

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

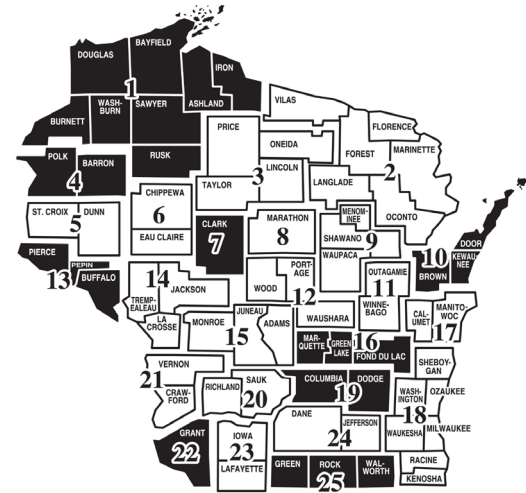
2026 Director Elections

Candidate Biographies

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced the following candidates for the 2026 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin director elections to be held May 1-22 in nine of the state's 25 districts.

Please reach out to DATCP with any questions about elections or ballots:
DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov;
608-224-5046

Click a name below to view the biography of each district's candidate(s) or scroll down to view all candidates:



District 1 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn)

- [Evan Hillan](#) - Ladysmith

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

- [Sara Bahgat-Eggert](#) - Clayton
- [Andrew Christenson](#) - Amery

District 7 (Clark)

- [David Bangart](#) - Greenwood

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)

- [Tasha Schleis](#) - Kewaunee

District 13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

- [Jonathon Hallock](#) - Mondovi

District 16 (Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette)

- [Janet Clark](#) - Eldorado

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)

- [Mark Crave](#) - Watertown

District 22 (Grant)

- [Patrick Schroeder](#) – Lancaster

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

- [Kristen Metcalf](#) – Milton
- [Chaz Self](#) – East Troy



Evan Hillan
 N3127 Ambrose Rd.
 Ladysmith, WI 54848
 Residence: Rusk County

Candidate Biography

District 1 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn)

Spouse/Children	n/a
When did you begin dairy farming?	
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	550 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Co-op Grantsburg
Others actively involved in operation:	Parents Eric and Carol
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,060 acres farmed, 200 cash crops and 1,100 other livestock
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Rusk County Dairy and Beef Promotors Chair Flambeau Valley Watershed Group Vice Chair Professional Dairy Producers
Community involvement	Ladysmith Church of Christ
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	<p>I want to give back to the dairy community—the same one that’s given me so much. I’ve spent several years on my local board supporting and promoting dairy farmers in my area, and I’ve also had the chance to serve on the national dairy board. Those experiences have shown me just how hard dairy farmers work and how much they adapt and improve every day.</p> <p>That work ethic and willingness to keep getting better is what makes this industry strong—and it’s what keeps me motivated.</p> <p>If chosen, I would be honored to serve on the state promotions board and do my part to support dairy farmers and the future of our industry.</p>
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	

[^ Return to top](#)

Candidate Biography

District 4 (Barron and Polk)



Sara Bahgat-Eggert
455 7th Ave Hwy D
Clayton, WI 54004
Residence: Barron County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Mark Children – Stephen and Johnathon
When did you begin dairy farming?	55 years plus
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	40 – Hojos, Holstein, Fleckvieh, Jersey
Where do you ship your milk?	AMPI, Jim Falls, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Husband, Brother-in-law
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	480 acres farmed, 45 cash crops, 25 other livestock, 28 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	National Dairy Promotion and Research Board-Director. Barron Chapter-Farmers Union-President District 3 AMPI Creamery Board -Vice President Farm Service Milk Haulers- Vice President DFW Board of Directors from 2019-2022 during Covid
Community involvement	Wisconsin Public Schools- Licensed Substitute Teacher Barron Farmers Union -President Family Pathways Food Shelf. 4-H Barron Barron Dairy Breakfast
Honors / Awards	Leadership Award, Barron Chapter from Wisconsin Farmers Union Century Farm Award Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association, 2nd World Bleu Vein 2006
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I am seeking a return and your vote to finish what I started. My last term was focused on keeping things running during the pandemic, but now I would love to use my experience on the National Dairy Board to bring those insights back to focus on the future of our checkoff dollars and ensure they work for our farm families here in Wisconsin.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Rooted in Clayton, our 140-year family farm legacy continues to drive my commitment to make Dairy a priority. Born to Dairy is not a slogan but a way of life that I carry into my roles of leadership, academics, and research, with practical hands-on experiences of daily dairy life. I am ready to put this experience to work for producers of Barron and Polk Counties.

