



BC Dairy is inviting all BC dairy producers to consider whether they might be interested in becoming more active with the association. The organisation has several interesting roles available, primarily in leadership & governance, government advocacy, and research. The areas of work are described below. Please give them a look and let us know if you are interested in having a conversation about the right role for you.

Roles range from modest commitments such as occasionally hosting local politicians for a farm tour or sitting on an external committee, to more involved and longer-term leadership positions. Regardless of the role taken on, we support producers representing BC Dairy with training and resources.

Ideally, let us know by email if you're interested by January 31 as we plan to reach out to interested producers in February and get several areas of work underway for 2023. That said, expressions of interest are welcomed at any time.

Read more about the opportunities to be involved, below.

### BC Dairy Committees

BC Dairy has two standing board committees: the Governance Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee. These are both made up of board members and producers from across the province who have an interest in that area of work (ensuring good governance and good financial management of the association, respectively).

### External Committees

One of the roles BC Dairy serves is to connect dairy producers with other agricultural organisations to ensure the dairy perspective is considered in their work. BC Dairy works to nominate or appoint dairy producers to organisations including, but not limited to, BC Agriculture Council's Land Use Committee, Investment Agriculture Foundation, BC Cattle Industry Development Council, Dairy Farmers of Canada's Committees and working groups, and many BC Milk Marketing Board Committees. Dairy farmers also

sit on local committees such as regional watershed advisory groups. There are several opportunities to sit on committees coming up in 2023 and beyond.

### Government Advocacy

BC Dairy actively advocates for the interests of producers with numerous government organisations. Primarily this work involves making sure officials have good information about dairy farming when making decisions and policies that matter to our sector.

One key way we do this is hosting elected and unelected government officials for farm tours showcasing work being done to care for the land and animals and to provide local food. We also participate on committees with them, go to conferences, meet with them in Victoria and Ottawa, and engage through other channels.

### Research & Innovation

BC Dairy supports four areas of research advancing our understanding of science in areas important to farmers. New this year, we are establishing technical advisory groups for each area, with producers playing key roles on each group. The areas include:

- 1) Animal Health and Welfare,
- 2) Environmental Sustainability and Innovation,
- 3) Milk Quality, and
- 4) Producer Health and Labour Innovation

For the new advisory groups we are seeking producers with technical experience, an interest in taking part in research, or who are currently undertaking relevant innovations on their farms. Responsibilities might include reviewing and providing feedback on funding applications, visiting research sites, and attending advisory committee meetings and conferences.

This group of producers will be on the frontlines of innovation and will have the opportunity to participate in diverse research projects helping advance dairy farming.

### **BC Dairy supports for participating producers:**

Producers participating in roles detailed here are compensated for attending in-person and virtual meetings. Travel costs are reimbursed if the committee meetings are in-person.

BC Dairy offers producers training and support to help them in these roles and build our capacity. We offer training in areas including leadership, media, governance, and advocacy.

### **Get in touch:**

If you are interested in participating in any way in any of these opportunities please email Carla Soutar at [csoutar@bcdairy.ca](mailto:csoutar@bcdairy.ca) - ideally by January 31 to be included in our February information meetings, though we welcome expressions of interest at any time.

In your email, please include information that will help us work with you to identify the best role, including:

- Your name and farm, what you do on the farm, and the region you are from;
- Your phone number and email address;
- Your experience, skills, and areas of interest in dairy farming;
- Why you want to take on a role in leadership, advocacy, and/or research, the roles of most interest, and relevant experience;
- How much time you can dedicate to the role;
- Anything else you think we should know.

BC Dairy will get in touch with all farmers who have expressed interest for a conversation about specific roles and next steps.

Thank you for the consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.