

## Member profile



Ignacio ("Nacho") Escamilla has worked for 23 years at Heller Farm Inc. in Alma Center, Wis.

### What was your first job and now current job on the dairy farm?

My first job was as a milker in a tie-stall barn. Then I learned to feed cows within the next year. Eventually that changed into me working in the crop side of the farm's operations. After five years in the crop side, I was asked to learn to manage the milking barn herd health as the dairy grew. I now manage the health of the entire milking herd. This includes the labor management of all milkers and support staff required on the milking herd. I also manage the day-to-day relationships with the many vendors that the dairy works with.

### How do you continue learning about dairy farming?

The majority of my continued learning comes from the consultants that the dairy has hired. They show me things hands-on and it allows me to ask many questions that help me to gain knowledge to help the dairy. I also attend meetings and conferences to learn more about the industry and other people. This allows me to talk to my peers and learn from them as well.

### What advice would offer someone who just started working on a dairy farm?

Don't be afraid of any language barrier and try to ask as many questions as possible from the vets, the owners and employees. This will help to ensure you are continuing to perform well and allow you to get higher positions within the dairy. 🇺🇸

# dairy Forward



## What's this newsletter about?

**Our goal is to keep our members and their employees informed**

By Nicole Barlass, director of member relations



Welcome to our first newsletter, created just for you, our Spanish-speaking dairy employees. Through these newsletters, we are excited to give you

those farms as well as the companies that work with farms are also members. We have members such as dairy equipment companies, cheese makers, banks and veterinarians.

The group started in 1999, when many

an opportunity to learn about the Dairy Business Association (DBA), meet other Spanish-speaking employees and learn fun facts about dairy farming.

First, I want to start by helping you understand what are organization is about. DBA is a group

of farmers, farms and dairy businesses from across Wisconsin. We also have dairy business members from other states and other countries.

Our members are the farms you work for and everyone else who works on

“ DBA is a group of farmers, farms and dairy businesses from across Wisconsin. ”

Wisconsin farms were challenged with more government control and regulation. Since then, DBA has worked with government to make sure the laws they are passing make sense for farms and their employees. We also work to help our

farmers to understand laws, find new ways of doing things and promote what they do to all the people who do not understand how milk, cheese and other dairy foods are made. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find value in it! 🇺🇸

## Resources

There are a lot of resources for Hispanics in Wisconsin. One is a Hispanic outreach center. They have connections with a lot of different groups and agencies they can refer you to. In northeastern Wisconsin, you can call Casa Hispana in Appleton at 920-968-6880, The Hispanic Center of the Fox Valley in Appleton at 920-968-8050 or Mi Pueblo Hispanic Community Center at 920-717-0706.

**\$43.4 Billion**  
Dairy means more to Wisconsin than citrus to Florida or potatoes to Idaho—contributing \$43.4 billion annually to Wisconsin's economy.



Source: University of Wisconsin; Florida Citrus Mutual; University of Idaho  
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## Working for you

Dairy farmers are working hard on a solution to replace inadequate laws for visiting workers. For any fixes to be made to the laws, they must pass through Congress and then be signed by the president which can be a struggle. There is disagreement on how those changes should be made. The Dairy Business Association and its partners will continue to stress the importance of finding a solution to this problem to our lawmakers.

# How to make the best of your job



**By Frankie Rodriguez,**  
Agri-Staff

We all want to have a good job that we enjoy going to every day. Many times, we have to start at the bottom and work our way up in a company.

Jobs in the dairy industry are known to be difficult. We have to deal with hard, physical labor, working in all kinds of weather, and dealing with independently thinking



animals. To make the best of your job, make sure you show up to work every day, on time and ready for work. Go above and beyond to show your boss you're a good employee. Work as a team with your coworkers and make sure you communicate with them and your managers. Focus on doing a good job and the rest will fall into place. 🇺🇸

## Facebook: Connect with us



**By Joanna Guza,**  
digital communications manager

A great way to connect and receive fast information is through our

private Facebook group called the Latino Dairy Forum.

### What is it?

Latino Dairy Forum is a private Facebook group that allows us to share information and resources to Latinos within the group.

### Where is it?

It can be found by typing Latino Dairy Forum in the Facebook search tool.

### Why join?

The group will help keep you informed about important issues and resources.

We do our best to keep you informed about resources available and recent articles that may affect the Hispanic community.

We encourage you to invite other Latinos to join the group.

If there is specific content you would like to see in the Latino Dairy Forum, please contact me or your employer to provide us with feedback.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to your feedback. 🇺🇸

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### About the DBA

The Dairy Business Association is a nonprofit organization comprised of Wisconsin dairy farmers, milk processors, vendors and business partners who work to ensure that Wisconsin dairy farmers of all sizes have the support they need to thrive in the state's economy, communities and food supply chain. The association's core work is advocating for practical state laws and regulations. Visit [widba.com](http://widba.com) to learn more.