

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Focus on Energysm and Foremost Farms USA[®] Partner to Improve Environmental Stewardship

Clayton, Wis. (May 9, 2018)— Focus on Energy, Wisconsin’s statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, is partnering with Foremost Farms USA[®] to improve environmental stewardship for its dairy farmers in Wisconsin. As producers look at opportunities to become more sustainable and efficient in today’s economic environment, there are resources available to make these plans a reality.

“Environmental stewardship is something farmers have been doing for generations, caring for the land while producing more with fewer resources. At Foremost Farms, we implement an Environmental Stewardship (ES) model with our member-owners to help tell their story of environmental sustainability,” said Josh Luth, member services manager at Foremost Farms.

“The ES model aids producers by establishing a baseline, identifying opportunities for improvement, and locating sources of funding to bring their project to life,” added Luth.

Focus on Energy assists Foremost Farms by providing technical and financial resources to its Wisconsin dairy producers to implement sustainable farming technologies. In 2017, twenty-five of Foremost Farms’ members received energy efficiency incentives from Focus on Energy totaling over \$38,000. These members saved a combined total of 555,503-kilowatt hours of electricity annually – enough to power more than forty-four Wisconsin homes a year. It is estimated these projects will save these producers more than \$61,000 on energy bills each year.

“Educating farmers on the long-term financial benefits of energy efficiency will not only strengthen the cooperative supply chain,” said Heather Feigum, Program Manager for Focus on Energy’s Agriculture, Schools and Government Program, “it will make the food

produced in Wisconsin more sustainable – from the producer all the way to the consumer.”

Focus on Energy’s incentives help farmers achieve improvements in production and operations through energy-efficient best practices and cost-effective equipment upgrades. Energy Advisors are located within 150 miles of every customer to help manage their energy use, evaluate potential equipment upgrades, and prioritize energy efficiency projects. To learn more about Focus on Energy offering details and to find an Energy Advisor near you, call 888.947.7828 or visit focusonenergy.com/agribusiness.

For more information regarding Foremost Farms’ Environmental Stewardship model, please contact Foremost Farms at membermilk@foremostfarms.com. Producers interested in learning more about Environmental Stewardship can view additional resources at www.nationaldairyfarm.com/environmental-stewardship.

About Foremost Farms

Foremost Farms USA® is a world-class supplier of cheese, dairy products, and ingredients to national and international markets. They offer innovative solutions, technical services and customized products, ingredients and packaging for their foodservice, food processing, distributor and pharmaceutical customers. As a dairy cooperative, they are owned by 1,300 dairy farmers who supply their high-quality milk. Their flexible, diverse plant network allows them to manufacture the products and ingredients that are most in demand – and provide a strong, secure market for their member-owners’ milk. For more information call 800.362.9196, visit Foremost Farms USA® on Facebook, or foremostfarms.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy is Wisconsin utilities' statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program funded by the state's investor-owned energy utilities and participating municipal and electric cooperative utilities. Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus on Energy information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control Wisconsin's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call 800.762.7077 or visit Focus on Energy on Facebook, Twitter, or focusonenergy.com.