



# Young Dairy Leaders Institute Class 14 Application

## Program Goals

Through interactive training sessions and working closely with industry experts and dynamic leaders, YDLI participants will strengthen themselves in areas of:

- Interpersonal communications
- Team culture
- Growth mindset
- Embracing change
- Influence
- Advocacy
- Community & industry involvement



Learn more about YDLI or find an online version of the application!

## Participant Selection Guidelines

- Applicants will be actively involved in dairy production or supporting industries.
- English-speaking individuals ages 22-45 may apply.
- Leadership ability and potential will be considered in the selection of participants. All applicants should have a desire to take on leadership roles in organizations, communities, and the greater dairy industry in the future.
- Consideration will be given to interest and willingness of the participant to commit the required time, energy and finances for the program. Accepted candidates are expected to participate in the full 12-month program.

### Time Commitment:

- February 2 - 5, 2026 – Class meets in Dallas, TX for Phase I training session
- February 2026 - 2027 – Class members complete tasks in their home communities to practice new skills and are held accountable to report progress to peers and mentors
- February 1 - 4, 2027 – Class meets in Dallas, TX for Phase III training session
- Applicants must document that they will be able to be away from the farm, business, occupation and/or home as required for full participation in the program.

## Funding and Costs

A \$750 tuition fee is charged to each participant to offset a portion of the costs over the 12-month duration of the program. Following notification of acceptance, the full fee (non-refundable) will be due with registration. Meals and program materials are included. Air and ground transportation, hotel and other incidental expenses are the participant's responsibility. Participants may seek sponsorship on their own to cover program attendance (e.g., from your employer, milk cooperative, feed supplier, etc.). Roommates can be arranged (unless a single room is requested) to help offset hotel expense.

The program is sponsored by the Holstein Foundation, a not-for-profit tax exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to developing dairy leaders. The Foundation relies upon businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals for operations support. The Holstein Foundation invests over \$4,000 in each YDLI participant.

## Application & Selection

Applications must be received by **August 1, 2025**. Enrollment of the program is limited so more one-on-one instruction may be provided.

## More Information

Visit [www.holsteinfoundation.org](http://www.holsteinfoundation.org) or contact Jodi Hoynoski 802.451.4261 or [jhoynoski@holstein.com](mailto:jhoynoski@holstein.com).



**HOLSTEIN  
FOUNDATION**

*"Developing Future Leaders  
for a Vibrant Dairy Community"*

### A) Applicant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Young Dairy Leaders Institute? \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one:

Full-time on farm

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Farm \_\_\_\_\_

*(owner, employee, relative)*

Full-time occupation not on farm

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Best of both worlds (working on and off farm)

Complete farm name and employer sections above

Have you discussed the program schedule with your employer and/or farm management? Yes  No

Are you currently enrolled in any educational programs? Yes  No

*(i.e. state leadership program or continuing education such as Masters or PhD)*

If yes, please describe, including expected duration \_\_\_\_\_

### B) List organizations in which you are an active member *(include past or present leadership roles)*

Agricultural organizations, boards, commissions, or regional groups:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Social, religious, community, or other groups:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C) Essay Questions *(answer on a separate sheet – limit of 250 words for each question)*

1. What are your professional and personal goals for the next 15 years, and how do you see your role in accomplishing these goals?
2. Why do you want to participate in Young Dairy Leaders Institute and what do you expect to learn from the program?
3. What do you expect to contribute to the Young Dairy Leaders Institute?
4. What is your vision of the dairy industry ten years from now and beyond?

### D) Letter of Recommendation

Each applicant must supply one letter of recommendation. Please list the name and contact information for the person submitting a letter. Reference should address an applicant's interest and commitment to agriculture and the dairy industry, their leadership potential, and why they would benefit from participating in Young Dairy Leaders Institute. Letter of recommendation is desired to be included with the application, or can be sent separately to the address below. If the letter is sent separately, please ensure it is received by the deadline below.

### REFERENCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

# Young Dairy Leaders Institute

## CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

I have reviewed the program guidelines for the Young Dairy Leaders Institute. I understand that the program consists of two three-day sessions, and a number of days dedicated to completing projects and reports.

I understand that if selected to participate in the program, I will be expected to attend all sessions and communicate regularly with Holstein Foundation staff and volunteers as requested. Failure to attend any part of the program for any reason will result in my removal from the program and forfeiture of the tuition fee.

**I have fully discussed this program with my co-workers and family, including its time and financial requirements.**

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer/Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Application Instructions

All applications and one letter of recommendation must be received by **August 1, 2025** to be eligible for consideration.

Return the completed application form, attached essay responses, letter of recommendation, and the signed Candidate Agreement to: Holstein Foundation, PO Box 816, Brattleboro, VT 05302-0816 or [jhoynoski@holstein.com](mailto:jhoynoski@holstein.com). If you are emailing your materials and don't receive confirmation they were received, contact Jodi Hoynoski at 802.451.4261