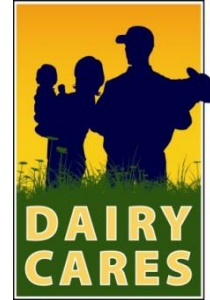


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Dairy Cares Newsletter

October 2014

DairyCares.com

California dairy farmer honored with prestigious stewardship award for second straight year

Sustainability is a commitment made daily by California dairy families. This means ongoing stewardship and protection of our planet's limited natural resources, responsible care for animals, and delivery of healthy, safe and nutritious dairy products to millions of consumers.

So it is with great pleasure that Dairy Cares members note the accomplishment of Marin County dairy farmer Bob Giacomini, who became the second California dairy farmer in as many years to receive the prestigious Leopold Conservation Award.

Named in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and ecological necessity."

The Sand County Foundation, the California Farm Bureau Federation and Sustainable Conservation proudly announced Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company as the recipient of the prestigious award last year. Bob Giacomini and his four daughters own and operate Robert Giacomini Dairy and Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company in coastal Marin County, where the family began milking cows in 1959.

He and his daughters Karen, Diana, Lynn and Jill produce Point Reyes Farmstead cheeses and operate The Fork, a culinary center focused on education and entertainment for visitors to the farm. As exemplary stewards of the land, they are dedicated to sustainable farming practices and humane animal care.

"Bob Giacomini and his daughters exemplify what it means to farm responsibly and sustainably, improving overall land health and productivity, said Michael Marsh, CEO of Western United Dairymen. "This recognition is well deserved by this hardworking dairy family."

"Responsible care for our land and other natural resources has allowed California farmers and ranchers to sustainably produce the food and farm products we all depend upon," said California Farm Bureau President

Paul Wenger. “The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes outstanding examples of the stewardship that family farmers and ranchers perform every day.”

California dairy farmers Bob Giacomini and previous Leopold Conservation Award winner Dino Giacomazzi are great examples of the many steps dairy families take to farm sustainably throughout the Golden State, while providing the quality dairy products consumers rely on to feed and nourish their families.

Dairy Cares is a statewide coalition supporting economic and environmental sustainability and responsible animal care. Our members include Bar 20 Dairy Farms, California Cattlemen’s Association, California Dairies Inc., California Dairy Campaign, California Dairy Research Foundation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of America-Western Area Council, Dairy Institute of California, GHD, Inc., Hilmar Cheese Co., Joseph Gallo Farms, Land O’Lakes, Merck Animal Health, Milk Producers Council, Ruan Transport Corp., Western United Dairywomen, Yosemite Farm Credit and others. For information, visit DairyCares.com or call 916-441-3318.