

IFCN Conference 2026

**27th - 30th September
Parma, Italy**



**The Future of Global Dairy:
Efficiency, Innovation & Cooperation
in a Volatile Market**

Hosted by:

KEMIN[®]

Compelled by Curiosity[™]

Welcome to IFCN Conference 2026

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the
IFCN Conference 2026, taking place from 27–30 September 2026
at Starhotels Du Parc in Parma, Italy.

This year's conference marks a special milestone for IFCN:
**for the first time, the entire IFCN Network comes together
at one conference.** It is a unique opportunity to connect
our global community, share knowledge and strengthen
the relationships that make our network what it is.

Under the theme “**The Future of Global Dairy**”, we will explore
how the dairy sector can navigate volatility, drive efficiency
and adapt to a rapidly changing global market.

Over the next few days, we will connect insights from the
farm level to global dairy markets, exchange experiences
with colleagues from around the world, and explore the trends,
challenges and opportunities shaping the future of our industry.

We are delighted to bring together the IFCN research partners
and industry experts for meaningful discussions,
new perspectives, valuable connections and shared learning.

We hope you enjoy the conference, the warm Italian hospitality,
and the many experiences that Parma has to offer.

Warm wishes,
The IFCN Team

Evening Programs

Sunday 27th September

Welcome Reception at

Bistrot della Corale Verdi 19:00-22:00

Enjoy an authentic taste of Parma in the warm and charming setting of the bistrot.

Dress code: Business casual

Address: Vicolo Asdente, 9, 43125 Parma, Italy

Monday 28th September

Networking Evening at

Starhotels du Parc 19:30-23:30

Enjoy a relaxed dining experience in the elegant setting of Starhotels Du Parc.

Dress code: Business casual

Address: Viale Piacenza, 12/c, 43100 Parma, Italy

Tuesday 29th September

Global Dairy Dinner at

Palazzo della Pilotta 19:00-23:00

Sponsored by Asterra

An elegant evening in historic Palazzo della Pilotta, combining Italian dining, timeless surroundings and a unique atmosphere.

We kindly ask all participants to arrive on time. The evening will begin with a short concert at 19:00, for which a guide will lead us to the concert venue. Those arriving later may join the aperitif from 19:30 onwards.

Dress code: Cocktail

Address: Piazza della Pilotta, 5, 43121 Parma, Italy

Pre-conference Activities

Sunday 27th September

Field Trip

Experience Italian Dairy at Tellina Farm

12:00-17:00

The day begins with lunch at Ristorante Mezzadri, followed by an afternoon visit to Tellina Farm, offering an insight into modern dairy farming in Italy.

Tellina Farm is located in Fontanellato, in the heart of the Parmigiano Reggiano production area. Managed by the Salvi family, the farm combines modern dairy farming with advanced technology, animal welfare and sustainable practices.

With around 2,500 cattle and 360 hectares of forage crops, Tellina produces milk exclusively for Parmigiano Reggiano. The farm uses automated feeding technology to support consistent nutrition and herd health, while a 300 kW biogas plant, powered by livestock manure, produces electricity and heat and returns nutrients to the land. Together, these practices create a circular and forward-looking approach to dairy farming.

Meeting point: Starhotels du Parc lobby
Check-in: 11:00-11:45 • Bus leaves 12:00

City Tour Parma

14:30-16:30

Get to know the beautiful city of Parma on a guided walking tour through its historic streets, where art, architecture, and culture come together. Stroll past elegant piazzas, stunning churches, and hidden corners while learning about the city's rich heritage and culinary traditions.

Meeting point: Starhotels du Parc lobby
Check-in: 14:00-14:30

Pre-conference Activities

Monday 28th September

Field Trip

Experience Parmigiano Reggiano facilities

08:30-12:30

Discover how innovation and tradition come together in the production of one of the world's most renowned cheeses. Located in the heart of the province of Parma, La Riana is a newly built, state-of-the-art dairy that produces Parmigiano Reggiano, combining modern technology and process efficiency with the rigorous production methods and requirements that distinguish this iconic PDO product.

Parmigiano Reggiano is the result of a unique local dairy supply chain that begins with farms and milk production and continues through processing and aging. Following the previous day's visit to the TELLINA Farm, participants will have the opportunity to follow the subsequent stages of this journey, from milk to the finished cheese.

The visit offers a unique opportunity to observe the transformation of fresh milk into Parmigiano Reggiano during the morning production process and to gain a closer understanding of the craftsmanship, quality standards, and operational excellence that underpin this PDO cheese. Participants will follow the main stages of production and will also visit the aging rooms, where thousands of wheels mature over time.

Meeting point: Starhotels du Parc lobby
Check-in: 7:30-08:15 • Bus leaves 08:30

IFCN Think Tank

10:00-12:00

A session for open discussion on IFCN's future. After a short update on new developments, data services, and upcoming plans, the floor is yours. Share your ideas, challenges, and priorities - your input has shaped IFCN before and will help define its next steps.

