Region Presentation – North America

Mitch Kanter
Global Dairy Platform
North American Dialogue Meeting Report

- Mr. Tim Lambert-Canadian Egg Industry
- Ms. Karen Scanlon-US Dairy Industry
- Ms. Monica Hadarits-Canadian Beef Industry
- Mr. Pat O’Toole-Family Farm Alliance/Solutions From the Land
- Ms. Erin Fitzgerald-US Farmers & Ranchers in Action
- Mr. Hansel New-Dairy Farmers of America FARM Program
- Youth Farmer Panel (Mackenzie Argent (beef); Katie Collins (dairy); Karl Eckard (meat goat & beef); Logan Emery (dairy))
- Mr. AG Kawamura-Former Secy. of Agriculture; State of California
- Ms. Kim Kirchherr-K2 Outcomes, LLC (consumer marketing)
The North American Regional Consultation

• August 8, 2022
• Virtual Format; Presentations followed by Q&A with attendee participation
• Meeting Sessions:
  • Changes Enacted To-Date to Improve Livestock’s Environmental Footprint: What We’re Working on For Future Improvement
  • Meeting Challenges at the Farm Level: Farming Practices to Mitigate Climate Change
  • The Next Generation’s Perspective
  • Is California the Canary in the Coal Mine? Harsh Climate Changes and How They’re Impacting the Farm Industry
  • The Consumer Perspective; North American Consumers Thoughts/Feelings About Livestock

• ~60 participants from various agriculture sectors
Livestock sector challenges in the NA region

• The need to balance sector changes so as not to adversely affect any key aspect of sustainable living/eating
• With drought conditions worsening in parts of North America, need to use resources more prudently, lower regulatory hurdles, and embrace technical solutions that can enhance water availability
• Create incentives for producers to continually seek and implement sustainability solutions
• Increase investment in the agriculture sector as an environmental solution
• Take story telling into our own hands so that external forces don’t set the narrative
• Encourage young entrepreneurial people to consider livestock farming as an attractive career option
Livestock sector achievements in the NA region

- Egg sectors reported improvements over the past decade in:
  - Energy usage (41% lower); GHG emissions (72% lower); animal productivity; (50% improvement in egg production; water usage (69% less water used)

- Ongoing pilots in dairy sector include research to improve:
  - Feed, enteric methane production, manure mgmt., GHG emissions, packaging, waste, water usage, etc.

- Beef industry developed a Sustainability Incentive Program that rewards innovative producers who implement sustainability solutions

- Development of Pathways to Dairy Net Zero program has spurred many large and small industry partners to commit to significant GHG reduction over next decade, and out to 2050
# Livestock Sector Actions Towards More Sustainable Food Systems

## Livestock sector outcomes to deliver in the region

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<th>REGION:</th>
<th>OUTCOMES OF THE 2022-2024 GASL ACTION PLAN</th>
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<td>Sphere of interest</td>
<td>Evidence and practice change</td>
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| Sphere of interest | Sustainable livestock options are included in global development programming and resourcing | Ongoing improvements in:  
- GHG emissions  
- Animal productivity  
- Feed improvement  
- Water usage/conservation  
- Etc. | Industry must embrace sustainability as an opportunity, and convey this story to various stakeholder groups  
- Sector must educate/re-educate people of all ages on where animal-sourced foods come from  
- Sector must invest in long-, middle-, and long term research that can provide the technologies and know-how to drive improvement | Lower hurdles to implement new technologies that can drive environmental improvements |
| Sphere of influence | Knowledge, attitudes, skills of decision makers change so they recognize the importance of options and MSP principles for sustainable livestock | Livestock industry adopts communications practices that get results  
- Livestock depicted as part of environmental solution, not the problem | Industry should engage consumers and others in the value chain who make decisions about what they buy and consume  
- Dialogue with policy makers should be positive, with discussions about need to minimize hurdles that inhibit progress on climate smart initiatives | Greater adoption of policies/initiatives that embrace new ideas/new technologies which can improve livestock sector’s environmental footprint |
| Sphere of control | Diversity of GASL and other livestock stakeholders aligned, interconnected and harnessed | Livestock sectors must collaborate more on programs that depict all of livestock in a favorable light. | Generate programs and dialogue that bring consumers to farms, highlight the livelihood and cultural benefits that livestock farming produces. | Encourage/support based-in-science solutions that help drive policy decisions |
Livestock sector outcomes to deliver in the region, by sustainability domains

- Paid advertising, other communications vehicles that highlight the cultural and economic benefits of livestock farming
- Programs that incentivize farmers to make changes necessary to improve livestock’s environmental footprint
- Attract/incentivize more young people to consider the livestock sector as a viable career option
- Local farming options

- Continued research that depicts human health benefits of livestock, and lack of correlation with non-communicable diseases
- Seek opportunities to make ASFs more affordable/attainable for people, particularly in vulnerable populations/developing countries
- Programs/stories indicating that livestock are vital to attaining several of the UN SDGs

- Greater education for farmers on animal husbandry practices
- Invest in research designed to improve breeding practices, animal feed, gut microbiome, development of vaccines that may minimize GHG production, etc.

- Adopt programs designed to make sustainable diets more accessible and affordable, by supporting research that improves:
  - feed
  - energy usage
  - enteric methane production
  - GHG emissions
  - waste
  - water quality
  - soil quality
  - packaging
  - enteric methane production
  - manure management
  - etc.
Solutions for the World

• Sector-wide programs that encourage global commitments to lower the environmental footprint in regionally appropriate ways

• Seek out and embrace knowledge and technologies that can improve the footprint of all livestock sectors

• Encourage and incentivize enterprising young people with new ideas and new energy to enter and revolutionize the global livestock landscape
Highlights of NA Regional Dialogue

• Young farmers expressing their enthusiasm for the livestock profession, and their optimism for the future of the sector

• A long time farmer and former California state Agricultural Secretary discussing the impact of global warming on the ag sector in his state, and steps that others can take to try to mitigate further detrimental changes in the future

• A call to action by a Canadian industry association leader for the livestock sector to take communications efforts into their own hands, and to promote/define livestock as they would like to see it promoted

• US industry association leaders discussing the depth and breadth of ongoing research on several issues that can improve the sustainability of their sector in the future
Commitments and next steps

• The Pathways to Dairy Net Zero initiative seeks commitments from all actors in the dairy sector—large, small, developed, developing, to adopt methods and set targets for lowering the global footprint of the sector. Research and adoption serve as key next steps in the process.

• Young farmers who served on the NA program panel view agriculture as a field with a higher purpose, and were unanimously committed to improving animal care and other farming practices and embracing technologies that will make livestock farming more sustainable in the future.
Thank you