



**MICHIGAN MILK
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

Cooperative Social
Responsibility
Report **2021**





Sustainability Mission Statement

Our mission is to continually strive for a more sustainable future — for our community, our environment, our economy's health and for the lives and world around us.

INTRODUCTION

At our core, MMPA is committed to cooperative social responsibility and sustainable business practices throughout our entire supply chain. Sustainability is vital to MMPA's transparency, growth and success for our members, employees, stakeholders and our communities.

At MMPA, we are mindful that our business decisions and operations have a direct impact on our environment, communities, customers and coworkers. We believe social responsibility and sustainability is not just a destination, but a journey toward continuous improvement.

MMPA has adopted the U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment, which is a demonstration of U.S. dairy's long-standing values, and a pledge to uphold those values for today, tomorrow and the future. Through the commitment, MMPA follows a rigorous set of standards that demonstrate positive impact and contribute to U.S. dairy's ability to track, aggregate and report on progress.

"Dairy and agriculture have a unique role in the sustainability space. As farmers, we are committed to sustaining our livelihoods for the next generation, with a responsibility that extends from the farm to processing plants to the end products for consumers. As the climate discussion is magnified around the world, several other industries are looking to us for answers. Not only do we want to be at the table as these decisions are made; we want to be leaders at that table. We want food production and dairy to offer answers."

— **Doug Chapin,**
MMPA Board Chairman

WHO WE PARTNER WITH

- U.S. Dairy Sustainability Alliance
- National Dairy FARM Program
- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Food Bank Council of Michigan
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives



FARM SUSTAINABILITY

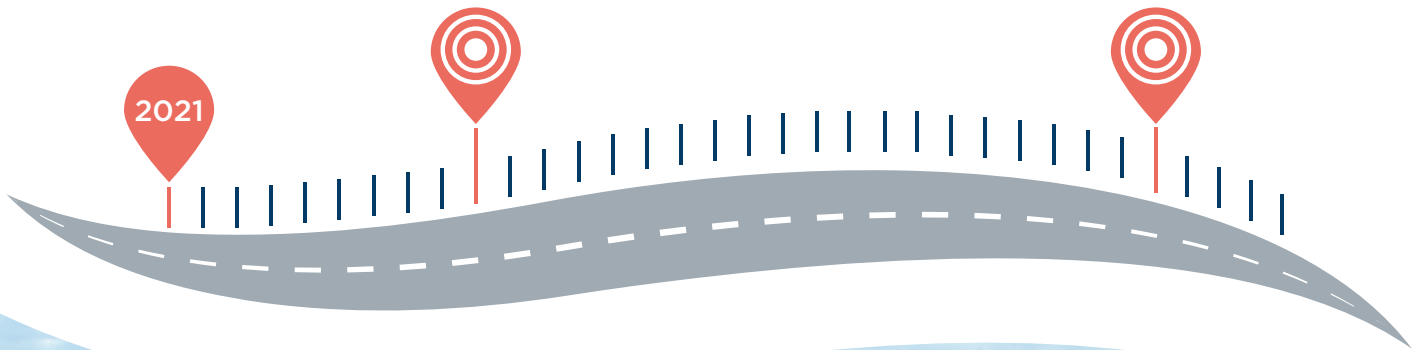
MMPA's commitment to sustainability begins at the farm. MMPA's farmer-focused Sustainability Program utilizes all four National Dairy FARM Program silos including Antibiotic Stewardship, Animal Care, Environmental Stewardship and Workforce Development. In addition, the MMPA board of directors adopted a supplemental survey to address current customer topics that are not covered in these other national programs.

The MMPA board of directors approved the formation of a Farmer Sustainability Advisory Committee (FSAC). The committee is made up of a representative from each of MMPA's eight districts and is chaired by the vice-chair of MMPA's board of directors. Their duties include meeting with customers and other stakeholders to provide recommendations to the board of directors regarding future MMPA sustainability initiatives.

