



**U.S. Dairy
Sustainability Awards**
Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy®

Darigold, Inc.: U.S. Dairy Export Council Award for Outstanding Dairy Processing and Manufacturing Sustainability

During a recent visit, Darigold shared how its adoption of a systematic approach to achieving companywide results has helped transform their business.

Triple bottom line goal helps achieve success



Seattle-based Darigold, Inc.'s systematic commitment to best practices is transforming dairy processing and giving verifiable meaning to the triple bottom line goal. At Darigold, sustainability is a combination of community interaction, economics and environmental harmony working together to achieve success.

Working closely with its 550 innovative producers, Darigold, a producer-led cooperative, is in the vanguard for pinpointing performance areas that need improvement and strengthening them with all sectors in mind. Since 2008, Darigold has reduced its CO₂ emissions by more than 14,000 metric tons per year. As a conscientious cooperative, the co-op is proud of the journey its milk makes around the world as a natural, nutritious food, nourishing families everywhere.

Producers instrumental in Darigold's success



Currently recycling about 50 percent of the waste across 13 plants brings Darigold closer every day to achieving its Zero-Waste-to-Landfill goal within three years. Packaging and supply-chain improvements have saved the company more than a million dollars in the last year alone. Since its 2009 initiative, Darigold has been honest about presenting challenges through its first Corporate Social Responsibility report, which spoke volumes about improved safety measures, energy savings, community building and operational efficiencies. The producers are an instrumental part of the cooperative's success.

"Producers wake up on the land on which they were born, very often on which their father was born. And the processes today are more efficient than they ever were. Producers are listening carefully and they're engaged. They know the right answers," Darigold Senior Vice President Steve Rowe says. With their help, Darigold is learning the right answers to all kinds of questions.



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Updates to fleet increase efficiency



Darigold has installed GPS software on the trucks that enable drivers to discuss disparities in routes and delivery times. New refrigeration units that use 70 percent less energy than their predecessors on heavy-haul trailers make minimal noise at an in-town plant — a gesture Darigold's neighbors appreciate. Drivers work with customers buying the milk to adjust delivery times to avoid the worst city traffic. After measuring pickup time and pump patterns, they're able to talk with producers about increasing efficiency. These measures have saved more than 216,000 gallons of diesel fuel a year — a 50 percent improvement in fuel usage per trucking unit.

Darigold employees support local community



At Darigold, all three legs of the sustainability stool need to be strong for the operation to succeed. Bettering the community begins in the Darigold office, where charity is a top priority.

Each week, Senior Vice President Steve Rowe reviews a number of employee matching-gift charitable donation requests. With few exceptions, the company will match dollar-for-dollar donations their employees have made to charitable organizations. Volunteer opportunities are posted in the office for corporate employees to participate in, and Darigold always strives to support its dairy producers' causes. Darigold frequently participates in a number of local community events, and they give plenty of product to local food banks. "Darigold needs to be the leader. There's no reason an industrial facility shouldn't run as efficiently as possible and have good relations with its community," President and CEO Jim Wegner says.

To learn more about the sustainable efforts underway at Darigold, visit USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards.