IDF members Allen Sayler, EAS Consulting Group and Nick Gardner, USDEC have been instrumental in moving the work forward on the alignment of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) with the Codex Commodity food standards. This work is important so that the alignment process does not create unnecessary new food additives being allowed in Codex dairy standards, which could compromise the integrity, nutrition and consumer confidence in dairy products, or cause disruptions or confusion related to exports and trade. Both Allen and Nick served on the IDF action team that provided the only source of true dairy expertise to



inform Codex's work on this topic. While the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) was unable to meet in 2020 due to COVID, the AT completed its behind the scenes work on alignment, which will be reviewed and approved as soon as CCFA is able to meet again, preventing any further disruption of trade for U.S. dairy products that utilize approved food additives.

US-IDF also held a webinar for members, led by Allen Sayler who shared specific work related to colorants in dairy and to gain input from all US-IDF members to ensure that additives used by the U.S. dairy industry would not be impacted by the Codex alignment work.

## FOCUS ON NUTRITION

### FAO/WHO nutrient requirements for children aged 0 – 36 months

In 2020, the FAO Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN) and the WHO Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS) kicked off work to update WHO guidance on complementary feeding, including updating recommendations on nutrient requirements for children aged 0 – 36 months.

The first nutrients to be reviewed were Calcium, Vitamin D and Zinc. IDF submitted a position paper and comments in support of dairy's role in meeting the nutritional needs of young children. US-IDF members Ashley Rosales, DCC and Michelle Slimko, NDC contributed numerous key points to the document, drawing strongly upon work done to help inform the development of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines.



healthy diet. New guidelines and ranking systems focusing on “ultra-processed” foods is one of those issues. Given concerns with policymakers promoting dietary guidance that ranks foods based on their degree of processing, US-IDF secured agreement within IDF to develop a position paper for policymakers outlining that this approach is overly simplistic and not supported by robust scientific evidence. US-IDF member Nick Gardner, USDEC, with support from New Zealand, drafted the subsequent position paper that was published in 2020. Nick, in addition to US-IDF members Bill Graves, NDC, and John Allan, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) also served on a related IDF Task Force tackling “ultra-processed foods” and were instrumental in drafting a more detailed technical paper on processing technologies, food additives and nutrition which will be posted on the IDF website this year.



### Ultra Processed Foods (UPF)

A lot of what US-IDF does on behalf of the dairy industry is to watch for emerging issues that could negatively impact dairy and its nutrient dense contributions to a



## FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

### Importance of Carbon Sequestration Work

The U.S. dairy industry's greenhouse gas emissions per gallon of milk have been found to be the lowest in the world, helping to underscore our industry's commitment to sustainability. At the same time, our competitors have been looking at how to create new environmental metrics to more favorably position their industries – most notably by promoting research into carbon sequestration potential (C-seq) and biodiversity benefits associated with pasture and grazing practices.

Several IDF members from the EU and Oceania initiated a C-seq workshop to develop a method to account for carbon sequestration that could result in dramatically lower reported GHG levels for pasture-based dairy systems. To ensure that the science fully captured all angles of this issue and that U.S. production practices were not inappropriately disadvantaged, US-IDF member Ying Wang, Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) led efforts to gain extensive DMI support, time and resources in order to join this effort to set the record straight. DMI joined the C-seq workshop and provided inputs to the methodology development while also securing two leading professors (Keith Paustian, Colorado State University, and Greg Thoma, University of Arkansas) who are experts in this area to provide input to inform the methodology. With the project scheduled to conclude in mid-2021, 2020 was a critical year for joining the effort to inform and shape its final outcomes.

### Ecosystems Services

IDF continues to work with FAO as it outlines and defines dairy's role in helping FAO meet the Sustainability Development Goals. One item in 2020 that was initiated was to get a better understanding of dairy's role in the area of Ecosystems Services (ES), a topic of growing interest by global institutions, national governments, and NGOs. US-IDF members Ying Wang, DMI and Jamie Jonker, NMPF, as well as US-IDF nominated Chris Kopman, Newtrient, served as members of the IDF Action Team

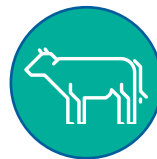
on Ecosystems Services. They worked with US-IDF members to provide insight to IDF on the U.S. market as it relates to the use and understanding of the ecosystem services approach. They also provided examples such as product nutrition, renewable fuels produced from manure, and others under development; and outlined some of the key challenges that need addressed to advance the topic further such as:

- ◆ The need for further science and research to quantify the environmental impacts of solutions (e.g. carbon sequestration potential),
- ◆ Access to new revenue streams and development of policies that provide sufficient economic incentives to accelerate adoption, and
- ◆ Continued evolution of technologies and innovations that allow for scaling across a broader range of farm sizes and designs.