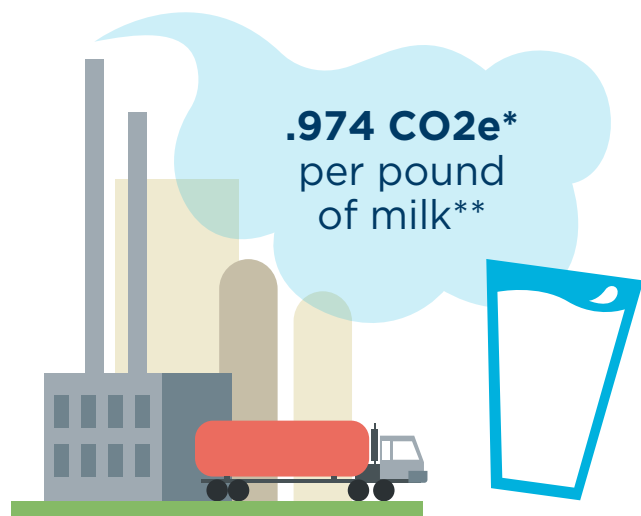
MMPA GOALS

30% reduction of
greenhouse gas (GHG)
emissions by **2030**

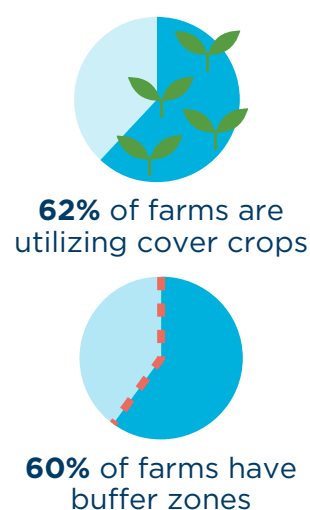
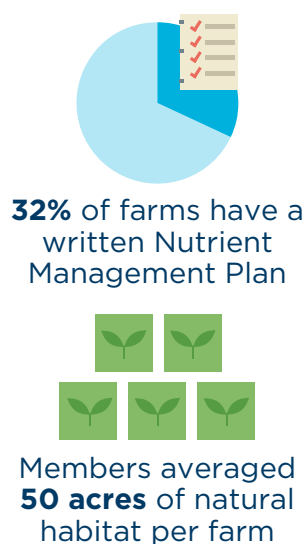
Net Zero GHG
emissions by **2050**