Meeting point: Starhotels du Parc Room "Puccini"

Monday 28th September

IFCN Dairy Data & Insights

12:30 **Lunch at Starhotels du Parc**

Welcome to Italian Agriculture

14:00 **Opening of the Conference**

Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

14:15 **Welcome from IFCN Management**

Łukasz Wyrzykowski - IFCN

14:45 **Welcome from Kemin as Host**

Diego Martinez del Olmo - Kemin

14:55 **Tradition in Transition: An Overview of the Italian Agriculture and Dairy Sector**

Alberto Menghi - CRPA

15:20 **Coffee Break**

Global Dairy Overview - Market Level

15:50 **Macroeconomic & Agricultural Developments on a Global Level**

Hubertus Gay - OECD

16:10 **Global & Regional Dairy Trends: Current Market Dynamics**

Andrea Lendewig - IFCN

16:50 **Why Dairy Is Becoming a Strategic Infrastructure for European Food Security**

Pietro Paganini - Competerre

17:10 **From Volatility to Value: How Precision Nutrition Can Strengthen Dairy Farm Economics?**

Deepak Dubey and Mohammad Al Rifai - Kemin

17:30 **Panel: Navigating Through Volatility - Current Challenges & Opportunities**

Moderator: *Andrea Lendewig and Erik Elgersma - IFCN*

Panelists: *Hubertus Gay - OECD, Pietro Paganini - Competerre, Alberto Menghi - CRPA, Deepak Dubey - Kemin, Marcelo Pereira de Carvalho - MilkPoint Ventures*

18:15 **Closing of the Conference Day**

Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

19:30 **Networking Evening at Starhotels du Parc**

Tuesday 29th September

IFCN Knowledge & Inspiration

Global Dairy Overview - Farm Level

8:45 Opening of the Day

Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

8:55 Behind Different Farm Gates: Understanding Where Opportunities Emerge

Katrin Friedrichs and Gabriel Sarmiento - IFCN

IFCN Researcher Session -

Global Overview Through Different Regions

9:25 What's Next for LATAM Southern Cone Dairy? Connecting Farm Evolution, Industry Dynamics and Future Competitiveness

Hugo Quattrochi - Dairy & Agribusiness Strategy Consultant/Argentina

9:40 Strengthening Dairy Value Chains in Africa: The Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers Contribution to Building a Competitive and Resilient Dairy Sector

Paidamoyo Chadoka - Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers

9:55 How Vietnamese Dairy Farmers Overcome Hot and Humid Climate?

Tieu Duc Viet - SFarming Vietnam Co., LTD

10:10 From Growth to Value – The NZ Dairy Story

Matthew Newman - BakerAg/New Zealand

10:25 Panel: Global Overview Through Different Regions

Moderator: *Philipp Goetz - IFCN*

Panelists: *Hugo Quattrochi - Dairy & Agribusiness Strategy Consultant/ Argentina, Paidamoyo Chadoka - Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers, Tieu Duc Viet - SFarming Vietnam Co., LTD, Matthew Newman - BakerAg/New Zealand*

11:05 Coffee Break

Global Initiatives & Farmer Perspective

11:45 An Institutional Perspective on Global Dairy Initiatives: Supporting Efficiency, Innovation & Cooperation

Ernesto Reyes, IFCN/Global Dairy Platform

12:00 Positioning Italian Dairy Farming in a Volatile Global Market: The Farmer's View

Pietro Baldrighi - Dairy Farmer

Tuesday 29th September

IFCN Knowledge & Inspiration

- 12:15 The Cooperative Advantage: Creating Value from Farm to Market**
Simona Caselli - Granlatte Granarolo Group
- 12:30 Panel: Bridging Perspectives in Global Dairy: Farmers, Institutions and the Path Forward**
Opening Presentation: Initiatives of IDF
Gilles Froment - IDF
Moderator: *Łukasz Wyrzykowski - IFCN*
Panelists: *Ernesto Reyes - IFCN/Global Dairy Platform, Gilles Froment - IDF, Pietro Baldrighi - Dairy Farmer, Simona Caselli - Granlatte Granarolo Group*
- 13:15 Lunch**
- Company Case Studies on Efficiency, Cooperation & Innovation**
- 14:45 Why Efficiency, Adaptability & Resilience is Important**
Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN
- 14:55 Forces of Change**
Tara McCarthy - Alltech
- 15:10 Cooperation as Strategy: How Dairy Farms Navigate Efficiency & Innovation**
Patrick Gerlich - Bayer
- 15:25 Closing the Loop: Supporting Sustainability Across the Farm Ecosystem (More Sustainable Dairy Production Starts Here)**
Luis Queirós - Lallemand
- 15:40 Better Decisions Start with Better Data: A Case in Collaborative Innovation**
Charlie Sheppy - smaXtec
- 15:55 Herd Lifetime Productivity as an Integrated Solution for Dairy Producers for Smarter, Faster Decisions**
Celeste Grande - Cargill
- 16:10 Panel: Cooperation or Competition: What Drives Real Innovation and Efficiency in the Dairy Industry?**
Moderator: *John Allen - A4jwa*
Panelists: *Tara McCarthy - Alltech, Patrick Gerlich - Bayer, Luis Queirós - Lallemand, Charlie Sheppy - smaXtec, Mike Jerred - Cargill*
- 17:10 Closing of the Conference Day**
Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN
- 19:00 Global Dairy Dinner at Palazzo della Pilotta**

