



POSITION ON:

Caring Dairy

What's the issue?

In many cultures around the world, dairy products are eaten for breakfast, lunch, and dinner – and dessert! As a result, the dairy industry is a key component of the global food system and very important to the health of rural economies in many places. Small-scale family-owned and family-operated farms provide a way of life whose benefits extend far beyond the boundaries of the farm. But the problems facing the dairy industry are numerous. The loss of topsoil, deterioration of water quality, and loss of biodiversity associated with dairy farms, not to mention their contribution to climate change, are urgent challenges. Typically, farmers are vulnerable to widely fluctuating global prices for their product, as well as volatile commodity costs that cause large disparities in their operational costs. We believe that there should be proper support systems in place globally that address the need for fair dairy pricing for all family-owned or small-holder farms.

What's it mean for Ben & Jerry's?

One of Ben & Jerry's core Company values is to support sustainable and safe methods of food production that reduce environmental degradation, maintain the productivity of the land over time, and support the economic viability of family farms and rural communities around the globe. Since ice cream is mostly dairy, we have made sustainable dairy programs a key Social Mission priority with specific goals. Working with dairy producers on both sides of the Atlantic, we have developed the Caring Dairy program, which helps farmers

to continuously improve practices against multiple sustainability indicators, such as energy use, nutrient use, greenhouse gas emissions, pesticide use, animal husbandry, biodiversity, labor practices, and farm economics.

How will we move forward?

1. We will seek to source the dairy used in our ice cream from farms that participate in the Caring Dairy program. We believe it is good for the farmer, the farm worker, the cow and the planet.
2. Where we can be productive and influence the process, we will advocate for policies at the local, regional, national and global levels that support small-scale dairy farms and that promote the stability of the dairy industry in general.
3. We will share what we learn from the Caring Dairy program and invite other businesses to adopt the program to support a unified, proactive, and sustainable dairy industry. ●

