



Farmer Ambassador Program



The Dairy West Farmer Ambassador program invites a small group of farmers to take a deeper dive into dairy promotion.

PURPOSE

The Farmer Ambassador Program prepares farmers to become leaders in the industry through training and involvement with board functions and industry meetings and events. This program is designed to develop dairy leaders to ensure the role of dairy foods and dairy farming in the future of sustaining our people, planet and communities.

ELIGIBILITY

Idaho and Utah dairy farmers who are actively involved in a dairy operation or those taking leadership/management roles on a dairy. Individuals should aspire to serve in leadership roles such as board service.

BENEFITS

- » Communication training (includes traditional & social media)
- » Networking
- » Crisis preparedness
- » Understanding how the dairy checkoff works
- » Awareness of programs and resources (local & national)
- » Compensated time and travel

CONTINUED EDUCATION

Dairy West may sponsor ambassador alumni who have completed the program within the past five years to participate in a leadership program, for example Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA) and the Young Dairy Leaders Institute (YDLI).

TIME COMMITMENT

March to December

There are four required in-region meetings that include both ambassador training and board meetings. Additionally, there are three optional national meetings. Dairy West will reimburse for associated travel and offer a per diem.



For more information or to sign up, contact
Lacey Papageorge (208) 869-0777 or lpapageorge@dairywest.com

RECENT PARTICIPANTS

Class of 2024

Carson Engbersen
RJ Fitzgerald
Randy Fitzgerald
Arie Roleoffs
Harlee Turner
Alyson Otten
Kristen VanderVegt

Class of 2023

Brandon Andersen
Brinlee Hall
Zachary Hansen
Tony Rigby
Paxton Robinson
Mattie Sherwood
Andrew VanderWoude
Tyler Visser

Class of 2022

Brooke DeGroot
Caleb DeGroot
Jared Lewis
Levi McKee
Natalie Nelson
Lael Schoessler

Class of 2020

Collin Bateman
Brant Bosma
Joseph Cann
Bennett Gibson
Chad J. Hardy
Joell Hill
Daniel McKee
Hendrik Van Es

Class of 2019

Kaleb Bateman
Mitchell Hancock
Tyler Hyink
Jarom Nelson
Siska Reece
Kallan Rex
Alex Veenhouwer
Nikelle Villalobos

CALENDAR

March	Ambassador Training (1 day) — Boise, Idaho, Board Meetings & Idaho Legislative Banquet (2 days) — Boise, Idaho
Mid-May	Ambassador Training (1 day) and Board Meetings (2 days) — Twin Falls, ID
Late July	Ambassador Training (1 day) and Board Meetings (2 days) — Salt Lake City, UT
Early August*	Idaho & Utah Milk Processors Association (IMPA Conference)
Late October*	DMI-NMPF Joint Annual Meeting (3 days) — Location TBD
Mid-November	Board Meetings (1 day) — Boise, Idaho and Dairy West Annual Meeting— Boise, Idaho

*optional events

“As I completed the Dairy West Ambassador Program, I learned the basics of what ‘check-off’ is and its importance for the dairy industry. Through the year I learned more about myself and the role I play as an agriculturist. Being an Ambassador allowed me to form lasting connections with others in our industry.

*– Mattie Skeen, Cedar Ridge Farms,
Nephi Utah*

“Being a Dairy West Ambassador was a great opportunity for me to connect with other Dairy West producers and to learn more about all the great things Dairy West is doing on behalf of the farmers.”

*– Tyler Visser, Big Sky Dairy,
Buhl, ID*

Developing confident dairy advocates and future leaders.

