

Looking Forward to Brighter Horizons...

When one desires help taking their dairy farm business to a new level of sustainability, contact us.

There are no cookie-cutter approaches to dairy farm changes. Each farm and farming family is assessed and given help based upon the goals and vision of the producer by mentor farmers and professionals. This empowers the dairy producer in their decision-making ability.

You are the expert at producing dairy. We can help you create the farm business you desire. Not what other "experts" think is best, but changes that facilitate the direction you, the dairy producer, see as necessary to accomplish your goals.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING ASSOCIATION
OF MINNESOTA

State Office:
29731 302 St.
Starbuck, MN 56381

Toll Free: 866-760-8732
320 Toll Free: 320-760-8732
Email: sustainablefarming@hcinet.org

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Minnesota Dairy Initiative



Jeremy Lanctot, SFA-MDI Coordinator
Phone: 320-980-2333
Email: mdi@sfa-mn.org

*Helping Build a
Sustainable Future in Dairy*

Sustainable Dairy Farming for Minnesota

The Minnesota Dairy Initiative (MDI) is a state-funded project designed to help



Cows on grass...the natural way.

dairy farms in Minnesota successfully continue producing dairy into the 21st century. As a participant in MDI, the Sustainable Farming Association

of Minnesota (SFA) is charged with assisting dairy farms interested in sustainable production practices, such as, grazing, organic and on-farm dairy processing.

Personnel and funding is available for these farms to explore and implement changes to their businesses. The options are diverse and can be assessed on an individual basis. Dairy producers can tap the resources of MDI to help bring their goals and visions to reality. Many producers do not have the time and energy to undertake these changes by themselves. SFA, with MDI resources, can help carry these ambitions forward.

Potential Projects...

- **New dairy** startup
- **Add dairy** to an existing non-dairy farm
- **Expand** an existing dairy farm
- Add or improve **intensive rotational grazing**
- Convert a dairy farm to **certified organic**
- Family farm **ownership transfer**
- Create a **business plan** to explore a new idea
- Correct an on-going **production problem**, such as, herd health, somatic cell count, cropping, milk volume, etc.
- Many other projects can be considered

What You'll Get...

- Resources for your project valued at greater than \$500.
- One, or more, mentor farmers who've successfully accomplished a similar project on their farm.
- Professionals, as needed, to guide you through complicated planning processes.

Project Steps

1. Have a goal for your cow, sheep or goat dairy farm.
2. Contact SFA and fill out an MDI application.
3. Submit \$200 for the annual project fee.
4. Work with the SFA-MDI Coordinator to build a team of people appropriate to study goal implementation.

Contact:

Jeremy Lanctot (lank-toe)

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