Wednesday 30th September

IFCN Workshop & Outlook

IFCN Knowledge & Inspiration & Outlook Day

8:00 Opening of the Day, Roadmap to Sustainability and Efficiency

Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

Kemin x IFCN Dairy Efficiency Session

**8:10 Connecting Efficiency with Sustainability
(Economic, Social & Environmental)**

Milica Kocić and Expedito Netto - IFCN

8:40 Long-Term Low-Protein Feeding in Dairy Cows

Michel de Haan - Wageningen Livestock Research

**8:55 Beyond Feed Efficiency: Creating Value for Profit, Planet,
and People**

Dr. Heather White - University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:15 Precision Protein Nutrition for a Sustainable Dairy Industry

Dr. Kelly Nichols - UC Davis

**9:35 Amino Acid Balancing: The Sustainability Strategy That
Ticks All Boxes**

Bram Pauwelyn - Kemin

Workshop

9:55 Round Tables with Working Groups

11:10 Debrief and Conclusion

11:55 Closing of the Session

12:15 Finger food lunch

IFCN Outlook Session

**12:45 From Volatility to Vision: Dairy Market Outlook for Coming
Months and Beyond**

Milica Kocić and Erik Elgersma - IFCN

13:20 U.S. Milk Supply Dynamics

Eric Meyer - HighGround Dairy

**13:40 Dairy Demand in the Future: Why Not to Forget the
Consumer Perspective**

Tom Booijink - Rabobank

14:00 Panel: Dairy Resilience in Volatile Times

Moderator: *Milica Kocić and Erik Elgersma - IFCN*

Panelists: *Eric Meyer - HighGround Dairy, Tom Booijink - Rabo-
bank, Becki Reay - Asterra, Roberto Brazzale - Brazzale*

14:45 Conference Closing

Philipp Goetz and Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

Information

Shuttle Buses to Milan MXP and Bologna BLQ Airports Wed 30th Sept

Buses will leave at **15:30 sharp** from the bus stop in front of the hotel.

Buses stop only shortly for boarding and they will arrive at 15:15.

Please proceed directly to the buses upon their arrival.

IFCN staff will be outside of the hotel to guide you to the bus stop.

Conference venue

Starhotels du Parc

Address: Viale Piacenza, 12/c, 43100 Parma, Italy

Contact Information

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Participant List



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Speakers & Panelists



Łukasz Wyrzykowski - IFCN

Łukasz Wyrzykowski serves as the Managing Director at IFCN. With an impressive tenure exceeding 13 years in the dairy industry, Mr. Wyrzykowski has adeptly navigated various roles within IFCN, notably as the Director of Dairy Sector Analysis and as a Dairy Market Analyst. His extensive expertise encompasses a comprehensive understanding of dairy market development patterns, value chain analysis, and the intricate dynamics of milk and feed price production behaviours. Furthermore, he possesses a profound capability in both short- and long-term forecasting, which has proven invaluable in guiding strategic decision-making within the sector. He has successfully directed international teams, managed diverse projects, and provided consultation services to prominent companies throughout the global dairy supply chain. Under his guidance, IFCN continues to uphold its commitment to excellence, fostering informed decision-making and sustainable growth within the dairy sector on a global scale.



Philipp Goetz - IFCN

Philipp Goetz is an experienced expert in the dairy industry with a strong focus on milk production, market analysis, and global dairy trends. As Head of Sales and Business Development at IFCN, he leads strategic business development and key account management, oversees international partnerships, and drives the expansion of IFCN's data and consulting services. His expertise includes the analysis of dairy farm structures, price developments, and market dynamics, as well as the implementation of practical, solution-oriented approaches for the dairy sector. With a background in agricultural economics and many years of experience in data analysis, model development, business development, and strategic consulting, Philipp combines strong analytical expertise with commercial insight, supporting stakeholders across the entire dairy value chain.

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Andrea Lendewig - IFCN

Andrea Lendewig is Head of Research and Development at IFCN. She completed her PhD in Agricultural Sciences at Kiel University, specialising in agricultural policy and economics. Through her academic and professional career, she has gained experience in applying quantitative methods, data analysis, and evidence-based research. Since joining IFCN in 2022, she has played a key role in the preparation, quality assurance, and analysis of global dairy sector data, while also leading and coordinating international research and consultancy projects. Her work focuses on transforming data into actionable insights that support informed decision-making across the dairy industry.



