

A blue-tinted photograph of a dairy farm. In the foreground, the lower legs and hooves of several cows are visible as they stand in a concrete-lined stall. In the background, a cow's head is visible through the metal bars of a stall. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the blue tint giving it a somber or professional feel.

# **FARMER-LED CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES INITIATIVE: BUILDING SUCCESS FROM THE GROUND UP**



# SUMMARY

Edge will spearhead a multi-partner project aimed at expanding climate-smart markets and establishing dairy and sugar as climate-smart commodities.

The co-op applied for the grant earlier last year through the USDA's new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program.

CLIMATE-SMART INITIATIVE | 2022







# Farmers for Sustainable Food





# Who We Are

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We are the only collaborative, non-profit organization that provides resources, advocacy, support and empowerment for farmers who are innovating and demonstrating sustainable farming practices during a time of increased interest in agriculture and food origins.



# What We Do

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Unite. Inspire. Empower.



Connect farmers  
and the supply  
chain in  
sustainability  
projects for  
mutual benefit



Manage projects  
dedicated to measuring  
the impact of  
conservation  
practices—both  
environmentally and  
financially



Coordinate  
on-farm  
sustainability  
learning  
opportunities



Support  
farmer-led  
watershed  
conservation groups



# Current members



PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS



Calumet County Ag  
Stewardship Alliance



# Paving the Way to **Economically Viable Conservation**

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Our Framework for Farm-Level Sustainability Projects is an easy-to-use handbook that helps farmers determine which conservation practices are most effective for their individual farms by equipping them with the necessary tools to document the environmental and financial effects of conservation practices.





# Field to Market's Fieldprint Platform

- Field-level sustainability
- 8 metrics
- Scores for:
  - Enrolled fields
  - Farm averages
  - Project benchmark



Biodiversity



Energy Use



Greenhouse Gas



Irrigation Water Use



Land Use



Soil Carbon



Soil Conservation



Water Quality





# BUILDING ON OUR PROVEN MODEL

EXPANDING PROJECTS BASED ON THE FRAMEWORK  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS HELPING FARMERS  
DETERMINE WHAT PRACTICES ARE MOST EFFECTIVE

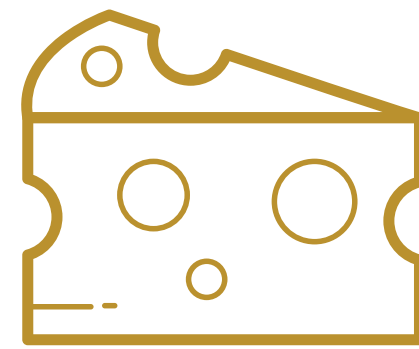




# THREE-PRONGED APPROACH



Farmers



Processors



Conservation groups





# PARTNERS:

- AgCentric, Minnesota State Farm Business Management
- Agropur
- Center for Farm Financial Management
- Clean Wisconsin
- Farmers for Sustainable Food
- Farmobile
- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
- Headwaters Agriculture Sustainability Partnership
- Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension
- U.S. Beet Sugar Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

# Conservation in Action

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Our framework was put to the test through a pilot project in southwestern Wisconsin.

## Through our pilot project:

- 1 Farmers completed financial and environmental analyses, demonstrated conservation practices significantly reduce environmental pollutants reaching streams and rivers
- 2 Farmers received individualized reports and participated in peer-to-peer learning
- 3 Farmers determined what conservation practices worked best for their farm



This project received the “Outstanding Supply Chain Collaboration” award from the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy in 2021.





# Project components



Financial analysis

**4 farms**

FINPACK



Field-level analysis

**15 farms**

Field to Market's  
Fieldprint Platform



Watershed  
analysis

**Watershed**

Prioritize, Target,  
Measure Application  
(PTMApp)



Dairy barn  
GHG/energy

**3 farms, more?**

FARM  
Environmental  
Stewardship



**Whole-farm picture**

# Questions?

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