As the U.S. continues moving our dairy sector towards net zero carbon neutrality, that shift must be financially neutral at minimum for dairy farmers, if not even financially positive. Ecosystem Services may play a role in helping get there.

### Nominated Experts to join Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) TAG for Global Warming Potential (GWP)

Methane emission from enteric fermentation and manure handling is a major Green House Gas (GHG) source from dairy systems. Because it is a short-lived climate pollutant, reducing emissions of methane can lead to easy gains in climate change mitigation. In the past two years, climate scientists have published novel approaches to assessing methane emissions to more accurately calculate GHG inventories and improve carbon footprint assessments. In response, FAO Livestock Environment Assessment Partnership (LEAP) created a new Technical Advisory Group (TAG) last year to improve the guidelines on GHG emissions assessment.



As a member of LEAP, IDF was asked to nominate experts for this TAG. To ensure that the U.S. dairy industry has a voice within this new Advisory group, US-IDF nominated three experts in the field of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), GHG emissions, and climate change. They each are active in the study of methane as it relates to global warming: Drs. Juan Tricarico, DMI; Frank Mitloehner, University of CA-Davis; and Greg Thoma, University of Arkansas.

### **US-IDF Contribution to IDF Sustainability Report**

Using IDF as a platform to promote the various efforts of the U.S. dairy industry, US-IDF contributed an article to the IDF Sustainability Report. Authored by US-IDF member Jamie Jonker, NMPF, in collaboration with DMI staff, the article highlights the U.S. dairy industry's efforts in setting new 2050 environmental goals to

be carbon neutral or better, and optimize water use while maximizing recycling and improve water quality by optimizing utilization of manure and nutrients. This issue of the Sustainability Report illustrates how dairy is contributing to meeting FAO's SDGs as agreed upon in the 2016 signing of the Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam



between IDF and FAO. The US-IDF membership signed onto the agreement in 2017. In the article contributed by US-IDF, it points out contributions towards SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation; SDG 12 – responsible consumption and production; and SDG 13 – climate action. US-IDF has strongly encouraged IDF to publish this type of compilation of IDF member examples that show globally the strides dairy is making across the various areas of sustainable development.

## **FOCUS ON ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE AND FARM MANAGEMENT**

It's no secret that U.S. farm management practices differ from those used in some other countries around the world. As we've grown in scale, we've also grown in efficiencies. However, those differences in farming practices mean our products can encounter trade barriers if international guidelines and standards aren't rooted in sound science and documented animal care outcomes. This past year, there were several work items in which US-IDF played a key role in ensuring that the global guidelines for production were neutral with respect to farm size, management practices, and geography.

### **New Work Item on Management of Calves from Birth to Weaning**

When this New Work Item was initially presented within IDF, it was designed to focus strictly on an EU-centric marketing approach of keeping a calf with the dam for an extended period of time. US-IDF members worked to successfully show the need for guidelines that would be neutral and science-based with respect to size, management style and geography. Jamie Jonker and Emily Yeiser Stepp, NMPF and Kayla Rink, Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) engaged in the New Work Item throughout 2020, providing scientific and technical input into the process to ensure that the future guidelines will not negatively impact U.S. farm management systems.



### **Reproductive Technologies Fact Sheets**

US-IDF members engaged in the development of two new IDF fact sheets on the topic of reproductive technologies. Jamie Jonker and Miquela Hanselman, NMPF, authored fact sheets on Reproductive Hormones and Genomic Selection. These IDF fact sheets establish authoritative international sources of scientific information on reproductive technologies, lending greater credibility to their contents. Active US-IDF engagement in crafting them ensures that the technical information is consistent with the guidance provided through the U.S. National FARM program.





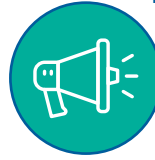
## US-IDF Contribution to the 14th edition of the IDF Animal Health Report

Animal health and welfare is an intrinsic part of sustainable development and production. The US-IDF contributed to the IDF Animal Health Report which illustrates the importance of animal health and welfare for sustainable dairy production. It provides information and practical insight while also sharing examples of innovative solutions for improvement that take animal health and welfare, as well as livelihoods, into account. The Animal Health Report offers a platform to publicize the efforts of the U.S. dairy industry through the National FARM program and the high-caliber nature of that internationally certified animal care program. This year's contribution focused on the important role of veterinarians in helping dairy farmers make informed animal care decisions in the U.S.