Milica Kocić - IFCN

Milica Kocić is Product Development Lead at IFCN, where she has played a key role in shaping the organisation's dairy intelligence products over the past seven years. She leads the development of market and farm data solutions that help dairy industry stakeholders navigate an increasingly complex global environment. Her expertise lies in connecting dairy market developments, farm economics, and structural industry trends to generate actionable insights for strategic decision-making. Milica is a recognised speaker at international dairy conferences and industry events, regularly presenting on global dairy market developments, competitiveness, and farm-level economics. She has contributed to numerous consulting, research, and strategic projects for companies across the dairy value chain.

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Katrin Friedrichs - IFCN



Katrin Friedrichs grew up on a small dairy farm in Northern Germany, which sparked her lifelong interest in dairy farming and agricultural economics. She holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Berlin, focusing on food security, and gained international research experience in Tanzania and Azerbaijan. Since joining IFCN in 2016, Katrin has built expertise in analyzing global dairy markets and the economic forces shaping their development. As a Senior Dairy Economist, she focuses on long-term market projections, sector analysis, and farm economics. Combining her understanding of dairy farming with international research and economic analysis, Katrin helps stakeholders navigate market developments and understand the key trends and challenges shaping the future of dairy worldwide.

Expedito Netto - IFCN



Expedito Netto is an agronomist with a Master's degree in Animal Science from the Federal University of Viçosa (Brazil), with specializations in business management. With several years of experience in agribusiness, Expedito has led high-impact projects that have driven the development of dairy farms in Brazil. As Senior Dairy Economist at IFCN, Expedito focuses on the economic analysis of dairy farms worldwide and provides a global perspective on dairy farming systems, contributing to international dairy knowledge and building strong connections across the global dairy network.

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Gabriel Sarmiento - IFCN

Gabriel Sarmiento is an agricultural engineer with a Master's degree in Business Development and Economics. For nearly 10 years, he worked as an advisor and project manager across Latin America and the US, supporting livestock farms and leading projects in efficiency and sustainability. He led projects that positioned agricultural companies among the leading B Corps in Latin America. After moving to Europe, he specialized in dairy reproduction programs. Today, as a Dairy Economist at IFCN, Gabriel brings his hands-on farm experience to a global perspective, connecting dairy production with economics, markets, and business development worldwide.



Sofia Iordanidou - IFCN

Sofia Iordanidou is a Data and Research Network Manager at IFCN, focusing on building and managing relationships with partners across the global dairy research network. She coordinates partner communication, data collection, and quality processes while supporting research projects and the development of the Dairy Report. Her role also includes identifying new partners, developing business opportunities, and supporting IFCN conferences and client projects. With strong communication, organizational, and relationship-building skills, she connects international partners with internal teams and ensures effective collaboration. She brings a proactive and hands-on approach to strengthening IFCN's global network and creating long-term value for its partners.

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Erik Elgersma - IFCN

Erik has been Director of Strategic Analysis in Friesland-Campina up to Dec. 2018, where he worked for 20 years. He is now independent consultant to the global food industry, having among others consulted to eight of the world's top-20 dairy companies in the last five years. He is also a visiting lecturer at the Free University Amsterdam, School of Business & Economics, Faculty Management & Organization.



Ernesto Reyes - IFCN/Global Dairy Platform (GDP)

Ernesto is the Dairy Development Sector Lead and Director of Dairy Development at the Global Dairy Platform (GDP). He leads initiatives that strengthen the role of dairy in sustainable development, including the Dairy Impact Methodology and Dairy Nourishes Africa. Ernesto also serves as Director of the Livestock for Social Development Action Network, working alongside FAO and IFAD to advance livestock's contribution to livelihoods and food security. His expertise includes socio-economic assessments of sustainable livestock systems across Africa and Latin America, as well as research on the structural transformation of the U.S. dairy sector, providing evidence-based insights for policy and industry development worldwide.

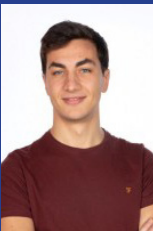
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Mohammad Al Rifai - Kemira

Mohammad Al Rifai is a senior dairy nutrition and ruminant health professional with extensive experience in livestock production, nutrition, genetics, reproduction, and dairy farm management. He serves as Product Manager for Ruminants, leading technical and commercial initiatives across the Middle East while also supporting global small ruminant and cheese industry projects. With a strong background in scientific research, customer training, and product innovation, Mohammad helps dairy and livestock producers enhance animal performance, health, and profitability through evidence-based nutrition solutions and practical on-farm applications.



Pietro Baldrighi - Owner/Arable crops and Dairy Farmer

Pietro Baldrighi is a dairy farmer and Farm Manager at Azienda Agricola Bosco, his family farm located near Crema, in northern Italy. The farm manages 260 hectares, more than 1,000 cattle - including 450 lactating dairy cows - and an agricultural biogas plant.

He holds a degree in Agricultural Sciences from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and an MSc in Animal Sciences from Wageningen University, where he specialised in innovation and sustainability in livestock production.

Alongside his farming activities, Pietro serves on the National Committee of ANGA, Confagricoltura's young farmers' association, with responsibility for carbon farming and regenerative agriculture. He is also involved in projects focused on the practical implementation of sustainable farming practices, including Bayer's ForwardFarming initiative and the development of carbon farming solutions at farm level.