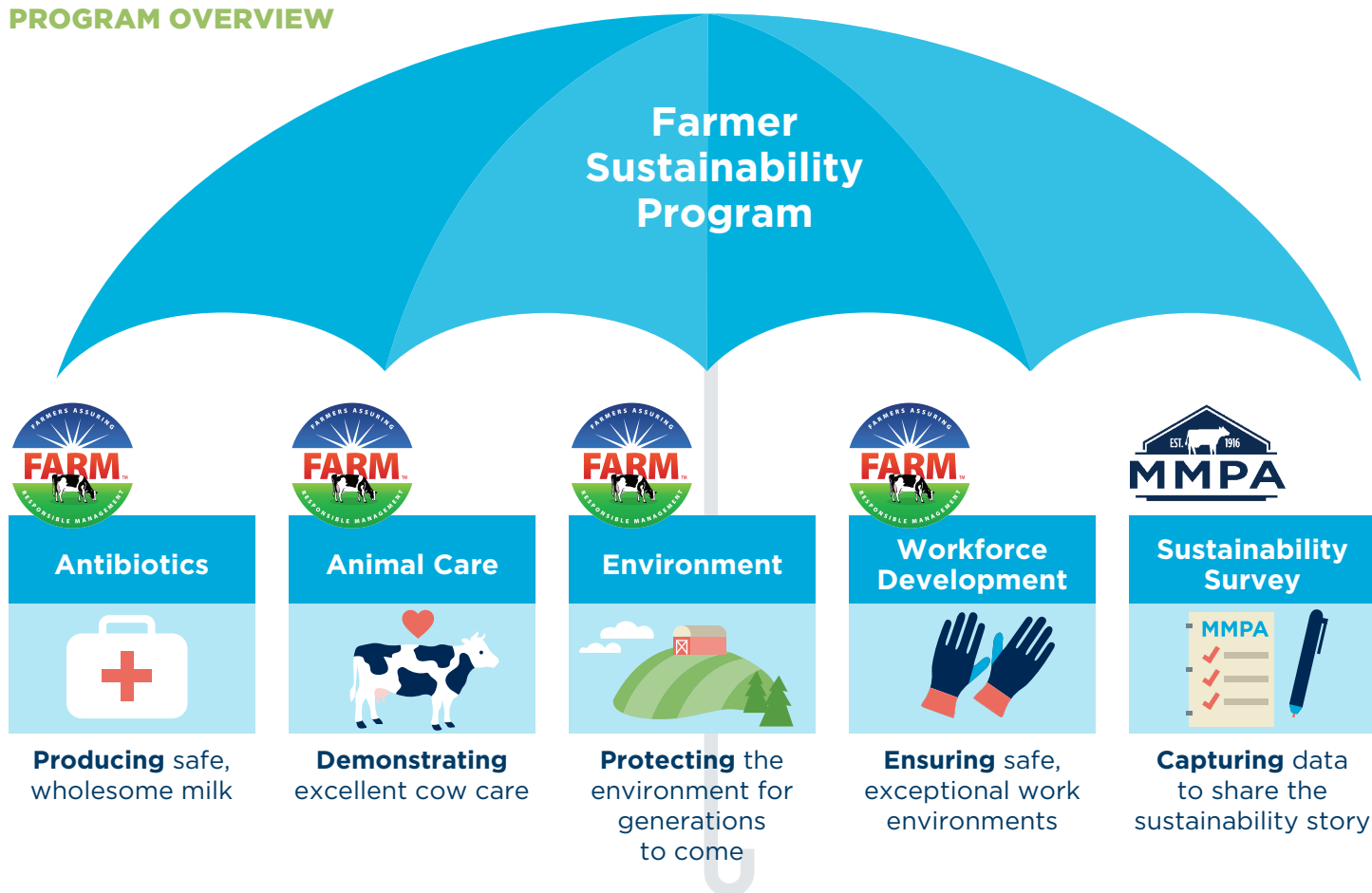
FARM ES 2020 BASELINE EMISSIONS



SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY DATA



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



*CO₂e refers to carbon dioxide equivalent, which is used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their global-warming potential (GWP), by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the same global warming.

**Fat Protein Corrected Milk (FPCM), a method of standardizing the components of milk.

FARM SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

COVER CROP PROJECT

The MMPA Cover Crop Project is a collaboration between MMPA, Unilever and Barry-Callebaut to demonstrate what farmers are doing for soil health and carbon sequestration through cover crops. In 2021, MMPA worked with MSU Extension to present a Virtual Field Day featuring six MMPA members in the Cover Crop Project to share their experience using cover crops and lessons learned. The field day included farm visits and interviews on topics such as seed selection for forage and conventional cover crops, manure management, planting and harvesting methods, and the practical application of cover crops in a dairy crop rotation.

FEED ADDITIVE PROJECT

Several MMPA members participated in a feed additive pilot that claimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving feed efficiency. A number of short-term research trials indicate methane reductions at 10 percent per animal.

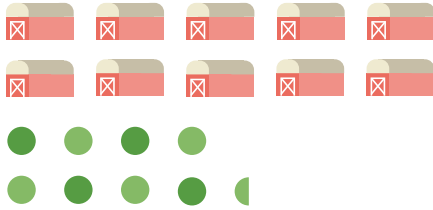
“As the world’s largest ice cream producer, the importance of developing tools and programs to advance sustainable dairy production is imperative. We recognize the critical role of our key suppliers, such as Michigan Milk Producers Association, and are excited to invest in dairy producers to support soil health practices.”

