



# Connect Inspire Achieve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Dairy Girl Network Continues to Grow into 2019

**Cobb, WI-** The Dairy Girl Network (DGN) continues to grow and is reflecting on a successful 2018. Consisting of over 5,000 highly-engaged dairywomen, the organization had a year filled with events in nine states, including their bi-annual national conference.

Membership is free for all dairywomen. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Dairy Girl Network, go to <https://dairygirlnetwork.com/join/>. It's fast, free and easy to sign up.

The year started with Connect networking events during national dairy meetings, such as the Georgia Dairy Conference, PA Dairy Summit, Great Lakes Dairy Conference, World Ag Expo, NEDPA, Central Plains Dairy Expo and the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association conference. These in-person networking opportunities brought together almost 150 dairywomen for personal and professional development. Want to help host an event near you? Visit our website to contact one of our staff members.

During the summer, DGN worked with Mycogen Seeds to host their second year of Growing Together Field Days, an opportunity for dairywomen to get hands-on experience with agronomy. These day events took place on host farms in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Wisconsin and gave dairywomen the chance to learn about crops with a Mycogen specialist and then head out to the

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field to put their new knowledge to work. With over 50 women participating in these events, DGN is excited to expand and bring them back in 2019.

In October during World Dairy Expo, DGN hosted a Connect networking event, a Sharing Wisdom educational seminar and their annual business meeting, where they welcomed a new Board of Director member, Mary Knigge. Knigge grew up on her family dairy and cash crop farm in Omro, WI and now works with Dairy Farmers of America in Washington DC. DGN is excited to add Knigge's expertise and ideas to the Board.

In November, DGN hosted it's second bi-annual national conference, Forward TogetHER, in Pennsylvania. This event brought over 240 dairywomen from all over the US together for 3 days of keynotes, breakout sessions, networking opportunities, local tours and a Showcase for sponsors and other businesses run by dairywomen and offered opportunities for women in any part of the industry to learn, lead and succeed. The conference is brought to dairywomen through the support of Vision level sponsor, Diamond V. The event was also offered via livestream "On Demand" on DGN's website with the support of Mycogen Seeds. This virtual option allowed for an additional 60 dairywomen to learn and grow. The next Forward TogetHER conference will be held in 2020.

Virtually, DGN has offered resources to dairywomen without having to leave the farm. The Enhance webinar series took place every third Friday of each month and covered topics from calf care, mental health to policy and more, as well as offering special discounts to official DGN members. The organization reached more than 400 people with these webinars and plan to continue this opportunity in 2019. DGN also launched a new online introduction to Spanish course for its members, which will begin in January 2019. DGN also urges members to watch for the national

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rollout of their highly anticipated Inspire mentor program in early 2019.

Dairy Girl Network wants to give a big thank you to its sponsors- without generous sponsorship from businesses like these, the organization would not be able to bring these resources and programs to dairywomen. Thank you to our Vision Level sponsors are Dairy Herd Management, Diamond V and Mycogen Seeds, our Sustaining Level sponsors are DeLaval, Land O' Lakes and DMI and our National Event sponsors are Cargill and Star Blends. In addition to these strong contributors, DGN also has local event sponsors and are thankful for their support to make DGN programming successful. Learn more about the organization at [DairyGirlNetwork.com](http://DairyGirlNetwork.com).

*The Dairy Girl Network connects all women of the dairy industry, encouraging ideas and camaraderie in an effort to achieve personal and professional development. Designed as a welcoming network of passionate women involved in dairy, relationships will grow through shared experience, support and inspiration.*

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