

National Workshop for Dairy Economists and Policy Analysts

The purpose of the Workshop is to create a forum for dialog between industry, government, and academic professionals who are responsible for dairy market and policy analysis.

This forum serves to promote discussion on topics of current and future importance among analysts who do not typically have the opportunity to share ideas and interact with peers.

In this sense, it might be described as a professional development opportunity for people who have in common the training or experience and responsibility to understand and interpret dairy market events and economic regulation. Often, these individuals are the sole “dairy markets” experts in their organization and do not have the opportunity to interact with and thereby learn from their peers. It is often difficult to engage in such discussions, especially in more competitive settings.

The Workshop is designed and intended to promote dialog and learning about the dairy sector and dairy markets. Its purpose is not to advocate a certain point of view or policy. Nor is its goal to resolve conflicts in policy disputes, although a better understanding of competing perspectives is likely to be a result. Participants are encouraged, to the maximum degree possible, to approach the Workshop and its topics as a professional analyst who is trying to improve his/her understanding of the topic, not as a representative of a company or organization that is advocating a policy position related to the topic.

The first annual workshop was held in September 1994. About 80---120 individuals typically participate. Representation is balanced across farmer---owned and investor or privately owned firms and includes companies whose footprint ranges from local to international. Representatives from federal and state agencies also participate. Increasingly there attendees are from countries outside the US. The conference site alternates across major cities in the eastern, central, and western United States. It is typically held in late April or early May. A registration fee is calculated to simply ensure that the direct costs of the workshop are covered.

The workshop is organized by an informal collaboration between dairy oriented agricultural economists from several universities. The primary organizers are Andrew Novakovic and Mark Stephenson. Given this structure, the Workshop is self---sustaining but limited in its resources. We basically price the Workshop to cover our direct costs and do not have sponsors. For more information about the Workshop, contact Andrew Novakovic at a.novakovic@cornell.edu or Mark Stephenson at mwstephenson@wisc.edu

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