— **Jessie Deelo,**

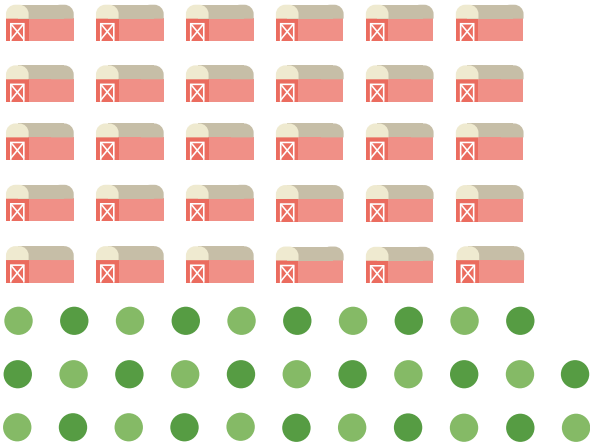
*North America Sustainable Source
Dairy Consultant for Unilever*

COVER CROP PROJECT ENROLLMENT

2021: 10 Farms & 850 Acres



2022: 30 Farms & 3,200 Acres



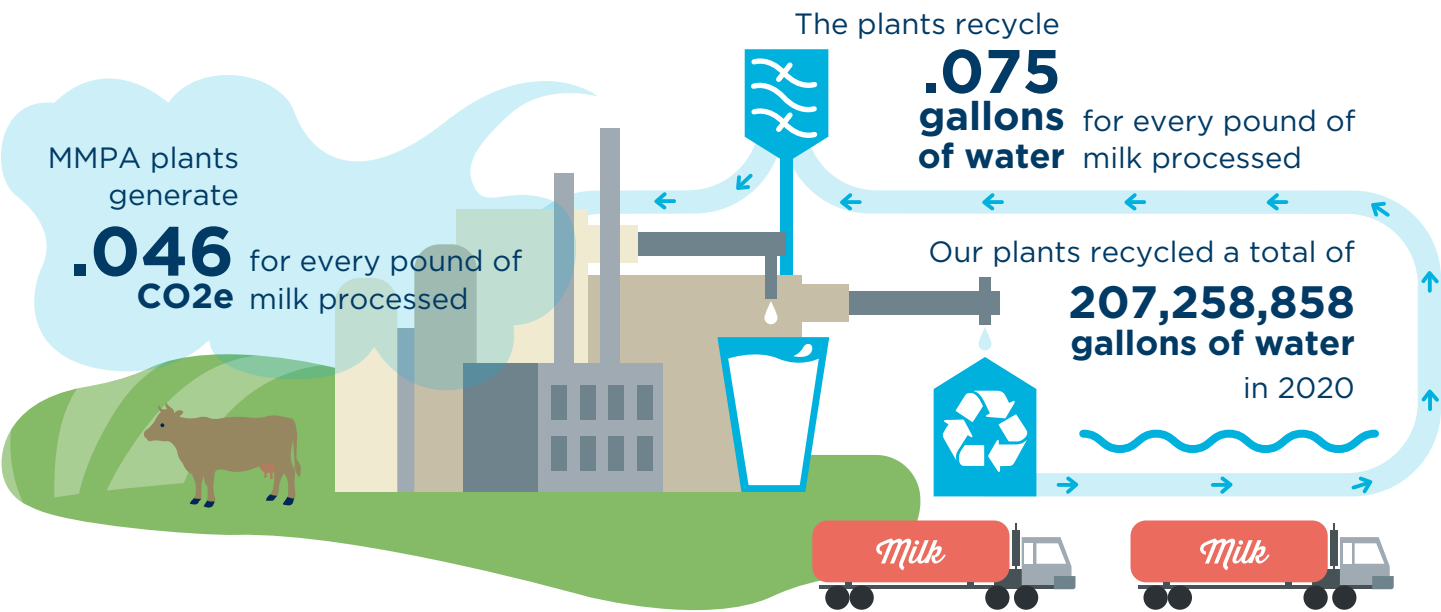
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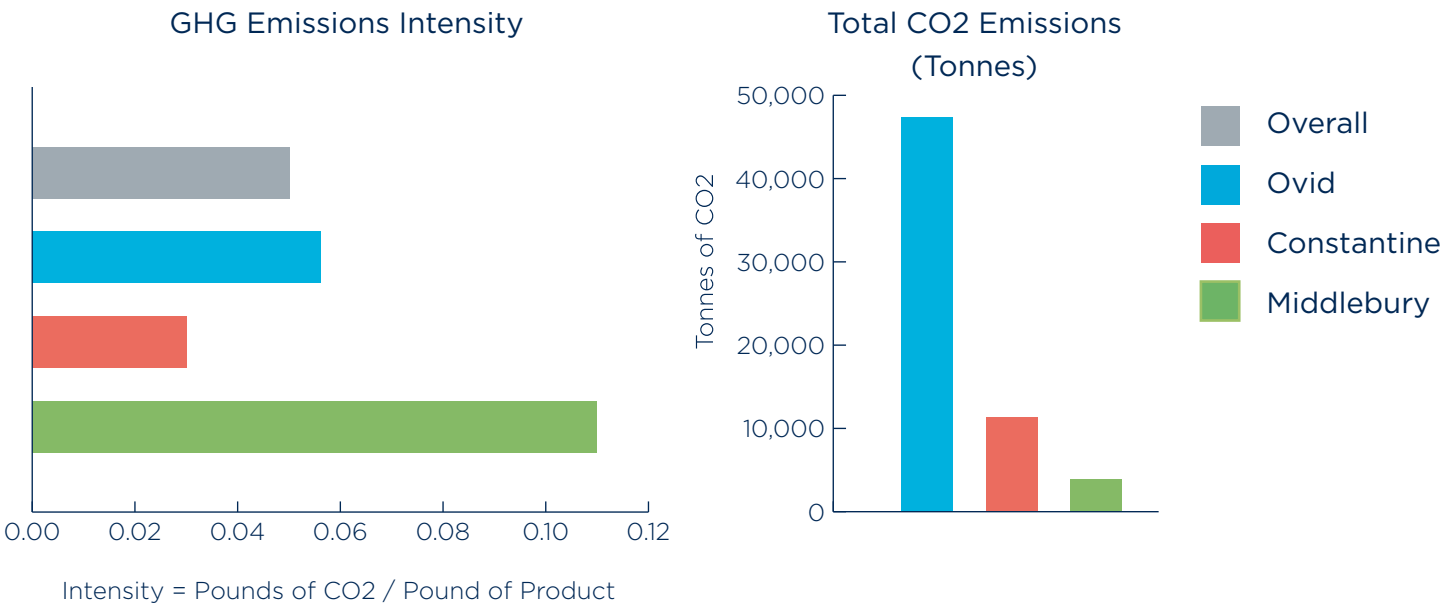
PLANT SUSTAINABILITY

MMPA's sustainability focus is embedded in plant operations, where our teams work toward continuous improvement every day in efficiency, resource use and safety. MMPA plants are Safe Quality Foods (SQF) certified and operate in compliance with local, state and federal regulatory agencies. In 2021, plant improvement projects related to sustainability include completing Ovid Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and the renovation of the dryer in Constantine.

MMPA is working to cultivate and expand our safety-first culture, leading successful safety programs that result in a reduction of work-related accidents, injuries and near misses, while directing and delivering an expansive training program. MMPA is improving the culture regarding safety at our facility through communication and prevention.



