

**Keynote Speaker, Tara Vander Dussen:
New Mexico Agriculture: Rooted in our history, diversity,
and innovation.**

2020 AAFCO Midyear Meeting

Hyatt Regency

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

8:00–9:00 am

Grand Pavilion 1-5 Ballroom

To view meeting via WebEx register here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HxufFZ50S3SU3oxtOA57Yg



Bio: Tara Vander Dussen is a New Mexico native, growing up her whole life on her family dairy farm in Eastern New Mexico. Now Tara and her husband, Daniel, along with their two daughters, have a dairy farm with her husband's family. Tara has worked as an environmental scientist for the last 9 years on dairy farm projects throughout the southwest. As project manager, she assists her clients with state and federal regulatory compliance, water conservation, sustainable management practices, and quarterly monitoring reports. She provides direction to producers on environmental concerns. And as a certified NRCS technical service provider, Tara is able to assist producers with nutrient and irrigation management.

Tara's passion is advocating for modern dairy farming by sharing her story about life on her family dairy through her blog, New Mexico Milkmaid, and her social media platforms. By using her voice, she hopes to change people's perceptions of farmers and dairy farming. New Mexico Milkmaid now has a community of more than 27,000 followers. And she has had the opportunity to speak at national and global conferences

about dairy sustainability including at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on World Food Security and the Forbes AgTech Summit.

Tara also serves as the President of United Dairy Women, a charity committed to providing local New Mexico children's homes with the recommended three servings of dairy a day for the entire year. United Dairy Women has raised more than \$1.3 million to further their causes. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Soil, Water and Environmental Science from the University of Arizona with a focus in both, Policy and Law and Soil Chemistry.