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Roberto Brazzale - Brazzale

Roberto Brazzale, a lawyer and chairman of Brazzale S.p.A., represents the seventh generation of the Brazzale family – the oldest dynasty in the Italian dairy sector, continuously active in the production and trade of butter and cheese since at least 1784, with documented roots extending even further back. Alongside his brothers Gian Battista and Piercristiano, he leads the family group, which has been at the forefront of a profound process of internationalization and innovation since the early 2000s.



Tom Booiijink - Rabobank

Tom is a Senior Dairy Specialist focused on Europe and Africa. He joined RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness in January 2025 and is based in the Netherlands. Before joining Rabobank, Tom spent 15 years at Royal FrieslandCampina, where he worked as a market analyst and senior strategy specialist and also had roles in finance. He holds a master's degree in Econometrics and a cum laude master's in Business Administration from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Outside of work, Tom enjoys traveling the world, having seen

170 countries so far, with Bhutan being the latest addition to his list.

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Simona Caselli - Granlatte Granarolo Group

Graduated with honours in Economics and Commerce, registered Auditor, and Ordinary Academic of the Italian National Academy of Agriculture, she is currently President of Granlatte coop (bigger Italian dairy cooperative) - parent company of Granarolo Spa -, Vice President of Granarolo and Head of EU and International Affairs of Legacoop Agro-alimentare. She is also President of CRPA - Research Center for Animal Productions. She was Councillor for Agriculture, Hunting and Fisheries of the Emilia-Romagna Region in the period 2015-2020 and, for 9 years until March 2025, President of AREFLH - European Network of Fruit and Vegetable Regions. She is, at present, also board member of CIRFOOD coop, a leading company in HoReCa sector, of Progeo cooperative active on crops production and feed, and of Consorzio Il Biologico, representing the leading companies in organic Italian food. She is Honorary member of the National Association of Women in Fruit and Vegetables and the National Association of Women in Wine. During her long involvement in the Italian cooperative system, which began in 1984, she worked for decades in the financial sector at the National Financial Consortium CCFS. In 2011 she was elected President of Legacoop of Reggio Emilia and of Legacoop Emilia Ovest until 2014, a period in which she also represented the cooperative economic system on the Board of Directors of Parma University.

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Marcelo Pereira de Carvalho - Milkpoint Ventures

Marcelo is the Founder and CEO of MilkPoint Ventures, the leading intelligence and information platform for the Brazilian dairy sector. The company provides market intelligence, analysis, and strategic insights to more than 400 corporate clients, while also conducting tailored market studies across South America. MilkPoint Ventures also organizes four of Brazil's most relevant dairy industry events - Interleite Brasil, Milk Pro Summit, Fórum MilkPoint Mercado, and Dairy Vision - bringing together more than 2.500 participants annually, including dairy farmers, processors, industry leaders, and global experts. It also owns MilkPoint, Brazil's leading dairy website, with more than 130.000 active subscribers.



Dr. Deepak Dubey - Kemin

Dr. Deepak Dubey has over 19 years of experience in ruminant nutrition. He combines scientific expertise with commercial leadership to develop and advance innovative nutritional solutions for dairy production. At Kemin, he leads global initiatives that translate research into practical, data-driven strategies that improve animal health, productivity, and farm profitability. He regularly collaborates with leading researchers and industry partners and presents at international scientific and dairy industry conferences.

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**Paidamoyo Patience Chadoka -
Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers**

A Sector Development Practitioner – an agroscientist and business leader with vast technical and administrative experience of 14 years in Zimbabwe's Dairy Industry. A result - driven Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers with over 9 years' experience leading and increasing growth in all scales of dairy businesses in a complex Zimbabwean economic environment. An inspiring, confident and motivational leader with interpersonal skills, the ability and passion to promote organizational vision, mission and objectives. Active in resource mobilization and development project implementation. Promoter of gender transformation, youth inclusion, climate justice, livelihood improvement and business sustainability. A non-executive board member of Willdale Bricks Limited, a board member of Agrianalysis Centre T/A AgLabs Zimbabwe; a board member of National Dairy Coop (NDC transport logistics); A member of the Zimbabwe Dairy Industry Trust ; a board member of the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council; International Dairy Federation Science and Program Coordination Committee Member; Coordinating the National Dairy Revitalization Programs and various technical working groups. Participant in regional and international sector relevant interactions. Award winner for young agroprofessional of the year, best presenter and woman in leadership recognitions. A holder of Executive Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science Honours in Agriculture.

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Gilles Froment - IDF

Gilles Froment was recently elected President of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) after serving on the Board of Directors for the past 4 years and as IDF Treasurer since 2022. Within this role, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Dairy Platform and as a Governor of the Dairy Sustainability Framework. Before that, he was Chair of the IDF Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics from 2014 to 2020. Gilles is also the Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Relations at Lactalis Canada Inc.