GHG REPORTING AT OUR PLANTS



PLANT SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

WAR ON WATER CAMPAIGN

Water is a building block of life. MMPA strives to conserve and recycle water throughout the manufacturing operations to meet environmental sustainability goals. In addition, the excessive use of water can impact food safety, as the use of water during the cleaning process can reactivate bacteria that can cause food borne illnesses. MMPA implemented a new cleaning protocol that limited the use of water and wet cleaning to a longer interval while using a dry cleaning sanitizer that more effectively maintains a very high level of food safety.

SOCIAL AUDIT OF WORKFORCE

In March 2021, MMPA's Ovid and Constantine plants successfully completed Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) 4 Pillar audits which evaluate labor rights, health and safety, environment and business ethics. The social audit included on-site visits and interviews with employees to assess MMPA's work environment at the two Michigan plants. Successful completion of the social audit demonstrates to customers efforts to monitor health and safety for workers.

TOWER DRYER AT OVID

The Ovid plant is adding GEA's OptiPartner controls on the tower dryer to more effectively control the moisture of the powder. This upgrade is expected to reduce the amount of natural gas necessary to dry powder. With the reduction in the use of natural gas, the GHG emissions used to produce a pound of powder will also be reduced.



CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

MMPA has been gathering sustainability related data for the corporate office and fleet in 2021. With completion of this data, MMPA will be able to report out its entire sustainability footprint. Going forward, this data will be used to identify opportunities to improve efficiencies.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

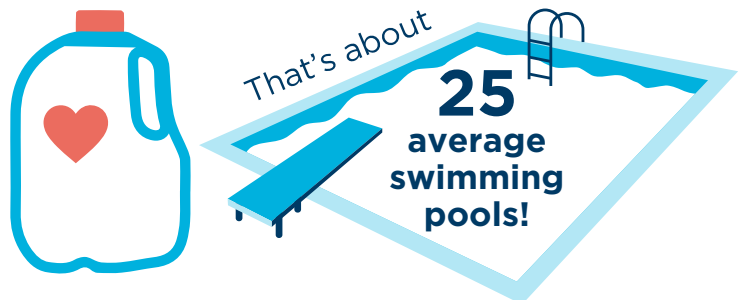
MMPA is devoted to our core values: quality, integrity, progressive, leadership and community. We have a long history of supporting our communities ever since MMPA was founded in 1916. Our outreach efforts extend from dairy community events to youth development programs to partnering with food banks.

MILK DONATIONS

In 2021, MMPA partnered with Kroger Michigan Dairy, the United Dairy Industry of Michigan and the Food Bank Council of Michigan to donate milk to the residents of Benton Harbor, Michigan to help in their efforts to combat lead. In Benton Harbor, the municipal water supply has exceeded the federal drinking water standard for lead for three consecutive years. Foods rich in calcium, iron and vitamin C—including calcium-rich dairy products—can help protect children and families from the harmful effects of lead poisoning. The donation was patterned after a similar donation MMPA made in 2016 to support residents of Flint, Michigan impacted by a crisis of lead in their water. United Dairy Industry of Michigan supported this recent effort by assisting with the transportation costs and providing nutrition education materials to Benton Harbor residents. Approximately 8,640 gallons of milk were donated.



Since 2015, MMPA has donated over **341,700** gallons of milk



Brent Robinson

“We have a three-pronged approach: effect on environment, life of the animal and well-being of the people who are here. We provide workable, livable incomes for people here. We don’t want adverse environmental impacts, known or unknown. And we are constantly improving the life of the cow.”



“We are constantly improving the life of the cow.”

James Weber

“The thing I’m most proud of is that we are continuing to chase sustainability. It’s a project that’s never really done, we try to always find the next thing that can help us improve. We can look back and be proud of the accomplishments that we have made, but just know that there is a lot more to go. A lot of farmers are continually trying to do better with the natural resources that the public has such a high priority on, whether that be air, water or land itself. That’s front and center for just about every farmer.”





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