[^ Return to top](#)



Andrew Christenson
 Lakecrest Farms, Inc.
 459 105th Street
 Amery, WI 54001
 Residence: Polk County

Candidate Biography

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Katie Children – Justin (11), Kaleb (9)
When did you begin dairy farming?	Officially went back to the farm in April 2015
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	300 Holsteins and 60 Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Coop – Grantsburg, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	David & Connie Christenson, Thomas Christenson, Colin & Bobbi Langan, and Leah Christenson
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	900 acres farmed No true cash crops; all acres are used for feed, and when extra, then sold 250 young stock animals 25 cow-calf pairs for beef cattle
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	DFW Board Director since 2023
Community involvement	Ellsworth FFA Alumni 4-H Deronda Lutheran Church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I'm seeking re-election to the Board to continue modernizing how we tell the Wisconsin Dairy story. While my roots are in the heritage of our family farm, my first term was defined by my passion for using social media to meet consumers where they are. I am incredibly proud to have been the spark that led to the Charlie Berens "Born to Dairy" campaign, proving that creative, digital-first storytelling can make our industry relevant to a new generation. I want to keep that momentum going, using my seat to advocate for the bold marketing and modern outreach necessary to ensure our state's dairy legacy thrives in a digital world.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	My background as a Wisconsin FFA State Officer taught me the importance of staying ahead of industry trends, but my first term on this Board has taught me how to turn those trends into results. I don't just stay informed on the issues; I actively work to solve them by finding new ways to keep Wisconsin Dairy visible. By combining the leadership skills I built in FFA with my proven track record, I offer a unique blend of traditional agricultural values and forward-thinking advocacy. I am more committed than ever to being a proactive voice who ensures our district's producers are represented by someone who isn't afraid to innovate.

[^ Return to top](#)



David Bangart
 Viaduct Holsteins LLC
 N7155 Cardinal Ave
 Greenwood, WI 54437
 Residence: Clark County

Candidate Biography

District 7 (Clark)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Amber Children – Adalyn, Cole, Danika
When did you begin dairy farming?	I've been involved with dairy farming my entire life.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	450 Registered Holsteins and a few Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	Nasonville Dairy, Marshfield, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Amber (spouse) and 10 full- and part-time employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,400 acres farmed 395 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land O Lakes-delegate 2011-2022 ▪ -leadership council chair 2020 ▪ -leadership council vice chair 2016-2019 ▪ -policy and resolution committee ▪ Clark County Dairy Promotion ▪ WI Farm Bureau ▪ PDPW ▪ Holstein Assoc. USA and WI Holstein Assoc.
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town of York Board, third term ▪ Trinity Lutheran Church ▪ Loyal FFA Alumni ▪ Clark County Holstein Association ▪ Loyal girls youth basketball co-coach
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin has evolved to be one of our main pathways to connect the farm to the consumer. Today, more than ever, there are many different types of consumers we need to reach: from traditional grocery buyers to tech savvy millennials; most are unclear of where their food comes from and what is involved to produce it. Clarifying the farm to fork connection is a large task, and DFW programs help tremendously to accomplish it. I feel it is important for dairy farmers such as myself to be involved in guiding the direction DFW takes in our industry's marketing efforts to continue to grow demand for Wisconsin dairy both domestically and in the international marketplace.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	My wife Amber and I are partners in Viaduct Holsteins LLC. We currently milk about 450 cows and have 395 heifers on our farm southwest of Loyal. We take great pride in our family, farm and employees, and focus dedication to the care of our cattle, stewardship of the land and quality of our milk every day. I am also proud to be a part of Clark County's diverse dairy landscape and will continue to represent all dairy farmers who call this home.