Gilles joined Lactalis Canada in 2016 and is a member of the Executive Team responsible for overseeing milk supply, regulatory affairs, trade, internal and external communications as well as relations with dairy farmers, government, industry stakeholders and associations. As an economist, a trusted advisor and a recognized leader in the dairy industry in Canada and worldwide, Gilles came to Lactalis Canada in 2016 from the Canadian Dairy Commission where he served for almost 20 years culminating in the position of Chief Operating Officer after holding positions at the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

He serves as an executive member on various industry Boards and associations including the Dairy Processors Association of Canada where he chairs the DPAC Policy Committee. He is also the Chair of the Ontario Dairy Council (ODC) since March 2023 and is a founding Board member of the Western Dairy Council (WDC).

Gilles holds a B.Sc. in Economics from the University of Montreal as well as an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from McGill University. He grew up on the family farm near Joliette, Quebec in Canada which is now operated by his two brothers.

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Patrick Gerlich - Bayer

Patrick Gerlich started his career 2009 as trainee with Bayer AG in Leverkusen, Germany. After finishing his MBA in the U.S. 2012, Patrick moved to Brazil to work on Merger & Acquisition projects throughout Latin America as well as Sales Roles in the Brazilian business. After Brazil, Patrick took over a global Project Management role and supported the divestment and anti-trust proceeding for the acquisition of Monsanto, one of the largest corporate take overs in Corporate German history.

In 2018, Patrick moved to St. Louis, Missouri as Chief of Staff to the Global Head of Crop Strategy and Portfolio Management where he worked on bringing together the Digital Farming Strategy of the new combined company, Bayer / Monsanto / Climate Corporation.

He then took over a Data Science team focused on Market Trends and Competitive Models based out of Monheim, Germany before moving to Jakarta to lead the Bayer Crop Science Organization for Indonesia and Malaysia.

Since 2023, Patrick leads Bayer's Crop Science Business in the Central Mediterranean region as well as Managing Director for Bayer Crop Science Italy, a business spanning across Corn and Vegetable Seeds, Crop Protection, Biologics and Digital Farming.



Hubertus Gay - OECD

Hubertus Gay is Senior Agricultural Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He has coordinated the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook for over ten years and is principle analyst for oilseeds and dairy. Before joining the OECD, Hubertus Gay worked in similar functions for the European Commission, the Thünen Institute and ISTA Mielke GmbH (Oilworld). He studied agricultural economics in Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and South Africa

and obtained his PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa).

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Celeste Grande - Cargill

Celeste Grande is the Strategic Marketing & Technology Lead for Italy at Cargill Animal Nutrition & Health. With over 13 years of experience in animal nutrition and feed solutions at companies including Nutreco and Cargill, she combines scientific expertise with a passion for innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable livestock production. Holding a Master's Degree in Animal Science and a specialization in Dairy Technologies from the University of Copenhagen LIFE, Celeste has led initiatives across nutritional

strategies, product development, project management and technology adoption. She fosters collaboration, positivity, and high-performing teams while helping farmers improve productivity, animal welfare, and long-term sustainability through practical, science-based solutions.

A former basketball player and proud mother of two daughters, she believes that consistency and courage are the keys to turning ideas into lasting success.



Mike Jerred - Cargill

Mike Jerred is Global Technology Manager – Dairy for Cargill Animal Nutrition and Health, where he supports global dairy nutrition technology development, application, and deployment. He has held this role for 15 years and has been with Cargill for 31 years. His work connects his passion for the dairy industry with interests in global dairy markets, diet formulation, and dairy management software development. Current projects include dairy MAXTM and Dairy EnteligenTM. Through various Cargill roles, Mike has had the

opportunity to visit dairy operations in more than 30 countries. Raised on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Dairy Science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where his graduate work focused on high-quality forage utilization. In his spare time, he supports his wife's business, Forage to Fromage, which promotes dairy through artisan cheese education and consulting.

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Michel de Haan - Wageningen Livestock Research

Michel de Haan is one of the driving forces behind innovation in the Dutch dairy sector. As a project leader at Wageningen Livestock Research, he has spent many years working at the intersection of science, practice, and policy. His passion: helping dairy farms become more sustainable, efficient, and future proof. Michel has shaped and guided several leading innovation programmes, including Koeien & Kansen (Cows & Opportunities), where he has served as project leader since 2009. In this programme

he brings farmers, advisors, and researchers together to develop solutions for nitrogen reduction, climate mitigation, circular agriculture, and smarter roughage management.

Another major project and product developed under Michel's leadership is the KringloopWijzer (Annual Nutrient Cycling Assessment, ANCA). Today, nearly all dairy farmers in the Netherlands use this instrument to assess their environmental performance. Michel is also closely involved in the Koe en Eiwit (Cow and Protein) project, in which 150 dairy farmers aim to achieve a ration containing 155 g CP/kg DM for their herds, ultimately to reduce ammonia emissions. He contributes to a wide range of studies and reports on topics such as ammonia monitoring, greenhouse gas emissions, protein efficiency, grassland strategies, and integrated farm management. Michel is known for his ability to translate complex issues into clear, practical insights, and for his infectious drive to move the sector forward.