## US-IDF Leadership on CODEX TFAMR

While the CODEX Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) final meeting has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, work on the standards and guidelines continued through the electronic working group. Jamie Jonker, NMPF, who has served as the IDF delegate to CODEX TFAMR since 2017, coordinating with US-IDF members, using U.S. comments to form the foundation for IDF comments to the electronic working group. Formed the foundation of IDF comments to the electronic working group. IDF comments continue to support the judicious and responsible use of antimicrobials by dairy farmers worldwide and support the important role of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in setting standards for antimicrobial use in livestock. The OIE is the global animal health authority recognized by the World Trade Organization.



## FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

The strength of any organization is built upon its leadership. Now more than ever, IDF members have recognized the expertise US-IDF members bring to the table based on the number of leadership positions held by US-IDF members.

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| <b>IDF Board:</b>   |
| SPCC Chair Jamie Jonker, NMPF   |
| <b>IDF Science &amp; Program Coordination Committee:</b>  |
| Chair - Jamie Jonker, NMPF  |
| SPCC Environment and Chair of Sustainability Steering Group – Ying Wang, DMI                        |
| SPCC Academia – Andy Novakovic, Cornell University  |
| SPCC Food Standards and Chair of Food Standards Steering Group – Allen Saylor, EAS Consulting Group |
| <b>IDF Standing Committees:</b>   |
| Chair Analytical Methods for Additives and Contaminants – Nate Banner, Neogen                       |
| Chair Food Additives (until November 2020) – Allen Saylor, EAS Consulting Group                     |
| Deputy Chair Standards of Identity & Labeling – Nick Gardner, USDEC                                 |
| Several other US-IDF members led Task Forces and Action Teams within the IDF Program of Work        |

## IDF Awards

This past year, IDF recognized two US-IDF members during its General Assembly:

Allen Saylor, EAS Consulting Group, received the **IDF Leader Recognition Award 2020** for his leadership role as Chair of the IDF Standing Committee on Food Additives. A long-time



contributor to US-IDF and IDF, Allen has worked determinedly to keep the IDF Standing Committee engaged and productive. His work leading IDF's additives efforts has been critical in ensuring that these technical specifications are not misused to erect barriers to the trade of safe dairy products.



The **2020 IDF Prize of Excellence** award was given to the SC on Food Additives Action Team on Alignment of which Allen Sayler and Nick Gardner, USDEC, are active members. This action team has been instrumental in driving the alignment process for Codex dairy standards on the agenda of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. Serving as the only source of true dairy expertise in the Codex system, the action team worked to ensure that the alignment process didn't create unnecessary new food additive requirements that could compromise dairy integrity, nutrition and consumer confidence.



### US-IDF Membership Committee

Created during the Fall 2019 US-IDF meeting, the Membership Committee spent 2020 developing and implementing plans for creating more visibility for US-IDF and the value of membership. Committee members: Co-chair Allen Sayler, EAS Consulting Group; Co-chair Chris Allen, DFA; Jamie Jonker, NMPF; John Kelly, USDA; Jackie Page, Page & Pedersen; Anand Rao, Agropur.)

This included:

- ◆ Membership Categories and Dues: new restructuring proposal was adopted at the 2020 Fall virtual US-IDF meeting. Once fully implemented, the restructuring will result in strengthening the already strong US-IDF financial position.
- ◆ New US-IDF Brochure
- ◆ US-IDF Website: provided content recommendations for the new US-IDF website that will be launched in early 2021. Modern, mobile friendly site with an enhanced Members Only area and timely information.
- ◆ Member Recruitment strategy developed for implementation in 2021

### US-IDF input on IDF strategy, Constitution and Rules of Order

US-IDF Board and members played an important role in providing to IDF comments and input for strategic planning and the update of the IDF Constitution and Rules of Order during 2020 to ensure that the work of IDF continues in an efficient manner for National Committees like US-IDF, and that the focus of IDF's work continues to be in alignment with US-IDF objectives.



### US-IDF 2020 LEADERSHIP

| Officers                           |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Chair, Shawna Morris, NMPF         | Vice Chair, John Allan, IDFA |
| Treasurer, Dan Meyer, ADPI         | Past Chair: Cary Frye        |
| Board Members                      |                              |
| Mitch Bowling, Abbott              | Cary Frye, IDFA              |
| Anand Rao, Agropur                 | Sharon Marsh, LOL            |
| Denise Mullinax, CDRF              | Sue Taylor, Leprino          |
| Juan Romero, CDR                   | Christopher Thompson, USDA   |
| Andy Novakovic, Cornell            | Nate Banner, Neogen          |
| Chris Allen, DFA                   | Praveen Upreti, Nestle       |
| Greg Miller, DMI                   | Jackie Page, Page & Pedersen |
| Allen Sayler, EAS Consulting Group | Rob Byrne, Schreiber Foods   |
| John Sheehan, FDA                  | Nick Gardner, USDEC          |
| Amandeep Dhillon, Grande           | Adam Brock, DFW              |

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