[^ Return to top](#)



Tasha Schleis
 Schleis Farms LLC
 N879 State Hwy 42
 Kewaunee, WI 54216
 Residence: Kewaunee County

Candidate Biography

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Ryan Children – Cadence (14), Killian (10), Ainsley (9) Odellia (4), Drayden (3)
When did you begin dairy farming?	2010
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	425 Fleckvieh and Jersey cows
Where do you ship your milk?	Agropur, Luxemburg, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Steve and Denise Schleis and Marvin and Julie Schleis
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,100 acres farmed 100 acres cash crops 10 other livestock (pigs) 375 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Edge, DBA, Peninsula Pride, Venture
Community involvement	Kewaunee County Dairy Promotion and dairy ambassador for the Kewaunee school district, Bridge Point Church Childrens Ministries
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Having a dairy farmer from our local area bringing information about how our checkoff dollars are being utilized to help grow WI dairy is important.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	My family and I are the 4th generation involved with our dairy at our location in southern Kewaunee County. I believe that being involved with different organizations and learning their "why" behind what they do. This says a lot about an organization. Running for DFW board is about finding the "why" for DFW and bringing that information back to farmers in my local district. By serving on the board, I am able to have meaningful input and ask questions to help make sure that Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin serves farmers in the best capacity that it can.

[^ Return to top](#)



Jonathon Hallock
 Mar-Bec Dairy, LLC
 W962 County Road NN
 Mondovi, WI 54755
 Residence: Buffalo County

Candidate Biography

13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Robin
When did you begin dairy farming?	Full time starting in 2013
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1,300 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Grassland Dairy Products, Inc., Greenwood, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Marty (Dad) & 18 other teammates
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2,700 acres farmed 1,150 young stock, beef cattle, etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	CVTC Ag Advisory Board Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board Member since 2023
Community involvement	Gilmanton Community Club Central Lutheran Church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I have been honored and privileged to serve on the board these last few years. The staff and board have been open to explaining clearly and transparently what they are doing. I want to see the results of some of our work and continue to see where the obstacles are and how we change.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	You should be aware that dairy is experiencing a renaissance in this protein craze and health. Now is a good time to catch onto momentum in the culture. Our marketing has placed us in a very favorable position. I have been attending National Checkoff meetings at the boards request. This has presented new information and opportunities.

[^ Return to top](#)



Janet Clark
 Vision Aire Farms, LLC
 303 Oak Drive
 Rosendale, WI 54974
 Residence: Fond du Lac County

Candidate Biography

District 16 (Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Travis Children – Grace, Eve and Levi
When did you begin dairy farming?	2010
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	150 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	BelGioioso Cheese, Denmark, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Husband: Travis Clark, Parents: Roger & Sandy Grade, Brother David Grade
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,150 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2016-2019 FarmFirst: Young Cooperators Committee ▪ 2018-2024 PDPW Board member, Vice President ▪ 2019-2022 Vice Chair of Dairy Farmers of WI ▪ 2022-present Chair of Dairy Farmers of WI & UDIA representative ▪ 2011-present Farm Bureau Member & Delegate
Community involvement	Fond du Lac County Agribusiness Council River Valley Community church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Serving on the DFW board has ignited a passion for dairy promotion I didn't know I had. I love having conversations with fellow dairy producers about DFW programs. Most importantly, I love giving them a voice to the DFW staff. I would be honored to serve on the DFW board again.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I will work with tireless persistence for my faith, my family and my farming community.

[^ Return to top](#)



Mark Crave
Crave Brothers Farm, LLC
537 Sweetbriar Ln.
Watertown, WI 53098
Residence: Dodge County

Candidate Biography

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Tina Children – Jacob, Claire
When did you begin dairy farming?	1988
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	2,300
Where do you ship your milk?	Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, Family Dairies Madison
Others actively involved in operation:	Andy, Patrick, Roseanne, Beth
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,300 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	DBA, PDPW, Wisconsin Holstein Assn., Holstein USA
Community involvement	St. Bernard Parish, Watertown
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	DFW board position allows me to gain insight and have input on strategy for leveraging producers' investment into increased consumption of Wisconsin's wonderful dairy products.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	DFW is well focused on core strategies to promote WI dairy. Engaging consumers on various fronts allows WI dairy to satisfy a variety of tastes, including international exports.