Diego Martinez del Olmo

Diego holds a Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Leon (1999) with advanced studies in Animal Production and Surgery, a Ph.D. from Complutense University of Madrid (2012), and multiple master's degrees including Dairy Farm Management and Strategic Management of Feed Companies, as well as an MBA.

Currently Ruminant Business Manager at KEMIN EMENA, Diego has extensive experience across veterinary clinical

work, ruminant nutrition, milk processing, feed additives, and animal feed manufacturing with companies like Tolsa Group and De Heus, and is co-inventor of two European feed additive patents along with several scientific publications and books.

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Tara McCarthy - Alltech

Tara McCarthy is the global vice president of ESG at Alltech, where she supports the company's purpose of Working Together for a Planet of Plenty™. Previously, she served as the chief executive officer of Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board, and as the chief executive officer of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's seafood development agency. In 2019, she co-founded Agdif, an organization that champions diversity in the Irish food industry.

McCarthy holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a master's degree in business studies from University College Dublin's Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. She is also an affiliate of IMD Business School in Switzerland.



Alberto Menghi - CRPA

Graduated in Agricultural Science at Perugia University, specialized in Agribusiness at the Catholic University of Piacenza. Since 1998 is employed at the economic department of CRPA (Research Centre on Animal Production) of Reggio Emilia conducts research and experimentation of European and national projects (in particular, the European Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Emilia-Romagna Region) and consulting activities for technical economic farms to address livestock, producer groups,

agricultural cooperatives and agro-industrial companies. The major skills are focused in the economy of the dairy sector that are analyzed at different levels and mainly to the analysis of the profitability of dairy farms. Additional skills are developed on draft benchmarks for the dairy industry for the major Italian dairy districts. These analyzes are complemented by comparisons and analysis of international level thanks to participation as a scientific partner to major sector network, for several years in the European Dairy Farmers (EDF) and currently at IFCN.

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Eric Meyer - HighGround Dairy

Eric Meyer is a seasoned dairy risk management and sourcing professional with more than 23 years of experience including tenure at Downes-O'Neill LLC, Sara Lee Corporation, FCStone & Winona Foods before founding HighGround Dairy in 2012.

Eric's extensive hedging and procurement experience for both small boutique firms and large multi-national corporations gives him a unique insight into the dairy market.

He has a strong reputation of creating insightful educational programs and content, specifically HighGround's comprehensive dairy market intelligence, industry-leading analysis that is read by subscribers across the globe.



Matthew Newman - BakerAg

Matt Newman is a dairy farm business consultant with BakerAg and is an experienced agricultural economist specialising in farm systems, benchmarking, and economic analysis. Matt was the senior economist for DairyNZ for a number of years where he developed farm forecasting and benchmarking tools and contributed to numerous studies on the economic, environmental, and policy challenges facing New Zealand dairying. Most recently, Matt worked with AbacusBio to provide financial and environmental in-

sights that support profitable, sustainable, and resilient farming systems. He has been actively involved with IFCN for nearly two decades and brings a strong understanding of both New Zealand dairy farming and global dairy system trends.

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Dr. Kelly Nichols - UC Davis

Kelly Nichols is a ruminant nutritionist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California, Davis. Her research program focuses on characterizing the digestive and metabolic flexibility of dairy cattle to elevate the understanding of dietary protein and energy interactions, mammary gland metabolism, and nutrient utilization to improve the transfer of dietary nutrients into milk.

Kelly's research career began at the University of Guelph in Canada where she completed her MSc focused on amino acid and energy metabolism in dairy cattle. She then moved to the Netherlands to carry out her PhD at Wageningen University on a project focused on reducing nitrogen losses in dairy cattle in collaboration with the Dutch feed industry. Prior to her move to UC Davis, Kelly led a strategic research area on nitrogen and carbon efficiency in the Ruminant Research Center of Trouw Nutrition R&D.



Pietro Paganini - Competerre

Pietro Paganini, PhD, is Co-Founder and President of Competerre, an independent policy and advocacy institute, and Adjunct Professor at Temple University in Philadelphia. His work explores how science, innovation, and public policy shape the future of food, health, and consumer choice. He is the author of three books on food, nutrition and human evolution, and a strong advocate for evidence-based policymaking. His current research focuses on personalized prevention, AI, and the future of animal protein, challenging simplistic narratives and exploring how food industries can move from defending products to creating value, trust, and resilience.

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Bram Pauwelyn - Kemin

After graduating in 2014 from Ghent University (Belgium) with a Master of Science in Animal Production and a second Master's in Business Economics, Bram Pauwelyn has built a career dedicated to advancing ruminant nutrition. With over a decade of experience, he combines scientific expertise with a practical, business-oriented mindset to drive efficiency and sustainability in ruminant production. Bram began his professional journey at ID-Nutrition, where he was responsible for product development, marketing, and technical support. He later joined Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health Europe, where he currently serves as Technical Sales Manager Ruminants NW Europe. In this role, he supports farmers and industry partners in implementing innovative nutritional strategies tailored to their specific challenges. Bram is deeply committed to translating the latest scientific insights into actionable, on-farm practices and promoting the global exchange of best practices. His passion lies in helping the ruminant sector thrive in a sustainable and future-proof way, by bridging science, industry, and farm-level application.



Luis Queirós - Lallemand

Luis Queirós was born in Portugal, 49 years ago, in a small town named Santo Tirso, close to Oporto, just in the middle of the biggest dairy production area of the country. He graduated in Coimbra, as an Agronomic Engineer, and frequented a masters in Animal Nutrition in Lisbon, at Agronomy Institute and Veterinary Medicine University. After doing research on small ruminants at National Zootechnical Institute for 4 years, working in molecular biology, mainly feed markers, as n-alkanes, and genetic polymorphisms, being this subjects under his graduating thesis, he joined Dupont Pioneer Hi Bred International, as Operative Marketing Manager for Silage and Forage Additives. He stayed there for more than 8 years, and in 2012 joined Lallemand Animal Nutrition, as Forage Additives Technical Support Manager. He is currently Global Category Manager, Forage Additives, for Lallemand Animal Nutrition.

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Hugo Quattrochi - Dairy & Agribusiness Strategy Consultant

Hugo Quattrochi is a Business Consultant specialized in Dairy, with a distinguished track record in advising both private and public sector stakeholders in the global agri-cultural industry. He holds a degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Buenos Aires. Since 2008, he has been a member of the IFCN, serving as IFCN Associate Consultant for Argentina and contributing to international dairy economics, farm benchmarking, and milk production cost analysis. He has served as an advisor to government agencies in New Zealand (NZTE), Spain, and the European Commission, contributing to farming investment projects and production cost analysis. As Founding Partner and Managing Director of a consulting firm, he leads a team delivering specialized technical, business, and audit services to dairy farming operations across Argentina and Uruguay. The firm also works as a consultant and external auditor for agriholdings and input suppliers leading projects across Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Germany, and the United States. He is also a frequent speaker at international conferences, industry forums, and executive workshops, having delivered presentations in 16 countries.



Becki Reay - Asterra

Becki Reay is Head of Corporate at Asterra, the dairy group within AB Agri Ltd. She works closely with retailers, processors and industry stakeholders across global supply chains, providing expertise in market dynamics, commercial strategy, milk pricing models and change management. With a BSc in Animal Science and a Diploma in Agriculture and Feed, Becki has built a diverse career spanning consultancy, regulatory and commercial roles. After joining Kite Consulting in 2019, she progressed through senior positions before becoming Head of Corporate in 2025. Raised in Yorkshire and still based there today, Becki remains deeply involved in the farming community and is passionate about securing a positive future for the dairy sector.

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Charlie Sheppy - smaXtec

Charlie Sheppy serves as Chief Executive Officer of smaXtec. He brings more than 25 years of international leadership experience across animal nutrition, animal health and livestock technology. Since joining smaXtec in 2025, he has led the company's international growth and strategic development. His responsibilities include scaling the business across global markets, building strategic partnerships and advancing the innovation agenda, including the continued adoption of data-driven technologies and AI across the livestock sector. Before joining smaXtec, Sheppy was part of the global marketing and technology solutions leadership team at MSD Animal Health. Earlier in his career, he held leadership roles at Antellic / Allflex, AB Vista and Danisco Animal Nutrition. Across these positions, he led international teams and supported the introduction and scaling of technology-based solutions across the agricultural value chain. He studied Agricultural Marketing at Newcastle University and holds an MBA focusing on business- and operations-strategy and finance from Kingston Business School. Outside his career in the agri-business sector, he is committed to social engagement and promoting an active lifestyle among young people. A co-founder of Quadkids, a revolutionary athletics concept for school children, in the lead up to the 2012 London Olympics, the initiative attracted more than 100,000 participants.



Tieu Duc Viet - SFarming Vietnam Co., LTD

Founder and CEO of SFarming Vietnam Co., LTD. A dairy veterinarian with a passion for sustainable agriculture. With extensive senior leadership experience, he brings innovative solutions to his clients, helping them adopt best farming practices, improve herd management, and optimize milk production.

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Dr. Heather White - University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Heather White is originally from southern Indiana and earned her BS from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. She then earned her MS and PhD at Purdue University and subsequently did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Heather as an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut before joining the University of Wisconsin-Madison as faculty in 2013. Heather is now a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the area of dairy cattle nutritional physiology. Dr. White's research strives to determine the mechanism of nutrient partitioning, feed efficiency, and metabolic health in order to provide science-based solutions and interventions to improve dairy cow health and productivity. In addition to contributing to the research, teaching, and outreach missions of the college, Heather became the inaugural faculty director of the Dairy Innovation Hub that spans University of Wisconsin-Madison, Platteville, and River Falls and focuses on dairy-related research that can improve animal health and welfare, enhance human nutrition, steward land and water resources, and grow farm businesses and communities, a role which she served for five years. She is currently serving as the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

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