[^ Return to top](#)

Candidate Biography

District 22 (Grant)



Patrick R. Schroeder
SNS Rocky Ridge Farms, LLC
3945 Hypoint Rd.
Lancaster, WI 53813
Residence: Grant County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Karen Children – Matt (deceased), Patrick, Stephanie
When did you begin dairy farming?	1979
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	450 Holstein & Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	Prairie Farms, Edwardsville, IL
Others actively involved in operation:	Son & Son-in-law – Partners Wife – Bookkeeper Daughter – Calf feeder
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,300 acres 100 cash crops (soybeans) 250 young stock, beef cattle, etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Director for Prairie Farms – 8 years Director for Swiss Valley Farms – 15 years
Community involvement	Township Chairman – 30 years County Board – 20 years Grant County Fair Board Member Grant County Highway Board Member Grant County Zoning & Conservation Committee
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	To promote dairy and Wisconsin
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Love being a Grandpa and spoiling my 6 grandkids. Love living on the farm and be able to teach them the importance of dairy products.

[^ Return to top](#)



Kristen Metcalf
 Glacier Edge Dairy
 2509 N County M
 Milton, WI 53563
 Residence: Rock County

Candidate Biography

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Corey Children – Olivia
When did you begin dairy farming?	Glacier Edge Dairy was established in 2017, but both my husband and I grew up on our family’s cash crop and dairy farms.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	750 Jerseys, a few Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Rolling Hills Dairy Producers Cooperative, Monroe, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Terry & Jane Metcalf (in-laws), 10 employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,000 acres farmed We also raise all of our own beefxdairy cattle.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rock County Dairy Promotion Board ▪ Rock County Holstein Breeders Board, Junior Advisor ▪ Rock County Dairy Judging coach ▪ Rock County Dairy Quiz Bowl coach ▪ Wisconsin Holstein Association member ▪
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Milton FFA Alumni member ▪ Church parishioner, reader and volunteer
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board because I care about the future of dairy in Wisconsin. I have enjoyed serving my first term and have learned so much. I love sharing that knowledge with other producers when they have questions about checkoff. I know that is important that dairy farmers have a voice with checkoff dollars and take that role seriously. I have a passion for sharing Wisconsin’s dairy livelihood with consumers on a local, state and global level.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I grew up on my family’s dairy farm and my love for dairy has flourished since. Outside of my role on the farm, I enjoy showing Registered Holsteins, traveling, and volunteering my time with youth.

[^ Return to top](#)

Candidate Biography

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)



Chaz Self
 Grassway Organics Coop
 W2716 Friemoth Rd.
 East Troy, WI 53120
 Residence: Walworth County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Megan Children – Otik, Oscoda and Xasion
When did you begin dairy farming?	2016
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	125 milk cows, Holstein, Brown Swiss, and mixed breed(s)
Where do you ship your milk?	Direct to consumers
Others actively involved in operation:	7 employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	480 acres farmed 65 young stock, beef cattle, etc. Chickens & Turkeys
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Watershed group of Walworth County Raw Milk Institute Planning commission of Troy
Community involvement	Dairy Grazing Mentor with two graduates. Raw Milk Institute. Farm tours and social media.
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I would like to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board because I’m a first-generation dairy farmer who has chosen not just to farm in Wisconsin, but to fight for it. Over the past several years, I’ve worked to improve our state’s dairy future by challenging current administrative rules and advocating for changes that give farms of all sizes a fair chance to survive and succeed. I’ve spent time lobbying at the state level, and one moment in particular shaped my resolve. During a conversation about farm loss, I was told: “I’m so grateful we only lost 245 dairies last year in Wisconsin—that’s such an improvement.” To me, that wasn’t a win. It was 245 families, 245 herds, and 245 businesses that disappeared from our dairy landscape. Hearing that framed as progress was one of the most discouraging—and motivating—things I’ve ever experienced as a dairy farmer. It pushed me to work harder to change the system instead of accepting decline as normal. I want to bring that same urgency and perspective to the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board: a grounded, first-generation voice that understands what it takes to build a dairy from the ground up, and a commitment to policies and programs that keep Wisconsin dairy strong—today and for the next generation.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and I have a long-standing working relationship—we’re on a first-name basis. After witnessing bankruptcy after bankruptcy, I’ve made it my mission to stop an administrative approach that I believe is hindering farmers’ constitutional rights. I’m committed to preserving small and mid-sized family farms, not accelerating a system where consolidation is treated as the only path forward and more independent operations are pushed out. I want to bring that perspective and that resolve to the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board: advocating for decisions and programs that keep farms viable at every scale, protect farmers’ rights, and strengthen the future of Wisconsin dairy without sacrificing the families who built it.